

absolute india



VOL. 9, ISSUE 360, MUMBAI | MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022 ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

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BEYOND THE RHETORIC

Autonomy for colleges; no nominee from varsity, UGC required in committees

Ganesh Bhatt | New Delhi

Colleges in India will now enjoy an autonomous status as a new draft regulation on Autonomous Colleges has been approved by the UGC.

The UGC is expected to make it public in a few days for stakeholder's feedback. After the autonomy, there will be no, or just a few nominees of UGC and Universities



in the high level committees of the colleges. The regulations will be finalised after receiving feedback from the stakeholders.

Inflation and unemployment take centre stage

Surging prices of vegetables and fruits are hitting the common man badly making them shell out more upsetting their budget

The fall in the unemployment rate was achieved along with an increase in the labour participation rate (LPR). The LPR inched up from 39.24 per cent in August to 39.32 per cent in September.

Labour market conditions improved across rural and urban regions. But, it was rural India that made the bigger contribution to the turnaround in labour conditions.



million people in the country are below the poverty line. The per capita income of 23 crore people of the country is less than Rs 375.

He stated that the unemployment rate in the country is 7.6 per cent and four crore people are unemployed. Describing the unemployment situation in both the rural and urban areas of the country as alarming, the senior Sangh leader said that 22 crore people are unemployed in the rural areas while 18 crore people are unemployed in the urban areas.

The World Bank in a recent report said that inflation in South Asia, caused by elevated global food and energy prices and trade restrictions that worsened food insecurity in the region, is expected to rise to 9.2 per cent this year before gradually subsiding. The resulting squeeze on real income is severe, particularly for the region's poor who spend a large share of their income on food.

On the contrary, though inflation is likely to be above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of FY22-23, the calibrated policy action will keep the inflation expectations anchored, restrain the broadening of price meas-

ures and pre-empt second round effects. The volatile geopolitical situation, global financial market volatility and supply disruptions may be an overall dampener if they go awry. The consumer and business optimism supported by the festive season demand is likely to hold up domestic economic activity well. However, in the medium term, inflation is expected to be contained within the tolerance level of the RBI.

The CMIE said in a statement that labour market conditions improved substantially in India in September 2022. The unemployment rate dropped from 8.3 per cent in August to 6.4 per cent. This is the lowest unemployment rate recorded by India in the past four years since August 2018. This was not the only improvement.

Stress on the employment front dropped on many other counts. As result of the increase in the LPR and a simultaneous fall in the unemployment rate, the employment rate rose from 35.99 per cent in August to 36.79 per cent in September 2022. The employment rate, which is the proportion of the population of 15 years or more that is employed, is the most

important economic indicator, CMIE said. The rural labour participation rate improved by 0.29 percentage points. It rose from 40.39 per cent in August to 40.68 per cent. In June 2022, the rural LPR had fallen below 40 per cent for the first time since the pandemic stricken month of April 2020. It has recovered in each month since then and the performance in September indicates a continuation of that process.

INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE CORE TO POLITICS: CONG

New Delhi: The Congress has alleged that 5.6 crore Indians have been pushed into abject poverty. During the Covid pandemic the Narendra Modi government's failures increased poverty while the World Bank has cut India's GDP growth forecast for the third time to 6.5 per cent. The macroeconomic fundamentals have significantly worsened and the rupee has consistently weakened. About \$100 billion have been eroded from the forex reserves while the Current Account, Fiscal Deficit and Trade Deficit have increased. The party said that according to experts, the World Bank's estimates of poverty in India are actually less than the situation on the ground. Some economists believe that nearly 27 to 30 crore Indians were pushed into abject poverty during the Covid pandemic. According to Niti Aayog on the multilateral poverty index nearly 25 per cent people in the country are poor.

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION UNDER THE REGULATIONS, 2022 BRINGING MAJOR CHANGES

- A college which has functioned as autonomous college for 15 consecutive years will be considered as autonomous college on permanent basis. However, such permanent autonomous college is required to maintain the required grade of NAAC/NBA etc. as per the eligibility condition for autonomy, and inform the same to the Parent University.
- A college fulfilling the eligibility as per these regulations, intending to become autonomous shall submit the application on UGC portal anytime during the year.
- The College shall submit the proposal to the Parent/Affiliating University which may forward the same to the UGC within 30 days of the receipt of proposal.
- The University will examine the application of the college for autonomous status on UGC portal and give its recommendations along with reasons and justification, within 30 days on UGC portal.
- If the University does not respond on UGC portal within 30 days, it shall be presumed that the University has no objection to the processing of the application by the UGC for conferment of autonomous status.
- The approval/rejection letters may be issued on the basis of the decision of the Standing Committee. The decisions may be ratified by the Commission subsequently.
- An autonomous College can merge with another autonomous college(s)/institution(s) run by the same Parent Body of the Autonomous Colleges, with the prior approval of the Parent University/Universities.
- Automatic extension of autonomous status if the College is having NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade or NBA accreditation for at least three programmes with a minimum score of 675.
- In case, Autonomous College fails to obtain NAAC with minimum 'A' Grade or NBA accreditation for at least three programmes with a minimum score of 675, the autonomy to such college stands automatically withdrawn and no fresh admissions will be done under autonomy mode after withdrawal of autonomous status.
- No UGC aur University nominee will be there in the Governing Body.
- As per the current provision, University nominee is must in a college's Finance Committee. But after the fresh changes and autonomy no University nominee will be required in the Finance Committee of a college.

Hotels, restaurants to operate business 24x7 in Delhi soon

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Starting next week, over 300 establishments ranging from hotels, restaurants, eateries to online delivery services of food, medicines, logistics and other essential commodities, transport and travel services, apart from KPOs and BPOs will be able to operate the business on a 24x7 basis in the national capital.

Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has approved the proposal to exempt 314 such applications, some of them pending since 2016. The LG has directed that notification to this effect be issued within seven days.

The decision, providing exemption under Sections 14, 15 and 16 of the Delhi Shops & Establishment Act, 1954, is expected to boost employment genera-



tion and promote a positive and a favourable business environment along with also providing fillip to the much desired 'night life' in the city.

The exemptions under Sections 14, 15 & 16 of the said Act enables commercial establishments to operate on a 24x7 basis, subject to certain conditions that entails welfare of

labour and security, etc. Approving the proposal, the Lt.

Governor took a very serious view and flagged issues of inordinate delay, adhocism, randomness and unjustified discretion on part of the Labour Department in disposing of the applications made by establishments for these exemptions.

WOMAN REMAINED IN CHAINS FOR 36 YEARS

Firozabad (UP): For 36 years, Sapna Jain, now 53, was kept shackled in chain in a dark, dingy room by her father who believed that she was 'mentally ill.'

Water was thrown at her so that she could take a 'bath' and food was slid to her from beneath the door. BJP MLA from Hathras, Anjula Mahaur was informed of Sapna's plight by members of local NGO Sewa Bharti and she finally helped in rescuing the woman. Sapna's father, Girish Chand, had passed away recently and a group of women from the organisation went to examine the situation after that. The MLA, meanwhile, spoke to Sapna's family and got her shifted to a mental health facility in Agra. Anjula Mauhar said, "Sapna was imprisoned as a minor.

She was chained inside a dingy room for most of her life and had not seen the outside world after the age of 17. I knew something needed to be done once I heard about this." Sapna's family refused to comment on Sapna and her plight.

RBI looking at phased implementation strategy to launch digital currency

Animesh Singh | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking at a phased implementation strategy to unveil the central bank digital currency (CBDC).

It has made this observation in a concept note on CBDC prepared by RBI's fintech department.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the launch of CBDC in her budget speech, informing that it would be unveiled in the current fiscal itself.

"RBI has been exploring the pros and cons of introduction of the CBDCs for some time. As there are multiple compelling motivations for the introduction of CBDCs, RBI is currently engaged in working towards a phased implementation strategy, going step by step through various stages of pilots followed by the final launch, and simultaneously examining use cases that could be implemented with minimal or no disruption," the note said. CBDC, across the world, is in conceptual development or at pilot stages.

Therefore, in the absence of a pre-emptive, extensive stakeholder consulta-



tion along with iterative technology design must take place to develop a solution that meets the requirements, it said further. RBI however noted that CBDC holds a lot of promise by way of ensuring transparency and low cost of operation, among other benefits and has the potential to expand the existing payment systems to address the needs of a wider category of users. The central bank further said that

while the intent of CBDC and the expected benefits are well understood, it is important to identify innovative methods and compelling use cases that will make CBDC as attractive as cash if not more.

Elaborate planning is needed in terms of scope, cost and timelines to ensure the timely roll out of different phases of CBDC introduction, the RBI note said further.

Delhi Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam resigns from cabinet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Sunday resigned from his post, following the row over his presence at a "religious conversion" event earlier this week.

Gautam was facing severe criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for his presence at the event, where hundreds of people abandoned Hinduism to adopt Buddhism, and the opposition party demanded his resignation, accusing that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party of hurting sentiments.

A Delhi BJP delegation also filed a complaint against the minister.

"BJP has objection to Baba



Saheb and 22 oaths given by him. The BJP is using this to do the dirty politics which has hurt me and I am resigning from my ministerial berth," he said in his resignation letter in Hindi.

Gujarat Minister justifies demolition drive in sensitive island Bet Dwarka

Gandhinagar | Agencies

As Gujarat government's demolition drive at the Bet Dwarka island, a sensitive island off Okha port, entered ninth day on Sunday, state's Tourism Minister Purnesh Modi took to Twitter to explain and justify the drive.

In one such tweet he said, "According to the satellite image taken in 2005, there were six mosques, now the numbers have increased to 78, that includes mosque, Mazar and dargahs, most of them illegal and encroaching government land."

"In 1945 then rural Gaikwad (dynasty) had given 20X20 meter space to Muslims. According to 1960 census, Muslim voters were



600 and Hindus 2786, with time Hindu population on the island should be 6,000 and Muslims 1200, instead Hindu population has dwindled to 960 and Muslims population has increased to 6040," he

stated in the same tweet.

The Minister also claimed that there were instances of love jihad and forceful conversion. Citing examples of two families, he said few years ago Majid Jadeja had

eloped with Veljibhai Malabhai's daughter, while four years ago family members of Dinesh were forced to adopt Islam. According to Purnesh Modi, majority Muslim families living at Bet Dwarka have got their daughter married to groom in Pakistan, and many Pakistani girls are married to males on the island. He also claimed that the island has become hub, anchoring point for smuggling, as Rs 1600 crore worth drugs were seized at Narayan Koteswar in Kutch district, with which Bet Dwarka's Ramzan Palani was arrested, along with six Pakistani citizens. Another history sheeter of Bet Dwarka is Talab Jadeja, who is arrested for smuggling charas and marijuana. However, an hour later, the Tourism Minister deleted his all tweets.

DENGUE FIGURES SKYROCKET BY 20,000 IN BENGAL

Kolkata: The hospitals across West Bengal, both public and private, are overflowing with dengue patients. According to an official in the state health department, 800-900 cases are being reported on an average daily. This could send West Bengal to the top of the list among the states in the country where dengue cases have been reported, in just over a month.

According to the figures released by the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NVBDCP), West Bengal had reported only 239 cases till August 31. In the 40-odd days since, the number of cases in the state has surpassed 20,000, the state health department admits. Apart from Kolkata, most cases are from districts like North 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Siliguri and Darjeeling.



ARVIND KEJRIWAL CALLS POLITICAL OPPONENTS 'PROGENY OF KANS'



Vadodra | Agencies

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in an attempt to woo Hindu voters in Gujarat, called himself a big devotee of Lord Hanuman and also mentioned that he was born on

Janmashtami.

Attacking political opponents, the AAP leader claimed, "As my Gujarat tour was scheduled, BJP overnight put up posters and hoardings against me. Those who put up these hoardings and posters are so blind in hatred that

they have not even left gods. God is with me, people are with me. People want to bring change, so political opponents are frightened of me."

"These all are progeny of 'Kans', they are insulting god, they are insulting devotees; they are indulged in goonism, they beat innocent people. I want to tell them that god has sent me on earth to free people of Gujarat from the clutches of goons and corrupt people," he said. Slamming the Congress, he said that the Congress party is in coma. "Congress and BJP are working hand in glove, these people have tested your patience a lot, now you need to throw them out of power, earlier you did not have an option, now you have an option, explore it."

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV QUITE CRITICAL: HOSPITAL



New Delhi: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is in the ICU of a Gurugram hospital, is "quite critical", the hospital said on Sunday.

The Medanta hospital said that he is on life saving drugs, and being treated in the ICU by "a comprehensive team of specialists".

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister was admitted in the hospital for the treatment and shifted to the ICU when his condition worsened.

Responsible nations should call out international terrorism: India on comments by Pak, Germany on J&K

Team Absolute | New Delhi

RESPONDING TO PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER BILAWAL BHUTTO'S COMMENTS ON ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR, DURING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH GERMAN COUNTERPART ANNALENA BAERBOCK, INDIA HAS SAID THAT ALL "SERIOUS AND CONSCIENTIOUS MEMBERS OF GLOBAL COMMUNITY HAVE A ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL OUT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, ESPECIALLY OF A CROSS CULTURAL NATURE".

Responding to Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's comments on alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, during a joint press conference with German counterpart Annalena Baerbock, India has said that all "serious and conscientious members of global community have a role and responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross cultural nature".

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Saturday said in a statement said that Jammu and Kashmir witnesses a similar and sustained terrorist campaign for decades.

"This continues. Foreign nationals have been victims there as also in other parts of India. The UN Security Council and FATF are still pursuing Pakistan-based terrorists involved in 26/11 attacks," Bagchi said in the statement.

He further said that when "states don't recognise such dangers because of



self-interest or indifference, they undermine the cause of peace, not promote it and do grave injustice to victims of terrorism".

Bagchi's statement came in response to media queries on comments about the Kashmir issue at the recent press conference by the German and Pakistani foreign ministers.

Will implement Udaipur Declaration if elected Cong chief: Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress party's presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said he will implement the Udaipur Declaration -- the party had adopted during its Chintan Shiv meet in May this year -- if he is elected to the top post of the grand old party.

Kharge on Sunday met the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates in Delhi.

The Congress had adopted the Udaipur Declaration on the final day of its three-day (May 13-15) Chintan Shivir in which it has demanded that caste census report should be made public, pressed for an MSP guarantee act, and that the party will reserve 50 per cent posts for people below 50, among others.

Interacting with the mediapersons here, Kharge said he is getting tremendous response from the delegates wherever he has been campaigning.

"I will try to implement the decision taken in Udaipur with the help of party colleagues and leaders," he said. Kharge is contesting against Shashi Tharoor who is claiming to bring change in the party. The senior Congress leader from Karnataka was in Srinagar in the morning while Tharoor was in Mumbai where he met the delegates. For the Congress party's presidential polls scheduled to be



held on October 17 polls, 67 booths have been set up in all the states, the party's central election authority (CEA) has said. Madhusudan Mistry, chairman of the CEA, said, "In AICC also, there will be a booth, especially for all senior leaders, working committee members and all those whose identity card is from a different state but are staying in Delhi. If they write to us that they want to vote in Delhi then we will make arrangements here as well, they can also vote here in AICC." A camp booth will be set up for Rahul Gandhi and others who are participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The election will take place on October 17 in every state capital between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All the ballot boxes will be brought to the AICC headquarters. On October 19, the counting of votes will start and the result will be declared as soon as the counting gets over.

INCORRECT MAP OF INDIA WITH ITS LOGO A MALICIOUS ATTEMPT: BYJU'S

New Delhi: Edtech major BYJU'S on Sunday clarified that a fake image showing incorrect map of India with its logo on top is being circulated on social media which is a "malicious" attempt and the company will report the incident to concerned authorities.

In a statement to reporter, the edtech major said that this is a fake image and not its material.

"All our content is watermarked and additionally our logo usage is incorrect, we never use an underline below the logo. We strongly condemn the incorrect map of India that is being distributed maliciously with our incorrect logo placed on it," the company spokesperson said.

Several users on Twitter posted comments on the image that showed 'Azad Kashmir' on the map. While many said it is clearly a photoshopped image, some others asked to boycott BYJU'S.

A Twitter user posted: "It is a fake image". Another said: "It is easy to create such pics within seconds".

The company said that this image is not part of any material that it has distributed.

"Our curriculum and all material created are strictly aligned to multiple accreditation boards at the national level, and are created keeping in mind the highest standards," said the company.

'Abused by senior leader': Tej Pratap Yadav storms out of RJD meeting midway



Team Absolute | New Delhi

RJD chief Lalu Yadav's son and Bihar minister Tej Pratap Yadav on Sunday walked out of the party's national executive meeting here midway, alleging that a senior leader had abused him.

Coming out of the party's two-day national executive

meeting at the NDMC Convention Centre here, he said that senior leader Shyam Rajak abused him when he called the latter to know about the programme's timing.

"Shyam Rajak abused me, my personal assistant, and my sister today when I asked him about the meeting schedule. I have an audio

recording, and I'll put it on my social media. Such BJP-RSS people should be thrown out of the organisation," he told media persons outside.

The RJD's two-day national convention began on Sunday. However, everything doesn't seem proper within the party as Bihar state President Jagdanand Singh skipped it.

Water-logging causes traffic jams across Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Following rainfall in the national capital on Sunday, for the second consecutive day, traffic came to standstill at several places due to water-logging, and fallen trees, with a spate of vehicle breakdowns adding to the chaos.

Traffic snarls were reported from Mathura Road, Punjabi Bagh Chowk, Anand Vihar, Red Fort, Mathura Road, ITO and Chhawla areas with vehicles moving at snail's pace.

With rain throughout the day, the Delhi Traffic Police advised commuters to plan their journey accordingly.

"Traffic is affected on Mathura Road in the carriage-way from Sarita Vihar towards Badarpur due to breakdown of two trucks near CNG pump Mohan co-operative Estate. Kindly avoid the stretch," it tweeted as it shared details regarding water-logging, cave-



ins, and fallen trees on city roads and the stretches to avoid.

As per traffic police, there are potholes on Ashram towards Kilokidi on Mathura Road, the roundabout of Rail Bhawan, Moti Bagh Gurudwara, Barafkhana Chowk, Peeragarhi Chowk, IIT

to PTC on South Delhi's Aurobindo Marg.

"Water logging was there on the following roads- near New PHQ gate no-3 on Ashoka Road, Peeragarhi Chowk, Laipat Nagar Metro station, near metro pillar 422 to 427 on Rohtak Road, roundabout of Bagga link on Panchkuian

Road, several other areas on Rohtak Road, Dhaula Kuan flyover, GT Karnal Road and few parts of Outer Ring Road," it said.

The trees were uprooted at the Outer Ring Road near Palam flyover and Benito Juarez Marg near Ring Road.

WOMAN ABDUCTED, GANG RAPED IN UP'S SULTANPUR

Sultanpur: A young woman student was allegedly abducted and then gangraped by three persons in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district.

The survivor, 21, had reached Sultanpur from Lucknow and was offered a lift in an SUV, which she accepted.

The accused was joined allegedly by two of his associates and all three raped the woman by turns and then left her at a secluded place near a canal close to her house in Jaishingpur area in an unconscious state.

She somehow reached home after gaining consciousness and narrated the sequence of events to her parents, who in turn informed the police. An FIR has been registered on the complaint of the woman, but no arrests have yet been made. The police said that the survivor is doing her bachelors in technology from a private institute in Lucknow and is a native of Sultanpur.

Nitish slams PK for 'telling lies'

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has slammed poll strategist-turned-politician for his claims that the former offered him a post.

"Whatever Prashant Kishor said for me is absolutely false. I never offered him a post in our party. I have nothing to do with his statement. He is free to say whatever he wants. Prashant Kishor came to me 4 to 5 years ago and suggested that I merge JD(U) with the Congress party," Kumar said, while speaking to reporters in Jayprakash Narayan's birthplace, Sitab Diara.

"People like Prashant Kishor have no stand. At present, he is working for the BJP. He is doing whatever the BJP is saying to him. I never invited him recently for the meeting. He requested me and came to my residence. He talked about so many things but hid the actual facts," Kumar said.

Following his statement, Prashant Kishor retaliated, and said that "older age reflected on his works and statements".

"He starts speaking on one issue and delivers the speech on another issue.



He blamed me for working for the BJP. At the same time, he said that I suggested he merge the JD(U) in the Congress party. How can it be possible... If I am working for the BJP then why would I suggest he strengthen the Congress party? If his first statement is true then his second statement is wrong and if his second statement is right then his first statement is wrong," Kishor said.

"Nitish Kumar becomes delusional with a sense of nervousness. It is happening due to his elderly age. He has become isolated and is surrounded with people who he never wanted in his life," Kishor said.

12-year-old rape survivor delivers baby in Meerut

Meerut | Agencies

A 12-year-old rape victim gave birth to a baby boy at the medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district.

The medical college administration confirmed that the mother and the child were healthy.

Medical college principal Dr R.K. Gupta said that the girl, a Class 7 student, who lives in Ghaziabad's Khoda police station area, was admitted to the medical college on October 1 and she gave birth through C-Section.

Her family members told reporters that a 19-year-old boy living in their apartment had threatened and raped her multiple times. His brother aged 21, too, had raped her after threatening that they will kill her parents if she did not heed to their demand.

The family also alleged that a 16-year-old girl living with the two brothers had handed the victim over to



another man for money, who also took sexual advantage of her.

After the victim's relatives learnt about her trauma, they lodged a police complaint.

The victim's parents have sought capital punishment for the accused.

According to the family, the victim did not exhibit any sign of pregnancy and she remained normal till the time of delivery. While bringing her to the hospital, she was

told that she had a kidney stone and that she had to undergo a surgical procedure.

Inspector-in-charge of Khoda police station Altaf Ansari said the family had lodged a complaint on September 5 against the two brothers, the girl living with them, and a 35-year-old man.

All of them have been arrested and a chargesheet has been filed against them in the court, he said.

Haryana CM defends formation of separate gurdwara management panel

Chandigarh | Agencies

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said the state government while respecting the Sikh sentiments had strongly defended the formation of a separate gurdwara management committee for the state in the Supreme Court.

Addressing a gathering after attending the concluding ceremony of Akhand Path at Gurdwara Sri Nada Sahib in Panchkula near here, Khattar said, "As a result of which the Supreme Court announced its verdict in favour of the Sikh sangat of Haryana by upholding the validity of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara (Management) Act, 2014.

"The verdict will certainly further strengthen the unity of the sect."

The Chief Minister said Sri Akal Takht is still the highest authority. But local committees are needed for the gurdwaras built at different places. "The separation of the management system of gurdwara is certainly not going to affect the unity of the sect," said Khattar.

"When separate gurdwara management committees can be formed for Patna Sahib, Takht Sri Hazur



Abchalnagar Sahib, Nanded and Delhi, then why the same cannot be done in Haryana. The formation of the gurdwara management committee has been done only for making the governance and management system of the gurdwaras smoother," he asserted. "The religious system is supreme, there is no interference of the government in it," clarified the Chief Minister. He said as per the order of the Supreme Court, the election of the gurdwara manage-

ment committee will be held in 18 months, till then the ad hoc committee will look after the functioning of the gurdwaras in the state. In the elections, whosoever wins will get the command of the committee. "There will be no interference from the government. After the completion of the election process, the ad hoc committee would hand over all its functioning to the newly elected committee," added Khattar. He said talks are going for giv-

ing the HSIIDC plot in Panchkula to Gurdwara Sri Nada Sahib. A final decision in this regard will be taken soon, the Chief Minister said.

"I am hopeful that the entire Sikh sangat will now work in the spirit of harmony and brotherhood and will do its best for the interest of society."

The Chief Minister assured that the Sikh sangat would get full support from the state government and together they would do the welfare of society.



'TRISHUL OR RISING SUN' Shinde faction will win when EC takes final decision: Fadnavis

Thackerays' symbol choices after poll panel order

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena has given a list of three names and symbols for the upcoming bye-election in Mumbai's Andheri East.

'Shiv Sena Balasaheb Thackeray' is the first choice for the name, 'Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray' is the second pick, and 'Shivsena Balasaheb Prabodhankar Thackeray' the third, sources in the Election Commission said.

The Uddhav Thackeray faction has also listed trishul (trident), rising sun, and mashaal (torch) as the options for party symbol, party leader Arvind Sawant told news channel.

Both Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde are meeting party leaders today. The former held the meeting at 12 pm and the latter will do so at 7 pm.

Shiv Sena got its fixed symbol -- bow and arrow -- in 1989, before which they contested elections on different symbols like sword and shield, coconut tree, railway engine,



and cup and plate.

The Election Commission had yesterday frozen the Shiv Sena name and its 'bow and arrow' symbol following dispute between the warring factions, led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath

Shinde, and asked both of them to give a list of three names and symbols out of which ECI will allot one to each.

The poll body's intervention comes months after an open rebellion in the

Shiv Sena by Eknath Shinde and his loyalists, who joined hands with the BJP to form a new government with Shinde as the Chief Minister. The rebels have been staking claim over the party, saying the Thackeray camp is a minority without popular support in the party.

As per the poll body's interim order, both groups will now have to choose new names. They shall be allotted different symbols, which they may choose from the list of free symbols available.

The Commission had earlier asked the rival groups to submit documentary proof of legislative and organisational support by August 8 to back their claims.

The deadline was extended to October 7 after the request of the Thackeray faction. On October 4, the Shinde faction had moved the Election Commission seeking the allocation of the bow and arrow poll symbol in view of the Andheri East assembly by-election that was notified on Friday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the Shiv Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will "succeed" when the Election Commission of India takes a final decision on proprietary over the party name and election symbol.

Speaking to reporters here, Fadnavis said he was not surprised at the Election Commission's interim decision on Saturday barring the Shiv Sena factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde from using the party name and its election symbol 'bow and arrow' in the bypoll to Andheri East Assembly seat in Mumbai scheduled on November 3.

The ECI has taken the decision as per its laid down procedure, the senior BJP leader said. "I think when the ECI takes the final decision on the claims made by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray on proprietary over the Shiv Sena name and symbol, CM Shinde will succeed," he added.

Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar said, "We have the majority as maximum MLAs and MPs are with the camp led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Still, the ECI has frozen the symbol, but we will continue our battle." "We have not even filed our affidavit before the ECI, because the majority has been with us. We may file it tomorrow," he said.

He also hit out at the Thackeray camp, saying they were ready with alternate symbols



when the ECI froze the original party symbol.

"It seems they (Thackeray camp) have no affection for the bow and arrow symbol," he said. The Thackeray faction deliberately wasted time during the previous ECI hearings. If they truly wanted to protect the party symbol, they could have easily submitted documents earlier, the education minister further claimed.

Kesarkar also said that nearly 4,600 fake affidavits, "submitted by the Thackeray camp", have been found by police.

"If they are indulging in these practices on such a large scale, it means their intentions are not clean," he claimed.

The Mumbai Police official on Sunday said they have registered an FIR against unidentified persons on charges of cheating and forgery after recovering more than 4,500 affidavits being prepared in support of the Thackeray-led Sena faction.

Pizza with glass shards 'topping' - Domino's orders probe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a Mumbaikar tweeted photos of glass shards allegedly found in a Domino's pizza to the Mumbai police Twitter handle, the company ordered a probe into the incident, here on Sunday.

The customer, Arun Kolluri had also questioned the quality of the food sold by the pizza outlet and how it could have been dangerous for his life.

He said he discovered the 'glass pieces' in a pizza ordered online, though the Domino's outlet and the date of delivery are not mentioned.

Mumbai Police responded advising him to first write to the consumer care of Domino's before seeking any legal remedies. Taking cognisance of the complaint, a Domino's Spokesperson said



its quality team conducted a thorough inspection of the pizza outlet in question, but no anomaly was found.

The company also contacted the aggrieved customer to ascertain the facts of the matter through various channels of communication.

"We follow a strict no-glass policy in the kitchens... and

follow the highest standards of quality and safety," said the company.

"We will be investigating the matter further once we get the samples from the user and take action accordingly," Domino's added, as the purported incident apparently sparked huge concerns among pizza lovers.

Poll Panel's order doesn't mean Uddhav faction is weak: NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Sunday said the Election Commission's order on the use of the Shiv Sena party name and election symbol in an upcoming Assembly bypoll was surprising, but it did not mean the Uddhav Thackeray-led group was weak or demoralised.

The Election Commission on Saturday barred the Shiv Sena factions led by former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and current Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from using the party name and its election symbol in the Andheri East Assembly bypoll.

In an interim order over the claims by the rival factions for control of the organisation, the commission asked them to suggest by Monday three different name choices and also as many free symbols for allocation to their respective groups.

The bypoll to Andheri East Assembly seat in suburban Mumbai, scheduled on November 3, has been necessitated due to the death of incumbent Sena Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ramesh Latke.

The Congress and the NCP have decided to sup-



port Ramesh Latke's wife Rujuta Latke, the candidate of the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, their coalition partner in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), an ally of the Shinde faction, has decided to field Murji Patel, a corporator in the Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation.

Speaking to reporters here, NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said the Election Commission of India's decision to freeze the Shiv Sena symbol and party name is surprising and painful. But, it is not the final decision of the Commission.

"The Eknath Shinde-led (Sena) camp is not even contesting the by-election, still the use of the party name and symbol was restricted. The freezing of the symbol does not mean the (Thackeray-led) Sena workers have become weak or are demoralised. The Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) along with the NCP and Congress will give a tough fight to the BJP," he said.

"This election will be a one-on-one contest as the BJP has fielded its candidate against the Uddhav Thackeray camp's nominee," he said.

The Thackeray-led Shiv Sena had on Saturday termed the EC's order as "injustice", while the group headed by CM Shinde said the order was appropriate.

The EC's interim order came on the Shinde faction's request seeking it be allocated the symbol as the Andheri East assembly bypoll is approaching.

1 KILLED, 2 INJURED AFTER POWER GENERATION PLANT BLAST IN NAVI MUMBAI

Mumbai: One person was killed and two others were injured after a major blast occurred at a power generation plant in Navi Mumbai's Uran on Sunday. As per the preliminary information, initially three persons - technician Kundan Patil, worker Vishnu Pail, and Junio Engineer Vivek Dhumale - were injured in the explosion and were taken to the National Burns Hospital in Airoli.

Investigating Officer Suhas Chauhan informed that the JE Vivek Dhumale has succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. Further details are awaited.

Mumbai rains: IMD issues yellow alert for Monday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's economic capital has recorded the highest one-day rainfall in October in a decade, for two consecutive years now. The Santa Cruz observatory registered 113 mm of rainfall on Saturday. The earliest highest rainfall was recorded on October 15 last year. The all-time highest rain recorded in a single day is 140 mm on October 4, 1988. The city has received 115 mm of rain so far, compared to an average of 89 mm for the entire October.

Citizens were trapped in unannounced October rain on Friday. The sky was blue in the morning, but it turned jet black in the noon and heavy to very heavy showers lashed the city in the evening. Santa Cruz reported 113.8 mm rainfall in 24 hours, till 8.30 am on Saturday. Similarly, Colaba received 85.2 mm rain in the same duration. This is not only the highest single day rainfall in a decade but the month experienced



heavy rainfall for two consecutive years. In 2021, 86.5 mm rainfall was observed on October 15. Similarly last year, monthly total rainfall was 170 mm, second highest in a decade. According to the data shared by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, most of the parts received heavy rainfall during 2 pm to 7 pm on Saturday and 3am to 5 am on Saturday. Fort, Grant Road and Parel received more than 200 mm rain.

Though the Tulsi (169mm) and Vihar (139mm) received heavy rainfall, the other lakes outside of Mumbai did not receive more than 25 mm rainfall. Tulsi and Vihar lakes are smaller in size, so the overall lakes' stock remained at 97.5 per cent. There is no alert for Mumbai for Sunday, but the IMD issued a yellow alert for Mumbai, Thane, and Palaghar for Monday. There is possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning, light to moderate rain, and gusty winds at isolated places.

Rahul Gandhi should think before speaking against Savarkar, says Shiv Sena's Manisha Kayande

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Condemning former Congress President Rahul Gandhi's remark against Savarkar, Shiv Sena leader Manisha Kayande on Sunday said that he "should think" before making such statements.

Gandhi, who is leading the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra, said at a rally in Karnataka that Savarkar used to work for the British during the freedom struggle and he used to get money for it. The Congress MP further alleged that the RSS also supported the British Raj.

"Rahul Gandhi should think before speaking against Savarkar. We prohibit Rahul Gandhi's statement and the Shiv Sena's opinion towards Savarkar is the same and it will never change. Yes, Rahul Gandhi should stop himself from making such a statement," Kayande said.

There have been instances in the past when Rahul Gandhi had given statements against Savarkar, following which Uddhav Thackeray spoke to Sonia Gandhi and said that there is a large section in Maharashtra that supports Savarkar, and Rahul Gandhi should refrain from making such a statement. "We strongly oppose the statement of Rahul Gandhi," Thackeray said.

On Saturday, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Indresh Kumar too condemned Rahul Gandhi's remark, saying the



Congress MP is known for speaking without facts and it is a form of his frustration over failure in politics.

Kumar said, "Rahul Gandhi's statement on Savarkar and RSS is full of lies. It has become a fashion for Congress to level false allegations against RSS and Savarkar. Savarkar was a freedom fighter and the Britishers had put him under life imprisonment. Rahul Gandhi should stop lying."

"Congress had divided the country. Nehru was the one who supported the British in the partition of India. They are actually the Nehru family, not the Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi is known for speaking out of fact. This is a form of frustration of Rahul Gandhi's failure in politics," added the RSS leader.

'Scurrilous and malicious attempt', BCI slams letter against Justice DY Chandrachud

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has slammed a letter levelling allegation against sitting Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, saying some people with vested interests have made a scurrilous and malicious attempt to interfere with the functioning of judiciary and the administration of justice.

In a press release, the BCI said: "One Mr. R. K. Pathan claiming to be the President of some so called 'Supreme Court and High Court Litigant Association' is stated to have lodged a complaint against the senior-most Judge of Supreme Court, Justice D. Y. Chandrachud. Such post and letter of Mr. R. K. Pathan is being made viral by a few people (in which, we know that 2-3 Advocates of Mumbai are also there) deliberately on the eve of justice Chandrachud's elevation as the Chief Justice of India."

The BCI said it has thoroughly examined the contents of this 165- pages long letter and it finds that it is nothing but a scurrilous and malicious attempt to interfere with the functioning of Judiciary and the administration of Justice.

The BCI said the timing of the complaint clearly exposes the malicious purpose behind this fake and bogus complaint. "The people of the country are prudent enough to understand the truth and the reason behind such post at this moment. People can easily realise as to why this man was sleeping for such a long period.



Obviously, he was waiting for the letter of Union Minister of Law and Justice asking for the name of the successor of Chief Justice of India," added the BCI, on the complaint which had gone viral online.

The BCI said such growing tendency is really a matter of serious concern for the country and it has to be checked anyhow. "Bar Council of India has meticulously examined the complaint. The

contents of the complaint itself expose the frivolity of the allegations and the malicious purpose and intent behind it," said the BCI's statement.

The BCI said it has been informed that Pathan and two other advocates were also held guilty for contempt and all the three were sentenced to three months simple imprisonment by the Supreme Court. "As per the information given by some senior members and office-bearers of State Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, this is not the only instance; even earlier, Rashid Khan Pathan had made scurrilous and scandalous allegations against a sitting Judge of the Bombay High Court. A show cause notice was issued by the Bombay High Court, observing that the statements made were an attempt to scandalize the court and a calculated attempt to interfere with the administration of justice," it added.

The BCI said anyone can easily smell Pathan is not representing any "association of litigants", rather it is his small group of handful of lawyers of Mumbai, who are in the habit of adopting such evil designs. "These people have not even spared the son of Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. It is really very shocking. This long letter is nothing, but a device to gain cheap popularity. This man has also defamed the litigants-mass of our country. This is also very sad. Such persons deserve strong penal and disciplinary action. The citations have nothing to do with the contents of the letter," it added.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP-SP face-off in bypoll

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Samajwadi Party are preparing for another face-off in the Gola Gokarannath by-election in Lakhimpur Kheri, scheduled to be held on November 3. The Gola Gokarannath Assembly seat in Lakhimpur Kheri fell vacant following the demise of BJP MLA Arvind Giri last month due to heart attack. The BJP has fielded the deceased legislator's son Aman Giri while the Samajwadi Party has named its former MLA, Vinay Tiwari, as the party candidate for the Assembly bypoll. It will be the first bypoll in Uttar Pradesh after the Samajwadi Party lost its citadels - Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha seats - to the BJP in June in parliamentary by-elections. Tiwari had won the Gola Gokarannath seat in 2012, but lost in 2017 and 2022 to BJP candidate Arvind Giri. Arvind Giri was elected from the Hyderabad Assembly constituency (the constituency does not exist anymore) in Lakhimpur Kheri district on the Samajwadi Party (SP) ticket in 1996, 2002 and 2007. Then in 2017 and 2022, he was elected from the Gola Gokarannath constituency on the BJP ticket. The Congress, according to sources, is unlikely to field a candidate in the by-elections. According to a source, The party high command has not conveyed its decision on the by-elections and the party may not field a candidate this time. The BSP is also expected to remain away from the by-election, which will narrow the fight between the BJP and SP. Gola Gokarannath is one of the eight Assembly constituencies in Lakhimpur Kheri district. According to the Election Commission, the notification for the by-election was issued on October 7. The last date for filing nominations is October 14. Scrutiny of nominations will be held on October 15 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 17. Polling will be held on November 3, while counting of votes will take place on November 6.

HINDU GENOCIDE: WE REMEMBER WHAT YOU DIED FOR

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

Each year the month of October brings back memories of the Hindu and Sikh genocide that took place in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) after Pakistan attacked the state of Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947. At least 100,000 Hindus and Sikhs lost their lives as they were rounded up and shot in execution style, beheaded and their skulls crushed with stones in the district of Mirpur alone. Their crime was that they did not belong to the religion of Islam. An autobiography written by Bal K. Gupta gives a glimpse of the atrocities that were committed against the Hindu and Sikh communities from November 25, 1947 onwards when Pakistan and the tribal Lashkar entered and later captured western parts of Jammu starting with Mirpur. Gupta was only 6 at the time but the horror of the genocide was such that it could not be erased from his memory for the rest of his life. Gupta writes that after the Timurlane massacre of Delhi in 1358, the massacre of Mirpur...on November 25, 1947 was the worst massacre in Indian history. At the time of the capture, the total Hindu and Sikh population of Mirpur city was nearly 25,000. Before the capture of the city by Pakistan army and tribal Pathans, around 2,500 escaped to Jammu with the retreating army of Jammu and Kashmir. Another 2,500 were killed or burned alive by the Pakistani artillery fire as their homes became engulfed in flames. The remaining 20,000 were forced on a death march to Ali Beig where the Gurdwara built by Sant Sunder Singh was turned into a prison camp. On the way to Ali Beig at least 10,000 Hindus and Sikh men were executed by Pakistani troops and the tribal Pathans. 5,000 women were kidnapped. Only 5,000 Hindu and Sikh survivors along with Bal K Gupta arrived at the Ali Beig prison after a horrific 20 mile walk. In March 1948 when the International Committee of the Red Cross arrived at Ali Beig only 1,600 had survived who were transferred to Rawalpindi and then to Jammu where they and their children languished for 75 years in refugee camps until August 5, 2019 when the articles 370 and 35A were abrogated giving them equal rights as Indian citizens



with J&K domiciles. Several attempts and efforts were made by the Hindu and Sikh leaders to raise alarm of the approaching Pakistani troops in November 1947 with the Indian government led by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru but to not avail. Gupta recalls that on November 13, Ramlal Chaudhry along with a delegation of MLAs and M.C. Mahajan, the then Prime Minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, travelled to meet Pandit Nehru in New Delhi. Pandit Nehru refused to give the delegation an audience except for M.C. Mahajan who Gupta writes 'pleaded' with Nehru and asked him to help him to rescue approximately 100,000 Hindus and Sikhs trapped in areas of PoJK. On November 15, thousands of people gathered at Jammu airport to meet Pandit Nehru who refused to see them and flew straight into the Kashmir Valley'. (Gupta 2011). On November 23, Prem Nath Dogra and Professor Balraj Madhok met with the

brigade commander of the Indian army in Jammu, Brigadier Paranjpe, and requested him to send troops to Mirpur. Gupta writes, "brigadier Paranjpe told them that consultation with Sheikh Abdullah was mandatory in order to deploy Indian troops anywhere in Jammu Kashmir." (Gupta 2011). On November 24, one day before the genocide was to commence, Gupta informs us "Pandit Dogra and Professor Madhok met Pandit Nehru at the Jammu airport and told him about the critical situation in Mirpur." At this point, Nehru lost his temper and "flew into a rage and yelled that they should talk to Sheikh Abdullah." (Gupta 2011). As the helpless Hindu and Sikh families awaited the Indian troops, Mirpur fell on November 25, 1947. The genocide of Hindus and Sikhs that took place in Mirpur was a direct result of the communal rage that had engulfed the northern parts of India as well as Bihar

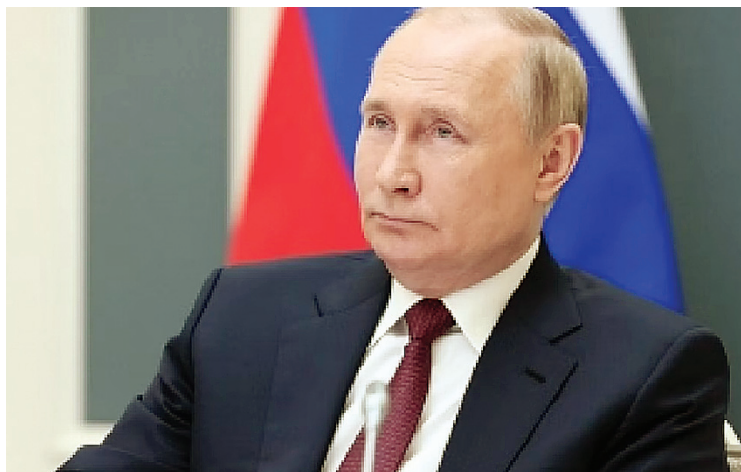
and Bengal. The actual Hindu and Sikh population of Mirpur was no more than 15,000. It had swelled to 25,000 as Hindu and Sikh populations from the Punjab had arrived in Mirpur for safety. Little did they know that the demon of communalism would consume them. The month of October is a dark reminder of how Indian sub-continent fell victim to communal violence and Partition. The wounds of yesteryears become fresh again and remind us that those who perish in Mirpur in 1947 and were martyred only the 'fault' for believing in Sanatan dharma. Their sacrifice will not go in vain because we remember what they died for. (Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

international

PUTIN FACES GRIM CHOICES AFTER BLAST HITS PRIZED CRIMEA BRIDGE

Kryvyi Rih | Agencies

An explosion that severely damaged parts of the road and rail bridge between annexed Crimea and the Russian mainland early Saturday seems designed to play into President Vladimir Putin's current talent for making bad decisions, local media reported. It brings forward by a number of weeks the strategic choices he must make about Russia's occupation of southern Ukraine. This entire presence was already poorly supplied, managed and in retreat. And it shows that the key railway route into Crimea and onwards to the frontlines in Kherson is highly vulnerable to future attacks, CNN reported. While Kiev has not claimed responsibility for the Kerch Strait bridge blast, it has previously taken credit for a series of strikes on targets in Russian-occupied Crimea over the summer. It exposes the staggering 20th century weakness of Russia's armed



forces and occupation: They need railways to get around. Putin now faces a series of expedited and painful decisions, all of which will severely belie his continued poker-face of pride and bombast towards the gathering signs of slow defeat. To the west of the Dniro

river, his army in Kherson is besieged by fast-moving Ukrainian forces. They are already in retreat, partially owing to the same poor resupply that will be accentuated by the Kerch blast. Putin must choose between feeding his larger ambitions with a dwindling chance of success, or consolidating forces around an objective he has a greater chance of achieving, CNN reported. One carries the risk of catastrophic collapse, for his entire brutal adventure into Ukraine, and quite possibly his rule. The second leaves him with an immediate loss of face, but a stronger chance of sustaining the occupation of smaller parts of Ukraine. His internal position has not looked weaker since he came to power in 2000. An admission of failure may be unpalatable at this stage, and a greater gamble the easier move. Yet he again pits the war towards a binary moment where his occupation - and even regime - faces a complete collapse or a tiny, mad-cap prospect of victory, CNN reported. Nuclear threats and rhetoric have been the horrifying backdrop of this war. Yet still Moscow has not resorted to any doomsday moves while NATO armed Ukraine to an extent that was unthinkable before the war.

NKorea fires 2 short-range ballistic missiles toward East Sea: SKorean military

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) toward the East Sea on Sunday, the South Korean military said, after Seoul and Washington wrapped up a naval exercise, involving a US aircraft carrier, the previous day. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches from the Munchon area in Gangwon Province between 1:48 a.m. and 1:58 a.m., and that the missiles flew some 350 km at apogees of around 90 km at top speeds of Mach 5, Yonhap news agency reported. Given the distance and altitude, the projectiles are presumed to be "super-large caliber" missiles, fired from a multiple rocket launch system, known as the KN-25, according to observers in Seoul. The launch, the North's seventh missile provocation in two weeks, followed the conclusion of the South Korea-U.S. exercise, involving the USS Ronald Reagan carrier, on Saturday and of the allies' trilateral drills with Japan on Thursday. It also came on the eve of the 77th anniversary of the founding of the North's ruling Workers' Party. "The recent series of North Korea's ballistic missiles is an act of significant provocation that undermines peace not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the international community, and a clear breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions," the JCS said in a text message sent to reporters. It added, "Our military will maintain a firm



readiness posture while tracking and monitoring related movements in close cooperation with the U.S. in preparation against additional provocations." Soon after the launches, JCS Chairman Gen. Kim Seung-kyum and Gen. Paul LaCamera, the commander of the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, had virtual consultations. In a statement, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said that the latest launches highlight the "destabilizing" impact of the North's "unlawful" weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. "The U.S. commitments to the defense of the Republic of Korea and Japan remain ironclad," the command said, referring to South Korea by its official name. South Korea's top nuclear envoy Kim Gunn had back-to-back phone consultations with his American and Japanese counterparts -- Sung Kim and Takehiro Funakoshi, respectively -- and strongly denounced Pyongyang's continued violation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, according to his ministry.

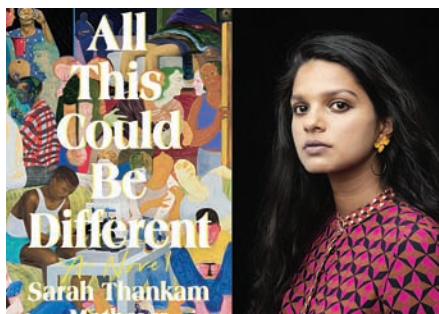
17 KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKES ON UKRAINE'S ZAPORIZHZHIA CITY

Kiev: At least 17 people were killed and dozens injured in overnight Russian strikes on Ukraine's south-eastern city of Zaporizhzhia, the Ukraine defence ministry has said. Ukrainian regional governor in Zaporizhzhia, Oleksandr Starukh said, "Russian missiles partially destroyed a nine-story building. Eight people have been rescued. There may be more people under the rubble." Though the city is under Ukrainian control, it is a part of the region Russia claimed to have annexed last month, BBC reported. Denouncing the Russian action, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy termed the shelling "merciless strikes on peaceful people again".

Indian-American in 2022 National Book Awards shortlist

New York | Agencies

Indian-American author Sarah Thankam Mathews is among the finalists for the 2022 National Book Awards, which will be announced on November 16 at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City. Mathews' debut novel 'All This Could Be Different', is listed in the fiction category and tells the story of a young queer immigrant who creates a community for herself while grappling with the oppressive demands of capitalism. "I simply will never be over this," Mathews tweeted after her name was announced by The New York Times earlier this week. Mathews grew up between Oman and India, and moved to the US at seventeen. Her work has been published in places including AGNI, SSENSE, and Best American Short Stories. She was a 2020 Margins Fellow at the Asian American Writers' Workshop, and the recipient of a Rona Jaffe fellowship at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. "Sarah Thankam Mathews has written one



of the buzziest, and most human, books of the year," the Vogue said. "...an extraordinary novel, spiny and delicate, scathingly funny and wildly moving. Sarah Thankam Mathews is a brilliant writer, one whose every ringing sentence holds both bite and heart." Lauren Groff, author of Matrix, said. A total of 25 finalists will be contending for the awards. Publishers submitted a total of 1,772 books for this year's National Book Awards: 463 in fiction, 607 in non-fiction, 260 in poetry, 146 in translated literature, and 296 in young people's literature.

Indian-American prof gets Rs 5.2 cr for cybersecurity research

New York | Agencies

Indian-American computer science professor Brajendra Panda has been awarded \$637,223 (Rs 5.2 crore) by the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity to improve recovery methods for critical infrastructure systems following a cyberattack. Critical infrastructure (CI) includes things like the power grid, gas and oil pipelines, military installations, and hospitals. Panda, a University of Arkansas professor of computer science and computer engineering, says that the interdependence and interconnection of CI systems make them more vulnerable to cyberattacks and can cause initial damage to spread quickly to other systems. "Thus, a small vulnerability in one of these systems can result in crippling a large number of them," Panda said. "These systems are of heterogeneous



type by nature, meaning they contain both heterogeneous software and data." Due to the complexity of CI systems, recovering them can cause significant delays, which is concerning given the time-sensitive nature of the functions these systems provide, such as electricity. An example of a recent attack on critical infrastructure is the ransomware

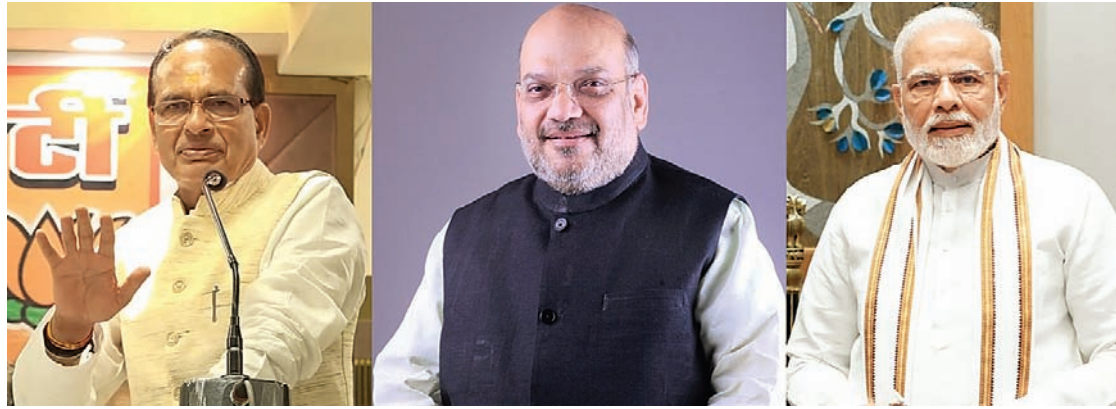
attack on the Colonial Pipeline last year. The pipeline system originates in Houston, Texas, and carries gasoline and jet fuel mainly to the Southeastern United States. The attack on computerised equipment left the pipeline down for six days while the company forked over an estimated \$4.4 million in Bitcoin to pay the attackers (though much of it was subsequently recovered). Panda aims to develop fast, accurate, and efficient recovery mechanisms that, when coupled with the expeditious damage assessment techniques he has already developed, will offer an "integrated suite solution". This will allow affected CI systems to continue running while providing as many critical functionalities as possible. The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity programme is managed by National Security Agency's National Cryptologic School.



OCTOBER: MONTH TO WRITE NEW SCRIPT IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For Madhya Pradesh, the month of October is a time to write a new script because this month Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the Mahakal Lok built in the Mahakal complex in Ujjain on October 11. On October 16, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is going to launch an ambitious project of imparting medical education in Hindi. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the preparations for the events after meeting with the officials and during this time said that many important programs would be held in the state in the coming days. The state will witness cultural revival programs as well as programs focused on freedom from linguistic slavery. Activities will be conducted in all the districts from November 1 to 7 on the occasion of the foundation day of Madhya Pradesh. Along with this, there will be home entry programs in Ladli Laxmi and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate Shri Mahakal Lok in Ujjain on October 11. It is a program of cultural upliftment of India. Lamps will be lit in all the temples of the state and programs will be held with wishes and



prayers for public welfare. These will include saints, heads of various societies and Sarpanch of Malwa-Niwari region, Muqaddam, Tadvai etc.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that on October 16, Union Home Minister Amit Shah would launch the state's ambitious project to provide medical education in Hindi at Lal Parade Ground. It is a program of liberation from slavery of English, which is a kind of social revolution. Students learn English as a language but they will no longer be slaves to English for special study. A large number of academicians, students and Hindi servicemen will participate in the program.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that activities would be conducted throughout the week on Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day. These will include cultural and sanitation activities, honoring talents, tree plantation, saving electricity, water conservation, women empowerment, tourism, activities focused on sports in all the districts.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the state government is committed to give a better life to the people of the state. Road repair work should be taken on top priority. Collectors should be especially alert that the work of Jal Jeevan Mission should be quality and restoration work should

be done without delay. CM Rise School Scheme is being operated in the state to provide better education facilities. With the implementation of this scheme, availability of medicines and essential materials in district hospitals, public participation in the operation of Anganwadis and transparent system of distribution of nutritious food should be ensured. The district administration should be aware of the system of public distribution system, fertilizer distribution. Under no circumstances should a complaint of black marketing be received. Collectors should ensure that the farmers get the right price for their produce.

Bagh Print an exemplar of natural colours and handiwork-CM Chouhan

CM understands and then engraves Bagh Print on the cloth. Observes ancient historical palaces of Mandu

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the wonderful art of bagh print is very close to nature. During my stay in Mandu, I have had the privilege of closely observing and understanding the activities related to bagh print of the sisters of the Self Help Groups. At the same time, I got to practically learn this art that uses natural colours and the magic of hand workmanship to engrave beautiful artwork. My best wishes to the sisters of the self-help group and all the artists associated with it.

Chief Minister Chouhan was discussing with the artists after looking at the art of bagh print artists and the products of women self-help groups at Mandu in Dhar district. CM i Chouhan was also appraised about the work done under One District One Product, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Urban Livelihood Mission. He visited Mandu's historical palaces, monuments and tourist places. The CM was on a two-day visit to Mandu.



Chief Minister Chouhan witnessed bagh printing being done by women members of self-help groups with colours made from herbs and natural products. The Chief Minister understood the working of the bagh print and engraved it on the cloth. CM Chouhan interacted with the members of self-help groups, local craftsmen regarding the work being done by them, the products manufactured by them and also praised them for their progress. The members of self-help groups are trained by the Zilla Panchayat for the work of bagh print. The increase in the demand for bagh prints has boosted the income of artists. Bagh print craftsmen are also getting encouragement through

festivals, exhibitions and expos etc. Visited Ancient Historical Palaces of Mandu Chief Minister Chouhan visited the ancient historical Jahaz Mahal complex and Hindola Mahal in Mandu. He visited and offered prayers at Chaturbhuj Ram temple. He also visited other temples in the temple premises. The Chief Minister offered prayers at Rewa Kund. After talking to the guides present at the historical sites, he got information about the history of the places. He also talked to tourists, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Dattigaon, former minister Sushri Ranjana Baghel, public representatives and officials were present.

Shocker: Cardboard as makeshift plaster on fractured leg

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shocking incident, a cardboard was used by the medical staff at a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district in place of the Plaster of Paris bandage to dress up the fractured leg of a patient.

A video that surfaced on the social media shows a cardboard tied around a man's leg. Surprisingly, the medical staff defended the usage of the cardboard, saying "it was done to give support to the fractured leg and stop bleeding".

The man was rushed to the hospital after he injured his leg in a road accident.

Later, it emerged that the health staff used the cardboard as Plaster of Paris bandage -- usually used on fractured limb -- was not available at the health centre.

According to sources, due to unavailability of the regular plasters, the medical staff often use cardboard as temporary bandage when injured persons are brought to the hospital.

"This particular incident was revealed as a



video surfaced on social media but such episodes have occurred earlier as well. The doctor or other health staff should not be blamed for such things because they provide treatment without having proper facilities. If plaster bandage was not available, it is not the staff's mistake. Question should never be raised against those are responsible to provide medical kits to the hospital and management of the hospital," said a medical staff requesting anonymity.

With eye on MP polls, Uma Bharti making all out efforts to re-enter state's politics

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In an attempt to give a further push to her long-standing demand for a liquor ban in specific places or control the distribution policy in Madhya Pradesh, veteran BJP leader and former Union Minister Uma Bharti has announced that she will stop living at home or inside a building from November 7.

Bharti, who has also been the only woman chief minister of Madhya Pradesh so far, said she would launch a two-month-long march as a symbolic protest against the liquor policy of her own party's government. The march will commence on November 7 and conclude on January 12, 2023, during which she would move around Madhya Pradesh and stay out of home or any building.

"During the two-month-long movement against liquor policy, I will move around Madhya Pradesh and stay out -- may be in a tent, in a temporary hut, under a tree or likewise -- from November 7 till the time a suitable liquor policy that ensures safety and security of women and girls, safe periphery to places of worship, educational institutes and hospitals etc is



not introduced by the state government," Bharti said during a press conference.

Notably, it would be Bharti's fresh attempt at an indirect attack on the Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP government as she has been cornering the government of her own party for the last few months. In the past, she even openly attacked Chouhan and the party's state chief V. D. Sharma accusing them of not paying heed to her voice on the liquor policy.

Before it, Bharti wrote a letter to the BJP's national president J. P. Nadda, however, no heed was paid to it. Finally, Bharti had to take a U-turn and soften her attack on Shivraj Singh Chouhan while praising him for good governance earlier last month. Now, Bharti is

again set to make an issue of liquor with assembly elections getting closer in Madhya Pradesh. Political experts are of the view that the fresh movement of Bharti is another attempt to make her presence felt in Madhya Pradesh politics with the elections just 14 months away. "Ever since she resigned from the chief minister's post in August 2004, she has been ousted from Madhya Pradesh's politics. Despite being a former chief minister, she wasn't given any role in Madhya Pradesh, even during the elections. Now, when she wasn't given any role at the Centre, Bharti is making all out efforts to re-enter state politics," said N. K. Singh a political observer in Madhya Pradesh. Singh said that Bharti had made such attempts when she had established her own political outfit - the 'Bharatiya Janshakti Party', but after the elections she merged it with the BJP. "Bharti thought that she would get the same response from people as she had got during 2003-04, but after elections it proved that her firebrand image of Hindutva was because of the BJP, she realised it and that is why she merged her party with the BJP to get back into mainstream politics," Singh added.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTED SAPLING IN MANDU

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with state in-charge Muralidhar Rao planted a sapling of Bahera in the Jahaz Mahal complex of Mandu in Dhar district. CM Chouhan is planting saplings every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Bahera planted today is found in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab besides Madhya Pradesh. The fruit and bark of this tree, rich in medicinal properties, are used in the treatment of many diseases.



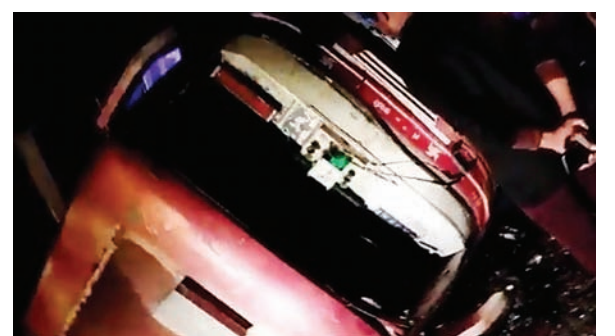
34 injured after bus overturns in Dindori

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least 34 people were injured after a private bus were travelling overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district after hitting a buffalo on the road early on Sunday, police said.

As per the police, nearly a dozen of the passengers have received severe injuries, and have been admitted to a government hospital in Dindori.

The accident took place around 1.30 a.m. when the bus passengers were returning to Sakulpura from Raghapur Sakka village after



taking part in a function. Police said that initial investigation suggested the vehicle was driven at a high speed, which resulted in the accident. "As the bus, already being driven in high speed,

was passing through a village, a buffalo calf came in front of it. In a bid to save the animal, the driver lost control over the vehicle, which hit the calf and overturned," a police officer said.

IN-HOUSE HEADACHES FOR BJP, CONGRESS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Sundeep Pournik | Bhopal

There is still a year to go before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, but both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress have intensified their preparations. The discourse of their leaders and their activities are posing a big challenge for both the parties. The stand of the leaders is strict, but the challenges coming their way don't seem to end.

Both the BJP and the Congress are trying to feel the political pulse of the state and preparing the reports of their elected and non-elected representatives while also focusing on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which is emerging as a third force. The results of the 2018 assembly elections still loom over the parties following which they are careful not to make mistakes.

In the recently held urban body elections, it became evident that there are leaders within both the parties who can be disadvantageous if their political interests are not fulfilled. Even though the Congress achieved success in some places in the urban elections, both the parties are engaged in making strategies based on their previous experience and are facing problems while



doing the same. A big challenge for the BJP is Pritam Lodhi's

statement against the Brahmin society, following which he was expelled. Minister OPS Bhadoria's

'clever castes' statement is also posing a challenge for the party. While the BJP is troubled by these statements, the Congress is dealing with its media department chairman, KK Mishra's controversial statement about Brahmin society, and its MLAs Siddharth Kushwaha and Sunil Saraf accused of misbehaving with a woman in a train and a case being registered against them. Not only this, a new incident has come to light in Gwalior where two Congress leaders clashed with each other over the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Congress state chief Kamal Nath have been keeping a close eye on their flock. The BJP expelled Pritam Lodhi from the party for misrepresentation, while five urban district presidents have been changed for not achieving the expected results in the civic elections. On the other hand, Nath is seen constantly guiding his party's members.

This is a time to be careful for both the parties because a single statement or a political lapse can cause trouble for the party. If the Congress doesn't actively take a stand against the factionalism in the party, its chances of losing cannot be ruled out, said political analyst Saji Thomas.

BODIES OF THREE YOUNG WOMEN FOUND IN DAM

Jhansi/ Tikamgarh: Bodies of three women were fished out of a dam located in the Mauranipur area in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi, late on Saturday night, police said. A senior police official said the bodies may have come from the bordering Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. Efforts are on to identify the victims, he said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Rajesh S. said that information about a body floating in the Saprar dam was received from an irrigation department employee of Mauranipur.

He said the body was fished out and it appeared to be a woman aged around 25. After a while, two more bodies were spotted. The victims appeared to be aged between 18 and 20, the SP said. No injury marks were visible on the bodies, he said. It is likely that they were swept away from Tikamgarh district, the SSP said, adding that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination.



Vanessa Hudgens to share her journey with witchcraft in new documentary

Tom Cruise could walk International Space Station for upcoming film



Mumbai | Agencies

After doing every possible daredevil stunt on the Earth, real life action star Tom Cruise could well be off to his next destination - this time the International Space Station.

The 'Top Gun: Maverick' actor could be blasted off into space to perform a spacewalk for an upcoming film, becoming the first civilian to do so, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Universal chairwoman Donna Langley hinted at the future movie, which would see the 60-year-old Hollywood actor making history at the International Space Station if all goes to plan.

The British film executive, 54, said that Tom would be flown into space before disembarking from the rocket. All of this would be caught on camera for the film.

It would be one of the many amazing things the 'Top Gun' star has done for the silver screen - from learning how to fly planes, abseiling down the tallest building in the world and scaling cliffs.

"We have a great project in development with Tom that does contemplate him taking a rocket to the Space Station", Donna explained to the BBC, quoted by Mirror.

"And hopefully he will become the first civilian to do a space walk outside of the International Space Station," she added.

She also shared a few details about Tom's character in the secretive blockbuster: "He will play a down-on-his-luck guy who finds himself in the position of being the only person who could save Earth."

Los Angeles | Agencies

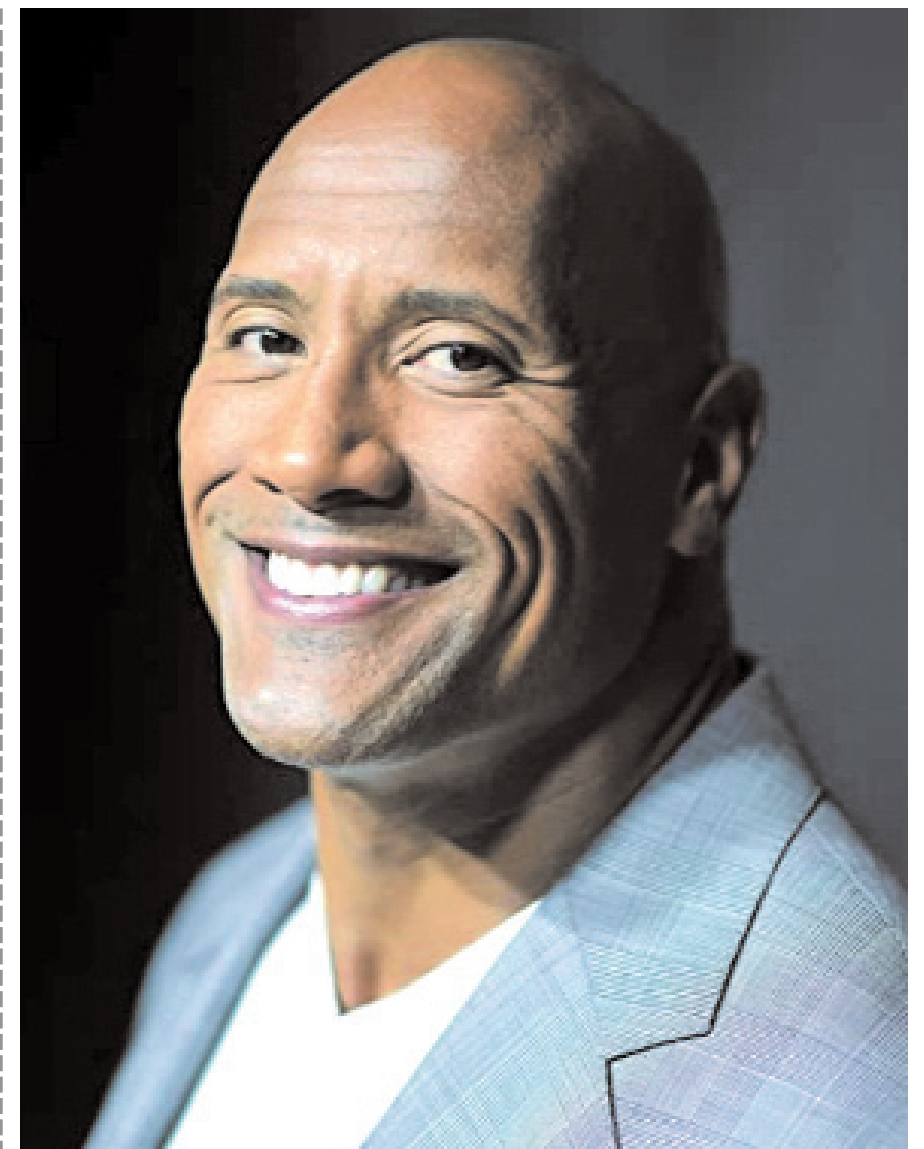
'High School Musical' star Vanessa Hudgens will be taking the viewers on a magical journey. The 33-year old actress recently revealed that she has teamed up with Bunim-Murray Productions to make a documentary about her journey with witchcraft, reports People magazine.

The project, titled 'Dead Hot: Season of the Witch', follows Hudgens and her best friend, musician G.G. Magree, as they travel through Salem, Massachusetts, learning about witchcraft, ghost hunting and connecting with the spirit world.

According to People, the 90-minute film is described on its official Instagram as an "intimate journey into the supernatural realm" that serves as a "coming-of-age story that explores identity, feminine power and sisterhood."

Other posts on the film's Instagram show the pair serving some witchy looks, including one of Magree and Hudgens holding goats in a field. Hudgens posted a behind-the-scenes shot on her own Instagram, as well as the official poster for the film.

Variety reported that the film came about after the 'Tick, Tick... Boom!' actress and Magree agreed to seek out proper mentorship and training in the art of witchcraft, of which the outlet notes the pair are "self-taught students." They invited the crew to come along to document their findings.



Dwayne Johnson reveals final decision about running for US President

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has dismissed the idea that he will run for US President, much to the disappointment of fans. Despite saying last year that he would enter the race for the White House if he had enough public support, the wrestler-turned-actor said that it is now "off the table" for the sake of his family, reported aceshowbiz.com. He speaks about the prospect of running for the White House in a teaser trailer from his forthcoming interview for CBS Sunday Morning on October 9.

"It's off the table. Yes, it is off the table. I will say this, 'cause it requires a B-side to this. I love our country and everyone in it," the 50-year-old star explains.

"I also love being a daddy. And that's the most important thing to me, is being a daddy - number one, especially during this time, this critical time in my daughters' lives."

"Because I know what it was like to be on the road and be so busy that I was absent for a lot of years when my first daughter (was) growing up, at this critical time in their life, that's what the presidency would do," he continued. "So, my number one priority is my daughters... sure, CEO sounds great! But the number one thing I want to be is daddy."

That's it." The Rock shares 21-year-old daughter Simone Garcia Johnson with his ex-wife, Dany Garcia, as well as girls Jasmine, six, and Tiana, four, with wife Lauren Hashian.

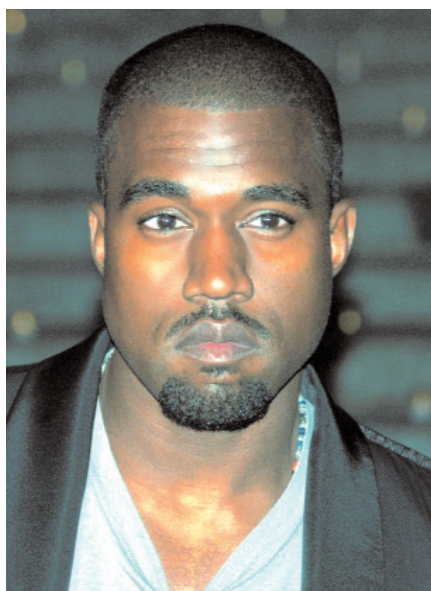
In 2021, the ex-pro-wrestler-turned actor told Sunday Today with Willie Geist: "I do have that goal to unite our country and I also feel that if this is what the people want, then I will do that."

Kanye West feels 'hurt' when people think he is crazy

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kanye West's way of looking at things and doing them might be a bit eccentric but the rapper feels hurt when people call him "crazy", reports People magazine. During part two of his sit-down interview on Fox News show 'Tucker Carlson Tonight', the controversial rapper, 45, said: "They keep on using the 'Oh he's crazy, he's crazy' thing. And it hurts my feelings when people say that." "It hurts my feelings that people can ask, 'Hey, are you okay?'"

According to People, West's latest remarks come after he received backlash for a concerning tweet he sent to Boosie Badazz (formerly Lil Boosie) after the fellow rapper criticised West's 'White Lives Matter' t-shirt. "Don't speak on me Lil Boosie speak to me (sic)", he tweeted that has since been deleted but has been captured and shared on Twitter. People further stated that West added: "Come smack me or come shoot me. I'm the one that got bullied by the entire Black celebrity community. Now I'm back to shoot the school up." West, along with ex Kim Kardashian, has been open about his journey with bipolar disorder. In a 2019 cover story for Vogue, the Kardashians star, 41, said that her husband accepted that he is bipolar, though he opted out of treating the disorder with pharmaceuticals.



Jamie Lee Curtis My career was not handed to me on a plate

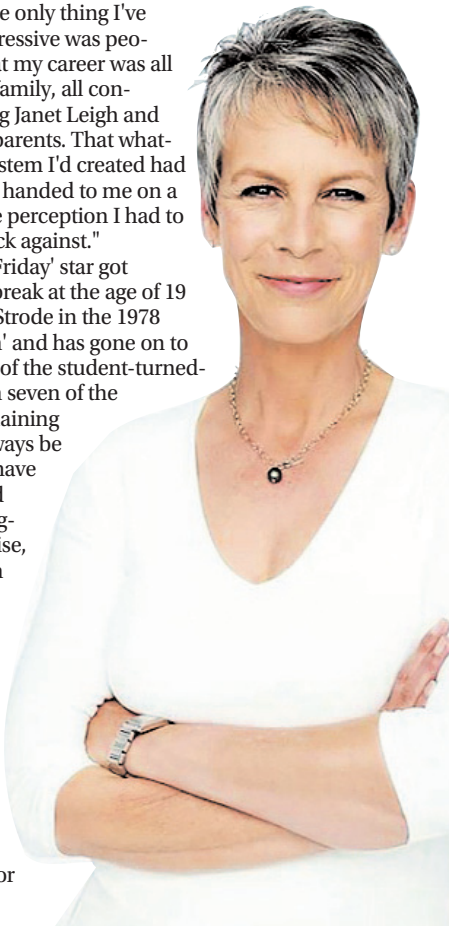
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jamie Lee Curtis has said that her career was not "handed to (her) on a plate" and was not down to her family connections.

The 63-year-old actress is the daughter of late Hollywood legends Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh but has often felt "oppressed" by the notion that her own successful career in film is down to her family connections, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "The only thing I've ever found oppressive was people thinking that my career was all because of my family, all connected to having Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis as parents. That whatever little ecosystem I'd created had somehow been handed to me on a plate. That's the perception I had to fight against, kick against."

The 'Freaky Friday' star got her big screen break at the age of 19 playing Laurie Strode in the 1978 film 'Halloween' and has gone on to reprise the role of the student-turned-headmistress in seven of the 12 sequels, explaining that she will always be "honoured" to have been associated with such a long-running franchise, in a similar vein to her mother - whose real name was Jeanette Morrison - would "never" have complained about her signature role of Marion Crane in Alfred Hitchcock horror 'Psycho'.



Mila Kunis 'was very keen on getting a college degree'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Mila Kunis briefly attended UCLA and Loyola Marymount University because she "was very keen on getting a college degree". The 'Luckiest Girl Alive' star admitted feeling the pressure to head to university because her "whole family is college educated" before she briefly attended UCLA and Loyola Marymount University, leaving before she earned her degree, reports femalefirst.co.uk. While appearing on SiriusXM's 'The Jess Cagle Podcast with Julia Cunningham', the 39-year-old actress said: "I was very keen on getting a college degree. Not for any reason other than I thought I should or had to, because my whole family is college educated. So, I was like, well, clearly, that's what one does."

Kunis called her school life "erratic" because of her commitments filming 'That '70s Show' - the sitcom on which she first met her husband Ashton Kutcher, with whom she now has eight-year-old daughter Wyatt and five-year-old son Dmitri.

She said: "And so I went through the public school system, so I had tutors when I was shooting and then when you do sitcoms, you do, there's a schedule of like three weeks on one week off, two weeks on one week off three front, whatever."

"So during that one week, you as an adult, you can do other projects, if you have time or you can do other things. I just went back to public school. So the erratic behaviour was probably popping in and out of my public high school and then going back and doing schoolwork on sets."



IND V SA, 2ND ODI

Ranchi | Agencies

Vice-captain Shreyas Iyer struck a magnificent 113 not out while Ishan Kishan slammed a scintillating 93 to give India an emphatic seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the second ODI at JSCA International Stadium on Sunday.

After a late fightback from India meant South Africa were restricted to posting 278/7 in their 50 overs despite Aiden Markram and Reeza Hendricks making 79 and 74 respectively, Iyer and Kishan shared a match-winning stand of 161 off 154 balls and thwarted every challenge in their way to square the series 1-1.

In the pursuit of chasing 279, India lost openers Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill in the first ten overs. While Dhawan saw his off-stump uprooted by Wayne Parnell for the second time in as many matches, Gill -- with his impressive flicks, and drives -- failed to keep the loft down and gave Kagiso Rabada a chance to take a sharp catch off his own bowling.

Iyer was the initial aggressor, punching Parnell through wide of point for four, before taking a brace of fours off Anrich Nortje -- a cut through the third man was followed



by a glorious cover drive. Kishan stepped up when he pulled Keshav Maharaj over deep mid-wicket for six, before dancing down the pitch twice to smack a brace of sixes in the same region in the 21st over.

Iyer's onslaught continued when he took two fours off part-timer Aiden Markram while taking another four off left-arm spinner Bjorn

Fortuin. After the duo reached their fifties on successive deliveries in the 26th over and the century of the third-wicket stand brought up, their carnage over South Africa's bowlers picked up the pace.

While Iyer picked boundaries against Parnell and Rabada for fun, Kishan was showing his hitting prowess by nailing crunchy pulls

and heaves through the leg side off Fortuin, Rabada and Nortje.

His phenomenal run at the crease ended when he pulled off the thick inner edge to deep mid-wicket off Fortuin, falling seven short of his maiden century on his home turf off 84 balls, hitting four fours and seven sixes. Despite being hurt by cramps, Iyer was placing his boundaries with excellent timing -- one of which was slapped over extra cover for four off Rabada to give him his second century in the format.

Incidentally, Iyer finished off the chase with a four steered in the gap between backward point and short third man off Nortje, remaining unconquered on 113 off 111 balls, backed by 15 fours. Sanju Samson gave him good support by remaining unbeaten on 30 and sending the series to a decider in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Brief scores

South Africa 278/7 in 50 overs (Aiden Markram 79, Reeza Hendricks 74; Mohammed Siraj 3/38, Shardul Thakur 1/36) lost to India 282/3 in 45.5 overs (Shreyas Iyer 113 not out, Ishan Kishan 93; Wayne Parnell 1/44, Bjorn Fortuin 1/52) by seven wickets

NATIONAL GAMES

Pragnya Mohan wins women's triathlon gold in style



Gandhinagar | Agencies

Gujarat's champion triathlete Pragnya Mohan was so confident of winning the National Games Women's Individual gold medal on Sunday that she set herself a tougher target: win with a five-minute margin.

Not too surprisingly, she did not have any company for

nearly two-thirds of the race in and outside the IIT Gandhinagar campus on her way to the gold. Even a howling wind during the cycling leg or oppressive humidity during her run could not shake her off her mission.

Meanwhile, claiming both canoeing & kayaking gold medals this morning after Adarsh Muralidharan Sinimol and Vishwanath Yadav picked

up a 1-2 in Men's Individual Triathlon for them, Services surged further at the top with 48 gold, 32 silver and 28 bronze for a 108-medal haul so far. Haryana, with 30 gold medals, retained a two-gold advantage over Maharashtra.

Almost looking possessed, Pragnya Mohan crossed the finish line triumphantly, much to the delight of a big crowd that came to cheer her.

Real Madrid go top in Spain; Sampaoli bounce back to hold Sevilla 1-1

Madrid | Agencies

Real Madrid returned to the top of La Liga on Saturday night thanks to a narrow 1-0 win away to Getafe. Eder Militao's header from a corner in the third minute of the game was enough to give Carlo Ancelotti's side all three points ahead of FC Barcelona's home match against Celta Vigo on Sunday night.

The VAR overturned a decision to award Real Madrid a penalty for a supposed foul on Vinicius Jr and ruled out a 'goal' from Rodrigo.

The arrival of coach Jorge Sampaoli as the replacement for Julen Lopetegui looked as if it would bring an immediate result for Sevilla as Oliver Torres opened the scoring in the third minute of their 1-1 draw at home to Athletic Club Bilbao, reports Xinhua. However, after withstanding a tough opening 15 minutes, Athletic dominated the rest of the match and Mikel Vesga's powerful left foot shot in the second half, earned the Basques a well-deserved point to keep them third.

Athletic overcame a late scare when Ander Herrera was sent off in injury time for denying Erik Lamela a clear goalscoring opportunity, but Sevilla wasted the resulting free kick. Atletico



Madrid moved into fourth with a tough 2-1 win at home to Girona, with Angel Correa netting both of their goals in the 5th and 48th minute, while Rodrigo Riquelme scored for Girona in the 66th minute. Almeria ended their four-match goal drought in emphatic style with a 3-1 win at home to Rayo Vallecano in which they were leading 3-0 after 39 minutes following goals from Lucas Robertone, Srđan Babic and El Bilal Toure, with Alejandro Catena netting a late consolation for Rayo. Almeria's former Rayo winger, Adri Embarba was sent off in the 87th minute.

1st T20I: England beat Australia by 8 runs

Perth | Agencies

England beat Australia by eight runs in a thrilling first T20I to take 1-0 lead in the three-match series at the Perth Stadium, here on Sunday.

The win marked England's first victory in men's T20Is in Australia in 11 years. Their first and only win in Australia in a T20I came in 2011 in Adelaide when they won by one wicket. Since then, England lost all six T20Is they played in Australia until the game on Sunday.

Put in to bat, Jos Buttler and Alex Hales treated Australia's second-string attack -- none of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell made the long trip west -- with disdain and recorded a 132-run opening partnership to put England on course for a big total.

It was the highest men's T20I first-wicket partnership in Australia, and England's second highest in the for-



mat. However, once Buttler (68 off 32) and Hales (84 off 51) got out, the middle-order batters Stokes (9), Harry

Brook (12), Moeen (10), Sam Curran (2) struggled to score quickly and got out at regular intervals.

Chasing a big total, Cameron Green, included in the team instead of Steve Smith and opening the batting instead of Aaron Finch, was out for single digits for a second consecutive game. But Marsh and Warner rekindled their strong union from last year's World Cup by putting on a 75-run stand for the second wicket to lay a solid platform for Australia's chase.

The series continues with matches in Canberra on Wednesday and Friday. England then play a warm-up fixture on 17th against Pakistan before their T20 World Cup kicks off on October 22 with the match against Afghanistan.

Brief scores

England 208/6 in 20 overs (Alex Hales 84, Jos Buttler 68; Nathan Ellis 3/20) beat Australia 200/9 in 20 overs (David Warner 73, Mitchell Marsh 36; Mark Wood 3/34) by 8 runs.

Djokovic clinches Astana Open title with win over Tsitsipas

Astana (Kazakhstan): World No.7 Novak Djokovic clinched the Astana Open men's singles title after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 in the final, here on Sunday.

It was the ninth consecutive match victory for the fourth seed Djokovic, who won the title a week ago in Tel Aviv. This was the 90th tour-level title for the 35-year-old and it required only 75 minutes.

For the third-seeded Greek Tsitsipas, it was the ninth time he played in an ATP 500 final -- and the ninth time he came up empty. Djokovic now leads their ATP head-to-head series 8-2 and has won the past seven. As a result of the win, the Serbian star secures himself a Top 20 spot in the ATP Live Race to Turin after the 2022 Paris Masters, meaning



the reigning Wimbledon champion qualifies for the 2022 ATP Finals as a current-year Grand Slam winner. It was the 90th career tour-level title for Djokovic and the fourth of 2022. When the on-court interviewer observed that Djokovic probably never dreamed of 90 ATP Tour titles, Djokovic shook his head. Tsitsipas will return to the Top 5 in the ATP Rankings on Monday and the 24-year-old Greek still leads all ATP Tour players with 53 match wins.

Japan Open Fritz fires past Tiafoe to clinch men's single title

Tokyo | Agencies

America's Taylor Fritz registered a 7-6(3), 7-6(2) victory against countryman Frances Tiafoe in the final to clinch the Japan Open Tennis Championships men's singles title, here on Sunday.

Immediately following seven days in hotel quarantine in Seoul, Fritz completed a perfect five-day stretch in Tokyo to claim his third title of a career-defining year. With this, the third seed became the 10th different American singles champion at the ATP 500 event and the first since Pete Sampras in 1996.

Tiafoe carried a streak of 13 straight singles tie-break wins into the title match, but Fritz dominat-



ed both on Sunday with aggressive hitting. He did not drop a point on serve in either tie-break, both times converting on early leads. The third seed held the upper hand for much of the match, creating eight break chances compared to three for Tiafoe. A trade of breaks in the third and fourth games made for an eventful start, but the drama peaked in the final three games of the opening set.

It was also the fifth all-American tour-level final of 2022, the most since five in 2002. Fritz joins the entirety of the Big Four -- Roger Federer (2006), Rafael Nadal (2010), Andy Murray (2011), and Novak Djokovic (2019) -- among Tokyo's honour roll of champions.

MCDONALD-MELO WINS MEN'S DOUBLES TITLE

Tokyo: The American-Brazilian duo of Mackenzie McDonald and Marcelo Melo completed a dream debut week by claiming the Japan Open Tennis Championships men's doubles title, defeating third seeds Rafael Matos and David Vega Hernandez 6-4, 3-6, 10-4, here on Sunday. Matos and Vega Hernandez were seeking back-to-back titles after their trophy run in Sofia last week. They have won four titles on the season, with their other victories coming in Marrakech (their team debut), Mallorca and Bastad.

Each of the first two sets were decided by a single, early break. The teams switched ends for the first time in the Match Tie-break knotted at 3/3 before McDonald and Melo won four straight points to take command.



Women's Asia Cup

Thailand register a third consecutive win with 50-run thrashing of Malaysia

Sylhet (Bangladesh) | Agencies

Thailand on Sunday registered their third consecutive win of the Women's Asia Cup with a 50-run thrashing of Malaysia at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS).

For Thailand, who are in the race to make the cut for the semifinals, right-hander Nannapat Koncharoenkai top-scored with a vital 41 to set the base for the resounding victory to reach 115/5. The bowlers then restricted Malaysia to 65/8 in 20 overs.

Captain Naruemon Chaiwai and Nannapat, her deputy, made most of the dropped catches by the Malaysian fielders to resurrect Thailand's innings. Naruemon hit the first boundary of the partnership in the 10th over as they were



hard to come. The pair then resorted to running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking for Thailand. The duo added 56 runs for the second wicket before a razor-sharp throw from Aisya Eleesa at deep extra cover cut short the Thailand skipper's knock at 28. Post powerplay, Elsa was run out while Mas Elysa fell in the space of three balls. Winifred's struggle ended when she was stumped for 15 in the 16th over. From there, Malaysia slumped to 65/8 in 20 overs to give Thailand a huge boost in the net run rate apart from an important win.

Dortmund clinch late draw to stun 10-men Bayern in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

Bayern Munich wasted a two-goal lead after Anthony Modeste's last-gasp equaliser snatched a two-all draw on home soil in the ninth round of Bundesliga on Saturday.

Both sides staged a rough first half with many fouls which disrupted the flow of the game hence goalscoring opportunities were at a premium.

The spectators had to wait until the half-hour mark to witness the first chances of the game as Raphael Guerreiro's dangerous shot forced Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into action.

Bayern however opened the scoring out of the blue moments later, as Jamal Musiala had all time and space to tee up for Leon Goretzka, who beat custodian Alexander Meyer with a well-placed shot from the edge of the box into the bottom left corner, reports



Xinhua. Dortmund had the chance to make it 1-1 in the 36th minute but Donyell Malen couldn't beat Neuer in a one-on-one. The German record champions increased the pressure after the restart and doubled their advantage with 53 minutes gone when Musiala assisted Leroy Sane, who overcame Meyer with a powerful low shot. The Bavarians had even the chance to triple

the lead but neither Musiala nor Sane was able to slot home from promising positions. Dortmund punished Bayern's wastefulness as a collaboration between the substitutes Modeste and Youssouf Moukoko halved the deficit in the 74th minute. Modeste remained in the thick of things as he squandered a golden chance to restore parity with only Neuer to beat nine minutes later while Bayern had to complete the match with ten-men as Kingsley Coman received his marching order for his second bookable offence in the 90th minute. Dortmund utilised its numerical advantage and shocked Bayern through Modeste, who headed home the last action of the game to flabbergast Julian Nagelsmann's side in the injury time. Elsewhere, struggling Bayer Leverkusen returned to winning ways under new head coach Xabi Alonso and trashed newly promoted Schalke 4-0.

Dutch F1 driver Max Verstappen takes 2022 world title in wet Suzuka

Suzuka (Japan) | Agencies

Dutch Formula One driver Max Verstappen claimed victory for Red Bull in the Japanese Grand Prix, and took the 2022 world title, after a dramatic late penalty for Ferrari's Charles Leclerc put the championship beyond doubt here on Sunday.

Verstappen, who retained the world title, won a restarted race amid persistent rain at Suzuka, with Leclerc initially looking set to finish second. But the Ferrari driver was penalised for cutting the chicane on the final lap as he defended from the other Red Bull of Sergio Perez, according to formula1.com.

The dramatic points swing means Verstappen heads to the United States Grand Prix,



and the final four races of the season, with an unassailable lead over Perez and Leclerc -- confirming him as champion. The race originally got underway as planned, with Verstappen defending from Leclerc after a close run to Turn 1, and only two laps being completed before the action was 'red-flagged' amid intense spray and a series of incidents -- which included the other Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz crashing out.



'I was stunned by his aura'

Yogita Bihani recalls her meeting with Shahrukh Khan

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Actress Yogita Bihani, who gained fame post her debut show *Dil Hi Toh Hai*, recently went on to feature in Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan starrer *Vikram Vedha*. Helmed by Pushkar-Gayathri, the flick was released on 30th September and is receiving a rave response. Absolute India News divulged in an exclusive chat with the actress. Excerpts:

ON WHAT CAPTIVATED HER

Talking about what is it about *Vikram Vedha* that intrigued her, Yogita said, "It's a great story and a different world altogether. It's not your regular Lucknow, UP milieu. Also, it's neither black nor white. Everything is grey here. Another thing is, as the audience when you are watching the film, you have involved it into a level that you are also continuously solving it."

ON NEGATIVE ROLES OR GREY CHARACTERS

FASCINATING EASILY

Sharing her thoughts on whether grey characters intrigue the audience, the actress asserted, "Honestly, when someone is too good on-screen, people find it superficial. Because in life one can't be always right and good. If one is doing so they are lying to themselves as it is impossible. Some situations enrage you and you tend to carry on that mood and later apologize when you realise. But that's what emotions are and we actors translate it on-screen."

ON RESONATING WITH HER CHARACTER

She further shared why she could resonate with Chanda, her character, and said, "Chanda never planned to steal money and run. Similarly, in life, some decisions are taken at the spur of the moment."

ON HER TRANSITION FROM TV TO FILM

Looking back at her journey, she shared that she was never labelled as a TV actor. She said, "I never faced discrimination and was never labelled as a TV star. There is definitely a difference in mediums. I personally made sure I don't pick any bad habits as in television you sometimes have to overact to connect with the audience."

ON ACTOR, SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH

On a parting note, the actress revealed the actor was on her bucket list. Recalling her meeting with Shahrukh Khan, she said, "I like SRK. A few months back I met him somewhere and I was stunned by his aura. This kind of aura I have never experienced. So, I think I want to work with him and understand the energy that he has."



Shekhar Suman to host a segment on the show

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Popular actor, anchor, and producer Shekhar Suman will be seen hosting a special segment of 'Bigg Boss 16' called 'Bigg Bulletin with Shekhar Suman'. In this particular segment, he will be interacting with the contestants and enquiring about

their overall behaviour inside the house. While assessing their activities and terms with other contestants, he will be giving his suggestions to do well and be real on the show.

On talking about hosting this particular segment, Shekhar says that he is happy to be part of the show which has been running on TV for 15 years and entertaining the audience.

"It is one of the most popular shows and the fans look forward to the evenings packed with entertainment. Joining hands with the show is great fun and it gives me an insight into why it has enjoyed unbeaten success for 15 years," he shared.

Shekhar made his debut in Bollywood with the 1984 Rekha-starrer movie 'Utsav'. Later, he also appeared in popular sitcom 'Dekh Bhai Dekh' and hosted reality series such as 'Movers & Shakers', 'Simply Shekhar', 'The Great Indian Comedy Show' and recently he came as a co-judge along with Archana Puran Singh on 'India's Laughter Champion'.

Now, as he is going to be part of the most controversial reality show, he said: "Through this interactive element, I will be a friend, philosopher, guide, and mentor to the housemates. The show will also give viewers the chance to know the contestants they're rooting for. Season 16 of 'Bigg Boss' rides on a host of new twists and one of them is this special segment in the much-coveted show."

'No cuts' in Ayushmann's upcoming with 'A' certificate

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Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer 'Doctor G' has received an 'A' certificate from the censor board and the filmmakers are happy that no cuts were suggested to the movie.

Movie shows Ayushmann portraying the role of a Gynaecologist in a medical campus comedy-drama. It is a journey of an aspiring orthopedic surgeon who instead gets into studying gynecology. Being the only male in a women-dominated department, there begins his humorous struggle to fit in.

Amrita Pandey, CEO Jungle Pictures said: "The movie is bold, high on entertainment, yet subtly breaks stereotypes as one might expect from a true Ayushmann Khurrana film. Despite not having any explicit content, it is a movie for young adults who are exposed to bold yet sensitive and hilarious content and can of course watch it with their families." "We are happy there were no cuts suggested and we are



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For a mother, what can be the best moment other than getting an award for all the love and care that she has given to her children, Kamyra Panjabi felt in a similar way while receiving 'Best Maa Award' during an award function and this made her emotional on the stage. The actress known for her role Sindoor in 'Banoo Main Teri Dulhann' is currently portraying the role of a mother in 'Sanjog'. She said the audience remembered her for her negative character for so long and even now looking at her they call her 'Sindoor' and she hopes that they will also appreciate her for playing a mother on screen.

The 'Bigg Boss 7' fame actress said that it was a touching moment for her to receive the award in front of her daughter Aara. "I have received so many awards in my life, but this is the first time that I received the 'Best Maa Award' and it felt different. In fact, what made my experience even more special and

Nothing can be more special than 'Best Maa Award': Kamyra Panjabi

emotional was the fact that my real daughter was also with me at an award show for the very first time when I got this award."

She added saying as an actor she might have won a number of awards but for the past many years she was trying to be the 'best mom' in real life and thus the moment became more special for her. "I must mention that

we all are actors and we have won so many awards like the best villain, best lead and so on year after year. But for the last 12 years, I have been trying to be the best mother in real life and I am glad that I received this award in front of my daughter." She concluded by expressing her hope that people will shower the same love and appreciation they had given to her character Sindoor. "I would also like to add that, 12 years ago, and even today, many people call me Sindoor only. I hope the audience will shower the same love on Gauri from 'Sanjog' as they have showered on Sindoor for so many years," she concluded. 'Zee Rishtey Awards' airs on Zee TV.



Saba Azad shuts down trolls

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Saba Azad, Hrithik Roshan's girlfriend, has schooled a troll who called her looks 'yuck', presumably referring to her recent outfit. Saba and Hrithik recently attended Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha's wedding reception. Some people commented on Saba's outfit for the occasion. Saba shared a screenshot of the person's profile along with their comment on Instagram Stories on Saturday. According to the Instagram user, "You were looking like chheeee (yuck), eeew, yaak, whatever you understand...Take it." Sharing the post, Saba wrote, "This is Shruti apparently she loves her love but she also just follows me to share her abundant hate - there are many like her out there - don't be like Shruti - feel free to unfollow me (smiley emoticon). Incidentally, Shruti hasn't met the block button yet - they shall be well acquainted soon!" Saba posted on Instagram on Friday, just days after Ali and Richa's wedding reception. She also shared photos of herself in the dress she wore to the party. She stated, "I only dress nice on rare rare occasions (yes I'm a mutt and I couldn't care less what you think of my duds) and this one was definitely worth it, thank you @therichachadha and @alifaza9 for inviting us to celebrate your love - it gives hope of a future where love wins - above all else."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shama Sikander