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India will retrieve parts of J&K under illegal occupation of Pakistan: Rajnath Singh

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that the Pakistan government is resorting to torture and harassment of people in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Addressing the Infantry Day function here, the defence minister said that India is committed to implement the 1994 Parliament resolution about retrieving the part of J&K under illegal occupation of Pakistan. "Pakistan government is sowing the seeds of hatred in PoJK and time is not far when people there will resort to mass rebellion. India is committed to implement the resolution passed in the Parliament about retrieving Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan including Gilgit and Baltistan.

"People of PoJK are being deprived of all basic rights and we are fully aware of it" he said.

October 27 is observed as Infantry Day to commemorate the landing of the Indian army at Srinagar airport this day in 1947. He said the dream of Sardar Patel was fulfilled when all refugees of 1947 will get their land and homes back.

The Parliament resolution of February 22, 1994 says that Pakistan must vacate the part of Kashmir under its illegal occupa-



tion. Rajnath Singh said the revocation of Article 370 marked a new beginning in J&K. "People of J&K have supported the full integration of J&K with the Union of India. J&K and Ladakh UTs are flourishing with every section of the society getting its due rights", he maintained.

He said in 1947, the Indian army gave a befitting reply to the enemy who tried to play mischief by occupying Kashmir illegally. "I pay great tribute to the Infantry regiments of the Indian army who offered supreme sacrifice by pushing the invaders back", the defence minister said.

"Pakistan government is sowing the seeds of hatred in PoJK and time is not far when people there will resort to mass rebellion"

Rajnath Singh

AZAM KHAN GETS 3-YR JAIL TERM IN HATE SPEECH CASE, GRANTED BAIL



Rampur (UP): The MP/MLA court in Rampur on Thursday awarded Samajwadi Party MLA Mohd Azam Khan three-year jail term in connection with a 2019 hate speech case against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, besides slapping a fine of Rs 25,000 on him. The court, meanwhile, granted him bail in the case. Azam Khan has been convicted under Sections 153a (promoting enmity between two groups) and 505-1 (statement conducting to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) along with Section 125 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Akash Saxena, the BJP leader who had lodged the complaint against Azam Khan, termed the court's decision as a vindication of his stand. He said it is a historic verdict which will make people think twice before making defamatory statements. The case was registered against Azam Khan in Rampur in April 2019, for allegedly making provocative remarks against Adityanath and Aunjaneya Kumar Singh, then District Magistrate of Rampur.

MLAs poaching case: BJP moves HC for CBI probe

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

In another dramatic twist in the case relating to alleged attempt to poach four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the BJP on Thursday moved the Telangana High Court seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

With the TRS alleging that the three men arrested while trying to lure its MLAs belonged to the BJP, the saffron party hit back by approaching the high court seeking direction to transfer the case to the central agency for a 'fair' probe. In its petition, the BJP found fault with the manner in which police are conducting the probe and pleaded for interim orders to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for an impartial investigation.

The BJP has made the state government, Director General of Police, Cyberabad police commissioner, other police officials, union government and the CBI as respondents in the case. The saffron party alleged that attempts are being made to tarnish its image by making false accusations of trying to buy TRS MLAs.

Cyberabad police on Wednesday arrested three persons from a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad when they were allegedly trying to lure four TRS MLAs to defect to BJP.

On a complaint by one of the MLAs Pilot Rohit Reddy, police registered a case against Ramachandra Bharati, alias Satish Sharma, of Delhi, Nanda Kumar of Hyderabad and Simhayaji Swamy of Tirupati.

The TRS leaders have alleged that the two godmen and businessman Nanda Kumar are close to union ministers and top BJP leaders.

Police have booked the accused for criminal conspiracy, bribery and

criminal intimidation under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Prevention of Corruption Act. According to the complainant, the accused offered him Rs 100 crore, central government civil contract works and other high central government positions for monetary benefits.

Rohit Reddy told police that the accused warned him that if he does not join the BJP, there will be criminal cases and raids by ED/CBI and the Telangana government led by TRS will be toppled by them. He said the accused offered Rs 50 crore each to the three other MLAs.

On a tip-off by Rohit Reddy, Cyberabad police reached the farmhouse and arrested the three accused. The police seized mobile phones of the accused and were retrieving call data. The trio were being questioned by the police at an undisclosed location. They will be produced in a court later in the day. The arrests have created a political storm in the state with the TRS alleging conspiracy by BJP to destabilise the government. The BJP, however, has denied the allegations and dared the TRS government to order a probe by CBI or a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy has alleged that CM KCR scripted the poaching drama to malign BJP and demanded that the police reveal details like the amount of cash seized from three persons arrested in the case. Dismissing the allegations that BJP tried to lure four TRS MLAs with huge sums of money, important positions and contracts, he said BJP would have gained nothing by making four MLAs defect to the party.

He wondered why the police were not revealing how much money was seized and where it came from.

B'loru pothole menace: Karnataka High Court pulls up ruling BJP

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Karnataka High Court took the ruling BJP to task in connection with the pothole menace in Bengaluru on Thursday. The court has categorically stated that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to adhere to the orders given by the court in this regard.

The division bench headed by the Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale expressed its displeasure while looking into the petitions filed by Vijay Menon and others regarding pothole menace.

The counsel for petitioners argued that the number of deaths is increasing in Bengaluru due to pothole ridden roads and the BBMP has not utilised the appropriate technology to fill up potholes.

The bench opined that the BBMP has totally failed in terms of closing of potholes. The court also directed the officers to submit a detailed report on what action has been initiated. How many potholes are filled?

The counsel appearing for BBMP intervened and submitted a detailed action taken report on filling up of potholes in Bengaluru. The counsel had also sought time to argue over the matter.

The court agreed to give a hearing and adjourned the matter to November 2.



Ruling BJP is under fire from all corners over pothole menace in the city. Opposition Congress and JD(S) parties have slammed that BJP has turned Silicon Valley Bengaluru into a pothole valley.

They have also chided that the ruling BJP is busy organising the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) with pothole ridden roads.

Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala had stated that the potholes in Bengaluru have turned into death traps. The government is sleeping even as a series of cases of deaths have been reported because of potholes in Bengaluru. He had also challenged the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to show his might in getting the potholes filled and ensure the safety.



RBI'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE TO MEET ON NOV 3 OVER INFLATIONARY CONCERNS

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced that its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will have an off-cycle meeting on November 3.

The MPC's off-cycle meeting has been convened as the central bank has failed to curb inflation, which has remained beyond its tolerance limit of 2 to 6 per cent for the past nine months. Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation rose to 7.41 percent in September. Retail inflation has remained beyond RBI's tolerance limit for the last three quarters. Inflationary concerns had earlier forced the RBI's rate setting panel to hike repo rate during a meeting held in May this year, which was also an off-cycle meeting.

Ex-Chief Secy Andaman & Nicobar at epicentre of job-for-sex racket

Chennai | Agencies

Senior IAS officer and former Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jitendra Narain is at the epicentre of a sexual allegation in which 20 women were allegedly taken to his Port Blair residence in a job-for-sex racket. Some of the allegedly sexually exploited women were provided with government jobs.

The sexual allegation had come into the open after a 20-year-old woman alleged that the former Chief Secretary Jitendra Narain and the then Labour commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands R.L. Rishi sexually exploited her and was subjected to gang-rape.

The woman had alleged that she was introduced to Labour commissioner Rishi through a known person and was taken to the residence of the then Chief Secretary Narain.

The woman in her complaint alleged that she was offered alcohol at Narain's residence and



when she declined it she was forcibly raped and sexually assaulted by the Chief Secretary and the Labour Commissioner.

There were reports that the Call Data Records (CDRs) of the two bureaucrats and of the 20-year-old matched with the time of sexual assault as complained by her. The tower location of the woman and two senior officers

matched her allegation.

It was also alleged that the hard disk of the CCTV camera at the Chief Secretary's residence was erased and the Digital Video Recorder was also removed from the residence while he was transferred from Port Blair to New Delhi.

The former Chief Secretary was later suspended by the Union Home Ministry after reports came out on his sexual forays.

The former Chief Secretary is scheduled to appear before the Special Investigation Team today.

Jitendra Narain had written to the Union Home Ministry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that a conspiracy was against him and that he had proof to demonstrate the fake nature of the case.

Narain was suspended from the service on October 17 and is currently on interim bail till November 14. His accomplice, the former Labour Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar administration, has also been placed under suspension.

Swiggy denies exodus of high-end cafes, restaurants on Dineout

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As reports surfaced that several high-end restaurants with multiple outlets in Delhi-NCR have delisted from Swiggy Dineout amid deep discounting concerns, reliable industry sources said on Thursday that most of those cafes and restaurants have also delisted themselves from other online food delivery platforms like Zomato. The sources said that only 20 brands with nearly 400 outlets have delisted from Swiggy Dineout, and one of those brands even has nearly 250 dining outlets alone.

According to them, restaurants like Smoke House Deli, Social, The Beer Cafe and Mamagoto have deregistered



themselves from most of the online food aggregator platforms, not just Swiggy. Your Story publication earlier reported, quoting from the

National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) sources, that at least 400 brands and more than 900 dining outlets across 13 cities in the coun-

try have sent delisting notices to Swiggy in the last two weeks.

A Swiggy spokesperson said that Swiggy Dineout works with over 15,000 restaurant partners on the platform in over 20 cities and continuously engages with them to improve its offering and make this partnership viable for everyone. "Restaurant partners on Swiggy Dineout have complete liberty to decide on how much discount they wish to offer to customers through their listing on the app," the spokesperson said. "Thousands of partners continue to join us each month and list on Swiggy Dineout and only a handful of restaurant partners have expressed their desire to delist from the platform. We continue to engage with restaurant partners and

NRAI representatives to revisit their choices," the food delivery platform said.

Online food delivery platform Swiggy in May announced it has acquired Dineout, a dining out and restaurant tech platform, for an undisclosed sum. According to sources, it was a \$120 million deal. Founded in 2012 by Ankit Mehrotra, Nikhil Bakshi, Sahil Jain, and Vivek Kapoor, Dineout helps people discover the best restaurants, make table reservations, enjoy discounts and privileges across select restaurants.

NRAI has said that Dineout's deep discounting techniques disrupt the core dine-in business of the restaurants and "popularising a dangerous culture of discounting that will be irreversible".

ASSAM: 2,500 KG GANJA VALUED AT RS 15 CRORE SEIZED

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Police seized a huge quantity of ganja weighing around 2,500 kg, valued at Rs 15 crore on Thursday, officials said.

A senior police officer said that this is one of the biggest seizure of ganja in recent times. Police have seized the consignment of cannabis from the Jorabat area in Guwahati at the Assam-Meghalaya interstate border.

Based on a tip-off received by the police, a team of Guwahati Police led by Joint Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta conducted a raid. A truck bearing the registration number of Haryana was seized.

The police officer informed that at least 2500 kgs of ganja were recovered from the truck.

"The estimated market value of the ganja seized should be around Rs 15 crore," he added.

According to police, the ganja was carried from Manipur and was to be delivered somewhere in



Guwahati. But before that, the consignment was caught by the police.

The driver of the truck, Ashok Kumar, and his helper, Jitendra Kumar, were arrested by the police on the spot. They hail from Haryana and Uttarakhand respectively. Police have been interrogating them to get further details about the ganja smuggling gang.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister lauded the action of the Assam police. In the last couple of weeks, police have foiled many attempts of ganja smuggling in different parts of the state.



SHAH INAUGURATES, LAYS FOUNDATION OF PROJECTS WORTH RS 6,600CR

Faridabad | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of four projects costing more than Rs 6,600 crore at a programme.

Besides, he also laid the foundation stone of the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project costing about Rs 5,618 crore and inaugurated Rail Coach Refurbishment Factory at Barhi in Sonapat district costing Rs 590 crore.

The Union Home Minister also inaugurated the country's first longest elevated railway track built in Rohtak at a cost of Rs 315.40 crore. Along with this, the Haryana Police residence complex at Bhandosi built at the cost of Rs 106 crore was also inaugurated by Shah. About 576 police families will be able to live in the police residential complex.

After inaugurating various schemes and laying the foundation stone, the Home Minister said all these development projects are Deepawali gifts from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of Haryana.

Earlier, Minister of State for Heavy Industries Krishan Pal Gurjar and state BJP president O.P. Dhankar felicitated Shah and Union Minister



of Railways and Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, also received a warm welcome.

Later addressing the gathering, Shah greatly appreciated the work of the Haryana government and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. He congratulated the people of Haryana on the successful completion of 8 years of the Haryana government.

"Manohar Lal has completed his tenure of eight years in a very successful manner. In these eight years,

he has ensured the holistic development of the state. The Haryana government under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal has done commendable work of transforming Haryana in these eight years. After a long time, since independence, Haryana has got such an honest and dedicated Chief Minister," said Shah.

"If we recall the previous regime, corruption and lawlessness used to be the main issues but since the time Manohar Lal led government has

taken the charge, not only the corruption and lawlessness have ended but the state has also progressed swiftly on the path of development to bring Haryana to the top," said the Union Home Minister. He said that Khattar has taken care of all sections.

During this, the Union Home Minister also mentioned the achievements of the Haryana government achieved in the last 8 years and congratulated his entire team including the Chief Minister.

'Operation Lotus' exposed, Rs 100cr to make MLAs defect, alleges Cong

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After a TRS party MLA alleged that he was being lured to join the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress attacked the BJP for horse trading.

"BJP horse trading in Telangana exposed. BJP has money made out of corruption to sabotage democracy. Telangana running rate for Operation Lotus - Rs 100 cr for those who lead MLAs, Rs 50 cr for every MLA who comes. How did BJP get this money? What is ED & IT doing now?" Congress leader BK Hariprasad said.

However, Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday alleged that the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) scripted the poaching drama to malign the BJP, and demanded that the police reveal details like the amount of cash seized from three persons arrested in the case.

Dismissing the allegations that the BJP tried to lure four TRS MLAs with huge sums of money, important positions and contracts, he said the BJP



would have gained nothing by making four MLAs defect to the party.

He wondered why the police were not revealing how much money was seized and where it came from.

Addressing a press conference, the minister denied any links with the accused in the case. The Cyberabad police on Wednesday arrested three persons from a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad

when they were allegedly trying to lure four TRS MLAs to the BJP.

On a complaint by one of the MLAs, Pilot Rohit Reddy, police registered a case against Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma of Delhi, Nanda Kumar of Hyderabad and Simhayaji Swamy of Tirupati. The TRS leaders have alleged that Nanda Kumar is close to Kishan Reddy.

Nishad Party opens its door for women in politics

Lucknow | Agencies

Uttar Pradesh Minister Sanjay Nishad, who heads the Nishad Party, now wants the women in the community to enter politics. Sanjay Nishad has gifted women members of the party in Gorakhpur a new vehicle on the occasion of 'Bhai Dooj' to make it easy for them to travel all over the state.

The Nishad party has its head office in Gorakhpur.

He said, "It is the responsibility of the party's Mahila Morcha to add more women in every booth, block, district and Assembly segment. The women in the Nishad community may still be an untapped political force in the state."

The Nishad Party had won six seats in the 2022 UP Assembly elections in alliance with the BJP, which was enough to establish the seven-year-old 'regional' party in state politics.

The 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election was the second Assembly election that the Nishad party had contested in the state.

The Nishad (Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara



Aam Dal) party, catering to non-Yadav OBCs in the state, was registered as a political party in August 2016.

The 2017 Assembly elections were the first that it contested on around 100 seats in alliance with the Peace Party and other smaller outfits and won the Gyanpur seat in Bhadohi.

The party has one MP Praveen Nishad, one minister Sanjay Nishad and one MLA, Sarvan Nishad -- all from the same family.

Death due to contaminated water: K'taka govt announces Rs 10L compensation

Belagavi (Karnataka) | Agencies

A 70-year-old person died on Thursday after consuming contaminated water in Mudenu village of Belagavi district of Karnataka. According to authorities, 94 persons from Mudenu have fallen sick and have been hospitalised.

Irrigation Minister, Govind Karajol, who is also district in charge minister, announced Rs 10 lakh compensation to the family of the deceased person.

The deceased has been identified as Shivappa Yandigeri, a resident of Mudenu village. Among 94 persons, the condition of four is critical and they are being treated at the district hospital. The locals explain that the deceased Shivappa fell sick four days ago after consuming contaminated water.

After the media report, BJP



MLA Mahadevappa Yadavada rushed to the village and took the authorities to task over the failure to ensure proper drinking water. They also explained that the incident had taken place after a water pipe broke and contaminated water got mixed with drinking water on October 23. Till date, 94 persons have been hospitalised.

Among the 94 who have fallen sick, 44 are men and 30 are women. Twelve boys and eight girls have also fallen sick with symptoms of vomiting, loose motion and stomach ache.

The villagers of Mudenu of Ramdurg taluk explain that the government authorities had not visited their place even as a large number of people had fallen sick. They had expressed outrage against Ramdurg Tehsildar for turning a blind eye to the situation.

Ex-BSP MLC's fourth son arrested from Delhi airport

Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

The Uttar Pradesh Police have arrested former BSP MLC Mohd Haji Iqbal's fourth son Abdul Wajid from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport while he was checking-in for a Dubai flight.

He carried a reward of Rs 50,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Superintendent of Police (rural) Saharanpur, Suraj Rai, said, "We had prior information of his movement and had alerted the airport authorities also in this regard. Our team was also on the spot. As he entered the airport and began the process of checking-in, our team arrested him from there."

Wajid, 36, has close to 20 cases registered against him, including that of rape.

Iqbal's three sons are already behind bars along with his brother and former



MLC Mehmood Ali who was arrested in July from Mumbai.

"During the preliminary questioning, Wajid revealed that he was hiding in Ajmer Sharif. He had no information about his father's whereabouts," said the SP.

Haji Iqbal, accused of running a mining syndicate in and around Saharanpur, is facing a probe for allegedly laundering money to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore.

He is also under the scanner of central investigative agencies, including the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), the enforcement directorate and the income tax department. He has not yet been arrested.

Delhi Police register FIR over scuffle in Rohingya camp

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Thursday registered an FIR in connection to a scuffle that broke out at a Rohingya refugee camp in the city's Madanpur Khadar area.

On Wednesday, the scuffle took place between a woman and a man, who runs a garage, after his car's glass was allegedly broken. The police however, have ruled out no angle of the Rohingya in connection with the incident. According to a senior police official, a case has been registered and they have nabbed the accused.

"So far, it has been revealed that both the victim and accused belong to the same community and there is no angle of Rohingya in connection with the incident," said the official, adding



that further probe is still on. Meanwhile, a woman, who lives beside the alleged garage, said that some men had beaten and attacked five women, including her and a child, in the refugee camp. "A woman had also sus-

tained major injuries and she is in hospital. The men from the garage had an issue with children playing near their workshop and this is not the first time they had misbehaved," she alleged.

E-SCOOTY CATCHES FIRE, RIDER ESCAPES

Noida | A youth escaped narrowly when his electronic scooty suddenly burst into flames in Sector-78 here, police said on Thursday.

According to sector-113 police station in-charge, Chandraprakash, a resident of Sorkha, works as a delivery boy at the Big Basket store located in Sector-80. He was on his way to deliver goods from Sector-80 to Sector-78 in Civitech Stadia Society when the incident took place.

His scooty suddenly caught fire when he was in front of the society, and spread rapidly. He jumped off the vehicle and alerted the police and fire department. Even though the fire brigade reached the spot shortly after being informed, the scooty was completely charred by the time they arrived. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

Tribal body denies report that PLA, MNRF shot down Army chopper

Itanagar | Agencies

A local tribal organisation Adi Bane Kebang (ABK) on Thursday strongly denied the media reports, that earlier claimed that the militants belonging to Manipur-based groups, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF) recently shot down the Army helicopter.

Due to technical reasons, an Advanced Light Combat Helicopter of the Indian Army crashed in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district on October 21, killing all five personnel on board. After the mishap, the PLA and the MNRF had reportedly issued a joint statement claiming the responsibility for shooting down the Army Helicopter and these appeared in a section of the media. The ABK, an apex body of the Adi community of Arunachal Pradesh, has condemned the media reports and the report-

ed statement of the PLA and the MNRF. ABK Spokesperson Vijay Taram said that the news and the statement are 'misleading and bogus.' ABK being the Apex supreme council of the Adi People registers the displeasure of the community over such callous, careless, insensitive, bogus claims made by MNRF for cheap publicity in the strongest terms, Taram told the media.

NGT order banning old vehicles to hit legal roadblocks in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

The order of the Eastern Zone Bench of the National Green Tribunal to bar use of private or commercial vehicles that have in operation for 15 years or more in Kolkata and districts of West Bengal from the end of January next year is all set to hit legal roadblocks.

On July 26 this year, the bench ordered the West Bengal government to ensure that vehicles attaining 15 years of age or above are phased in the next six months.

Now, West Bengal Bus & Minibus Owners' Association (WBBMOA) has decided to challenge that order in the Calcutta High Court claiming that the

order of Eastern Zone Bench of NGT is not clear about the fate of BC-III and BS-IV vehicles whose registrations had been done between 2017 and 2020.

According to the WBBMOA general secretary, Pradip Narayan Basu, as per the earlier order in 2009, vehicles that have crossed 15 years of age since the time of registration should be phased out.

"The last registration for BS-III vehicles in the state was done in 2017, while the last registration for BS-IV vehicles was done in 2020. Now how these vehicles whose registrations were done between 2017 and 2020 will be phased out by January 2023. So, we have decided to challenge the order of Eastern Zone Bench of NGT on these

grounds," he said.

After the order of NGT's Eastern Zone Bench, the state public vehicles department started identifying those vehicles that have attained 15 years of age or above and accordingly started serving notices to the owners of those vehicles both private and commercial.

Kolkata is the second most polluted city in the world, according to a recent report -- after the national capital Delhi.

Environmental experts and activists are of the opinion that besides population, there are other factors contributing to this high air pollution rate in Kolkata. Automobile fuel emission contributes to 60 per cent to the pollution.

1 dead, 5 injured in bus-truck collision on Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

Gurugram | Agencies

At least one person was killed and five others were injured when a passenger bus was hit by a truck on Thursday near Bilaspur Chowk of the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway, police said.

The accident took place under Bilaspur police station limits at around 5.30 a.m. "In the accident, the bus driver identified as Praveen (25) of Pali village in Rajasthan was stuck in the bus cabin and was rescued with serious injuries with the help of a crane but later succumbed to his injuries," the SHO of the Bilaspur police station said.

The injured passengers were discharged after first-aid treatment. "The highway was cleared for routine traffic," he said.

The truck driver fled the spot after the accident, the SHO said, adding that efforts are underway to locate him.



CHANGE OF NAME

I No. JC 820284X SUB BALAP-PA SUTAGATTI presently residing at H.no 392/14 Vill Panth nagar Post - Balekundri(B.K) district - Belagavi state - Karnataka Pin- 591103 have changed my son name from DEEPAK to DEEPAK B SUTAGATTI vide affidavit no. BC 649067 dated 19/10/2022 before Bhopal (M.P.).

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I No. JC 820284X SUB BALAP-PA SUTAGATTI presently residing at H.no 392/14 Vill Panth nagar Post - Balekundri(B.K) district - Belagavi state - Karnataka Pin- 591103 have changed my daughter's name from DIXITA to DIXITA BALAPPA SUTAGATTI vide affidavit no. BC 649068 dated 19/10/2022 before Bhopal (M.P.).

CHANGE OF NAME

I Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ramzan Qureshi, Resident at- House No-104 A/A, A-Sector, Indrapuri, Piplani, Bhopal, (M.P.) 462022, holder of passport No- E4687363 hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Ramzan Iqbal Qureshi to Iqbal Qureshi which is true and correct. In future I may be Known as Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ramzan Qureshi.



IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE-CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is our responsibility to provide security and good governance to the people of the state. The incident of robbery with a foreign national who visited the state is unfortunate. Such incidents affect the image of the state. Taking such cases seriously, full vigilance should be exercised in future. CM Chouhan held a virtual meeting with the officials in the morning from the residence office regarding the incidents of robbery with foreign national in Bhopal, activities of dacoit Gudda in Morena and non-availability of housing to the beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Satna and received information about the action taken so far.

In relation to the incident of robbery with Portuguese citizen Nuno Rodrigues in Bhopal recently, Commissioner of Police Makrand Deuskar said that all the three accused have been arrested. Nuno, who was injured in the incident, was treated by sending a medical team to the hotel. Collector Avinash Lavania and police officers reached the hotel to inquire



about his well being.

It was informed that in Rahikwar village of Satna district, an FIR has been lodged against three employees in the matter of non-availability of accommodation to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and misappropriation of funds, investigation is going on in the matter. CM Chouhan

said that beneficiary-wise examination of all the houses approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana should be conducted; strict action should be taken against the guilty. CM Chouhan said that it should be ensured that no poor faces problems in the investigation. CM Chouhan, taking a firm stand on the threatening activities being car-

ried out by dacoit Gudda Gurjar in Chanchaul village of Morena district, directed the Morena SP to take immediate action. He said that no robber gang is active in the state. The terror and arbitrary activities of any one will not be allowed. It is our responsibility to provide security and good governance to the people of the state.

Leakage of chlorine from water tank triggers panic in Bhopal, situation under control

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Several people complained of a burning sensation in their eyes and breathing problems in Bhopal late on Wednesday following the leakage of chlorine gas from a tank.

Administration swung into action soon after the matter came to the fore and medical teams were rushed to the spot. As per the official information, at least four-five people have been admitted to Hamidia hospital. The incident was reported at Mother India Colony located in the Eidgah area of Bhopal.

District Collector Avinash Lavania, who along with some other administrative officials reached the spot to take stock of the situation, said that due to the release of chlorine gas from the tank, people panicked and they rushed out from their homes.

"The problem occurred due to high chlorine in water, however, the situation was brought under control. Municipal officials have started minimising



the level of chlorine in the water. Water overflowed from the tank and due to this, the people felt itching and breathing problems. Four-five people have been admitted to Hamidia Hospital," Lavania added.

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang also visited the spot and later, he also met the people admitted to the hospital. "Situation is under control now and people should not panic. Medical teams have been deployed to check if any person complains about a burning sensation in their eyes or a problem in breathing. We are unable to say anything more at this stage

as we are yet to know how this problem occurred. This is a serious issue and the matter would be investigated," Sarang said while talking to the press at Hamidia hospital.

The incident triggered panic among the masses as the people of the state capital had witnessed the same situation back in 1984 when the leakage of harmful gas killed many people and thousands were left with multiple diseases. The gas was released from a Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2-3 in 1984. The incident is known as the biggest chemical disaster in the world.

Recruitment process of Agniveers started in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The recruitment process of Agniveer soldiers has started at Lal Parade Ground, Motilal Nehru Stadium, Bhopal. This recruitment process will continue till November 7. In the information made available officially, it has been told that the process of recruitment started with the admission of the candidates who were involved in the recruitment process of Agniveer from 12 o'clock in the night.

From 5 o'clock in the morning, the race for the youth found qualified in the height started, in which the youth raced in batches of 200, after that another verifi-



cation process of the selected youth was started, all the candidates passed in the ground test were given admit cards for the written examination. Will go as per the information provided today,

more than three thousand students were included in the recruitment process. This recruitment process will start after 10 pm every day till November 7 and will be completed by 8 am on that day.

The relevance of my life lies in the joy, happiness and progress of sisters -CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the sisters of self-help groups have created history with their ability, hard work and dedication. The sisters, wearing veils and confined to the kitchens and household chores, have today become self-dependent with the help of the self-help groups and are operating from shops to vehicles. The positive changes in their life and their progress is a matter of happiness for all of us. This initiative of the sisters of the groups is exemplary. The relevance of my life lies in the joy, happiness and progress of my sisters.

CM Chouhan was interacting virtually with the sisters of women self-help groups of the state on Bhai Dooj from the residence office. CM greeted the sisters on Diwali and asked how they celebrated the festival of Dhanteras and what did the sisters buy. The sisters of the groups connected with the dialogue programme at all the district headquarters. CM interacted with the sisters of Rajgarh, Mandla, Shahdol, Rewa and Dewas.



We should never let the urge to move ahead diminish. CM Chouhan said that the sisters who are on the path of progress through the group should continuously expand the activities, for this purpose the state government is making all necessary arrangements. The groups have been entrusted with the responsibility of making school uniforms. In this task, the sisters of the group should not be misled by anyone regarding the purchase of clothes and other procedures. Decisions regarding group activities should be taken by the sisters themselves. After repaying the group loan, apply to the bank for

more loans and continue to expand your activities.

Driver husband was made car owner. In a virtual conversation with CM Chouhan, Radha Pal of Radhaswami Self-Help Group of Rajgarh district told that she has made her driver husband a vehicle owner by buying a Bolero jeep on Dhanteras. Now the income is about 20 thousand rupees per month.

Laptop given to son for engineering studies. Maya Patel of Durga Self-Help Group of Shahdol has bought her son a laptop on Dhanteras for engineering studies. Smt. Maya proudly states that her son wants to obtain Auto CAD training. She does the work of centering through self-help groups. Due to the rise in income, the son's further studies could be possible.

Business of more than one lakh done in five days. Reshma Bano of Rewa's Imam Ahmed Raza Self-Help Group is running a utensil and footwear shop. She told that in 5 days on Deepawali, she did business of one lakh 15 thousand rupees, in which sale of 55 thousand rupees took place on the day of Dhanteras at the utensils shop.

BJP does not want to repeat the past mistake

▶ THE TRIBAL CLASS IS GOING TO HAVE A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR IN MADHYA PRADESH, BECAUSE THE SUPPORT OF THIS CLASS MAKES THE WAY TO POWER EASIER.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the election of the year 2018, what did the vote of this class slip out of the hands of the BJP that the power itself became out of reach, so the BJP

has started trying to keep this class with itself in the upcoming elections.

In the assembly elections held in the state in the year 2018, the BJP suffered a huge loss on the seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes category and the same results proved fatal for it.

As a result the BJP had to be out of power. BJP is not ready to make any mistake this time, that is why the government is leaving no stone unturned to woo the tribal class.

If we look at the political situation in the state, one thing becomes clear that out of the 230 assembly seats in the state, 47 seats are reserved for the tribals. Not only this, the tribal vote is decisive in 84 seats. The figures testify that the power of the state

has been in the hands of the same political party, which has got the support of this class.

The state has around 23 per cent tribal vote bank and its impact is also visible on the election results. If we look at the results of 2013 and 2018 elections, the importance of tribal vote bank can be understood. In the year 2013, where the BJP had got more seats, the BJP had won 31 out of 47 seats, as a result, the government was formed, while in 2018 the Congress got 30 seats and the Congress came to power. Overall, it becomes clear that the party which won the tribal areas, the government was formed by that party.

This is the reason why BJP has intensified its efforts to woo this class.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Tribal Pride Day will be celebrated on Birsu Munda Jayanti on 15th November. This program will be done in all the panchayats of the state.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the newly constructed girls education complexes would be virtually inaugurated in the program. Complete health program, PESA Act, Mitra - 24 hours 7 days call center and Tribal Design Center - NID Bhopal will be launched. Also, the students of JEE, NEET and CLAT will be respected.

Earlier BJP has been organizing programs continuously to woo and fill this section, the same prominent places are being named after its heroes.

2 Men Arrested For Allegedly Raping 65-Year-Old Woman

Team Absolute | Sidhi

Two persons were arrested for allegedly raping a 65-year-old Dalit woman after consuming alcohol with her in Sidhi district, a police official said on Thursday.

The incident took place in Kotwali police station limits on Tuesday and the woman had to be hospitalised for a day after the sexual assault, Additional Superintendent of Police Anugulata Patale said over phone.

"The accused, 35 and 40 years old, were arrested on Wednesday for rape and wrongful confinement as



well as provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The accused and the

victim knew each other," Patale said. A court has remanded the two accused in judicial custody for 15 days, she said.

WOMAN DIES AFTER SHARDS OF STEEL PIERCE HER WHILE BURSTING CRACKERS USING TIFFIN BOX

Bhopal: In a tragic incident reported from Mandasaur district, a teenage girl has died after pieces of steel pierced her body when she burst a firecracker by keeping a tiffin box upside down on it.

The incident occurred at Karju village when the 19-year-old victim was bursting crackers outside her house, said Bhaugarh police station in-charge Arvind Singh Rathore. "The young woman put a steel tiffin-box upside down on 'suti bomb' (firecracker made of jute twine) after lighting it. However, as the cracker burst, it shattered the steel box into pieces and its splinters entered her body, including the stomach," he said, as reported by the TOI. The victim was rushed to the district hospital, where doctors declared her dead, he added. In a shocking incident that took place near Barrackpore on October 25, a seven-year-old boy was killed while another minor boy (10) was grievously injured after a crude bomb exploded. The kids mistook the bomb for a ball. "My grandson woke up in the morning and went out to play along the railway tracks. As it was Kali Puja last night, he and his friend were trying to find out if there were any unburnt firecrackers that they may use later today. His hand was ripped apart in the explosion," said the injured child's grandmother. According to a senior official of the Government Railway Police (GRP) from Naihati, the incident occurred around 6:30 am and 7 am on Tuesday. "Locals said that two children were playing when the bomb exploded.

Houses of 5 muslim murder accused demolished

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The government demolished a roadside eatery and homes of five Muslim men accused of murdering a 30-year-old man on Diwali night.

According to Dewas Police, Jojan Singh Rajput was at a fuel station in Jaipur locality, on the Bhopal-Dewas Highway, to refill his bike when five youths identified as Sameer Khan, Faizan Qureshi, Firoz Shah, Zafar Khan and Irshad Khan arrived there on motorcycles. Faizan and Firoz are residents of Pathankuan locality of Dewas city while Sameer and Zafar hail from Mohsinpura.

When one of the accused lit a cigarette, a fuel station employee identified as Rahul Singh Rajput objected. When Jojan supported Rahul, the five men abused the two, attacked them with a knife and fled. The fuel station staff rushed the two men to Indore but Jojan succumbed while Rahul is in critical condition.

On Rahul's complaint, the Dewas Police initially lodged an FIR at BNP Police Station under Sections 302, 307, 294, 323 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and rounded up all the accused in a few hours. A murder charge was added when Jojan died.

A scuffle over smoking at a fuel station took an ugly turn with one Jojan Singh



dead and another injured," Dewas ASP Manjit Singh told NewsClick. "All the accused are habitual offenders and have been rounded up."

Angered over Jojan's death, locals blocked the state highway and demanded stern action against the accused. Members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition also supported the protestors, who dispersed after senior officials of Dewas district administration assured of action. Hours later, a team from the municipal corporation demolished an

illegal eatery belonging to Sameer and the houses of all the accused. "An illegal Dhaba owned by Sameer Khan alongside the Bhopal-Dewas Highway was demolished," Dewas subdivisional magistrate Pradeep Soni told NewsClick. "Houses of all five accused were also razed for not having building permission."

When asked whether any notices were served before the demolition, Soni said, "They were served notices in the past for illegal construction. They were orally informed hours before the demolition."

DALIT COUPLE, SON SHOT DEAD IN VILLAGE, 4 ARRESTED, 3 ON THE RUN

Three members of a Dalit family - an elderly couple and their young son - were gunned down while a fourth one was critically injured allegedly by a neighbouring family in Damoh district on Tuesday.

The incident has sparked protests in the area and national outrage over the safety of Dalits in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Madhya Pradesh, with Bahujan Samaj Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati slamming the Madhya Pradesh government for failing to prevent atrocities against marginalised communities. The victims are Ghamandi Ahirwar, Rajpyari Ahirwar and Manak Lal Ahirwar and Manak's younger brother Mahesh who is battling for life at Damoh district hospital. The victims and the family of the accused are both residents of Deonar village of Damoh, nearly 240 km from State capital Bhopal.

Four persons, including the main accused Jagdish Patel, said to be a village strongman, were arrested till Tuesday evening while three others were on the run.

Jagdish, who works as a security guard with a private firm, has purportedly told the police that Manak had sexually harassed his wife and the murder was to avenge the same.

According to Jagdish's version, his wife had accused Manak of harassing her leading to an argument between the two families on Tuesday.

Jagdish and his family members allegedly barged into Ahirwar's home on Tuesday and fired indiscriminately at them with Jagdish's licensed firearm, said Damoh Superintendent of Police D.R. Teniwar. So far, there has been no evidence of any other weapon being used, Inspector General, Sagar Range, Anurag told reporters.

According to the police, the seven accused - including a woman and a man who himself was accused of molestation - then fled the spot and dispersed in different directions. They have been booked for murder and attempt to murder besides other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Atrocities Against Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Act. Jagdish was arrested in the afternoon while the police have formed different teams to nab the remaining accused.



EDITOR'S SPECS

October 26: Indian Army, locals won J&K freedom

On October 26, 1947, Jammu and Kashmir's Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession after which the Indian Army landed here to drive away the tribal invaders. Since 2020, the J&K government has been celebrating the day as the accession day which has been declared as a public holiday. After the division of the subcontinent on August 15, 1947 into two independent countries of India and Pakistan, the first Governor General of Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah called the merger of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state with the newly carved out Pakistan as "the unfinished task of partition". In order to achieve its objective, Pakistan sent tribals of the Afridi tribe of Waziristan to invade J&K. The tribals descended on Kashmir as vultures would on an animal carcass. The army of the Maharaja was outnumbered one to ten. Despite initial resistance, it could not stop the marauding tribals, who looted, raped, and plundered like any barbaric invader would do. Kashmir had sensed their intentions from day one and the locals fought alongside the Indian Army to drive away the invaders. The first Indian Air Force sortie landed at the Srinagar airport and the soldiers drove into Srinagar city on October 27, 1947. Locals acted like the eyes and ears of the Indian army. In 1948, the United Nations sent its group of observers to supervise the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan in J&K. This line finally became the de facto border called line of control (LoC). Exemplary bravery was shown by the Indian Army whose 1,103 soldiers across ranks were killed fighting the tribals. During the long campaign, the Indian Army lost 76 officers, 31 JCOs and 996 Other Ranks making a total of 1103. Jammu and Kashmir finally won its freedom thanks to the sacrifices of the army and the locals.

PAKISTAN IS LIVING IN A FOOL'S PARADISE

R. C. Ganjoo

Accession Day, October 26, 1947, is celebrated with fervor and graciousness in Jammu and Kashmir, when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession at Amar Palace in Jammu, India. The agreement made the former independent princely state of J&K join the Union of India. Maharaja had decided, in April 1947 that he would accede to India if it was not possible to stay independent.

Kashmir was and is a paradise where people of all religions live in harmony and that tradition continues. Pakistan's actions divided the state into Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir, a scenario that continues till date.

Kashmiris remember October 22, 1947, as the day of the commencement of hell, till Indian soldiers landed to protect them.

October 22, 1947, was when six to seven thousand Pakistani raiders, backed by the Pakistan army, which had embedded some of its soldiers within the raiders, crossed the Neelam River and began looting, plundering, raping, kidnapping and killing thousands of innocents, all with the intention of capturing Kashmir under the code name of Operation Gulmarg. Pakistan's 7 Infantry Division was located close by seeking to exploit the success achieved by its raiders. The target was to capture all territory up to the Banihal Pass.

By the end of the war, over 35,000 Kashmiris from all religions were killed, and thousands were kidnapped and taken to western Pakistan to be sold as slaves.

Pakistan continues to breed terrorist groups which claim innocent lives in Kashmir, and pretext that Kashmiris desire to be a part of Pakistan. It hired anti-national elements with illicit funds to incite violence and turned religion into a dividing factor. But always eat humble pie. Like in Bangladesh in 1971 Pakistan failed miserably and was compelled to surrender before the Indian Army. Pakistan's repeated attempts to secede from



Kashmir proved futile exercise because the people of the region understood Pakistan's dirty games.

After accession, the Indian part of J&K followed the democratic path of the Indian constitution while the area under Pakistani occupation was bifurcated into two - PoK and the 'Northern Areas,' known as Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is that part of Jammu and Kashmir (India) which was invaded by Pakistan in 1947.

Since 1947 PoK has been governed under the Pok Interim Constitution Act passed in 1974. PoK claims to have a self-governing legislative assembly though it is a known fact that it is under the control of Pakistan.

The leaders of PoK surrendered the Northern Areas to Pakistan under the Karachi Agreement of 1949. The Karachi Agreement, which governs the rule of Pakistan over Gilgit-Baltistan, was signed between the president of PoK, the Muslim Conference, and a minister without portfolio from Pakistan,

Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani.

On 22 October 1947, Pakistan's Pashtun tribal militias crossed the border of the state. It was called Operation Gulmarg and launched on the intervening night of 21-22 October 1947. Over 2,000 Pathan tribesmen first captured the bridge spanning the Kishanganga (Neelam) River on the Hazara Trunk Road linking Muzaffarabad with Abbottabad without a fight. By morning, the first major J&K border town of Muzaffarabad was captured. The horrors that have been unfolded by Pakistani journalist from Muzaffarabad, Zahid Chaudhry, in his book has described three days of havoc and the way invaders indulged in killing non-Muslims, looting, plundering, and burning their houses at the behest officer-in-charge of the attack, Major Khurshid Anwar. Writers and commentators have estimated the number of the Hindus and Sikhs massacred during these three days in Muzaffarabad to be 4500 to 5000, and the number of kidnapped

women to be more than 1600.

These local tribal militias and irregular Pakistani forces advanced to take the capital city of Srinagar. But on reaching Baramulla, they again started looting. They were challenged initially by the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces and by militias. It was the daring deed of a 19-year-old boy Mohd Maqbool Sherwani who single-handedly frustrated the advance of thousands of raiders (Kabailis) from Baramulla, thus giving valuable time to the Indian Army to land in Srinagar and push back raiders. The raiders put him on a wooden cross, nailed him, and fired upon 10-15 times. He remained like that for two to three days. His body was brought down only when the Army reached the place.

Indian troops landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947 and defended the summer capital in the decisive battle of Shalteng on the outskirts of Srinagar on 7-8 November 1947. On the 8th of

November, 1947 raiders were driven out of Baramulla. One of the first acts of the freed people was to reclaim the dead body of Sherwani and to bury it in the graveyard of Juma Masjid of the town with full military honours. A Memorial hall in the name of Maqbool Sherwani has been constructed by the army. In the next few months, the Indian army drove out the Pakistani intruders from most parts of J&K, barring the portion that today constitutes PoK.

The invasion of J&K by Pakistan and its proxy tribal raiders in 1947 has left deep scars that impacted the psyche of the people of POK, and it marked the first and most critical step in the erosion of the Kashmiri identity with the State and its people being torn apart by an UN-drawn LoC that divides the erstwhile Princely State and its inhabitants.

international

CANADIANS PROTEST AFTER DEATH OF TWO SIKH KIDS

Toronto | Agencies

Canadians took to the streets in Montreal to protest against rising cases of domestic violence after an Indo-Canadian Sikh was recently charged with murder in the death of his two children.

Screaming "enough is enough" and "not one more", about a dozen protesters marched from downtown Montreal's Place du Canada to Parc Emillie-Gamelin demanding that swift action must be taken against domestic violence, CBC News reported.

Kamaljit Arora, 45, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of his 11-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter in Laval. He was also accused of assaulting and strangling his wife.

In another case, an 82-year-old



man was charged with second-degree murder, after his 90-year-old wife was found dead in a seniors' residence in Quebec.

"How many more women must be killed before things change?" she said. "Who will raise their hands with me to say that enough is enough?" Christine Giroux, a survivor of

intimate partner violence and the organiser of the protest, said. Protesters said they want expanded use of domestic violence tracking bracelets to protect victims from their attackers, and more severe criminal punishments for abusers at a federal level.

In a series of latest initiatives to

fight domestic violence, the Quebec government had said in December 2021 that violent partners and people accused of domestic violence could be ordered to wear tracking bracelets.

Distraught and shocked, Arora's neighbours in Laval said they were still trying to come to terms with the deaths of two children in their locality.

"I wasn't able to process it in my head... How could someone do that to their own children? Nobody should go through a situation like this," Parm Kamal Singh, a distant relative of the victims, told a Brampton-based TV channel.

According to CTV News, between May 2020 and now, 44 women and children have been killed in Quebec in family violence situations.

First time Pak ISI chief directly addresses media

Islamabad | Agencies

In an unexpected press conference, chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum joined Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) DG Lt Gen Babar Iftikhar to speak about journalist Arshad Sharif's killing and former premier Imran Khan's confrontational narrative against the military, as well as a host of other related topics.

This is the first time in Pakistan's history that the head of the country's spy agency has directly addressed the media, Dawn reported. At the outset of the press conference, Gen Iftikhar said the purpose of the conference was to shed light on the killing of the journalist in Kenya and the circumstances surrounding it.

This press conference is being held in the context of presenting facts so that "facts, fiction and opinion can be differentiated", he said, adding that Prime Minister



Shehbaz Sharif had been "specially informed" about the sensitivity of the press conference.

Gen Iftikhar went on to say that Arshad Sharif's popularity was based on being an investigative journalist and when the cypher, which Khan has touted as evidence of a foreign conspiracy to oust his government surfaced, he conducted several programmes on the issue.

He held several meetings with

the former premier and interviewed him, the DG ISPR said. "As a result, it was stated that he was shown meeting minutes and the cypher." The facts behind the cypher and Arshad Sharif's death have to be determined, he said.

Talking about the cypher, Gen Iftikhar said that the army chief had discussed it with Khan on March 11 when the latter had termed it to be "not a big thing". At this time, Arshad Sharif and other journalists were fed a particular narrative and an attempt was made to defame Pakistan and the country's institutions across the world, Dawn news quoted the ISPR chief as saying.

"In this media trial, ARY News played the role of a spin doctor in targeting the army and promoting a false narrative [...] the NSC meeting was presented in the wrong context."

Gen Iftikhar stated that the army was expected to intervene in domestic politics.

NEW SERBIAN GOVERNMENT SWORN

Belgrade: The Serbian Parliament has elected the new government led by Prime Minister Ana Brnabic. Composed of coalitions around the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), which is led by President Aleksandar Vucic, and a coalition around the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) led by the newly elected foreign minister Ivica Dacic, the new government was supported by a majority of 157 out of 225 votes, reports Xinhua news agency. This is the third time that Brnabic has been sworn in as the Prime Minister after winning the mandate in 2017 and 2020. Brnabic's new cabinet comprises 25 ministries, of which four are newly formed: the Ministry of Public Investments, the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technological Development, the Ministry of Tourism and Youth, and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information. Presenting her cabinet to MPs, Brnabic said that her top priority will be "to maintain stability and continue Serbia's growth and progress" in the face of the prolonged conflict in Ukraine, particularly in relation to the country's energy policies.

Brnabic vowed that Serbia will continue with its European integration process, while also requiring respect for its territorial integrity, and respect for international law.

Ambassador Lu to represent US at special UNSC counter-terrorism meet in India

United Nations | Agencies

Ambassador Chris Lu will be representing the US at the special meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in India this week, according to Washington's UN mission.

The CTC, headed by India, is to meet in Mumbai on Friday and in New Delhi on Saturday in India's untiring efforts to draw attention to international terrorism and push for action against it.

The mission said that Lu will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the victims of the 2008 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai and lead the US delegation in the CTC meetings there and in New Delhi that will focus on terrorism threats posed by emerging technologies.



Lu, who arrives in Mumbai on Thursday, will also meet with graduate students from the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership" to hear their aspirations and discuss the essential role public service plays in democracy", the US UN said.



'TERROR ATTACK' ON IRANIAN SHRINE KILLS 13

Tehran: At least 13 people were reportedly killed and 21 others injured in a "terrorist attack" at the Shahcheragh religious shrine in Iran's southern city of Shiraz.

One woman and two children were among the victims, semi-official Fars news agency said in a report, adding that investigations showed that the security forces of the shrine were also targeted in this attack on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Although the earlier reports said three terrorists were behind the attack, the police commander of Fars province said there is one attacker and the one has been arrested.

According to Fars, the perpetrator of this attack is an element of Takfiri groups.

Italy's new cabinet wins final confidence vote

Rome | Agencies

The new Italian cabinet led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni won a confidence vote in the upper house of Italy's parliament by a comfortable margin.

The final tally in the Senate was 115 votes in favour of confirming Meloni's government, 79 against and five abstentions, Xinhua news agency reported.

On Tuesday, the government easily won approval in the lower house of parliament, with 235 votes in favour, 154 against and five abstentions.

The two confidence votes are a step required by the Italian constitution for a new government to become fully operative.

Meloni, Italy's first female prime minister, told the parliament ahead of the confidence vote on Wednesday her policy goals, including curbing high energy costs, sparking stronger economic growth, continuing support for Ukraine and strengthening the office of prime minister.



Meloni's Brothers of Italy party was the top vote-getter in Italy's Sept. 25 general election with over 26 per cent of the ballots cast. She had run the campaign with her two coalition allies, the Forza Italia party and the League, both of which gained over 8 per cent of the votes.

The new government formed by Meloni was officially sworn in on Saturday.



DIN RAGES TO 'TOPPLE' GANDHIJI FROM INDIAN CURRENCY NOTE PEDESTAL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's demand to add images of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesh on Indian currency notes (ICN), clamour grew on Thursday among various political parties to 'topple' or 'overcrowd' Mahatma Gandhi's exalted pedestal on the country's paper money.

Various leaders from different parties such as the BJP, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), Republican Party of India (K) and others came up with different heroes - ranging from Gods and Goddesses to historical icons and freedom fighters who could share space with Gandhiji on the ICN.

BJP legislators like Nitesh Rane and Ram Kadam demanded the pictures of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Veer Savarkar, among others, on the ICN. They even circulated photoshopped ICN of Rs 200 and Rs 500 denominations showing the three leaders - with Gandhiji conspicuously missing in their proposed designs!

Prominent Congress Dalit leader Nitin Raut demanded to add the image of B.R. Ambedkar, which was seconded by Shiv Sena's (UBT) ex-Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar.

Republican Party of India (K) President Sachin Kharat demanded to add the image of Gautam Buddha, senior Sena (UBT) leader Anil Parab pitched the name of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb



Thackeray, while deputy leader Raghunath Kuchik suggested Lord Ram or even Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Ram Kadam (of BJP) has forgotten Lord Ram after whom he's named. Why only restrict Lord Ram to the Ayodhya temple, he can also figure on the ICN," Kuchik pointed out.

Maharashtra Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe, Nationalist Congress Party's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase, state Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant, Shiv Sena

spokesperson Kishore Tiwari and other BJP leaders had earlier slammed Kejriwal for his 'preposterous' demand.

Amid the cacophony, Pune-based businessman Prafull Sarda came up with a unique suggestion, which can silence the ICN controversy for eternity, especially since the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) high-level screening committee decided way back in 2010 that only Gandhiji will remain on ICN as "no other personality could better represent the ethos of India than Mahatma Gandhi".

"In view of this, the Centre can enact a suitable legislation not to disturb the ICN design with Gandhiji. However, the government can open up the Rs 5 and Rs 10 coins with minted pictures of all others, for commemoration or regular usage, as per status and demand to satisfy everybody," Sarda said.

In a 2019 RTI reply to Sarda by the Department of Economic Affairs' Additional Secretary Manisha Sinha, the government said that a high-level RBI panel (October 2010) had deliberated in detail on the need for inclusion of other eminent personalities, Bharat Ratnas, Nobel laureates, freedom fighters or sports persons on the ICN design. Finally, it decided to retain the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi on the obverse of banknotes and on the watermark. The government has approved the recommendation, as per the reply of November 11, 2019.

Dawoodi Bohras, NDA mourn hero Major Mustafa's death in chopper crash

Team Absolute | Pune/Udaipur

The miniscule Dawoodi Bohra community in India and worldwide grieved over the death of Indian Army Major Mustafa Zakiuddin Kherodawala - who was killed in an air crash in Arunachal Pradesh last week, officials said here on Thursday.

The community's spiritual leader, HH Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin currently in Rajasthan, visited the Kherodawala family home and offered solace and prayers for the loss of Major Mustafa - as he was popularly known.

Syedna Saifuddin met to convey his heartfelt condolences to Maj. Mustafa's aged parents - father Zakiuddin, mother Fatema - and his younger sister Alifiya.

On another touching note, it emerged that the late Maj. Mustafa, 27, was expected to tie the knot with an Udaipur girl, Fatema Abdeali Kankroliwala this week.

Coincidentally, their 'nikaah' ceremony was scheduled to be performed on (October 27) at the hands of the Syedna himself.

The Syedna also met the Kankroliwala family, offered his deepest condolences and solace to the prospective young bride who lost her fiancée in the chopper crash. The Syedna recalled Major Mustafa's six years' services with the Indian Army and acknowledged his contribution to the nation, and the ultimate sacrifice while performing his duties for the country.

Major Mustafa was among four other Indian Army personnel killed in the Advanced Light Helicopter crash in a mountainous region at Siang in Arunachal Pradesh on October 21. Later, his body, along with the other deceased, was retrieved and taken to Udaipur where he was accorded a funeral with full military honours at the Khanjipeer Cemetery.

The National Defence Academy (NDA) in Pune organised a special wreath-laying ceremony at its sprawling Pune campus on Tuesday (October 25) in honour of Major Mustafa one of its distinguished alumnus.

"Major Mustafa of 252 Army Aviation, in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, made his supreme sacrifice while performing his duties on October 21, during an ALH crash in Arunachal Pradesh. He was an alumnus of the 128th NDA Course, November Squadron," said an NDA Spokesperson.

"Today, as his name gets inscribed in golden letters with full military honour in the sacred 'Hut of Remembrance', his martyrdom will continue to inspire future generations of NDA cadets. The NDA fraternity offers heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," said the NDA.

Besides Major Mustafa, his co-pilot Major Vikas Bhambhhu, craftsman Ashvin K.V., Havildar Biresh Sinha and Naik Rohitashva Kumar also perished in the tragic disaster.

Two Indian women held at Mumbai airport with gold hidden in jeans

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Airport Customs intercepted and arrested two Indian women passengers who landed here from Dubai with 2.65 kg gold, concealed in wax form, in their jeans, an official said here on Thursday.

The two women arrived here by an IndiGo flight 6E-64 on Wednesday and based on profiling and surveillance, the Customs sleuths stopped them for searches.

During the physical search, both the women were detected with something wrapped below their knees in a bandage-like arrangement, arousing suspicions.

On further examination, it was found that the duo had wrapped 24 carat pure gold in wax form around their legs, concealed with an adhesive bandage-like material under-



neath their jeans.

The total recovery was 2.65 kgs of purest form of gold worth around Rs 1.40 crore, said the official. Both women were arrested and have been

sent to police custody by a court, while further investigations are on into their accomplices or others involved in the entire gold smuggling racket.

COPS HUNT FOR FILMMAKER WHO TRIED TO RUN OVER ANGRY WIFE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocker, the Mumbai Police are on the lookout for a filmmaker, who allegedly attempted to run over and kill his wife with his car last week, officials said here on Thursday.

The Amboli Police Station has lodged a case against Kamal Kishore Mishra following a complaint by his wife, Yasmin, on the incident that occurred in the afternoon of October 19 in a parking lot of an unidentified residential building.

She sustained injuries to her legs and head but her condition is now stable and improving, said the police.

According to Senior Police Inspector Bandopant Bansode, the woman claimed in her complaint that her husband Mishra was reportedly having an adulterous relationship and deliberately attempted to crush her under his car before speeding off from there.

A viral video (dated October 19) shows the woman running towards the white vehicle with dark glasses,



purportedly driven by her husband with another woman in the car, and as she tries to stop him, he keeps on driving ahead until she falls under the front right wheel.

A security personnel also rushes to help her, he is seen trying to talk to the driver, but is ignored and he continues to drive ahead dragging

her on the bonnet, and as the woman falls on the ground, he speeds off from the location. Based on the victim Yasmin's complaint, the Amboli Police has filed the case under various sections of Indian Penal Code against the 'missing' Mishra and is on the lookout for him. Mishra, hailing from Gonda in Uttar

Pradesh, is known for making films like "Bhootiyapa", "Flat No. 420", "Sharmaji Ki Lag Gayi", "Khalli Balli", "Dehati Disco", etc. The shocking incident and the security video clip evoked strong reactions on social media with many slamming Mishra for his alleged deeds, and demanding stringent action against him.

Sachin, Mithali, Harmanpreet hail BCCI for announcing same fee for women internationals

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian cricket fraternity on Thursday raised in one voice to hail the Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI) for announcing that women internationals will now get the same match fee as their male counterparts.

As per the announcement, India's women cricketers to be paid the same match fee as their male counterparts, both female and male cricketers will earn Rs 15 lakh as Test match fee while playing in an ODI and T20I will fetch them match fees of Rs 6 lakh and 3 lakh respectively.

India's women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur called it a red-letter day for cricket in the country and



thanked BCCI and its Secretary Jay Shah for the decision.

Legendary women cricketers Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami too hailed BCCI for this decision.

"This is a historic decision for women's cricket in India! The pay

equity policy along with the WIPL next year, we are ushering into a new era for women's cricket in India.

Thank you Jay Shah Sir & the BCCI for making this happen. Really happy today," Mithali Raj said in her tweet. Jhulan termed it a great initiative

that will motivate young girls to take up cricket.. "What amazing news for Women's cricket in India," wrote India opener Smriti Mandhana in her tweet.

Former woman international and commentator Anjum Chopra described it as massive news.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar led the Indian male cricketers too praised BCCI for its decision to introduce pay parity for men and women internationals. Said Sachin Tendulkar in his tweet, "Cricket has been an equalizer in many ways. This is a welcome step towards gender equality in the game and erasing discrimination from the sport. Very happy with the decision taken by BCCI and brilliant to see India paving the way forward. Jay Shah."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to hand over to Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd a report of the Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata, based on which the state had cancelled the company's cosmetic manufacturing licence for its Mulund facility for its baby powder. A vacation bench of Justices N J Jamadar and Sharmila Deshmukh passed the decision on Wednesday while hearing a petition filed by the company challenging two orders of the state government - one dated

September 15 cancelling the license and the second dated September 20 ordering to immediately stop manufacturing and sale of the company's baby powder product.

The orders were passed by the Joint Commissioner and Licensing Authority of the state Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The government based its orders on the report of the Central Drug Laboratory, which found the powder containing higher pH level than prescribed. The company challenged the orders first before the Maharashtra Minister for Food and Drug Administration, who is the

appellate authority. The minister on October 19 upheld the cancellation order, following which the company approached the high court.

The company in its petition said the orders were passed by violating the principles of natural justice. It added that with its manufacturing unit at suburban Mulund closed, the company was suffering huge financial loss.

On Wednesday, when the matter came up for hearing, the company's counsel Ravi Kadam told the court that it is yet to be provided with the CDL report, based on which the orders were passed.

'Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical' gets extended on public demand

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After two years of pandemic-induced lull, Feroz Abbas Khan's Broadway style opus 'Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical' opened to packed houses in Mumbai on October 21 this year. The musical has already amassed unanimous critical and popular acclaim around the world but this is the first time in the post pandemic era that the 18th season of the show has been staged.

Director Feroz Abbas says, "As a team, during the course of the last two years, we truly missed entertaining the audience and now it feels so reassuring that the fans of the show have missed it too! The response since the first show on October 21, has been unbelievable and more shows have had to be added to accommodate the overwhelming demand for tickets."

Deepesh Galgia of

Shapoorji Pallonji Producers of the musical says, "Mumbai has embraced the musical extravaganza once again. The core appeal of the musical remains the same though as always we have worked hard to improve technical and production aspects."

'Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical' has won seven trophies, including the Best Indian Play, at the Broadway World India Awards 2017. The Best Director Award, Best Original Costume Design, Best Original Choreography category, Best Original Set Design segment and Best Original Lighting Design award. The play also bagged the Best Ensemble Cast award.

A short interview with director Feroz Abbas: When was the first time that you saw 'Mughal-E-Azam' and what impact did the film have on you?

Feroz: I saw 'Mughal-E-Azam' as a child on Eid with my family and it had an enor-

mous emotional impact on me and I remember crying profusely because I thought a great injustice had been done to Anarkali! Decades later when I saw the coloured version with Farooque Sheikh and Shabana Azmi Azmi in Hyderabad, the film wove the same magic that I had experienced all those years ago and then the idea to adapt it to stage came to me because I realised that the film had a very theatrical structure.

Do you think a film like this can be made today?

Feroz: I think films which are much bigger in scale and even in detailing and budget are being made today especially in South India, but 'Mughal-E-Azam' was very unique at that particular period and time where epics were few and far between and this one in particular had cost the producers more than any previous Indian film. It took nearly 10 years to reach cinemas and that would be unthinkable today.

Same hours, less pay: The cost of being a woman farmhand in rural Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Satara (Maharashtra)

Female workers are paid only half of what men manage to get, but they are hesitant to ask for more fearing loss of employment.

Sweat trickles down her face as Anita toils under the arid skies of Jadhavwadi village in Maharashtra's Satara district. She is not alone though. A group of 15 female farmhands has been assigned the task of harvesting onions, something that takes up their whole day.

"We all came around 10 am in a Tempo Traveller, and will be here until 5 to 6 pm. In between, we take a lunch break for an hour. At the end of the day, Rs 200 is paid to each of us," says Anita.

Jadhavwadi and Bijaudi are two relatively less populated villages in Phaltan block. The temperature here may not fall under the 'extremely hot' category, but it undoubtedly drains the energy of farm labourers. In addition, there are not many trees or man-made shelters for workers to take rest. Unlike their male counterparts, female labourers are in demand here. According to Anita, they do not have to scramble for work. "The farm owners find us. So, we move from one farm to another with ease." Their popularity



hinges on the fact that they need to be paid only half of what men manage to get, despite doing the same work for the same amount of time. "At the end of the day, we also have to think about saving money," says Mamusheth, a farm owner. A conversation with Vijay Bhosale, a farm contractor, reveals how most of them perceive gender inequality in daily wages as a social norm. "This is what was followed by our forefathers. I know it is unequal, but this is how the system is," explains Bhosale.

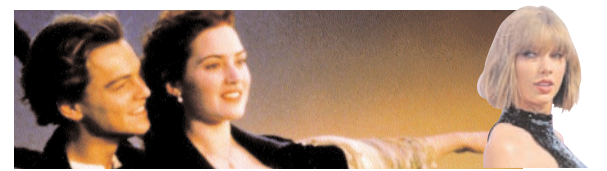
Sympathising with the farm owners, a woman in the group says they are fine with the Rs 200 they receive. "Men ask for Rs 400 and above. Maybe, the employers cannot afford that much."

All of them admit that they do not really ask for more wages for fear of loss of employment.

"Something is better than nothing, right?" says Anita, to which others nod. Furthermore, they feel there is almost no room for negotiations.

As per the revised minimum wages in Maharashtra, even unskilled labourers in zone 3 are entitled to Rs 420.54 per day. From plain observation, it is clear that all the rates mentioned in different policy guidelines of the state and Central governments are higher than the amount women farmhands in Jadhavwadi and Bijaudi are paid. Despite the state government's initiative to close the gaps in daily wages since 2016, it has been overlooked in rural areas.

A news report highlights a similar situation in Palghar's Sadakwadi, where women work on farms for low wages, while men migrate to nearby areas for construction or industry-based work. Most of the women never went to school. Only two or three reached high school, but dropped off after household chores increased. Soon enough, they were married off. "We do not voice our problems generally. We just listen to our employers," Anita said. Other women echo her when they say: "Yes, there are times when we feel we are not heard. But then, we also do not know enough. So we make peace with that fact."



Taylor Swift opens up on Easter eggs in her 'Bejeweled' music video

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ahead of the midnight release for the 'Bejeweled' music video, Taylor Swift appeared on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' to share behind-the-scenes details about her latest release. Swift revealed that the 'Anti-Hero' music video was treated "as a first single," but 'Bejeweled' was made for the "fans who like certain things like glitter and Easter eggs and lots of little cameos," Swift called it "a twist on a Cinderella story" and shared that the cameos are just as magical. She revealed that her longtime friends and collaborators, the HAIM sisters, appear as the stepsisters and Oscar winner Laura Dern plays her evil stepmother. "How did you get in touch with Laura Dern?" asked host Jimmy Fallon. Swift playfully replied that she told the actress, that she wrote a one-page script in which Dern would get to call her a "tired, tacky, wench."

'People' further states that Swift mentioned that instead of having someone portray the fairy godmother, Dita Von Teese appears in the music video as "the fairy goddess" and expressed that she is "one of the most iconic performers." According to Swift, the 'Bejeweled' music video has a "psychotic amount" of Easter eggs to the point where a PDF document was created for it.

Snoop Dogg smokes '150 joints a day', claims his blunt roller

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Snoop Dogg smokes up to 150 marijuana joints a day, according to his professional "blunt roller". The 51-year-old star - who resides in California, where recreational marijuana use is legal - employs a member of staff, Renegade Piranha, to roll his joints for him, and she has rolled around 450,000 for the rapper.

Speaking on Australian radio show 'The Kyle and Jackie O Show', she said: "I calculate it at over 450,000. I do about half a pound a day, which is 75 to 150 joints."

In June, Snoop revealed he had given his personal "blunt roller" a pay rise due to "inflation".

The 'Gin and Juice' hitmaker was previously said to have been forking out between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year on a joint roller, but the star confirmed their wages had gone up due to the rising cost of living.

The hip-hop star responded: "Inflation. Their salary went up!!" Snoop previously opened up about the unusual role in an interview with US shock jock Howard Stern.

When asked why they were employed, Snoop replied: "Timing. That motherf*****'s timing is impeccable. That's his job, his occupation. On his resume, it says, 'What do you do?' I'm a blunt roller. P-B-R, professional blunt roller."

The star went on to reveal the blunt roller gets plenty of other perks on top of the salary, adding: "(The salary is) somewhere between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year. Free weed - all paid expenses. Everything I get, he gets. I go get some free clothes, I give him some."



Los Angeles | Agencies



Sam Heughan got rejected from playing James Bond

'Outlander' served as Sam Heughan's breakthrough acting role, but it would've been James Bond had he not been turned down by franchise producers. In his new memoir, "Waypoints: My Scottish Journey," Heughan reveals he auditioned to play James Bond in 'Casino Royale'. The role ended up going to Daniel Craig, who starred as 007 in a total of five Bond films. "It was a stage in my life where I probably wasn't ready for it," Heughan said. "But I wonder what would have happened if I had got it." Heughan writes in his memoir that his Bond audition was "so hush-hush that nobody ever confirmed that I was being considered for the main role, but I knew. Of course, it blew my mind to think I might even be in the frame for such an iconic figure...I had to remind myself to relax and let them see what I could do with the character." The audition took place at "Bond HQ" with a casting director and was followed by a meeting with franchise producer Barbara Broccoli and "Casino Royale" director Martin Campbell. "We spoke a little about Scotland and about Bond, read the scene once, then I left," Heughan writes. "It was all so quick, the sweat beneath my leather jacket just starting to form. It was all just so cool and crowned by the fact that Barbara was charming and delightful. When I left, I half wondered whether I was about to be tested with a car chase home." Daniel Craig ultimately got the part. Heughan writes, "When I learned the role had gone elsewhere, however, the feedback I received boiled down to the fact that I wasn't edgy enough by nature. I'm always keen to take on criticism so I can improve as an actor, but the suggestion seemed to be that I lacked this quality in my real character." "I could not see what bearing that would have on playing the role, but it was out of my hands, and meant to be." "It wasn't a question of becoming a bad boy," he continues. "I realised that the edge the Bond team sought could be achieved through self-confidence, which to be fair I was certainly lacking at the time." With Craig having ended his Bond tenure with a No Time to Die, the door might be open for Heughan to finally land the part. "Maybe I'm too old now. I know that they've been talking about making him younger," Heughan said. "I feel like that's where they're gonna go, but who knows what's in their mind."

DANNY MASTERSON RAPE ACCUSER BREAKS DOWN IN COURT, SUFFERS PANIC ATTACK

Los Angeles | Agencies

It was an unsettling moment for the second accuser in the rape trial of 'The 70s Show' and 'The Ranch' star Danny Masterson as murky details of her sexual abuse and the events that followed came up during the trial.

She broke down on the stand on Tuesday (Pacific Standard Time) while describing the retaliation she has faced from the Church of Scientology.

The woman, a former girlfriend of Masterson who has been identified in court as Christina B., appeared to have suffered a panic attack as she discussed the consequences of being declared a "suppressive person".

"I can't breathe," she said at one point. She testified that she reported Masterson to the church after he allegedly raped her while she was unconscious in December 2001. She said a church official told her that it was not possible to rape one's girlfriend. She said that she was also told that it was her job, or her "hat" in Scientology terminology, "to give him sex whenever he wanted."

She said that a church ethics officer, Miranda Scoggins, told her that that "no crime was committed," and that she had "pulled in" the negative experiences she was having. At that time,



Christina B. was a practicing Scientologist and she said she believed what she was told.

She said that she was put on an "ethics program," and was also instructed to read material on "suppressive persons." The prospect that she might be declared a suppressive person for reporting Masterson, "almost put me in a state of terror," she said. She further states that in her testimony, she began to cry when she said that the church has treated her like a suppressive

person for the last six years. She said she feared she would not have survived similar treatment back in 2001. "What my husband and my babies have been through the last six years, I would not have survived it then," she said, "I understood it would be bad, but I didn't understand." She then appeared to have difficulty breathing. "I'm trying to calm my panic," she said. The court took a break while she was consoled by a victim advocate from the D.A.'s office.

Hailey Bieber, slams Kanye's anti-Semitic stance

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Hailey Baldwin has denounced Kanye West over his controversial anti-Semitic comments after the rapper attacked her online.

The model wife of Justin Bieber made use of her Instagram account to address the Yeezy designer's rant.

"You cannot believe in God and be anti-Semitic," Hailey penned in an Instagram Story on October 25. "You cannot love God and support or condone hate speech. To love God is to love people. ALL people."

The 25-year-old beauty also shared a picture reading: "I support my friends and the Jewish people."

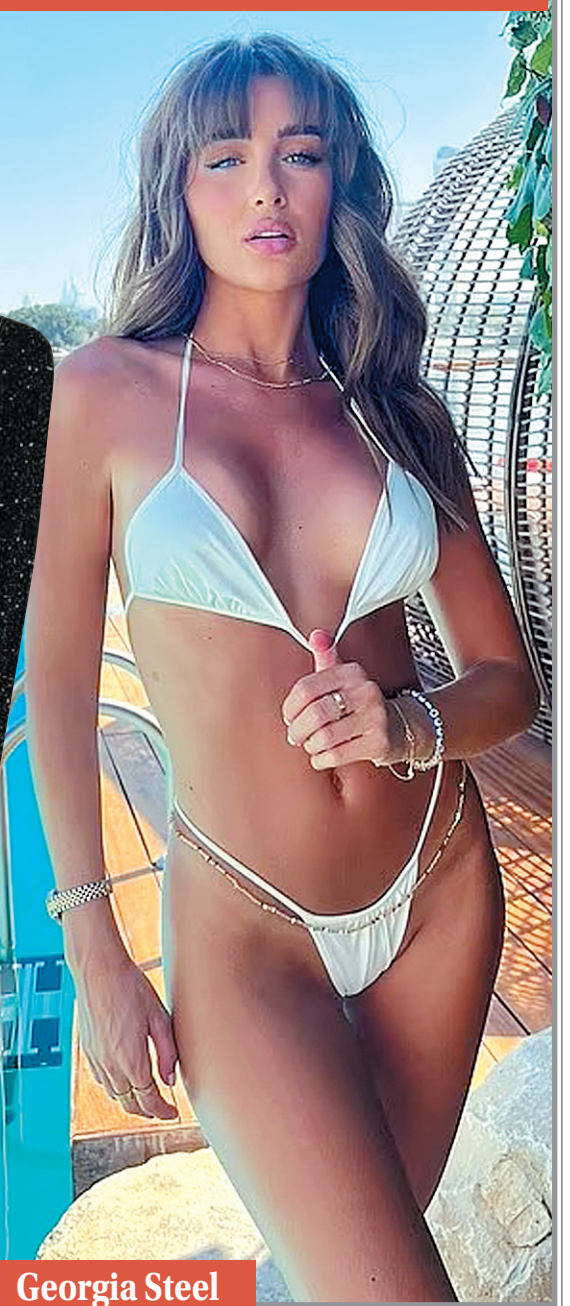
Her post came after Kanye dissed her in a now-deleted Instagram post. In the post, the 45-year-old hip-hop star blasted Hailey and Gigi Hadid while gushing over model and influencer Vinetria.

"THEEYY" don't want undeniable beautiful Black women to be put on their rightful throne," he said. "They want corny a** Gigi Hadid and nose job Hailey Baldlose to rally behind an obvious Corey Gamble level nonfashion industry plant," he wrote.

Prior to that, Gigi and Hailey defended Vogue editor Gabriella Karefa-Johnson after he fired back at the latter for criticising his controversial design.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Georgia Steel



INDIA'S FEMALE CRICKETERS TO EARN SAME AMOUNT OF MATCH FEES AS THE MEN, ANNOUNCES JAY SHAH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a landmark moment to tackle gender 'discrimination' in cricket, Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), announced on Thursday that the country's female cricketers will now earn the same amount of match fees as their male counterparts.

While saying that Indian cricket is moving towards a new era of gender equality, Shah also announced that the BCCI will also be implementing a pay equity policy for the contracted India women's cricket team players.

"I'm pleased to announce BCCI's first step towards tackling discrimination. We are implementing a pay equity policy for our contracted BCCI Women cricketers. The match fee for both Men and Women Cricketers will be the same as we move into a new era of gender equality in Indian Cricket," said Shah through his official Twitter handle.

"In our Apex Council meeting today, we have made a marquee decision on pay equity for our women cricketers. Our women players will be paid the same match fees as men in international cricket. This decision sets the platform to grow and develop cricket. I believe this is a significant step forward for women's cricket and the game overall," said Roger Binny, BCCI President, in an official statement.

As per the announcement, India's women cricketers will be paid the same match fee as their male counterparts, both female and male cricketers will



earn INR 15 lakh as Test match fee while playing in an ODI and T20I will fetch them match fees of INR 6 lakh and 3 lakh respectively.

It is the first time that Indian men's and women's professional game has been combined under one master agreement. "It was my commitment to our women cricketers and pay equity is an important step towards tackling discrimination. The female cricketers will be paid the same match fee as their male counterparts."

"This is a landmark decision as we enter a new era in India Cricket. I would like to thank my colleagues in the BCCI Apex Council," added Shah.

"To support the players of the present and tomorrow, this move will prove to

be a game-changer. Women's cricket is on the rise and the decision of pay equity for our women's cricketers is another giant step in BCCI's continuous endeavour to bolster the game. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members in the BCCI Apex Council who supported the decision," said Ashish Shelar, Treasurer, BCCI. As of now, the centrally-contracted male players get INR 7 crore, INR 6 crore, INR 3 crore and INR 1 crore in four categories (A+, A, B, C) while the women players get INR 50 lakh, INR 30 lakh and INR 10 lakh each in three grades (A, B, C). The BCCI is yet to announce the latest set of contracts for the upcoming season for both men's and women's players.

T20 World Cup: Zimbabwe beat Pakistan by 1 run in thriller

Perth | Agencies

Zimbabwe held their nerves to beat Pakistan by one run in a thrilling Super 12 match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 at Perth Stadium. This was Pakistan's second defeat in two games and their road to the semifinal has become difficult now.

Chasing a below-par total, Pakistan lost the wickets of Mohammad Rizwan (14) and Babar Azam (4) in the power-play and were in trouble.

Shan Masood then played a fighting knock (44 off 38) and kept his team alive in the run chase. However, once he got out, the game was slipping



ping from the hands of Pakistan as Zimbabwe bowlers were not giving any freebies. But, the likes of Mohammad Nawaz along with Mohammad Wasim Jr were not ready to give up. However, Pakistan's hopes got shattered when Nawaz got out in the second last ball of the last over of the innings. They were eventually restricted to 129-8 in 20 overs, losing by 1 run.

Sikandar Raza was the most successful bowler for Zimbabwe with his brilliant figures of 3/25. Brad Evans (2/25) was superb as well. Earlier, winning the toss and opting to bat first, Zimbabwe got off to a flier as a daring Wesley Madhevere and skipper Craig Ervine played some eye-catching shots inside the first two overs. With five boundaries inside the first three overs, Zimbabwe had a fabulous start, racing away at 10 runs per over. Some of that early momentum toned down when Ervine was sent back by Haris Rauf and his partner got trapped in front by Wasim in the following over.

ARC KICKS OFF NEW SEASON WITH REGIONAL EQUESTRIAN LEAGUE

Mumbai Amateur Rider's Club (ARC) kicks off the new season with the Regional Equestrian League (REL) 2022-23, to be conducted on October 29 and 30 at ARC, Mahalaxmi Race Course, Mumbai.

The event will see participants from Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Rajasthan covering the west zone of the country. The event comprises of show jumping and dressage competitions which will take place under the following participant categories: Young Rider-16 to 21 years, Junior -14 to 18 years, Children I - 12 to 14 years and Children II -10 to 12 years.

T20 World Cup

India move to top of Group 2 table with a thumping 56-run win over the Netherlands

Sydney | Agencies

India stormed back to being on top of Group 2 points table with a thumping 56-run win over the Netherlands in their Super 12 match of Men's T20 World Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

After captain Rohit Sharma (53), Virat Kohli (62 not out) and Suryakumar Yadav (51 not out) hit half-centuries in propelling India to a challenging 179/2, India produced a top-class bowling performance to restrict the Netherlands to 123/9 in 20 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar led India's tight start in Power-play with his two overs yielding no runs and casting Vikramjit Singh in the third over. Max O'Dowd began with nicely timed square drives off Arshdeep Singh to get a brace of fours and flicked Mohammed Shami through square-leg for his third four. His promising stay at the crease came to an end when in an attempt to sweep, he moved across and exposed his stumps, only for Axar Patel to rattle his middle stump with a straight delivery. Patel had another wicket to his name when he made Bas de Leede reach out for outside the off-stump ball and sliced straight to point.

Ravichandran Ashwin made a double strike in the 13th over -- Colin Ackermann holed out to deep mid-wicket and four balls later, Tom Cooper swept straight to deep square leg in a span of four balls.



Tim Pringle hit a cameo of 20 off 15 balls, dispatching Ashwin over long-on for six and flicking Arshdeep for four. But Shami extracted a leading edge off his flick and was caught by mid-off.

In the next over, Bhuvneshwar added another wicket to his name when captain Scott Edwards miscued a slower ball to mid-off. Arshdeep joined the wicket-takers column when Logan

van Beek was late to pull a bouncer and was caught behind.

He ended the 18th over by trapping Fred Klaassen lbw with a fantastic yorker and getting the DRS in his favour. Though Arshdeep was hit by Paul van Meekeren for a hat-trick of fours in the last three balls of the innings, the result was a foregone conclusion by then.

Win over Netherlands was a near-perfect one for India: Rohit Sharma

Sydney | India captain Rohit Sharma was one pleased man after the thumping 56-run win over Netherlands in their Super 12 match of the Men's T20 World Cup, calling the victory at Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday "a near-perfect win" despite having a slow start in first ten overs with the bat, where only four boundaries were hit.

"When you're expected to win, the pressure is a lot more. This was a near-perfect game for us. Won't say we were in a spot of bother at the start, the wicket was on the slower side and we couldn't play our shots right at the start."

"I thought it was a clinical win. Looking at the way they have qualified for the Super 12s, credit to them. We however always looked to what we can do with ourselves, not bother about the opposition. To be honest, this was a near perfect win," added Rohit. Though Rohit made 53 off 35 balls, cutting loose after a scratchy start, said "Not too happy with my fifty, but what's important is getting runs - doesn't matter if they are good looking runs or ugly runs. At the end of the day, it is about keeping the confidence up."

Rohit signed off by saying India will now move on to their next match, against South Africa at Perth on Sunday. "Luckily for us, we had a few days to get over that special win (over Pakistan in Melbourne). As soon as the game got over, we came to Sydney and regrouped. We have to move on now, and the focus was on this game where we wanted to come out and get those two points."



Champions League: Barcelona, Atletico crash out on bad night for Spain

Madrid | Agencies

Both FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid crashed out of the UEFA Champions League on a bad night for La Liga, with Barca crashing to defeat and Atletico held to a draw at home.

Inter Milan's 4-0 home win over Viktoria Plzen meant that Barcelona were knocked out of the Champions League and condemned to a place in the Europa League.

Barca lost 3-0 at home to Bayern Munich after being outplayed by the Germans for most of the game and failing to manage a single shot on target in the game.

Sadio Mane put Bayern ahead in the tenth minute and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting doubled their lead just after the half-hour mark.

Barca huffed and puffed without causing Bayern serious problems, and Benjamin Pavard netted the third goal with the last kick of the game following a corner.

Meanwhile, Porto's win away to Club Brugge meant that anything



other than a win for Atletico at home to Bayer Leverkusen would also see their Champions League adventure come to an end for this season.

There was high drama in Atletico's match, especially in the final minute, reports Xinhua. Atletico failed to

score from a corner and the referee blew the final whistle when the score was 2-2. But then the referee received a call from VAR over a possible penalty for the Spanish side. The penalty was awarded to Atletico, but Yannick Carrasco saw his spot-kick saved by Lucas Hradecky and Saul Niguez headed the rebound off the bar.

The game began with Leverkusen taking the lead through Moussa Diaby, with Carrasco netting for Atletico in the 22nd minute. Callum Hudson-Odoi put Leverkusen back in lead in the 29th minute, and although Rodrigo de Paul drew Atletico level early in the second half, they couldn't find a winner, even from the penalty spot. Atletico now have to equal Leverkusen's result in the last group game in order to ensure their place in the Europa League.

FRANKFURT BEAT MARSEILLE AS LIVERPOOL, INTER, PORTO ADVANCE TO ROUND OF 16

Paris | First-half goals from Daichi Kamada and Randel Kolo Muani helped Eintracht Frankfurt beat Marseille 2-1 in the fifth round of UEFA Champions League Group D even as Liverpool, Inter and Porto marched into the Round of 16 in impressive style as early exits were confirmed for Ajax, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid. Liverpool rode out plenty of early Ajax pressure to emerge as comfortable 3-0 victors and the round of 16 qualifiers. Steven Berghuis hit a post after three minutes and Duan Tadic was also denied, yet Liverpool were ahead at half-time.



PKL 9: Haryana Steelers look to begin Pune leg with win over Paltan

Pune | Agencies

Fresh from their win over the Telugu Titans earlier this week, Haryana Steelers bounced back from a string of defeats, and the JSW Sports-owned franchise is determined to begin the new leg, set to get underway in Pune, with a win over home team Purni Paltan, at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, in Balewadi.

In the ten matches in which these sides have faced each other over the years, the Steelers have won four, while Pune have won six. Haryana defender Mohit Nandal said past results count for little, as his side gear up for the second phase of the competition. "Every team in this League is different from the other and even the players change every season. Hence, previous records do not play a role at all. The team that performs better on the



night will win the match and we are focused on going out there and doing our best," Mohit said ahead of the encounter of the Pro Kabaddi season nine. Mohit, who is a right cover in the Steelers roster, has had a stellar campaign so far, with his pairing alongside Jaideep bringing the Steelers away from some

tricky situations. The addition of Iranian defender Amirhossein Bastami has further given a major boost to Steelers' defensive unit in PKL 9. Up against Haryana on Friday is the Paltan's in-form raider Aslam Inamdar who has already notched up 68 points in just seven games so far this season.

IPL FRANCHISES APPROACH AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS FOR YEAR-ROUND CONTRACTS: REPORT

Sydney | Agencies

Franchises in the Indian Premier League (IPL) have reportedly approached Australian cricketers for signing year-round contracts to represent them in various franchise T20 leagues where they have their teams.

A report in The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald says IPL franchise representatives have held informal talks with the players through their management to know how much money would be required for them to commit to playing for them in various T20 leagues instead of playing international cricket.

"A source familiar with the issue said a sum of \$5 million had been discussed to lure a big-name Australian player. This would be more than double what Test and one-day international captain Pat Cummins is paid as the highest-ranked player on CA's contracts list."

"Contracted Australian stars such as Cummins, David

Warner and Glenn Maxwell would be eagerly sought by IPL franchises that own teams in other domestic Twenty20 leagues," said the report.

The report further said that there has been little interest from players to sign up for the year-long contracts. But a source quoted



in the report feels that might change when the players are nearing the end of their international careers and will take only 18 months to two years for Australian players to commit to year-long franchise cricket contracts.

"It would be a fundamental shift from the game's conven-

tional pay model for international cricketers, which is rare in world sport in that as a player's major source of income has traditionally come from their country instead of their club. Players would still require no objection certificates from their home board to take part in foreign T20 leagues," added the report.

The development comes at a time when all six teams in the inaugural SA20 league where acquired by IPL franchises while some of them, like Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Mumbai Indians (MI) have acquired teams in UAE's ILT20 tournament. KKR also runs the Trinbago side in the Caribbean Premier League and are also in the running to acquire a side in the yet-to-be-launched Major League Cricket in the USA. KKR CEO Venky Mysore had earlier this year revealed about his franchise's ambitions to see players contracted for 12 months to play in their teams. "In an ideal world, sure -- because that gives us the opportunity to make our vision and our strategy even stronger."



Sex, intimacy must not be treated like taboo topics : Maanvi Gagroo

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Maanvi Gagroo, who plays the affable Siddhi Patel in the web series 'Four More Shots Please!', talks about sex and intimacy being a taboo topic even in this day and age. She said that it has been taught to us to keep it very personal.

Talking to media about what according to her is responsible for the hesitation to discuss openly issues relating to sex and intimacy, Maanvi said: "I think culturally we have been taught that when we speak about physical intimacy, we keep it very private, very hush-hush because it's extremely personal. Well, to each own. If you want to keep your sex life or love life private, it's completely up to you."

She added, however, that sex and intimacy must not be considered taboo topics.

"People who want to talk about it should also be allowed to do so as long as you don't go into details that might offend somebody. I think, similarly, Siddhi had notions about how she led her life and it changed, which happens to all of us."

Season 3 of the 'Four More Shots Please!' will also see Kirti Kulhari, Maanvi Gagroo, Bani J, Prateik Babbar, Lisa Ray, Neil Bhooopalam, Rajeev Siddharth, Amrita Puri, Simone Singh, and Samir Kochhar reprising their respective roles. Jim Sarbh, Sushant Singh, Shilpa Shukla and Rohan Mehra are the new faces this season.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

THIS PROJECT IS SPECIAL AS IT'S A VISUAL ALBUM FILM, AND I AM PLAYING MYSELF: TIA BAJPAI

Singer, TV, and film actress Tia Bajpai is all set for her next project 'The Secret Dimension' which is based on the life of an ambitious girl, who goes to any extent to achieve her dreams but in the process, she realises that there are many aspects of life that need to be explored.

Tia connects well with her character, as she mentions: "It's the journey of a girl who dares to dream big despite limited resources. You will see bits and pieces of myself in the film as well."

"It's about every person who dreams about the impossible, goes through hell to achieve it, but then realises that there's way more to life than just one thing, only those who dare can find the key to the secret dimension," she adds.

Tia is going to sing all her songs in the film. While sharing more about it, she said: "I am singing all my songs in the film, it's a musical film. It has 11 songs in it written and performed by me. But I can assure you one thing, it's a complete album and each and every song will be loved by people."

What makes the movie close and special to her, Tia replies: "Every film I've done has been special to me. 'The Secret Dimension' holds a special place in my heart because it's a visual album film, and I am playing myself, that's where it's different from the other films I've done. Also, every emotion is described through songs."

"I really appreciate the fact that they made it a point to respect the religious values of our people. I loved how organised they were, since there was a lot of costume change and travelling required for this film."

"Each scene had its own file, with locations, costumes, and makeup. What all to be shot, they even had timing fixed for every scene. We also did a lot of rehearsals and reading before starting the film so everything was well-planned," she concludes.

'The Secret Dimension' is all about the journey of an individual, who tries to do something different and unusual to make his/her life special. It is all set to release in 2023.



I AM NOT LOOKING FOR LEAD ROLES BUT FOR INTERESTING CHARACTERS: MAHAT RAGHAVENDRA

The reason why I choose Huma, Sonakshi starrer as my Hindi debut

Team Absolute | Chennai

Tamil actor Mahat Raghavendra, who has done several commendable roles in Tamil cinema including the Ajith Kumar-starrer 'Mankatha', said that it was the script of 'Double XL' that bowled him over and he decided his launch vehicle in Bollywood. The much-awaited film, which features Huma Qureshi, Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal apart from Mahat Raghavendra, is a poignant story about self-love and makes a case for body positivity.

The Tamil actor said that the subject itself was the greatest motivating factor for him.

Mahat said: "Cinema, I believe, is designed to achieve so much more than merely entertain the audience. A Hindi film was long coming for me but when I read this script, I knew this was the film for me." "It was Satram Ramani and Mudassar Aziz who offered the film to me and I am grateful that they thought of casting me. It is the most heartfelt debut film I could've asked for. Every man or woman I know has at some point been made to feel ashamed of their body. The film asks the world to see beyond the few extra pounds, the colour of one's skin, their height and every other insecurity they might be blinded by.

"Its intention makes it such a special watch. I had a wonderful time working with Huma, Sonakshi and Zaheer, Mudassar and Satram who have given their all to this film. It is our ode to everyone who feels they aren't enough. The film reminds them that they should be celebrated and loved for who they are and what they are."

For Mahat, it's an unusual choice but the actor said that stories are more than screen time. It is about the characters people play and the impact they have with what they play on screen. "I am not looking just for lead roles but looking for interesting characters in every film that I pursue. I have been an actor for 10 years in Tamil films and this Hindi film has given me a fresh challenge and newer audiences to cater to."

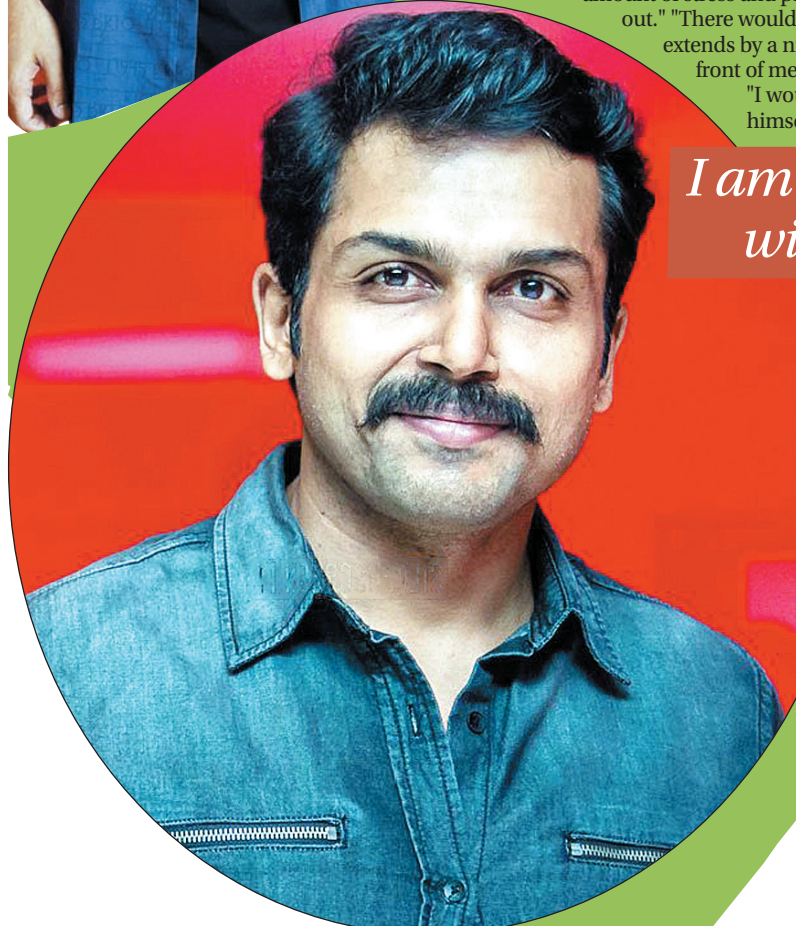
'Sardar' which has become a hit, actor Karthi said that he was a relieved man as Lakshman, who is his childhood friend, had taken a huge risk for the film, trusting just the hard work of the unit. Speaking at the success meet of the film, Karthi said:

"People have been asking me if I am happy now that the film has emerged a hit. I reply that I am peaceful and relieved. "People say it is very important to have good friends. If you look at producer Lakshman and me, we are classmates from kindergarten." "He is someone who enjoys seeing me succeed. I have seen every single day the amount of stress and pressure he took upon himself for this film. But he never showed it out." "There would be major issues going on, for instance, if the day's call sheet extends by a night, the budget would shoot up by over 40 lakhs. But still, in front of me, producer Laxman would keep sporting a smile."

"I would be scared at the amount of stress he was taking upon himself. I need my friend by my side. I would keep telling him

I am relieved and at peace with myself: Karthi

not to take so much stress. But now, I think he has learnt to handle it. He has worked in a big company and got into production after resigning from his job. So, I guess he has learnt to handle pressure. He took such a big risk trusting all our work and I am happy for him."



Team Absolute | Chennai

Showering praise on producer Lakshman Kumar, who has produced his recent film

AAYUSH SHARMA UNLEASHES HIS ACTION AVATAR, VICIOUS SWAG IN UPCOMING TEASER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On his birthday today, actor Aayush Sharma treated his fans and followers with an explosive teaser for his fourth film 'AS04'. Aayush's unmatched swag with stylised action churns the perfect formula of entertainment, stirring the anticipation for the 2023 release. The teaser begins with the suave Aayush tugging guitar strings while a group of armed men barge in to attack him. He turns his swag on leading to a power-packed action sequence. Talking about the teaser, Aayush said: "AS04 is a very exciting project and especially launching it on my birthday feels like the best birthday gift." "The genre of the film is new for me and I'm having a blast working on it. I play a very interesting character with a very distinct look, style and personality, and I am excited for the audience to witness this new avatar of me."

The announcement for 'AS04' comes in soon after Aayush said the first glimpse teaser of his third film 'AS03', marking a string of promising films back to back.



Aisha Sharma