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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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In last four days, disposed of 1,293 miscellaneous...



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Jadeja out of Asia cup due to right knee injury, Axar named...



PM COMMISSIONS INDIA'S 1ST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER INS VIKRANT

INDIGENOUS POWER

INS VIKRANT IS 45,000-TONNE WARSHIP HAS BEEN BUILT AT A COST OF ₹ 20,000 CRORE.
262 METRES LONG AND 62 METRES WIDE, INS VIKRANT IS THE LARGEST WARSHIP TO BE BUILT IN INDIA. IT CAN HAVE 30 AIRCRAFT ON BOARD, INCLUDING MIG-29K FIGHTER JETS AND HELICOPTERS. THE WARSHIP CAN ACCOMMODATE A CREW OF NEARLY 1,600.

THE WARSHIP WAS IN THE WORKS FOR OVER A DECADE. MULTIPLE PHASES OF SEA TRIALS OF INS VIKRANT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED SINCE AUGUST 21 LAST YEAR. AVIATION TRIALS WILL BE HELD AFTER THE NAVY HAS ITS COMMAND.

AT PRESENT, INDIA HAS ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, INS VIKRAMADITYA, WHICH IS BUILT ON A RUSSIAN PLATFORM. DEFENCE FORCES HAVE BEEN SEEKING THREE CARRIERS IN ALL - ONE IN SPARE BESIDES ONE EACH FOR THE TWO MAIN NAVAL FRONTS, IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND BAY OF BENGAL.

ON THE OCCASION, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO UNVEILED THE NEW NAVAL ENSIGN. THE NEW ENSIGN HAS THE NATIONAL FLAG ON THE UPPER CANTON. A BLUE OCTAGONAL SHAPE WITH THE NATIONAL EMBLEM SITS ATOP AN ANCHOR. SUPERIMPOSED ON A SHIELD WITH THE NAVY'S MOTTO.



Team Absolute | Kochi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday commissioned the INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier, at the Cochin Shipyard Limited here. After the unveiling, the Prime Minister said India has now joined the select club of nations who have developed indigenous aircraft carriers. Addressing the commissioning ceremony, Modi said: "INS Vikrant is a floating airfield, a floating town... and the power generated in it can light up 5,000 houses, while the cables can run to Kashi from Kochi."

He said that the carrier's deck is the size of two football fields and its an example of the government's aim to make India self-reliant even in the defence sector.

The Prime Minister said that despite the security of the Indo-Pacific region is "our priority, but in the past it was

ignored". Modi also unveiled the new Naval Ensign, doing away with the colonial past and befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage. "Indian Naval flags carried a sign of slavery which has been replaced with a new one inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj... The new Naval Ensign draws inspiration from the seal of great Indian emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It depicts steadfastness, the octagonal shape represents the eight directions symbolising the Navy's multi-directional reach," he added.

Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, INS Vikrant has been built with state-of-the-art automation features and is the largest ship ever built in the country's maritime history.

The indigenous carrier is named after its illustrious predecessor which had played a vital role in the 1971 war.

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT OF ALL GOVTS SINCE 1999: CONGRESS

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to acknowledge the efforts of previous governments in building INS Vikrant -- India's first indigenous aircraft. "India's 1st indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant commissioned today is a collective effort of all govts since 1999. Will PM acknowledge? Let's also recall original INS Vikrant that served us well in 1971 war. uch reviled Krishna Menon played a key role in getting it from UK," veteran Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted. The aircraft carrier keel was laid in 2009 during UPA government and was launched during that period, he Congress said.

Seventy-five per cent of the material used for its construction has been sourced indigenously. According to reports, the 262-metre-long carrier has a full displacement of close to 45,000 tonnes and is powered by four gas turbines totaling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 knots. The carrier is built at an overall cost of nearly Rs 20,000 crore. Its keel was laid in 2009. The commissioning ceremony was attended by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief of Navy R. Hari Kumar, chairman and managing director of CSL Madhu S. Nair, among others.

No homework for students up to Class 2 in MP schools



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Students up to Class 2 in all government and private schools in Madhya Pradesh will not be given homework, the state school education department said in its fresh guidelines issued regarding reducing the weight of school bags. The notification issued this week, made available on Friday, directed to ensure that students carry school bags of weights as prescribed by the department and monitor the homework given to the students. The guidelines are in line with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Ministry of School Education, the notice read.

The guidelines also said that the school authorities have to ensure that students would be called in the schools without bag at least once a week.

The district education department will be responsible to monitor the weight of school bags after a period of three months. It also mentioned that students should not have more books than the textbooks prescribed by the state and National Council for Educational and

Research Training (NCERT).

The guidelines also say about homework for students at various levels, starting with no homework for children up to Class 2, and maximum two hours of homework every day for children in Classes 9 to 12. While for children in Classes 3, 4 and 5, a maximum of two hours of homework per week should be given, it added. "Schools will have to display bag weight charts on the notice board and in the classrooms and school diary should also be included in the bag weight. School management committee have to prepare timetables for students so that they are not required to bring all the books everyday and their school bag weight does not cross the given limit," the notification read. Schools have also been asked to keep practice books, workbooks and other important items for students until class 8 in the classrooms only. It further mentioned that subjects like Computer, Moral Education, General Science, Health, Physical Education, Sports and Arts should be taught without books and school bags should be light and fit on the shoulders of students.

Odisha govt suspends DLs of over 12K helmet-less riders

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

The transport authorities in Odisha suspended over 12,500 driving licenses, issued 24,474 e-challans for riding motorcycles without helmets during a special drive, an official said on Friday. The state transport authority (STA) has conducted a state-wide special drive against riding motorised two-wheelers without wearing helmets on national and state highways from August 16 to August 30.

During the drive, the state collected Rs 63.98 lakh fine from the violators. Similarly, a total of 888 vehicles have been seized for driving without driving license, said Lal Mohan Sethi, additional commissioner transport, enforcement and road safety.

The main aim of the drive was to create a sense of responsibility among the road users for prevention of road accidents and fatalities. It has been observed that out of the accidents taking place on the national and state highways, many are related to two-wheeler



riders, said Sethi. He said the frequency of enforcement drives will be increased in the month of September. In view of upcoming puja and winter season, September has been declared as month of enforcement. There will be zero tolerance for violation of traffic and Motor Vehicle rules, he warned.

Enforcement drives will include drunken driving, helmet checking, and vehicle fitness including school buses and overloading of vehicles. The drives will take place at regular intervals throughout the month, he informed.

GUJARAT RIOTS: SC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO TEESTA SETALVAD

New Delhi: A day after expressing concern at delay by Gujarat High Court on hearing activist Teesta Setalvad's bail plea, the Supreme Court on Friday granted her interim bail.

Setalvad was arrested for allegedly fabricating documents to frame high-ranking officials, including then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, in the 2002 riots cases in the state, and was in custody since June 25.

The bench said that since the essential custodial interrogation is complete, the matter of interim bail should have been heard, and noted that her bail plea is still pending before the Gujarat High Court. It also directed Setalvad to surrender her passport in the trial court and made it clear that the high court will decide her regular bail plea without being influenced by its order.

LPG cylinder prices rose 45% in 5 years after 58 revisions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as domestic LPG prices have been on the upsurge, burdening the common man, an interesting fact to note is that cooking gas rates have been revised an astounding 58 times in the last five years.

According to official data of the Petroleum Ministry, between April 1, 2017 and July 6, 2022 LPG prices rose by 45 per cent through 58 upward revisions.

An LPG cylinder was priced at Rs 723 in April 2017, and by July 2022, rose by 45 per cent to cost Rs 1,053. At the same time, this hike in cooking gas cylinder price was a huge 26 per cent in the 12 month period between July 1, 2021 and July 6, 2022.

The same LPG cylinder was priced at Rs 834 in July 2021. By July 2022, it's



price surged 26 per cent to touch Rs 1,053.

LPG cylinder prices differ in every state as they depend on value added tax or VAT as well as transportation charges.

They are also calculated on the basis of crude oil prices.

Rising cooking gas prices have burdened the common man even as rising inflation along with rising unemployment have weakened economic growth.

SC DISMISSES PLEA TO MAKE SANSKRIT NATIONAL LANGUAGE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a declaration to make Sanskrit the national language of India. Dismissing the plea, a bench of Justice M.R. Shah and Justice Krishna Murari said the matter is a policy decision that requires an amendment to the Constitution, and cannot be ordered by the court.

"How many cities in India speak Sanskrit? Do you speak Sanskrit? Can you recite one line in Sanskrit or at least translate the prayer in your writ petition to Sanskrit," the court asked during the hearing.

Filed by Gujarat's former Additional Secretary, K.G. Vanzara, the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was seeking the court's direction to the Centre to notify Sanskrit as a national language.

"India should learn from Israel who in 1948, made Hebrew, considered to be a dead Language for the last 2000 years, along with English as official/national Language of Israel," his plea read.

SEVEN PILGRIMS DEAD IN GUJARAT ROAD ACCIDENT

Modasa: At least seven pilgrims were killed and six others injured on Friday after being run over by an SUV in Gujarat's Aravalli district, police said.

The victims were part of a religious padyatra organised by a sangh from Panchmahal district. They were heading towards the Ambaji temple in Banaskantha when the accident occurred near Krishnapura village.

Addressing reporters, Malpur Police Sub-Inspector R.M. Desai said that the driver of the Innova car with a Maharashtra registration number ran over the victims at around 7.30 a.m.

He added that a case of negligent driving and culpable homicide will be registered against the driver who is currently admitted in the Modasa hospital for injuries.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel paid condolences to the victims and announced Rs 4 lakh financial assistance to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to injured persons.

Azad rally in Jammu vs Congress rally in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

There are two rallies this Sunday -- one by the Congress in Delhi against inflation, unemployment and LPG price hike and the other to be held by former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to gauge the public mood in his home turf of J&K. While the Congress has tweeted a video of a protest by party workers in Azad's home block against him, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "This is ground reality, not reality manufactured by people sitting in New Delhi in Modi Sarkar sanctioned bungalows with huge lawns and planting fake news."

The J&K Congress tweeted a video of Congress workers of all blocks of Bhallessa sub-division assembled at the Congress office Gandhi for the monthly meeting conducted on the first day of every month for the last over 50 years.



Bhallessa is the home village of Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's supporters are upbeat in his hometown Baderwah in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, days after he resigned from the Congress and announced the launch of his own party. Most supporters of Azad in Baderwah say they will always side with him and it does not matter whether he is representing the Congress or some other political party.

India is in no rush to resume India-Pakistan trade ties

The onus for resumption of India-Pakistan trade lies with Islamabad, which unilaterally snapped commercial ties in 2019, people familiar with the matter said. The issues of both trade and humanitarian assistance have been in focus since Pakistan's Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said earlier this week that Islamabad can consider importing vegetables and food items from India to cope with shortages due to the floods, which have killed more than 1,000 people and affected 33 million.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was non-committal when he was asked about the issues of humanitarian assistance and trade at a weekly media briefing. "Regarding the floods that have hit Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shared his grief at the devastation caused by the floods. You have seen his comments. He has extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by the



natural calamity. For the moment, that's all I have to say on the issue of the assistance," Bagchi said. "As regards the trade element, we have seen various statements on this matter. At this point, I have nothing further to add to those statements that we have seen from Pakistan," he added. Bagchi responded to a question about humanitarian assistance possibly leading to bonhomie in India-Pakistan relations by saying this was "very speculative". Modi expressed sorrow over the floods in a tweet on August 29. "Saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by

this natural calamity and hope for an early restoration of normalcy," he said. Sharif thanked Modi in a tweet on Wednesday for conveying his condolences over the human and material losses caused by the floods. During a media briefing in Islamabad on Tuesday, Sharif said there would not "have been problems about trading with India but genocide is going on there and Kashmiris have been denied their rights". He further said he was ready to "sit and talk with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We cannot afford war. We will have to dedicate our meagre resources for alleviating poverty in our respective countries but we cannot live in peace without resolving these issues".



SECURITY FORCES STEP UP VIGILANCE IN NE STATES BORDERING B'DESH

Shillong | Agencies

After the arrest of 37 jihadi cadres in little over a month in Assam for their alleged links with the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and the Ansarul Bangla Team, a Bangladesh-based terror outfit, the northeastern states which share border with Bangladesh have stepped up the vigilance.

Police and intelligence officials in Agartala and Shillong on Friday separately said the strict surveillance over the jihadi activities have further intensified and intelligence inputs between the various security agencies being shared for taking further course of action.

Meghalaya Director-General of Police Lajja Ram Bishnoi said in Shillong that after getting the inputs of jihadi activities in Assam, directions have been given to all the police stations and outposts particularly in those areas having borders with Bangladesh to keep a close watch on the bordering villages.



"Our intelligence officials and police personnel are alert over the jihadi activities," the police officer told the media.

In Agartala, a senior police officer said that Border Security Force (BSF) troopers and the people of the bordering areas have been alerted to keep a close watch in their respective

areas. The three cadres, who were recently arrested in Tripura for their links with the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), have been subsequently taken to Assam as part of the investigation against the jihadi group.

Intelligence officials found links between these three persons with the

four arrested in Bhopal in April for their affiliation to the JMB.

Top central and Tripura intelligence officials interrogated Imran Hussain, 25, an Imam, Abul Kashem 32, a teacher, and Hamid Ali, a farmer, who were arrested from Jatrapur, a village in Sepahijala district of Tripura along India-Bangladesh border.

They were booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The Investigation Agency filed charge-sheet against eight of the 37 arrested in Assam for alleged links with fundamentalist organisations.

Of the eight, seven are from western Assam's Barpeta district and one from Tripura.

The Assam government had handed over the cases of "jihadi terror modules" to the NIA after the preliminary investigation.

Four Indian northeastern states of Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (263 km) share a 1,880-km border with Bangladesh.

5 JD-U MLAs merge with BJP in Manipur



Team Absolute | Imphal

Five of the six Janata Dal-United (JD-U) MLAs in Manipur merged with the ruling BJP on Friday night, officials said.

Manipur assembly Secretary K. Meghrajit Singh in said Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh has accepted the merger of the five JD-U MLAs to the legislature party of BJP in the Manipur Assembly under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

The five legislators who joined BJP are Khumukcham

Joykisan Singh (Thangmeiband), Ngursanglur Sanate (Tipaimukh), Md. Achab Uddin (Jiribam), Thangjam Arunkumar (Wangkhel) and L.M. Khaute (Churachandpur).

In the February-March assembly election, the JD-U had won six seats in the 60 member assembly and extended their support to the BJP government headed by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The sixth MLA who did not join the BJP is Md. Nasir, who was elected to the

assembly from the Lilong assembly constituency.

The Opposition Congress has criticised the decision of the JD-U MLAs.

Manipur Pradesh Congress spokesperson Ningombam Bupenda Meitei in a tweet said: "5 out of 6 JD (U) MLAs from Manipur merging with BJP is not only unconstitutional, but the act also attracts disqualification under the Constitution of India. There will be a move to High Court to disqualify them. Save Constitution, Save Democracy."

Odisha POCSO court judge commits suicide in official residence

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

In a shocking incident, the body of a special POCSO court judge was found hanging in his official residence in Odisha's Cuttack city, police said.

The judge, identified as Subash Kumar Bihari, was on leave for the last two days and scheduled to re-join work on Friday. However, he had once again applied for leave from work today, his steno Rabi Narayan Mahapatra said.

Mahapatra said that the judge called him earlier this morning and asked him to write a leave application. However, a few hours later, he said he got the news that the judge is unwell and being taken to a hospital.

The judge's wife and two daughters had gone to the local market. When they



returned at 1 p.m., they found the main door locked. When they forced open the door, they found the judge hanging from a ceiling fan, sources said.

Police reached the spot and Bihari was first rushed to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. However, the exact reason

for his death is yet to be revealed. Police have started an investigation over the incident. Prima facie, it seems to be a case of death by suicide. There were ligature marks on his neck, which occur due to hanging, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Zone 3, Cuttack Tapas Chandra Pradhan, said.

In last four days, disposed of 1,293 miscellaneous, 106 regular matters: CJI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit on Friday said that 1,293 miscellaneous matters, 106 regular matters, and 440 transfer matters were disposed of by the apex court in the last four days.

In his address at a felicitation function organised by the Bar Council of India, he said the apex court is giving more and more emphasis to dispose of regular matters and added that his Secretary General has put figures that last four days show that 1,293 miscellaneous matters, 440 transfer matters were disposed of, and in the last two days, 106 regular matters were disposed of.

The event was attended by



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, BCI members, representatives from various state Bar Councils and members of

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

The Chief Justice, thanking all the representatives of state

Bar councils, said that he would sincerely do his best to live up to their expectations, and the apex court would try

to dispose of as much matter as it can. On August 26, then Justice Lalit, speaking at the farewell function of Chief Justice N.V. Ramana organised by the SCBA, had said that he intends to make the listing of cases clear and transparent, a clear regime for mentioning urgent matters before respective benches, and one Constitution bench functioning throughout the year. On August 27, President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice U.U. Lalit as the Chief Justice of India.

On August 13, 2014, he was elevated to the apex court directly from the Bar. Chief Justice Lalit would be having a short tenure of less than three months as the CJI. He will retire on November 8.

CBI arrests Trinamool leader in chit fund scam, recovers Rs 80 lakh

Kolkata | Agencies

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested Trinamool Congress leader and the Chairman of Halisahar Municipality in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, Raju Sahani, for his alleged involvement in a major chit fund scam in the state.

The CBI sleuths have recovered cash worth Rs 80 lakhs from his possession so far. The counting of the cash is on following which the exact amount of recovery will be known.

On late Friday afternoon, a CBI team suddenly conducted raid and search operations at Sahani's residence at New Town here. Sahani was present at that residence at that time. Another team also raided his ancestral residence at Halisahar.

The cash was recovered from the New Town residence. The CBI sleuths have also traced a bank account held by him in Bangkok. CBI sources said that preliminary investigation has revealed that huge amounts were transferred to this bank account from a chit fund entity, Sanmarg Cooperative. An unlicensed pistol was also seized from his possession. Sources said that Sahani was unable to give satisfactory answers about the huge fund recovered from his possession. Thereafter, he was arrested.

Sahani is the son of former CPI-M leader and



councillor, Lakshman Sahani. However, he rose to fame as an active local leader of Trinamool and in due course of time, became the Chairman of the Halisahar Municipality.

PM MODI FIGHTING AGAINST OPPOSITION, NOT CORRUPTION: LALAN SINGH

Patna: JD-U national President Lalan Singh on Friday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not fighting against corruption but instead, fighting against leaders of the opposition who are challenging him.

"PM Narendra Modi is taking action against those who are objecting to him. He sends central investigating agencies against them and try to frame them. In case of those who have joined the BJP, they become neat and clean like they took a bath in the washing machine," he said.

"People of the world know B.S. Yediyurappa is a corrupt politician. Still, BJP made him Chief Minister of Karnataka. BJP should introspect on its own and then give certificates to others," he alleged.

Asked whether Nitish Kumar will be the prime ministerial candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he categorically denied it.

The JD-U started the preparation for 2024 Lok Sabha election and called for a meeting to finalise the agenda for its two days national Executive Committee meeting.

Congress targets govt over unemployment, inflation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the run-up to its 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' rally scheduled at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on September 4, the Congress on Friday targeted the Centre on the issues of unemployment and inflation.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh said, "The rupee has fallen to 79.70 against the US dollar. The unemployment rate in August, as per CMIE, was a whopping 8.28 per cent, the highest in the last one year. Retail inflation continues to be above RBI's tolerance band of 6 per cent, sitting at 6.71 per cent in July."

Vallabh said the BJP government, due to its inept handling of the economy, is pushing the Indian growth story back.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released the GDP numbers for Q1 FY23 on Wednesday, Vallabh said, adding that the government machinery may push specific data points, but the real picture emerges if the numbers are compared to the pre-Covid levels.

The Congress spokesperson said that the SBI has trimmed its growth forecast for FY23 from 7.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent, while other



global banks and rating agencies too have followed the same trend.

"What concrete measures is the government taking to generate employment opportunities for our youth, given that the urban unemployment rate has risen to 9.6 per cent," Vallabh asked.

NO ROOM FOR OPS IN PARTY, SAYS AIADMK LEADER AFTER HC VERDICT

Chennai: Senior AIADMK leader and former Tamil Nadu minister D. Jayakumar on Friday said that a division bench of the Madras High Court has held that the expulsion of former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam from the party is valid.

Addressing media persons outside the residence of AIADMK leader and former Chief Minister, K. Palaniswami, Jayakumar said that the General Council meeting of the party was held on July 11 as per the path followed by the party founder, M.G.Ramachandran and party leader Jayalitha.

He also said "Dharmam" has won and added that the workers across the state are boosted up following the verdict of the high court's division bench allowing to continue the July 11, General Council decisions.

Jayakumar also said that there was no future for O. Panneerselvam in the party. Workers of the AIADMK meanwhile celebrated the high court judgment and distributed sweets.

K'taka Lingayat sex scandal: Court objects to shifting of accused seer to hospital

Chitradurga, (Karnataka) | Agencies

A local court here on Friday hauled up the police for shifting Lingayat seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, accused of raping minor girls, to a hospital without permission.

The II Additional District and Sessions' court in Chitradurga also asked the jailer to immediately produce the accused. Following the orders, the authorities are preparing to produce the accused seer before the judge from the hospital.

Sharanaru is being treated for heart complications in the ICU of Chitradurga District Hospital. The doctors said that he will be shifted to a Bengaluru hospital for additional treatment.

While looking into the police's petition seeking five-day custody of the seer for investigation, the court asked why the accused was not presented before the court.

At this, the prosecution maintained that the accused seer is in the hospital. Taking a strong objection to it, the



court questioned why did the prosecution not seek it's permission in this regard. Though the prosecution sought permission for presenting the accused through video conferencing, the court refused.

With this development, chances of accused seer being shifted to Bengaluru looks bleak, say sources.

The accused seer was arrested on Thursday night and he is being handed over to judicial custody by the local court. He faces charges under the POCSO and SC, ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.

Woman pushed from moving train by 'drunk' man in Haryana

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a 30-year-old woman, travelling to Tohana town in Fatehabad district in Haryana along with nine-year-old son, was killed when she was pushed from a moving train by a 'drunk' man when she resisted a bid of 'sexual assault', the police said on Friday.

The incident took place late Thursday night between Dhamtan Sahib, about 10 km from Narwana, and Tohana railway stations, they said.

The woman, Mandeep Kaur, 30, and her son were travelling in a general coach of the train.

The accused, Sandeep, who was alone in the wagon, started troubling and teasing her as the train crossed Dhamtan Sahib, the police said.

When she resisted, the man allegedly pushed her off the train. Later, as per the police, he also jumped off the moving train.



The accused was found unconscious

who informed him about the crime. The police in the morning found the body of the victim lying in fields.

Superintendent of Police Astha Modi told the media that the accused has been booked under Section 302 (murder) and 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

CHANGE OF NAME

I Army No.15673857A, Rank-HAV, Name MANJEET KUMAR Residing at Village Dubheta Post Moi majri Tehsil & District Sonapat State Haryana pin code-131102 have changed my daughter Name from AYUSH to AYUSHI Vide affidavit dated 31/08/2022 at Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.



CAMPAIGN IN STATE FROM SEPTEMBER 17 TO OCTOBER 31 TO GIVE BENEFITS OF VARIOUS SCHEMES TO ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

Benefits of Sambal scheme will be given to all street vendors - Sambal cards will be made. Suraaj Colony will be developed for the poor on lands freed from possession of land mafia. Street vendor scheme giving shape to the concept of self-reliant and Atmanirbhar state. CM Chouhan interacts with street vendors in Indore in a family environment

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh government has resolved to bring a change in the lives of people and bring smiles on their faces. In this direction, many schemes are being run by the Central and State Governments. Its benefits are also visible. He said that there is one such street vendor scheme, which embodies the concept of self-reliant and Atmanirbhar state, bringing positive changes in the lives of the beneficiaries and making their lives happy. He said that a special campaign would be started in the state from September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this it will be ensured that all the eligible beneficiaries get the benefits of the schemes. Beneficiaries can get direct benefits of livelihood, education, health etc. of their children. For this, the eligible beneficiaries will be given the benefits of various schemes by organizing camps in each ward and panchayat of every district. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the programme 'Mukhyamantri ki Baat-Path



Vikretan ke Saath' in Indore. The Chief Minister interacted with the street vendors in a family environment and sought to know the problems after listening to their experiences.

Poor should be able to do business with respect

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the government of Madhya Pradesh is the government of the poor. If the daily routine of the people is going on normally, then the biggest contributor to that are the street vendors. They are contributing significantly in the

development of the state by doing different, small and big works. To provide support to all such street vendors, Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Yojana and Mukhyamantri Gramin Path Vendor Yojana have been started. He said that so far 94 thousand people have got benefit in these schemes in Indore district. Special camps will be organized to give benefit to the remaining eligible beneficiaries.

House will be arranged for the needy

Chief Minister Chouhan said that

all sections should get equal rights, for this, various schemes are being run by the Central and State Governments. Full arrangements are being made for food, shelter, health and education for the poor. Free ration is being provided to the poor under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Anna Yojana. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the poor who had been living on the land for years, would be made the owner of the land by giving them patas. For this, necessary amendments will be brought in the rules.

Competition for the children of street vendors

Chief Minister Chouhan appreciated the presentation of cultural programmes given by the children of various street vendors in the programme. He said that competition for cultural programmes would be organized for all such children on Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day.

The children will get a chance to display their art in the competition. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan also announced to give honorarium of Rs. 25 thousand on the presentation given by girls residing in Bhagora village of Mhow tehsil.

MP serial killings

6 security guards murdered since May, 1 suspect held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a suspected serial killer here, who was allegedly involved in killing of at least six security guards since May.

The last attack took place in the state capital late on Thursday night.

According to reports, four security guards were reportedly attacked in Sagar district in a span of one week, of which one is battling for life at a Bhopal hospital.

Shiv Gond, the suspected accused, was arrested late on Thursday from Bhopal and is being interrogated. The breakthrough came after a 23-year-old security guard, who has been identified as Sonu Verma, was murdered in Bairagarh area late on Thursday, police said.

"Based on CCTV footage of the locality, we picked-up the accused in the early hours from Bhopal. During the preliminary investigation, he confessed to killing six security guards, including one Pune. Further interroga-



tion is underway," a senior Police official told reporter.

As per police, the 19-year-old accused is a resident of Keshi area in Sagar district and he was inspired by a KGF movie. He told the police that he was targeting the security guards who were asleep during duty hours. The accused speak fluent English and earlier was working with a private firm in Goa.

Notably, three murders within a week has created panic among the people, especially the security guards in Sagar district.

Absolute India had reported on Thursday that the crime prompted Madhya Pradesh Director General of

Police (DIG) Sudhir Saxena to monitor the case himself. Subsequently, at least 250 cops in several teams were deployed to find a breakthrough in the case.

The attacks had an identical pattern -- smashing heads with a hammer, stones and spade.

While the first case was reported in May, the second took place on Monday and the third and fourth were carried out on Tuesday in Sagar district, and fifth one on Thursday in Bhopal.

The accused has been taken to Sagar district for further investigation in the matter, state home minister Narottam Mishra told the press.

Cong accuses Shivraj Govt of hiding employment data

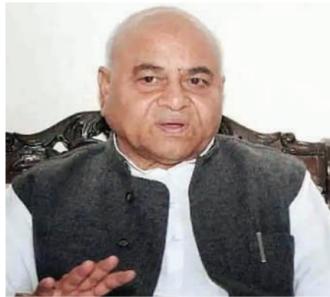
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Pointing out discrepancy between the Centre and state data on the registered unemployed youth in Madhya Pradesh, the Opposition Congress in the state has accused the ruling BJP of hiding the data.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in MP assembly Dr Govind Singh said according to the economic survey, the state government mentioned that the number of registered unemployed are 30.23 lakh whereas, the Centre's shram portal put it at 1.30 crore.

Singh accused the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government of hiding the facts and presenting the "half truth" before the Assembly. He said the government should present the details of number of unemployed youth in the state on a white paper.

In the last 18 years, Chouhan has made several announcements for recruitment and fill the vacant posts in all departments of the state, however, it failed to fulfill its promises, he alleged. "If the direct recruitment process remained cancel, many departments of the



state government would be completely vacant. Because, employees are getting retired every year but new recruitment are not being done for the last several years," Singh told reporter.

The leader of opposition further claimed that in 2001, the number of permanent state government employees was 5.13 lakh, which dipped to 4.52 lakh in March 2018 and has now further comedown to 4.37 lakh.

4 OFFICERS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION SUSPENDED IN INDORE

Indore: Four officers of Civil Supplies Corporation have been punished for being negligent. All of these have been suspended. It has been told in official information that the Managing Director Civil Supplies Corporation Tarun Pithode has suspended four officers on charges of negligence and apathy in work. District Manager of the Corporation posted in Mandla district, K.L. Sharma, junior assistant Poonam Thakur, Lalman Baiga and Ashok Patait have been suspended.

It has been told that in-charge District Manager Sharma has been suspended as per the SOP issued by the Central Government for not sending the ATR in the stipulated time and not supervising. Junior Assistant Thakur has been suspended for receiving 174 MT non-standard CMR at Mandla supply center, Junior Assistant Baiga for getting 870 MT non-standard CMR at Maneri supply center and Junior Assistant Patait for getting 580 MT non-standard CMR at Beechha supply center.

8000 crore subsidy being given to electricity consumers in Malwa-Nimad

Team Absolute | Indore

An annual subsidy of Rs 8000 crore is being given to about 46 lakh electricity consumers of fifteen districts of Malwa-Nimad region of Madhya Pradesh. This disclosure has come from the data released by the power company. Amit Tomar, managing director of Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company, Indore, said that on an average about 32 to 33 lakh consumers are benefitted every month under the Grih Jyoti Yojana. They



are given a subsidy of Rs 125 crore monthly and about Rs 1500 crore annually. About 13 lakh farmers are being provided subsidy for irrigation. He further informed that free electricity is being provided to the farmers of one hectare of

land belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes with pumps up to four lakh and five horsepower. The amount given to help the farmers is also more than six thousand crores annually. Apart from this, industrial and

high pressure category consumers are also given exemption for green field, cashless, prompt payment, use of night electricity etc. This exemption also exceeds Rs 500 crore. In this way, subsidy of more than Rs 8000 crore is being given to the consumers.

Managing Director Tomar said that subsidy is being given up to 93 percent in general irrigation bills and up to 84 percent in domestic bills. Tomar claims that in the feedback of West Zone Electricity Distribution Company, the satisfaction figure of electricity consumers is 99 percent.

NO MINING IN SIDDHA MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATED WITH LORD RAM IN SATNA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Satna district of Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has made it clear that there will be no mining on this mountain. It is known that Siddha mountain is located in Satna district, it is said that when Lord Rama had passed through here during his exile, he had freed this area from the nocturnes, to give this mountain on mining, the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Board has given public Hearing was decided. Since then the Congress was a constant attacker.

On Friday, Chief Minister Chouhan clearly said that invaluable cultural heritage places like Siddha Pahar, Satna, which are the center of our faith and reverence, the sanctity of this place will be kept intact. There



will be no excavation here. Instructions have been given to Satna district administration.

The state president of Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit, Kamal Nath, had made serious allegations against the Shivraj government and said, the Shivraj government of the state,

which describes itself as a religion lover, has been taking decisions constantly playing with public beliefs and religious sentiments for its business interests. In the recent decision taken by BJP, Siddha Pahar situated in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh which is situated on Ram Van Gaman

Path, where Lord Shri Ram had come at the time of exile and took a pledge to free this land from the nocturnes. Now the Shivraj government has started the process of mining that mountain.

Kamal Nath had accused the government that the illegal excavation work on this mountain is going on continuously, but the government has not yet taken any steps to stop it. Such efforts were made about 10 years ago, but then this decision was postponed after public protest. Now once again action has been started in the name of environmental approval.

Many BJP leaders had also lodged a protest against the attempts to give Siddha Pahar on mining. Even within the party, questions were being raised on the attempt to allow mining at a site belonging to Lord Ram.

APEDA initiates for Export Infrastructure Development

APEDA has taken initiative to develop infrastructure to increase the export share of fresh fruits and vegetables in Madhya Pradesh.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, was

established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985. APEDA made a significant contribution to India's export target of \$400 billion by achieving exports of \$21.5 billion in the financial year 2021-2022. APEDA includes fruits, vegetables and their products, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, dairy products, confectionery, biscuits and bakery products, honey, molasses and sugar products,

cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds, alcoholic and non-alcoholic Alcoholic beverages, cereals and grain products, groundnuts and walnuts, pickles, papads and chutneys, guar gum, floriculture and floriculture products, herbs and medicinal plants, all these products are monitored.

APEDA also functions as the Secretariat of the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for the implementation of accreditation of certification bodies under the National Program for Organic Production (NPOP) for organic exports.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPPLINGS WITH MEMBERS OF VARISHTHA JAN KALYAN SAMITI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Banyan, Neem and Gulmohar saplings with the members of Varishtha Jan Kalyan Samiti in Smart City Garden.

Banyan has religious and medicinal value. According to Ayurveda, many diseases can be treated with the help of Banyan leaves, bark etc. Abounding in antibiotic elements, neem is known as the supreme medicine. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in large clusters among the well-arranged leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. It is also rich in medicinal properties.



Mama Shivraj shares known-unknown stories of freedom with children

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan appeared in a different style in the programme "Tera Vaibhav Amar Rahe Maa" at Abhay Prashal in Indore on Friday. Chief Minister inaugurated the Indore Chapter of Sanskritik evam Naitik Prashikshan Sansthan (Cultural and Moral Training Institute), and narrated the known-unknown stories of freedom to the children during an open dialogue with the school students. Children's chemistry with Chief Minister Chouhan became memorable. During his 20 minutes conversation with the children, the Chief Minister soaked everyone in the colours of patriotism. During this, Chouhan also administered a pledge to all the children to protect the environment, respect for all and welfare of the world.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that



Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) has always been the goal of India. Our country has inculcated this sentiment in itself - "May all be happy, may all be healthy and may all be well." He said that our country has a known history dating back to 5 thousand

years. When the Sun of civilization had not even risen in the so-called developed countries, then the hymns of the Vedas were created in India. He said that contribute towards the development of the country and the state with the spirit of patriotism.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that our revolutionaries fought for the freedom of the country when the shackles of subjugation gripped India. He narrated to the students the tales of the sacrifices made by Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and Udhram Singh for the country and the struggle for freedom. Chief Minister informed

the students about the sacrifices made by the revolutionaries to fulfill the resolution of independence. He said that today's young generation has to contribute in nation building by becoming such a citizen. Chief Minister told the students to take a pledge to develop a sense of respect and regard for their parents, teachers and sisters and daughters.

EVERY STUDENT SHOULD TAKE A PLEDGE TO PLANT A SAPLING ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Chief Minister Chouhan said that there is only one consciousness in all the animals of the world. We have to protect not only humans but also nature, animals and birds living here. We have to create a feeling of love towards them. The Chief Minister said that he starts his day by planting saplings every day. He made the students resolve that they all must plant a sapling on their birthdays and show their gratitude towards nature. He said that the young generation should not only live for themselves but for the welfare of the world, protect the environment and if need be, they should also sacrifice everything for the country.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Indians don't want to help Pak

Pakistan is witnessing unprecedented monsoon rain causing devastating floods in the country. According to reports, the heavy downpour causing flash floods and landslides has claimed more than 1,000 lives and rendered 1 million homeless. Large areas remain submerged with destroyed buildings, roads, railway tracks and bridges, affecting almost 33 million people in the country. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the country has witnessed the highest amount of rainfall this year since 1961. Floodwaters have created a major humanitarian crisis in the country. International community has come forward to provide help. Pakistan has started receiving aid from different countries and the UN. CVoter-IndiaTracker conducted a nationwide survey to know people's opinion about India providing help to the neighbouring country. The survey revealed that people were divided in their opinion. During the survey, while 43 per cent respondents said that India should provide help to Pakistan the way it did when another neighbouring country Sri Lanka was in a crisis situation, 57 per cent respondents did not agree. During the survey, similar sentiment was noticed in the views of both the urban and rural voters. As per the survey data, 57 per cent of urban voters and 60 per cent of rural voters believe that India should stay away from extending any help to the neighbouring country. At the same time, 47 per cent of urban respondents and 40 per cent of rural respondents spoke in favour of sending relief material and aid. Notably, during the survey, while a bigger proportion, 56 per cent, of respondents in 18-24 years age category and 56 per cent above 55 years of age expressed their views in favour of providing help to Pakistan, a large proportion, 56 per cent, of respondents from 25-34 years age category and 58 per cent respondents in the age group of 35-44 years spoke against it.

A SHIMMERING LIGHT OF ENLIGHTENMENT IN POJK

On August 27, the Jammu Kashmir Awami Workers Party (JKAWP) held an all party conference in Islamabad. Speeches made on the occasion by young political activists from Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) indicated an epic shift in their perspective regarding Kashmir. Due to the devastating monsoon rain and flash floods, the delegation from Pakistan occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) could not make it to Islamabad. However, Baba Jan, leader of the JKAWP's GB chapter addressed the conference via phone link. Shah Nawaz Ali Sher, a young lawyer and chief organiser of the JKAWP, must have shocked many when he addressed the conference, when he said: "In PoJK, human rights are being violated in a brutal way." Never before has any political activist dared to call Kashmir an occupied territory on Pakistani soil

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

let alone at a conference held at the National Press Club in Islamabad. Sher further said that the Maharaja (Hari Singh) wanted to keep the state independent but Pakistan divided the state in the name of religion. Thus Sher openly distanced himself from the Two-Nation theory and the founding ideology of Pakistan. He also criticised the Kashmir policy of Pakistan by referring to the so-called Pakistan sponsored freedom movement in Kashmir as proxy war'. Thereby rejecting the Pakistani military establishment's narrative on Kashmir. Sher said that it was the need of the hour to liberate PoJK. Another speaker, Sardar Ishtiaq from the United Kashmir People's National Party said that Kashmir was a multi-religious and multi-ethnic region and therefore it was not possible to start a movement that was solely based on Deobandi

or Wahhabi Islam. He said that the purpose of the movement initiated (by Pakistan) in 1988 in the valley was to divide the Kashmiri population on religious grounds. The killer statement came from the chairman of JKAWP, Nissar Shah, who is a practicing high court lawyer. In his address to the conference, he said: "In 1947 there was an agreement signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and India after which he joined India. However, since 1947 our people (in PoJK) have been denied of any democratic, political and economic rights and this is what we should have struggle to obtain and should have not demanded the liberation of the Valley because it was never a slave (of India)." This tantamount to a complete



rejection of the 70 odd year old narrative that Pakistani military establishment has been hammering upon the conscious of my people. This also indicates another factor. That a major intellectual barrier raised by the Pakistani military establishment since 1947, to contain the truth about Jammu Kashmir, now seems to have been overcome by the young generation in PoJK. Since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution that gave a special status to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, today the youth in PoJK are witnessing the rapid development and prosperity that the BJP government has launched. As floods and monsoon create havoc the people of PoJK and PoGB

continue to protest against the lack of basic necessities such as drinking water, electricity, flour and lack of safety walls on mountainous terrain. They are protesting relentlessly against the unjust taxes that have been levied against them by the government of Pakistan and raise slogans against the Pakistan army as well as demanding independence from the state of Pakistan. One should hope that the shimmering light of enlightenment that was revealed at the Jammu Kashmir Awami Worker's Party conference continues to spread across the length and breadth of PoJK and PoGB. (The writer is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

BOLLYWOOD CONTENT HAS BEEN SUB-PAR, PUSHING AUDIENCES TO SWITCH

Bollywood box-office performance has further deteriorated over the last two months, Emkay Global Financial Services said in a research note. Poor content performance is largely underscored by deprecatory critics' reviews and social media influence, it said. "We maintain that content quality has superseded star power which is evident in the recently-released movies being a letdown. On the other hand, regional and Hollywood movies (a slew of releases) continue to do well, partially offsetting the weak Bollywood performance," the report said. After a successful Q1FY23, overall box-office collections have meaningfully tapered, with mega-budget movies performing poorly in

Q2FY23 owing to weak content. With regard to content, while Bollywood has seen a trough in the past, it is witnessing deterioration in movie-collections again this time round. Going ahead too, while the movie pipeline looks healthy, audience acceptance is key. If Bollywood content performance continues to be poor, then it would lead to further cut in earnings as well as de-rating for PVR and Inox, the report said. Sub-par content quality is being rejected by audience. The report said that Bollywood content has been sub-par, pushing audiences to switch to other languages and mediums of entertainment. Critics' reviews and word-of-mouth communication, which play a major role in box-office collections beyond the first week, have been negative-to-

mixed for most movies released since the end of the pandemic. Thus, most movies have even struggled to recover the cost. A mega-star cast, which was able to pull audiences to theatres, is now no longer effective as weak content has become the decisive factor. The first weekend net box-office collections for movies with prominent stars are getting restricted to less than Rs. 400 mn now vs pre-Covid levels of Rs. 1,100 mn on an average. Most current & potential (in the next 1-2 quarters) movie releases were conceptualised pre-Covid or during the Covid period. Gauging consumer behaviour, consumption habits seem to have changed and content needs to evolve accordingly, to pull them back to theatres. Poor content has been accentuated by

social media influencing as well. Additionally, the inflationary scenario has raised the cost of movie-going, which has increased content-quality filtration by patrons, the report said. Regional cinema has been the major driver of box-office collections post Covid. Regional content with positive/strong reviews has also received acceptance from Hindi-speaking markets. We believe this has been the silver lining in the last six months, though it may not sustain ahead, as Bollywood would remain the mainstay for collections in the non-South markets. Majority of Bollywood movies released directly on OTT over the last two

years have also got mixed-to-negative critics reviews and fairly low YouTube trailer views (vs movies released directly in theatres). This clearly points to the sub-par content and not to consumers being averse to returning to theatres, the report said. Covid has been a critical catalyst in increasing acceptance of OTT platforms with in-home content consumption. Shorter content windowing also played spoilsport (to some extent) for patrons fully returning to cinemas. Now, when the impact of Covid has receded, sub-par content performance is causing consumers to deviate from cinemas, towards OTT content.

international

Liz Truss widely expected to win but ally of Rishi Sunak still hopeful

London | Agencies
The Tory leadership ballot will close on Friday with Conservative members to choose between Liz Truss or Rishi Sunak as the new UK Prime Minister, a media report said. The tea-time deadline will bring to an end the eight-week contest to replace Boris Johnson in Downing Street, after the outgoing prime minister announced his resignation following a revolt by Tory MPs, the Daily Mail reported. Around 160,000 Tory members have been given a vote in the final stage of the leadership contest -- between Truss and Sunak -- with the result of the ballot to be announced at an event in Westminster at lunchtime on Monday. Truss is widely predicted to be crowned the new Tory leader with the Foreign Secretary expected to use this weekend to



continue her preparations for entering Number 10, Daily Mail reported. But an ally of Sunak, the former chancellor, this morning insisted the race was still 'neck and neck' and the result not 'cut and dried'. Meanwhile, removal vans were spotted in Downing Street this morning as the Johnsons' final belongings are taken away from their official

flat above Number 11. A win for Sunak would shock Westminster and the wider country after polls have consistently put Truss ahead of her rival in the leadership battle, Daily Mail reported. Whoever is the announced the victor on Monday will have a whirlwind 48 hours at the beginning of this week as they start their premiership.

PUTIN PAYS LAST RESPECTS TO GORBACHEV, NOT TO ATTEND FUNERAL

Moscow | Agencies
Russian President Vladimir Putin paid his last respects to last Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday, as he will not be able to attend the official farewell ceremony later this week, the Kremlin has said, RT reported. In a press call with journalists, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that the President will be unable to attend the September 3 funeral for the former Soviet leader due to a tight schedule. He stated that Putin personally paid his last respects to Gorbachev on Thursday by visiting the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow, where the former leader's body is currently is, RT reported. Peskov added that Gorbachev's funeral will be carried out in part as a state funeral, meaning that there will be a guard of honour and the state will assist in organising the farewell ceremony on Saturday. Gorbachev passed away at the age of 91 on Tuesday. He was the last leader of the Soviet Union and his tenure saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War, and the subsequent breakup of the USSR. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990.



New York imposes new gun restrictions

New York | Agencies
New York has started to prohibit concealed carry of weapons in designated sensitive areas after the US Supreme Court struck down the state's century-old concealed carry weapons law in June. Concealed carry permit holders are not allowed to bring their firearms into sensitive locations, including Times Square, bars, libraries, schools, government buildings and hospitals, according to the new law, which took effect on Thursday. "Individuals who are not exempt from this restriction under the law can be charged with a felony for violating its sensitive locations provision," said a statement from the New York state government. Local law enforcement departments are installing signage in sensitive areas with the launch of a public awareness campaign, reports Xinhua news agency. "We will be posting signage at every entrance into Times Square informing those travelling through that the area is a gun-free zone and that licensed gun carriers and others may not enter with a gun unless otherwise specially authorized by law," said Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City. Though the Supreme Court's decision on New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen means a set-



back in fighting against gun violence in the state, the New York State legislature passed new laws with restrictions on concealed carry weapons days after the ruling. For over 100 years, New York required applicants to conceal carry gun licenses to show "proper cause", but the Supreme Court ruled that New York State's "proper cause" requirement violated the Second Amendment of the Constitution. New York also strengthens background checks and firearm safety and live-fire training for individuals seeking to obtain concealed carry permits, and requires renewal or recertification of permits every three years rather than every five years.

SAUDI ARABIA AMENDS TOURIST VISA POLICY

Riyadh | Agencies
Saudi Arabia has announced an amendment to its tourist visa policy for residents of other Arab countries and the US, UK and the European Union (EU). Under the policy, residents of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, along with their close relatives and domestic workers, can now apply for an e-visa online, reports news agency. Meanwhile, residents of or holders of a tourist or business visa to the US, UK and the EU will be able to get a visa on arrival, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Tourism. The changed tourist visa policy was part of a decree signed by the Tourism Minister Ahmed Al-Khateeb to "make it quicker and easier to visit Saudi Arabia", the Ministry said. In the past few years, Saudi Arabia has taken a series of steps to develop various sectors of the economy, including tourism, to diversify the state revenues and reduce its dependence on oil sales. While most tourism in Saudi Arabia still largely involves religious pilgrimages, a number of ancient ruins, areas include the Hijaz and Sarawat Mountains, and Red Sea diving also attract travellers.



Spanish tourism up in first seven months of 2022

Madrid | Agencies
Spain's tourism sector continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, with the Statistical Office (INE) confirming that the country welcomed 39.3 million foreign travellers in the first seven months of this year. Although this is still below the 48 million visitors registered in the same period of 2019, it is three times more than the 9.8 million tourists who visited Spain in January-July 2021, reports Xinhua news agency citing the INE as saying. This year so far, foreign visitors to the country spent 47.6 billion euros, over four times more than in 2021 but still less than in the same period of 2019 (52.2 billion euros). Juan Carlos Higuera, professor at the EAE Business School, explained to Xinhua that the increase in tourist numbers is a direct response to the elimination of restrictions introduced during the pandemic and commented that "the comparison and growth should be looked at in relation to the years prior to Covid". The expert also highlighted that, although everything points to the tourist market remaining buoyant over the autumn, macroeconomic factors, such as rising inflation and fuel bills, could play a role. "Everything will depend on how the market evolves and the inflation that is already causing problems for families." "We have to take into account that rising costs have had an impact on the profit margin of the tourism sector, although it has tried to alleviate the situation by increasing prices," he said. The main source markets for Spain in the first seven months of 2022 were the UK (with about 8.4 million tourists and an annual increase of 908.5 per cent), followed by Germany (5.5 million arrivals) and France (5.3 million).

Chile rules out water rationing amid ongoing drought

Santiago | Agencies
Chile will not have to ration water in the immediate future despite a prolonged 14-year drought, Minister of Public Works Juan Carlos Garcia said. "After analysing all the information on temperatures, rainfall, river flows and available snow, among other factors, we are in a position to rule out water rationing for spring 2022 and summer 2023," Garcia said during a press conference. While more rain and snow has fallen this year compared to 2021, "we still cannot let our guard down", news agency quoted the Minister as saying. "We will continue to observe what happens in our country from March onward. We will not let up on working on more and better regulation, investment and monitoring of our country's



channels." "We cannot rest in the current situation, least of all to depend exclusively on rain and snowfall. We will continue to take legislative and investment measures regarding water infrastructure," he added. According to the University of Chile, 2021 was one of

the driest years in the history of the South American country, with a more than 50 per cent drop in rainfall. The shortfall has affected small and large farmers, including producers of export fruits and vegetables, who were forced to reduce the amount of land cultivated.



MNS SAYS 'SORRY'; SUSPENDS PARTY ACTIVIST FOR ASSAULTING WOMAN SHOPKEEPER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) on Friday suspended its south Mumbai Up-Vibhag chief Vinod Argyle after a video showing him abusing, pushing and assaulting a woman shopkeeper sparked an uproar.

Senior MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar said that he was 'disturbed' after seeing the videos of the incident on Thursday, and said MNS President Raj Thackeray has always advocated respect for women.

"Despite similar strict instructions to the party workers, this incident has occurred and I apologise on behalf of the MNS," said Nandgaonkar in a statement on Friday evening. He said the party has taken a tough view of this and suspended Argyle and further steps will be taken after the party conducts its own probe into the incident.

The shocking incident, in which Argyle was seen abusing, pushing, dragging and assaulting the woman shopkeeper, Parkash Devi, till she fell on the pavement, sparked a massive furore in the state political circles. Shiv Sena women leaders like Manisha Kayande, ex-Mayor Kishori Pednekar, Nationalist Congress Party's Chief

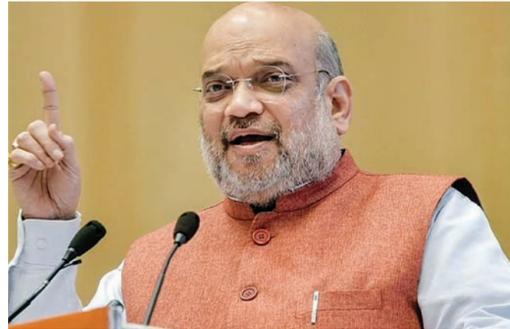


Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over two months after the alliance government of Shiv Sena rebel faction leader and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis took charge, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is slated to visit Mumbai on September 5, at the height of the Ganeshotsav festival.

Shah's customary annual visit to the state's biggest festival for the past few years used to be a largely religious affair - visiting the Lalbaugcha Raja and other important venues, and taking 'darshan' of Lord Ganesha at the homes of several BJP bigwigs in the city. This year, however, the devotional menu may be laced with a subtle political docket intended to strengthen the Shinde-Fadnis regime - currently bedevilled by internal, external and legal hassles, plus other political goings.

Fadnis acknowledged all the possibilities with a grin, indicating "there will be a political agenda" during Shah's visit on Monday, but declined to elaborate. The Shinde-Fadnis government has been struggling to



attain credibility among the masses after it toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress, led by Uddhav Thackeray.

The MVA has viciously targeted and vituperatively lampooned them for the manner in which the government came to power, with embarrassing choruses of "Khoke OK" (boxes, implying Rs 50 crore), "traitors", etc. haunting the "ED sarkar" and needling the 40-odd legislators of the rebel group who sneaked out from June 10 onwards. The Thackeray-led Shiv Sena even went a step

ahead comparing them with a famous Arabian Nights tale of 40 dubious characters, attracting howls of protests and bitter counter-attacks from the "turn-coats".

Shinde faced flak for the massive delays in the cabinet expansion with 18 Ministers - which took place 41 days after he and Fadnis took oath on June 30 - followed by the hiccups in allocating portfolios, and the hanging swords of the legal tussle in the Supreme Court. Now, he confronts discontent afresh with many MLAs from his and BJP side clamouring for ministerial

berths, and while a second round of expansion may take a while, Shah may cast a benign "glance" and placate the restless legislators.

There is the pending issue of the proposed tie-up with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray, which the BJP has been hoping for since the past over a couple of years. Once a sharp BJP-baiter, Raj Thackeray apparently sobered up his pilgrimage to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in August 2019, and now the "ED sarkar" is "after" him for a much-anticipated partnership, ahead of the upcoming crucial civic polls.

After recovering from a hip surgery, Raj Thackeray has been the flavour of the season for the BJP with a host of leaders calling on him, like Shinde, Fadnis, state and city party heads Chandrashekhar Bawankule and Ashish Shelar, respectively, and others. There's intense speculation that Shah may home in on the reluctant Raj Thackeray and nudge him into a cooperative alliance - for the mutual benefit of MNS-BJP-Shinde Group - in the civic elections, to begin with, and get a "Thackeray" on the BJP side.

210 kgs Ganja seized, 01 trafficker along with vehicle apprehended by NCB-Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The NCB-Mumbai has delivered another major blow to the interstate drug trafficking wherein a huge consignment of high quality Ganja was seized on which was being transported into Mumbai and adjoining areas. In this matter, 210 kgs high quality Ganja along with 01 trafficker and a vehicle used for the transportation has been seized. The apprehended person is primary resident of Mumbai and was involved in Ganja supply and other drugs in various parts of Mumbai especially Govandi, Mankhurd and other local areas for last few years.

The inception of the information was gathered through reliable source wherein it was reported that due to multiple enforcement activities by the agency in recent past, the suppliers were in high demand for supply of the contraband after which associates in the syndicate had setup an arrangement to pull off a delivery of huge consignment sourced from AP-Odisha area to Mumbai. In light of this emergence of the input, the intelligence networks were



alerted for identification of the entities involved in the said trafficking. After rigorous effort, certain workable information was analysed wherein the delivery of the contraband was to be done some place near Pune and was destined for Govandi, Mumbai. Yesterday, the information was analysed which ascertained the planning and route of the illicit drug trafficking movement. Accordingly, the field operational team of NCB-Mumbai set out towards the routes thus analysed and maintained discreet cordon and waited for further instruction

about movement of the traffickers. In due time, the trafficker and the vehicle was physically tracked which was moving on Pune-Mumbai Highway towards Mumbai. However, the driver changed its course and diverted the vehicle off route around Khopoli area to which the NCB officials sensed that the driver was seasoned trafficker in this route and was applying dodging maneuvers.

After vehicular pursuit for a while, the vehicle was stopped for preliminary checking. The identity of the driver was confirmed first and when preliminary questioning was done about the suspicious goods in the vehicle, the person could not give satisfactory answers. To this, a thorough search of the vehicles were conducted which resulted in identification of 98 packets sealed with brown adhesive tapes, which is a common method for packaging of drugs which when unpacked, a total of 210 kgs of Ganja was recovered. Thereafter, the person was apprehended and the contraband along with vehicles was seized in accordance to the legal procedures. During interrogation of the person, he stated about his previous involvement in the drug trafficking.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian rupee depreciated 24 paise to close at 79.80 against the US dollar on Friday ending the week on the weak note.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, rupee ended at 79.80, as against 79.56 against the US dollar. Rupee traded in mixed range in the week between 79.25-79.95 closing the week on a flat but broadly weak note, as dollar index and FII's selling pressure added resistance to rupee whereas Crude price fall and domestic sector performance along with banks positive momentum gave support to the rupee," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst



Dollar index, which gauges the strength of greenback against the basket of six major currencies were at 109.273. Brent crude oil prices were at \$94.25 a barrel by the closing of Indian market hours.

Meanwhile, Sensex ended 36.74 points or 0.06 per cent up at 58,803.33, and Nifty

ended 3.35 points or 0.02 per cent down at 17,539.45. Around 1,769 shares have advanced, 1,656 shares declined, and 142 shares remained unchanged. HDFC, ITC, Larsen and Toubro, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank were gainers on the BSE. BSE SmallCap index ended higher, however, BSE MidCap and LargeCap fell.

In rural Maha, losing husband means losing right to life

Team Absolute | Maharashtra

The ordeal of single women in rural India does not stop with just one problem. Once her husband dies, a woman is often branded a witch, har-binger of bad luck, and husband killer. She is deprived of shelter, food, livelihood, medical care and even the right to live. Ostracised for being a widow or single mother or woman abandoned by her husband, she is kept out of social gatherings.

Swati Biru Shimple (26) was married off a decade ago to a much older alcoholic. Within three years, she became a mother of two. She faced physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband and in-laws. Her worst days began when her husband killed himself in a drunken fit when she was only 19. Her in-laws then abandoned her and



the two toddlers. They also withheld her husband's death certificate, voter ID and other documents. Her parents did not want her back, since she was already

married off. However, they did help her find accommodation a hut, to be precise close to her marital home.

"I have been living here since then, with my children. In the absence of government documents, I was not able to admit my children to school," Shimple laments. It was with the help of Navchetana Sarvangin Vikas Kendra, a non-profit based in Kajj, that her children could enrol in school. Shimple also got a job in a medical store, where she earns Rs 4,000 a month. But Shimple's experience is not an exception. 101 Reporters visited multiple villages in Kajj taluka of Beed district in Maharashtra and spoke to more than 30 such women from Kanadi, Lahuri, Kumbephal, Dhakephal, Samtanagar, Dharur and Majalgaon villages, who have faced the heat following the death of their husbands.

TOTAL 53L FRESH AADHAAR ENROLMENTS IN JULY THIS YEAR

Mumbai: With the generation of more than 53 lakh Aadhaar in July this year, Aadhaar saturation level among adult residents is now near universal, and the overall saturation level is 93.41 per cent.

As per the Ministry of IT, at least 26 states and UTs have now a saturation of over 90 per cent. Most of the Aadhaar generated during July were of children below the age of 18 years (0-18 age group). The ministry said that Aadhaar registration, usage and adoption is progressing well across India, and by the end of July 2022, more than 134.11 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated so far for the residents. Residents successfully updated 1.47 crore Aadhaars in the month of July, and till the end of July, 63.55 crore Aadhaar numbers have been successfully updated following requests from the residents.



Indices end almost flat in choppy session

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Benchmark indices ended almost flat on Friday as most investors were waiting for the US jobs data which will give clue on rate hike by the US Federal Reserve going ahead.

At close, Sensex ended 36.74 points or 0.06 per cent up at 58,803.33, and Nifty ended 3.35 points or 0.02 per cent down at 17,539.45. Around 1,769 shares have advanced, 1,656 shares declined, and 142 shares remained unchanged. HDFC, ITC, Larsen and Toubro, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank were gainers on the BSE. BSE SmallCap index ended higher, however, BSE MidCap and LargeCap fell.

"The market has struggled for a firm direction today as global

markets were largely under selling pressure ahead of the release of US job data, which could provide insight into upcoming Fed actions. Oil prices rose ahead of the OPEC+ meeting on the expectation of a reduction in output, despite the fact that weak global growth prospects remain a concern.

A surging dollar index and rising US bond yields could be reflected in the elevated volatility of the domestic market in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Japan's Nikkei marked a flat day.

The Nikkei ended the session 0.04 per cent lower. China stocks fell on Friday as some big cities tightened Covid-19 restrictions to contain fresh outbreaks.

'WE PENCIL IN FY2023E GFD/GDP AT 6.6%': KOTAK REPORT

Mumbai: The GFD or GDP for the current financial year is expected to be within 6.4-6.8 per cent, given the uncertainty on the evolution of export duty or windfall tax as well as expenditure rationalisation, according to the Kotak Institutional Equities report.

"For now, we pencil in FY2023E GFD/GDP at 6.6 per cent taking into account the recent changes in duty of petroleum product exports and crude oil production," the report said. Centre's fiscal deficit in financial year till date has been controlled, with a slight surplus in July. However, much of it has been achieved with expenditure being kept in check. Income tax and GST collections have been key support for the revenue side. GST collections for July (collected in August) came in at Rs 1,436 billion, with CGST at Rs 247 billion, SGST at Rs 310 billion, IGST at Rs 778 billion, and compensation cess at Rs 102 billion.

Aviation to be top means of transportation soon: Scindia

Pune | Agencies

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday said that aviation will become the major means of transportation in the country in the near future, and there is a need to make it within reach of the common masses. In order to achieve this, he suggested that all Indian states reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) but so far, 16 of the 22 states have responded positively to this move.

Scindia said that currently, India has 141 airports, water aerodromes and heliports which would go up to more than 220 by 2028 across the country, even as the volume of air cargo has increased significantly by 19 per cent in the past two years. "In 2013-2014, we had around 400 aircraft



in our civil aviation sector, today there are close to 700 and we are

planning to add around 115-120 airplanes to our fleet every year,"

said Scindia.

In view of the growing number of flights and aircraft, it is the endeavour of the Civil Aviation Ministry to ensure there is availability of sufficient, trained personnel to man them and in the past six months, nine flying training schools have been started with this aim. Scindia said that under the Krishi Udan Yojana, there is a plan to start transporting perishable agro-products quickly and at discounted rates.

The Civil Aviation Minister's comments came at the 'Festival of Thinkers' lecture series organised by the Symbiosis group here with state Ministers Chandrakant Patil, Symbiosis Founder - President and Chancellor of Symbiosis International University Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Principal Director and Pro-VC Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Rajani Gupte.

GLOBAL ENVOYS SOAK IN SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF GANESHOTSAV

Mumbai: In a unique initiative of the Maharashtra Tourism Ministry, a group of 10 envoys in Mumbai were taken on a tour of the Ganeshotsav festival currently in full swing in Maharashtra, officials said here on Friday.

Tourism Minister M.P. Lodha and Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Jayshree Bhoj welcomed the diplomats, briefed them on the state's biggest public festival and later took them around on an introductory trip to various prominent marquees. The diplomats included Israel's Kobbi Shoshani, Switzerland's Martin Mayer, Argentina's Guillermo Devoto, Belarus' Anton Pashkov, Australia's Peter Truswell, Poland's Damian Irzyk, Sri Lanka's V. Kumaran Valsan, Indonesia's Agus Prihatin Saptono, Switzerland's Martin Mayer and British Deputy High Commissioner's Catherine Barnes.

Lodha welcomed them in traditional Indian style at the Ganesh Gully in Lalbaugh and introduced them to the glorious traditions of Maharashtra's Ganeshotsav public festival, now in its 130th year. "The aim is to make Ganeshotsav known to people all over the world through the diplomatic representatives and we hope that this cultural, social and religious festival will become internationally popular," remarked Lodha.

The diplomats visited the gigantic idols of Lord Ganesh installed at Lalbaugh including the Lalbaughcha Raja, the country's most expensive GSB Seva Mandal at Matunga, the oldest Keshavji Naik Chawl where the festival is celebrated since 1893, among others.



Kendrick Lamar unveiled his short film

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kendrick Lamar has unveiled his short film 'We Cry Together', a re-enactment of the Taylor Paige-featuring track from Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers. The one-shot short film, directed by Lamar, Dave Free, and Jake Schreier, was recorded live on a soundstage back on March 15, 2020, over two years before Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers was released in May 2022. The clip, like the song 'We Cry Together', showcases an argument between a couple, played by the rapper and the 'Zola' actress, and their eventual, graphic-yet-censored reconciliation. Just like Taylor Swift's 'All Too Well: A Short Film', 'We Cry Together' is eligible in the Best Live Action Short category at the 2023 Academy Awards after the short film quietly debuted in a Los Angeles movie theatre in June. 'We Cry Together' was shown once a day during the week-long screening, with each showing largely occupied by friends and family of the rapper, though a very limited number of fans were permitted into each showing; cellphones were confiscated before each screening to ensure footage didn't leak until its online arrival Thursday.



DiCaprio, Gigi Hadid hooked up

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio is said to have been quietly seeing model Gigi Hadid following his split from longtime girlfriend Camila Morrone.

According to a magazine, DiCaprio has "hooked up" with the 27-year-old model, who is "exactly his type", "a few times" since his breakup.

"Leo and Gigi have hooked up a few times this summer," an insider tells the site.

The source goes on sharing: "They have known each other for several years. They're super attracted to each other," before adding, "She is exactly his type: gorgeous, sexy but low-key with a one-of-the-guys attitude."

The source further notes that the pair is not likely to make things official between them anytime soon.

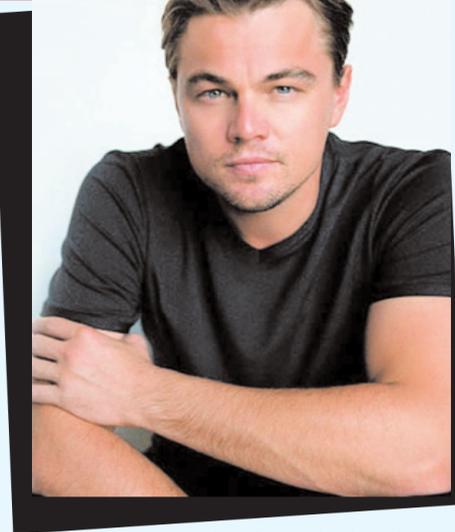
"It's casual and not a constant

thing. But they have lots of mutual friends," the source claims, while another source says that the actor and Hadid are hanging out just as close friends.

DiCaprio and Morrone reportedly broke up "over the summer" after dating since 2017.

As for the reason why their relationship ended, a source previously told the news outlet: "Leo and Camila have had a few breaks in the past few months. It's a matter of deciding whether they are in it for the long haul or just going to let it die." The source added: "With all of Leo's girlfriends, once she became focused on work and had her own priorities, he got distant. Rather than

'A few times' after split from



have dramatic breakups, they took time apart." Despite their breakup, there are reportedly "no bad feelings" between the exes.

Seemingly enjoying his newly single status, Leo has been "out every night" in Malibu, according to a recent report.

Gigi, she was in an on-and-off relationship with Zayn Malik from 2015 until their split in 2021, following the singer's dispute with her mother Yolanda Hadid. They share a child together, a year-old daughter named Khai.

Iggy Azalea suffers from motion sickness

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Iggy Azalea has been struggling with motion sickness for the last three months.

Travelling on a bus as part of her ongoing tour with Pitbull, the 32-year-old rap star has been battling motion sickness since it started. "Living on a tour bus for literally 3 months when you have motion sickness is a stress!!!" Azalea, who was born in Australia but moved to the US during her teens to follow her rap ambitions, wrote on Twitter.

The rapper recently revealed that she loves the experience of being back on tour. The "Fancy" hitmaker - who has Onyx (2), with ex-boyfriend Playboi Carti - also confirmed that she's had "a lot fun" with Pitbull and his team. She wrote on the micro-blogging platform: "Both our teams on tour get along so well. Genuinely everyone on both sides has a lot of fun and everyone is BEYOND kind to my son. It's just a good environment I feel happy to be part of! What's more, Iggy confessed that touring has allowed her to escape negativity. The chart-topping star revealed that touring reminds her that critical comments on social media are actually irrelevant in the grand scheme of things. She said: "Tour is my favourite time of year cause it reminds me annually nothing negative people say to me actually means anything and then I go home a lot richer. A dream really." In 2021, Azalea announced she was taking a break from music for "a few years" to focus on "other creative projects". However, the rap star later confirmed her return to the music scene via a Twitter post.

'BIGGER THAN ME' SINGLE DROPPED

BY LOUIS TOMLINSON

Mumbai | Agencies

Former One Direction member Louis Tomlinson has released his first single titled 'Bigger Than Me'. The record is the first new music from Louis since the release of his million-selling debut solo album 'Walls' in 2020.

'Bigger Than Me' has been written by Louis, Rob Harvey and Red Triangle, and produced by Mike Crossey, and is an impassioned pop song with an emotional chorus.

Commenting on the occasion of the release of his single, Louis said: "It was my first moment of excitement making this record, and where it felt we were on to something which honours the live show."

'Bigger Than Me' is taken from his upcoming album 'Faith In The Future', which is set to release on November 11, 2022.

Giving a background to the song, Louis further mentioned: "I've always strived to be a very normal, humble person in this life, but there's a line to that and a responsibility that comes from being in this position. I realised from doing those live shows what it means to my fans and how everything I do

is bigger than me."

He added: "It's almost a coming of age for myself and putting opinions about myself to the back of my mind and thinking about what it poten-

tially means for other people.

Alongside Crossey, Louis has collaborated on the upcoming album with celebrated names such as Rob Harvey, Dan Grech, Nico Rebscher, Joe Cross, and Hurts frontman Theo Hutchcraft.

Louis is currently travelling the globe with his sold out World Tour which has so far visited the UK, Europe, USA and South America. The tour has included 19 sold out arena dates in Latin America, a sell-out night at London's Wembley Arena and a highly emotional homecoming concert at The Dome in Louis's hometown of



Doncaster.



Brendan Gleeson joins, Lady Gaga in 'Joker: Folie A Deux'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran actor Brendan Gleeson is set to appear in 'Joker: Folie A Deux', alongside Lady Gaga, who play the clown prince of chaos and his main squeeze, Harley Quinn.

Todd Phillips, who directed Phoenix to an Oscar in 2019's 'Joker', returns as director. But whereas the first film played like a comic book riff on Martin Scorsese's 'Taxi Driver', the follow-up is a musical, albeit more in the vein of 'A Star is Born' than 'West Side Story' or 'Singing in the Rain'.

While much of 'Folie A Deux' remains shrouded in mystery, fans can safely expect the films to remain in their own independent universe.

That means the movie will likely lack any connection to either the DC Extended Universe seen in the 'Justice League' films, which feature Ben Affleck as Batman, or this year's 'The Batman', which was directed by Matt Reeves and starred Robert Pattinson as the caped crusader.

In addition to 'The Banshees of Inisherin', which reunites him with the 'In Bruges' team of Martin McDonagh and Colin Farrell, Gleeson recently appeared as Donald Trump in 'The Comey Rule' and also starred in 'The Tragedy of Macbeth'.



Dwayne brings his own meals at restaurants

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Stephen Merchant has shared that Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson brings his own meals to restaurants for 'regimented' diet. Merchant, who worked with Johnson on 'Fighting with My Family', described the actor's "regimented" diet while speaking to Jim Norton and Sam Roberts on SiriusXM. "I do remember having a meeting with him just in Texas just before Wrestle Mania and we were having a meeting about the movie and his alarm would go off at like 3:17 p.m. and he would go to the fridge and there would be turkey and rice with '3:17 p.m.' written on it and he would microwave it," Merchant recalled. "It was so regimented. It's extraordinary," he added. The director went on to say he was once told Johnson has even brought his own meals out to restaurants. "I think someone told me, maybe he told me, that when he goes for dinner with friends he has to take his food to the restaurant and have them heat it up because it's such a structured diet he has to have," he said. Johnson is known to follow strict diets and exercise programmes in order to maintain his ripped physique. However, he does partake in cheat meals every once in a while. Johnson recently tried In-N-Out Burger for the first time and shared his cheat meal for "the history books." The former WWE wrestler ordered two Double-Double cheeseburgers and two large fries.

"A solid start with a bite of good fries," he wrote before adding: "as we know some fries can ruin the whole experience." He paired the meal with some tequila, according to his post. Johnson revealed his motivation to keep his workout routine in a YouTube video shared in February.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Victoria Hervey



Asia Cup 2022

PAKISTAN DEFEATED HONG KONG BY 155 RUNS

Sharjah | Agencies

Spin twins, leg-spinner Shadab Khan and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz shared seven wickets between themselves as Pakistan thrashed Hong Kong by 155 runs in the final Group A match of Asia Cup 2022 at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

After sparkling knocks from Mohammad Rizwan (78 not out), Fakhar Zaman (53) and Khushdil Shah (35 not out) carried Pakistan to a daunting 193/2, Hong Kong were blown away by pacers and spinners to be bundled out for 38, giving the Babar Azam-led side their biggest-ever win by runs in T20Is.

The win also means that Pakistan qualify for the Super Four stage from Group A while Hong Kong crashed out of the competition. It also sets up another India-Pakistan showdown in the Super Four match in Dubai on Sunday, exactly a week after meeting in the first Group A match of the tour-



name. Nizakat Khan began well by crunching a drive square of the wicket off Shah Nawaz Dahani. But Naseem Shah took him out in the next over, chipping straight to cover. Four balls later, Shah castled Babar Hayat for a four-ball duck. More trou-

ble followed for Hong Kong as Dahani bounced out Yasim Murtaza and mid-on ran forward to complete a low catch. From there, Shadab and Nawaz took over to totally dismantle Hong Kong's challenge with the bat. Shadab bamboozled with his googly, taking

out Aizaz Khan and Haroon Arshad. Nawaz, on the other hand, took out Kinchit Shah, Scott McKechnie and Zeeshan Ali.

Post drinks break, Shadab's wrong'un castled Ayush Shukla and then trapped Mohammad Ghazanfar lbw to complete a resounding thrashing of Hong Kong at the hands of Pakistan.

Brief scores

Pakistan 193/2 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 78 not out, Fakhar Zaman 53; Ehsan Khan 2-28) against Hong Kong 38 all out in 10.4 overs (Nizakat Khan 8, Shadab Khan 4-8, Mohammad Nawaz 3-5) by 155 runs

Jadeja out of Asia cup due to right knee injury, Axar named replacement

Dubai | Agencies

The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named left-arm spinner-all-rounder Axar Patel as a like-for-like replacement for injured all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja for the rest of India's campaign in the ongoing Asia Cup in the UAE.

Jadeja had played in India's both Group A matches against Pakistan and Hong Kong in Dubai. Against Pakistan, after 0/11 with two overs of left-arm spin, he was promoted to batting at number four and made a crucial 35 off 29 balls and shared a 52-run stand with Hardik Pandya (33 not out off 17 balls) to see India home in a chase of 148. Though Jadeja didn't get to bat against Hong Kong, he had outstanding figures of 1/15 in his four overs at an economy rate of 3.75, effectively applying brakes on the scoring rate in defence of 192.

"Jadeja has sustained a right knee injury and is ruled out of the tournament. He is currently under the supervision of the BCCI medical team. His replacement, Axar



Patel was earlier named as one of the standbys in the squad and will join the team in Dubai soon," said the BCCI in an official statement. It's not the first time this year that Jadeja has been troubled by a right knee injury. A similar injury had forced him to give a miss to India's ODI leg of the tour of the West Indies in July, with Patel featuring in

all three matches as his like-for-like replacement. In 25 T20Is, Patel has scored 147 runs and picked 21 wickets. After topping Group A in Asia Cup 2022 by winning matches against Pakistan and Hong Kong, India have progressed to the Super Four stage and are now scheduled to play their next match on Sunday.

Kalyan defeats Bhaichung by massive 33-1 margin for post of AIFF president

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey has defeated Bhaichung Bhutia 33-1 in a one-sided All India Football Federation (AIFF) election for the post of president, while NA Haris defeated Manvendra Singh 29-5 to become the vice president of the country's football body.

Kipa Ajay will be the new AIFF treasurer after he defeated Gopalakrishna Kosaraju 32-1, with one vote declared invalid. Had recently published that the trio was favourite for the top posts, but what caught the onlookers by surprise was the margin of victory. It was expected to be close contest between Kalyan and the poster boy of Indian football Bhaichung for



the post of president, Haris and Manvendra for the post of vice-president and Kipa Ajay and Kosaraju for the post of treasurer, but the one-sided results came as a huge surprise. After the Supreme

Court order, returning officer, Umesh Sharma, had stated that the election will be held on September 2 at the AIFF headquarters in Delhi and the results could be announced either on

September 2 or 3.

Initially it was decided by order 28 of the 34 state football associations of the electoral college, who met in a hotel here in the Capital before the nominations were filed, that only one person will file nomination for each post so that he/she can get elected unopposed. But some members walked out of the meeting and took a decision to file nominations. On the very first day of nomination, Bhaichung had filed his papers for the post of president, which was proposed by Andhra Pradesh and seconded by Rajasthan. This was followed by Manvendra Singh of Rajasthan filing his nomination for the vice-president's post and Gopalakrishna Kosaraju for treasurer's post.

SURYAKUMAR YADAV IS GOING TO BE SUCH AN INFLUENTIAL PART OF THAT INDIAN TEAM: ROHAN GAVASKAR

Mumbai: Former India cricketer Rohan Gavaskar reckons that Suryakumar Yadav will be playing a hugely influential part in the current set-up and also asked for the team management to decide where the right-handed batter can play for the batting order to revolve around him.

On Wednesday, Suryakumar slammed an unbeaten 68 off just 26 balls against Hong Kong. Coming out to bat in the last seven overs, he completely changed the complexion of the game on a pitch that wasn't as easy to play as he made it look as India made a daunting 192-2 in 20 overs. He brought out his drives, slashes, scoops and sweeps apart from audacious wrist play, sending the ball all over the park to get his fifty in 22 balls. He eventually remained unbeaten, hitting six fours and as many sixes, which fetched him 60 runs coming just off the boundaries at a strike rate of 261.53. "On Wednesday he was just phenomenal, and he made sure we had that little bit of push-in against the team by Hong Kong. So, look, as I've said many times before, if we are to really progress in the World Cup, Sky (Suryakumar) is going to be such an influential part in that team and play such an influential role in that team," said Gavaskar on 'Sports Over The Top' show on Sports18.

Venus-Serena pair bows out after first-round loss in US Open

New York | Agencies

The pair of Venus and Serena Williams, in perhaps their final appearance together on the tennis court, lost to Lucie Hradecka and Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (5), 6-4 to bow out in the first round of the US Open women's doubles competition on Friday (IST).

Lucie Hradecka, 37, and Linda Noskova, 17, despite the age gap, gelled well at the sold-out Arthur Ashe Stadium to demolish the 14-time doubles Grand Slam champions after the first set went on for a marathon 63 minutes. The legendary pair quickly packed their kits, waved briefly to the crowd and walked together to the locker room.

The soon-to-be retiring Serena will play Ajla Tomljanovic on Australia in women's singles for a spot in the Round of 16. Venus said post-match that it was Serena's idea to play doubles. "She's the



boss," Venus was quoted as saying by wtatennis.com, adding, "So (I) do whatever she tells me to do. I don't think we have played since 2016, but might be getting that wrong." The legendary duo had played together at the French Open in 2018, where they lost in the Round of 16. They had won their first title in Oklahoma City and, still teenagers, their first Grand Slam at the 1999 French Open.

Tim David and the "power" he brings to the Australian T20 side

Melbourne | Agencies

Power-hitter Tim David's selection in the Australian squad for the ICC T20 World Cup in their backyard hasn't come as a surprise for those who had been following his progress ever since he was donning Singapore colours in international cricket. On Thursday, Cricket Australia (CA) made the decision to include the 26-year-old player in their 15-member squad for their T20 World Cup title defence, a move which caught the cricket fraternity unawares, given that the Kangaroos are not known to include newcomers so early.

Following the cricketer not figuring in Singapore's squads for T20 World Cup Qualifier B and the Challenge League earlier this year, David made the switch to the country he has called home. His starring role with the Singapore



national team brought him into prominence. His strike rate of 158.52 and an average of 46.50 was something that caught the eye, and his devastating hitting in domestic T20 cricket helped him being noticed by the Australian selectors. Making in excess of 2,000 runs in domestic cricket at a strike rate

of 164, and an average of more than 30, David soon emerged as a top choice for a side looking for power hitter. Though the likes of Matthew Wade and Marcus Stoinis had been performing the task quite efficiently, someone like David is likely to add a new dimension to the proceedings.

ARMY RED CHALLENGE COMING UP FOR HYDERABAD

Imphal (Manipur): Durand Cup Group C leaders Hyderabad FC are back in action, for one last time in Imphal when they take on Army Red Football Team in an exciting clash at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Saturday.

Having registered three wins in their first three games, HFC have already cemented their place in the knockout phase of the competition but will look to sign off from Imphal on a positive note. Army Red are yet to register a win in this competition and have just two points from their three group stage games. They are fresh from the loss against TRAU FC in the previous round and will look to bounce back in this game.

The Services side are mathematically still in with a chance to qualify but need to get a win and depend on the result in the final game between Chennaiyin FC and NEROCA FC in Group C. But Manolo Marquez's side has been in fine form this campaign, with the likes of Bartholomew Ogbeche, Javi Siverio, Joel Chianese, Borja Herrera, Joao Victor and Odei Onaindia all getting crucial minutes under their belt in the last three games.

Having to return from Birmingham CWG days before opening game

Bengaluru | Agencies

Indian women's hockey forward Navjot Kaur has expressed her disappointment at missing being part of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning side, after testing positive for Covid-19 in the run-up to the quadrennial showpiece event. The 27-year-old missed out on her third appearance at the Commonwealth Games after testing positive for the virus and had to return home even before the team's campaign began at the event.

Revealing the disappointment, the forward said, "I tested positive when I was in Nottingham where we were training before checking into the Games village. I had no major symptoms and was hopeful of getting back to the team by the time we moved to the village. I was being tested every day and unfortunately, it kept showing positive readings." "To be honest, it was disappointing to leave like that. It was very difficult and hard for me to accept. I haven't missed out on any major tournament ever before, so I was dealing with this situation for the first time in my career," she added. Having played over 200



international matches, Navjot has been an integral part of the Indian team's success over the past few years. Since her debut in 2012, she has represented the country at all the major tournaments and featured in some of the team's greatest victories.

Harbhajan, Irfan Pathan to lead Bhilwara Kings

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Team Absolute: Legendary India spinner and member of the 2011 World Cup-winning side, Harbhajan Singh will lead the LNJ Bhilwara Group's Bhilwara Kings team in the Legends League Cricket (LLC), scheduled to commence on September 16, while former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan will helm the affairs for Manipal Group-owned Manipal Tigers.

Harbhajan is the first India off-spinner to take 400 wickets and has kept the flag flying for finger spin in an era of prolific wrist spinners. He represented India in 103 Tests, 236 ODIs and 28 T20Is.

"Playing alongside all great

players over the years, I have picked the nuances of the game which has made me a better cricketer. As a cricketer I did not get the opportunity to captain the team but this will be something I am really looking forward to. I love leading from the front and I hope I can do justice to the responsibility and faith shown on me," said Harbhajan after being announced skipper of Bhilwara Kings.

Pathan, who was adjudged 'Man of the Match' during the ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, said, "You need to enjoy what you are doing and giving 100 per cent to that effort is all that matters. This opportunity is unique but I am confident we as a team will make some heads turn around.

BOXING FEDERATION INTRODUCES ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) will launch five Open Zonal Championships for female boxers in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to unearth and nurture new talents from across the country. Approximately 3000 promising youth and junior female pugilists are expected to participate in the five Open Zonal Boxing Championships, starting this month.

The events will be held in Junior Girls and Youth Women categories. This massive grassroots-level initiative will start with the Khelo India East Zone Open Zonal Boxing Championship to be held in SAI Regional centre in Guwahati from September 15. The Junior Girls' competition is expected to have 1400 entries, while 1600 boxers are likely to participate in the Youth



Women section. The successful pugilists from the four zonal tournaments will

progress to the Combined Open Zonal Boxing Championship, which would be

held on a knock-out basis. This Zonal Championship is part of BFI's long-term plans to provide exposure and create a stronger bench strength for Indian women's boxing. "Our motive is to find new and fresh talents at the Junior and Youth level. Such Open Championships will not only provide opportunity but also give a platform from where strong and talented contenders can get a direct shot at being selected for National Camp and represent India, complete and win medals for the country," said Hemanta Kalita, Secretary General, Boxing Federation of India and General Secretary of Assam Amateur Boxing Association. While East Zone and South Zone competitions are likely to witness the participation of close to 700 boxers (300 in Junior Girls and 400 in Youth Women), West Zone and North Zone events is likely to have 800 entries (400 in each category).



I'm a body positive person: Bipasha

On getting trolled for sharing baby-bump pictures

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bipasha Basu is expecting her first child with husband Karan Singh Grover. After dating for some time, the couple got married in 2016. To announce her pregnancy, Bipasha Basu shared pictures from her maternity photo shoot flaunting her baby bump. Following the same, the actress was trolled on social media. Reacting to the trolls, Bipasha gave a classy reply. Talking to a leading news portal, Bipasha opened up about how she deals with the hateful comments and remarks. She said, "In life, everyone is entitled to an opinion and all opinions are respected. But I'm leading my life. And I will always focus on the 99% good rather than 1% negativity. That's the way to move on in life."

She continued, "You can't be deciding everything that you do or say on the basis of what people want you to do or say, I lived my life like that. I'm a body positive person. I believe that you have to love the body you live in. My philosophy in life is to love yourself and it's all around the magic of having this beautiful body as a machine. If you don't keep this body healthy, you're not going to lead a happy life. So, a lot of focus is on the body." On the work front, Bipasha was last seen in web-series Dangerous in 2020. The show also starred Karan Singh Grover, Sonali Raut, Natasha Suri, Suyash Rai and Nitin Arora.



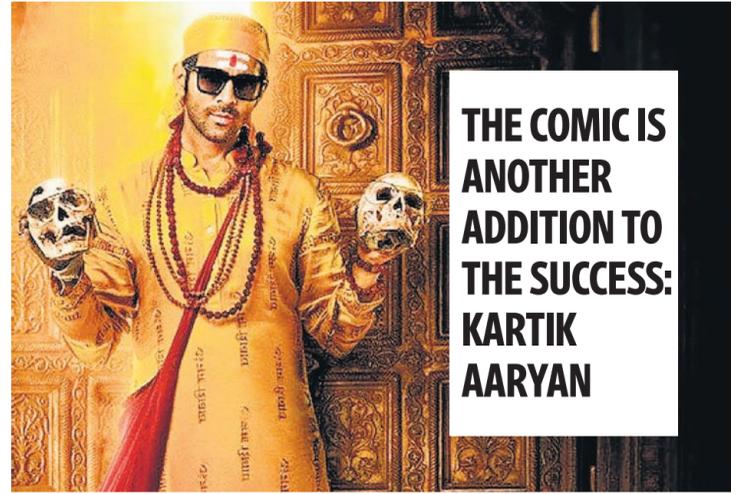
Ishwak Singh gears up for upcoming spy thriller release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ishwak Singh Known for his work in series such as 'Pataal Lok', is now looking forward to his upcoming projects like spy thriller 'Berlin' and 'Adhura', a supernatural thriller. In the upcoming spy thriller 'Berlin', which is written and directed by Atul Sabharwal, of Netflix crime thriller 'Class of '83' fame, which will also co-star Aparshakti Khurana "My part in the movie is quite exciting and something that I am looking forward to. It is thrilling, the team is great and the story is gripping. The movie has everything you need," said Ishwak. According to the makers, 'Berlin' narrates the story of a sign language expert, who gets into the "dark vortex of rivalry between intelligence agencies, deceit, and corruption. Where the horizon lines between innocence and guilt with mirages". Apart from this, Ishwak will also be seen in the supernatural thriller 'Adhura'. The web series also stars Rasika Dugal.

"This is a genre I have never tried before. My character is more intense, but it has its subtleties too. We usually look towards Hollywood for a well-made supernatural thriller, but I can promise Adhura will fulfill that quest for the Indian audiences," said Ishwak.

'Adhura' is a supernatural thriller set in an elite boarding school which hides a secret so dark and dreadful, it shakes the foundations of the school and the lives of everyone connected to it.



THE COMIC IS ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE SUCCESS: KARTIK AARYAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As his character Rooh Baba from 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' is now being adapted for a comic titled 'Rooh Baba ki Bhool Bhulaiyaa', actor Kartik Aaryan says it is another addition to the success of the film, which turned out to be a blockbuster at the box-office.

Kartik said: "I'm very excited about this because this is the first time that I'll have my own comic book character which is based on my most recent and loved film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2'. This comic is another addition to the success of the film and I'm really looking forward to

it." T-Series and Diamond Comics are coming together for the comic 'Rooh Baba ki Bhool Bhulaiyaa' based on Kartik's character 'Rooh Baba'.

On this exclusive partnership, Bhushan Kumar said: "This special collaboration with Diamond Comics is another way of adding on to this celebration. For every film, the promotional and marketing phase is very important and is something that impacts the accomplishment of the film, and that is what we had in mind for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2."

'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' is a comedy horror film directed by Anees Bazmee. It also stars

Tabu, and Kiara Advani. It tells the tale of Ruhaan Randhawa, who has to pretend to be a fraud psychic to deal with the return of Manjulika, a malevolent spirit hell-bent on revenge against the Thakur family.

Anshul Verma, Diamond Comics added: "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 is a film that is loved by everyone who has watched it, especially the younger audience. This comic is inspired and based on Rooh Baba, a character that received admirations from across the globe. We couldn't think of a better character to create a fun masterpiece with other than Rooh Baba."

Ammu Abhirami's, fantasy-thriller goes on floors

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Ammu Abhirami, who impressed audiences with her brilliant performance in the 'Asuran', will next be seen playing the lead along with seven others in the psychological, fantasy-thriller 'Pendulum', which went on the floors recently.

Directed by Sathish Kumaran, the new-fangled psychological fantasy thriller is being produced by Thiraviyambala of Surya Indrajit Films.

Over the years, Tamil cinema has witnessed psychological thrillers getting made. However, 'Pendulum' will be unique as it will feature eight people playing the lead.

Ammu Abhirami and Komal Sharma will be the prime lead characters. They will be seen alongside Sripathy, Sree Kumar, T.S.K., Vijith, Ram Jr. MGR and Prem Kumar.

Apart from these eight people who play the lead, actors Gajjaraj and Chaams too will be seen playing important roles in the film. This is the first-ever time, eight actors will be seen playing lead roles in a thriller movie.

B.Sathish Kumaran, who worked as a making cameraman in director Shankar's film 'T', is cranking the camera.

The team is planning to shoot the film in fresh locations in Chennai, Talakkonam, Kurmool district in Andhra Pradesh, and Goa.



Team Absolute | Chennai

Ace director Shankar, who is now simultaneously directing Kamal Haasan-starrer 'Indian 2' and Telugu star Ram Charan's 'RC15', has showered praise on the recently released Dhanush-starrer 'Thiruchitrambalam', calling the film, 'a beautiful movie'.

Taking to Twitter, Shankar wrote: "'Thiruchitrambalam'. A beautiful movie. The beauty is in the lovely moments that follow the painful ones. Nithya Menon's character and superb performance seizes hearts, the writing by Mithran R Jawahar as well. DNA at their best as usual. Love to Bharathiraja, Prakash Raaj and the whole team." Dhanush was quick to

respond to Shankar's praise. The actor tweeted, "Thank you so much sir. This means a lot to me and my team." The film has gone on to become an overwhelming success, making good Rs 30 crores in the opening weekend itself. It has already crossed the Rs 60 crore mark in gross earnings worldwide.

'Thiruchitrambalam' has been doing brisk business not only in India but all over the world. In fact, the film's performance is one of the best overseas performances for a Dhanush film. 'Thiruchitrambalam' has already emerged as Dhanush's top grossing film in France with 10,000 entries. It is also the top grossing film of the actor in the UK, making 1,35,000 Euros so far.



Dhanush's upcoming is a 'beautiful movie': Shankar

CUTTPUTLLI REVIEW:- AKSHAY KUMAR STARRER IS A GRITTY TALE THAT KEEPS YOU HOOKED



FILM REVIEW

BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

The Power (on Zee Plex)

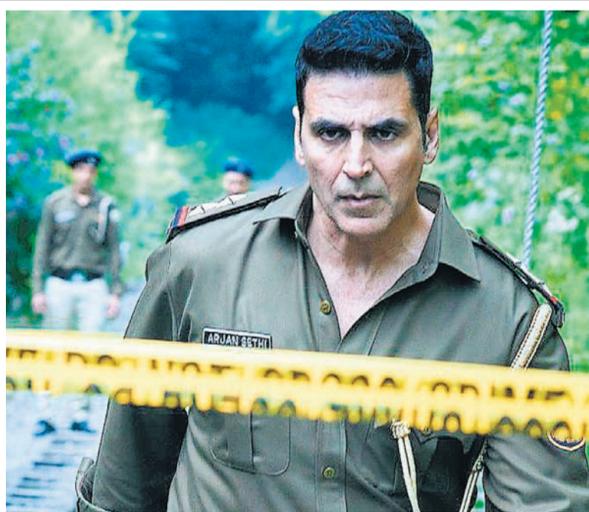
Directed by: Ranjit Tewari
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Rakul Preet Singh, Sargun Mehta, Chandrachur Singh, Hrishitaa Bhatt.
Runtime: 2 hours 16 minutes.
Ratings: 3/5 (three and half stars)

Story

The film deals with a psychopath serial killer who brutally murders teenage schoolgirls in the town of Kasauli while on their way back home from school. Just in time, Akshay Kumar as Arjan Sethi, an aspiring filmmaker, turns into a rookie cop as his film is not getting made. Within just a couple of months, Arjan is appointed as sub-inspector in the same town where serial killings are taking place and he goes on to investigate the murder and nabbing the killer. Will Arjan and his team be able to stop the crime? Who is the killer and what is the motive behind all the murders? All of this unfolds in Cuttputlli.

Review

This movie is a remake of the Tamil movie Ratsasan from 2018. This whodunit, directed by Ranjit Tewari and written by Aseem Arora, is compelling throughout the investigative sequences but loses its way when the element of mystery is introduced. It moves along



steadily, with occasional spikes in intensity and edge-of-your-seat moments. Despite being predictable, one is engrossed as the murder mystery is solved, but the lacklustre climax dulls the effect with absurd reasoning is absurd. In a nutshell, the events are fascinating, but that is not adequately justified.

With his camera technique, Rajeev Ravi creates a few thrilling atmospheric moments while capturing the beauty of Kasauli locales. With regard to editing, Chandan Arora does a fine job

Speaking of performances, considering a slew of disappointing performances the actor has delivered in recent months, Akshay Kumar aces his role as a cop, especially in the investigating sequences of the film in the flick.

However, he is a little off the mark in the emotional moments. Rakul Preet Singh having a limited screen time leaves an impact. Sargun Mehta as the no-nonsense cop is a surprise element and will blow your mind with her act. However, towards the end her character looked half-baked. Rest of the cast including Chandrachur Singh and Hrishitaa Bhatt are effective in their parts.

When it comes to music, the background music aids in increasing the required amount of thrill and tension.

Conclusion

Overall, Cuttputlli makes for a worthy watch once for Akshay Kumar's best act and if you have not seen the original one.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Neha Malik