

UP: CHAOS AT RAILWAY, BUS STATIONS AS LAKHS OF PET APPLICANTS WAIT FOR TRANSPORT

Stampede of Unemployment

Team Absolute | Lucknowi

Inadequate transport arrangements for those appearing in the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission's Preliminary Eligibility Test (PET) led to widespread chaos at railway and bus stations on Saturday night. The candidates could not get buses and trains to return to their homes and majority of them spent the night on the roads. More than 35 lakh candidates from across the state had registered for the two-day exams that concluded on Sunday. Social media is filled with visuals showing platforms packed with candidates desperately trying to board trains. Bus stands were also jam-packed with students trying to find a place inside the buses. Some could be seen hanging from the windows. Similar visuals were taken by journalists at Hapur railway station where some candidates were filmed making a dash for trains already in motion. "Why were exam centres allotted so far away? And if that was the case, why weren't adequate arrangements made," the angry students asked. More than 6.29 lakh candidates -- nearly 34 per cent of the total -- skipped the PET written exam, which was held over two days -- Saturday and Sunday -- and the rea-



son mainly was inadequate transport facilities to reach the examination centres. UP Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh spoke to the candidates at Bareilly bus stand on Sunday and promised to provide enough buses once the exams conclude on Sunday evening. Several opposition leaders have tweeted videos and photos, saying that the UP government is responsible for the chaos and the hardships faced by the candidates. The government, meanwhile, has claimed that many of the videos circulating on social media and being tweeted by opposition leaders were fake and that extra trains and buses



are being arranged for the examinees. PET is a qualifying exam where a score enables a candidate to appear in future recruitment exams for Group C government jobs in the state.

Google Meet calls can now be transcribed into text



SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Tech giant Google has announced that Meet calls can now be transcribed into text, and users can further save them in a Google Doc format. According to Android Central, the saved file can be accessed from Google Drive. Google Meet is one of the most popular apps, especially after replacing the Google Duo app for iOS and Android devices. However, Google has stated the new feature that can be accessed in Google Meet for desktop or laptop clients and is available only for the English language. Google said the transcribed file can be stored in the same "Meeting Recordings" folder of the Google Meet app from the accompanying Google Drive storage. Before joining the Google Meet call, attendees will be notified that the call is tran-

scribed. These transcripts are intended to capture the meeting's discussion, serves as a record, and is helpful as a follow-up to attendees or host if they want to recall a particular segment or point in the whole discussion. Another nifty feature is that the "transcript will automatically be attached to the associated calendar invite for the meeting". And for meetings involving more than 200 attendees, the transcribed file will be shared with meeting organisers, hosts, co-hosts, and individual users who initiated a transcription. The new feature is expected to roll out starting October 24. It will be available to Google Workspace Business Standard, Business Plus, Enterprise Starter, Enterprise Standard, Enterprise Plus, Education Plus, and the Teaching and Learning Upgrade customers.

Python found on school bus in UP's Raebareli



Team Absolute | Rae Bareli

A huge python was found inside a parked school bus in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli on Sunday. According to reports, the python was hiding under the seat of the bus of Ryan Public School, parked at the stands. Circle Officer (CO) City Vandana Singh and City Magistrate Pallavi Mishra reached the spot after getting the information and called the Forest Department team to the spot and got the python rescued. The video of python getting rescued by Forest Department officials has gone viral on social media. In the video, an official can be seen pulling the python from the bottom of the

school bus. According to Forest Department officials, the weight of the python is about 80 kg and its length is 11 and a half feet. After the rescue operation that lasted for about an hour, the python was somehow brought under control and was safely released in the forest of Dalmau. Fortunately, the school was closed as it was a Sunday, so there was no loss of life. Sources said the school bus was parked in the driver's village. Some goats were running next to the bus and the snake was probably attracted by them. However, the locals raised a hue and cry when they spotted the serpent. The snake then slithered into the bus to hide.

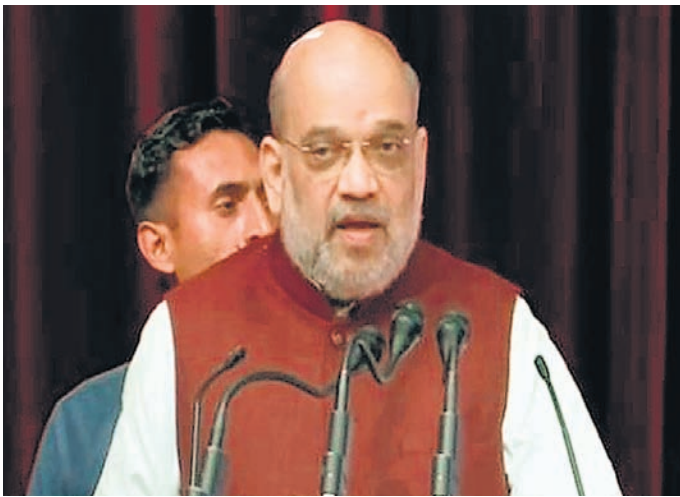
RAMDEV ALLEGES BOLLYWOOD STARS TAKE DRUGS

Moradabad: Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev has alleged that top Bollywood actors consume drugs. Video clips of his statements are now going viral on social media. Baba Ramdev was speaking in the Aryaveer and Veerangana conference in Moradabad on Saturday, when he said, "Salman Khan takes drugs, I do not know about Aamir Khan. Shah Rukh Khan's child was caught while taking drugs and remained in jail. As far as actresses are concerned, God alone knows about them." He further said, "There are drugs all around the film industry, there are drugs in politics too. Liquor is distributed during elections. We should take a resolution that India must be free from every drug addiction. For this we will launch a movement."

Amit Shah calls Chintan Shivir of all Home Ministers, invites Mamata

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has called a Chintan Shivir of Home Ministers of all the states on October 27-28 at Surajkund, Haryana. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Rajasthan counterpart Ashok Gehlot have also been invited to join the meeting. Banerjee and Gehlot also hold the Home portfolio in their respective states. However, Banerjee's presence in the meeting has not been confirmed yet, sources said. The two-day brain storming session has been convened to discuss the issues and problems related to internal security. The MHA believes that some problems related to internal security can be eliminated on the basis of mutual coordination among the



states. Apart from this, issues related to policing, public security, fire fighting etc. in the states will also be discussed. According to sources, along with the Home Ministers, the Home Secretary and Director General of Police of all the states will also take part in the meeting. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will reportedly stay in Surajkund for both the days.

HC GRANTS BAIL TO RAPE ACCUSED ON CONDITION OF MARRYING VICTIM

LUCKNOW | Agencies

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has granted bail to a rape accused booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on condition that he will marry the girl within 15 days of release, and will also give all rights to her and her child, born after the alleged rape, as wife and daughter respectively. The court also ordered the accused to get the marriage registered within a month from the date of marriage. The child is around one month old. The incident took place in Lakhimpur Kheri district in March this year. The accused has been in jail since April 10, 2022. A single judge bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh observed, "Soon after the accused applicant comes out of jail on bail, he will perform the marriage within 15 days from the date of release with the prosecutrix (victim)." The court took into consideration the stand of the girl and her father in the court that they had no objection if the accused was granted bail provided, he married the victim. The accused was booked under several sections of the IPC and POCSO Act on the charges that he had allured the girl to elope with him in March 2022 when the girl was just 17-years-old. The accused allured the girl on the intervening night of March 22-23, 2022. Thereafter, she gave birth to a girl child.



KASHMIRI PANDIT KILLED IN VALLEY, CREMATED IN JAMMU

Jammu: Puran Krishan Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit killed by terrorists in the Valley, was cremated in Jammu on Sunday. Bhat's body was brought to his Jammu residence from the Chaudrigund village of Shopian district Saturday evening. He was shot and killed by the terrorists outside his home in Chaudrigund village Saturday morning. Bhat's assassination triggered protests from Kashmiri Pandits serving under the Prime Minister's package in the Valley who reiterated their demand to be relocated to Jammu division. Dozens of people, including Kashmiri Pandits and others participated in the last rites of Bhat.

Four Cong workers suffer electric shock during Bharat Jodo Yatra

Bengaluru | Agencies

Four Congress workers in Karnataka were hospitalised on Sunday after they suffered electric shock during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Ballari. The mishap occurred when they were tying flags to a pole. The injured workers were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Ballari where they are undergoing treatment. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the injured party workers at the hospital and took stock of their condition. "I am happy to see that they have not suffered any major injuries, and their morale continues to



remain high," Rahul Gandhi wrote on his Facebook page. AICC General Secretary and the party's Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala said that all the four persons are out of danger and the Congress has announced a compensation of Rs one lakh for each of them. Rahul Gandhi also advised party workers involved in the Bharat Jodo Yatra to take safety precautions while going about their duties.

Andhra Ministers' Cars Attacked By Actor Pawan Kalyan's Supporters

Vishakapatnam | Agencies

Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) leader R K Roja's car was attacked yesterday outside Vishakhapatnam airport, reportedly by the supporters of actor and politician Pawan Kalyan. Vehicles of other leaders - Jogi Ramesh and TTD chairperson Y V Subba Reddy - were also reportedly attacked. Roja, who is the Industrial Development Corporation Chairperson, was returning in Vizag to attend a rally in support of the three-capital plan proposed by Chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. Roja's driver suffered a head injury in the attack and was taken to hospital for treatment. The police have said they will scan airport CCTV footage to find out who carried out the attack. Jana Sena activists and supporters of Pawan Kalyan had gathered at the



airport to welcome their leader. They were reportedly angry over verbal attacks by state ministers and YSRCP leaders on Kalyan. The Visakhapatnam police said they have served a notice on Pawan

Kalyan, they said they have prevented Kalyan from going out of his hotel room. In a massive show of strength, thousands gathered in Visakhapatnam yesterday in support of making Vizag the executive capital

of Andhra Pradesh. Despite heavy rains, rally organisers Uttarandhra Joint Action Committee (JAC) managed to get massive crowds, backed by the ruling establishment. After YS Jaganmohan Reddy came to power in 2019, he proposed decentralisation and a three-capital plan, with Visakhapatnam as the administrative and executive capital, with the Secretariat and seat of power in the coastal city. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh's first Chief Minister after the erstwhile state was bifurcated, had proposed to build a new capital at Amaravati (in between Vijayawada and Guntur), for the state carved out after Telangana became a separate entity. The situation in the port city of Visakhapatnam remained tense for a second day on Sunday as the police barred Jana Sena Party (JSP) leader and actor Pawan Kalyan from holding meetings or rallies.

GUJARAT: KEJRIWAL PROMISES TO WITHDRAW CASES AGAINST AGITATORS IF AAP COMES TO POWER

Bhavnagar | Agencies

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressing a public gathering in Gujarat's Bhavnagar has promised to withdraw cases against various movement leaders, within fifteen days of formation of the AAP government in the state.

He also promised the government employees union that the AAP will restore the services of those employees who were "punished in form of transfer, or suspension".

Kejriwal said, "Now people are looking for a new engine to run government, they are no more interested in double



engine government, as it is claimed by the BJP."

He urged the people to give one chance to AAP,

adding that if people would not be satisfied with the AAP's governance in the state, he will not come to seek votes for his party next time.

Kejriwal further said that according to intelligence report, "AAP is forming government in the state after election, but with a very thin margin, that is, 92 or 93 seats".

"If the party comes to power with just 92-93 seats, these people will lure AAP MLAs and stop AAP from forming the government, these are very cunning people," he said, adding that he wants a "thumping" majority and a "strong" government.

ACCUSED IN J&K DG PRISONS' MURDER CASE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BEFORE ARREST

Jammu: The domestic help accused of killing Hemant Lohia, J&K DG (Prisons), attempted suicide before arrest, officials said on Sunday.

Officials said that Yasir Ahmad Lohar of Ramban district, who is accused of killing Hemant Lohia, J&K DG (Prisons) on October 3, tried to commit suicide before he was arrested after killing the officer. A team of investigators and psychologists interrogated the accused to find out his mental condition.

"A torn belt was found hanging from the ceiling of the room where the accused killed the officer. The accused has said that after killing the officer with a ketchup bottle, he had tried to commit suicide," officials said.

BHARAT JODO YATRA 'MORNING/EVENING WALK' FOR RAHUL GANDHI: ARUN SINGH

Bengaluru | Agencies

BJP General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh said on Sunday that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is nothing more than Rahul Gandhi's 'morning and evening walk', which is being used to attack the ruling BJP in Karnataka.

Speaking to the media in Hubballi, the senior BJP leader said that instead of uniting India, the Yatra is more about uniting Karnataka Congress leaders D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah.

Singh also shot down Congress' '40 per cent commission' campaign against the BJP government in Karnataka as a political stunt.

"Let them complain to the Lokayukta if they have any evidence of corruption," he said.

Complimenting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's government for its pro-people approach to development,



Singh said that the state had witnessed teacher recruitment scam, killing of Hindus, and the rise of the PFI during Congress rule.

He also said the BJP would fight the 2023 Assembly polls in Karnataka on the development issue and the benefits of a double-engine 'sarkar' at the Centre and in the state.

Three injured in Gurugram firecrackers explosion succumb

Gurugram | Agencies

Three persons of the same family succumbed to their injuries on Sunday, days after they got injured in firecrackers explosion in their house in Gurugram.

The victims succumbed to their injuries during treatment at Safdarjung hospital in Delhi, while the condition of three others is still critical.

Six persons were injured in the explosion in a house located in Nakhrola village on October 12.

The explosion took place in the house of a person named Jai Bhagwan at Kherki Daula police station, where firecrackers were illegally stored in huge quantity.

The deceased were identi-



fied as Jai Bhagwan (48), his son Manish (17) and daughter Chavi (11). All the victims were undergoing treatment at Safdarjung hospital since October 12. The other three victims Satish Kumar (45) and his relative and Tanuj (10) are still critical.

The explosion was so intense that roof and walls of the house blew off following which the victims got

trapped, while cracks appeared in more than two adjoining houses.

Fire personnel, police and forensic teams and Civil Defence personnel rushed to the site and rescued the victims. The victims were rushed to the Gurugram civil hospital from where they were referred to Safdarjung hospital for further treatment.

Kerala human sacrifice case: Key accused convinced others that victims' flesh could be sold

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

The first accused in the Kerala human sacrifice case, Mohammed Shafi convinced the second accused Bhagaval Singh and his wife Laila that the flesh of the victims could be sold to some people who eat human flesh.

According to sources in the investigation team, the accused had told the second accused and third accused that "some people who do certain pooja eat human flesh and that the demand is very high for it". He had also told them that 10 kg of the flesh be stored in the freezer and that the buyer would reach the home.

Investigating officers have said that Shafi told Bhagval and Laila that Rs 20 lakh could be earned on the sale of the victims' flesh.

He, according to police, also had taken an amount of Rs 6 lakh from the couple. The police have said that Shafi had borrowed around Rs 6 lakh from Bhagval and Laila and when the couple was putting pressure on him, he suggested



the idea of human sacrifice for prosperity.

Two women Roslyn and Padma were brutally murdered as part of a human sacrifice ritual at Elanthoor in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.

The news came to the fore on October 11, during an investigation of case relating to missing of a Tamil woman, Padma, whose sister Palaniamm complained that she was missing from home since September 26.

The Ernakulam police during the probe found that the missing woman was in touch with Shafi.

On further investigation, Shafi spilled the beans and told the investigation team of the twin murders. He told the team that another woman, Roslyn was murdered in the name of human sacrifice at Elanthoor home on June 8. The family of Roslyn had registered a complaint with the police a few days after her disappearance.

Shafi, Bhagaval, and Laila are remanded to judicial custody for fifteen days and are now handed over to the Ernakulam special police team for 12 days.

Bajrang Dal worker killed after two groups clash, family stages protest

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Bajrang Dal worker was killed while two of his friends sustained severe injuries after two groups clashed in Central Delhi's Ranjit Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

After Nitesh's demise, his family members staged a massive protest in Ranjit Nagar demanding justice leading to traffic snarl.

More than 200 people assembled on main road which worsened the traffic situation. The police personnel somehow convinced the family to sit on a corner of road so that traffic could be managed.

Extra police force, along with Rapid Action Force, has been deployed to avoid untoward incidents.

Nitesh's family also alleged that he was killed as he was associated with Bajrang Dal and RSS.

BJP leader and Supreme Court Lawyer Prashant Umeao alleged on Twitter that Nitesh was killed because he was a Hindu and a Bajrang Dal worker.



However, police dismissed his claim and said that it was a fight between two groups and there was no communal angle in the matter.

A senior police official said that two groups clashed in the Shadipur area on Friday. The official said that Nitesh, Alok and Monty were in one group while three other young men were on another side.

"They had an argument which worsened and soon a fight ensued. Nitesh and Alok sustained severe injuries in the incident. Initially, the victims did not give any statement to the police. We lodged an FIR under sections 308 and 34 of the IPC at Ranjit Nagar Police Station," the official said. A police team was formed and an investigation was taken up. Meanwhile, during treatment, victim Nitesh succumbed to his injuries on Sunday. Police have got the CCTV footage of the incident.

The accused identified as Ufiza, Adnan and Abbas are on the run, the police said. The police said that Nitesh and Alok have criminal cases booked against them.

Police recovers huge cash, gold from Bengal bizman's residence

Kolkata | Agencies

The Kolkata Police on Sunday said that they recovered cash worth Rs 2 crore along with diamond-studded gold ornaments from the residence of a businessman in a housing complex at Shibpur here.

The raid was carried out on Saturday. The city police said that the businessman, Sailesh Pande's two bank deposits of Rs 20 crore have been frozen. The value of the ornaments seized in this connection is yet to be ascertained.

A city police official said that the recovery has been done relating to an investigation in a purported fraud in the name of arranging bank loans. The cops of Hare Street Police under the central division of Kolkata

Police started the investigation on the basis of a written complaint by the branch authorities of a private sector bank about multiple fictitious transactions of huge amounts from the two accounts.

On the basis of the probe, first the police blocked and freed the deposits worth Rs 20 crore in the two bank accounts. And on Saturday night, the raid and search operations at Sailesh Pande's residence at Riverdale housing complex was conducted. Pande is in police custody now, though the other members of his family are absconding.

Huge cash recovery in connection with different financial embezzlement matters has been a regular feature in the state since July this year. First, it was the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths, who in July this year, recovered cash and gold from the two residences of Arpita Mukherjee, close aide of former West Bengal education minister, Partha Chatterjee in connection with the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment irregularities scam. Both Partha Chatterjee and Arpita Mukherjee are under judicial custody now.

Then again on September 10, the ED sleuths recovered huge cash from the residence of a city-based businessman at Garden Reach area in Kolkata in connection with a probe on E-Nuggets, a mobile gaming app fraud. The prime accused in the matter, Amir Khan is in police custody.

FOUR KIDS AMONG 9 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN K'TAKA



Hassan: Nine people, including four children, were killed in a road accident near Gandhinagar village in Hassan district of Karnataka.

The accident happened late Saturday night.

According to police, the deceased were travelling in a Tempo Traveller and were returning from a pilgrimage center, Dharmasthala.

The accident took place on national highway 69. The tempo traveller was travelling behind the KSRTC bus. On observing a milk tanker coming suddenly in one way, the tempo traveller driver tried to take the vehicle to the left and collided with the bus. Then the tanker rammed into the tempo traveller from behind.

The authorities said the accident had taken place due to absence of a signboard on one way at the junction. The passengers in the KSRTC bus also suffered injuries. The driver of the tanker ran away from the spot. Banswara police have taken up the investigation.

The deceased have been identified as Leelavathy (50), Chaitra (33), Samartha (10), Dimpi (12), Tanmay (10), Dhruva (2), Vandana (20), Doddaiiah (60) and Bharathi (50).

Police said that 14 persons were travelling in the tempo traveller. The injured have been shifted to the Hassan district hospital.

Cong prez polls: Rahul to vote in K'taka's Ballari, Sonia in party HQ

Team Absolute | New Delhi

For the Congress presidential polls on Monday, Rahul Gandhi will vote at a Bharat Jodo Yatra campsite in Karnataka's Ballari while the outgoing interim president, Sonia Gandhi will vote at the party headquarters here.

Congress General Secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said, "There've been queries on where @RahulGandhi will cast his vote tomorrow for Congress Presidential election. There should be no speculation. He will be voting at the #BharatJodoYatra campsite in Sanganakallu, Ballari along with around 40 other Bharat Yatriis who are PCC delegates."

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will also cast his vote at the party headquarters here.

For the October 17 polls, 67 booths have been set up in all the states, the party's central election authority (CEA) said.

Madhusudan Mistry, Chairman of the CEA, said, "In AICC also there will be a booth, especially for all the senior leaders, working



committee members and all those whose identity card is from a different state but are staying in Delhi. If they write

AICC."

A camp booth has been set up for Rahul Gandhi and others who are participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The polling will take place between 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The vote will be by the secret ballot. All the ballot boxes will be brought to the AICC headquarters here and then, on October 19 the counting of votes will start and the result will be declared as soon as the counting gets over.

Congress Central Election Authority (CEA) Chairman had assured the voters of the secrecy of the ballot.

While issuing standard protocol for the voting till the counting of the votes, Madhusudan Mistry said that there was no numbering on the papers and only counterfoil with detail will be kept with the Election Authority while the ballot boxes will be sealed and unsealed in front of election agents. Ahead of the counting of votes, all the ballot papers will be mixed so that no one would know how many votes the candidate got from a particular state.

Stalin writes to PM Modi on 'efforts to impose' Hindi in TN



Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin on Sunday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi claiming that "there are continuous efforts of the Central government to impose Hindi under the 'one nation theory' in non-Hindi speaking states".

Stalin in the letter said that "the efforts to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people would destroy the feeling of the brotherhood of people of different languages and cultures..." "The recent attempts to impose Hindi are impractical and divisive in character and puts non-Hindi speaking people in a very disadvantageous position in many respects," he added.

In the letter, he further said that "this was not acceptable; not only to Tamil Nadu but also to any state that respects and values its mother tongue".

The Chief Minister said that approach of the Union gov-

ernment should be to include all languages including Tamil in the Eighth schedule of the Constitution.

He also referred to a report of the parliamentary sub-committee on official languages, which had reportedly recommended that Hindi should be the compulsory medium of instruction in educational institutions administered by the Union government such as the IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities.

Stalin further said that it was also recommended (by the sub-committee) that Hindi should replace English.

He also asserted that several youths in Tamil Nadu had sacrificed their lives in 1965 in the anti-Hindi agitations that erupted in part of the state. "Jawaharlal Nehru respected the sentiments of the people and assured that English would continue to be one of the official languages as long as non-Hindi speaking people want," Stalin added in the letter.



BAL THACKERAY'S GRANDSON TO SUPPORT SHINDE CAMP IN BY-POLLS CAMPAIGNING

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nihar Thackeray, the grandson of Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray, has said that he supports the Eknath Shinde faction of the party and is ready to campaign for the upcoming Andheri East Assembly by-election as well as the Mumbai civic body polls. He also did not rule out joining electoral politics.

The BJP, supported by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction, has fielded Murji Patel against the Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray party's Rutuja Latke in the November 3 by-election.

It will be the first major electoral contest in the state after Shinde's rebellion brought down the previous Maharashtra government led by Uddhav Thackeray in June this year.

Nihar Thackeray, the son of Bindumadhav Thackeray, Bal Thackeray's eldest son, is a lawyer by profession. He is also part of Chief Minister Shinde's legal team in the battle in the Supreme Court over which is the 'real' Shiv Sena.

Eknath Shinde was taking forward the legacy of his late grandfather and hence he supported the Chief Minister, Nihar Thackeray told said.

On Dussehra, when his uncle Uddhav Thackeray and cousin Aaditya Thackeray addressed a rally at the Shivaji Park in Mumbai, Nihar Thackeray was on stage with Shinde, who addressed a separate rally at MMRDA ground in the state capital.

Uddhav Thackeray's elder brother Jaidev Thackeray and former wife Smita too shared the stage with Eknath Shinde, in an apparent attempt to send out a message that barring Uddhav Thackeray and his son, the rest of the family sup-



ported Shinde.

Nihar Thackeray declined to comment on the fissures in the family, but said Bal Thackeray was the glue that kept it together.

"If required, I will keep myself available for the by poll and BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) polls. I will continue to extend support to Shinde ji," he added. Bindumadhav Thackeray, producer of the 1996 hit Hindi film "Agni Sakshi" among others, died in a road accident in the same year.

Nihar Thackeray is married to Ankita Patil, the daughter of former Maharashtra minister Harshvardhan Patil who is now with the BJP. Asked whether he would participate in electoral politics, he said, "I have not really given it a serious thought...I am a lawyer by profession. But not taking that decision does not mean I will never do it...I

am not saying it's a complete no. I have just not given it a complete thought yet," he said.

His cousin Aaditya Thackeray became only the second member of the Thackeray family to contest an election when he won from Worli Assembly constituency in 2019.

Before that, Shalini Thackeray, another member of the extended family, had contested the 2009 Lok Sabha election unsuccessfully on the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) ticket.

"Ever since Balasaheb passed away, I have not been an active part of the Shiv Sena or politics for whatever reasons. It did not happen," Nihar Thackeray said.

"Had there been an option, I would have definitely liked to be a part of it. It (the party) is something which my grandfather started. For whatever reasons, I was not part of it," he added, without elaborating on why he did not find any role in the Sena after Uddhav Thackeray took over.

Asked about his association with Shinde, he said he met the Chief Minister for the first time in July this year.

"Balasaheb had clearly said that he will never join hands with the Congress under any circumstances. For whatever reasons, things happened and Maha Vikas Aghadi government (of the Sena, Congress and NCP) came to power, and then...Shinde saheb decided to walk away," Nihar Thackeray said.

The government which had been given the mandate to rule (in 2019) is now in power, he added.

The Shiv Sena and the BJP had contested the 2019 Assembly elections together, but fell out after the results.

Raj Thackeray request BJP, not to field Latke in Mumbai by-polls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray has written to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with an unexpected request.

The BJP, he wrote, should not field a candidate in the Andheri (East) by-election so Rutuja Latke, who is contesting in place of her late husband Ramesh Latke, the sitting MLA of the constituency who died in earlier this year, can win.

"I think by doing this we are paying tribute to the late representative of the people," he wrote in the letter addressed to "Dear friend Devendra".

"To do so is also in line with the great culture of our Maharashtra. I hope you will accept my request," he added.

Ramesh Latke was a "good worker," Thackeray wrote.

"He started his political journey from the post of branch chief. I am a witness to his political journey. After his death, if his wife becomes an MLA, then the soul of



Ramesh will rest in peace," wrote Raj Thackeray.

The MNS chief had formed his own party in 2006 after breaking away from the Shiv Sena following differences with Uddhav Thackeray.

There has been no response to the letter from the BJP. Murji Patel, the BJP candidate, has said that he is ready to withdraw from the race if the party asked him.

Raj Thackeray's letter comes amid a bitter tussle between the two Sena factions over the coming election and the larger question of inheriting the legacy of party founder Bal Thackeray.

The BJP had backed the

rebellion by Sena's Eknath Shinde that toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray in June.

The faction led by Thackeray has already criticised the BJP for the impending contest.

It has also accused the Shinde faction of trying to sabotage their candidate ahead of the elections by influencing the Mumbai civic body not to accept her resignation.

Latke, who worked in the Brihanmumbai Corporation as a clerk, had to approach the courts and filed her nomination only after a court order.

Papular TV actress Vaishali Thakkar commits suicide by hanging herself

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular TV actress Vaishali Takkar who is best known for her stint in Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata hai and Guddan Tumse Na Ho Payega has committed suicide.

As per the reports in Punjab Kesari, the incident took place in Madhya Pradesh's Indore. The reason for the same is said to be that she was suffering from depression due to her love life. The entire incident takes place near the Tejaji Nagar police station. The body was taken to MY Hospital for a post-mortem by the police, who also opened a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

To note, the diva got engaged in 2021 to Dr Abhinandan Singh.

Vaishali Thakkar is an Indore native who comes from a family of entrepreneurs. His career began with anchoring. She was given the opportunity to portray Sanjana in the Star Plus TV show Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai in 2015. This TV programme helped him become very famous. She appeared in Yeh Vaada Raha, Yeh Hai Aashiqui, Sasural Simar Ka, Super Sister, Laal Ishq, and Vish and Amrit after this show. Sasural Simar Ka's



Anjali Bharadwaj was Vaishali's most well-liked character.

It should be noted that this is not the first instance of a film artist killing themselves in this way. Many artists have already lost the battle of their lives before this one for a variety of reasons. Now it has to be seen what reality comes out in the police investigation.

COUNTRY WILL BE EXPERIENCING AMRIT KAL FOR NEXT 25 YEARS: GOVERNOR

Mumbai: The country will be experiencing 'Amrit Kal' in the next 25 years, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said here on Saturday. He was speaking after being felicitated by Devkinandan Thakurji Maharaj, a religious leader who gives discourses on the Bhagwat Katha.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is progressing and has entered the "Amrit Kal", he said.

Modi and other BJP leaders have used the term Amrit Kal to speak about the next 25 years of India's journey. Union Minister of State Kapil Patil was also present at the event.



FM's 'rupee not sliding' remark as 'absurd', says NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The NCP on Sunday described as "absurd" Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 'rupee not sliding, but dollar strengthening' remark, and said she must focus on her ministry instead of making efforts for the BJP's win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also said that safeguarding the country's economy was Sitharaman's foremost duty as the finance minister. During her ongoing visit to the USA, Sitharaman has said that the rupee has not weakened but it is the dollar that has strengthened, and defended the eight per cent slide in the value of Indian currency against the green-back this year.

Speaking to reporters in Washington DC after attending the annual meetings of the



International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, she also asserted that the fundamentals of the Indian economy were strong and that inflation was low compared to other parts of the world.

In a statement, NCP spokesperson Cylde Crasto alleged, "The 'rupee not sliding, but dollar strengthening' is an absurd statement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Making such statements will not hide the failure

of her government in taking care of our country's economy."

"She must concentrate more on looking after her ministry and focus less on trying to win Lok Sabha constituencies for the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2024. She must not forget that she is the finance minister and her duty is to safeguard the economy of India first, he said.

Sitharaman had recently spent three days in Baramati as part of the BJP's campaign for the Lok Sabha polls. Baramati is the home turf of NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and the Lok Sabha seat is currently represented by Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule. Crasto further said that Sitharaman must refrain from making such statements that lead to mockery.

The rupee settled at 82.35 against the US dollar on Friday, having touched another record low of 82.68 on Monday.

2 ARRESTED IN MUMBAI FOR MURDER OF BIHAR EX-COUNCILLOR'S HUSBAND

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have arrested two persons who were allegedly involved in the case of murder of a former councillor's husband in Aurangabad district of Bihar, an official said on Sunday. Based on a specific information, the Mumbai Police's Crime Intelligence Unit team laid a trap in suburban Juhu on Saturday and apprehended the two persons - Sanatkumar Jaikumar Singh alias Shubham Singh (22) and Sonukumar Vinay Bharti alias Shubham Giri (20), he said.

During their interrogation, it came to light that they were involved in the case of murder of Sujit Mehta, the husband of a former councillor, which took place in August this year under Amba police station's jurisdiction in Aurangabad district of Bihar, the official said.

An FIR had been registered at the Amba police station under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention), he said, adding that Sanatkumar and Sonukumar were wanted in the case.

To evade arrest, both had come to Mumbai and were staying here by changing their identity, the official said.

During the investigation, it also came to light that Sanatkumar Singh was involved in one more murder in Bihar and was out on bail in that case, he said.

The Mumbai Police have informed their Bihar counterparts about the arrest of the two accused, the official said.



Kaun Banega Congress-pati? Maha votes crucial for next INC Prez

Hours before the Indian National Congress (INC) Presidential elections scheduled on Monday (October 17), theres palpable excitement in the party from top to bottom - and palpitations among the two candidates vying for the top post of 'saviour of the 137-year-old Grand Old Party born in Mumbai on December 28, 1885.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a gap of around 22 years, the Congress is now huffing and puffing for an internal election for the post of President with senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, 80, and Shashi Tharoor, 66, in the fray, both enjoying a close rapport with the Gandhi family.

Probably for the first time, the Gandhis have not raised an eyebrow either in favour or against both the contenders, and the elections are widely perceived as being independent, free and fair, with nobody a blue-eyed boy of anybody'.

But, to many of the 9,300-delegates (voters) for the party polls, a grim dilemma wracking their conscience is - whose victory could make the Gandhi family smile and the Congress party grin'.

Without seeking blessings' from the fami-

ly, both Kharge and Tharoor, each waving a meritorious curriculum-vitae, giddyapped into the horse-race earnestly, to make a faithful' bid for a historic win.

Wily old fox Kharge started with a bang and a show of strength compared to the suave and sophisticated Tharoor, who made a relatively low-key entry but has earned dollops of silent goodwill among many Congressmen all over, particularly the younger lot.

Some senior delegates in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and certain other states suspect Kharge is aiming towards bettering Sonia Gandhi's record - getting over 97 per cent of the party mandate compared to her then rival Jitendra Prasad, who secured just 99 votes in the 2000 INC Presidential elections.

On the other hand, Tharoor is studiously wending his way, often encountering shades

of hostility bordering on contempt, some even ridiculing him for certain past indiscretions, yet many harbour a secret desire that he should give a tough fight and attempt to pick up the beleaguered Congress' "ashes trophy".

From the approximate 9,300 voters across the country, UP accounts for around 1,200 and Maharashtra around 793 - the two largest chunks - which can prove to be crucial for both the candidates.

Incidentally, this is the first time in 25 years when there is no Gandhi family member in the fray for the Congress Presidential polls.

Nevertheless, the current scenario indicates that though Kharge may have an edge here, Tharoor won't exactly gift him a cake-walk, with many delegates fervently hoping that the voters heed their conscience' at the polling boxes on Monday.

12 held for liquor party in dry Gujarat



Ahmedabad | Agencies

At least 12 people were arrested during a raid on a flat where a liquor party was going on in Ahmedabad's Vastrapur area, police said on Sunday.

The police raided the flat on Saturday night after getting a complaint.

According to the Vastrapur police station officer, the city control room received a call from Deputy Commissioner Zone-5 Baldev Desai informing that a liquor party was going in an adjacent flat of his apartment in Anik Society complex in Vastrapur.

The Vastrapur police carried out the raid and arrested 12 persons, including four females.

The police recovered four empty bottles, one hookah, and also seized material worth Rs 9 lakh used in the crime, including mobile phones.

The flat was on rent in the name of a Zankhana Maheshwari since the last one year. Those arrested are Nirav Shah, Anand Sinha, Zenil Sayara, Pankaj Keshwani, Kisan Desai, Hetal Golwas, Muskan, Deval Rupani, Richa and Chirag Bhatt.

Gujarat is a dry state and manufacture, consumption and sale of alcohol are banned.

M.K. Ashoka





TIGER ROAMING IN MANIT CAMPUS FOR OVER 10 DAYS, CAPTURED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A tiger that entered the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology's (MANIT) sprawling campus in Bhopal about a week back was captured on Sunday, a forest official said.

This is the second feline to have strayed into the prestigious institute, spread over an area of 650 acres including 100 acres of thickets and

enveloped by human settlements, he said.

Earlier, a tiger named T-123-4 sneaked into the institute on October 3, killed two cows and attacked two other bovines. It is believed to have left the campus two days ago, the official said.

"The tiger captured on Sunday is the other big cat that had entered the institute last week. It ventured into the institute possibly on October 8-9. It walked into one of the three cages put up with baits on the campus. We are going to

release the feline in the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Narmadapuram," Bhopal Divisional Forest Officer Alok Pathak told media.

"It is not the one that had entered the institute on October 3. We feel that tiger T-123-4 that sneaked into the institute on October 3 left the campus two days ago," Pathak said.

The official said 16 cameras have been installed in the institute and their 50-odd employees are still keeping a watch on the cam-

pus. After T-123-4 was caught on cameras six-seven days back ago, the institute had announced a mid-term break for around 5,400 undergraduate students from October 11 to 30. Students get such breaks in December, its public relations officer Dr Amit Ojha said.

However, the institute is holding classes for 600-odd students doing post-graduation courses, he confirmed. The institute was holding classroom sessions for the post-graduate stu-

dents after assurance from forest officials that the tiger had been barricaded in the forested area of the campus, he said.

Around 5,000 hostellers and 1,000 family members of staff live on the campus, he added.

Tigers from the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, spread in Raisen and Sehore districts close to Bhopal, move in the Kewra area of the state capital. This time two of them strayed on to the educational campus, officials said.

Kamal Nath joins 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and the state Congress chief Kamal Nath on Sunday joined 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Karnataka's Bellary on Sunday.

The former Chief Minister was accompanied by his son Nakul Nath, who is a Member of Parliament from Chhindwara.

At Bellary airport, Kamal Nath was welcomed by Congress workers and later he joined the yatra led by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Kamal Nath walked with Rahul Gandhi for the yatra and later he met Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, who is one of the convenors of the yatra. After participating in the yatra, the Madhya Pradesh Congress chief said, "I am overwhelmed to see the enthusiasm, love and the affection of thousands of people present for this journey." The ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' would reach Madhya Pradesh tentatively by end of November or in the beginning of December, for which the state Congress has



made an elaborate plan to welcome the participants of the yatra. The Madhya Pradesh Congress has planned to carry as many as 17 sub-yatras from all 230 assembly seats in the state, and these sub-yatras would meet with the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' when it reaches Burhanpur district in the state. The state Congress leadership is all set to use the opportunity to launch its assembly poll campaign. The state elections will be held in December 2023. Though the yatra would cover seven districts (around 66 assembly seats), the state unit of the party has planned to make the presence of the yatra felt in all the 230 assembly seats.

GOOGLE MANAGER TAKEN HOSTAGE, MARRIED OFF FORCIBLY

Bhopal: A Google manager was allegedly taken hostage and forcibly married to a girl under Kamla Nagar police station limits in Bhopal, an official said on Saturday.

The victim, Ganesh Shankar, is a senior manager at Google in Bengaluru. He came in contact with the girl, Sujata, a resident of Bhopal during his Master of Business Administration (MBA) studies at IIM Shillong. Ganesh Shankar told police that he was called to Bhopal by keeping him in dark and then forcibly given intoxicants to marry her. During this, Sujata and her family members had clicked some photographs, on the basis of which they were demanding Rs 40 lakh. They were threatening to implicate him in a false case if he failed to give money, he alleged.

Kamla Nagar police station in-charge Anil Kumar Vajpai said that acting on the victim's complaint, a case was registered against four people under sections 294, 323, 342, 384, 506 and 34 of IPC. The accused include Sujata, her father Kamlesh Singh, her brother Shaivesh Singh and her brother-in-law Vijendra Kumar. The efforts were on to arrest the accused, Vajpai added.

Amit Shah lays foundation for new building of Airport

Team Absolute | Gwalior

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday laid the foundation for the new terminal building and expansion of the Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city.

The new terminal building will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 446 crore, an official said.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were present on the occasion.

The new terminal building will have an area of 20,000 sq metres as compared to the existing 3,500 sqm, the official said.

After the expansion, the airport will have the capacity to park 13 planes as against the existing capacity for three aircraft, the official said.



HINDI LANGUAGE BOOKS ON MEDICAL EDUCATION RELEASED

Bhopal: Sunday was a big day for the medical field. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while releasing three Hindi-language books on medical education, said that due to the education and research of children in the mother tongue, the students of India will ring in the whole world. He said, "The British did wealth drain in the 19th century, in the 21st century they came up with the brain drain theory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now converting this theory into the theory of brain gain."

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shah said in a function organized at Lal Parade Ground in the capital of Madhya Pradesh that with the development and use of self-language, India will go far ahead in the world in the field of research.

3 ARRESTED WITH 18 PISTOLS IN BETUL

Team Absolute | BBetul

In the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, in the early hours of Sunday, the team of STF Bhopal arrested three youths while recovering 18 pistols from a Maruti van. ASP Neeraj Soni told that three youths were going to sell Punjab with 18 pistols in a Maruti van. On getting information about this, STF Bhopal chased the Maruti van from Hoshangabad, but the three youths in this vehicle, trying hard to dodge the STF, diverted the vehicle towards Jhallar.

ASP Neeraj Soni said that with the help of Betul police, the Maruti van was caught near Jhallar police station. There were three youths in this vehicle, who have been taken to Bhopal. 18 pistols have been recovered from their possession. STF will investigate the whole matter closely. STF's DSP Ketali Adlak said that the



gang involved in smuggling and selling arms is also expected to be exposed in the investigation.

Bhopal STF team nabbed three accused hiding in a Maruti van near Jhallar bus stand, according to which 18 pistols have been found. The accused Jhallar were trying to hide in a Maruti van near the liquor shop. On search of the team, 18 pistols were seized from them.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Board on Friday approved a new reserve for tigers of Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), one-fourth of which will get submerged due to the linking of the Ken-Betwa rivers, officials said.

The 2,339 square kilometres new tiger reserve, to be called Durgavati Tiger Reserve, will spread across Narasinghpur, Damoh and Sagar districts. A green corridor linking PTR with Durgavati will be developed for the natural movement of the tiger to the new reserve, officials added.

The Board's meeting, chaired by Madhya Pradesh chief minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, approved a proposal to notify 1,414 sq km area as core area and 925 sq km as a buffer in the new tiger reserve.

"Now, the proposal will be sent to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for final approval," said Abhilash Khandekar, a board member. As part of a wildlife management plan for Panna in wake of the Ken-Betwa river linking project, the NTCA had asked Uttar Pradesh and MP governments to notify new tiger reserves. The two state governments, with the Centre, are implementing a Rs 44,605 crore river-linking project to end the water crisis in Bundelkhand region.

On September 27, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved the noti-

cation of the state's fourth tiger reserve in the Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS) in the Chitrakoot district. RWS has no tigers of its own. But pugmarks of the animals are frequently seen there as tigers from nearby PTR frequent it. The two protected areas are just 150 km from each other. PTR, where the history of successful reintroduction of tigers was created after it lost all the tigers in 2009, is home to 54 big cats.

"The new tiger reserve is being developed so that big cats from Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) can shift there naturally," said JS Chauhan principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) (wildlife). Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary, which has five tigers, is a corridor

between Satpura and PTR, while Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary is a green corridor for Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. "The new reserve will also accommodate excess tigers from Bandhavgarh," Chauhan said.

Experts, however, said tigers are not the only species that will get affected. Panna is home to the largest number of vultures in Central India and loss of habitat will badly impact them.

"Panna is known for tigers and vultures. While tigers can move to Rani Durgavati reserve, what will happen to vulture habitats is not known," said retired Indian Forest Service officer RS Murthy, who played an important role in the reintroduction of tigers in Panna in 2009.

Cheetahs fit and fine in Kuno National Park

Team Absolute | Sheopur

The eight cheetahs, shifted from Namibia to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) on September 17, are "fantastic" and "frolicking" around by feasting on buffalo meat while in quarantine, forests officials have said.

A task force constituted by the Centre will meet on Monday, when the spotted animals complete a month in their new home, to take a call on shifting them in a "soft release or acclimatisation enclosure" spread in an area of five sq km, they said.

"We think the cheetahs may be released into the wild in a month or two or more," officials said.

The task force was set up to monitor the introduction of cheetahs in the KNP in Sheopur district and other designated areas, more than 70 years after the world's fastest animal became extinct in India.

"The task force will take a call on putting the cheetahs in the soft enclosure," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), JS Chauhan, told media on Saturday.

Cheetah siblings Freddy and Alton, sisters Savannah and Sasha and Obaan, Asha, Cibili, and Saisa - are fantastic, Chauhan said.

"According to the Namibian cheetah expert in the KNP, the eight cheetahs - five females and three males - aged between 30 to 66 months are doing much better than the



expectations of his country," he added.

KNP director Uttam Sharma said the cheetahs are fine

and fed buffalo meat under experts' supervision.

According to some forest officials, Freddy and Alton, and

sisters Savannah and Sasha, are seen frolicking around often in their quarantine enclosure.

The two brothers and two sisters have been put in two bomas (enclosures) of around 50 x 30 metres, while the rest four cheetahs are quarantined separately in four bomas of around 25 x 25 metres, officials said.

When contacted, task force member Abhilash Khandekar, also a member of the Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board, said the cheetahs are good.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has constituted the task force with nine members on board for two years.

Veterinarians and experts from India and Namibia are keeping a close watch on the cheetahs in the quarantine enclosure, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on September 17 released the cheetahs in the KNP.

In his speech, the prime minister had cautioned that cheetahs need time to acclimatise to their new habitat before people can see them in the wild.

"Cheetahs are our guests, we should give them a few months to make Kuno National Park their home," he had said. The KNP opens for tourists on Sunday after remaining closed for three months of the monsoon season, but the visitors will not get access to the quarantine area where the cheetahs are kept, KNP director Uttam Sharma said.



Gigi Hadid confesses to suffering from imposter syndrome

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid expressed that she's not very different from the rest of us as she launched her fashion brand and admits that she has imposter syndrome. Speaking to Vogue, Hadid said: "I have imposter syndrome all the time."

She has established herself in the modelling world but since becoming mother to two-year-old Khai, who she shares with singer ex Zayn Malik, she decided that she wanted to try a different type of work, reports mirror.co.uk.

The model launched her cashmere brand Guest in Residence last month. The idea for the brand had been brewing for some time with her remembering a moment when her parents gave her a cashmere sweater to combat the New York cold when she started at The New School.

Although she has a very successful modelling career, Gigi insisted that an office job would make her feel 'much more settled'.

She said: "You can't model forever. I was creative and that is where I saw my life going. I already had been thinking about cashmere, but I think it (pregnancy) just made me think about how much more settled I would feel to have an office space job. I can take my daughter there with me."

Vogue's fashion editor Gabriella Karefa-Johnson said: "Sometimes I forget that you are a creative director and a boss of a huge company."

This spurred Gigi on to admit that she agreed with her, confessing that she has imposter syndrome all the time.

Gigi went on to elaborate that there's always a temptation to link oneself to fast fashion which often has instant gratification and revenue, but that she wanted to go down a more thoughtful and sustainable route.

The creative director picked a mill that reseeds and felt that cashmere was important in creating her thoughtful product.

Nicki Minaj secures Grammy rap ballot



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Nicki Minaj's 'Super Freaky Girl' was shifted out of the Grammy's rap categories and into the pop division on a preliminary ballot. It nearly resulted in an international incident, given the ensuing publicity and controversy as voting began this week. However, Minaj is, in fact, on the ballot in rap categories this year but not for 'Super Freaky Girl', reports Variety.

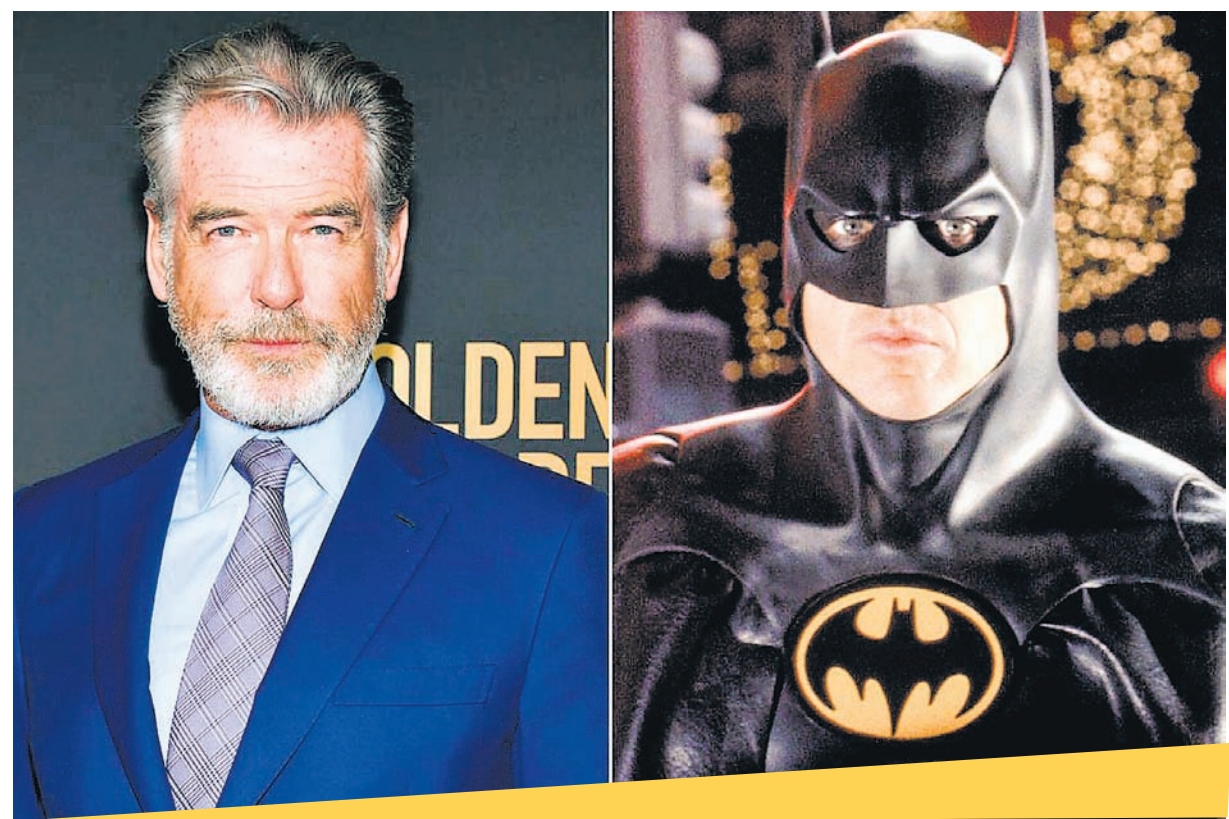
Grammy voters who've received their ballots have disclosed that Minaj is in contention in the best rap performance category for another song of hers, 'Do We Have a Problem?', which has a featured appearance from Lil Baby. According to Variety, the Grammy's rap screening committee apparently considered this more of a true hip-song and 'Super Freaky Girl' more pop in nature, splitting the difference.

'Do We Have a Problem?' was a substan-

tial hit, although not quite as mammoth as 'Super Freaky Girl', which went to No. 1 this summer on the Billboard Hot 100. Minaj has already been awarded for it: The 'Problem' video won a best hip-hop video trophy at the MTV Video Music Awards in August.

In fact, Minaj makes several more appearances on the rap part of the Grammy ballot, although several are for collaborative songs on which she was considered more of a featured artist and may not have been involved in making the Grammy submissions.

Variety adds that 'Blick Blick', a track she shares with Coli Leray, is on the ballot for best rap performance and best rap song. (It was also submitted and accepted in the music video category.) Similarly, 'Love in the Way', a song she did with Bleu, is listed among the eligible songs for best rap song and best melodic rap performance. In both cases, Minaj is listed as a featured artist, not the primary name.



Pierce Brosnan reveals slip-up that might have cost him 'Batman' role

Los Angeles | Agencies

'James Bond' star Pierce Brosnan has had a dream screen career as he effortlessly transitioned from the television success in the 1980s to film superstardom in the 1990s. The Irish actor has now revealed a bump in the road where, he believes, a casual comment may have cost him a huge and returning role, reports Deadline.

Brosnan was already the established star of TV detective show 'Remington Steele' -- and appeared in films including 'The Fourth Protocol' and 'Mrs Doubtfire' -- when he auditioned for the role of 'Batman' for the film to be directed by Tim Burton. He revealed on 'The Tonight Show' that he thought a light quip might help him secure the role. But, it went completely south.

"I remember saying something stupid to Tim Burton," he told Jimmy Fallon, quoted by Deadline. "I said, 'You know I can't understand [why] any man who would wear his underpants outside his trousers.'"

"But there you go the best man got the job." Michael Keaton ended up bagging the role, which he went on to play again in 'Batman Returns' in 1992.

Things didn't turn out too badly for Brosnan, either -- instead of 'Batman' he got James Bond, a role he played four times in total between 1995 and 2002, and in which -- for some -- he remains the ultimate 007.



Stallone, wife keep Rottweiler that caused their rift

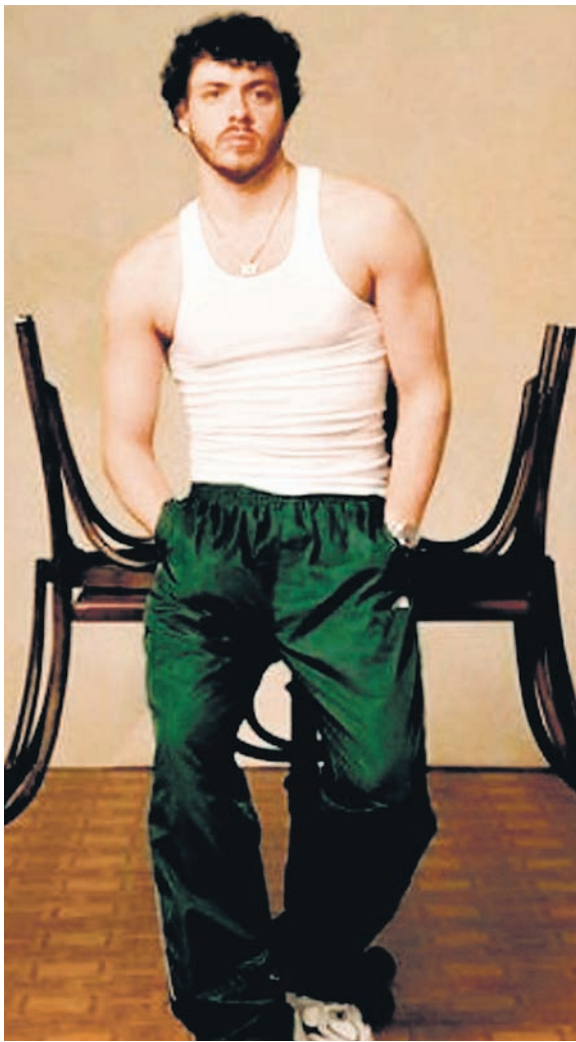
Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone and his wife Jennifer Flavin, who were almost headed to splitsville, have decided to keep their Rottweiler after deciding to save their marriage. The couple, who have been married for 25 years, nearly called things off earlier this year but decided to give it another shot, reports Mirror.co.uk. The new pooch, Dwight, reportedly became a "major source of conflict" that resulted in Jennifer filing for divorce in August. 'TMZ' also reported that she now really loves the pup - which hasn't always been the case.

The publication previously reported that the model didn't want another dog, especially a large breed. The 'Rocky' actor also went as far to get a tattoo of the dog - which he had inked over a portrait of his wife. According to 'Mirror.co.uk', an insider said that when he bought the dog home, Jennifer wasn't impressed and the argument led to a deeper one about issues within their relationship. Stallone, though, has maintained that their relationship hadn't ended over "such a trivial argument", but rather that the couple "went in different directions".

Jack Harlow to do double duty on 'SNL' as host and musical guest

Los Angeles | Agencies



American rapper Jack Harlow is set to serve as the host and musical guest on the next episode of 'Saturday Night Live' which is set to air on October 29.

SNL announced the booking on this week's episode, which also features another music star as both host and musical guest: Megan Thee Stallion, reports Variety.

This will mark the first time Harlow has hosted SNL, and his second time as musical performer. Jack made his Saturday Night Live debut as musical guest on March 27, 2021, alongside host Maya Rudolph.

According to Variety, Harlow released his major label debut 'That's What They All Say' in 2020, and followed that up with this year's 'Come Home the Kids Miss You'. In 2021, he was named Variety's hitmaker of the year. Harlow was just named songwriter of the year at the SESAC Music Awards.

Saturday Night Live returned for its Season 48 on October 1, with Miles Teller making his debut as host for the first time. Brandon Gleeson also had his first-ever SNL hosting stint on October 8. Kendrick Lamar was the musical guest on October 1, with Willow on October 8.



Olivia Wild



T20
WORLD
CUP

Geelong | Agencies

The great history of spectacular upsets in T20 cricket had another chapter added as Namibia secured a 55-run win over Sri Lanka in the opening match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Kardinia Park, Geelong, on Sunday.

After big-hitting fireworks from Jan Frylinck (44) and JJ Smit (31 not out) helped Namibia post a competitive 163/7 in 20 overs, the bowlers produced a superb collective show, mixed their fuller and short lengths well to bowl out Sri Lanka for 108 in 19 overs for a historic win over a major cricketing nation.

Frylinck backed up his superb batting performance with a brilliant 2/26 in his four overs to be adjudged Player of the Match in Namibia's famous victory and ease their path towards a Super 12 qualification while causing a huge dent in Sri Lanka's net run rate.

Apart from him, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz and Ben Shikongo took two wickets apiece.

In defence of 163/7 on a two-paced pitch, Wiese brought the first breakthrough for Namibia, as Kusal Mendis top-edged a pull on his short ball to keeper in the second over.

Shikongo broke the back of Sri Lanka's innings with his back-to-back double strikes in a maiden fourth over.

While Pathum Nissanka holed out

NAMIBIA KICK START TOURNAMENT WITH 55-RUN WIN OVER SL



Brief scores

Namibia 163/7 in 20 overs (Jan Frylinck 44, JJ Smit 31 not out; Maheesh Theekshana 1/23, Wanindu Hasaranga 1/27) beat Sri Lanka 108 all out in 19 overs (Dasun Shanaka 29, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 20; David Wiese 2/16, Bernard Scholtz 2/18) by 55 runs. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami.

to mid-on, Danushka Gunathilaka poked at a nipping away delivery and gave an outer edge behind to keeper to depart for a golden duck. Post power-play, Dhananjaya de Silva was next to depart, mistiming a flick to long leg off Frylinck.

Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Dasun Shanaka added 34 runs for the fifth wicket, before the former mistimed a slog to deep mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz. Wanindu Hasaranga was next to fall, slog-sweeping straight to deep mid-wicket off Scholtz.

When Shanaka fell by top-edging a slog to keeper off Frylinck, a victory for Namibia was just inevitable.

Netherlands edge UAE by three wickets

Geelong | Agencies

Captain Scott Edwards showed calmness and got the crucial winning run to help the Netherlands edge past UAE by three wickets in a low-scoring thriller match of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Kardinia Oval, Geelong, on Sunday. After brilliant spells from fast bowlers Bas de Leede, Fred Klaasen and left-arm spinner Tim Pringle restricted UAE to a lowly 111/8 in 20 overs, Netherlands were also kept under check as they lost wickets at regular intervals and did-



n't score a boundary after the eighth over. But Edwards hung around till the end and survived a run-out in

the final over when six runs were needed off as many balls to get Netherlands home with a ball to spare and open their account in the Group A points table with two points.

Brief scores

UAE 111/8 in 20 overs (Muhammad Waseem 41; Bas de Leede 3/19, Fred Klaasen 2/13) lost to the Netherlands 112/7 in 19.5 overs (Max O'Dowd 23, Colin Ackermann 17; Junaid Siddique 3/24, Basil Hameed 1/7) by three wickets

Rudranksh, Arjun and Kiran win India's fifth gold at Rifle/Pistol Shooting World Championships



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Men's 10m Air Rifle troika of Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, recently crowned world champion in the individual event, Kiran Ankush Jadhav and Arjun Babuta, won India's fifth gold medal of the on-going International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Rifle/Pistol campaign in Cairo, Egypt, routing a strong China 16-10 in the gold medal match.

It was also Rudranksh's second senior world championship gold in his very first outing.

India have also picked up a silver and two bronze medals on the day to take their tally to five gold, one silver and five bronze medals, to maintain their second place behind China in the medal standings and with the

Women's 10m Air Pistol team also making the gold medal match, that tally is certain to go up further by the end of business in Cairo.

Shooting on competition day four at the Egypt International Olympic City (EIOC) range, the champion Men's Air Rifle team raced ahead 14-2 in the final against a Chinese team which had Yang Haoran (double Olympic gold medalist and two-time world champion), Lihao Sheng (Tokyo Olympics silver medalist) and Song Buhan (world championship silver medalist). They mounted a strong comeback to win the next four series and narrow the gap to 14-10, but the Indian's held their own in the final series to clinch the crown.

Both the teams were at each other from Saturday itself when the Chinese pre-

vaild over the Indians, both in round one of qualification of 28 teams and then in the top eight second round as well. In round one they edged out India by 0.4, while 0.9 was the difference in round two.

In the match that mattered however, it was the Indians who finally stamped their supremacy over the Chinese in Men's Air Rifle in this world championship edition at least, winning both the individual and team titles.

The Air Rifle Women, who had a heartbreak in the individual event, redeemed themselves with a bronze in the Team event, prevailing 17-11 in a nail-biter against Germany in the medal match. Meghana Sajjanar shot two consecutive 10.9s in the crucial stages to clinch the deal along with partners Elavenil Valarivan and Mehuli Ghosh.

National Tennis Championship

MANISH, VAIDEHI CROWNED CHAMPIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Manish Sureshkumar and Vaidehi Chaudhari crowned themselves in glory as they won the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship at the DLTA complex here on Sunday.

Vaidehi cruised past Sai Samhitha Chamarthi 6-2, 6-0 while Manish Sureshkumar defeated Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-2, 6-3 to lift the national championship titles.

It was disappointing for Sai Samhitha as she had been in good touch through the last week. The essence in a final is raising the level of play, which Vaidehi did with



finesse. Vaidehi has been playing tennis since the age of nine and waiting for the right breaks. Winning the Fenesta Open is a big thrust to her career as she has been hitting around in ITF events

to make it big.

In the men's final, Manish Sureshkumar played with purpose and professionalism as he dismantled the challenge from Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-2, 6-3.

Regasa, Cheptai bag Delhi Half Marathon titles; Avinash Sable best Indian

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ethiopia's Chala Regasa and Kenya's Irine Cheptai emerged winners in the Delhi Half Marathon 2022 -- a World Athletics Elite Label Race -- clocking 60:30 and 66:42 min, respectively here on Sunday.

It was a photo finish in the 'Indian Elite' men's category between defending champion Avinash Sable and Kartik Kumar, with the duo clocking identical 64 minutes. But it was Sable who was declared the winner by the technical officials of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) after examining the footage.

There were no surprises in the Indian women's elite section, where Sanjivani Jadhav bagged the crown after two previous podium finishes.

Regasa, 25, came out on top in a thrilling three-man battle over the final kilometre, sprinting away from Kenya's Felix Kipkeoch and fellow Ethiopian Boki Diriba with 400 metres to go to take the



USD27,000 prize purse.

Kipkeoch finished second in 60:33 while debutant Diriba, the 18-year-old Ethiopian U20 5000m champion, was third in 60:34. The leading trio passed 20km in 57:31 and duelled almost all the

way to the finish line at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

By contrast, the International women's race was a one-woman show. Cheptai made a decisive move just after 12 kilometres and was never challenged before reducing her personal best by one second to 66:42. Cheptai, who was in fourth place last time, finished more than a minute in front of Ethiopia's 2022 World Athletics Championships 5000m bronze medalist Dawit Seyaum, who was second in 68:02. Stella Chesang set a Ugandan record of 68:11 in third place. Returning to the venue where he became the first Indian to complete the half marathon in under 61 minutes in 2020, Sable said his plan was a little different this year.

Sanjivani was well ahead of the Indian pack right from the start and was hardly challenged by Monika Athare and Priti Lamba who finished second and third respectively.

Sanjivani clocked 01:17:53 while Monika timed 01:18:39 and Priti finished at 01:19:06.

Indian teenager Arjun Erigaisi shocks world champion Magnus Carlsen

New York | Agencies

Indian young gun, 19-year-old Arjun Erigaisi inflicted a crushing defeat on world chess champion Magnus Carlsen in Round 7, leaving the Norwegian in a spot of bother in the USD 150,000 Aimchess Rapid -- round five of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour.

It was sweet revenge for Erigaisi who had lost to Carlsen in the Julius Baer Generation Cup final, and earned his first victory against

the world No. 1 on Saturday. The shock defeat happened in Round 7 with Erigaisi breaking through with the brilliant 27.Qf7+ counter-attack, bravely ignoring Carlsen's apparent queen and rook threat down the b-file. The young Indian star went on to close out the win.

Contrary to the anti-climatic Julius Baer Generation Cup final where Erigaisi virtually collapsed against the world champion, the Indian stayed cool and calm on Saturday. Carlsen, playing from a log

cabin in Are, Sweden, immediately bounced back to beat Erigaisi's fellow Indian Vidit Gujrathi in Round 8 and end the day in joint-second on 16/24 with the exciting Azerbaijani Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. Wonderkid Nodirbek Abdusattorov clung onto a narrow lead, as the Uzbek after dominating Day 1 on Friday, bounced back from a loss in the first game on Saturday to score two more wins and finish top of the leaderboard on 17/24 -- one point ahead of the pack.

SWIATEK OVERCOMES PEGULA TO ENTER SAN DIEGO FINAL

San Diego (California): World No.1 singles player Iga Swiatek recovered from being a set down to defeat Jessica Pegula of the US 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals of the San Diego Open to leave her just one win away from an eighth title this season.

Swiatek will meet the winner of the second semifinal between Danielle Collins and qualifier Donna Vekic of Croatia. The Polish player won her 63rd match of the 2022 season, equalling the 2016 total of Germany's Angelique Kerber for the most WTA Tour victories in the past six years. Swiatek, who defeated Pegula for the fourth time this year, will become the fourth woman to finish the year with more than 10,000 points in the WTA Tour rankings, after Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, Russian Maria Sharapova and American Serena Williams, according to wtatennis.com. Swiatek, 21, is now 23-1 in the United States this season.



Spurs keep up title challenge at Premier League

London | Agencies

Harry Kane fired home from the penalty spot to boost Tottenham's Premier League title charge in a 2-0 win over Everton on Saturday evening.

It wasn't a classic by any means, but Tottenham had more chances, despite Everton also having their options before the break.

Kane opened the scoring in the 59th minute after a foul by Everton keeper Jordan Pickford and from then on Spurs controlled the game, with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg sealing the win four minutes from time, reports Xinhua. Tottenham sits third in the table with 23 points, level on points with second-placed



Manchester City.

Leicester City was booed off the pitch after a 0-0 draw at home to Crystal Palace, leaving with just one win from their opening 10 matches. James Maddison and Harvey Barnes had the best chances for Leicester, but the draw was a fair result.

Atletico move up to third, Sevilla win in Mallorca in La Liga

Madrid | Agencies

Atletico Madrid moved into third place in La Liga on Saturday night with a hard-fought 1-0 win away to Athletic Club Bilbao.

Antoine Griezmann's goal two minutes into the second half was enough to decide a game of few chances, although the home side pressed Atletico hard in the last 15 minutes.

Jan Oblak had to leave the pitch with a shoulder injury and his substitute Ivo Grbic made one excellent save to deny Inigo Martinez, while Reinildo Mandava made a vital block to frustrate Raul Garcia with just two minutes left after the referee allowed 10 minutes of injury time.

A combination of a magnificent goal from Nemanja Gudelj and a series of magnificent saves from goalkeeper Bono were enough to give Sevilla a 1-0 win away to Mallorca, reports Xinhua. Gudelj's 53rd-minute shot from around 30 meters was Sevilla's only shot on target all game and although Mallorca threw everything at Jorge Sampaoli's side, Bono was able to produce a string of saves to give his side just their second win of the campaign. Cristhian Stuani held his nerve to net an injury time penalty to save a point for Girona at home to Cadiz.



Eleven-year-old Drushil impresses Rohit, bowls to him in nets

Perth | Agencies

India captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday made the 11-year-old cricket enthusiast Drushil Chauhan day's as he gave the kid an opportunity to bowl at him in the nets during the team's practice session here ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Drushil - one of the many kids, who were present at the WACA ground for their morning session, impressed everyone with his smooth bowling action after the Indian team arrived for its afternoon practice session. After getting impressed and realising his potential, India skipper Rohit invited Drushil to bowl at him in the nets.

Hari Prasad Mohan, Team India's analyst, narrated the entire incident in a video posted by the BCCI.

"We arrived at the WACA for a noon practice session and kids were wrapping up their morning event. As soon as we entered our dressing room, we were able to see 100 odd kids playing and enjoying cricket. There was one kid who caught everyone's eye and Rohit was the first one to identify



the kid," said Hari. "After watching two-three balls, which the kid bowled, everyone

was amazed by his smooth run-up and how naturally talented he was. He was constant-

ly beating the bat. Rohit went out of the dressing room and asked him to bowl a few balls in the nets. It was an amazing sight," he added.

The left-arm bowler was invited to the team's dressing room as well and he shared some moments with the coaches and some of the members.

"Rohit Sharma saw me and he told me to bowl. I was very surprised, a day before that, my dad told me that I might be able to bowl to Rohit, so I was very excited. My favourite ball is a swinging yorker," said Drushil. After the net session, Rohit asked Drushil: "You stay in Perth; how are you going to play for India?" To this, the kid replies: "I am going to go to India but I don't know when I'll be good enough." The Indian captain also signed some merchandise for him.

India will take on Australia and New Zealand on October 17 and 19 in the two official warm-ups ahead of tournament proper. They will face Pakistan in their T20 World Cup campaign opener on October 23 at the MCG.



Sakshi Aggarwal comes out strongly against Chennai stalker

Team Absolute | Chennai

Reacting strongly to the news of a 20-year-old student being pushed to her death by her stalker in Chennai, actress Sakshi Aggarwal has expressed the opinion that the stalker, identified as Sathish, should be hanged to prevent such incidents from recurring again.

Taking to Twitter, Sakshi Aggarwal said: "Sathish should be hanged then only this kinda incidents won't happen again! Women safety is important for a good society." Sakshi isn't the only celebrity to have raised her voice seeking death penalty for the stalker.

Actor and music director Vijay Antony too had expressed a similar opinion a couple of days ago. Taking to Twitter, Vijay Antony had in Tamil placed a request to the judge who would be hearing the case. Vijay Antony said that instead of patiently investigating the case for 10 years and then hanging Sathish, who had killed the victim and was responsible for the suicide of her father, the case must be immediately investigated and Sathish must be punished by being pushed in front of a moving train in the same manner he killed the victim.

Antony said that he was making this humble request on behalf of the victim and as a member of the general public.



Priyanka Chopra supports Malala Yousafzai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Hasan Minhaj's comment on Malala Priyanka Chopra took a dig at him. The actor from The Citadel posted a screenshot to her Instagram stories revealing that, in contrast to him, she does not follow Hasan on the website. Additionally, she expressed support for Malala Yousafzai by writing on Twitter, "Same girl same @malala Looks like he prefers petty over funny." Hasan Minhaj and Nick Jonas were also tagged in her story. It appears that Malala unfollowed Hasan recently on Instagram. This happened after the American comedian, actor, and political commentator said that, despite the fact that she follows him on the app, he does not. A few hours ago, Malala shared a Hasan Minhaj reel on her Instagram stories. He says, as heard in the video, "All right, sh't's gotten out of hand. On October 4th I made a joke about Nobel Peace Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai. I said she follows me on Instagram and I don't follow her back. Then on October 5th, she retaliated. She puts up an Instagram story that says 'Should I unfollow Hasan Minhaj? 39% of her voters said 'Who is this man?' 38% of them said 'Yes.' Instead of doing a runoff, she unfollowed me on Instagram. I'm sorry Malala. Follow me back. I don't know if I will follow you though. I am that petty.'" Sharing this clip, Malala wrote, "thanks to everyone who sent me this video because I no longer follow this man."

Priyanka acknowledged that she does not follow him either and expressed her agreement with Malala Yousafzai. On the acting front, Priyanka is currently developing a number of intriguing films. The Matrix Resurrections, a Hollywood film starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Jada Pinkett Smith, Lambert Wilson, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Jessica Henwick, Jonathan Groff, and Neil Patrick Harris, was her most recent appearance.



Dogs are precious: Iswarya Menon

Team Absolute | Chennai

South Indian actress Iswarya Menon, who is known to be an avid dog lover, said that dogs are precious and the purest creatures that God has created.

The actress, who was most recently seen in the web series "Tamil Rockerz", celebrated the birthday of her pet dog, Coffee, and took to Instagram to post pictures of a cake-cutting ceremony she had organised.

She wrote: "It was my baby's birthday yesterday and my daughter Coffee Menon has turned 3. Invited a few friends over and we had a cute cake cutting ceremony for Coffee!"

"She was delighted, because only on this day of the year she happens to indulge in a cake and everyone pampers her the most (The cake that she ate was chicken and sweet potato cake, but she indulged in some less sugar desserts too) because come on, it's her birthday after all!"

"Only if you are a dog parent, you will know that every day of their life is precious. They are precious. The purest creature God has ever created and I consider myself blessed to have my baby in my life. Dog is God spelled backwards, coincidence? I think not."

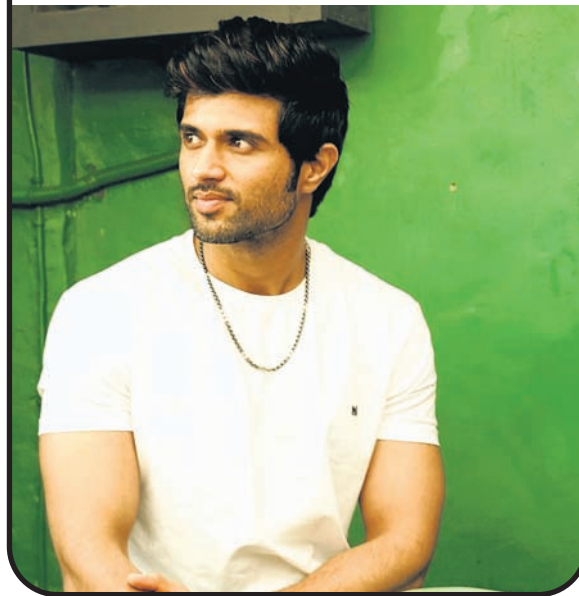
VIJAY DEVERAKONDA STARTS PREPARATIONS FOR HIS NEXT FILM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vijay Deverakonda has two additional exciting projects in the works after Liger: Jana Gana Mana and Kushi.

In the Puri Jagannadh film, he will portray an army officer. After Liger's fiasco, there were numerous reports that the movie would be cancelled. But it appears that the movie is still in production. Only yesterday, VD posted images of himself training as a sniper and learning how to shoot at the camp base with Indian Army officers. Even so, he wore the uniform. Vijay Deverakonda posted the image on social media and wrote, "With the Baddest Men on the Indian front lines! #URL." In the meantime, the film's announcement in March of this year attracted a lot of interest. During the event, VD could be seen exiting a helicopter. Producer Charmme Kaur had earlier tweeted, Putting an end to rumour mills about the film being shelved.

"Rumours rumours rumours! All rumours are fake! Just focusing on the progress of. Meanwhile, RIP rumours." Although she did not specifically mention Jana Gana Mana in her post, it was undoubtedly implied.



She is playing the same ugly game she played in 'Uttaran': Sreejita on Tina

Team Absolute | New Delhi

It is very clear that the first evicted contestant from 'Bigg Boss 16' Sreejita De does not like her 'Uttaran' co-star and former housemate Tina Dutta, whom she labelled as 'stupid, very cheap, fake and weak'.

Sreejita and Tina's rivalry goes way back. Tina and Sreejita were playing 'Meethi' and 'Mukta' respectively in the show, 'Uttaran', the argument about who is the lead actress started a cold war between them.

Talking about her equation with Tina, Sreejita told IANS: "I have known her for 10 years and I already have an idea about her. What I didn't know was that she is playing the same ugly game that she played with me in the show 'Uttaran'. She is playing the same ugly game inside the house."

"Now that I am out I am getting to know a lot of things like she is constantly backstabbing me or talking ugly or bad about me which is not even required and she was also trying to manipulate people who were getting closer to me because she was trying to corner me or isolate me and on the other hand she came to me in three different occasions and told me to play together because if we play together we would look stronger."

Sreejita said that she "denied the proposal".



Alia is a fabulous performer: Sidharth Malhotra



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Karan Johar's Student of the Year (2012), served as Sidharth Malhotra and Alia Bhatt's professional debut. The two worked together once more in 2016 for Shakti Batra's film Kapoor & Sons, and they reportedly started dating around the time they appeared in it but broke it off. The Gangubai Kathiawadi actress was praised by the Shershaah actor.

Sidharth stated to a leading portal, "Alia is a fabulous performer, and where she makes you believe that it is all coming in very easily but she does her homework. I think her ease, her prep work [is incredible]." While they were dating, Sidharth and Alia kept their relationship a secret, but they later acknowledged it. When asked about his equation with Alia



after their breakup during his 2019 appearance on Koffee With Karan, Sidharth responded, "I don't think it's bitter. We haven't really met after it. It's civil. It's been a while. I have known her for much longer even before we dated. I have given my first-ever shot to her in SOTY. There is so much history."

While Alia married Ranbir Kapoor in April of this year and is currently pregnant, Sidharth is currently rumoured to be seeing Kiara Advani.

On the work front, Alongside Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh, Sidharth will next be seen in the movie Thank God. Next up for the actor are the web series Indian Police Force by Rohit Shetty, Yodha, and Mission Majnu. Alia, on the other hand, will appear in Jee Le Zaraa and Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. With Heart Of Stone, she will also make her Hollywood debut.



Aamna Sharif