

NATION

>02

PM On what does - and does not- surprise him about congress...



HOLLYWOOD

> 06

All my dreams of becoming a good sleep fairy came true...



SPORTS

> 07

FIFA World Cup:Argentina's fluent 2-0 wins over Poland...



Meta purges 32mn pieces of bad content on FB, Instagram in India in October

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta took down over 29.2 million pieces of bad content across 13 policies for Facebook and over 2.7 million pieces of such content across 12 policies for Instagram in India in October, the company said on Thursday.

Between October 1-31, Meta received 703 reports through its Indian grievance mechanism, and the company said it provided tools for users to resolve their issues in 516 cases.

"Of the other 187 reports where specialised review was needed, we reviewed content as per our policies, and we took action on 120 reports in total," the social network said in its monthly compliance report under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The remaining 67 reports were reviewed but may not have been actioned, said Meta.

On Instagram, the company received 1,377 reports



through the Indian grievance mechanism.

"Of these incoming reports, we provided tools for users to resolve their issues in 982 cases. These include pre-established channels to report content for specific violations, self-remediation flows where they can download their data, avenues to address account hacked issues, etc," said Meta.

Of the other 395 reports, Meta reviewed content as per its policies, and took action on 274 reports in total. The remaining 121 reports were reviewed but

may not have been actioned, said the company.

Under the new IT Rules 2021, big digital and social media platforms, with more than 5 million users, have to publish monthly compliance reports. "We measure the number of pieces of content (such as posts, photos, videos or comments) we take action on for going against our standards. Taking action could include removing a piece of content from Facebook or Instagram or covering photos or videos that may be disturbing to some audiences with a warning," said Meta.

2 TIGERS FOUND DEAD IN 24 HOURS IN MAHA'S TADOBA ANDHARI RESERVE

Chandrapur: Two tigers were found dead at different spots in the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, an official said today.

Tigress T-60 was found dead on Thursday morning in compartment 189 in Moharli range in the buffer zone of TATR, some 47 kilometres from the district headquarters, he said.

"During spot inspection, we found pugmarks of a tiger as well. The tigress, aged around 6-7 months, may have died in a territorial fight. The carcass has been shifted to Transit Treatment Centre for autopsy," Dr Jitendra Ramgaonkar, chief conservator of forests, TATR, said.

Earlier, the carcass of adult tiger T-75 was found in a decomposed state on Wednesday afternoon in Shivni range in the buffer zone, he added.

"T-75 was 14-15 years old and may have died of old age. All body parts are intact. It was cremated as per norms," Dr Ramgaonkar said.

TRS MLAS' POACHING CASE

'CONSPIRACY HATCHED AT SANTHOSH'S HOUSE'

HYDERABAD | Agencies

A key meeting was held at Delhi residence of BJP General Secretary B.L. Santhosh in October to hatch the conspiracy to lure the TRS MLAs, reveals the evidence submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the Telangana High Court. The SIT, in its report to the court, claimed that Santhosh played a key role in the conspiracy to poach on the MLAs of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). A meeting was held at Santhosh's house in the national capital on October 15 to carry out the operation in Telangana. The SIT has added Santhosh, NDA convenor in Kerala Tushar Vellappally, Kerala doctor Jaggu Swamy and advocate B. Srinivas as the accused in the sensational case.

The accused have been booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 171B r/w 171E (bribery), 506 r/w 34 (criminal intimidation) section 8 of Prevention of Corruption Act. Ramachandra Bharati, Nand Kumara and D.P.S.K.V. Simhayaji were arrested by the Cyberabad police from a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad on the night of October 26

when they were allegedly trying to lure four MLAs of TRS with offers of huge money. Cyberabad police conducted the raid on a tip-off by Pilot Rohit Reddy, one of the MLAs. He alleged that the accused offered Rs 100 crore to him and Rs 50 crore each to three others. The SIT submitted to the court documents, CDs, pen drives related to exchange of WhatsApp messages between accused as evidence to establish their involvement. It has also submitted mobile phone locations of the accused and confessions of those questioned by SIT. The probe team alleged that Santhosh met Tushar Vellappally, Ramachandra Bharathi, Nanda Kumar and M. Vijay Kumar at his residence on October 15. The evidence submitted by the SIT included transcripts of WhatsApp messages between the first accused Ramachandra Bharati and Santosh. The two had a chat on April 26, 2022 about the operation in Telangana. The SIT also submitted details of the WhatsApp messages between the two on September 26. The court was submitted evidence of Simhayaji holding a meeting at Sky High Hotel in Hyderabad. He even tried to lure leaders of other parties, including Congress leader and former deputy

Chief Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha and Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) leader M. Kodandaram.

Meanwhile, SIT headed by Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand has clarified that the SIT was not responsible or involved in any way in leakage of this information about the evidence submitted to the court to the media. Anand said evidence was submitted against each accused and the copies of the same were furnished to lawyers representing the petitioners.

Lawyers representing the accused had found fault with the manner in which SIT was conducting the probe. They had questioned the leakage of information to the media.

Senior counsel Mahesh Jethmalani, who was representing the accused, objected to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao making investigation details public and sending it to the judges of High Court and Supreme Court. He accused the Chief Minister of political motives. However, senior counsel Dushyant Dave defended the actions of the chief minister. He argued that a state government has every right to defend itself against attempts to topple it through illegal means.

India will work to promote universal sense of oneness as G20 President: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With India formally assuming the G20 Presidency from Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an article to commemorate the occasion said that the country will work to promote the universal sense of oneness.

Starting from December 1, India will assume the presidency until November 30, 2023.

"The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes," he said in the article.

"We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them. India sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements -- the 'panch tatva' of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements, within us and between us, is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being. India will work to promote the universal sense of oneness. Hence our theme -- 'One Earth,



One Family, One Future', he wrote.

"During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world," the Prime Minister said.

"Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

"Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'," he added.

"For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature," he said in the article. "Today, the greatest challenges we face -- climate change, terrorism,

and pandemics -- can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together. Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

"With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by diktat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody. For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions," the Prime Minister added.

G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

During the course of its G20 Presidency, India will be holding about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across India.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chaos prevailed for nearly two hours at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) after a computer systems failure hit check-ins and other operations for all airlines, here on Thursday, sources said.

The 'culprit' is allegedly said to be the ongoing infrastructure digging works of the Mumbai Metro line in the CSMIA vicinity that reportedly snapped a main cable of a major utility company, the sources said.

Late on Thursday evening, an official spokesperson for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) attributed the glitch to "a temporary network interruption outside the airport due to ongoing development work in the city".

"Our teams are present on ground and manual processing has been initiated to facilitate all passengers. They are requested to allocate additional time for check-in and also to connect with their respective airlines," the spokesperson said.

In a subsequent update, the MIAL said that "there was a network interruption resulting from a cable cut" during some construction work in the city.

"This interrupted the various ticketing systems. All systems are now restored and working," said the spokesperson. Meanwhile, manual operations were taken



up to clear the passenger rush, though no flight operations were affected, the sources said.

The abrupt breakdown in the computer systems led to massive crowds of passengers who could be seen sitting or moving around with their luggage in the Terminal T2 for around two hours.

Many of the harried passengers took to social media to vent their ire and frustration over the unexpected delays, posted pictures of the overcrowding inside the terminal or queues of passengers building up outside.

Some even expressed concerns for other passengers, advised them to reach the airport well in time to avoid missing flights, etc. owing to the problems that were later rectified.

TWO MUSLIM GIRLS CONVERT TO MARRY HINDU BOYS IN UP

Bareilly: Two Muslim girls have converted to marry Hindu boys, here.

The wedding was solemnised as per Hindu rituals by Pandit K K Shankhadhar at the Agast Muni Ashram located in Madinat.

After converting to Hinduism, Iram Zaidi became Swati and Shahnaz became Suman.

Iram Zaidi married Adesh Kumar while Shahnaz married Ajay.

Both the girls said that they have great faith in Hinduism.

"Women do not get respect in Muslim society. Whenever Muslim men want, they pronounce talaq thrice and then perform halala," they said.

The two girls were first "purified" by the priest, then their names were changed and then the marriage took place. Both took the blessings of the priest after the wedding ceremony.

Hours after the wedding, Suman met the SSP Bareilly and said that she faced a threat to her life from her parents and brother who have kept a grave ready for her.

The police have assured full protection to the girls.

All types of alcohols, including wine, up cancer risk: Study

► The team found that awareness of the alcohol-cancer link was highest for liquor, with 31.2 per cent of adults being aware of the risk, followed by beer (24.9 per cent) and wine (20.3 per cent).

► Ten per cent of adults said wine decreases cancer risk while 2.2 per cent said beer decreases risk and 1.7 per cent said liquor decreases risk.

► More than 50 per cent of adults reported not knowing how these beverages affected cancer risk, according to the study published in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

All types of alcoholic beverages, including wine, increase cancer risk but people have low awareness about it and some even perceive alcohol as having health benefits, a new study has revealed.

All beverage types containing ethanol, such as wine, beer and liquor, which increase cancer risk. To date, seven cancer types have been linked to alcohol consumption, including cancers of the breast, mouth and colon.

"Alcohol is a leading modifiable risk factor for cancer in the US and previous research has shown that most Americans don't know this," said Andrew Seidenberg, who led the study as a Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute in the US.

"All types of alcoholic beverages, including wine, increase cancer risk. The findings underscore the need to develop interventions for educating the public about the cancer risks of alcohol use," said William MP Klein, associate direc-



tor of the National Cancer Institute's Behavioral Research Programme.

Older adults also demonstrated lower awareness of alcohol as a risk factor for cancer.

"Educating the public about how

alcohol increases cancer risk will not only empower consumers to make more informed decisions, but may also prevent and reduce excessive alcohol use, as well as cancer morbidity and mortality," said Klein.

Indian markets continued to scale new heights

Chennai | Agencies

Indian stock markets on Thursday continued to hit new heights with the Sensex of BSE touching a high of 63,583.07 points and Nifty of NSE 18,874.30 points.

The Sensex opened at 63,357.99 points, reached a high of 63,583.07 points, a low of 63,183.77 points and closed at 63,284.19 points.

On Wednesday, the Sensex had closed at 63,099.65 points. At the NSE, the Nifty opened at 18,871.95, touched a high of 18,874.30 points, a low of 18,778.20 points and closed at 18,812.50 points.

The Nifty had closed at 18,758.35 points on Wednesday. "Broad market indices outperformed. IT stocks came back in favour of value buying. Encouraging PMI manufacturing number for November (55.7) also helped sentiments. Global stocks climbed and the dollar slipped to a three-month low on fresh signs of a softening in China's Covid stance and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell confirmed that the pace of interest rate hikes was set to slow," said Deepak Jasani, Head-Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Nifty is now showing signs of running out of steam for the time being. 18,888 could be a tough resistance to cross while 18,678 could offer support in the near term, he added.



PM ON WHAT DOES - AND DOES NOT-SURPRISE HIM ABOUT CONGRESS

PM Modi's remark came over Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's "Ravan" comment targeting him.

Team Absolute | Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, campaigning in Gujarat today, fired back at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's "Ravan" comment targeting him. It was not ok to call someone "Ravan" in the land of "Rambhakt (Ram devotees)", he commented, addressing a large gathering.

"There is a competition in the Congress on who will insult Modi more, use bigger, sharper insults," PM Modi said while campaigning in Gujarat's Kalol.

"A few days back, a Congress leader said Modi will die a dog's death, another said Modi will die the Hitler's death. Another said if I get a chance, I'll kill Modi myself... Someone says Ravan, someone says rakshash (demon), someone says cockroach... I'm not surprised that Congress calls Modi names, I'm surprised - anyone would be - that despite using such



words, the Congress never has remorse. Congress thinks it is their right to insult Modi, the Prime Minister of this country."

Kharge had made the comments while addressing a rally in

Ahmedabad earlier this week. "Modi ji is Prime Minister. Forgetting his work, he keeps campaigning in corporation elections, MLA elections, MP elections, everywhere... All the time he's talking about himself - You

don't have to look at anyone else, just look at Modi and vote'. How many times do we see your face? How many forms do you have? Do you have 100 heads like Ravan?" Kharge said. Days before him, another Congress leader, Madhusudan Mistry, had said "We want to show Modiji his aukat (status)" while talking about renaming a stadium named after Narendra Modi. PM Modi tackled both comments today.

"The strength that Gujarat has given me troubles Congress. A Congress leader came here and said we'll show Modi his aukat in this election. The Congress felt still more needs to be said, so they sent Kharge here. I respect Kharge but he must have had to say what had been asked. Congress doesn't know that Gujarat is a state of Ram bhaktis. Here he said Modi is Ravan with 100 heads," the Prime Minister said.

Gujarat voted in the first round of a two-phase election on Dec 1. The second phase is on Monday.

ED attaches properties worth Rs 82.77 Cr of suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached immovable properties worth Rs 82.77 crore belonging to Pooja Singhal, a suspended IAS officer in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The properties include 'Pulse Super Speciality Hospital', one diagnostics centre, 'Pulse Diagnostic and Imaging Centre' and two land parcels in Ranchi.

The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by the Jharkhand police and Vigilance Bureau Jharkhand.

"Investigation revealed that Proceeds of Crime generated from the MNREGA scam in form of commission was deposited in different bank accounts belonging to Pooja Singhal and her relatives. The said POC was mixed and layered with the other unaccounted money generated by Singhal, by misusing her official position," the ED has claimed.

The ED has said that initially the POC was generated from the MNREGA scam only, which was subsequently intermixed with other unaccounted funds generated from the corrupt practices of Pooja Singhal. These funds were layered as investment and further funds were generated from these funds, both as legitimate profit as well as by further infusion of POC.

"By this modus-operandi, Singhal amassed



huge wealth disproportionate to her known sources of income and source of funds invested in these immovable properties were primarily from the unaccounted cash profits generated from these POC and therefore termed as POC," the ED has alleged.

Singhal was arrested by the ED on May 11, 2022 and a prosecution complaint was filed against her on July 5. The evidence about the corrupt practices has been shared with the Jharkhand government under section 66 (2) of the PMLA for considering taking action under the Prevention of Corruption Act against Singhal and others. In this case, all the three arrested persons including Singhal are presently in judicial custody. Three prosecution complaints have been filed in the case. Further investigation in the matter is on.

BSF jawan who crossed border during search operation released by Pak

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan who accidentally crossed the International Border in Punjab's Abohar sector was apprehended and later released by the Pakistan Rangers. He crossed the border during a search operation due to dense fog, the BSF said.

According to information, at around 6.30 in the morning, a team of 8 BSF personnel was sent for patrolling on the other side of the fencing. Sources said that a constable inadvertently crossed over into Pakistan due to dense fog and was taken into custody by the Pak Rangers. When the patrolling team returned, it was found that the constable was not with it. Information about this incident



was passed on to senior officers of the BSF.

Later, an agreement was reached after a flag meeting of the officers of the BSF and Pak Rangers, after which the BSF jawan was released at around 1.50 p.m. The jawan had been recently posted at the Abohar border.

Three Bangladeshi citizens arrested for raping woman in Kolkata

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Kolkata Police on Thursday arrested three Bangladeshi nationals for allegedly raping a local woman at a hotel in central Kolkata. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Russel (37), Mohammad Kaiser Chowdhury (36) and Abdullah Al Mijan (37), all residents of Bangladesh. As per records, they came to Kolkata for a treatment.

According to the deputy commissioner of police (central division), Rupesh Kumar, the victim woman is a resident of Nadia district.



"She filed a complaint at New Market Police station against the three accused on Wednesday night. Our officers from New Market Police station raided the hotel and arrested the three accused," Kumar informed. He also said that the Bangladesh foreign office and the police

authorities have also been intimidated since the accused persons are residents of that country. The victim woman has been sent for medical examination. Meanwhile, a highly placed source from city police said that the victim was actually involved with escort services and she went to the

hotel after being invited by the three accused. At the hotel room, they became physically intimate with her. Later, they refused to pay her the amount promised and instead drove her out of the hotel. However, sections of rape will be applicable in this case as per the complaint filed by the victim. The city police source said that the hotel in question as well as some other hotels in the same area are notorious for such sleazy activities. "The manager of the hotel is being questioned as well as the CCTV footage of the hotel is being checked by us," the official said.

FIRE IN CARS, BIKES PARKED OUTSIDE DELHI CINEMA

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out in vehicles including cars and bikes parked outside West End cinema, 12 Tooti Chowk in the Sadar Bazar area of Delhi. A senior fire brigade official said that they got a call about the incident at around 6.20 p.m. After getting the call the fire department sent four fire engines to the spot. The fire fighters took an hour to bring the fire under control. By 8 p.m. the fire was totally under control. The local police also assisted the fire officials. "Fire had broken out in seven cars parked there and in a few two wheelers. The cause of the fire is not yet known. All the vehicles were damaged in the incident," said the fire official.



NO ALCOHOL SALE IN DELHI FOR 3 DAYS AHEAD OF MCD POLLS

New Delhi: Ahead of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls on December 4, the city Excise Department announced that alcohol sale will be prohibited for three days in the national capital starting from Friday evening.

The three-day ban will come to force from the time the campaigning ends until the completion of voting. When the votes will be counted on December 7, liquor sale will again be prohibited. "In view of the civic polls in Delhi, the State Election Commission has declared dry days from 5.30 p.m. of December 2 to December 4, 2022 up to 5.30 p.m. and again on December 7, 2022 on the day of counting of votes in the whole of NCT of Delhi," said a notification issued by the Department. All the liquor vendors, bars, sale outlets, will remain closed on these days, the notification said. The Excise Department and Delhi Police will patrol the city to ensure that there is no unauthorised storage of liquor or transportation of unauthorised liquor, it added.



Bihar: Prisoners caught having liquor party in police station, 2 cops held

Patna | Agencies

Two policemen were arrested for dereliction of duty after five prisoners were caught having a liquor party in the lockup of Excise Department's police station in Paliganj of Bihar.

The sale and consumption of alcohol have been completely banned in Bihar. According to the police, five people were arrested by the Excise Department on Tuesday afternoon from Paliganj police station area and kept in custody. Meanwhile, during the night, senior police officers received information that a liquor party was going on in the lock-up itself.

Paliganj ASP Awadhesh Dixit immediately formed a police team and directed to conduct raids. The team raided the lock-up of the Excise Department, where five people



in the lock-up were caught drinking liquor. During this, five liters of liquor was also recovered. The police also arrested two cops on duty for dereliction of duty.

Dixit said on Thursday that someone had sent a video of prisoners drinking alcohol in lockup to the police, on the basis of which the raid was

conducted. Mobile phones have also been recovered from the arrested prisoners.

The police suspect that these people had ordered liquor from outside and were drinking it in the lockup itself. Dixit said that an FIR has been registered in the Nagar police station and the entire matter is being investigated.

MISSING YOUTH'S BODY FOUND IN GREATER NOIDA DRAIN AFTER 10 DAYS

Greater Noida | Agencies

The body of a youth, who went missing on November 20 from Badalpur police station area in Greater Noida, was found in a drain in Devla village in the Surajpur police station area in the same district. After identifying the body, the police sent it for postmortem.

According to information received, Arun (22), a resident of Khatana village in the Jarcha Kotwali area, went missing on November 20. He used to work in Hero Motors Company located on GT Road. On November 20, after finishing his duty, he went to his aunt's house in Dujana village. From there, he left for his home at around 8.30 p.m., but did not reach home. A search was launched for him but he was not found. Then, a missing person complaint was registered in Badalpur police station.

On Wednesday, the Surajpur police received information about an unknown youth's body being found in the drain of Devla village. The police reached the spot and after taking out the body from the drain, the nearby police stations



were alerted about it.

The police tried to find out in which police station a missing person complaint had been registered recently. The Badalpur police station was then contacted.

The Badalpur police station informed the family members of Arun about the body. His relatives reached the spot and identified him from the tattoo of Hanuman ji made on Arun's hand, and from his clothes. Marks of injury were found on Arun's head and signs of a rope which may have been used to tie his hands.

Recently released thief from jail, held for armed robberies in Delhi-NCR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A notorious robber, who was recently released from prison, was again arrested by the police for allegedly robbing a woman at gunpoint in South Delhi's Lodhi Colony area, said an official on Thursday. The accused, identified as Imran alias Subaib alias Sameer, was previously involved in 22 criminal cases. He is an active Bad Character' listed at Bhajanpura police station and had earlier been arrested under MCOCA. On November 26, a woman resident of Lodhi Colony had reported to the police that a bike-borne armed assailant robbed her of her gold chain at gunpoint and fled.

"An FIR was registered and an investigation was taken up," said Chandan Chowdhary, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South). "During investigation, the team checked the CCTV footage of the

incident and followed the entry and exit route adopted by the robber. After analyzing footage from more than 250 CCTV cameras at different locations, the team investigated about 16 kms of routes which led to the identification of the accused," said Chowdhary. A hunt was launched for Imran and he was arrested from Chandni Mahal, Daryaganj area. On interrogation, the accused disclosed that he had committed a series of robberies and snatchings in Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida after being released from Tihar jail on July 22 this year. "In August, he was again caught red handed in a robbery case at Noida and remained in Dasna jail till October 14. After being released from jail, he again started committing crimes. He also disclosed that he committed a robbery near IBHAS hospital road, Delhi in the intervening night of November 28 and 29," said the official.

AS WINTER SETS IN, SPECIAL DIET FOR UP ZOO ANIMALS

Team Absolute | Lucknow

As temperatures plummet in Uttar Pradesh, special arrangements are being made to protect animals and birds from biting cold in the Lucknow and Kanpur zoos.

Director of the Lucknow Zoo, V.K. Mishra, said that all enclosures had been covered with tarpaulin and plastic sheet to protect the inmates from cold winds. Special care is being taken to protect the birds that are more susceptible to vagaries of the weather, he added.

The carnivore and deer enclosures have been equipped with para grass for better insulation of heat. Wooden planks have been installed on the floors in the enclosures of tigers, lions, leopards and other carnivores for the same purpose.

"Peanuts, groundnuts and mustard seeds have been incorporated in the diets of deer and vitamin and mineral content have been increased in the diets of all the animals," said Utkarsh Shukla, deputy director of the zoo.

The birds are being given coarse grains like bajra, jawar, grams while cranes are being fed additional diet of fish. Birds are also being given seasonal fruits, vegeta-



bles and even bread. "The monkeys, chimpanzees and other primates have been given blankets to keep them warm and are being given more eggs in their meals. We have hung up thick curtains in some of the birds' enclosures so that they

are not impacted by the cold breeze that blows at night," he added.

"The birds have also had seasonal fruits incorporated in their diets. The giraffes are also being given seasonal fruits along with their diet of grass," he

said. The serpentarium, which houses about 40-50 snakes at the moment, has been furnished with three heaters, and the temperature is kept between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius.

Shukla said that if the weather gets even colder then heaters would be installed in some of the carnivore, primate enclosures as well.

"We try to block the cross-ventilation, so that the cold waves do not harm the animals." The zoo also has a room set up as a critical care unit in case animals fall sick and require immediate medical attention. They also have firewood at hand, in order to light bonfires in case the temperature drops to sub-zero levels in the coming months.

The carnivorous animals are being given additional doses of vitamin A and D. The bears are being served 'kheer' made with jaggery while chimpanzees and ostriches are being given boiled eggs. The chimpanzees are also relishing on fruits and are getting them in ample measure for their winter diet.

There are over 1,000 inmates in Lucknow Zoo and that includes about 500 birds. The Kanpur Zoo has about 1,250 inmates.



Shiv Sena (UBT) protests against Maha Minister for equating CM with Chhatrapati

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after a state Bharatiya Janata Party minister drew parallels between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday staged noisy protests in Mumbai and other parts condemning the remarks, here.

Led by MP Arvind Sawant and others, the protesters shouted slogans against BJP Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha for his comments at a function in Satara's Pratapgad Fort on Wednesday.

"They have no historical knowledge... We will present them copies of history Class IV textbook... It will enlighten them a bit on the Chhatrapati's glorious history," said Sawant, who was detained along with many protesters by the Mumbai Police.

Lodha's utterances were strongly condemned on Wednesday by Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, Congress Legislative Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat, Sena (UBT) leader and ex-minister Aditya Thackeray and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut, while a large number of NCP activists staged protests in different parts last



evening.

Caught on the backfoot, the ruling Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena's Minister Uday Sawant and ally BJP attempted to play down Lodha's remarks claiming he was merely citing an example, amid the onslaught by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Lodha himself attempted to make a clean breast saying he had compared a factual historical incident of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's feat with Shinde's rebellion from the erstwhile Shiv Sena.

The fresh fracas ignited after Lodha recalled the Chhatrapati's fabled escape from the Agra Fort (1666) - where he was imprisoned by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb - with the 2022 political rebellion against the Shiv Sena by Eknath Shinde - who later became the Chief Minister - though the latter had gone on record that he quit the party on his own volition.

The MVA leaders have accused the BJP of "running a competition" to "malign" Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Maharashtra, citing the recent instances of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, BJP Spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi, and now a state minister Lodha.

BORDER ROW Maharashtra's plea is not maintainable: K'taka CM Bommai



Team Absolute | Mumbai/ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said that the petition of neighbouring state Maharashtra on the border dispute was not maintainable. Answering a question at the Supreme Court's hearing the case in the day, CM Bommai said, "The stand of

our state is clear in this regard and our advocates will place arguments on the same line." Our stand is constitutional and legal... The discussion is on regarding all legal aspects of the issue," he added. The Maharashtra government had submitted a petition in 2004 to the Supreme Court claiming its rights over Belagavi city and 865 villages in four districts of

Karnataka. The case is coming up in the Supreme Court on Thursday after almost two decades.

The Karnataka government is represented in the Supreme Court by senior counsels Mukul Rohatgi, Sham Diwan, Uday Holla and Maruthi Jirale. CM Bommai maintained that the Supreme Court will not consider the petition by Maharashtra government in this regard.

CM Bommai, answering another question on the "BJP letting rowdy elements to join the party", stated that there was no scope or opportunity for any such development in the party.

"We don't support rowdies and we won't give them any chance. This is very clear. There will be no change in our stand.

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur withdraws plea in HC seeking discharge

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha MP Pragya Singh Thakur and co-accused Sameer Kulkarni on Thursday withdrew their pleas from the Bombay High Court seeking discharge from the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case. Thakur and Kulkarni withdrew their petitions, filed in 2018, as the trial is in its final end and 289 witnesses have been examined already.

Another accused, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, withdrew one of his petitions alleging defective sanction to prosecute him under provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Purohit's plea for discharge was heard by HC last week and is closed for orders. In December 2017, the special court had rejected their pleas following which they moved HC. Advocate Prashant Maggu, appearing for Thakur, on Thursday told HC since 289 witnesses have already been exam-



ined by the trial court, it would not be right to press for discharge from the case at this juncture and, hence, they would withdraw the plea. The HC accepted the statement.

On September 29, 2008, six people were killed and more than 100 injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a communally sensitive town in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

As per police, the motorcycle was registered in Thakur's name, which led to her arrest. The case was later handed over to the NIA. Besides Thakur, Kulkarni and Purohit, others facing trial in the case are Ramesh Upadhyay, Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi and Sudhakar Chaturvedi. They have been charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). All the accused are currently out on bail.

POLICE NAB TWO FOR HOUNDING SOUTH KOREAN GIRL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police on Thursday arrested two youth for harassing and attempting to molest a South Korean national in the suburban Khar area, officials said here.

The incident occurred just before midnight on Tuesday -- four days after two men had stalk-chased two minor schoolgirls in Andheri West on Saturday -- came to light after a video showing the foreign national being pursued and pestered went viral on Wednesday.

Senior Inspector posted at Khar police station, Mohan Mane, said that they contacted the girl, but she was not in a position to give a statement after which the police lodged a suo moto complaint and the Nirbhaya Squad swung into action.

"We have arrested two persons -- Mobeen Chand M. Shaikh (19) and M. Naquib Sadrealam Ansari (21) -- and booked them under the relevant sections of IPC," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Anil Paraskar, said in a statement on Thursday.



Later, the victim also tweeted how a person was harassing her even she tried her best not to escalate the situation and leave the area as he was with one of his friends.

She said some people found her too friendly and got engaged in conversation, making her think twice about streaming. She later provided her contact details to the police to help them.

At the time of the incident, the South Korean girl was shooting a

video on a selfie stick. The two youth accosted her, asking her details, before one of them grabbed her hand, tried to drag her to his two-wheeler even as she kept resisting.

In the video, the two youth seemed insistent on giving her a ride, but when she politely and firmly refused, one of them put his hand around her neck and tried to kiss her, but she could be seen retreating, and protesting all the

time. As she tried to leave the scene, with the camera still on, the duo followed her on the scooter but she kept resisting, saying she wanted to return home. One of the miscreants offered to 'drop' her wherever she wanted to go, to which she replied she lived nearby.

Moving swiftly, the police managed to trace the duo to Patelnagar in Bandra and arrested them. A Bandra court sent them to remand for further investigation to continue.

Nine-year-old girl found dead with throat slit, teenage boy detained on murder charge

Thane: A nine-year-old girl was found dead with her throat slit in Kalyan area of Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday morning, following which a teenage boy was detained on the charge of murdering her, a police official said. The body was found in the premises of a housing complex near Kalyan railway station, although she was not a resident there, the Mahatma Phule police station official said. "The residents of the society alerted the police and her body was sent for post-mortem. We have registered a case of murder and other offences under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act provisions," he said. Based on the CCTV footage in the area, we detained a 15-year-old boy, who allegedly killed the child after her father scolded him, the official said.

The victim and the accused are seen together in some CCTV grabs and the crime may have taken place around 4 am on Thursday, he said. It is also suspected that the girl was raped before being murdered, he added.

Work order for Gokhale bridge in 15 days, says BMC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The reconstruction work of the Gokhale Road bridge could begin soon, as three bidders for the project have been qualified. Civic officials said they will issue a work order in the next 15 days. Thereafter, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will seek the permission of the railways to begin rebuilding the Andheri east-west connector.

"The BMC invited a tender of Rs 84.72 crore on November 12 for the reconstruction of Gokhale Bridge. Five companies participated in the tender process, and three of them qualified. A B Infrabuild Ltd quoted the lowest cost of the project at Rs 74.56 crore. SAI Projects Mumbai Pvt Ltd quoted the second lowest amount of Rs 82.10 crore and the third bid of Rs 83.73 crore came from Shree Manglam Buildcon



Private Ltd," said a civic official.

"We will now scrutinize the documents of all the three qualified contractors. Then, we will decide who will get the contract," said Sanjay Kaundanyapure, chief engineer of the BMC's Bridges department. "Scrutiny and the process of taking administrative permission will take a minimum of 15 days, after which we will issue a work order to the contractor. Normally, administrative work takes time, but we are working fast on this project," he added.

Another official said that initially, the tender was for both demolition of the existing bridge and construction of a new one. However, after the railways agreed to demolish the bridge, the BMC removed the demolition clause. "As per the BMC's terms, the contractor who conducts the demolition takes the debris, so most of the time demolition is done without any payment. Hence the estimated cost of the bridge, Rs 84.72 crore, has remained unchanged," the official added.

"The construction of the approach road to Gokhale bridge is in the final stages. The work started in 2020, and the BMC will spend Rs 80 crore on the construction of the approach road," an official said. Civic activist Dhaval Shah said, "The BMC needs to work faster, as they have promised to open phase 1 of the project for traffic by May 2023."

Recaptured bank robber slits his throat in lock-up

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former banker Anil Dubey, accused of killing his ex-colleague and grievously injuring another while trying to rob an ICICI Bank branch in Virar last year, slit his throat with a paper pin in a Crime Branch lock-up on Wednesday. Dubey had escaped from police custody when he was brought to a Vasai court last week. He was rearrested within 48 hours. Dubey and his former inmate at Thane Central Prison, Chand Aziz Khan, who zoomed him away on a motorcycle from outside a Vasai court near a public toilet, were kept inside the lockup to record their statements as they were to be produced before the court on Thursday. A source said that Dubey was heard telling someone at Achole police lockup to pass him a blade from a desk. "But he was not given the blade at the police station. Then he was brought to the Crime Branch office where senior officers were supposed to question him and

Khan around 4 pm," said the source.

Both the accused had lunch inside the Crime Branch lockup before the cops recorded Khan's statement. "After Khan was brought to the lockup, Dubey was heard telling him mujhe lagta hai mai aaj kuch kar lega. Later, Dubey slept on the floor and covered his face with a blanket. After a few minutes, Khan claims to have heard a commotion and he [Khan] pulled the blanket from Dubey's face. When Dubey did not respond, the latter raised an alarm," said an officer of the Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar (MBVV) police.

Alerted by Khan's screams around 2.55 pm, the officer rushed to the lockup and found Dubey collapsing. He had injured his throat and wrist with a paper pin. The cops took him to a private hospital. "The doctors said there were superficial cuts on his throat and wrist. Dubey is said to be out of danger. Doctors have administered two stitches on his neck," said an officer.

Thief who stole 6 phones from Andheri court canteen nabbed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Andheri police on Tuesday night arrested the man who allegedly made off with six mobile phones belonging to employees of the Andheri Metropolitan Magistrate's Court's canteen last week. The accused, Shoeb Shaikh, 25, was produced before the same court on Wednesday and remanded in police custody. According to police sources, Shaikh is a history-sheeter and his criminal record helped sleuths trace him. After the FIR was registered, an investigation team was formed under the guidance of DCP Mahesh Reddi, Zone X, and the supervision of Senior Inspector Santaji Ghorpade. The team, comprising Assistant Police Sub-Inspector Amit Yadav (detection) and PSI Kishor Parkale and others, took the help of an informer whom they showed the CCTV camera footage of the accused carrying out the crime.

"We laid a trap and caught him from his locality near Gokhale Bridge in Andheri West," said an officer of the Andheri police station. Shaikh confessed to the crime, cops



said. He had been arrested by the Andheri police in 2018 for robbery and was out on bail. When the police asked Shaikh why he targeted the court canteen, he said that it was easy for him to steal from there. The process of recovering the mobile phones is underway, the officer added.

The brazen theft occurred around 4.13 am on Friday when the victims were asleep in the canteen. The entire incident was captured by a CCTV camera. Interestingly, the employees who went to report the theft are surprised that the Andheri police sent them away without registering a case, giving them a missing certificate instead.

Pregnant women's care RTI: Ex-PM Singh's JSY 'outraces' PM Modi's PMSMA

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Two landmark central schemes fostering pregnant women - the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY - April 2005) launched by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritya Abhiyan (PMSMA-July 2016) kickstarted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - have apparently done wonders for expectant mothers in the country since their implementation. The JSY has benefitted a whopping over 15.81-crore women, while the more recent PMSMA has reached out to around 36 lakh women, according to a RTI reply by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to Jalna's well-known paediatrician Dr Swapnil B. Mantri.

The JSY comprises a cash assistance of Rs 6,000 per pregnancy, plus delivery and post-delivery medical care and with ASHA workers serving as the "link" between the government and to-be-moms.

On the other hand, the PMSMA



offers full medical checkup to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month, at all government hospitals and also at all registered private medicare institutions across India.

As per official data, the two schemes effectively address India's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) which was staggeringly high in 1990 - with 556 mothers dying/100,000 live childbirths - against the (then) global MMR of 385 deaths/100,000 live-

births. By 2013, India's MMR came down to 167/lakh live-births compared with the world average MMR of 216/lakh live-births (2015), or a massive fall of 70 per cent (1990-2015) compared with the global decline of 44 per cent. "The JSY has shown amazing results in 17 years with the MMR further plummeting - from 130/lakh in 2014 to just 97/lakh by 2020," Dr Mantri told correspondent. Over 25,000 'Delivery Points' in

India were strengthened in terms of infrastructure, equipment and trained manpower, plus 102 different types of medical services etc. among the comprehensive prenatal health solutions to would-be-moms, under JSY. From 2016 till now, more than 37-lakhs pregnant women were checked under PMSMA at over 17,000 public health facilities in India and another 19,215 recognised private centres, including nearly 7,000 which have voluntarily registered.

Despite these stupendous achievements on the MMR front, the tragedy is that around 44,000 women still succumb to pregnancy-related cases while 6,60,000 infants continue to die within the first four weeks of birth in the country. However, many women who became pregnant for a second time (including one with twins) complained they got nothing (under JSY), though a majority unflinchingly acknowledged getting all the necessary medical checkups under PMSMA even during the Covid pandemic.

EDITOR'S SPECS

Gujarat polls: Share of candidates with criminal records goes up

The number of candidates with criminal records has gone up substantially in the Gujarat Assembly polls this year. All the three major parties have fielded candidates having criminal records. As per a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), out of 833 candidates analysed, 163 (20 per cent) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves. In 2017 Gujarat Assembly Elections Phase II, out of 822 candidates analysed, 101 (12 per cent) had declared criminal cases against themselves. The ADR report said that 92 (11 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. In 2017 among the major parties, 29(32 per cent) out of 90 candidates analysed from the Congress, 29 (31 per cent) out of 93 candidates analysed from the AAP, 18 (19 per cent) out of 93 candidates analysed from the BJP and four (33 per cent) out of 12 candidates analysed from the Bhartiya Tribal Party have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. Among the major parties, 10 (11 per cent) out of 90 candidates analysed from the Congress, 17(18 per cent) out of 93 candidates analysed from the AAP, 14 (15 per cent) out of 93 candidates analysed from the BJP and one (8 per cent) out of 12 candidates analysed from the Bhartiya Tribal Party have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. The report said that nine candidates have declared cases related to crime against women. Out of the nine candidates, one candidate has declared case related to rape (IPC Section-376). Two candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section-302) against themselves and eight candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section-307) against themselves. As per the report, 19 (20 per cent) out of 93 constituencies are Red alert constituencies. Red alert constituencies are those where three or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

POJK LOCAL BODY ELECTION IS A POLITICAL GIMMICK

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

The first phase of local body election in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) was completed on November 27 in Muzaffarabad Division. According to 99 per cent results that were announced on November 29, the sitting government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) secured victory on 197 seats whereas Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) secured victory on 194 and 127 seats, respectively.

The second phase of the aforementioned local body election will be held on December 3, in Poonch division and the final phase will commence on December 8 in Mirpur division. Elections for public office in PoJK have always been a centre of controversy. In order to qualify for becoming a candidate for the legislature Assembly or a local body one is forced to sign a confessional oath.

This oath demands of the candidate to support the accession of PoJK to Pakistan, declare that he is a Muslim and that he believes in the Ideology of Pakistan which means believing in the poisonous two-nation theory of Muhammed Ali Jinnah, the so-called founder of Pakistan. Therefore, such elections are not inclusive as they bar non-Muslims to participate in direct elections.

The local body election in PoJK are being held after 31 years. The question is whether such an exercise would be able to deliver at grass root level. Well, I don't think so.

Let us examine the PoJK budget for fiscal year 2022/23 that was passed on June 25, this year. Its total volume was Rs 163.7 billion. Pakistan normally contributes 3.64 per cent of its federal tax revenue collection for development projects in PoJK. But this time it was cut down and instead of Rs 40 billion only Rs 28.5 billion was given as a handout.

Hence, PoJK government is already suffering a short fall of Rs 13.5 billion to cover ongoing development project. One of the reasons the members of the PoJK legislative assembly were opposed to local body election over three decades was because each member was allocated a certain amount of development funds. This was then spent by the member at



his or her discretion making enough room for corruption.

However, since there is already a huge cut in development funds for ongoing projects, where is the PoJK government going to find money to allocate to the newly elected local representatives?

The government of PoJK is starved of cash already and the reason of not being able to hold local bodies election on the same day across PoJK is testimony to that. Right up to the final days of the election PoJK government was expecting Pakistan to send an extra 13,000 security personals to be deployed across sensitive polling stations.

But Pakistan has her own political problems to deal with. Imran Khan's successful campaign to destabilise the sitting government, the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan attacks of Pakistan security forces in the province of

Khyber Paktunkhwa have bogged down Pakistani security and military forces.

It was after the Pakistan government refused to send security personal and lack of enough local police that PoJK government decided to hold its local body elections in phases.

If there are insufficient funds for development projects and the PoJK government is starved of cash, then the question arises where is the PoJK government going to find cash to pay the newly elected or to be elected councilors to carry out development in their constituencies?

How are these elections going to help mend a broken social infrastructure like fixing broken road, building local health facilities, schools excreta and how are they going to address the electricity, water and food scarcity issues?

In the final analysis, the local

body elections held in PoJK are a political stunt. It is an attempt to divert the attention of my rebellious people in PoJK who have been protesting for more than six months against lack of basic enmities.

The fact of the matter is that the people of PoJK have no freedom to choose a better future for themselves while they remain under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and its military. Elections, whether for the legislative assembly or local bodies are nothing but a gimmick. And sooner than later this gimmick will have to confront the reality of actuality.

(Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

international

CHINA TELLS US NOT TO 'INTERFERE' IN ITS RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Yashwant Raj | Washington

China has told the US "to not interfere" in its relations with India, according to a report by the US department of defense, which was followed shortly by claims by a think tank that the Chinese military has built a headquarters and garrison on the contentious border with India in preparation for a long stay.

"PRC officials have warned US officials to not interfere with the PRC's relationship with India," the US defense department said in a report on the state of China's military, calling it by the initials of its official name Peoples' Republic of China (PRC).

The report said that China "sustained the deployment of forces and continued infrastructure build up" along the Line of Actual Control, as the unsettled India-China border is called. The report also said "minimal progress" has been made in negotiations to untangle the aftermath of the 2020 Galwan clashes as both sides "resist losing perceived advantages on the border".

Clashes in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 between military patrols of the two country (China and India) were the most violent in decades. The Pentagon report calls out China for seeking to "downplay" the severity of the crisis and trying to prevent it from affecting other areas of the relation-



ship. China also sought to prevent India from getting closer to the US. "The PRC seeks to prevent border tensions from causing India to partner more closely with the United States," the report stated, adding that Chinese officials actually warned the US from getting involved - "to not interfere", as it was put. The US was not only vocal in its condemnation of the crisis and blaming China for it, it also quietly provided India all the help it needed to deal with Chinese aggression - in equipment and intelligence - which has never been acknowledged by New Delhi.

Even as talks have been going on between India and China to disengage their militaries, Beijing has been digging in for a long haul, according to US media reports based on satellite images. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a US think-tank, has obtained satellite images that show the Chinese military has constructed a headquarters and garrison to house troops at Pangong Tso, a lake that forms a part of the India-China border in Ladakh region. The think tank said in a blogpost, which was first reported by Politico, "the new division-level headquarters and garrison that likely support a considerable number of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops stationed around the lake".

These images date from October 4, 2022, show the construction work is over. The CSIS report said: "At its center are headquarters and support buildings, which are flanked by a bevy of trenches and revetments for storing and securing equipment. On the south side are numerous shelters for weapons - likely artillery and anti-aircraft systems. The northern portion shows a full company of armored personnel carriers (APCs), as well as vehicle shelters and additional weapons positions."

The CSIS called the construction a "considerable upgrade in the PLA's presence in one of the most remote and inhospitable spots on the globe".

Canadian Sikhs reach out to drivers stranded in snowstorm

Toronto | Agencies

Volunteers with a Sikh gurdwara in Canada stepped in with food, hot tea and shelter when heavy snow led to blocked bridges and highways around Vancouver leaving many drivers stranded and shivering. Drivers reported being stuck on New Westminster's Queensborough Bridge and Highway 91 on Tuesday night for hours along with a group of volunteers from Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar, the Global News channel reported. The group made their way to the Gurdwara, which was adjacent to the bridge on the Queensborough side, and came back with hot tea and packed snacks for the stranded motorists.

As the traffic stood still even after sunset, the volunteers decided to use the temple's kitchen to cook



meals for the people trapped in their vehicles. "We decided we should prepare 200 meals, 300 meals right away so we could feed maximum people when they need it. We just thought we have to do that," Amandeep Singh Garcha, spokesperson for the Khalsa Diwan Society of New Westminster, told the

Global News channel. By midnight, Garcha said they had served close to 200 people. The gurdwara also opened its doors for drivers who wanted to sleep and stay warm until traffic began moving on the bridge, the news channel reported. The bridge eventually reopened around 3.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

4 KILLED, 26 INJURED IN QUETTA SUICIDE BLAST

Islamabad: Four people including a policeman were killed and 26 others injured in a suicide attack in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, the provincial health department has said.

The other deceased including two kids and their mother, and the injured people were shifted to Civil Hospital Quetta, the media coordinator of the department of health, Waseem Baig was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying. Earlier in a conversation with the news agency, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Quetta police Ghulam Azfar Mahesar said that a suicide bomber exploded his explosive-laden rickshaw near a truck of police in Baleli area of Quetta on Wednesday. The blast toppled the vehicle and pushed it into a ditch beside the road, he added. The targeted policemen were on their way to performing security duties for polio teams deployed across the city to inoculate vaccines to kids. The official added that the initial investigation found that around 25 kg of explosives were used in the blast. The police and security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation in the region. Local media reports said the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had claimed responsibility for the attack. The blast was carried out after the militant group announced to terminate a ceasefire agreement with the Pakistani government, threatening to start attacks across the country.

Iran summons French envoy over Minister's 'unacceptable' remarks

Tehran | Agencies

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned Nicolas Roche, the French envoy to Tehran, over the French Foreign Minister's "unacceptable" remarks.

In the meeting, the Iranian side strongly protested against the French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna's "baseless accusations," and criticized some European countries for their "instrumental" double-standard approaches to human rights, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry stressed that those countries do not possess "legitimacy and eligibility" to make human rights claims given their unilateral and coercive methods, which



also violate the sovereignty of other countries.

Colonna addressed a session of the French legislative body on Monday, during which she said the situation in Iran "requires action, with responsibility", adding that the European Union is working to impose new sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Also in the session, French lawmakers passed a resolution to condemn Iran's response to the protests in the country after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. Protests have erupted in Iran since Amini's death.

Six million households across Ukraine without electricity

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that about 6 million households across the war-torn nation are without electricity as a result of Russian strikes hitting critical power infrastructure.

He made the remarks in his nightly address to the nation on Wednesday evening.

"Energy workers and utility workers, all our services are doing everything to stabilise the system and give people more energy for longer... It is very important that people understand when and for what period of time they will be left without electricity," the President



said. Besides Kiev, some of the other affected regions are Vinnytsia, Lviv, Odesa,

Khmelnytskyi and Cherkasy. "People have a right to know. And to the extent that it is possible now, the pre-

dictability of life should be ensured. People see that in neighbouring houses or on nearby streets, for some reason, the rules regarding light are different. And there should be justice and clarity," Zelensky added.

The President also announced that he held a meeting on energy and communications issues earlier on Wednesday.

"We record the results of what has already been done to protect our systems. We are preparing new solutions. We are also preparing new solutions to prevent any opportunity for Russia to manipulate the internal life of Ukraine. We will provide details in due time," he added.



VILLAGERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS GIVEN IN PESA ACT: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that decisions related to water, forests and land will now be taken from village chaupal and not from Bhopal. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the PESA Act in Madhya Pradesh is not against any non-tribal community. This is to further strengthen the tribals. It has been implemented in 89 tribal dominated development blocks of the state. The PESA Act provides tribal brothers and sisters their rights of water, forest, land, labour and protection and promotion of local institutions, traditions and culture. The Chief Minister said that corruption will not be tolerated under any circumstances in the implementation of schemes and government works. The CEO of Sendhwa janpad has been suspended over a similar complaint.



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that he is in favour of implementing a Uniform Civil Code in the country. A committee is being formed for this in the state. Time has come in India that a Uniform Civil Code should be implemented. Why should anyone

marry more than one? Why should there be two constitutions in one country, there should be only one. If there is a right to have one wife in the Uniform Civil Code, then there should be only one wife. Chief Minister Chouhan was

addressing the PESA Act Awareness Conference at village Chacharia Pati of Sendhwa block today. Chouhan said that today I have to come take a class on PESA Act and not to give a speech. In the development blocks where the PESA Act has been implemented, it is necessary for the people to be aware of its provisions and their rights. CM said that even the government will not be able to take land directly without the consent of the Gram Sabha. Those who fraudulently grab land and get it transferred in their name will not be spared. With PESA Act, now no one will be able to grab someone's land by deceit, fraud and force. If any person does this, the Gram Sabha will also have the right to intervene and retrieve it. He said that the government will not be able to give lease of sand, clay, stone or any other quarry in the notified area without the permission of the Gram Sabha.

'Tukde Tukde' gang part of the BJJ, says Home Minister Mishra



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his pan-India Bharat Jodo Yatra, MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra has released a video statement in which he has called the foot march, a yatra of 'Tukde Tukde' gang support-

ers. Mishra took a swipe at controversial Bollywood actor Swara Bhasker for being part of the yatra today.

Referring to actor Richa Chadha's controversial tweet on Galwan, Mishra said, "Richa Chadha gave a statement against the Indian Army and Swara Bhasker supported her.

She is the same person who has made pro Pakistan statements."

He further said, "Kanhaiya Kumar is a part of the yatra, actor Sushant Singh is also there. The girl who said the 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogan also participated in the yatra. All these 'Tukde Tukde' gang members are a part of the yatra. Rahul, is this yatra supporting the people trying to divide India?"

On Thursday, Swara Bhasker became the latest cinema personality to participate in Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain with Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Previously, cinema personalities such as Amol Palekar, Sandhya Gokhale, Pooja Bhatt, Riya Sen, Sushant Singh, Mona Ambegaonkar, Rashmi Desai, and Akanksha Puri took part in the yatra.

"WE ARE DYING..." VIDEO OF KAMAL NATH ON RAHUL GANDHI'S YATRA IS VIRAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's heart-to-heart with a religious figure has made his party, the Congress, the subject of much ridicule in the state. In the video of the chat with "Katha Vachak (religious preacher)" Pradeep Mishra -- which is being widely circulated -- the 76-year-old leader is seen complaining about the tough schedule set by Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is currently passing through Madhya Pradesh. "Hum toh saat din se mar rahe hain. Do principles hain - subah 6 baje se chalna aur ek din mein 24 km se kam nahi chalna. (We've been dying for the last seven days... There are only two guiding principles -- start marching at 6 Am and walk at least 24 km a day)," Nath is heard saying.

He goes on to add that Gandhi had three pre-conditions for the Yatra's Madhya Pradesh leg. The list included travelling to tribal icon Tanya Bhill's birthplace, visiting the Omkareshwar Temple and Mahakal Temple.



All of it has been ticked off the list. Nath was seen accompanying Gandhi everywhere -- from Omkareshwar to the sanatorium of Ujjain's Mahakal temple.

In his frequent interactions with the people, Gandhi has been lauded much for his physical fitness. Not only is he setting the pace for this march, he is also seen climbing tall water tanks and doing push-ups on the road, often with elderly party leaders in tow. In the Karnataka leg, it was Siddaramaiah, who kept pace with Gandhi on a short jog. Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh even stumbled and fell during the walk in Khargone district. The Congress blamed it on the condition of the roads of the

state, igniting a verbal tussle with the BJP.

Nath's video has drawn a sharp comment from the BJP's Narottam Mishra. "Kamal Nath ji, I have seen your video and can feel your pain," the state Home Minister said

"Also, Rahul Gandhi is making you add three places to the Yatra. Your pain is obvious and your words are also exposing his (Rahul Gandhi's) hypocrisy on religion and tribals... I pray that Rahul Gandhi does not force those who are physically ill to walk in the Yatra, as it will make such people talk even about dying. Please ensure that your event doesn't become harmful to anyone," Mishra added.

PM's plans are creating economic gap, and political dictatorship, which will break country: Jairam Ramesh

Team Absolute | Nazarpur

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies were creating economic disparity, social hostility and political dictatorship, which would break the country in future, and asserted that the sole purpose behind Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra was to ensure that it did not happen. Ramesh, who is Congress's general secretary in-charge of its communication, publicity and media department, was speaking to reporters at Nazarpur in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"Because of Modi's policies of economic disparity, social hostility and political dictatorship, the country is going to break in future and the Bharat



Jodo Yatra being taken out by Rahul Gandhi will ensure that it will not happen," he said.

Answering a question about the reason behind Union civil aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia leaving the Congress in 2020, Ramesh said he quit the party just to become a central minister and to

get back the 27, Safdarjung Road bungalow in the national capital. "There was no other motive behind it," he said in response to a query.

Ramesh said the yatra will reach Delhi on December 24, where it will take a break of five days.

The break is essential as the vehicles and containers running with the yatra needed to be serviced for the onward journey, he said.

After entering Rajasthan, a public rally will be held in Alwar town, he said. Speaking on the occasion, former Madhya Pradesh finance minister Tarun Bhanot said that in a short span of 15 months (till March 2020), the government led by his party in the state tried to fulfil various promises, including providing 100 units of electricity at Rs 100. Bhanot said the party's manifesto will be historic in 2023, when the state will witness Assembly polls.

CM TO PARTICIPATE IN 3 EVENTS OF TANTYA MAMA ON SUNDAY



Team Absolute | Indore

The district administration would organise the martyrdom day of tribal warrior Tanya Mama on December 4. CM will participate in three programs. A statue of the tribal leader will be unveiled at Jan Nayak Tanta Mama Square (Bhanwarkuan square). CM Chouhan will visit Patalpani and then arrive in the city.

A large number of tribals from Malwa and Nimar regions are expected to participate in these events. A meeting was organised at Residency for the preparations of the programs. Minister Tulsi Silawat, Divisional Commissioner Dr Pawan Sharma, Commissioner of Police HN Mishra, Collector Dr Ilaya Raja T and local BJP leaders were present in the meeting.

It was informed in the meeting that CM Chouhan would reach Patalpani by helicopter around 12 noon on Sunday and would garland the statue of Tanya Mama there. After participating in the brief program organised here, he will land at PTS helipad at around 1 o'clock and from here will go to Tanya Mama (Bhanwarkuan) Square. After inaugurating the newly installed statue of Tanya Mama here, te CM will reach Nehru Stadium and after participating in the programme organised here, will leave from the city at around 3.30 pm.

EXCISE TEAM RAIDS HOUSE, SEIZES 9 BOXES OF LIQUOR

Team Absolute | Indore

The State Excise Department raided a house and recovered 9 boxes of liquor stored illegally and arrested an accused, the officials said. Interestingly, when the officers reached the house for the raid, the accused wasn't shocked and he talked with the officials with confidence and tried to mislead the officials saying no one sells liquor illegally in the area. On the instruction of assistant excise officer Manish Khare, in charge of excise circle 1 (internal) Nitin Ashapure and his team reached Sajay Nagar Basti area following information about a person selling liquor illegally in the area. The team reached the accused's place on Tuesday evening. The accused was confident even after seeing the officers in uniform. He was answering the officers normally and was trying to mislead them. However, the officers had confirmed information so they entered the house and found the boxes containing country-made liquor inside.



WOMEN MADE TO LIE ON GROUND AT HOSPITAL CAMP, NOTICE ISSUED

Team Absolute | Shivpuri

In a case of negligence, women were made to lie down on the ground during a sterilisation camp at the Shivpuri district hospital in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

Shivpuri Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Pawan Jain said that the matter came to his notice through reporters. Women were made to lie down on a mattress on the ground which is wrong, he said. "I immediately made a verbal announcement and later issued a written order to all the DMOs (Designated Medical Officers) and civil surgeons not to repeat such incidents in the future. It's a sad incident if it occurred and it should not be repeated again," he added.

This is not the first time such an incident has happened in the district hospital. The Human Rights Commission had taken cognizance of a similar incident that had occurred earlier at the hospital and issued notices.



Police bust prostitution racket in Jabalpur, kidnaping among five arrested

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Police here on Thursday busted a prostitution racket operating for a long time in a residential complex in Garha area of the city. Preeti Tiwari, in-charge of the women's police station, said police have arrested five people including one person operating the prostitution business.

"During the raid, two youth and two girls were found there in an objectionable condition. Along with this, different kinds of materials have also been seized," she added. Also, action is being taken against the owner of the house. A case was registered against the accused woman and the landlord under Section 3, 4 Immoral Business Act and 1956 IPC. Preeti Tiwari said that a policeman was sent to the gang operator by posing as a customer. After bargaining and fixing the rate with the kingpin to one thousand rupees, the information was immediately passed on to Tiwari by the policeman who posed a customer. Later, the police laid siege to the entire house and nabbed the accused. The operator of the gang said that their customers were young men from nearby villages, whom they used to often lure and bring as there was no fear of the police.

On the other hand, the girls were pushed into prostitution who intended to buy a property for themselves and their families. "They were helpless and had not come into prostitution of their own free will. The need to buy a house pushed them into flesh trade," Preeti Tiwari said.

REENA KAPOOR RECALLS SHOOTING IN UJJAIN

Team Absolute | Ujjain

'Woh Rehne Waali Mehlon Ki' actress Reena Kapoor, who will be playing the role of a widow in the show 'Aashao Ka Saveri Dheere Dheere Se', shares her experience of shooting in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, with the entire cast.

She says: "It's a wonderful experience to shoot outdoor shots in Ujjain. I'm enjoying every second I get to spend with her. The atmosphere of the city is quite different and helps one feel comfortable. Additionally, the locals are incredibly friendly and caring." The actress adds more about her visit, saying: "We have planned to see several well-known locations and try some well-known local cuisine, so I am excited to take a proper tour of the city. The entire cast is pleased to be filming here, and I'm hoping we'll all have fond recollections of our little trip." The show revolves around Bhavna played by Reena Kapoor and Raghav played by Rahil Azam who are completely opposite to each other and the plot moves further with how they will be meeting each other and falling in love.



MAN PULLS TRIGGER ON YOUNGER BROTHER OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE IN GWALIOR

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A man shot his younger brother over a property dispute in Gwalior on Thursday. Police have arrested the accused elder brother while the victim has been admitted to Jaya Arogya Hospital where his condition is said to be critical.

The incident has been reported from Kota Wala Mohalla under Gwalior police station area where two siblings, Govind Tomar and Gopal Tomar lived together under the same roof. A property dispute was brewing between the siblings for a very long time. According to reports, Gopal Tomar, the younger brother, went to the SP office to file a complaint regarding the dispute, on Wednesday. When Govind received information about Gopal filing a case with the police, he got angry and a heated argument ensued between the two on Thursday morning. Soon, Govind lost his cool and shot Gopal in the back using his illegally-possessioned gun. Hearing the gun-shot, the family members rushed to the spot and saw Gopal lying in a pool of blood. Gwalior police reached the crime scene on receiving information from the family members. Police have arrested Govind and registered a case of attempt to murder. His illegal gun has also been seized while further investigation in the matter is underway.



Police install 32 smart cameras at 11 sensitive locations in Pandharinath



Team Absolute | Indore

To improve functionality 32 advanced cameras have been installed by the Pandharinath police in the area. In the presence of Commissioner of Police Harinarayanachari Mishra, the advanced cameras were inaugurated on Wednesday evening. The cameras not only capture the clear picture but the sound as well. CP Mishra said that 32 advanced cameras have been installed at 11 places in the Pandharinath area. The cameras were

installed with public participation. With the help of these cameras, the police can get information immediately after any incident in the area. These cameras can be operated on mobile phones. On the instruction of the senior officers, Pandharinath police station in-charge Satish Patel and some prominent people of the area have come together to install the cameras at 11 sensitive places. More smart cameras would be installed at other locations as well. During the launching program, DCP (Zone-4) RK Singh, Additional DCP Prashant Choubey and

The smart cameras have been installed

- " Bambai Bazar police chowki
- " Favvara Chowk
- " Kadhavghat police chowki
- " Taj Building Gali
- " Mata Mandi at Jawahar Marg
- " Nayapeetha Mosque
- " Nafees Dairy
- " Jagran Press
- " Udupura area
- " Shri Ram Temple in Pijarabakhali area
- " Kadhavghat Balwadi

other officers were present at the Pandharinath Police station. The cameras are advanced and smart as they can capture videos with sound. The officers can see the actual current situation anytime on their mobile phones. Through these cameras, the police can get a 360-degree view of the place where the cameras have been installed. The speakers are also inbuilt in the

MILA KUNIS

'HONOURED' HER KIDS CAN CARRY ON HER UKRAINIAN ROOTS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Mila Kunis has never been more honoured "to be from Ukraine." Always proud of her Ukrainian heritage, the actress has been vocal in her support for the country amid the ongoing conflict with Russia, reports. "My parents and I speak Russian to each other, so (my kids have) grown up with that. They've naturally found pride in being half Ukrainian. The truth is I'm very American. I was raised in Los Angeles," said the Hollywood star - who has Wyatt, eight, and Dimitri, six, with Ashton Kutcher.

"That said I've never been more proud to be from Ukraine. I'm so honoured my kids can carry on that heritage. When you're little, all you want to do is assimilate. As horrible as so many things are in the world today, the 'You're different, and that's a cool thing' sense of identity is new. I'm grateful for that."

Kunis has been personally thanked for her vocal support by Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine. But the actress has actually known him for almost a decade.

Asked about their first-ever meeting, Mila told, "About eight years ago, a remake of was being shopped around Los Angeles."

"I had a deal with ABC, and I was trying desperately to bring the show to the network. We ultimately got outbid, but in the process, I talked to this actor named Zelenskyy."

"Years later, I was reading the news and saw Ukraine had a new president. I thought to myself, 'A Jewish president? Mazel tov! That name sounds so familiar.' I searched my emails and was like, 'I know him!' Our own little meet-cute."



'HARRY POTTER' TV SERIES MAYBE COMING SOON: WARNER BROS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Warner Bros. TV CEO Channing Dungey has shared that a TV series based on the mega-popular book and film series 'Harry Potter' may be coming soon. "There is a tremendous amount of ambition for that," Warner Bros. TV CEO said, adding, "and we are engaged in a number of different conversations," reports.

"I wish I could tell you that something was imminent on the horizon but there is a lot of interest and a lot of passion for it," she continued. "What's great is that you see how the audience is so engaged and so ready." However, Dungey stated she's optimistic about what the future holds, insisting: "We're just trying to figure out what the right next step is." Last year, Warner Bros. TV, which includes networks like HBO, TBS, TNT, truTV and CNN, has started dipping their toes into Harry Potter content.

In November 2021, TBS aired 'Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament of Houses', a four-part quiz hosted by Helen Mirren which featured appearances from Harry Potter favourites like Matthew Lewis, Tom Felton and Luke Youngblood.

HBO Max then premiered 'Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts' on New Year's Day 2022, which featured a reunion of numerous actors from the film series including stars Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.


On the Warner Bros. film side of things, the universe has continued with the Fantastic Beasts series, most recently marked by 2022's 'Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore'.



ANG LEE IS SET TO DIRECT A FILM ON LEGEND BRUCE LEE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-winning director Ang Lee, known for helming 'Life of Pi' and 'Brokeback Mountain', is set to direct a film about Chinese American martial arts legend Bruce Lee. Ang Lee's son Mason Lee will star in the film, which is in development at Sony's 3000 Pictures. Dan Futterman, who wrote 'Capote' and 'Foxcatcher', is adapting the script. Jean Castelli, Alex Law and Mabel Cheung and Wells Tower wrote earlier versions of the screenplay, reports 'Variety'. Bruce Lee, who died in 1973 at the age of 32, had a brief but lasting presence in Hollywood as an actor, director and martial arts expert. His films, including 'Fist of Fury', 'Enter the Dragon' and 'The Way of the Dragon', as well as the TV series 'The Green Hornet', popularised martial arts across the globe in the late 1960s and early '70s. "Accepted as neither fully American nor Fully Chinese, Bruce Lee was a bridge between East and West who introduced Chinese Gung Fu to the world, a scientist of combat and an iconic performing artist who revolutionised both the martial arts and action cinema," Ang Lee said in a statement. "I feel compelled to tell the story of this brilliant, unique human being who yearned for belonging, possessed tremendous power in a 135-pound-frame, and who, through tireless hard work, made impossible dreams into reality." A decorated filmmaker, Ang Lee's movies have scored at the box office in addition to collecting several Academy Awards: including four for 'Life of Pi', three for 'Brokeback Mountain' and two for 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'. His other credits include 'Sense and Sensibility', 'Hulk', 'Lust' and Billy Lynn's 'Long Halftime Walk'.



I HADN'T SEEN ANY OF BRENDAN'S FILMS: SADIE SINK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sadie Sink admits she didn't know much about Brendan Fraser until she was cast as his estranged daughter in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale." "To be honest, I hadn't seen any of his films. I didn't grow up with his films," the actor told me at the New York City premiere of "The Whale" Tuesday night at Alice Tully Hall. "Of course, now I've seen all of them."

Sink's favorite? "I love 'School Ties,' the 'Stranger Things' star said. Fraser starred in the 1992 drama as a Jewish high schooler attending an exclusive prep school on a football scholarship. He decides to hide being Jewish when he realizes many of his classmates - including those played by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon - are antisemitic."

"I think Brendan is brilliant in it," Sink said.



Robert De Niro to star in Netflix political thriller series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Robert De Niro is set to star in the limited series 'Zero Day' currently in the works at Netflix. The political thriller hails from Eric Newman and Noah Oppenheim, reports. Exact plot details are being kept under wraps, but sources say the show would be a political thriller in which De Niro would play a former US President.

Newman and Oppenheim are the writers and executive producers on the series, with a story by Newman, Oppenheim, and Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Schmidt.

De Niro is one of the best known film stars of all time, having won the Academy Award for best actor and best supporting actor for 'Raging Bull' and 'The Godfather Part II' respectively.

He has been nominated for seven acting Academy Awards in total, while he also shared in the best picture nomination for 'The Irishman', which he produced and in which he also played the lead role. He has received multiple Emmy nominations in his career as well, including one for best actor in a TV movie or limited series for the HBO film "Wizard of Lies," in which he played Bernie Madoff.

Newman has a longstanding relationship with Netflix, beginning with his work on the streamer's hit series 'Narcos'. Newman was an executive producer, writer, and showrunner on 'Narcos' and then became the showrunner and executive producer on the followup series 'Narcos: Mexico'.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Abbey Clancy





I AM FINALLY GETTING TO HEADLINE A FILM:

RAKUL PREET SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rakul Preet Singh talks about her upcoming film 'Chhatriwali', which focuses on male contraceptives and safe sex. Rakul says: "For me, every film of mine has been special but 'Chhatriwali' is extra special for many reasons. After so many years in the industry, I am finally getting to headline a film and what better than an entertaining film with a thought-provoking social message."

Rakul plays the role of quality control head in a condom factory. It is shown in the film that though initially, Rakul was somewhere shy about her job, she slowly realised its importance. She understands the relevance of sex education and takes the responsibility of spreading awareness.

As today (December 1) is World AIDS Day, which is observed to spread awareness about HIV among people, the actress asserts that it is an important day to announce this film as the subject deals with the issues of safe sex. "This World Aids Day, I join the fight against HIV by raising awareness on the importance of safe sex and the use of male contraceptives via my upcoming film, 'Chhatriwali'," adds the actress known for 'Cuttputti', 'Runway 34', 'Attack', among others. Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, 'Chhatriwali' features Rakul Preet Singh and Sumeet Vyas.

Arjun pens a cryptic post about karma on social media

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After slamming a media portal calling it "unethical" and "insensitive" for a report that his girlfriend Malaika Arora is pregnant, actor Arjun Kapoor has now shared a cryptic post about karma on his social media. He took to his Instagram stories and wrote: "Karma comes after everyone eventually. You can't get away with screwing people over your whole life, I don't care who you are. What goes around comes around. That's how it works. Sooner or later, the universe will serve you the revenge that you deserve."

Malaika had also dismissed her pregnancy rumours by calling it "disgusting".

A report claimed that Arjun and Malaika, who have been dating since 2019, were expecting their first child. The 'Ishaqzaade' star debunked all the claims immediately.

He wrote on social media: "This is the lowest that you could have gone and you have done it by being casual. Insensitive and absolutely unethical. In carrying garbage news. This journalist has been writing such pieces regularly and getting away with it because we tend to ignore these fake gossip articles while they spread across media and become the truth. This is not done. Don't dare to play with our personal lives."



I'm full of nerves and full of excitement: Alaya F

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alaya F, who currently awaits the release of her upcoming film 'Freddy', feels that it is a whole new journey for her and says that she has consistently tried to avoid "playing it safe". "The last three years for me have been just about working on projects and wrapping them up. And now that they have been shot, I am really excited for the audiences to see them. I feel like a whole new journey for me is beginning and it feels so fresh, I'm full of nerves and full of excitement. I feel the same way I felt before my first film was released," she said. Alaya added: "I want to jump at every opportunity and I feel like I have so much to prove. I just want to do really good, honest work. I'll always experiment with genres and projects so I hope I just get wonderful opportunities that can further my journey. I hope people take note of how different Freddy is from my first and how I've consistently tried to avoid 'playing it safe'."

She said: "I'm just grateful I get to act my way into people's lives through films again and I'm even more grateful that it's through a special film like Freddy."



Kichcha Sudeepa shares his thoughts on his next movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Hindi teaser of 'Kabzaa' starring Kichcha Sudeepa and Upendra was unveiled by the makers on Thursday. Kichcha Sudeepa said, "Anand Pandit Motion pictures, a renowned distributor, is releasing our film 'Kabzaa' at this wonderful time when South Indian cinema is being acknowledged as Indian cinema. It resembles a reward for the film crew's arduous efforts."

The film, which originated in Kannada, will also be released in multiple languages like Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. The production house which is known for giving back-to-back Superhit films at the box office, Anand Pandit Motion Pictures is now all set to foray into South Films with the pan-India release of 'Kabzaa'.

The story of the film revolves around a brave freedom fighter Amareshwara who gets killed by the British, due to unfavourable circumstances, his son Arkeshwara becomes

the don of the underworld in India during the period of 1960-1984 and sets his mark in Indian history.

Sharing his views about this, producer Anand Pandit said, "We are extremely excited to venture into South Films. Our vision has always been to entertain the audience to their fullest and Kabzaa is one such entertainer that we have our complete faith in, it is our pleasure to be associated with superstar Upendra, Kichcha Sudeepa, Shriya Saran and all the wonderful talents associated with this film."

Speaking about the film, the leading actor Upendra said: "It's a great joy that Kabzaa, a new chapter in the underworld, is being released in Hindi by Bollywood's renowned Anand Pandit Motion Pictures. May your cooperation continue to be like this." Adding to this director R Chandru added: "It gives me great pleasure to announce that Kabzaa will be released in Hindi by renowned Bollywood studio Anand Pandit Motion Pictures. It seems like our commitment and efforts are being acknowledged."



I CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE SCREEN SPACE WITH SANJAY DUTT: PALAK TIWARI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Debutante Palak Tiwari, who is the daughter of television star Shweta Tiwari, recently wrapped up the shoot of 'Kisi ka Bhai Kisi ki Jaan' starring Salman Khan. She will be seen in a very different role in her next project 'The Virgin Tree', which also features Sanjay Dutt. Helmed by debutant director Sidhaant Sachdev the horror-comedy film's cast includes Sunny Singh, Mouni Roy, apart from Palak and Sanjay. Speaking about starting a new film shoot the young actress whose first film is awaiting release, described it as a surreal experience. "I can't wait to share screen space with Sanjay Sir. There is so much knowledge he can impart to all of us. Sunny is such a delight to work with. He is so naturally funny and charming on-screen. The whole cast is brilliant," Palak said. The movie is being shot in Pune.

Ashutosh Rana talks about his character in his upcoming movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actor Ashutosh Rana says he's playing a senior cop in 'Khakee: The Bihar Chapter' who lives his life to the fullest yet keeps order in Bihar. Being helmed by ace filmmaker Neeraj Pandey, Netflix's 'Khakee: The Bihar Chapter' stars a number of talented actors. Ashutosh Rana plays Mukteshwar, a cop who works closely with Amit Lodha. Speaking about his role and how it played out, Ashutosh Rana shared "Mukteshwar is Amit's friend/guide/philosopher. Mukteshwar helps him step away from the problem and

guides him to the solution. So whenever Mukteshwar comes on screen, the character's direction and state changes. To me, my character is one that has his own philosophy. He is very enterprising and lives life to the fullest. And even in tough situations, he never loses his cool. He maneuvers through tough situations with a sense of peace and calm." The actor mentioned how thrilling the experience was of being a part of this title and working with Neeraj Pandey. He mentioned how this story is extremely colourful in nature and there is no question of denying such a brilliant opportunity of being part of something so remarkable.



Esha Gupta