



EDITOR'S SPECS

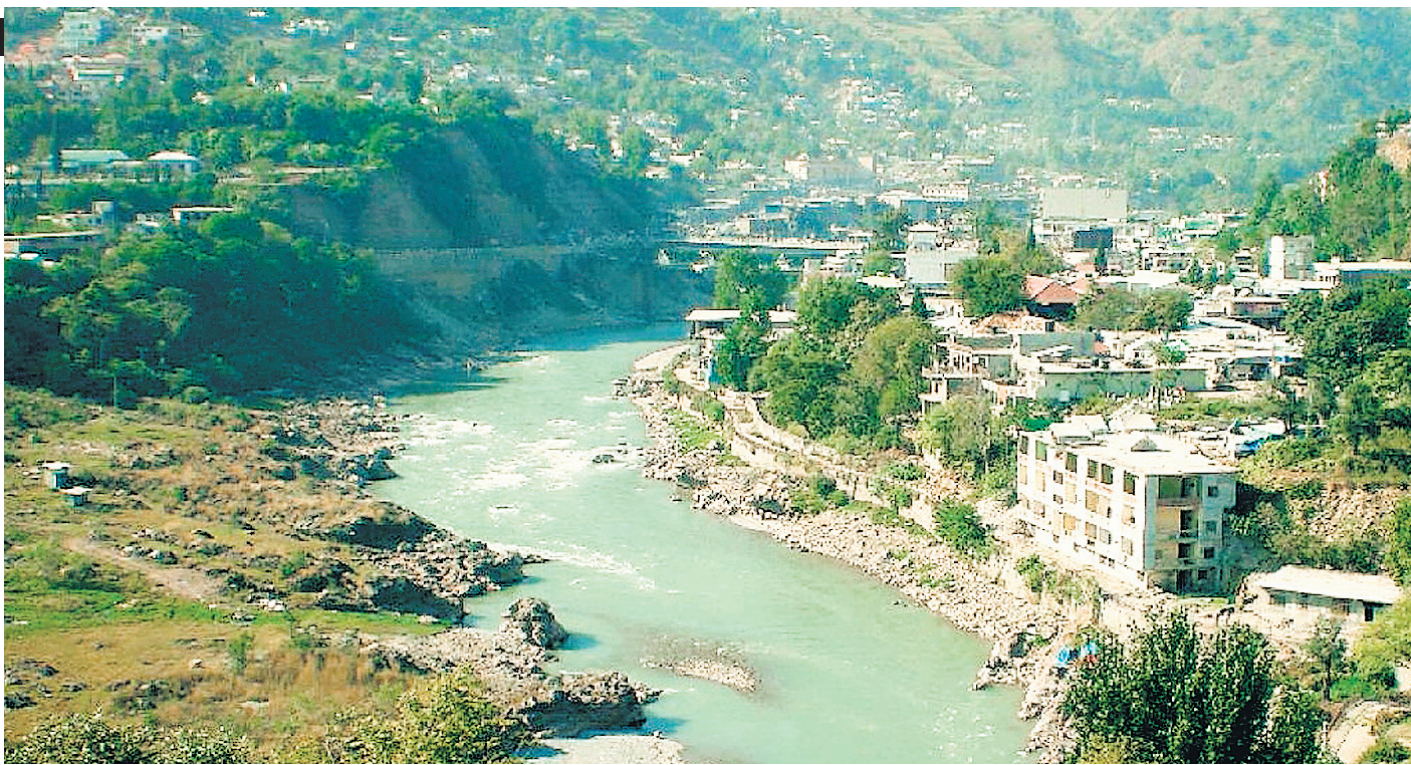
October 26: Indian Army, locals won J&K freedom

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

PAKISTAN IS LIVING IN A FOOL'S PARADISE

R. C. Ganjoo

Accession Day, October 26, 1947, is celebrated with fervor and graciousness in Jammu and Kashmir, when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession at Amar Palace in Jammu, India. The agreement made the former independent princely state of J&K join the Union of India. Maharaja had decided, in April 1947 that he would accede to India if it was not possible to stay independent. Kashmir was and is a paradise where people of all religions live in harmony and that tradition continues. Pakistan's actions divided the state into Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir, a scenario that continues till date. Kashmiris remember October 22, 1947, as the day of the commencement of hell, till Indian soldiers landed to protect them. October 22, 1947, was when six to seven thousand Pakistani raiders, backed by the Pakistan army, which had embedded some of its soldiers within the raiders, crossed the Neelum River and began looting, plundering, raping, kidnapping and killing thousands of innocents, all with the intention of capturing Kashmir under the code name of Operation Gulmarg. Pakistan's 7 Infantry Division was located close by seeking to exploit the success achieved by its raiders. The target was to capture all territory up to the Banihal Pass. By the end of the war, over 35,000 Kashmiris from all religions were killed, and thousands were kidnapped and taken to western Pakistan to be sold as slaves. Pakistan continues to breed terrorist groups which claim innocent lives in Kashmir, and pretext that Kashmiris desire to be a part of Pakistan. It hired anti-national elements with illicit funds to incite violence and turned religion into a dividing factor. But always eat humble pie. Like in Bangladesh in 1971 Pakistan failed miserably and was compelled to surrender before the Indian Army. Pakistan's repeated attempts to secede from



Kashmir proved futile exercise because the people of the region understood Pakistan's dirty games. After accession, the Indian part of J&K followed the democratic path of the Indian constitution while the area under Pakistani occupation was bifurcated into two - PoK and the 'Northern Areas,' known as Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is that part of Jammu and Kashmir (India) which was invaded by Pakistan in 1947. Since 1947 PoK has been governed under the PoK Interim Constitution Act passed in 1974. PoK claims to have a self-governing legislative assembly though it is a known fact that it is under the control of Pakistan. The leaders of PoK surrendered the Northern Areas to Pakistan under the Karachi Agreement of 1949. The Karachi Agreement, which governs the rule of Pakistan over Gilgit-Baltistan, was signed between the president of PoK, the Muslim Conference, and a minister without portfolio from Pakistan,

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

women to be more than 1600. These local tribal militias and irregular Pakistani forces advanced to take the capital city of Srinagar. But on reaching Baramulla, they again started looting. They were challenged initially by the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces and by militias. It was the daring deed of a 19-year-old boy Mohd Maqbool Sherwani who single-handedly frustrated the advance of thousands of raiders (Kabailis) from Baramulla, thus giving valuable time to the Indian Army to land in Srinagar and push back raiders. The raiders put him on a wooden cross, nailed him, and fired upon 10-15 times. He remained like that for two to three days. His body was brought down only when the Army reached the place. Indian troops landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947 and defended the summer capital in the decisive battle of Shalteng on the outskirts of Srinagar on 7-8 November 1947. On the 8th of

November, 1947 raiders were driven out of Baramulla. One of the first acts of the freed people was to reclaim the dead body of Sherwani and to bury it in the graveyard of Juma Masjid of the town with full military honours. A Memorial hall in the name of Maqbool Sherwani has been constructed by the army. In the next few months, the Indian army drove out the Pakistani intruders from most parts of J&K, barring the portion that today constitutes PoK. The invasion of J&K by Pakistan and its proxy tribal raiders in 1947 has left deep scars that impacted the psyche of the people of PoK, and it marked the first and most critical step in the erosion of the Kashmiri identity with the State and its people being torn apart by an UN-drawn LoC that divides the erstwhile Princely State and its inhabitants.

international

CANADIANS PROTEST AFTER DEATH OF TWO SIKH KIDS

Toronto | Agencies

Canadians took to the streets in Montreal to protest against rising cases of domestic violence after an Indo-Canadian Sikh was recently charged with murder in the death of his two children. Screaming "enough is enough" and "not one more", about a dozen protesters marched from downtown Montreal's Place du Canada to Parc Emile-Gamelin demanding that swift action must be taken against domestic violence, CBC News reported. Kamaljit Arora, 45, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of his 11-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter in Laval. He was also accused of assaulting and strangling his wife. In another case, an 82-year-old



man was charged with second-degree murder, after his 90-year-old wife was found dead in a seniors' residence in Quebec. "How many more women must be killed before things change?" she said. "Who will raise their hands with me to say that enough is enough?" Christine Giroux, a survivor of

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

fight domestic violence, the Quebec government had said in December 2021 that violent partners and people accused of domestic violence could be ordered to wear tracking bracelets. Distraught and shocked, Arora's neighbours in Laval said they were still trying to come to terms with the deaths of two children in their locality. "I wasn't able to process it in my head... How could someone do that to their own children? Nobody should go through a situation like this," Parm Kamal Singh, a distant relative of the victims, told a Brampton-based TV channel. According to CTV News, between May 2020 and now, 44 women and children have been killed in Quebec in family violence situations.

First time Pak ISI chief directly addresses media

Islamabad | Agencies

In an unexpected press conference, chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum joined Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) DG Lt Gen Babar Iftikhar to speak about journalist Arshad Sharif's killing and former premier Imran Khan's confrontational narrative against the military, as well as a host of other related topics. This is the first time in Pakistan's history that the head of the country's spy agency has directly addressed the media, Dawn reported. At the outset of the press conference, Gen Iftikhar said the purpose of the conference was to shed light on the killing of the journalist in Kenya and the circumstances surrounding it. This press conference is being held in the context of presenting facts so that "facts, fiction and opinion can be differentiated", he said, adding that Prime Minister



Shehbaz Sharif had been "specially informed" about the sensitivity of the press conference. Gen Iftikhar went on to say that Arshad Sharif's popularity was based on being an investigative journalist and when the cypher, which Khan has touted as evidence of a foreign conspiracy to oust his government surfaced, he conducted several programmes on the issue. He held several meetings with

the former premier and interviewed him, the DG ISPR said. "As a result, it was stated that he was shown meeting minutes and the cypher." The facts behind the cypher and Arshad Sharif's death have to be determined, he said. Talking about the cypher, Gen Iftikhar said that the army chief had discussed it with Khan on March 11 when the latter had termed it to be "not a big thing". At this time, Arshad Sharif and other journalists were fed a particular narrative and an attempt was made to defame Pakistan and the country's institutions across the world, Dawn news quoted the ISPR chief as saying. "In this media trial, ARY News played the role of a spin doctor in targeting the army and promoting a false narrative [...] the NSC meeting was presented in the wrong context." Gen Iftikhar stated that the army was expected to intervene in domestic politics.

NEW SERBIAN GOVERNMENT SWORN

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

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

United Nations | Agencies

Ambassador Chris Lu will be representing the US at the special meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in India this week, according to Washington's UN mission. The CTC, headed by India, is to meet in Mumbai on Friday and in New Delhi on Saturday in India's untiring efforts to draw attention to international terrorism and push for action against it. The mission said that Lu will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the victims of the 2008 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai and lead the US delegation in the CTC meetings there and in New Delhi that will focus on terrorism threats posed by emerging technologies.



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



'TERROR ATTACK' ON IRANIAN SHRINE KILLS 13

Tehran: At least 13 people were reportedly killed and 21 others injured in a "terrorist attack" at the Shahcheragh religious shrine in Iran's southern city of Shiraz. One woman and two children were among the victims, semi-official Fars news agency said in a report, adding that investigations showed that the security forces of the shrine were also targeted in this attack on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported. Although the earlier reports said three terrorists were behind the attack, the police commander of Fars province said there is one attacker and the one has been arrested. According to Fars, the perpetrator of this attack is an element of Takfiri groups.

Italy's new cabinet wins final confidence vote

Rome | Agencies

The new Italian cabinet led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni won a confidence vote in the upper house of Italy's parliament by a comfortable margin. The final tally in the Senate was 115 votes in favour of confirming Meloni's government, 79 against and five abstentions, Xinhua news agency reported. On Tuesday, the government easily won approval in the lower house of parliament, with 235 votes in favour, 154 against and five abstentions. The two confidence votes are a step required by the Italian constitution for a new government to become fully operative. Meloni, Italy's first female prime minister, told the parliament ahead of the confidence vote on Wednesday her policy goals, including curbing high energy costs, sparking stronger economic growth, continuing support for Ukraine and strengthening the office of prime minister.



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



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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



Thackeray, while deputy leader Raghunath Kuchik suggested Lord Ram or even Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. "Ram Kadam (of BJP) has forgotten Lord Ram after whom he's named. Why only restrict Lord Ram to the Ayodhya temple, he can also figure on the ICN," Kuchik pointed out.

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

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

Team Absolute | Pune/Udaipur

The miniscule Dawoodi Bohra community in India and worldwide grieved over the death of Indian Army Major Mustafa Zakiuddin Kherodawala - who was killed in an air crash in Arunachal Pradesh last week, officials said here on Thursday. The community's spiritual leader, HH Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin currently in Rajasthan, visited the Kherodawala family home and offered solace and prayers for the loss of Major Mustafa - as he was popularly known.

Major Mustafa was among four other Indian Army personnel killed in the Advanced Light Helicopter crash in a mountainous region at Siang in Arunachal Pradesh on October 21. Later, his body, along with the other deceased, was retrieved and taken to Udaipur where he was accorded a funeral with full military honours at the Khanjeeper Cemetery. The National Defence Academy (NDA) in Pune organised a special wreath-laying ceremony at its sprawling Pune campus on Tuesday (October 25) in honour of Major Mustafa one of its distinguished alumnus.

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Airport Customs intercepted and arrested two Indian women passengers who landed here from Dubai with 2.65 kg gold, concealed in wax form, in their jeans, an official said here on Thursday. The two women arrived here by an IndiGo flight 6E-64 on Wednesday and based on profiling and surveillance, the Customs sleuths stopped them for searches.



The total recovery was 2.65 kgs of purest form of gold worth around Rs 1.40 crore, said the official. Both women were arrested and have been sent to police custody by a court, while further investigations are on into their accomplices or others involved in the entire gold smuggling racket.

COPS HUNT FOR FILMMAKER WHO TRIED TO RUN OVER ANGRY WIFE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocker, the Mumbai Police are on the lookout for a filmmaker, who allegedly attempted to run over and kill his wife with his car last week, officials said here on Thursday. The Amboli Police Station has lodged a case against Kamal Kishore Mishra following a complaint by his wife, Yasmin, on the incident that occurred in the afternoon of October 19 in a parking lot of an unidentified residential building. She sustained injuries to her legs and head but her condition is now stable and improving, said the police.



According to Senior Police Inspector Bandopant Bansode, the woman claimed in her complaint that her husband Mishra was reportedly having an adulterous relationship and deliberately attempted to crush her under his car before speeding off from there. A viral video (dated October 19) shows the woman running towards the white vehicle with dark glasses, purportedly driven by her husband with another woman in the car, and as she tries to stop him, he keeps on driving ahead until she falls under the front right wheel. A security personnel also rushes to help her, he is seen trying to talk to the driver, but is ignored and he continues to drive ahead dragging her on the bonnet, and as the woman falls on the ground, he speeds off from the location. Based on the victim Yasmin's complaint, the Amboli Police has filed the case under various sections of Indian Penal Code against the 'missing' Mishra and is on the lookout for him. Mishra, hailing from Gonda in Uttar Pradesh, is known for making films like "Bhootiyapa", "Flat No. 420", "Sharmaji Ki Lag Gayi", "Khalli Balli", "Dehati Disco", etc. The shocking incident and the security video clip evoked strong reactions on social media with many slamming Mishra for his alleged deeds, and demanding stringent action against him.

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian cricket fraternity on Thursday raised in one voice to hail the Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI) for announcing that women internationals will now get the same match fee as their male counterparts. As per the announcement, India's women cricketers to be paid the same match fee as their male counterparts, both female and male cricketers will earn Rs 15 lakh as Test match fee while playing in an ODI and T20I will fetch them match fees of Rs 6 lakh and 3 lakh respectively.



thanked BCCI and its Secretary Jay Shah for the decision. Legendary women cricketers Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami too hailed BCCI for this decision. "This is a historic decision for women's cricket in India! The pay equity policy along with the WIPL next year, we are ushering into a new era for women's cricket in India. Thank you Jay Shah Sir & the BCCI for making this happen. Really happy today," Mithali Raj said in her tweet. Jhulan termed it a great initiative that will motivate young girls to take up cricket.. "What amazing news for Women's cricket in India," wrote India opener Smriti Mandhana in her tweet.

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

HC asks Govt to hand over lab report to Johnson & Johnson

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to hand over to Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd a report of the Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata, based on which the state had cancelled the company's cosmetic manufacturing licence for its Mulund facility for its baby powder. A vacation bench of Justices N J Jamadar and Sharmila Deshmukh passed the decision on Wednesday while hearing a petition filed by the company challenging two orders of the state government - one dated September 15 cancelling the license and the second dated September 20 ordering to immediately stop manufacturing and sale of the company's baby powder product.

The orders were passed by the Joint Commissioner and Licensing Authority of the state Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The government based its orders on the report of the Central Drug Laboratory, which found the powder containing higher pH level than prescribed. The company challenged the orders first before the Maharashtra Minister for Food and Drug Administration, who is the appellate authority. The minister on October 19 upheld the cancellation order, following which the company approached the high court. The company in its petition said the orders were passed by violating the principles of natural justice. It added that with its manufacturing unit at suburban Mulund closed, the company was suffering huge financial loss. On Wednesday, when the matter came up for hearing, the company's counsel Ravi Kadam told the court that it is yet to be provided with the CDL report, based on which the orders were passed.

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After two years of pandemic-induced lull, Feroz Abbas Khan's Broadway style opus 'Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical' opened to packed houses in Mumbai on October 21 this year. The musical has already amassed unanimous critical and popular acclaim around the world but this is the first time in the post pandemic era that the 18th season of the show has been staged. Director Feroz Abbas says, "As a team, during the course of the last two years, we truly missed entertaining the audience and now it feels so reassuring that the fans of the show have missed it too! The response since the first show on October 21, has been unbelievable and more shows have had to be added to accommodate the overwhelming demand for tickets."

Shapoorji Pallonji Producers of the musical says, "Mumbai has embraced the musical extravaganza once again. The core appeal of the musical remains the same though as always we have worked hard to improve technical and production aspects." 'Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical' has won seven trophies, including the Best Indian Play, at the Broadway World India Awards 2017. The Best Director Award, Best Original Costume Design, Best Original Choreography category, Best Original Set Design segment and Best Original Lighting Design award. The play also bagged the Best Ensemble Cast award. A short interview with director Feroz Abbas: When was the first time that you saw 'Mughal-E-Azam' and what impact did the film have on you? Feroz: I saw 'Mughal-E-Azam' as a child on Eid with my family and it had an enormous emotional impact on me and I remember crying profusely because I thought a great injustice had been done to Anarkali! Decades later when I saw the coloured version with Farooque Sheikh and Shabana Azmi Azmi in Hyderabad, the film wove the same magic that I had experienced all those years ago and then the idea to adapt it to stage came to me because I realised that the film had a very theatrical structure. Do you think a film like this can be made today? Feroz: I think films which are much bigger in scale and even in detailing and budget are being made today especially in South India, but 'Mughal-E-Azam' was very unique at that particular period and time where epics were few and far between and this one in particular had cost the producers more than any previous Indian film. It took nearly 10 years to reach cinemas and that would be unthinkable today.

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

Team Absolute | Satara (Maharashtra)

Female workers are paid only half of what men manage to get, but they are hesitant to ask for more fearing loss of employment. Sweat trickles down her face as Anita toils under the arid skies of Jadhavwadi village in Maharashtra's Satara district. She is not alone though. A group of 15 female farmhands has been assigned the task of harvesting onions, something that takes up their whole day. "We all came around 10 am in a Tempo Traveller, and will be here until 5 to 6 pm. In between, we take a lunch break for an hour. At the end of the day, Rs 200 is paid to each of us," says Anita. Jadhavwadi and Bijaudi are two relatively less populated villages in Phaltan block. The temperature here may not fall under the 'extremely hot' category, but it undoubtedly drains the energy of farm labourers. In addition, there are not many trees or man-made shelters for workers to take rest. Unlike their male counterparts, female labourers are in demand here. According to Anita, they do not have to scramble for work. "The farm owners find us. So, we move from one farm to another with ease." Their popularity hinges on the fact that they need to be paid only half of what men manage to get, despite doing the same work for the same amount of time. "At the end of the day, we also have to think about saving money," says Mamusheth, a farm owner. A conversation with Vijay Bhosale, a farm contractor, reveals how most of them perceive gender inequality in daily wages as a social norm. "This is what was followed by our forefathers. I know it is unequal, but this is how the system is," explains Bhosale. Sympathising with the farm owners, a woman in the group says they are fine with the Rs 200 they receive. "Men ask for Rs 400 and above. Maybe, the employers cannot afford that much." All of them admit that they do not really ask for more wages for fear of loss of employment.



"Something is better than nothing, right?" says Anita, to which others nod. Furthermore, they feel there is almost no room for negotiations. As per the revised minimum wages in Maharashtra, even unskilled labourers in zone 3 are entitled to Rs 420.54 per day. From plain observation, it is clear that all the rates mentioned in different policy guidelines of the state and Central governments are higher than the amount women farmhands in Jadhavwadi and Bijaudi are paid. Despite the state government's initiative to close the gaps in daily wages since 2016, it has been overlooked in rural areas. A news report highlights a similar situation in Palghar's Sadakwadi, where women work on farms for low wages, while men migrate to nearby areas for construction or industry-based work. Most of the women never went to school. Only two or three reached high school, but dropped off after household chores increased. Soon enough, they were married off. "We do not voice our problems generally. We just listen to our employers," Anita said. Other women echo her when they say: "Yes, there are times when we feel we are not heard. But then, we also do not know enough. So we make peace with that fact."



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Los Angeles | Agencies



Sam Heughan got rejected from playing James Bond

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

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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Hailey Bieber, slams Kanye's anti-Semitic stance

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

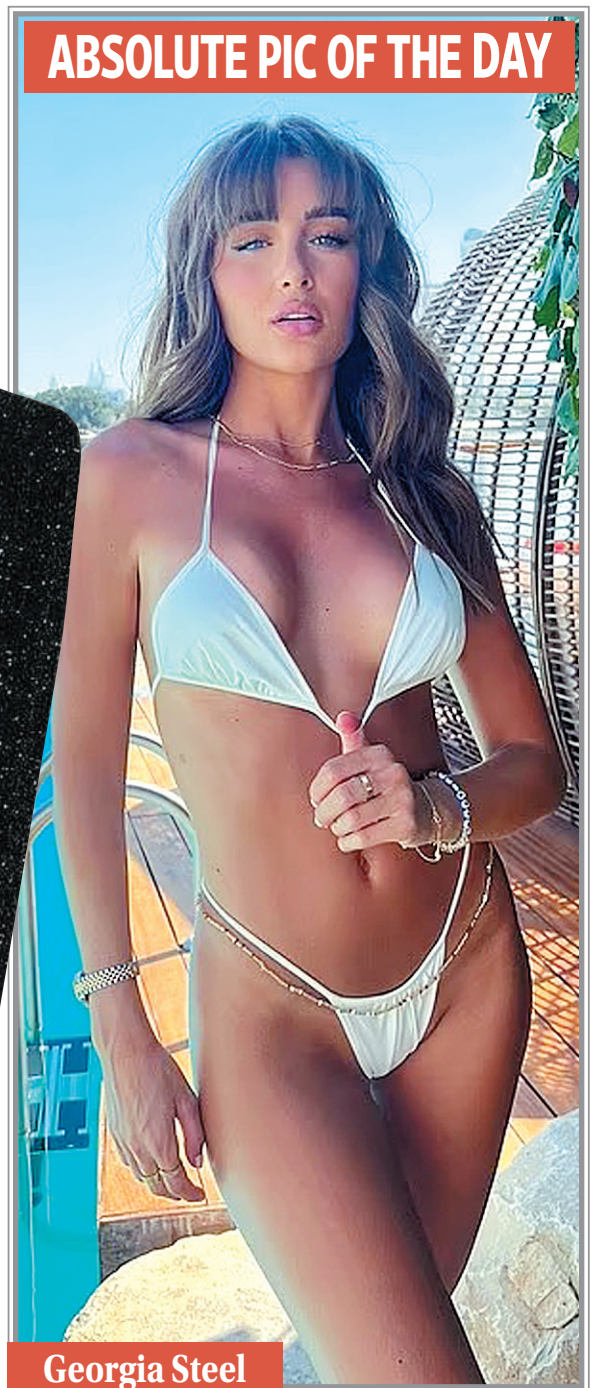
"You cannot believe in God and be anti-Semitic," Hailey penned in an Instagram Story on October 25. "You cannot love God and support or condone hate speech. To love God is to love people. ALL people."

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

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

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

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





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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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



Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Team Absolute | Chennai

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am relieved and at peace with myself: Karthi

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



Team Absolute | Chennai

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

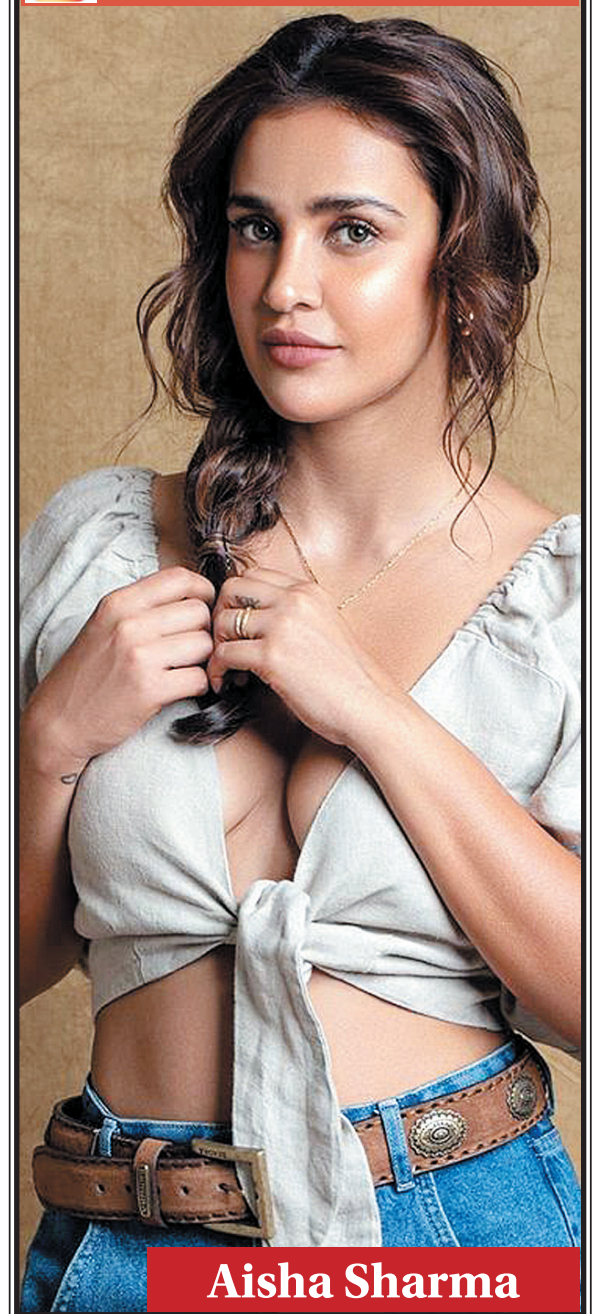
AAYUSH SHARMA UNLEASHES HIS ACTION AVATAR, VICIOUS SWAG IN UPCOMING TEASER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aisha Sharma