

# absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 274, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

<b>NATION</b> > 02	<b>HOLLYWOOD</b> > 06	<b>SPORTS</b> > 07
Delhi: 73rd train leaves for Dwarkadhish under pilgrimage...	Lizzo slams rumours of split with boyfriend Myke Wright amid...	Gill, Jaiswal star as India thrash West Indies by 9 wickets, level...



## Manipur HC asks state govt to find ways to restore mobile internet services

A high court official said that a division bench comprising Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh and Justice A Guneshwar Sharma directed on Friday that "state authorities, especially the home department, should consider devising mechanism/methods for providing internet services through mobile phones by whitelisting the mobile numbers on case-to-case basis and in a phase-wise manner." "Accordingly, the state authorities are directed to consider this aspect and submit a report on the next date. The court will again hear the matter on August 31," the HC order said.

Team Absolute | Imphal

Responding to appeals filed by various quarters, the Manipur High Court has asked the state government to find ways to restore mobile internet services for the people of the state, court officials said on Saturday.

Mobile internet services have been snapped across Manipur since the ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3. During the hearing, the state's counsel told the court: "In terms of the earlier directions given by this court, the authorities have conducted physical trial with regard to the opening of internet services through mobile phones by whitelisting certain numbers and as per the report submitted by the service providers, there is no data leakage to any other numbers which are not whitelisted."



The order said that state's counsel M. Rary submitted that the state authorities may be given two weeks' time to devise certain measures/mechanism for whitelisting mobile phones and the liberty to consider whitelisting of mobile numbers on case-to-case basis and in a phase-wise manner.

Meanwhile, responding to the demands from all sections of people, the Manipur government, after 84 days, had on July 25 partially lifted the ban on internet in the ethnic violence-hit state.

Home Commissioner T. Ranjit Singh, in an order, had said that the state government has made a considered decision to lift suspension in case of broadband service (Internet Lease Line and Fibre to the Home) conditionally in a liberalised manner subject to fulfillment of 10 conditions, including that connection has to be only through static IP.



## In a first, UPSRTC gets 17 women bus drivers

KANPUR | Agencies

In a first in Uttar Pradesh, a group of 17 women are all set to start work as bus drivers in UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC).

In 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh had launched the examination and training of women driving at the Model Driving Training and Research Institute in Kanpur's Vikas Nagar.

The first batch of 17 women drivers have completed their training at this institute and will soon handle the responsibility of bus driving with their male counterparts.

Principal of Driver Training Centre S.P. Singh said that women have been given training under the schemes run by the government.

"It is the first batch of 17 women, who had undergone training at the institute, which is the first of its kind not only in the region but the country. We will soon make provision for imparting training to more such women," he said.

"With this effort of the Uttar Pradesh government, a new dimension will emerge, wherein for the first time, women will be seen driving heavy vehicles on the road," Singh added.

He further said that the group of 17 women first underwent training at the Kanpur transport office in light motor vehicle driving level-3 and commercial vehicle driver level-4.

"The applicants have been trained at Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) in Delhi where they were tested, and later a group of 17 women drivers were shortlisted," he added.

## WORKING WITH THE BIGGEST DIRECTORS IN THE INDUSTRY WAS ALWAYS ON MY WISH LIST: MONA SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mona Singh is riding high on the success of her recent release, Made In Heaven Season Two. She said that working with Reema Kagti, Zoya Akhtar and Alankrita Srivastava have always been on her wish list.

Mona said: "The praise I'm getting for my performance in Made In Heaven Season 2 is just overwhelming. I am very grateful to be part of such a big franchise, and getting such an overwhelming response makes me happy."

"Working with such a stellar cast and with the biggest directors in the industry has always been on my wish list, and it's incredible to witness the amount of affection outpouring towards my character Bulbul, not only from the directors but also on social media."

"When I started shooting for the character, I was sure that once people started watching the show, it would resonate with them because she is rock solid and firm,



goes well with the narration, and finds its way in between such a big cast. I am thankful to everyone for pouring so much love into the much-anticipated show and making my character, Bulbul, a favorite."

"Made In Heaven" is a romantic drama web series. The series chronicles the lives of Tara and Karan, two wedding planners in Delhi running an agency named Made in Heaven. The series is Prime Video's fourth original fictional Indian series.

The season 2 is about Financial challenges, a depleted client roster, and a crumbling bungalow for an office force wedding planners Tara Khanna and Karan Mehra to adapt to a new uncomfortable status quo. With repercussions being felt in their personal lives as well, they continue to deliver fairy-tale weddings. But beneath the glitz and glamour of Delhi weddings lie prejudices as deeply rooted as its traditions.



## Bundelkhand Expressway in UP to be solar-powered

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has started the process of illuminating the Bundelkhand Expressway with solar power.

The UPEIDA has issued a letter of Expression of Interest, setting August 17 as the last date for submitting applications. A state government spokesperson said that the project will be executed on public private partnership mode and UPEIDA has already prepared a detailed plan to set up solar panels. "As per directions of the UPEIDA CEO, a detailed action plan has been prepared to develop the 296-km Bundelkhand Expressway as a solar powered expressway. We have invited applications from interested parties to develop

this on PPP mode," the official said. He explained that out of the applications received, selected applicants will be called to give further presentations. Once a company is finalised, the process of installation of solar panels will be started. The Bundelkhand Expressway is a four-lane route with a main carriageway and service lane. Between these two, the area with a width of about 15 to 20 metres is currently vacant along the entire stretch of the expressway, which is used as a fence to separate it from agricultural land.

It is this land which will be used for installation of solar panels.

The project is part of the government's commitment to accelerate industrial growth and enhance facilities as well as maintenance in industrial corridors and on highways.

## WhatsApp rolling out multi-account feature on Android beta

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out a new multi-account feature on Android beta.

Beta users will now be able to add additional accounts to the app, reports WABetaInfo.

Users can add a new account by selecting the arrow icon next to the QR code button.

On the same menu, users can also switch to a different account.

This feature will help users to keep their private chats, work conversations and other chats all in one application.

Users can switch between accounts without using multiple devices or additional apps as this feature keeps their chats and notifications separate.

The multi-account feature is currently available to some beta



testers that install the latest updates of WhatsApp beta for Android, and is rolling out to more over the coming weeks, the report said.

Earlier this week, it was reported that the messaging platform was working on a new passkey feature for account verification on Android beta. A passkey is a short sequence of numbers or letters that is used to verify users' identity.

Last month, the company had released new safety tools on Android beta for when users receive messages from

unknown phone numbers. The platform also rolled out a 'link with phone number' feature on Android beta, which allows users to link their account to WhatsApp Web by using their phone number.

In June, the Meta-owned platform had released a feature which allows users to send high-quality videos on Android beta.

While this feature preserves video dimensions, minor compression will still be applied to the video, thus sending videos in their original quality is not possible.

## News about my social media earnings is not true: Virat Kohli

New Delhi | Agencies

Former Indian skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday rubbished reports suggesting that he rakes in a staggering sum of INR 11.45 crore from every post of his on the photo-sharing app -- Instagram.

"While I am grateful and indebted to all that I've received in life, the news that has been making rounds about my social media earnings is not true," Kohli wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, there were reports that Kohli is the highest-earning Indian on Instagram.

According to the same report, Ronaldo commands a massive fee of USD 3.23 million for every sponsored post, which roughly translates to INR 26.75 crore. His eternal rival Messi, who



came in second place earns USD 2.56 million per Instagram post which translates to INR 21.49 crore.

Kohli is currently on a break having been rested by the BCCI ahead of the Asia Cup 2023 which is set to start from August 30.

## Punjab Police officer hosts tricolour on Mount Elbrus - the roof of Europe

Chandigarh | Agencies

Commemorating 76 years of Independence, Gurjot Singh Kaler, a senior police officer in Punjab, scaled and unfurled the tricolour on the top of Mount Elbrus -- the highest and most prominent peak in Russia and Europe.

Kaler, a professionally-trained mountaineer, was adjudged the best mountaineer during his Basic Mountaineering Course (BMC) at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) at Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.

His recent feat is noteworthy considering that the Caucasus' tallest mountain, Mount Elbrus, is 5,642 metres (18,510 feet) above sea level.

There were four others in Kaler's team, which reached the top of Mount Elbrus on August 11 at 7 a.m. after battling heavy snowstorms, thunderstorms and atmospheric lightning.

Mount Elbrus is covered in snow through out around and is home to 22 glaciers that feed three rivers -- Baksan, Malka and Kuban. Elbrus is part of the Caucasus mountain range, near the Georgian border in the south of Russia.

The Caucasus technically sits in Asia and Europe, although most geographers place it in Europe. It's a mountain range that spans two continents.

Committed to the spirit of combating climate change and global warming, the mission of Mount Elbrus was dedicated by Kaler to exhort the world community to preserve the environment and create awareness about depleting forest reserves across the planet and melting of glaciers.

"It took five days to successfully do the summit after acclimatisation hikes to Mount Cheget and Pastukhov Rocks. The weather was very turbulent on the day of the



summit and there was a lot of lightning and thunderstorms which made the climb very difficult," Kaler told IANS over phone.

At one point, it looked impossible but the sheer willpower, perseverance and determination served him in good stead throughout the adventurous expedition.

"It is only in tough circumstances

that we can test the real toughness of mind," he said.

Kaler has become the first Punjab Police officer to scale Mount Elbrus. Earlier, he had successfully climbed the summit of the highest mountain in the African Continent -- Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

The daredevil officer had also performed a skydive from 15,000 feet during the Covid pandemic to serve as a heartfelt tribute of bravery and courage to the corona warriors who had sacrificed their lives during the pandemic.

He's currently handling the charge of AIG (Excise and Taxation) and was awarded with the Chief Minister's Medal for outstanding devotion to duty in January 2023.

He was also conferred with the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Raj Yuva Puraskar by the government of Punjab in March 2023 for his fight against drug abuse in Punjab and for promoting the culture of sports.

Kaler feels that his efforts in terms of climbing Mount Ebrus will go a long way in awakening the world community to join hands for combating climate change.

He admits that global warming and climate change is a grim reality of "our times and every region on earth is impacted by our actions".

"Even the recent ghastly floods in Punjab and Himachal can be attributed to lack of ecological balance and disregard to the Mother Earth. Therefore, it's very important to understand the precarious situation through which the entire humanity is passing through right now and take concerted actions before its too late.

"Rather, the truth is that we are already quite late in combating global climate change and if we continue to ignore the warnings of Mother Nature, a day will come when everything will be simply lost forever," Kaler added.







SANT RAVIDAS WILL BLESS ME TO INAUGURATE HIS TEMPLE, SAYS PRIME MINISTER MODI

Modi performs ground-breaking ceremony for the Sant Ravidas Memorial and Art Gallery in Sagar. Sant Shiromani Shri Ravidas was a symbol of social harmony. Kota-Bina double rail line dedicated to people



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Saint Shri Ravidas was a symbol of social harmony. He eradicated social evils and awakened society. India is progressing on the path of liberation from the mental slavery, following the path shown by him. Sagar is experiencing social harmony today. The foundation stone for the Sant Ravidas Memorial and Art Gallery has been laid, which will be grand and divine. A new era of social harmony is beginning in Madhya Pradesh for which he congratulated the Chief Minister Chouhan and the people of the state. Modi said that when it is completed in a year and a half, I will surely come for its inauguration. He was addressing a public gathering after the ground-breaking ceremony of the Sant Shri Ravidas memorial and Art Gallery at Sagar district's Badtuma at Dhaana. The Prime Minister dedicated to people the Kota-Bina double rail line. He also laid the foundation stone for two road projects costing over Rs. 1580 crores. The Prime Minister emphasized that the teachings of Sant Shri

Ravidas Ji will inspire the new generation through this memorial site. The spirit of harmony will prevail here. He praised the efforts of collecting soil from around 20 thousand villages and nearly 300 rivers bringing it to Sagar for this project, saying that this initiative represents social harmony and unity. The Samrasata Yatras concluding today in fact marks the beginning of a new era. Modi further explained that inspiration and progress go hand in hand, leading to beginning of a new era. Madhya Pradesh deserves praise for this. Madhya Pradesh is progressing fast. He said that Sant Shri Ravidas Ji was visionary. He was born in an era when the Mughal rule prevailed, and society was facing injustices. He worked for awakening of the society, fighting against evils, and guiding those entangled in caste distinctions. There were numerous constraints in society. He gave society a courage to fight. Prime Minister said that Sant Ravidas Ji's thoughts are inspiring to eradicate poverty and hunger in contemporary times. During the pandemic, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna



Yojana (PMGKAY) to provide free food to over 80 crore Indians who were vulnerable due to the pandemic. He highlighted that the maximum beneficiaries of the schemes for the welfare of the poor in the country are the socially and economically marginalized, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the downtrodden. He affirmed that the nation stands by them at every step of life, supporting their aspirations. He cited the example of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, which provides financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 to newborns and their mothers. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme ensures free healthcare for newborns and their vaccination. Efforts to control diseases, including sickle cell anemia have been launched. The government aims for a tuberculosis-free India by 2025. Similar work is being carried out to control other diseases that plague the marginalized and impoverished. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana ensures housing for every poor person. The Prime Minister said that the education facilities have been augmented by the establishment of 701 Eklavya Model Schools, provision of

textbooks, mid-day meals for students, and the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for the empowerment of the girl child. Scholarships are provided to economically weaker sections for higher education, and the Mudra Yojana fosters self-reliance among the youth. The Stand-Up India scheme has already provided financial assistance to over 8 crore beneficiaries. The Jan Dhan Yojana is benefiting millions of people. Modi reiterated that every poor person should have a house. For this, housing schemes and free electricity and water connections have been provided. The less fortunate sections of society are now standing on their own feet thanks to these initiatives. The temple of Sant Ravidas will be constructed in Sagar at a cost of Rs 100 crore to be provided by the state government. A Sangrahalay (museum) will also be constructed at the temple premises. Meanwhile, Modi also launched some other development projects in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, including the re-development of the Kota (Rajasthan)-Beena (Madhya Pradesh) railway line.

'Commission controversy': Congress, BJP trade barbs at each other

Bhopal: The alleged 'commission' controversy has also hit poll-bound Madhya Pradesh where both the Congress and BJP have accused each other of taking 'commissions' from the contractors. Congress leader Arun Yadav posted a letter on his social media account claiming that a Gwalior-based contractor has written to Madhya Pradesh High Court and has alleged that after completing the government project, he has been forced to pay 50 per cent commission to reclaim his payment. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who is leading the party's poll campaign in Madhya Pradesh, also wrote a long note on her social media account. "The Union of Contractors in Madhya Pradesh has written a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court complaining that payment is received only after paying 50 per cent commission in the state," read Priyanka's message. She further pointed out that the BJP government in Karnataka used to collect 40 per cent commission and that "In Madhya Pradesh, BJP has gone ahead by breaking its own record of corruption. The people of Karnataka ousted the government with 40 per cent



commission, now the people of Madhya Pradesh will remove the BJP government with 50 per cent commission from power." MP BJP unit Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra and the party's head for MP unit V. D. Sharma attacked Congress saying that the controversial letter is 'fake'. V.D. Sharma warned of action against Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi over her allegations. MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra also

responded to the allegations and accused Congress of playing politics "with a disgusting mentality" without any issue. "This is a conspiracy and BJP will take action for this tweet under cybercrime... She will have to tell from where did she get this letter. You (Priyanka Gandhi) misled not only Madhya Pradesh, but the country on the basis of a fake letter," V. D. Sharma said. "Congress leadership will have to give an answer on this. We will take legal action in this regard."

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted peepal, neem, mahua and kadamba saplings in the garden located in Shyamala Hills. Chief Minister Chouhan along with Manoj Panjwani, Om Prakash Meena, Anshul Gaur and Sonam Baghel planted saplings on her birthday. The family members Sarvshri Sanjay Singh Baghel, Surya Dev Singh Parihar, Anoop Singh, Ashish Bagri, Surendra Singh Rathore, Saurabh Mittal, Rajiv Jain, Upendra Singh Saurav Meena, Himanshu Gupta, Nandani Meena, Hemlata Panjwani were also present.



PRESIDENT MURMU ARRIVES IN BHOPAL

Bhopal: President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Bhopal on Thursday. The President was accorded a warm and heartfelt welcome at the airport. Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed the President by presenting a bouquet. Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra, Urban Administration and Development and Minister in-charge of Bhopal district Bhupendra Singh, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Mayor Malti Rai, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena along with senior officers of Army, Administration and police also welcomed the President at the airport on her arrival in Bhopal.

Kamal Nath hits back at BJP for questioning his religious belief

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday hit back at the ruling BJP, saying worried of losing the assembly polls, the saffron party has started questioning his "religious belief". In a series of tweets, Kamal Nath, the former chief minister, posted in Hindi: "Nowadays BJP people are more concerned about my faith and belief. The BJP leaders are coining new words like election worship and political hypocrisy and boast of breaking the spell of my magic, It suggest that nothing comes in the mind and heart of BJP people except me." "Instead of chanting my name, the government, its representatives and the BJP should chant the name of the people, worship people as in the country, public is 'Janardan'."



"In the interest of the public, the BJP government is requested to break the

spell of inflation, unemployment, corruption, 50 per cent commission and crime against women." Kamal Nath's remarks came days after the state BJP leaders, especially state Home Minister Narottam Mishra and state unit chief V. D. Sharma, launched scathing attack on him, saying that he organised four-day 'Ram Katha' by Bageshwar Dham chief Dharendra Shastri in Chhindwara last week, due to the upcoming elections. The saffron party charged that Kamal Nath becomes Hindu before elections. The BJP leaders alleged that the Congress wanted to cash in on the popularity of the controversial self-styled godman. Kamal Nath always say he had constructed a huge size temple of Lord Hanuman in his home district Chhindwara.

CM CHOUHAN SEEKS BLESSINGS FROM SAINTS IN SAGAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached the memorial site of Saint Shiromani Guru Dev Shri Ravidas Ji in Badatuma, Sagar, today and honored saints with shawls, shreefal and Safa. The Union Social Justice Minister Dr. Veerendra Kumar and Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah were present. The Chief Minister inspected the foundation stone-laying site,



observed the temple's model. A temple, art gallery, and memorial will be constructed on an 11-acre land at a cost of 100 crore rupees. It may be recalled that the Chief Minister had announced the construction of a grand temple here in February. The Chief Minister showered flowers on over 200 saints, presented shawls, safa, and shreefal, and sought their blessings. Saints of the Ravidas tradition expressed gratitude for C.M.'s gesture.

BJP leader Alok Sharma's controversial statement regarding Muslim voters: You will not vote for us, so don't go to vote

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP's State Vice President Alok Sharma has given a controversial statement regarding Muslim voters. Addressing the BJP workers conference in Ratlam's Javra, he said that I want to tell the Muslim brothers of Javra, because you will not vote for us, so don't go to cast your vote. Brother, do this much



friend, it will be yours as well as ours. Sharma further said that Mian, you will not vote for us, but you do believe that the house in which you are living

is built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. After saying this, he also asked to switch off the camera and then started his speech. Addressing the workers, Sharma said that the one who will not support the BJP will have gurgling in his stomach. Everyone started laughing at this statement. He made everyone raise their hands and take a pledge to support the BJP.

I may not have contested LS polls had Arjun Singh not insisted: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

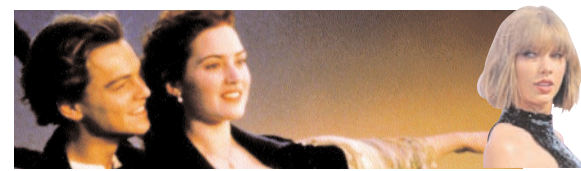
Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday said he had not contested the Lok Sabha election had the former chief minister (late) Arjun Singh not insisted him to contest the election. Kamal Nath said that Arjun Singh told him that he has already spoken to Indra Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi. "He told me I am not seeking your permission just instructing you to get ready to content Lok Sabha election," Kamal Nath said while launching a book titled 'Vindhya Ki Beti: Muhawara Se Jhalakti Mamta'. The book is dedicated to Arjun Singh's wife Saroj Singh. The programme was organised by Arjun Singh Arjun Singh Sadbhavna Foundation at Bhopal's

Ravindra Bhavan. Kamal Nath recalled the political developments occurred during Arjun Singh's era, including the incident when he was appointed the Punjab governor and Motilal Vohra was appointed Madhya Pradesh chief minister. Kamal Nath also recalled how Arjun Singh's wife Saroj Singh stayed in Chhindwara for three weeks and worked hard to ensure his first Lok Sabha election in 1980. Kamal Nath has been elected nine times as MP from his home district Chhindwara. His son Nakul Nath is the only MP from Madhya Pradesh. The book 'Vindhya Ki Beti: Muhawara Se Jhalakti Mamta' is collection of more than 150 proverbs in Bagheli dialect (Bagheli is local dialect in part of Vindhya region also called Baghelkhand-

Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Shahdol, Singrauli etc.) Saroj Singh was born in Rewa and lived with her maternal grandmother in Burma. According to her daughter Veena Singh, who is now the head of Arjun Singh Arjun Singh Sadbhavna Foundation, Saroj Singh often used to utter 'Bagheli Muhavras' while speaking to the people at home. "All the proverbs my mother used to say have been mentioned in the book with detailed meaning and explanation. People talk a lot about my father but my mother has played a prominent role. After coming back from Bruma at the age of six or seven, she lived in Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) to live with her Masi (sister of her mother). I therefore, decided to convert the collection of her proverbs into a book," Veena Singh said.

Financial statement table for WE WIN LIMITED showing consolidated financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2023. Includes columns for Particulars, Standalone, and Consolidated results for various periods.





# 'Ready to date'

**HELEN FLANAGAN IS 'BACK ON THE DATING SCENE AND ENJOYED A CASUAL ROMANCE' A YEAR AFTER SPLITTING FROM HER FIANCÉ SCOTT SINCLAIR**

Los Angeles | Agencies

**H**elen Flanagan is reportedly 'back on the dating

scene' one year after her split from Scott Sinclair despite the fact she is still wearing her engagement ring.

It comes after the former Coronation Street star, 31, admitted that she was an 'absolute psycho' waiting for her ex-fiancé Scott to

propose in a candid chat.

According to The Sun, she has been enjoying a string of dates with a secret lover but they soon departed ways. The source said: 'Helen's officially back on the dating scene - she's been seeing someone on/off

for a while but has said they're better off as friends, but she did really like dating him.

'Everything's really casual and she's taking things slow - she doesn't want anything serious.

Helen has continued to wear her

engagement ring despite splitting with Scott but on her right hand instead. The insider said: 'She's actually still wearing her engagement ring because it's just too nice to let go - she wears it on another

finger'.



## Stephen Amell joins WGA, SAG-AFTRA strikes weeks after criticising them



Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**ctor Stephen Amell best known for his role in 'Arrow' as the superhero Green Arrow, has joined the picket lines of the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikers just weeks after protesting their stance, as the actor had earlier proceeded to call their strike as very harmful to the industry.

The 'Arrow' star was spotted alongside his wife Cassandra Jean Amell in Manhattan on Friday, holding a picket sign and wearing a SAG-AFTRA Strong T-shirt. The actor had been heavily criticised for his comments against the strikers, as he had labeled it an "ineffective negotiation strategy".

Since then though, Amell seems to have changed his stance, whether due to the high criticism he received or just a change of mind his unknown. As reported by Variety, the actor clarifying his stance said: "I support my union, I do. And I stand with them. I do not support striking. I don't. I think that it is a reductive negotiating tactic," he said.

"I find the entire thing incredibly frustrating. I think the thinking as it pertains to shows - like the show that I'm on that premiered last night - I think it's myopic."

After he criticised the strikes in July, Amell took to Instagram for damage control, writing: "I'm an actor and I was speaking extemporaneously for over an hour. I emote, but I certainly don't think these issues are simple. Our leadership has an incredibly complicated job and I am grateful for all that they do."

"Despite some of my terrible early acting work, I assure you, I'm not a robot. From an intellectual perspective, I understand why we are striking, but that doesn't mean it isn't emotionally frustrating on many levels for all involved."

He concluded by writing: "I'm simply sad that we don't have a chance to celebrate a show that all of us figuratively, and I literally, broke my back for... At least for the foreseeable future, I choose to stand with my union. When you see me on a picket line please don't whip any hard fruit."

But his other 'Arrow' partners were on the opposite end of the spectrum from the very beginning as they had fully supported the strikes, and had actively joined the picketing lines.



Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**ctor Kevin Costner took his daughter to a Taylor Swift concert amid his ongoing bitter divorce with wife Christine Baumgartner. Costner decided to shake off

some of the resulting stress from this divorce by taking his daughter to Swift's concert in LA, which resulted in him receiving a lot of praise for being an awesome dad.

Forgetting his stress, the 'Yellowstone' star danced the night away during a wholesome evening out with his 13-year-old daughter, attending the Eras Tour shows at the SoFi Stadium.

Taking to his Instagram account, Costner captioned: "My videos are blurry, but I had an amazing time with my daughter at the @taylorswift show." He continued: "I was absolutely blown away watching her art bring so many people together."

"I had a great view of her band and had a blast watching them, too. An inspiring night." The actor concluded the post by saying "I'm officially a Swiftie!"

Fans expressed their admiration for the actor for being collected enough to go to a concert, lay back, chill and take it easy while going through such a difficult period in his life. One netizen praising the actor wrote: "This is what we call a Dad win."

Another netizen added: "Oh I took my daughter to her concert too-we still talk about Taylor's performance & how much fun we had! You are creating wonderful father/daughter memories for your daughter!" Another user commended the actor for taking a step like this and his fatherly love: "Love that you took her. That will be a cherished memory for her."

Another user added: "You're an awesome dad!!!"

## Why Margot Robbie wanted Gal Gadot in 'Barbie' title role?

Los Angeles: Hollywood

star Gal Gadot was considered for the plum role of 'Barbie' in Greta Gerwig's film. In a new interview with Flaunt, Gadot praised Margot Robbie, who played the title role but was also a producer on the film, reports Deadline. "I adore Margot," Gal told the outlet. "Margot is one of those women who you just want to be friends with. She brings so much to the table. I would love to do anything with Margot and was very touched (by her comments)." "She warmed my heart with everything that she said about me. I'm super excited for them, and I'm so excited for Barbie."

Robbie told Vogue back in May that she didn't initially expect to star in the project. But director Greta Gerwig insisted. "She was like, 'No, I really wanna write this for you. And she wrote me an amazing part, so I'm very grateful,'" Robbie related. Why dark-haired Gadot for the quintessential California blonde? "Gal Gadot is Barbie energy," Robbie said. "Because Gal Gadot is so impossibly beautiful, but you don't hate her for being that beautiful because she's so genuinely sincere, and she's so enthusiastically kind, that it's almost dorky. It's like right before being a dork."



## LIZZO SLAMS RUMOURS OF SPLIT WITH BOYFRIEND MYKE WRIGHT AMID ONGOING LAWSUIT

Los Angeles | Agencies

**L**izzo amid her ongoing controversy for her behaviour and the nefarious lawsuit has denied all rumours of any kind of split with her boyfriend Myke Wright.

However, it was earlier said that their relationship had come to a bitter end, with Lizzo, deleting all traces of her boyfriend from her social media and even unfollowing Myke, who even travelled the world with her on tour.

As reported by Aceshowbiz: "Lizzo has taken the past few weeks very hard and her relationship has suffered," a source told The Sun. "They had a big falling out earlier in the week and she is really upset. Both of them have thought of themselves as soulmates, so it has been really hard on them."

The source at The Sun went on to further say that "those close to them are hoping they will make up." However, Lizzo's reputation as of now been horribly squashed after infamous lawsuit, despite the 'Big Grrl' claiming that the statements are 'falsified' and 'sensationalised'. She had also said that there is not an ounce of truth to them.

Rumors are that there's a trouble in paradise between Lizzo and Myke arrived amid Lizzo's sexual harassment scandal. The Grammy-winning singer was sued by her former backup dancers, Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez. In the suit, they claimed that they faced sexual harassment, as well as religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment, uncouth and inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power among other charges.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Zara Mcdermott



Kevin Costner is an 'awesome dad' as he takes daughter to Taylor Swift concert amid divorce





Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian Hip-hop icon and rapper Badshah says he's quite a "simpleton" in real life and people at home keep the reality check in place as no one cares about who he is. Talking about how he is in real life, Badshah told IANS: "In reality, I am just the opposite and quite the simpleton. I'm not bothered about materialism or possessions. In fact at home, everyone keeps the reality check in place, no one cares about who I am. It keeps me grounded!"

How does he perceive the role he has played as a multi-hyphenate in hip-hop's evolution, Badshah said: "Hip hop is a culture that extends beyond the art form and you need to build a foundation that allows the community to grow."

"When you look at icons like Jay-Z, Diddy, Beyonce, Rihanna and 50 Cent, those guys are geniuses who just kept getting better at their hustler ethos. They made something out of nothing."

"That business streak has been in me since I was a child. In school, I was selling comic books and in college, I was selling land."

Badshah has his own idols in the genre of hip-hop too. "Jay Z, Eminem, Drake, Kayne West," he said.

Badshah, who is known for songs like 'Jugnu', 'Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui Hai', 'DJ Wale Babu' and several others, has released his new single titled, 'Gone Girl'.

With the song, the rapper revisits the essence of his quintessential old school commercial

**Badshah:**  
*'At home, no one cares about who I am'*



**'JAILER'**  
**SURPASSES RS 100 CRORE ON OPENING WITH LIFETIME GROSS ESTIMATED TO BE OVER RS 500 CRORE**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Superstar Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' is doing wonders at the box office. While early estimates had shown that the film would gross over Rs 25 crore, the movie has surpassed that figure massively earning over Rs 100 crore in just two days, and is expected to gross over Rs 500 crore in its lifetime with the potential to earn more.

Discussing the film's potential, trade Analyst Ramesh Bala told reporter: "The Rs 100 crore opening was not a full out surprise as 'Jailer' was expected to explode in the five Southern states, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Telugu speaking states. Karnataka has also given a good contribution but it is primarily the Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu states."

Talking about the film's expected weekend collection, Ramesh Bala said: "See I am expecting that by the end of Sunday night, the number will reach Rs 275 crore by Monday."

Asked if the Tamil movie will keep this great momentum, he said: "Yes it will, Monday and Tuesday, particularly Tuesday since it's Independence Day. Then I expect it to slow down a bit on Wednesday, but it will pick up its pace again on Thursday and Friday, and keep this momentum for quite a while."

Queried about the reasons behind the movie's great success, he said: "Jailer has a massive market in the South, and even a huge international market in countries such as USA, Canada, Europe, UK, UAE, the Gulf states, Malaysia, Indonesia. Some of the other big markets include places like Hong Kong, China and some other Southeastern countries."

However, another big international market for the Superstar is Japan. About why doesn't Japan factor into the equation there, he said: "That is true, Rajinikanth is a big face in Japan, but the movie has not been released there as of yet. They have a delayed release, and will have limited screenings, but it will do quite well there."

On the film's lifetime collection, he said: "Lifetime collection I am expecting as of now based on the numbers to be around Rs. 500 crore, it could go even further, but how much I cannot say just."

When questioned about if the movie will be as big a hit as movies such as 'Pathaan' or 'RRR' and enter the Rs 1000 crore club, he said: "I doubt it. You see, these movies had appeal throughout the world, whereas 'Jailer' is mostly a Southern audience film with select international markets. These movies also have a level of spectacle with them which 'Jailer' doesn't have. But it does have the potential, so I am not ruling out that possibility."

**Diljit Dosanjh-starrer dropped from TIFF line-up**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh's film 'Punjab '95', a potentially incendiary drama that was due to premiere as a gala presentation at the Toronto International Film Festival, has been removed from the line-up. The film is "a compelling story based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala," producer RSVP and the festival described the film as telling the story of Khrala "uncovering murderous corruption during Punjab's period of insurgency" in social media posts, reports Variety. 'Punjab '95' is directed by Honey Trehan who previously made 2020 Netflix thriller 'Raat Akeli Hai'. The cast of 'Punjab '95' includes popular musician and actor Diljit Dosanjh, Bollywood star Arjun Rampal and Suvinder Vicky, known for Cannes title 'The Fourth Direction', Venice selection 'Milestone' and recent Netflix hit series 'Kohrra'. Any mention of the film has been removed from the festival website. The festival had not responded to a request for comment from. In June 1984, the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered an army operation against militants at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, a holy place for Sikhs, that was criticised by many in the community. In October, Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards assassinated her, leading to anti-Sikh riots across northern India. During that time, the police were empowered to detain suspects. Khrala investigated the cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies in the northern Indian state of Punjab.



**40 yrs of timeless satire 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro'**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The cult classic 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro'

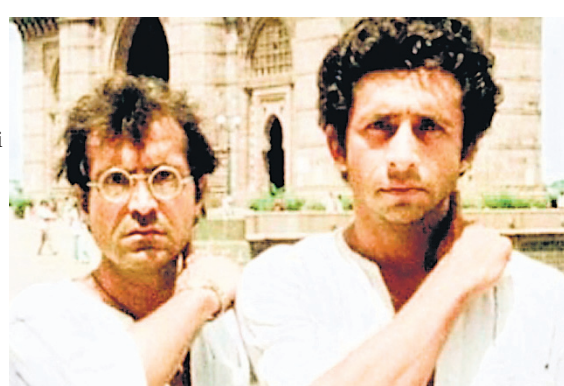
which was released four decades ago, in 1983, stands as an enduring testament to the power of satire and humour, coupled with social commentary on corruption and media, in the Indian cinema.

Directed by Kundan Shah, and starring an ensemble cast including Naseeruddin Shah, Ravi Baswani, Om Puri, Pankaj Kapur, Satish Shah, late Satish Kaushik, Bhakti Barve and Neena Gupta, the movie was a dark satire on the rampant corruption in Indian politics, bureaucracy, news media and business.

It still remains a timeless classic because of its razor-sharp wit and incisive take on corruption, politics, and societal hypocrisy.

Produced by National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), the film's narrative revolves around the misadventures of two bumbling photographers, Vinod Chopra (played by Naseeruddin), and Sudhir Mishra (played by Ravi). Vinod and Sudhir open a photo studio in the Haji Ali area in Bombay (now Mumbai), and hope to make enough money to keep it running. After a disastrous start, they are given some work by the editor of "Khabardar", a publication that exposes the scandalous lives of the rich and the famous. They start working with the editor Shobha Sen (played by Bhakti), on a story exposing the dealings between an unscrupulous builder, Tarneja (played by Pankaj Kapur), and corrupt Municipal Commissioner D'Mello (played by Satish Shah).

Naseeruddin and Ravi's impeccable chemistry brings a genuine charm to their characters, allowing the audience to empathise with their plight even in the midst of chaos. The supporting cast, including Om Puri (who plays Ahuja, a corrupt contractor), Pankaj Kapur, Satish Shah, Neena (who plays Priya, Tarneja's secretary) are quirky, eccentric, and embody various archetypes which are prevalent in the Indian society, and contribute to the flick's comedic brilliance with their memorable, relatable and impactful portrayals.



**Daisy Shah, Sharib Hashmi to star in OTT series**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Daisy Shah and actor Sharib Hashmi are set to star in the upcoming webseries titled 'The Ghost of Gandhi'.

The story will revolve around a female journalist played by Daisy while Sharib will be playing the role of a social activist.

The upcoming web series which will offer another perspective on Mahatma Gandhi, indulging in historical debate packing a good strong dose of entertainment, which will be coupled with strong social messages.

Other than Daisy and Sharib, the series also stars

Atul Shrivastava, Brijendra Kala and Deepak Kalra.

The series is helmed by writer-director Manish Kishore, who has written films such as 'Kashi In Search of Ganga', 'Raan' and even some episodes of 'C.I.D'.

Manish is also directing Swara Bhaskar's upcoming Film 'Mrs Falani' which is yet to release.

'The Ghost of Gandhi' webseries is produced by Sofia Agarwal, Three Arrows production and Seeta Films.

The teaser of the series will be unveiled on August 14.

**INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY**



Aditi Budhathoki