

NATION > 02
President Murmu inaugurates
several projects in Assam...**HOLLYWOOD** > 06
Lucy Liu to star opposite Dwayne
Johnson, Chris Evans in 'Red One'...**SPORTS** > 07
Golf: Camille Chevalier set to
return to women's Indian Open...

SC DELIVERS SPLIT VERDICT ON K'TAKA HIJAB BAN

**PERMITTING ONE COMMUNITY
TO WEAR RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS
WOULD BE ANTITHESIS TO
SECULARISM: JUSTICE GUPTA**

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Hemant Gupta, in a divided verdict, on Thursday dismissed appeals challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment which upheld the state government's February 5 order, prohibiting wearing of hijab inside classrooms in pre-university colleges.

Justice Gupta said: "Secularism is applicable to all citizens, therefore, permitting one religious community to wear their religious symbols would be antithesis to secularism. Thus, the Government Order cannot be said to be against the ethic of secularism or to the objective of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983."

"If a particular student feels that she cannot compromise with the wearing of headscarf or of any other student to wear any outwardly religious symbol, the school would be justified not to allow such student, in the larger interest of treating all the students alike as a part of mandate of Article 14, which is central to the theme of Part III of the Constitution," he added.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a split verdict on a clutch of petitions challenging the Karnataka government's February 5 order, prohibiting wearing of hijab inside classrooms in pre-university colleges. The judgment was delivered by a bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia. Justice Gupta upheld the Karnataka government circular and dismissed the appeals against the Karnataka High Court judgment. However, Justice Dhulia allowed all the appeals and set aside the judgment of the Karnataka High Court. Justice Dhulia said the main thrust of his judgment was that the entire concept of essential religious practice was not essential to the dispute and the high court took a wrong path.

Asking girls to take off hijab invasion of privacy, attack on dignity: Justice Dhulia

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, in the split verdict on Karnataka hijab ban, on Thursday said by asking girls to take off their hijab before they enter school gates is an invasion of privacy, attack on dignity, and denial of secular education. He said this is the time when children should learn not to be alarmed by our diversity but to rejoice and celebrate this, and also this is the time when they must realise that diversity is our strength. Justice Dhulia

NO QUESTION OF REVOKING HIJAB BAN: K'TAKA MIN

Bengaluru: Soon after the Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the Karnataka hijab matter, state Minister for Power, Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar on Thursday said the question of reversal of ban order does not arise.

"There is no question of reversing the state government's order issued on February 5, banning hijab and other religious symbols in educational institutions of the state. The uniform rule will continue in schools and pre-university colleges," he said.

While interacting with reporters, the minister stated that the government has issued a circular in this regard. There is no question of backtracking on the ban. "The Supreme Court has given a split verdict on the matter and we will not take back our decision," he reiterated.

"No student can attend classes wearing a hijab. Congress and the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) must understand that they cannot go against society," he stated.

said: "By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education. These are clearly violative of Article 19(1)(a), Article 21 and Article 25(1) of the Constitution". Justice Dhulia said there shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab anywhere in schools and colleges in Karnataka. He added that the unfortunate fallout of the hijab restriction would be that they would have denied education to a girl child. "A girl child for whom it is still not easy to reach her school gate. This case here, therefore, has also to be seen in the perspective of the challenges already faced by a girl child in reaching her school. The question this court would put before itself is also whether we are making the life of a girl child any better by denying her education merely because she wears a hijab!" he said.



Indian Army to conduct one of biggest exercises

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

One of the biggest exercises in recent times, offensive formations of the Indian Army are preparing to participate in a military exercise in Western India this month, an official statement said on Thursday.

The exercise is planned to validate newly converted mechanised formations also known as Reorganised Plains Infantry Division, test efficacy of latest induction and A upgrades in weapons and equipment, and also test the enhanced force ratios accrued post rebalancing of forces on the entire Western Front.

Validation of tactical concepts of these formations,

especially on canal-based operations and fighting manoeuvre through built-up areas apart from many other latest operational concepts designed to launch a swift punitive blow to the adversary as part of the proactive strategy will be the key features of the exercise, said the Defence Wing in a statement.

The exercise will put into practice the synergy between all arms and services including attack helicopters in a semi-desert terrain.

It is expected to be one of the biggest exercises in recent times. The exercise will be witnessed by the GOC-in-C Western Command and other key officials from the army headquarters.

Madras HC initiates suo motu proceedings against online games

Team Absolute | Chennai

The Madras High Court on Thursday commenced suo motu proceedings against online games to which students are getting increasingly addicted. A division bench of Justices R. Mahadevan and J. Sathya Narayana Prasad sought a response from the Central government and state government in this regard as well as sought a response from social media players on this.

The court observed that students are getting addicted to online games, most of which are violent and this leads to fights at home between these online game addicts and their parents and siblings.

It also said that several students and youngsters addicted to online games commit suicide. "There is an emergent



need to curb the menace of these types of online games. We should sensitise the youth and more particularly the students. The police and social activists have a definite role to play in this."

The court also observed that the future of the nation was in the hands of the youngsters and that they should be fit physical-

ly, psychologically, economically, and socially.

It also said that the parents have a primary responsibility to watch what their children were doing with their smartphones and computers. The court also said that those who are playing online games must be given counseling and they should be made to uninstall the game.

Woman killed in crossfire, Uttarakhand police files murder case against UP cops

Kashipur | Agencies

The wife of the head of Jaspur block was shot dead in firing during the raid conducted by the UP police in Bharatpur village in Kunda police station area, Udham Singh Nagar, late on Wednesday evening.

Angered by the death, about 400 villagers blocked the highway in front of the police station. Heavy reinforcements reached the spot. The Kashipur police has registered a murder case against the UP police on the complaint of the block head.

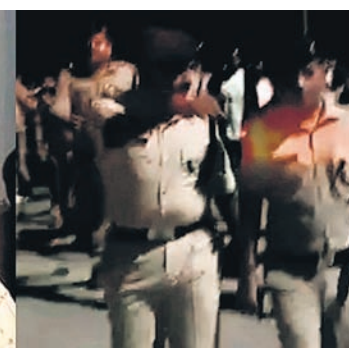
There was a furore in the Udham Singh Nagar police department as soon as the incident came to light.

The police team from Moradabad in UP conducted the raid without informing the Uttarakhand police and were not in uniform. We are probing why the Moradabad police took this action,



said DIG Nitesh Anand Bharnne of Kumaon division, adding that a case of murder and conspiracy has been registered. The injured UP policemen escaped from our custody when they were admitted to LD Bhatt hospital and we are investigating the matter.

There is also a complaint that when an attempt was made to stop the UP police at Surya Chowki, they



broke the barricade and fled. The DIG said that the UP police has been questioned over their lack of communication.

Local MLA Arvind Pandey also reached the spot after getting information about the incident. He said that the Uttarakhand police started investigation immediately. We have full faith in our police. The block chief has shown a lot of tolerance. A

bigger tragedy could have occurred since the villagers were angry.

We have spoken to the Chief Minister and are confident that the police will get to the bottom of this incident and justice will be done, added Pandey. A contradiction has also come to light in the statements of Udham Singh Nagar SSP and the Kumaon DIG. SSP Manjunath TC said that they had received information from the Moradabad police about the raid to arrest the wanted criminal. But there was a clash with the villagers and both sides opened fire. When we arrived, we saw that a woman had been shot dead. Three Moradabad police officers were injured. He added that this was a sensitive matter and the victim's family has registered a complaint.

Further investigation will not be based on statements alone but on facts. Forensic and CCTV evidence will be used for this, he said.

ASSAM TRANSPORT OFFICIAL ARRESTED, RS 36 LAKH SEIZED FROM HOUSE

Guwahati: The District Transport Officer (DTO) in Assam's Kokrajhar district was arrested on charges of corruption, as cash amounting to Rs 36 lakh was recovered from his house in an operation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), officials said on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Sameswar Brahma Muchahary, 54. The police were carrying out another search operation at his Guwahati residence in the Kahilipara locality.

A slew of raids are being conducted in the state to check the corruption cases. ACB officials have launched several search operations recently to crack down on illegal transactions of funds and public money as well as arrest corrupt officials.

On Wednesday a circle inspector and his personal security officer in the Kharupetia area were arrested on corruption charges. The previous day, an assistant sub-inspector in the Lakhimpur district was taken into custody by the ACB.



Dabolim Airport will not be shut down: Goa CM clarifies

Team Absolute | Panaji

After opposition parties targeted the Goa government alleging it is secretly trying to close the Dabolim Airport, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday clarified that even after Mopa airport is operational it will not shut down.

"Many have expressed concern about Dabolim airport. I want to assure them even after Mopa airport is operational this airport will not be shut down," Sawant said during a programme in Mormugao, South Goa. He said that there are many plans to keep Dabolim Airport operational.

"Next week, we will plan how to make division of flights (landing), if international flights land at Mopa then national flights can be landed here," Sawant said.

Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho on Wednesday had expressed fear that Goa Dabolim Airport may shut down if local taxi operators fail to support 'app-based



taxi service'. According to Godinho, once the Mopa Airport is operational and when they start giving top class transport facilities then Dabolim airport will suffer.

"If transportation mess continues at Dabolim then everyone will prefer to fly from Mopa," he had said.

After the statements made by Godinho, Congress and Goa Forward Party had targeted BJP government stating it is trying to shut down the Dabolim Airport secretly. "The government wants to shut Dabolim airport and promote Mopa airport, operated by private company," Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao had said.

Half of world's coral reefs face climate change threat by 2035: Study

WASHINGTON | Agencies

Under a worst-case scenario, half of the coral reef ecosystems worldwide will permanently face unsuitable conditions by 2035, if climate change continues unabated, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Hawaii. Unsuitable conditions will likely lead to the corals dying off and other marine life will struggle to survive due to disruptions in the food chain, according to the study published in scientific journal PLOS Biology. Using an ensemble of global climate change models, the study compared scenarios of five environmental stressors projected from the 1950s through the year 2100, reports Xinhua news agency.

These stressors included sea surface temperature, ocean acidification, tropical storms, land use and human population, the researchers said in a news release.

By 2035, it is projected that 99 per



cent of the world's coral reefs would be facing unsuitable conditions based on at least one of the five stressors studied, the study said.

"While the negative impacts of climate change on coral reefs are well known, this research shows that they are actually worse than anticipated due to a broad combination of climate change-induced stressors," said lead author Renee O. Setter in the

news release. It was surprising to find that so many global coral reefs would be overwhelmed by unsuitable environmental conditions so soon due to multiple stressors, she said.

Researchers are preparing to enter the next phase of their work, which will take a closer look at how climate change is projected to affect individual coral species, according to the news release.



STOP THE 'SIN' OF CLOSING DOWN 14K SCHOOLS FOR POOR, CONGRESS TO CM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress Maharashtra unit on Thursday called upon Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to stop the "sinful" move of shutting down some 14,000 schools ostensibly due to low enrolment of students. State Congress President Nana Patole said that a majority of these targeted schools are situated in rural, remote, backward, or tribal belts of the state where there are no other educational options available for the poor children. "They are children of farmers, labourers, ordinary families who sent their children to acquire education at these schools run by the districts. If these schools are closed, then these people from the poor strata shall be totally deprived of education. It will be like a sin," he told Shinde. Patole pointed out how Maharashtra is at the forefront in providing quality education at the highest levels, and where primary education forms the



foundation of a good academic background for lakhs of students. "In 2009, the Right To Education Act was passed by the Congress government at the Centre, which provides for free and compulsory education to every child aged 6-14, with admission to the nearest school. The 25 per cent reservations for economically weaker sections in private educational institutions is also applicable under the Act. The State gov-

ernment is duty-bound to ensure that all children get proper education," he said. Referring to a purported move to shut down around 14,000 schools where the enrollment/attendance figures range from 0-20, the Congress leader said this would totally deprive children in rural, tribal and backward areas of education, and they would be compelled to travel far for attending school. Hailing the state's glorious legacy, he said many social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil and others had thrown open the doors of schools for the 'Bahujan community' in every village. "The Congress has taken the message to spread education in the remotest areas. On the contrary, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Gujarat is closing down 6,000 schools and now plans to shut down 14,000 schools in Maharashtra. This will rob the Bahujans of the opportunity to get educated and progress in life," Patole cautioned.

TATTOO HELPED 75-YEAR-OLD MAHA MAN REUNITE WITH HIS FAMILY

Thane: A 75-year-old man found in a paralysed condition in Mumbai's Santacruz East area was reunited with his family after functionaries of a social group managed to locate through an online search his village, the name of which was tattooed on his arm. Vijay Jagtap (75) was found near a bridge in Vakola on October 7 and he had no recollection of how he reached there, a Jeevan Anand Sanstha member said. "The Carver Day Night Shelter of Jeevan Anand Sanstha is located in Santacruz East in partnership with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. Functionaries searched 'Jangalpur' tattooed on his arm employing Google maps," he said. "It was found the Jangalpur village is in Selu taluka in Wardha district.

Court tells BMC to accept resignation of Sena (UBT) bypoll candidate

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Latke is the widow of the erstwhile Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke, who passed away in Dubai in May, necessitating the byelections. A civic employee, Latke had quit her employment in the BMC in September - a mandatory requirement - to enable her contest the bypolls as a Sena (UBT) candidate.



However, the BMC had refused to accept her resignation, after which she moved the high court for relief today. Justice Nitin Jamdar, while asking the BMC what was its problem if any employee wants to contest elections, ordered the civic body to accept the resignation by Friday 11 a.m., to enable her file the election nomination papers - for which the last date is also tomorrow.

▶ THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT ON THURSDAY ORDERED THE BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ITS EMPLOYEE RUTUJA R. LATKE - WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE THE SHIV SENA (UDDHAV BALASABHAI THACKERAY) PARTY NOMINEE FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 BYPOLL ANDHERI EAST ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY.

Suspect in RPG attack case in Mohali arrested from Mumbai

Team Absolute | Chandigarh/Mumbai

Punjab Police, central security agencies and Maharashtra ATS on Thursday arrested a suspect from Mumbai in the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack case in Mohali near here. The suspect, Charat Singh, was instrumental in providing logistical support and arranging weapon. "He is key operative & associate of #Canada-based #BKI terrorist Lakhbir Singh @Landa. @PunjabPoliceInd will strive to make the state crime-free as per vision of CM @BhagwantMann," Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav tweeted. An RPG was fired from outside the street, which landed on the third floor of the Punjab Police's Intelligence Headquarters in Sector 77 of Mohali on May 9. During investigation, police found that the attack was a conspiracy of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and local gangsters. A 272-page chargesheet was filed in a court this week that framed charges against seven of the 13 accused in the case.



Seven accused, including a juvenile, have been arrested while the remaining are absconding.

Gold, foreign currency worth Rs 8 cr seized at Mumbai Airport in 24 hrs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In its continued crackdown on smuggling, the Customs Department seized 15 kgs gold and foreign currencies of Rs 22 lakh in 24 hours, for which seven passengers have been arrested, an official said here on Thursday. The haul by Mumbai Airport Customs was carried out during October 11-12 at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, as part of the intensified drive to catch gold and foreign currency smugglers. An Indian national, who flew from Dubai to Mumbai by an Emirates flight EK-500, was found with 9.9 kgs gold worth Rs 5.20 crore, hidden in a specially designed chest belt with nine pockets and wrapped around his chest and shoulder. The accused revealed that the gold was handed over to him at Dubai by two Sudanese nationals who have



also been nabbed and the trio has been sent to judicial custody for 14 days. An Indian arriving from Chennai by an IndiGo flight 6E-6149, which had earlier arrived from Sharjah, was detected carrying 1.88 kgs gold dust worth nearly Rs one crore, concealed in his underwear. In another detection, the Customs sleuths retrieved 1.068 kg and 1.185 kgs gold dust - totally worth over Rs 1.10 crore - in packets hidden in the underwear of two passengers, arriving here from Jeddah by a Saudia flight SV-772. A Sudanese national, who landed here by an Emirates flight EK-504 from Dubai, was nabbed with gold dust of 973 gms in wax in eggs form, worth Rs 51 lakh, concealed in his rectum. Besides, the Customs nabbed two Indians, who were about to board a SpiceJet flight SG-13 to Dubai, each carrying Dh 50,000 (Rs 11.20 lakh) and Dh 45,000 (Rs 10.08 lakh), concealed in round cavity of biscuits stuffed in their pockets, after they had crossed the Customs declaration counter.

CPI PLEDGES SUPPORT TO SHIV SENA (UBT) IN ANDHERI EAST BYPOLL

▶ THE LEFT, WHICH HAS FOUGHT 'BLOODY' BATTLES IN THE CITY AGAINST THE UNIFIED SHIV SENA, HAS EXTENDED A HELPING HAND TO UDDHAV THACKERAY. A COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) DELEGATION MET THACKERAY AT HIS RESIDENCE ON WEDNESDAY TO PLEDGE FULL SUPPORT TO HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATE IN THE ANDHERI EAST BYPOLL.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Thackeray Sena spokesperson said in a statement that the CPI will stand with the Maha Vikas Aghadi in the fight against the BJP. "CPI Mumbai



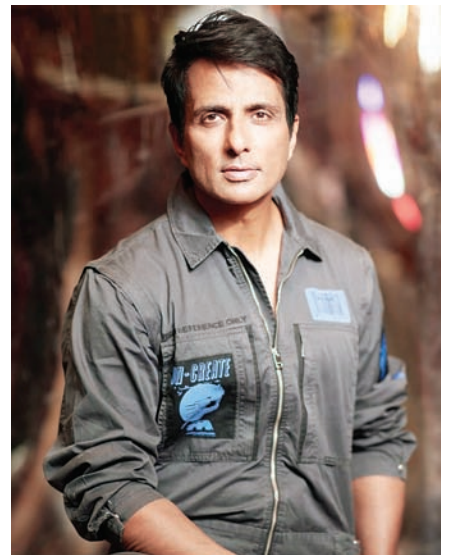
Secretary Milind Ranade, senior leaders Prakash Reddy, Prakash Narwekar, Baba Sawant, trade union leaders Vijay Dalvi

and Babli Rawat were warmly received by Uddhavji at Matoshree today," he said. The development evoked reactions on social media. Political commentator and senior journalist Nikhil Wagle wrote on his FB wall, "History was made today. The communists have supported the Sena. The enemies of yesteryears have become friends today." Senior journalist Mahesh Mhatre wrote, "Today's development is an extreme side of political show. The communists who fought the Sena all their life have supported Uddhav Thackeray's Sena in the bypolls." He said that after leftist leader Krishna Desai's murder in 1970, the Shiv Sena established its clout in mill land areas. "In the bypolls [after the murder] Wamanrao Mahadik beat Desai's widow to become the Sena's first elected MLA. This is history," he said, adding that it has come a full circle. "Now the communists who are almost finished in politics have voluntarily come forward to help a party that has a new symbol and new name. Such is politics," he wrote.

On Karwa Chauth day, Sonu Sood decides to open skill centres for women

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of Karwa Chauth, when many women in north India keep fast for the long life of their husbands, Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has decided to do something special for them and talked about opening centres for them in UP, Punjab, Bihar, and other states. The actor, who has worked in movies such as 'Aashiq Banaya Aapne', 'Jodhaa Akbar', 'Shootout at Wadala', 'R... Rajkumar' and many more, he is often seen becoming a helping hand for the needy. Now, on this very special festival for women in India, he has come forward for them. He said: "I wanted to open these centres for a while now. The idea is to provide the tools necessary for these women to empower themselves. It is very important for a country to progress, and for women to be capable of financial independence." He added that he wants to help women by helping them learn skills for getting better opportunities for work and especially for those, who have to earn for their families and also for the education of their children.



"Oftentimes, we see families where women are the sole breadwinners, I want to provide them with the necessary skill sets to get better jobs and improve their condition," added Sonu.

TIGER THAT KILLED 13 PEOPLE CAPTURED



Gadchiroli | Agencies

The Maharashtra forest department on Thursday tranquillised and captured 'conflict tiger' CT-1 after it had killed 13 persons in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts in the state's Vidarbha region, an official said. The tiger was moving in Wadsa forest range here in Gadchiroli and was becoming a threat to human lives, he added.

"The tiger had killed six persons in Wadsa, four in Bhandara and three in Brahmapuri forest range in Chandrapur district. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Nagpur had, in a meeting on October 4, directed that conflict tiger CT-1 be captured," he said. "Accordingly, the Tadoba Tiger Rescue team, the Rapid Response Teams of Chandrapur, Navegaon-Nargira and other units worked on war-footing to

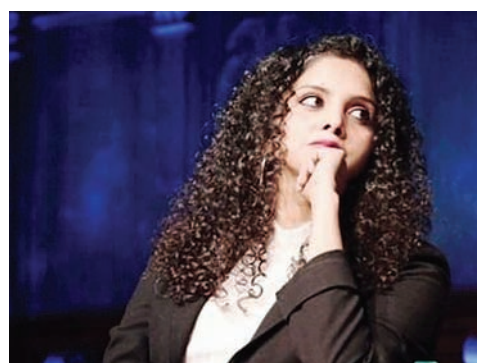
capture the tiger. It was tranquillised and captured from Wadsa forest range on Thursday morning," he informed. It has been sent to Gorewada rescue centre in Nagpur, some 183 kilometres from here, for rehabilitation, the official added. Generally, tigers that attack humans apart from circumstances like defending cubs or trying to save one's own life are referred to as conflict tigers.

Rana Ayyub collected over Rs 2.5 cr, used Rs 29L for relief & pocketed the rest

HER THREE CAMPAIGNS WERE:
▶ HELP IN RAISING FUNDS FOR SLUM DWELLERS & FARMERS
▶ RELIEF WORK FOR ASSAM, BIHAR AND MAHARASHTRA
▶ HELP RANA AYYUB AND HER TEAM TO HELP THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID19 IN INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has mentioned in the charge sheet lodged against Rana Ayyub that she launched three campaigns for Covid relief and collected Rs 2,69,44,680, which was later transferred into her personal account, thus illegally acquiring public fund and cheating common people. Out of the total fund, only Rs 29 lakh was used for relief and the rest was usurped by Ayyub. "Investigation by the ED revealed that the funds raised on the online platforms were received in the accounts of her father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts. Ayyub utilised



these funds to create a fixed deposit of Rs 50 lakh for herself and also transferred Rs 50 lakh in a new bank account," the ED has mentioned in the charge sheet. The charge sheet was filed before a Special PMLA court in Ghaziabad. The ED had initiated the money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered in 2021 by the Indrapuram police station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, under various sections of IPC, Information Technology Amendment Act 2008 and Black Money Act against Ayyub. It was alleged that Ayyub illegally acquired funds from the general public in the name of charity by launching fund-raiser campaigns on an online crowdfunding platform-'Ketto'. The ED has alleged that Ayyub received for-

eign contributions without registration under FCRA. The ED learnt that Ayyub launched three fundraiser campaigns on 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020, and collected funds totaling to Rs 2,69,44,680. The ED investigation revealed that only Rs 29 lakh was used for relief work. In order to claim more expenses towards the relief work, fake bills were submitted by Ayyub. Subsequently, bank balances in the accounts of Ayyub amounting to Rs 1,77,27,704/- (including FD of Rs 50 lakh) were attached u/s 5(1) of PMLA vide a Provisional Attachment Order in February. The ED has also mentioned in the charge sheet that Ayyub illegally raised Rs 2.69 crore by launching three online campaigns in the name of charity by cheating the general public donors. These funds were not used for the intended purpose, instead used for creation of assets for herself. Ayyub has tried to project these funds as untainted and thus has laundered the funds received from the general public. She also received these funds from foreign countries without any approval or registration from the government, which is required under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. The ED investigation has established that Ayyub had launched the aforesaid campaigns with the "sole intention to cheat the general public and acquired the Proceeds of Crime in form of FD and balances in bank accounts projecting them as untainted".



EDITOR'S SPECS

FOR AKHILESH HUGE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Akhilesh had taken over the reins of the party in 2017 but it is now that he will have to take on the responsibility of the family too. The passing away of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh has increased the burden manifold on the frail shoulders of Akhilesh Yadav. Akhilesh Yadav now faces the challenge of keeping the party as well as the family together because the Yadav family and the Samajwadi Party have so far existed more or less as one entity. The party has been the family and family is the party. Till Mulayam Singh was alive, his word was command and no one in the party or the family dared to disobey him - even though Akhilesh was party chief. While Mulayam remained undisputed leader of the clan, it is unlikely that Akhilesh will be accorded the same position - especially from the elders. His uncle Shivpal has already branched SP while younger sister-in-law Aparna Bisht Yadav has joined the BJP. Akhilesh now faces the uphill task of keeping the family together and ensuring that his elders, Shivpal included, do not turn hostile. The manner in which Akhilesh's half-brother Prateek Yadav was "alienated" during the cremation of Mulayam Singh Yadav on Tuesday, does not augur well for the future of the family. His biggest test, according to family sources, will be the by-election in Mainpuri which will be necessitated by the demise of Mulayam Singh. Within the Samajwadi Party too, Akhilesh will have to work overtime to keep the flock together. Till now, the disgruntled elements used to rush to Mulayam Singh with their grievances and Mulayam would pacify them and ensure that they returned with a smile. Akhilesh will have to make himself more accessible to workers and receptive to suggestions - more so, if they come for the veterans in the party.

Sardar Sarovar project renders three generations landless, poor CHILDREN OF THE 'DAMMED'

Pooja Yadav

Tukaram Patidar of Pura village in Dhar district is slightly better off than the farmers rendered landless by the Sardar Sarovar Dam project on the Narmada. Though four acres of his land were acquired in 2001 to rehabilitate people from Nanakbeydi, a village in Chikhaldia panchayat that was submerged due to the dam construction, he still has three acres left with him for cultivation. Tukaram received a mere Rs 5.65 lakh for parting with his fertile land, which he believed was worth Rs 60 to 65 lakh at that time. After repeated appeals by aggrieved farmers like him, the government did disburse an additional Rs 9.35 lakh in 2015, but still it was not fair enough. Tukaram belongs to the second generation of those affected by the project. Earlier, 14 acres were acquired from his late father Arjun Patidar for Rs 16 lakh. "None of the farmers gave their consent willingly. The authorities deposited money into bank accounts and evicted us from our own land. Most of the first generation fought against land acquisition and unfair compensation until their last breath. For 22 years, the second generation has been doing the same. Gradually, it will be passed on to the third generation," Tukaram's mother Ramkunwar Patidar told correspondent. The land acquisition in Dhar, Alirajpur, Barwani and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh began in 1998 and continued for the next five years. The flood-impacted people, who had argued against unfair compensation in the Supreme Court, received Rs 60 lakh per two hectares from the State government following the apex court's direction in 2017. Unfortunately, those whose lands were acquired to rehabilitate the flood-impacted were not party to the case, and hence did not receive better compensation. In fact, at that time, both types of land losers could not reach a consensus on approaching the courts jointly, mainly because acquisition proceedings took place at different points of time and compensation amounts were dissimilar. Later, the group that lost lands to rehabilitation did approach the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, which directed it to move the Supreme Court. Farmers who have lost all their land are the most affected. They have no option but to take land on lease for Rs 2 to 4 lakh annually to cultivate cotton and chilli and cover input costs as



well. Even after putting all their income sources to best use, most landless families barely manage to save Rs 2 to 4 lakh a year for themselves. "Marriages here usually happen at the age of 22, but my son Balram will be 27 soon. I want to see him married before I die. But nobody is interested as I am landless. The first question by the bride's side is - how much land does the groom's father have?" said an emotional Hariram Mewade of Taloon village in Barwani district. Even Tukaram's son Gaurav Patidar (32) got a good match only recently, after searching for seven years. Most people are reluctant to get their daughters married into families with less or no land. Gaurav works at a mobile shop, while his brother Shubham (25) has recently launched a stationery shop. Both work 12 to 16 hours a day to earn Rs 5,000 to 8,000 per month. **Policy change** Beyond compensation, was there any measure to provide alternative lands to ensure livelihoods? Citing Paragraph 4.5 of the Rehabilitation Policy-2001, Suresh Pradhan, a farmer from Nisarapur in Dhar, said, "At least two hectares should be left out in cases of complete acquisition to ensure farmers' livelihood. If someone has less than that, a piece of that land should be saved for them." As per the provisions of the earlier policy, SC/ST farmers were spared from land acquisition to facilitate rehabilitation. For others, there cannot be 100% acquisition. Pradhan claimed the government later changed it to include the word yathasambhav (as far as possible) in the clause, which meant the provisions would be applied only in situations where they were possible. In short, it gave the government a free hand to acquire lands. Pradhan was paid Rs 6.7 lakh for five hectares

of land in 2001. His father Narayan Krishna Patidar's 2.5 acres were also taken. "A bulldozer was run through his standing, ready-to-harvest wheat crop. He was forced to take Rs 2.40 lakh as compensation. There was no other option. He raised an objection before the Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA). After much back and forth, the matter reached the apex court, but no solution came out of it. Despite braving chilly winters, rains and hot summers during the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), justice was not served. Now, I am carrying forward his fight," Pradhan said. When farmers intensified their demands of land for land and better compensation, the State government announced Rs 15 lakh (minus the initial amount paid) per farmer. However, many refused to accept it as land prices had skyrocketed by then. "The market rate for an acre was in the Rs 10-18 lakh range. How can they give such meagre compensations," questioned Pradhan. Kantilal's father Kasana of Nisarapur had submitted an application before the Indore Division Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court. Claiming that 1.20 hectares of his land had been acquired rendering him landless, he appealed for land in return. The division bench issued an order in October 2017, directing the disbursement of an equal land area to Kantilal, or compensation within six months. In fact, the NVDA commissioner (rehabilitation & field) himself asserted that being a marginal farmer, Kantilal should not have been left landless. Ironically, the NVDA later challenged the matter in a higher bench, which is pending there. Even today, Kantilal awaits his compensatory land. Sandeep Patidar's father fought a similar battle until his death in 2011. A native of Ganpur village in Barwani, he

received an inadequate compensation of Rs 10.50 lakh for eight acres of land that he had to part with for rehabilitating Nanakbeydi residents. Likewise, Bhagwan Singh of Ganpur received only Rs 20 lakh for 11 acres of land! Rahul Yadav, who has been actively involved with the Medha Patkar-led NBA for over nine years, told 101Reporters, "These farmers are unable to marry their sons. Tomorrow, when the family grows, they will not have a piece of land to build a house. It will be impossible to buy land either, thanks to inflation. They will be forced to live a nomadic life within a few years." Yadav alleged discrimination in the compensation amount. "As many as 192 villages of Khargone, Dhar, Barwani and Alirajpur submerger. The government announced a compensation of Rs 1.11 lakh per acre for the affected families, as well as compensation for houses, trees and wells. People rejected it and approached the court, which directed a compensation of Rs 5.58 lakh per two hectares. Those who had less than two hectares were also entitled to the same amount, but thousands still rejected it claiming it to be inadequate." Though the Supreme Court intervention saved those from the submerged villages, the owners of lands acquired to rehabilitate them did not get even 25 per cent of that compensation, he said. **What next?** Rajkumar Sinha, who has been fighting on behalf of those displaced due to the Bargi Dam, said the government should give land to the affected farmers instead of monetary compensation. Medical shop owner Poonamchand, whose father Hariram Mewade is a farmer, said they sought justice from the NVDA. Landless farmers have also approached the authority. "We will meet the Governor, Human Rights Commission and the public representatives. If justice is not served, I will ask the President of India to grant permission to euthanise our families," he told 101Reporters. Multiple attempts to reach Minister of State for NVDA Bharat Singh Kushwaha went in vain. NVDA Commissioner Pawan Kumar also did not respond to the questions. (The author is a freelance journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters.)



BIDEN RULES OUT TALKS WITH PUTIN

Ashe O | Washington

US President Joe Biden ruled out talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at the upcoming G20 summit at Indonesia, saying "there is no rationale to meet with him now". Asked during a CNN interview whether he would meet Putin at the summit, Biden said he didn't see a good reason for a sit-down. "It would depend on specifically what he wanted to talk about," Bhe said, adding if Putin wanted to discuss the jailed American basketball star Brittney Griner, then he would be open to talking. "He's acted brutally... I think he's committed war crimes. And so, I don't, I don't see any rationale to meet with him now." Biden said threats arising from Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine is a "miscalculation" that could lead to catastrophic consequences close on the heels of his earlier warning that the world ran a risk of "nuclear Armageddon". President Biden told CNN that "threats emanating from Russia



could result in catastrophic "mistakes" and "miscalculation," even as he declined to spell out how precisely the US would respond if Putin deploys a tactical nuclear device on the battlefield in Ukraine. When asked whether the Putin would use a tactical nuclear weapon, a prospect US officials have watched with concern as

Russian troops suffer embarrassing losses on the battlefield, Biden said: "I don't think he will... I think it's irresponsible for him to talk about it, the idea that a world leader of one of the largest nuclear powers in the world says he may use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine." He said even Putin's threats have a destabilizing effect, and warned of

the potential errors in judgment that could ensue. "The whole point I was making was it could lead to just a horrible outcome," he told CNN. "And not because anybody intends to turn it into a world war or anything, but just once you use a nuclear weapon, the mistakes that can be made, the miscalculations, who knows what would happen." Putin "in fact, cannot continue with impunity to talk about the use of a tactical nuclear weapon as if that's a rational thing to do", Biden said. "The mistakes get made. And the miscalculation could occur, no one can be sure what would happen and could end in Armageddon." The President refused to disclose what a US response would look like should Putin follow through on his nuclear threats. But he said the Department of Defence had proactively developed contingencies should the scenario come to pass. Biden said he believed Putin is a "rational actor" who nonetheless badly misjudged his ability to invade Ukraine and suppress its people.

IMF urges policymakers to keep tight fiscal stance to help fight inflation

Washington | Agencies

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged policymakers to prioritise protecting the vulnerable through targeted support, while keeping a tight fiscal stance to help fight inflation. "Governments confront difficult trade-offs amid sharp increases in food and energy prices," Xinhua news agency quoted Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, as saying in a statement on Wednesday. Policymakers must protect low-income families from large real income losses and ensure their access to food and energy, the blog noted. "But they must also reduce vulnerabilities from large public debts and, in response to high inflation, maintain a tight fiscal stance so that fiscal policy does not work at cross-purposes with monetary policy," the statement continued. Higher prices threaten people's standard of living everywhere, prompting governments to introduce a variety of fiscal measures, including price subsidies, tax cuts, and cash transfers, the median fiscal cost of which is estimated to account for 0.6 per cent of national gross domestic product. Limiting price increases through price controls, subsidies, or tax cuts would be "costly" to budgets and "ultimately ineffective", Gaspar argued. "Facing high debt



levels and rising borrowing costs, policymakers should prioritize targeted support through social safety nets to the most vulnerable people." The statement noted that in a time of high inflation, policies to address high food and energy prices should not add to aggregate demand, noting that demand pressures force central banks to raise interest rates even higher, making it more expensive to service government debt. "A tightening fiscal stance sends a powerful signal that policymakers are aligned in their fight against inflation." Despite the economic slowdown, inflation pressures are proving broader and more persistent than anticipated, according to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report released on Tuesday. Global inflation is now expected to peak at 9.5 per cent this year before decelerating to 4.1 per cent by 2024, the report said.

Ukrainian military responsible for Crimean Bridge blast: Russia

Moscow | Agencies

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has said that the Ukrainian military was responsible for a recent deadly explosion on the Crimean Bridge. "The organizer of the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge was the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, its head Kirill Budanov, employees and agents," the FSB said in a statement on the findings of an investigation into the incident. Xinhua news agency reported. A camouflaged explosive device was hidden in a batch of construction materials, which was shipped from the Ukrainian seaport of Odessa



to the Bulgarian city of Ruse in early August, it said. The cargo was delivered to Georgia and then Armenia before arriving at a wholesale depot in south Russia's Krasnodar region on October 6, according to the FSB. A day later, with the assistance of two Ukrainian citizens and five Russian nationals, the documents on the sender and recipient of the cargo were changed, and the freight was loaded into the truck of a Russian citizen, it added.

Kim Jong-un inspects long-range cruise missile launches

Seoul | Agencies

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the test-firing of long-range strategic cruise missiles involving units operating "tactical nukes" earlier this week aimed at strengthening the country's war deterrence, Pyongyang's state media said on Thursday. On Wednesday, the North fired two long-range strategic cruise missiles that flew for "10,234 seconds along an oval and pattern-8 flight orbits in the sky above the West Sea of Korea and clearly hit the target 2,000 km away", Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report. The launches were conducted in order to further enhance the "combat efficiency and might" of the missiles deployed at the units of the Korean People's Army for the operation of tactical nukes and reconfirm the reliability of



the overall operational application system, Yonhap News Agency quoted the KCNA report as saying. Kim expressed satisfaction over the "high reaction capabilities of our nuclear combat forces which proved again their full preparedness for actual war to bring the enemies under their control at a blow through the unconditional, mobile,

precise and powerful counterstrike by any weapon system", the KCNA said. Kim also urged all efforts for the "endless and accelerating" development of the national nuclear combat armed forces. Meanwhile, South Korea's unification ministry urged the North to immediately cease its provocations and change its approach toward President Yoon Suk-yeol's "audacious initiative" to help rebuild its economy in return for denuclearization steps. North Korea has been ratcheting up tensions on the Korean Peninsula recently, with seven rounds of provocative ballistic missile launches in just two weeks. The KCNA earlier reported that the North conducted an exercise of its tactical nuclear operation units from September 25 to October 9 in response to joint military exercises between South Korea and the US.

Significant rainfall causes flash flooding in Aus state

Canberra | Agencies

Hundreds of incidents, including regional flooding, power outage and road closure, have been reported across the Australian state of Victoria as it was hit by heavy rainfall overnight. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) on Thursday issued major flood warning for several rivers and creeks across the state as a 24 hour rainfall totals of up to 120 mm was expected over elevated terrain in Victoria, reports Xinhua news agency. BOM said flash flooding may also become a risk, including for the Melbourne area on Thursday afternoon and evening. Until Thursday afternoon, the number of incident reports from the state's emergency department had grown to over 500, with flooding and building damage impacting communities the most. Victoria's State Emergency Service (SES) has issued dozens of flood warnings and responded to over 800 requests for assistance in the past 24 hours. About 9,000 homes experienced outage overnight and more than 300 homes were still without power as of Thursday afternoon, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.





PROVIDING WATER TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IS LIKE CREATING HISTORY: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that only fortunate people get the opportunity to create history. Quenching the thirst of the thirsty is virtuous act. People associated with Jal Jeevan Mission have got an opportunity to provide water from tap to every household in the villages of the state.



employees engaged in the construction of water structures at Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Center, Bhopal.

Chief Minister Chouhan interacted with the Public Health Engineering and Jal Nigam officers and employees on the issues related to the construction of water supply schemes as per the mission guideline and guided and encouraged them for completing the work in a quality manner within the

stipulated time frame. Minister of State for Public Health Engineering Brijendra Singh Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary Malay Shrivastava and officers of the department were present.

CM Chouhan inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. After Madhya Pradesh Anthem, Chief Minister Chouhan gave citations to Jal Darpan mobile app prepared for social audit of Jal Jeevan Mission with

a single click. Information about the work done in the mission and geo-tagged photographs will be available on this app. The information will be compiled on the app through door-to-door survey. Chief Minister Chouhan also released the guide for operation and maintenance of tap water schemes. Chief Minister Chouhan gave citations to the officers of the department for doing excellent work.

Scam-tainted Vyapam renamed again within 7 months

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Scam-tainted Vyapam, which was renamed as the Staff Selection Board (SSB) in February this year, will now be called the Madhya Pradesh Employees Selection Board (MP-ESB). The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government has renamed the board twice within a span of seven months, while it is the third time that Vyapam has been renamed since the multi-crore scam broke in 2013.

The state government first rechristened it as the Professional Examination Board (PEB) in 2015. In February this year it was renamed as the Karmchaari Chayan or Staff Selection Board (SSB). Sources claimed that it was renamed after approval from the state cabinet in a bid to repair at least some of the damage to its reputation.

The opposition Congress said the Bharatiya Janata Party government is making all out efforts to hide its sins through changing Vyapam's name again and again. However, their efforts will



not work and the Chouhan government will have to face the allegations as it has not only destroyed thousands of youth's careers but several innocent people have been killed. "By changing the name of Vyapam for the third time the sins of this institution, which has become a monument to corruption, cannot be forgotten nor can the nexus of politicians, officers and education mafia involved in it," said K. K. Mishra, head of the media cell of the Madhya Pradesh Congress, who had earlier accused Shivraj's OSD Markam Singh of involvement in the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) paper leak. The TET was executed

by the same department but with a changed name.

The Vyapam scam was an entrance examination, admission and recruitment scam. It was functional since the 1990s and was finally unearthed in 2013. It first rocked the government when it surfaced that candidates bribed officials to use imposters to take exams on their behalf.

Apart from all the entrance examinations held for state employees, Vyapam has been conducting the recruitment of class III and IV employees as well. Vyapam also used to conduct only Pre-Medical Test and Pre-Engineering Test till 2004.

5 members of MP involved in Bharat Jodo Yatra will donate eyes

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bharat Jodo Yatra is being taken out under the leadership of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in which 33 members have filled the pledge letter for eye donation in Mysore, including five members from Madhya Pradesh. In the information provided by the Congress, it has been told that 33 passengers of India Jodo Yatra have pledged to donate their eyes. These passengers have pledged to donate their eyes to JSS Hospital, Mysore. Of these, maximum five members are from Madhya Pradesh.



It has been told that among those who have pledged to donate eyes include Sangeeta Kankaria,

Paresh Nagar, Avinash Gupta, Ajay Patel, Avni Bansal of Madhya Pradesh who have pledged to donate eyes.

Kamal Nath asks party cadre to gear up for assembly polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress Chief Kamal Nath has asked the party workers and leaders to gear up for upcoming assembly elections which are scheduled in November-December 2023.

The former Chief Minister made the remarks while addressing the gathering of party leaders who won panchayat and municipal elections two months back.

Nath said that the municipal elections were just a rehearsal ahead of the assembly polls. He said that not much time has left for the elections, and thus all party leaders and workers should tighten their shoelaces now.

"...the real test is coming now and you have to work with double energy. It's time to meet the people, and convince them of Congress's ideology. People are fed up with the false propaganda of the BJP and they want change in Madhya Pradesh," Nath added.



Meanwhile, Nath also accused the BJP of using money and administrative power during the urban and panchayat elections. Police and administrative officials were forced to work for the ruling party. "We are preparing a list of such officials who have worked for the BJP. I ask you too to find out the officials who are working

as political agents. We are going to form the government in 2023 and then will teach them a lesson," he added. Delhi-based Congress politician Jai Prakash Agarwal, who has recently taken charge as in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, slammed the BJP for mocking Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

"BJP leaders can't understand the meaning of 'Bharat Jodo'. They (BJP) are doing all these things because they have realised that Rahul Gandhi is going to be a bigger challenge after this 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'," Agarwal said while addressing the gathering. Notably, the Congress has won five mayoral posts in municipal elections, including Gwalior and Morena, the region which is considered the strong bastion of two Union Ministers - Jyotiraditya Scindia and Narendra Singh Tomar.

Demand for bribe in housing scheme in Rewa, services of 12 village employment assistants terminated

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, a demand for bribe has been revealed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Referring to the complaints received to the CM Helpline, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has removed 12 employment assistants from service, while deducting the salary of three hundred employment assistants. Chief Minister Chouhan while reviewing Rewa district said that there is a zero tolerance policy in the matter of corruption. Those who eat the money of the poor do not have the right to be in government service. They should be removed from service. It is the responsibility of the officers to keep an eye on the misuse of the amount of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Along with this, the Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over the construction of the approved houses of the first phase not being completed yet. He said that FIR should be lodged against the employees demanding unreasonable amount under the scheme. It was informed that 696 complaints have been received by the CM



Helpline regarding the demand of unreasonable amount. 14 village employment assistants of the district have been separated from the post and one week weight of 300 employment assistants has been deducted. Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated

the district magistrates for the achievement of Kilkari Abhiyan, CM helpline and better work in cleanliness, started in Rewa district for high risk pregnant women. Under the Kilkari Abhiyan, specially developed software is being used to register high risk preg-

nant mothers and provide them with necessary health check-ups and timely advice.

Chief Minister Chouhan obtained information about the situation from the collector after giving domestic tap connections to only 32 percent of the families under Jal Jeevan Mission. It was informed that due to poor quality of work, a penalty of Rs. 9 lakh has been imposed on the concerned contractor.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that no stone should be left unturned in demolishing those who run drug activities. 202 cases have been made in the anti-drug campaign in the district. 160 cases of drinking alcohol in public places have been registered and a hookah bar has been closed. 10 FIRs and 2 black marketing cases have been registered on irregularities in ration distribution. Also 4 vendors have been disconnected from the service.

Chief Minister Chouhan directed to suspend a sub engineer who gave fake electricity connection in Hanumana area of Rewa. He also expressed displeasure over receiving 10 thousand 416 complaints related to

CM Chouhan plants Badam, Banyan and Karanj saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, senior journalist Mrigendra Singh planted a sapling on his birthday in Smart City Garden. The volunteers of the National Service Scheme, Betul also planted saplings. Social worker and President of Gitanjali Group Umashankar Tripathi planted saplings on his birthday. Chief Minister Chouhan planted Badam,

Banyan and Karanj saplings. Volunteers of National Service Scheme Betul, Sarvshri Lalit Taywade, Amardeep Bhalekar, Sanjay Kalme, Mohan Rajput, Rajendra Singh Baghel, Roshan Nigam, Vikas Chowkikar and Manish Kose also participated in the plantation. Volunteers are motivating people by planting saplings. The message is being given especially to the youth to plant saplings and not to use single use plastic.

Centre approves tender for ropeway connecting Ujjain rly stn with Mahakal temple

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Central government on Thursday approved the tender for a 2-km long ropeway from Ujjain railway station to Mahakal temple in Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 209 crore.

Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that the distance from Ujjain railway station to Mahakal temple will be covered in 5 minutes with the ropeway project.

"Its construction work will start from July 2023. Food zone, waiting room, toilets as well as bus and car parking facilities will be available for the people in the ropeway station," added the Minister.

Earlier, the Madhya

Pradesh government announced that a ropeway will be built from the Ujjain railway station to the Mahakaleshwar Temple so that pilgrims coming from other parts of the Country could reach the Temple conveniently. Thereafter, last week, National Highway Logistics Management Limited invited tenders for the project.

"Mahakal Lok" will be open for devotees from 6 am to 11 pm

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has informed that Shri Mahakal Lok, located in Ujjain, will remain open for devotees from 6 am till Shayan Aarti of Shri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga i.e. till 11 am. Entry to Shri Mahakal Lok will be given till 10 pm.

Important dimensions will be added in the development of Gwalior-Chambal region - CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that on October 16, important dimensions will be added in the development of Gwalior-Chambal region. Union Home and Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah is coming for Bhumi-Poojan of various development works, dedication and to benefit the beneficiaries. He said that all necessary arrangements should be made to complete all the programmes systematically.

Chief Minister Chouhan was receiving information about the preparations for the 16 October programmes of the Union Home Minister through video conference from his residence today. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia along with ministers of Madhya Pradesh joined virtually. CM Chouhan said that this programme will be grand and historic. CM Chouhan said that earlier also discussions have been held with the commissioners of Gwalior and Chambal divisions and the collectors of the districts of both



the divisions regarding the preparations. Necessary instructions have been given. The presence of the general public in the programmes and the role of public representatives have been discussed. All necessary arrangements are being made. This effort should be made that there is no shortfall in the arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan gave instructions to the officers regarding the welcome of the guests on their arrival, the presence of public representatives, inviting the general public respectfully, seating arrangement for each invitee, photo exhibition focused on achievements, announcement, publicity through social media, necessary arrangements for the beneficiaries, control room

arrangement at district, janpad and urban body level, digital system for dedication- foundation stone laying of the programmes and other arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan also discussed with the Union Ministers in a video conference. Regarding the visit of Union Home Minister Shah to Gwalior, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Tomar said that the arrival of the Union Home Minister will bring many gifts to Gwalior region. CM Chouhan has got the outline of the programmes prepared by giving detailed instructions. This programme will be memorable for the general public. The Union Civil Aviation Minister Scindia said that the local administration is working in coordination for the

Bhumi-Poojan and other works of the new terminal building of Gwalior Airport. Surely the programmes will be better and organised. MP Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput, Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar and Minister of State for Horticulture and Food Processing (Independent Charge), Narmada Valley Bharat Singh Kushwaha also joined the video conference. Chief Minister Chouhan received information from the administrative officers about the preparations for all the programmes of the Union Home Minister Shah to be held in Gwalior on October 16 through video conference. The scheduled programmes include the laying of the foundation stone of the new terminal building of Gwalior Airport in the afternoon, the public meeting at the Mela Ground on Race Course Road, the Grih Pravesh of the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (both urban and rural) and laying the foundation stones of the Nal-Jal schemes. It is noteworthy that the Union Home Minister Shah will launch the Hindi course of medical education at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal before the programme of Gwalior.



DWAYNE JOHNSON RECOLLECTS FIRST TIME HE READ BLACK ADAM COMICS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson, who is gearing up for the release of his superhero movie 'Black Adam', recollected his first rendezvous with the eponymous anti-hero. The Rock as he is colloquially known as, spoke to 'Variety' about what it was like for him to see Black Adam for the first time in the world of comics. He said, "As a little boy, I grew up loving the Super Friends, specifically Superman. I saw my first Black Adam comic and it was arresting to me. His face was intense."

"He looked cool, looked different, badass and had brown skin. So automatically I was relating to him. I am DC through and through", he added.

According to 'Variety', while 'Black Adam' places Johnson's antihero in a packed ensemble that includes characters like Pierce Brosnan's Doctor Fate and Aldis Hodge's Hawkman, the star's vision for which superheroes could appear alongside his character extends far beyond his upcoming film, and even the larger DC universe.

When asked about the potential for a DC-Marvel crossover event, Johnson stated that it would only be a matter of meeting fan demand.

"Well, I'm always optimistic. I'd like to think that we would see that. My philosophy is anything can get done. Let's start with the end goal. And if the end goal is to have some sort of crossover that can be compelling, smart, cool for the fans," Johnson said, quoted by 'Variety'.

"Let's get a temperature gauge if they'd like to see something like that. And then if they do, then let's create it. I operate my businesses like that. I truly believe that anything can happen. Anything can happen with the right people and place, and the right leadership, having the right conversations", he concluded.



Paris Hilton was 'sexually abused during medical examinations' at boarding school

Los Angeles | Agencies

Socialite Paris Hilton says she was "sexually abused during medical examinations" at boarding school and "didn't understand" what was happening to her.

The 41-year-old heiress, who first opened up about being "abused mentally, emotionally and physically" at the Provo Canyon School in Utah during her teenage years in 2020, has now alleged the school would "perform cervical exams" routinely on the students and didn't understand what was happening during the "very scary" ordeal, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She said: "Very late at night, this would be around like three or four in the morning, they would take myself and other girls into this room and they would perform medical exams. This wasn't even with a doctor. It was with a couple of different staff members, where they would have us lay on the table and put their fingers inside of us." And I don't know what they were doing, but it was definitely not a doctor and it was really scary. It was really scary, and it's something that I really had blocked out for many years." The 'This is Paris' star, who tied the knot with entrepreneur Carter Reum in February 2021 - added that memories of the alleged abuse she suffered "come back all the time" and has now realised the nature of the ordeal definitely had a "sexual" element to it.

She told The New York Times: "But it's coming back all the time now, and I think about it. And now, looking back as an adult, that was definitely sexual abuse."



Lucy Liu to star opposite Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans in 'Red One'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Primetime Emmy nominee Lucy Liu has boarded four-quadrant action-adventure holiday comedy 'Red One' starring Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans, and Kiernan Shipka.

The movie which reteams Johnson with his Jumanji franchise director Jake Kasdan has a plot that's under wraps, reports 'Deadline'.

But the project is billed as a globe-trotting, four-quadrant action-adventure comedy imagining a whole new universe to explore within the holiday genre.

The project, which Prime Video won in a bidding war and was developed of an original story by Seven Bucks President of Production, Hiram Garcia, will stretch across multiple industries and businesses in the Amazon fold. Chris Morgan wrote the script. Kasdan, Melvin Mar via the Detective Agency, Morgan via Chris Morgan Productions; Hiram Garcia, Dany Garcia and Johnson through their Seven Bucks are producing. Sky Salem Robinson via The Detective Agency is co-producing.

'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' and 'Jumanji: The Next Level' grossed \$1.7 billion worldwide. Morgan has also been a frequent collaborator with Seven Bucks Productions on titles such as 'Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw', 'The Fate of the Furious', 'Furious 7', 'Fast & Furious 6', and 'Fast Five'.

VIN DIESEL DETHRONES PRINCE WILLIAM AS 2022 WORLD'S HOTTEST BALD MAN

Los Angeles | Agencies



Duke of Cambridge Prince William has been defeated by Hollywood star Vin Diesel for the title of 2022 World's Hottest Bald Man. According to a study carried out by SEO agency Reboot, the Dominic Toretto in the 'Fast & Furious' film franchise claimed the honour for 2022 with a score of 6.46 out of 10.

Different aspects such as facial Golden Ratio, Twitter sentiment analysis, net worth and height are considered in the study, reports aceshowbiz.com. The study also looked at the cranial shine factor for each heartthrob. These aspects were then used to create an index score out of 10. The study shows that Diesel's head is rather shiny, with a cranial luminance of 563.65 candelas per square meter, which means his head reflects light with 70.46 per cent of the luminous intensity of a standard light bulb. The 55-year-old actor is also slightly taller than the average male, at 5-foot-9. Prince William, who previously won the title two times in-a-row, dropped to No. 5 this year with a score of 6.13.

Ellie Goulding, Mel C and Strictly's John Whaite and Johannes Radebe scoop gongs at star-studded ceremony

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ellie Goulding led the stars scooping accolades at the Attitude Awards 2022 held at the Camden Roundhouse in London on Wednesday evening. The singer, 36, scooped the Ally award on the night while Mel C and Strictly's John Whaite and Johannes Radebe were also honoured.

The Attitude Awards showcase the very best of the global LGBTQ+ community and give a platform to role models while supporting the Attitude Magazine Foundation, which raises money for LGBT+ causes, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Spice Girls legend Melanie C scooped the Honorary Gay award presented by Rylan while John Whaite and Johannes Radebe, received the Gamechanger Award for their same-sex pairing on Strictly Come Dancing last year, and were presented the gong by H from Steps. The Icon Award went to Skin, presented by Dame Kelly Holmes while the Broadcast Award was won by Robert Rinder, presented by Owain Wyn Evans. Cat Burns scooped the Music Award, presented by Lady Phyll, while the Television Award went to Netflix series Heartstopper, presented by Rosie Jones.

Attitude Awards 2022 WINNERS



JOHNNY DEPP SHAVES OFF BEARD, LOOKS ALMOST UNRECOGNISABLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

It seems like Edwards Scissorhands put his hands to good use as Hollywood star Johnny Depp's latest look sans beard has caught the attention of his fans on the Internet.

The actor looks almost unrecognisable after shaving off his famous beard, reports Mirror.co.uk.

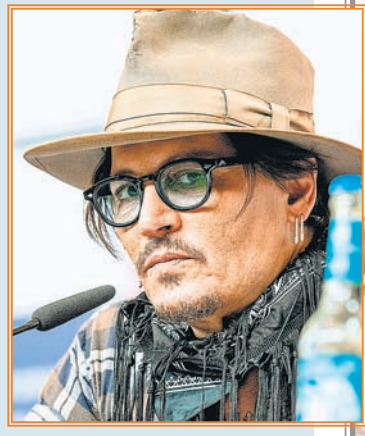
The actor, 59, unveiled his brand-new clean-shaven look while on tour with his friend and award-winning musician Jeff Beck, after the pair played a show in New York City.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor looked noticeably different from his appearances in the courtroom months ago amid his defamation case against ex-wife Amber Heard.

Johnny is now sporting a clean-shaven look - after famously rocking his signature moustache and facial hair for decades.

According to Mirror.co.uk, following his latest show in New York City, Johnny was seen wearing a blue striped baker boy hat and large blue tinted sunglasses, which covered most of his face.

As fans waited outside to greet the Hollywood star, they could have been forgiven for mistaking the famous actor for someone else due to the drastic change in appearance.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Juliana Nalu

Saiyami runs, cycles to and from sets

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Saiyami Kher is ensuring to catch up on her workout amid her busy shooting schedule by taking up running and cycling while commuting to shoots. The actress, who made her debut with the 2016 film 'Mirzya', has always been active in sports, and gives utmost importance to discipline.

Elaborating on her fitness method, the actress said that her workout routine not just keeps her physically fit but also mentally sound: "I don't like to treat my workouts like a difficult task. The moment I do that, I start thinking of excuses. I love working out, not just for my physical health, but also for my mental health."

However, she also has days when she feels lazy but she has a perfect trick up her sleeve to get back on the path of motivation: "Even though I have days when I am lazy, I remind myself of the sense of achievement when I get over that feeling. Moreover, since school I have been into sports. So having physical activity included in my daily routine is like a lifestyle that I have opted for."

Interestingly, the actress has played cricket at school level for Maharashtra and made it to the National team selection, but instead, opted for badminton state championships

Saiyami added: "I try to either cycle or run back from location. Not only does it save traffic time but also helps me unwind. I have also bought a really nice treadmill and a cycle trainer in my house so it's very convenient even if I have strange hours at work I can train at home at any time. I train myself along with some friends who are very involved in fitness."

On the work front, the actress has started working on Anurag Kashyap's project opposite Gulshan Devaiah. She is also teaming with Pratik Gandhi for Rahul Dholakia's 'Agni'.

Additionally, she will soon be seen in the third season of the streaming show, 'Breathe Into the Shadow', and 'Ghoomer', both opposite Abhishek Bachchan.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shruti Haasan, who is busy with her film 'Salaar', recently admitted to having done a nose job. The actress shared that she had a broken nose and getting to fix her nose is her right. She said that after doing her first film with the old nose, she chose to do the surgery. While

Shruti Haasan got her broken nose fixed after first film

talking to 'Hauterfly' magazine, the actress said, "I did get my nose fixed and it was very obvious I got my nose fixed. My nose was broken and quite different from before and I did my first film with my old nose."

She also revealed how people taunted her by saying that she was using deviated septum as an excuse to fix her nose.

She further mentioned, "And people are like she's just using the deviated septum excuse. No, I did have a deviated septum, it hurt. But if I could make it prettier, it's my face, why wouldn't I? It was that simple."

In addition, she also spoke about getting fillers and said that it is her body and those who want to do something to it or don't want to do something, it is their choice just like it was hers.



Shankar Mahadevan was shy to perform on stage as a child

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan has composed music for a number of films including 'Dillagi', 'Dil Chahta Hai', 'Bunty Aur Babli', 'Taare Zameen Par', '2 States'. He is also seen judging a number of singing reality shows and currently he is among the panel of judges on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs', bet told how as a kid, he was shy to perform in front of an audience.

"When I was 3 or 4 years old, I used to feel very shy performing in front of an audience," he said.

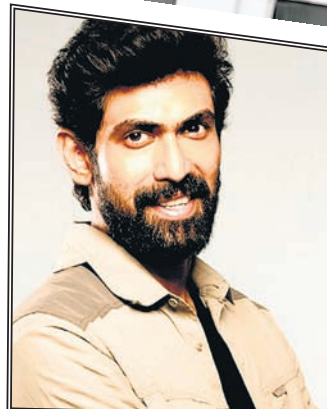
After looking at the performance of 9-year-old 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' contestant Jetshen Lama on the song 'Udi Teri Aankhon Se' from Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan-starrer 'Guzaarish', he compared her voice with popular singer Sunidhi Chauhan: "However, seeing kids like Jetshen get past their



shyness and perform with aplomb is a treat and inspires us every day. I will show your 'Udi' performance to Sunidhi Chauhan."

The young talents in the age group of 3 to 13 years are judged by Shankar Mahadevan, Anu Malik, and Neeti Mohan.

'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' airs on Zee TV.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Telugu star Rana Daggubati, will be hosting the second episode of the docu-series 'The Journey of India'. The actor shared that India's progress with regards to sustainability is commendable and is

because of collective efforts of individuals at all levels. During the course of the episode, Rana will be seen alongside pioneer wildlife conservationist Latika Nath, and the two will highlight the grit, determination, and never-say-die spirit of individuals and communities of the country, who strive against all odds in their efforts to restore the right balance with nature. Addressing the second episode of the series, Rana said, "The Journey of India' demonstrates the rich fruits of India's collective hard work and sheer willpower. Our progress toward sustainability and becoming more conscious as a nation is commendable; there is so much to being an Indian that one can never be too proud."

India's natural wealth is deeply ingrained in its cultural roots, from ancient species to sublime flora and fauna. In the upcoming episode of 'The Journey of India,' the narrator of the series, Amitabh Bachchan, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, will introduce the viewers to the country's history of coexisting with nature, its roots in tradition, and its evolution over 75 years of independence.

India's progress towards sustainability is commendable: Rana Daggubati

Ayushmann following Kishore Da's song for his upcoming

Mumbai: If you are thinking about the reason for Ayushmann Khurrana's excellence and successful streak, then hear it straight from the horse's mouth: he idolises one of the most proficient artistes of Indian cinema - singer-actor-composer Kishore Kumar. And that's what reflects in Ayushmann's work as well be it his acting prowess or the musical talent that he possesses. Talking about the same, Ayushmann said: "Kishore Kumar was multi-talented and as an artist, I draw inspiration from him at every juncture. He has been my guru and his work inspires me to push boundaries and explore uncharted territories." He also revealed that he has been listening to Kishore Da's most revered track 'Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe' from the film 'Half Ticket', while shooting for the sequel of his successful movie 'Dream Girl'. Kishore Kumar had lent both the male and female voices for this song and it went on to become a massive hit. Ayushmann noted: "I have been listening to Kishore Da's wonderful track Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe on loop since I have been shooting for Dream Girl 2. His voice is magical and he has effortlessly rendered both male and female voices for this song. It has helped me with massive inspiration."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sameera Bhatia

The world isn't ready to decode Parineeti's Code name Tiranga



FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Director: Ribhu Dasgupta
Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Harry Sandhu and Sharad Kelkar
Runtime: 2 hours 17 minutes
Rating: 2/5 (two stars)

Synopsis: 'Code Name: Tiranga' is an espionage action thriller about a spy on an unwavering and fearless mission for her country in a race against time where sacrifice is her only option.

Review: The film begins with an introduction to the characters and quickly establishes a plot in which the two have fallen in love, followed by action scenes.

Despite the fact that the film contains an action-packed segment in which the agent Durga fights for her country and sacrifices herself in the process, things were really all over the place.

The film lacks everything that makes a film successful. There is nothing wrong with saying that this film offers nothing new that distinguishes it from any other film depicting 'Desh-bhakti'. The film attempted to maintain suspense but failed miserably to make it engaging.

When it comes to the cast's performance, Parineeti literally does not act in the entire



film. Playing an agent necessitates a certain amount of stiffness, which Parineeti sadly lacks. It is not incorrect to say that she was a poor fit for the film.

When it comes to Harry Sandhu, there is no explanation that can make us understand his presence. The writers attempted to make him the main character as well as Durga's love interest, but his presence only added to

the misery. The fact that a good talent like Sharad Kelkar said yes to the film is a slap in the face, even though he did his part nicely. It is clear that the actors tried but the film is simply just terrible, from the plot to the casting.

It is amusing to see RAW carrying out a mission for India with the code name being 'Tiranga' as if it is too difficult to crack.



With multiple unwanted pans throughout the film, you often lost focus of the scene. So really, there wasn't much to look at even when we talk about the technical aspects. The songs were there to fill time and had nothing to do with the story.

Overall, the film fails to achieve the desired level of momentum. In fact, the film is unwatchable.