

## Netherlands beats USA by 3-1, qualifies for quarters ...

■ **Bhubaneswar:** An awareness march for disability rights being taken out on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities from Indira Gandhi park to Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar on Saturday, December 03.

# Bengal govt's decision on jobs for transgenders under general category to face legal challenge

The parents association has opposed the idea of cross-sharing classroom footage with other parents or unauthorised third persons. They fear that such footage may be misused for morphing and dissemination on social media.



# Systemic Delays, Red Tape Plague Disability Rights Space in India: Experts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The development of inclusive systems related to health, online education and tourism are the need of the hour according to disability rights activists.

Most say that systemic delays due to an unaware or insensitive bureaucracy - along with defunding - have adversely impacted the sector in the recent past.

Activists The Wire spoke to said they believe that there have not been too many gains on the ground in the area of disability rights in recent years in spite of conversation on the same.

Founder-convenor of Javed Abidi Foundation (JAF) Shameer Rishad said that over the past couple of years, he has discovered that the process of change in the space of disability rights is "plagued with systemic delays due to an unaware, insensitive/desensitised bureaucracy".

In August this year, scholars selected for the NFPwD had written to Union ministers and University Grants Commission chairperson, calling the delay in disbursement of fellowships a violation of the fundamental right to equality, The Hindu had reported.

Stating that "disability rights activists need to target access to basic services provided to persons with disabilities through government", Rishad



said, there are "numerous schemes for people with disabilities but none of them are being implemented due to the aforementioned challenges. Further as a sector, activists need to focus on working simultaneously on issues, intersecting or collaborating when there is a genuine need."

He urged the authorities to "stop defunding disability and properly manage the allocated budget" and said that a recent parliamentary committee report had shown that "there was massive underutilisation of funds which led to arbitrary decision to reduce the funding towards persons with disabilities".

Disability rights activist and doctor at University College of Medical Sciences and GTB Hospital, Delhi,

Satendra Singh, stressed the need for urgent development of disability-inclusive health systems.

Singh, who was an adviser to the recent Missing Billion report, said there should be improved access to assistive technology within all key development sectors.

"We are still relying on an outdated charity model of distributing low quality products in this regard," said Singh, while calling for developing "an essential assistive products list based on the model WHO priority assistive products list."

Singh also called for including disability competencies in nursing and dental professions; preparing a national template for reasonable accommodations; amending the con-

stitution to explicitly prohibit disability-based discrimination and repeal Section 3 (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, ensuring that its legislation recognises direct and indirect disability-based discrimination.

Finally, he said, there was also a need for disability-inclusive vaccine equity framework in emergencies like COVID-19.

Finally, there should be availability of accessible digital technologies involving mobile applications and websites of accommodations, transports, tourist places and tour operations that are designed to be in accessible format for visually and hearing-speech impaired, he said. This report is been published from courtesy with The WIRE.

## FIR against four over controversial book being taught in govt law college; ABVP stages protest

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An FIR was registered on Saturday against the author and the publisher of a book, which has been taught at a government-run law college in Indore, along with its principal and a professor on charges of promoting enmity between different groups and hurting religious feelings, police said.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has alleged the book, "Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System", contains very objectionable content against the Hindu community and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which encourages religious fundamentalism. The First Information Report (FIR) was registered following the complaint lodged by a student of Government New Law College, and hours after state Home Minister Narottam Mishra directed Indore's commissioner of police to register a case after conducting a probe in 24 hours into the contents of the book.

"An FIR has been registered against Dr Farhat Khan, author of the book titled 'Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System', Amar Law Publication, principal of the institute Dr Inam Ur Rahman, and professor Mirza Mojiz Baig. They are



booked under sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence), 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and other sections of the Indian Penal Code," said Bhawarkuan police station in-charge Shashikant Chaurasia.

Before the registration of the FIR, ABVP activists staged a protest and raised slogans against the book on the premises of the Law College. A heavy police force was also deployed. ABVP's college unit president Dipendra Singh Thakur said Farhat Khan's book contains "very objectionable content against Hindu community, RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, and Durga Vahini".

He said the book has been "promoting religious bigotry" and has been taught to students in the college library for the last five years. The book

was removed from the library by the college management quickly after controversy, he said. On the other hand, Hitesh Khetrpal of Amar Law Publications, the Indore-based publisher of the book, said, "The first edition of this book was published in the year 2015. "When we came to know about its controversial parts in 2021, we discussed it with its author Dr Farhat Khan and got the related pages of the book changed," he said. According to Khetrpal, the book's author has already submitted a letter of apology regarding the disputed portions of her book.

Meanwhile, the college's principal Dr Inam Ur Rahman resigned from his post amid the controversy.

Higher Education Department's Additional Director Kiran Saluja said the principal in his resignation letter sent to the department's commissioner said he is "hurt" by the agitation of the college students and unknown people from outside and was leaving the post.

## Explosives, ammunition, foreign currencies seized in Mizoram; 6 held

Aizawl | Agencies

The Assam Rifles on Saturday in two separate raids in Mizoram seized a huge quantity of Myanmar-bound explosives, war-like stores, foreign currencies, and detained six persons including four Myanmar nationals, defence sources said.

Assam Rifles officials said that acting on a tip-off, it recovered a huge cache of explosives and war-like stores near Block Tuipang in the bordering Saiha district.

The seizure was done when the explosives, weapon and war-like stores were ferrying on three Chinese Kenbo bikes, which tried to evade the mobile vehicle check-post Tuipang.

Four Myanmar nationals were apprehended in this connection.

The seized explosives, war like stores include gunpow-



der 22.42 kg, 60 rounds of .22 ammunition, three boxes of .177 pellets, one .22 rifle and various other tactical stores including tactical vests, tactical gloves, combat uniform and boots. In a separate raid at Zawngling in Block Tuipang of the same Siaha district, Assam Rifles inter-

cepted a vehicle and recovered a huge amount of Myanmar and Indian currencies. Two persons have been arrested in this connection.

The seized currencies include, Myanmarese 73,43,700 kyat (equivalent to Rs 2,84,568), and INR (Rs) 2,33,910.

## SACHIN PILOT'S VIDEO ON 'BHARAT JODO YATRA' A HIT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Jaipur: Rajasthan Congress is all set to welcome Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo yatra' into the state at Jhalawar on Sunday. In view of this, former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot on Saturday released a video on his social media platforms, which soon started trending on Facebook and Twitter.

On Twitter, the video was viewed 533.3K times, garnering 31.9K likes while 7,000 users retweeted the same. On Facebook, the video garnered 70,000 views, 2,000 shares, 8,000 likes and 1,300 comments. In the 30-second video, Pilot makes an appeal to the people of Rajasthan to join and support the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Pilot posted the video with the caption, "Rajasthan is ready to join Rahul ji's #BharatJodoYatra, are you coming?"

## MLAs' poaching case: Kerala doctor moves Telangana High Court

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

A Kerala-based doctor, who is an accused in the sensational MLAs' poaching case, has approached Telangana High Court seeking a stay on the lookout notice issued by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Telangana police.

Kottilil Narayan Jaggu, alias Jaggu Swami, has filed a quash petition, challenging the notice served to him by the SIT and also the subsequent lookout notice issued for him by the probe team.

Arguing that he is no way involved in the case, the petitioner has sought a stay on the proceedings against him. The petition is likely to come up for hearing on Monday.

The SIT issued a lookout notice for Jaggu Swami on November 22, terming him a "wanted person" in the case.

A doctor with the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Ernakulam, he allegedly played a key role in the conspiracy to lure four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to



defect to the BJP by offering huge sums of bribe.

A probe team which had earlier visited Kerala, found him to be absconding from his residence and workplace. The SIT has requested all police unit officers across India to communicate the lookout notice to police stations under their jurisdictions and furnish any clues regarding the wanted person to the Hyderabad City Control Room, ACP Rajendranagar, DCP Shamshabad

Zone and the Moinabad Police Station.

According to the notice, Jaggu Swami is wanted in a "case of inducement of bribe to MLAs of the TRS Party to defect and also to discharge their duties improperly and dishonesty and criminal intimidation to topple and destabilise the democratically elected State government".

Earlier, he was served a notice by the SIT directing him to appear before it for investigation on November 21.

## CAMPAIGNING ENDS FOR 2ND PHASE OF GUJ ASSEMBLY POLLS

Gandhinagar:

The campaigning for the second phase of Gujarat Assembly elections -- scheduled to be held on December 5, ended on Saturday with all the three major parties -- the BJP, Congress and the AAP, putting their last-minute efforts to woo the voters.



The first phase of the polling -- held on December 1, witnessed a low turnout of voters.

Chief Electoral Officer P. Bharathi said that in 93 seats, there are 2,51,58,730 voters in 14,975 polling centres.

Of them, 2,904 polling centres are in urban areas and 12,071 in rural areas. There are a total of 26,409 polling booths.

The smallest constituency is Dariapur (Ahmedabad city) spread over 6 sq. km, whereas Radhanpur is the biggest constituency spread over 2,544 sq. km.

At least 1,13,325 election staff will be on duty.

The voting will start at 8 a.m. on Monday and continue till 5 p.m.

There are 74 general seats, 6 reserved seats for Scheduled caste and 13 for Scheduled Tribe.

A total of 833 candidates are contesting the elections.

## TN district to create world record by planting 6L tree saplings in 6 hrs

Chennai | Agencies

The Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu will be planting six lakh tree saplings in order to improve the green cover in the district in a span of six hours.

The move is likely to fetch the district a Guinness World record.

The saplings to be planted include medicinal plants, fruit-bearing trees and rainforest trees.

The district administration is joining hands with Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Tamil Nadu Forest Department to achieve the feat.

The six lakh saplings will be planted on 1,017 acre across Oddanchatram and Idayakottai taluks of the Dindigul district. The district has already planted five lakh tree saplings block-wise.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University students will do the preliminary work, including pre-cultivation works. The district administration has already set up borewells and other facilities with the support of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and



Waterworks Department.

Dindigul District Collector, S. Vishakan told reporter, "The project is aimed to increase the green cover of the district and this is a follow-up of the five lakh saplings that have already been planted."

The Forest Department of the district is actively involved in

procuring the saplings along with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and HR&CE Department.

Dindigul District Forest Officer, S. Prabhu told reporter, "The idea is to plant six lakh saplings in six hours and this is to create awareness on the impact of trees and

how it reverses climate change. In future, the district will be abode to dense forest that will provide shelter to several species."

The Forest officials said that Idukottai panchayat has been given the responsibility to maintain the trees.

## SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ON PRETEXT OF MARRIAGE: SC GRANTS ANTICIPATORY BAIL TO ACCUSED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to an accused facing rape charge, where the victim alleged that the accused established sexual relationship with her on the pretext of marriage. A bench comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and M.M. Sundresh said: "We have examined the office report, and also perused the assertions made by the informant in the FIR. On consideration, we are inclined to grant the appellant -- Mukesh Kumar Singh -- the benefit of anticipatory bail with the direction that in the event of the appellant being arrested, he shall be released on bail by the arresting officer on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court. In addition, the appellant shall comply with the mandate of Section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. "The allegations levelled in the FIR registered in Jaipur said that the accused had established physical relations with the prosecutrix multiple times, promising her that they will get married. The petitioner moved the apex court, through criminal lawyer Namit Saxena, challenging the Rajasthan High Court order which dismissed his plea for grant of pre-arrest bail. The bench said, "Grant of anticipatory bail to the appellant would not be treated as expression of opinion on the merits of the case... Miscellaneous Petition... pending before the high court of judicature for Rajasthan, bench at Jaipur, will be decided on merits and in accordance with law, without being influenced by this order."

# SWARAJYA MEMBERS SHOW BLACK FLAGS TO MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR, DETAINED

Team Absolute | Pune

The Pune Police detained some members of the Swarajya organisation for showing black flags to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's convoy on Friday. The Swarajya members were protesting against Governor Koshyari's remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj made a few days ago. The Maharashtra Governor on November 19 stoked a fresh controversy as he called Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj an 'old idol'.

Addressing a function at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad on Saturday, the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said, "If someone asks who your idol is, you don't have to go out looking for one. You will find them right here in Maharashtra. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has become an old idol now, you can find new ones -- from Babasaheb Ambedkar to (Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways) Nitin Gadkari."

An emotive and iconic figure in Maharashtra, transcending political affiliations, the Governor's remark on the Maratha warrior did not go down well with leaders. The statement sparked a massive furore and drew censure from Maratha organisations and opposition leaders alike.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar slammed Koshyari over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and said that Maharashtra Governor has crossed "all limits".

He further sought intervention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter. While addressing a press conference, Pawar had said "The Governor has crossed all limits."



The President and the Prime Minister should intervene in this matter. It is wrong to give big posts to people who make irresponsible statements."

Moreover, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's descendant and Raja Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhonsle wrote a letter to President

Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on the Maratha warrior demanding the Governor to be sacked from his post.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav) leader Sanjay Raut demanded the removal of Maharashtra Governor Koshyari over the issue.



## Insults to Chhatrapati won't be tolerated, fumes royal descendent

Team Absolute | Raigad

Sounding the war-bugle against those who keep "insulting" Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, his 13rd direct descendant and Bharatiya Janata Party MP Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale on Saturday issued a strong warning against tolerating any more slights to his illustrious predecessor.

Addressing a huge rally atop the historic Raigad Fort, Bhosale thundered against those who have been continuously speaking ill of the legendary Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj through films, books and statements and warned that "now the time has come to show them their place".

Referring to the recent controversial utterances by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, he slammed political parties for becoming "selfish" and not taking a clear stand against such persons while hiding behind protocols, in a veiled attack at his own party.

"The Governor has lost all rights to continue in his post... Despite occupying such a high constitutional office, he has repeatedly insulted icons of the state like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj,

Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule... It's a shame that such people are being supported," Bhosale said without naming Koshyari or any party.

On the occasion, he announced a plan to tour entire Maharashtra and propagate the teachings of the Chhatrapati including 'Sarva Dharma Sambhavana' (equality for all religions) which is being "diluted" with people being "divided" in the name of religions and castes, while promising to hold his next rally plus agitation in Mumbai soon.

Bhosale added that he would go to meet the President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue shortly, and has already written to them complaining against the Governor - whom he labelled as a "third-class person" last week, demanding that he must be sacked.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut urged Bhosale to quit the BJP to protect his dignity, while a worried BJP Minister Chandrakant Patil folded his hands and appealed to the angry royal to end the matter immediately, but found no takers.



## MINISTER'S SLUR ON SUPRIYA SULE: GOVERNOR SENDS WOMEN'S PLEA TO SHINDE-FADNAVIS GOVT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taking cognizance of a complaint pertaining to a Minister's slur against Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule last month, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has sent a complaint by women leaders to the state government for appropriate action, officials said here.

The development comes around a fortnight after an all-party delegation of women MPs, including NCP's Fauzia Khan and Samajwadi Party's Jaya Bachchan, several MLAs and other prominent women called on the Governor on November 14.

Drawing his attention to certain scurrilous remarks made by Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar against Sule which sparked off a massive political furore, the women's group had submitted a memorandum demanding strict action against and his sacking from the cabinet. Days after the meeting, the Governor informed Khan that he had forwarded the plea to the state government for appropriate action. Confirming, Khan said that the delegation had informed the Governor how ministers holding responsible positions in the government were making insulting statements on women, and the delegation had protested in the matter. "We are thankful to the Governor for taking note of this and sending it to the state government for suitable action," said Khan on Saturday.

## "THERE SHOULD BE SOME CRITERIA": UDDHAV THACKERAY ON APPOINTING GOVERNORS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) chief Uddhav Thackeray today said some criteria must be fixed for the selection of persons for the post of state governors.

Thackeray said Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been insulting revered figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and social reformers Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule.

A state minister compared Eknath Shinde's "betrayal" (rebellion in June that brought down the MVA government) to the warrior king's escape from Agra and "such people continue to remain in office", he added. "A governor is the representative of the President of India and there should be some criteria on who can be appointed to such a post. I demand such rules be framed," the former chief minister said.

Reiterating his appeal to people and citizens to join hands against those insulting the state and its icons, Thackeray said, "We will announce a program in the coming days. We don't want to just limit ourselves to a Maharashtra bandh (shutdown)."

Speaking on the border row between Maharashtra and Karnataka, Thackeray



said CM Eknath Shinde was mum on the statement of his counterpart Basavaraj Bommai that ministers from here were not welcome to Belgaum there.

Bommai on Friday took exception to the proposed visit of Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai to Belagavi next week, saying the visit was not good. "Shinde and his MLAs should have gone to Guwahati (Assam) to pray to Kamakhya Devi to get Belgaum and other Marathi-speaking

areas of Karnataka into Maharashtra," Thackeray said.

Slamming the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government over the construction of the metro rail crashed in Mumbai's Aarey Colony, he said the facility could have come up in Kanjurmarg. "But the attitude of the state government is to protect its ego at the cost of environmental damage," he claimed. Thackeray also said his party had not split but was growing strong with each passing day.

## Liquor shops, in Dadar and areas nearby, remain shut on December 6

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Liquor shops and bars in Dadar and its nearby areas have been asked to remain shut on the occasion of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's death anniversary on December 6, according to a circular issued by Mumbai Collector Rajeev Nivatkar. Pravin Tambe, deputy superintendent of the state excise department, informed this is an annual occurrence.

The circular issued by the Mumbai Collector on November 30 stated that it is Babasaheb Ambedkar's 66th "Mahaparinirvan Divas" and people will visit Chaitiyabhoomi every year. Hence, it has been declared as a 'dry day'.

"I request that all liquor shops and beer bars in the area of Chaitiyabhoomi and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maidan remain shut from 05.12.2022 to



06.12.2022," the Mumbai Collector said in the circular. Liquor shops and bars in Dadar, Shivaji Park, Mahim, Dharavi, Sion, all areas up to Curry Road Station, Worli Sea Face, Worli Koliwada to Sangam Nagar and Sion Koliwada, Kings Circle, Wadala, Sewri, Kalachowki and Bhoiwada will remain shut on December 6, as per the circular.

Dilip Giyanani, chairman of the Maharashtra Wine Merchants Association (MWMA), said, "We have not received any order yet. But, the order is issued every year because there are religious sentiments attached to the day. So, we respect that. Even if we receive the order a day or two days prior, we have to accept it."

Giyanani further added that it affects the business in that particular area. "There is only inconvenience to a few vendors, but a majority of them are not affected. Even if there was no 'dry day', it is difficult to manage the crowd on that day, because so many people are pouring in from across the country and are stationed in those areas. I remember, years ago, even though there was no 'dry day' still shopkeepers used to keep wine shops closed in those areas. It is that crowded," he shared.

## GOVT HAS 'MODIFIED' 62 COAL MINES TO MAKE THEM ATTRACTIVE FOR BUYERS

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Out of the 141 coal blocks which the Centre has put up for commercial auction, 62 mines are old which had gone unsold during previous attempts. Therefore to make them more attractive to the bidders, these reserves have been modified.

Coal Ministry sources informed that the areas around these mines have been altered by removing hindrances and obstacles to ensure proper connectivity and easy transportation of dry fuel.

Excessive vegetation has been removed and unapproachable terrain around these 62 coal mines has been made accessible to ensure smooth passage.

After these modifications, the 62 Old mines have been put up for



commercial auction again, they added. The remaining 71 mines out of the 141 are new reserves.

Of the 141 blocks, the ones which would be bid out will be termed as monetised assets under the Government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), sources informed further.

Also, eight blocks among the 141 reserves are those which had received single bids in earlier rounds

of auction, and have been put up for bidding again.

Coal Ministry has been holding roadshows across the country to attract bidders for these 141 mines.

Today it has organised an investor conclave in Bengaluru, where Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and senior officials of both coal and mines ministries as well as Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would be present. The Ministry had organised a similar conclave in Mumbai last week.

It plans to conduct a series of investors' conclaves at several locations across India to attract prospective bidders. These mines are spread all across the country in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Rajasthan, among others.

## TWO BOOKED FOR EXTORTION IN ULHASNAGAR

Team Absolute | Thane

Ulhasnagar cops have booked Omie Kalani, son of ex-MLA and strongman Pappu Kalani and one more for allegedly attempting to extort money from a developer. According to the complaint, a man visited a commercial building developed by the complainant and asked him to pay Rs 50 lakh. He alleges that the building was developed after forging documents and will be demolished if the developer does not pay money to them. Team Omie Kalani has refuted the claim and said this is fabricated complaint to book someone from Kalani in criminal case.

The complainant Dhiraj Wadhariya, a developer, son of an ex-corporator, residing in Ulhasnagar. On December 1, Wadhariya received a call from one of the shop owners from his building that, a man has arrived at the building and had been told to receive a notice written on a letter pad mentioning 'Team Omie Kalani'. When asked about who has sent the notice, the man replied saying 'Team Omie Kalani' and dialled a number on

mobile.

"The notice mentioned that, my father has done forgery in records and developed this illegal building and it needs to be demolished. The man gave the mobile phone to one of the shop owners. The man on the other end of the call identified himself as Thackrey and claimed he is talking from Kalani's bungalow" told Wadhariya in his statement to police.

An FIR was lodged against both under IPC action 385 (putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion) and 34 (common intention) in Ulhasnagar police station.

Manoj Lassi, the official spokesperson of Team Omie Kalani refused the allegations leveled by complainant. "This is another attempt to frame someone from Kalani family by present government. Even last week they tried to do same but the attempt was foiled as we had evidences. The complainant alleges extortion has developed the building by forging documents and Omie Kalani's wife has repeatedly raised her voice against it. Hence, the complaint filed a police complaint to stop them from following the matter," he added.

## Electric AC double-deckers to hit streets by January 14

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BEST has planned to begin electric AC double-decker services by Makar Sankranti, on January 14. In the first phase, 50 AC double-decker buses will be operated while the existing non-AC double-deckers will be phased out by June 2023. Currently, 45 of these vehicles are in service.

The bus launch has been delayed as approvals from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) are awaited. "Once they come in, the buses will be launched. The plan is to have 50 of them in public service," BEST General Manager Lokesh Chandra said. The BEST will also launch its own electric cab aggregator and ferry service soon in order to improve last-mile connectivity. The process of floating tenders to invite agencies is on. These cars will have the BEST logo and accept bookings from bus passengers using the Chalo app, Chandra said. He added that BEST will start premium app-based bus services next week. Initially, four buses will be introduced between Thane and BKC. The undertaking will also install 330 EV charging stations for the public. These charging stations will be set up at 55 locations in the city, including south Mumbai and the suburban areas.





# Thousands of victims of the Bhopal gas disaster manifest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the 38th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy, thousands of victims of the Union Carbide gas disaster of 3 December 1984 demonstrated at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, demanding that the government release accurate figures of deaths and health hazards caused by the disaster. The petition, signed by 40,000 survivors of the tragedy, demands an improvement in their curative petition for additional compensation. Whose hearing will be done on January 10, 2023 by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court. Advocate Karuna Nandi, who fought the Supreme Court case for the Bhopal victims, and Dalit labor rights activist Nodeep Kaur, along with other eminent personalities and common citizens joined the fight and struggle of the Bhopal victims at Jantar Mantar and demanded justice for the victims.

Rashida B, president of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery



Karmachari Sangh, said that 93 percent of the survivors of Bhopal have been kept in the temporary injury category and given only Rs 25,000 as compensation. This is a kind of injustice, which was resolved by the Manmohan Singh government in 2010 when it filed a curative petition for additional compensation from

US corporations. However, justice cannot be done until the quantum of deaths and injuries caused by the disaster is revised by the present government.

On this occasion, Balkrishna Namdev, President of Bhopal Gas Victim Dues Pensioners Sangharsh Morcha said, The current

chief minister had written to Manmohan Singh that the injuries suffered by the Bhopal victims were permanent. Not temporary, as submitted in the curative petition. However, the state government has not yet reiterated this point before the Supreme Court.

Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group for Information and Action said, Madhya Pradesh government in another case has told the Supreme Court that 15,242 people died as a result of the Bhopal gas disaster. However, the state government failed to take steps to revise the incorrect figure of 5295 deaths presented in the curative petition.

Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group of Information and Action, Shehzadi B of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, and Rashida B of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmachari Sangh met the Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya and asked him about present situation and even conveyed and presented a set of documents.

## National Investigation Agency (NIA) Police Station to come up in Bhopal: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Home Minister Narottam Mishra spoke to the media persons at his residence on Saturday. He informed that the police station of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is going to open in Bhopal. Its work area will be the entire Madhya Pradesh. He added that National Investigation Agency Police Station will come up in Jahangirabad and notification in this regard will be issued shortly.

He also said that a district-level committee in the chairmanship of the Collector has been constituted in all districts of Madhya Pradesh for the prevention of narcotics and other drugs. The representatives of various departments will be members of the committee.



### RAHUL HAS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE: MISHRA

Narottam Mishra said Rahul Baba's knowledge is limited till 'Baba Baba Black Sheep'. He asserted that the name of Ram starts from the word 'Shri' and 'Shri' resembles Goddess 'Laxmi' and 'Mata Sita'. Ram and Krishna are incarnations of Lord Vishnu. On Saturday, while addressing the media, Mishra at his residence claimed that Rahul Gandhi neither turned the pages of Geeta nor has, possibly, read Ramayana. How he will know that the name of Ram starts from "Shri"? He said Rahul Gandhi might have been advised by some pandit who got the temple-shaped cake cut by the hands of Kamal Nath. He even advised Rahul Gandhi to at least use the net to know the meaning of the word 'Shri'.

## MP High Court accepts petition challenging Waqf Board's unfettered powers

Team Absolute | Indore

After the Delhi and Allahabad high courts, Indore Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court also accepted the petition challenging the unlimited rights and provisions given to the Waqf Board under Waqf Board Act 1995. In this matter, the High Court has directed the Central and State Government to respond.

According to the petitioner's advocates Manish Gupta and Sunil Jain notices were issued to the central and state governments after the hearing before the double bench of the Indore High Court on Friday.

The advocate said that according to the points mentioned in the Waqf Act 1995 the Waqf Board has many



uncontrolled and autocratic rights which are not available to any other religious trust or religious institutions and this shall be considered as violating the basic principle of secularism under the Constitution of India. The unrestricted and autocratic powers obtained by the Waqf Board violates the right to equality of other people of other religions which is a fundamental right given to the citizens of the country by the Indian Constitution.

## School teacher suspended for taking part in congress' BJJ

Team Absolute | Barwani

A government school teacher has been suspended for attending the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said on Saturday.

Rajesh Kannoje, a teacher with a primary school under the state's Tribal Affairs Department in Kanasya, was suspended on November 25, a day after he took part in the yatra. The issue came to light after his suspension order surfaced on social media.

"Kannoje was suspended for violation of service conduct rules and attending a political rally. He had sought leave citing important work, but he posted photographs on social media after attending a political event," Assistant Commissioner NS Raghuvanshi of the Tribal Affairs Department said.

As per the order, Kannoje violated service conduct rules by attending Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by a political party on November 24.



Meanwhile, state Congress media department chairperson K K Mishra in a tweet said the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has allowed employees to take part in the shakhas of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but sus-

pends a tribal, Rajesh Kannoje, for gifting 'tir-kaman' (bow and arrow) to Rahul Gandhi during a non-political march. The yatra, which arrived in Madhya Pradesh on November 23, will enter Rajasthan on Sunday.

## "ANUGOONJ" PROGRAM ON 4TH AND 5TH DECEMBER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

School Education Department will organise cultural programme "Anugoonj" for the students of government schools in Madhya Pradesh on 4th and 5th December, which is held every year under "Kala Se Samridha Shiksha" (education enriched with art). Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) Inder Singh Parmar will inaugurate on December 4. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest in the concluding evening of this program on December 5.

This fourth program of "Anugoonj" is being organised at Government Subhash School of Excellence, Bhopal, in which more than 700 students of government schools of Madhya Pradesh will exhibit their art at the state level.

"Anugoonj" is an innovative programme of "art-enriched education" in the direction of the global education system STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) of School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh. Now the programs of Anugoonj are being conducted in other divisions also. Some attractive presentations of these divisions are also included in the state level program of capital Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh has been grouped with the North Eastern States, Manipur and Nagaland for cultural exchange in the "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat" program envisioned by the Central Government, to provide an opportunity to learn about the interstate culture, arts and styles. In this sequence, cultural glimpses of these states will also be seen in Anugunj 2022.

## CONGRESS WORKER ON WAY TO ATTEND BJJ DIES OF HEART ATTACK

**Bhopal:** A Congress worker on the way to attend Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Sunser in Madhya Pradesh's Agar-Malwa district died of a heart attack on Saturday, a health official said. He was identified as Mangilal Shah (55), a resident of Zirapur town in Rajgarh district, the official said. "He was on his way to attend Bharat Jodo Yatra in Sunser in Agar-Malwa district when he suffered a heart attack. He was rushed by Congress workers to Sunser civil hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival," Block Medical Officer Manish Kuril said. Doctors insisted on conducting post mortem but his supporters took the body for the last rites, the official said.

## The doc who saw it all remembers the cold and horrific Dec night

Team Absolute | Bhopal

H.H. Trivedi, who's now in his 80s and still runs a clinic in Bhopal's Arera Colony, takes a long breath while recalling the fateful night of December 2-3, 1984, when the Bhopal turned into a chamber of toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) fumes. Trivedi, then an additional professor at Gandhi Medical College, was one of the three senior doctors who saw people lying unconscious on roads, gasping for breath. He is also one of those persons, whose testimony on the disaster was recorded in a court in the US in 1989.

On the 38th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy, Trivedi, in an interview, shared his memories of that fateful night and the entire havoc that engulfed around 3,000 people within the next 24 hours, and the toll continued to grow in the coming days. Trivedi recalled that it was midnight and he was getting ready to go to bed when he received a call from the Hamidia Hospital, asking to come immediately for an emergency.

"I was driving my car at full speed, heading towards Hamidia Hospital. When I reached the New Market area, I was surprised to see a large crowd running here and there and crying."

## MASS MARRIAGE AND INTRODUCTION CEREMONY IS A GOOD INITIATIVE FOR THE SOCIETY: CM CHOUHAN



**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Chouhan virtually addressed the two-day introduction and mass marriage ceremony of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamarkar Samaj in Satna district from Dindori. He said that it is a good initiative of the society to reduce the expenses in marriage programs by conducting introduction ceremony and subsequently mass marriage ceremony. The CM said that I am proud of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamrakar Samaj. The issues of the society will be discussed after meeting the delegation members of the society in Bhopal. Along with this, every possible effort will be made for the betterment of the society. CM Chouhan also blessed the bride and groom present in the ceremony.

## AFTER WAITING FOR 38 YEARS, MP GETS ITS FIRST RESPIRATORY DISEASES HOSPITAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Regional Institute for Respiratory Diseases, which was established few months back in Bhopal's Idgah Hills area, receives around 150-200 patients every day, of them nearly three to five per cent are follow-up patients affected by the toxic gas leak back in 1984, a senior doctor associated with the institute said.

It is however not the only hospital to look after the MIC gas leak survivors. Bhopal has at least five state and centrally funded hospitals dedicated to treating patients affected by the gas leak.

In May, the then President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of Regional Institute for Respiratory Diseases after which a separate respiratory department was established at the



TB Hospital premises. The much needed department has indeed added the facilities for screening and treatment of lung cancer, respiratory diseases, and snoring.

The newly established respiratory department, which is first in Madhya Pradesh and fourth in the country, was introduced 38 years after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984 which left the lakhs of survivors of the world's worst chemical disaster struggling to get back their life normal.



"As I reached Raj Bhavan, from where the old Bhopal area starts, I was shocked to see people lying on the road and gasping for breath, crying, shouting. At one point, a large crowd stopped my car and asked me not to go in that direction because gas had leaked from the Union Carbide factory. I told them that I am a doctor and I have to go to the hospital," he said.

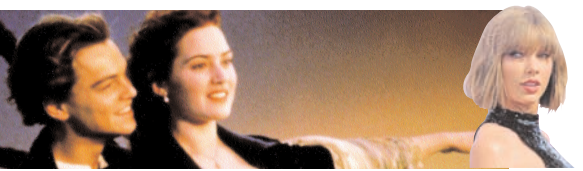
Trivedi recalled: "I saw a pregnant woman lying on the roadside. A man jumped in front of my car and started thumping on the bonnet. I took the couple in my car and dropped them at J.P. Hospital.

The couple was from Kerala, which I came to know later. The woman gave birth to a child and they came to meet me after six months, and that was the only good feeling I had on that fateful night."

"When I reached Hamidia Hospital, I came to know about the whole incident. But, here is where the problem began. We were clueless about what to do, which medicine to use etc. People's eyes were burning, their mouths were filled with foam and they were dying. It was havoc. We were not aware of the toxic chemical. So we followed the basic treatment procedures. There was no space to even hang a saline bottle for the serious patients."

"All the doctors were following my instructions, but at that moment I was completely clueless because dead bodies were piling up there. At around 7 a.m., I came out of the ICU only to find more bodies lying in the hospital premises," Trivedi recalled. Notably, Trivedi also inhaled the toxic gas while treating the patients, but fortunately he survived. In 1989, he was among those who went to the US to record his testimony in a court.

"I was asked to narrate the incident and I told what I saw. I won't make any controversial comment, but yes, I would say that the people of Bhopal are still awaiting justice," he concluded.



## CARA DELEVINGNE SAYS MEN LACK 'RIGHT TOOLS' TO SATISFY WOMEN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel-actress Cara Delevingne said in her new documentary 'Planet Sex', which sees her travel the globe to explore gender, sexuality and bedroom fantasies that men lack the "right tools" to satisfy women sexually.

Delevingne says on the show while exploring female orgasms, and the lack of them during heterosexual intercourse: "I do feel that generally, men are not equipped with the right tool to be able to handle women, especially sexually, reports. "I don't wanna go into the art of making a woman c\*\* but it's a lot more complicated and a lot more fun. I get it, it's a lot more complicated for a woman to have to tell you, 'You're not doing it right, you have to sit down and listen to what I say'. Yeah, it's an ego killer that most men can't handle."

Delevingne, who identifies as queer and gender fluid, is also seen taking part in a 10-minute solo sex act in Germany while her blood is taken for a scientific experiment that measured the levels of endocannabinoids in her system before and after orgasm. She tells viewers: "I'm here to have an orgasm and donate it to science. I think female sexual desire has definitely been repressed. I know from my own love life just how sexual women can be so you'd think in the 21st century men and women should be having equally satisfying sex lives, right?"

"Well, prepare for a shock. When it comes to the orgasm there is a definite gender gap. Scientists say that 95 per cent of straight men orgasm during intercourse but only 65 per cent of straight women do." "To be honest I think that sounds way too high, most of my straight female friends say it's probably more like 15 or 20 per cent. Lesbians and queer women definitely seem to have it better."



## BILLIE PIPER BELIEVES FAME IS 'POISONOUS' AND 'DEPRESSING'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Billie Piper has admitted she believes fame is 'poisonous' and 'depressing' and that she has decided to act 'less and less' in the future. The singer-turned-actress, was thrust into the spotlight at the tender age of 15 with her debut single, Because We Want To, but has now revealed she's been left disappointed by stardom.

In a new interview, she described life in the public eye as 'awful', 'gross', and a 'dark thing', adding that her 'happiest' times happened pre-celebrity.

The Doctor Who star said: 'Fame is awful. It's gross. It's such a dark thing. And it will change your everyday experience of life in a way that is depressing, frankly, in my experience of it. When I imagine some of my happiest, and my freest times, most of them are pre-fame.'

'It's annoying because I love creating things. I love production. As I'm getting older, I'm enjoying making things from the ground up more and more and I think probably in the future, I'll act less and less. I love what I do.'

'But I'm tiring of the nonsense of it all.'

To be honest, I have been since I was 19. It felt quite poisonous from a very early age. Now I'm so grateful that I had those experiences a long time ago, and now I can pretty much entirely focus on the work, and not the bulls\*\*t.'

## Ciara lead the guests attending NYLON bash in Miami

Miami | Agencies

Ciara put on a daring display on Friday evening as she attended a NYLON House event at Mediterranean bar-restaurant Strawberry Moon in Miami, during the city's annual art week.

The singer showed off her gorgeous figure in a satin black dress, which featured a mesh panel and mini-maxi hem. Ciara's gorgeous garment featured a satin wrapped choker-neck, before falling into the draping dress on one side. While the other side displayed her figure with its mesh panel, which was joined by a sequinned silver bra cup and spaghetti strap.

The Level Up songstress teamed the daring dress with a pair of thigh-high heeled boots, which met the high-low hem. She added a collection of silver bracelets and rings, styling her balayaged brunette tresses in a free-falling tousled look as they fell down her back.

Ciara finished the look with a glamorous palette of makeup with a lined black eye soft pink lip. She posed alongside American football player Victor Cruz, who showed off his sense of style in a pastel satin shorts and shirt co-ord.



## 'Los Espookys' Canceled After Two Seasons at HBO

Los Angeles | Agencies

"Los Espookys" has been canceled after two seasons at HBO, Variety has confirmed. The series starred Ana Fabrega, Julio Torres, Cassandra Ciangherotti, Bernardo Velasco, and Fred Armisen. It originally debuted in 2019 with Season 2 launching in September 2022.

In the show, a group of friends in Mexico City turn their love of horror movies into a business by concocting scary situations and making people think they are real.

"We are thrilled we could deliver the unique and hilarious second season of 'Los Espookys' to viewers finally, more than three years after the series premiere, due to pandemic delays," HBO said in a statement. "We thank Julio, Ana and Fred for this imaginative and delightfully bizarre world they created. We are not currently planning on a third season, but we would welcome the opportunity to work with this cast and crew in the future." Torres will remain in business with HBO, as he currently has a first-look deal with HBO and HBO Max. Under that deal, he has two comedy series currently in development - "Little Films" and "Lucky."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Attwood is still struggling with the way she was asked to leave I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! After just 24 hours last month. The former Love Island star was forced to leave the jungle after a blood test showed she was 'dangerously anaemic', which prompted a trip to A&E before show bosses denied her reentry into the camp.

On Friday, the television personality admitted she'd had an emotional week after Sunday's final of the show, with Olivia claiming she had still not come to terms with her exit. Seeming fed up in a clip on her Instagram Stories, Olivia said: 'I probably underestimated that I'm finding it hard that it was the jungle final this week and I was told to f\*\*k off after 24 hours, and I wanted to stay to the end. 'I think I pretended like it's fine but deep down I'm probably not fine really.'

The TV star looked visibly shaken as she took to her Instagram Stories to recount the experience, explaining that a passing woman had dubbed her 'that f\*\*\*ng crazy b\*\*ch from the telly'. Admitting it was the first time she'd cried since leaving the jungle, Olivia said: 'I can't believe I'm literally crying on my Stories but I literally just had the most awful experience. I've had the most awful experience, I literally can't believe what people are actually like. 'This is the first time I've cried in like, well since after the jungle, and before that was like two years so you know I literally never f\*\*\*ng cry. I was just in the park with the dog and there was like a medium sized cockapoo and Lola went over to say hello and they were all wagging tails like no issues.'

I think I pretended like its fine but deep down I'm probably not fine: Olivia Attwood

## Adam Sandler doesn't think he will ever star in a big superhero movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Adam Sandler doesn't think he will ever star in a big superhero movie franchise. Quizzed on whether he would consider being a part of a major tent-pole such as the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), the actor doubts that the opportunity will come, reports.

"I've never thought about it, maybe because no one has ever asked me. I don't know. I'm very into, I love that stuff. I see that stuff and go wow, these amazing movies, but no it hasn't happened and probably won't happen," Sandler told.

The 'Happy Gilmore' star has explained that he tries not to get "too shook up" by negative responses to his films but wishes that his family and friends didn't have to read some of the harsh reviews.

Asked if critical comments sting, he said: "Sometimes. Mostly because I invite all these amazing people I care about to make movies with me, and I wish they didn't have to read s\*\*\* about whatever we've made. But I don't get too shook up."

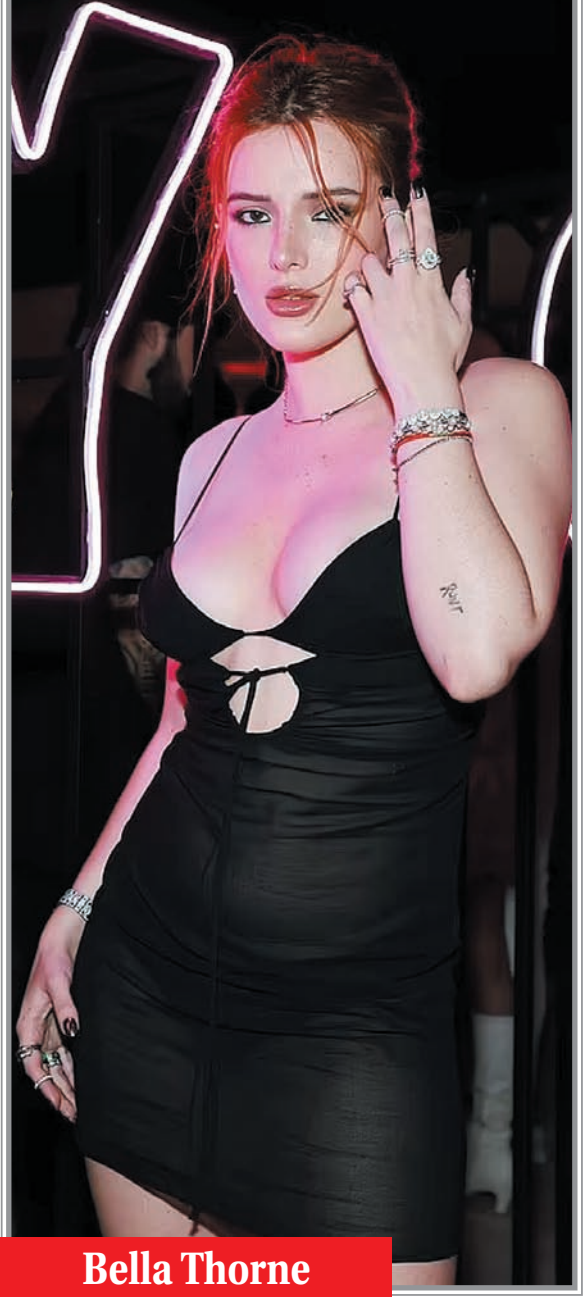
Sandler recalled his father advising him that not everybody will "like him" and that he will "fail" at times during life.

He said, "I always remember something my father said. He was a tough b\*\*\*\*\*. He went through ups and downs in his life, like not having work for a year or two and not telling us."

"I recall one time that something didn't go right for me. I bombed onstage or didn't get an audition. I was upset and probably embarrassed. And he said, 'Adam, you can't always be happy. People aren't always going to like you. You're going to fail.'"

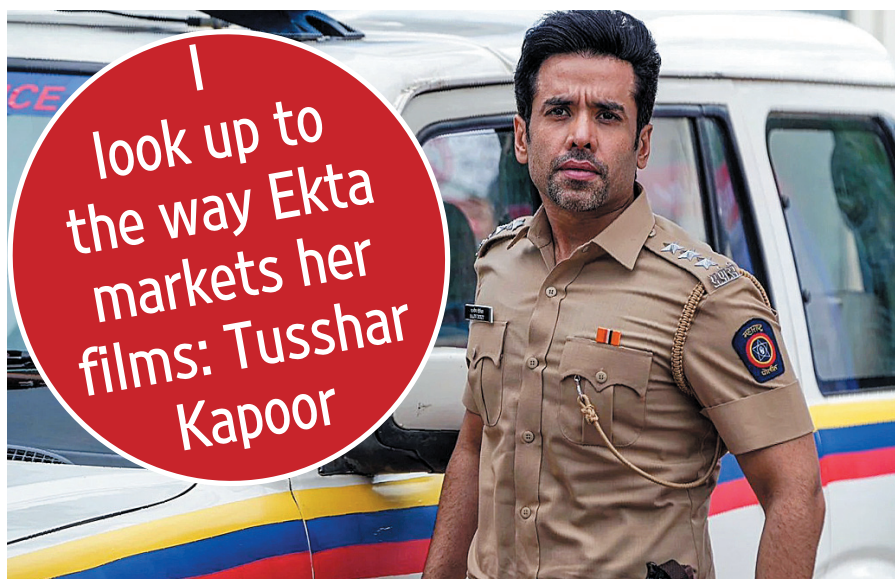


## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne





Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

### Being stereotyped as a comic actor

Tusshar Kapoor's much-talked film, Maarich, is all set to hit the theatres on December 9. Ahead of the release, Absolute India News caught up with the actor for an exclusive interview.

About the film and box-office pressure In the film, Tusshar plays the role of ACP Raj Dixit, who is in pursuit of a killer who has shaken up the city. Talking about the role being out of their comfort zone and how the director convinced him, Tusshar said, "When this role came to me, my initial reaction was this works for me. The cop I played in Khakee was quite different, but it was Dhruv Lather's motivation that prompted me to take this leap of faith."

Talking about the box-office pressure, the actor-producer said, "Friday jitters are double this time as I am a producer as well now. But I also believe that if we have worked hard, it will yield desired results."

### Dealing with lows

The actor made his debut in 2001 with Mujhe Kuch Kehna hai and later appeared in several films which were box office duds. Tusshar shared, "Earlier I used to get worried, but today I am much stronger. I used to be selective and choosy since there was pressure to have the right choices after my debut. I even blamed myself when films didn't work. But today if I retrospect, I feel that I could have taken more risks. I was very careful that time."

## I HONESTLY LOVED DELIVERING THE PUNCHES IN THE FILM:

# BHUMI PEDNEKAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar, who plays Vicky Kaushal's bombshell wife in the upcoming streaming movie 'Govinda Naam Mera', shares that her character has the most hilarious dialogues in the film and that the makers have subverted the industry norm by giving the punchlines to the female character.

Elaborating on the same, the actress says, "I honestly have loved delivering the punches in the film and I have to admit that I have been given some of the most hilarious punchlines by Shashank (Khaitan, the director). What I love the most about my dialoguebaazi (punchy dialogues) in 'Govinda Naam Mera' is that they are from the heroine's side and that's refreshing for a romantic comedy in the Hindi film industry because traditionally only heroes used to get all the great dialogues in a genre like this and make people laugh."

She lauds the film's producer Karan Johar and the director as she adds, "I'm glad that my producer Karan Johar and my director Shashank Khaitan thought of subverting the norm and empowering a girl to deliver some of the most cracking dialogues that I have seen on screen in recent times. Gauri Waghmare is literally one of my most favourite characters that I have played on screen."

Talking about her character, Bhumi mentions that she is an equal to a man and constantly reminds a man that her gender doesn't make her inferior and that she is the master of her own actions and decisions. The film, which also stars Kiara Advani and Vicky Kaushal, is produced by Dharma Productions.



## POOJA HEGDE SHARED HOW HER CO-STARS MADE HER 'TUMBLE' WITH LAUGHTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Pooja Hegde, who is currently awaiting the release of her upcoming comedy movie 'Cirkus', has shared that the film and her co-actors made her feel at home. The actress can be seen decked up in the 1960s-era Bollywood fashion in the trailer of the movie which was released recently. The actress shared that the film will bring much respite to the already struggling Hindi film industry which didn't have a great run at the box-office this year. 'Cirkus' is directed by Rohit Shetty, who has an excellent track record at the box-office. She said, "Cirkus is the ideal film to round up this stunning year. It is an out-and-out family entertainer. I always looked forward to going back the following day since Ranveer, Rohit Sir and the entire cast were so hilarious and humble on set." She further mentioned, "This has been a family production in a way.

Even though I was a new entrant I just felt at home. This movie is extremely special to all of us. It is from our hearts to yours."



## Ram Charan gets another award for RRR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ram Charan gets another award yet again as he receives the True Legend - Future of Young India Award Recently, Mega Power Star Ram Charan attended an award event in Delhi, where he added to his already lengthy list of honours. The actor was honoured with the True Legend - Future of Young India Award. Apart from being a fantastic actor, he is also a humanitarian who has always utilised his position in society to make a positive difference. Even the characters he chooses to portray in films positively inspire people all around the world, especially young people.

It is hardly surprising that he has gotten this honour. The artist has always been acclaimed for portraying characters who convey a message to the viewer. His films have received critical recognition not just in India but even beyond. Even his role in the smash hit RRR was significant and well-received by audiences all over the world. Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan's father, has also taken to Twitter to congratulate him and express his pleasure.

## Red Sea Festival

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who recently attended the Red Sea International Film Festival, left the 'Basic Instinct' actress Sharon Stone gasping at the event after she realised that it was him who was sitting next to her all the while. The 'Pathaan' actor was recently honoured at the fest for his contributions to the Indian cinema, as his name was announced and he stood up, Sharon was in total disbelief upon noticing him. In a video which is going viral on social media,

## SHARON STONE GASPS; SHE CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S NEXT TO SRK

Sharon can be seen clapping and seemed to mouth "oh my god".

In response to Stone's reaction, SRK can be seen humbly greeting the actress with a 'salaam' (a gesture of greeting in Islamic culture). SRK fans have since then been going gaga over the clip. One fan wrote, "My favourite part of today's event, Sharon Stone's reaction when she realised Shah Rukh Khan is sitting next to her. We can't blame her, can we?"

On the work front, SRK will be seen in the spy-thriller movie 'Pathaan' from the house of Yash Raj Films.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nikki Tamboli