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# ADANI-HINDENBURG MATTER

## SC TO CONSIDER FRESH STATUS REPORT FILED BY SEBI ON SEP 15

**As per the details available on the official website of the apex court, a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud is likely to take up the pleas for hearing on September 15. On August 25, the market regulator in a fresh status report said that it had examined 24 matters in compliance with orders of the top court, adding that SEBI will take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in the Adani-Hindenburg matter.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court is slated to consider on September 15 the fresh status report filed by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the Adani-Hindenburg matter.

"Out of the said 24 investigations, 22 are final in nature and 2 are interim in nature. As on date, the said 22 final investigation reports and 1 interim investigation report are approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with SEBI's extant practice and procedures," said the status report filed by the Executive Director V.S. Sundaresan of SEBI.

It said that in respect of one remaining matter, interim findings are approved by the Competent Authority and SEBI has sought information from external agencies or entities. "Upon receipt of such information will evaluate the same vis-a-vis the interim investigation report to determine further course of action, if any, in the said matters," it said. On August 14, the SEBI had sought an extension of 15 days to conclude the investigation process and file a status report in the matter. The market regulator had then said that "out of the said 24 investigations/ examinations, 17 are final and complete and approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with SEBI's extant practice and procedures".



Earlier, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had filed its views before the Supreme Court on various recommendations made by the Court-appointed Expert Committee in connection with the Adani-Hindenburg case. The SEBI had opposed the suggestion of prescribing timelines for initiation of investigation and proceedings and said that "prescribing specific timelines to complete the investigation may compromise the quality of investigation". The apex court on March 2 had formed an expert committee headed by Justice A.M. Sapre, former judge of the Supreme Court with an objective to review and strengthen the existing financial regulatory mechanisms. It had directed SEBI to expedi-

tiously conclude the investigation within two months and file a status report. Later in May, the Supreme Court had granted an extension of time till 14 August 2023 to the market regulator to submit its report. The controversial Hindenburg Research's report, inter alia, alleged that the Adani Group of companies had manipulated its share prices; failed to disclose transactions with related parties and other relevant information concerning related parties in contravention of the regulations framed by SEBI; and violated other provisions of securities laws. The report about Indian billionaire Gautam Adani had led to a stock rout, erasing over \$ 100 billion from his empire and pushing him down on the global rich list.

**J&K leader asked to file affidavit affirming India's sovereignty, allegiance to Constitution**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked National Conference (NC) leader Mohammad Akbar Lone, who is one of one of the main petitioners in the batch of pleas filed against abrogation of Article 370 and had reportedly raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, to file a short affidavit affirming that the union territory is an integral part of India and he abides by and owes allegiance to the Constitution of India.

"He (Akbar Lone) has come to our court, we are more than duty bound to hear his submissions. People across the political spectrum in Jammu and Kashmir presented rival viewpoints before us, which is welcome ... but all of them have come here with one spirit that they abide by the integrity of India," remarked Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who headed the Constitution Bench.

The Constitution Bench said that the NC leader has invoked jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution and therefore, "necessarily abides by an allegiance to the Constitution".

## India's moon lander and rover put to sleep, 'Suprabhatam'/wake-up call on Sep 22

Chennai | Agencies

After making it hop once, India's moon lander Vikram was put to sleep, the Indian space agency said.

"Vikram Lander is set into sleep mode around 08:00 Hrs. IST today. Prior to that, in-situ experiments by ChaSTE, RAMBHA-LP and ILSA payloads are performed at the new location. The data collected is received at the Earth. Payloads are now switched off. Lander receivers are kept ON," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on X platform.

"Vikram will fall asleep next to Pragyan (moon rover) once the solar power is depleted and the battery is drained. Hoping for their awakening, around September 22, 2023," ISRO added.

Earlier, ISRO had said Vikram soft landed on the lunar soil for a second time.

In a post on X, ISRO said: "Vikram Lander exceeded its mission objectives. It successfully underwent a hop experiment."

"On command, it fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm as expected and landed safely at a distance of 30-40 cm away."

According to the space agency, the kick-start gives enthusiasm for lunar sample return in the future and also for manned missions to the



moon.

"All systems performed nominally and are healthy. Deployed Ramp, ChaSTE and ILSA were folded back and redeployed successfully after the experiment," ISRO said.

Sometime back, the Indian space agency uploaded the video Pragyan moving on the social media platform X and said: "It feels as though a child is playfully frolicking in the yards of Chandamama, while the mother watches affectionately. Isn't it?"

Now perhaps with the playful kid going to sleep the mother is hopping around! On September 2, ISRO had put to sleep the 26 kg moon rover Pragyan.

"The Rover completed its assignments. It is now safely parked and set into Sleep mode. APXS and LIBS payloads are turned off. Data from these payloads is transmitted to the Earth via the Lander," ISRO said.

"Currently, the battery is fully charged. The solar panel is oriented to receive the light at the next sunrise expected on September 22, 2023. The receiver is kept on. Hoping for a successful awakening for another set of assignments! Else, it will forever stay there as India's lunar ambassador."

The 'Suprabhatam' (Sanskrit prayer to awaken Lord Venkateswara in Tirupati early in the morning) or the wake up call will be made by ISRO to the two on September 22.

India on August 23 reached the Moon with its lander safely landing on the lunar soil in a text book style.

Later, the rover rolled down and started doing experiments. ISRO said, the rover has found the presence of oxygen, aluminium, sulphur and other materials near the lunar south pole, while investigation regarding the presence of hydrogen is underway.

## Use of local currencies in cross-border payments can help shield emerging markets from global shocks: RBI Governor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The use of local currencies in cross-border payments can help shield the emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) from global shocks and protect them against exchange rate fluctuations, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday.

It can also encourage the development of local forex and capital markets, he said.

Addressing the G20 TechSprint Finale 2023 in Mumbai, Das said that multilateral payment platforms that support multiple currencies would offer a way to promote such local-currency payments.

"As things stand today, FX and liquidity risks associated with EMDE currencies can make the operation of multilateral platforms with EMDE currencies more challenging. It is in this backdrop that effective liquidity mechanisms need to be developed," he noted.

Das said that several central banks across the world are considering introduction of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and are taking steps in this direction.

"India is one of the few countries which have launched CBDC pilots in both wholesale and retail segments. Slowly and steadily,



we are expanding the pilot to more banks, more cities, more people and more use cases," he said. "The empirical data that we are generating would go a long way in shaping the policies and future course of action. With its instant settlement feature, I believe, CBDCs can play an important role in making cross-border payments cheaper, faster and more secure," the RBI Governor said.

Highlighting the issue of money laundering, Das cited data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which places global money laundering at 2-5 per cent of global GDP, which is about \$800 billion to \$2 trillion.

Other estimates place this closer to \$3 trillion, of which, an estimated \$3 billion per annum is successfully intercepted.

## G20 Summit: All Metro parking areas to be shut down from Sep 7-11

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In view of the G20 Summit, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) has issued an order to Station House Officers (SHOs) to ensure that all metro parking remains closed from Thursday 6 a.m. till September 11.

"Keeping in view the security arrangements of the G-20 Summit- 2023, all SHOs/Metro Unit are hereby directed to ensure that all parking Lots in Metro Unit will remain closed & vehicles may be removed from it well in time in c/w G-20 Summit-2023 from 07.09.2023 at 0600 hours to 11.09.2023 till 1200 hours," read the order issued by DCP (Metro) G Ram Gopal Naik.

"All the parking contractors must be directed to do the same at the earliest. All ACSP/Metro shall also ensure this. It may be given 'top priority'," the order further read.

Regarding metro services, a senior police official said that except for the Supreme Court station they will run normally. However, there may be temporary gate closures of 10-15 minutes at some stations due to VIP movement and security restrictions.



## False allegations of rape and dowry harassment by wife amount to extreme cruelty: Delhi HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi High Court has upheld a family court order, saying that a wife making false allegations of rape and dowry harassment against her husband's family members constitutes extreme cruelty and grounds for divorce.

The division bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna said that such false complaints by the wife amount to mental cruelty, and the husband has the right to seek divorce on these grounds.

"It cannot be overlooked that making serious allegations of not only dowry harassment but of rape against the family members of the respondent which are found to be false, is an act of extreme cruelty for which there can be no condonation," the court said.

The case in question involved a woman who had appealed a family court's order to grant her husband a divorce on the grounds of mental cruelty. The couple had married in 2012 but had been living separately since 2014.



The wife had alleged that her husband never recognised their marriage and accused her brother-in-law of rape, along with claims of dowry harassment.

However, the court found that the husband and his brother were acquitted of all charges, and the wife had even written an apology letter stating that there was no harassment as she had previously claimed. Also, there was no evidence to support her claim that the marriage had not been consummated. The court said that depriving one spouse of the other's company is an extreme act of cruelty

and that the foundation of a marital relationship is cohabitation and a conjugal relationship.

The court also highlighted that cruelty should be assessed based on its effect rather than its nature, considering the physical and mental conditions of the parties involved, their social status, and the impact of one spouse's conduct on the other. In this case, where the couple had been living separately for almost nine years, the court deemed it an instance of utmost mental cruelty, justifying the termination of the matrimonial relationship.

## At Rs 6,046 cr, BJP has highest assets among top 8 parties: ADR report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The total assets declared by the eight national parties increased to Rs 8,829.158 crore during financial year 2021-22, of which the highest assets were declared by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Rs 6,046.81 crore during FY 2021-22, a report said on Monday. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), in its report said that the total assets declared by the eight national parties during FY 2020-21 amounted to Rs 7,297.61 crore which increased to Rs 8,829.15 crore during FY 2021-22.

The report stated that during 2020-21, the declared assets of BJP totalled Rs 4,990.19 crore which increased by 21.17 per cent to Rs 6,046.81 crore during FY 2021-22.

The report further said that for 2020-21, the declared assets of Congress totalled Rs 691.11 crore which increased by 16.58 per cent to Rs 805.68 crore during 2021-22.

The report also pointed out that the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is the only national party to show a decrease in its annual declared assets. "The total assets of BSP between FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 decreased by 5.74 per cent from Rs 732.79 crore to Rs 690.71 crore," the report said. The report highlighted that the Trinamool Congress witnessed the massive growth in its asset during 2021-22. "The total assets of Trinamool Congress increased from Rs 182,001 crore during FY 2020-21 to Rs 458.10 crore, an increase of 151.70 per cent," the report said.

# Assam Shocker: Teenage girl gang-raped, murdered; four youths arrested

Guwahati | Agencies

In a shocking incident in Assam's Dibrugarh district, four youths have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping, gang-raping and killing a 17-year-old girl.

The four suspects were arrested on Monday morning, the police said, adding that the alleged incident took place on Sunday night in the Banipur Dhekeri Gaon neighbourhood of the district.

The arrested youths are all from Dibrugarh town, aged between 17 and 21 years.

The police claimed that after receiving a complaint late on Sunday night, they took prompt action.

"We learnt that a girl's body was found hanging at a residence in the Banipur region. We registered a case after the girl's relatives later filed a complaint," an officer said.

The girl, who was described as a minor by the police, reportedly left for Dibrugarh town



on Sunday afternoon for some personal work but did not come back. "The family members were looking for the

girl, as her phone was also switched off. The girl may have known some of the boys, it is believed. She was intoxicated before being

taken to the crime scene," the police said.

The body was sent to the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh for post-mortem.

"We have heard several accounts of the alleged incident from the locals. We shall know the exact cause of death after we get the post-mortem report," the police said.

Meanwhile, a local person claimed that on Sunday, a group of boys were having a party at a house in Dhekeri Gaon village, smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol both inside and outside the house.

"We saw them having a noisy party. Later, the neighbours found a girl's hanging body inside the house after they had departed. While four youths have been arrested, more boys were partying on Sunday," he said.

Shwetank Mishra, Superintendent of Police, said, "The matter is under investigation. We can not divulge more details at the moment."



# AUGUST ENDS WITH RAINFALL DEFICIT OF 36%, HIGHEST IN 122 YEARS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

August ended with an overall rainfall deficit of 36 per cent, the worst in 122 years, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoon rainfall during 2023 is expected to be "below normal" or on the lower side of "normal". This has raised concerns about the yield of kharif crops and sowing in the subsequent rabi season, the report said.

However, IMD said that it would not change its earlier forecast of a "normal" monsoon at 96 per cent (with an error margin of +/-4 per cent) of the long-period average (LPA). The overall rainfall deficit until September 3 stood at 11 per cent below normal, with all the regions receiving below-normal rainfall, barring northwestern India (normal).

Central India (12 per cent below normal), South Peninsula (14 per cent below normal) and the eastern and northeastern regions (18 per cent below normal) have witnessed deficient rainfall, the report said. Kharif sowing as of September 1



stood at 0.4 per cent higher than last year. The area under paddy cultivation is now 3.7 per cent higher than last year.

However, the area under pulses is still 8.5 per cent lower than last year. Production of jute, cotton and oilseed is also lower. Coarse cereals (1.1 per cent YoY) and sugarcane (7.7 per cent YoY) continue to do well.

Above-normal rainfall in Telangana and Tamil Nadu has led to an improvement in rice sowing.

However, deficient rainfall in major rice-producing states (with 66 per cent share in overall rice production) such as West Bengal (15 per cent below normal), Uttar Pradesh (19 per cent below normal), Andhra Pradesh (10 per cent below normal), Chhattisgarh (22 per cent below normal), Bihar (27 per cent below normal), Odisha (15 per cent below normal) and Assam (16 per cent below normal) is a cause for concern. States with higher irrigation cover, such as Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, will be less impacted.

The deficient monsoon in states (with 64 per cent share), such as Madhya Pradesh (18 per cent below normal), Maharashtra (13 per cent below normal), Uttar Pradesh (19 per cent below normal), Karnataka (20 per cent below normal), Andhra Pradesh (10 per cent below normal) and Jharkhand (38 per cent below normal) is affecting sowing of pulses, the report said.

Lower irrigation cover in major states would affect pulse production more. Inflation in pulses has nearly doubled in the past five months. Deficient rainfall, and consequently lower rice and pulses sowing, have pushed prices higher. Rice constitutes around 4.4 per cent and pulses have a weight of 6 per cent in the overall CPI basket.

As of August 31, water reservoir levels stood at 63 per cent of the live storage capacity. Even though the reservoir levels are lower than last year, they are on par with the previous seven years' levels. Deficient rainfall would have an impact on groundwater and reservoir levels, which would adversely impact rabi sowing, the report said.

# Kharge constitutes 16-member CEC; Sonia, Rahul included



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after reconstituting the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision making body, party President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday constituted a 16-member Central Election Committee (CEC) with CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi as its members.

In an official communique, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal said, "Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge

has constituted the Central Election Committee."

Besides Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, the other members of the CEC include veteran party leader Ambika Soni, Madhusudan Mistry, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Salman Khurshid, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Chhattisgarh Deputy CM T.S. Singh Deo, K.J. Geogre, Pritam Singh, Mohammad Jawed, Ameer Yajnik, P.L. Punia, Omkar Markam and Venugopal.

The development came days ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in five

states -- Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telanagana, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram -- and about seven months ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls. Kharge had recently reconstituted the CWC, almost 10 months after being appointed as the party chief. The reconstituted CWC has 39 regular members, 32 permanent invitees and 13 special invitees.

These include 15 women and several new faces such as Sachin Pilot and Gourav Gogoi, who are among the regular members.

# Kota: Student commits suicide; leaves behind 'I'm a burden on family' note

Jaipur | Agencies

A Class 10 girl student in Rajasthan's Kota has allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her room, the police said on Monday.

According to police, the incident happened on September 2, adding a suicide note reading "I am a burden on family" was also recovered. The deceased has been identified as Kumkum, 17.

Kumkum was second eldest among four sisters. Her father works as a labourer.

It has been learnt that on Saturday, there was an argument between Kumkum and her mother over some issue. After a



while, Kumkum went to her room and hanged herself.

The body was shifted to the mortuary, a police officer said.

As the family did not want any action, the police

handed over the body to her relatives without a post-mortem.

The family members, however, have also not spoken about the exact reasons behind the extreme step.

# MAMATA DISAPPROVES OF TN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON SANATAN DHARMA

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday disapproved the recent comments by Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sanatan Dharma, saying all should be careful of making any comment that might hurt the sentiments of the people of any religion.

"I am not quite clear on why and on what grounds he made such comments. He is a junior politician. So I do not want to exactly condemn what he said. But at the same I would like to say that everyone should be careful of the comments that he or she makes that might hurt the sentiments of the people of any religion," she said.

Banerjee said that although she respects the people of Tamil Nadu and the entire south India, she is not in agreement with what Udhayanidhi Stalin, the son of Chief Minister and DMK chief M.K. Stalin,



said about Sanatana Dharma.

"We should also remember that every religion has its own sentiments. India is all about unity and diversity. So it is our duty not to hurt the sentiment of anyone," she said. She also said that she has

immense respect from the Sanatan Dharma and she believes that people have a lot to learn from the Vedas. "In West Bengal, we have arranged for financial assistance to Hindu priests," the Chief Minister said.

## UDHAYANIDHI WILL REPEAT SANATAN DHARMA REMARK AGAIN

Chennai: Two days after his remark on Sanatan Dharma triggered a nation-wide row, Tamil Nadu minister and DMK youth wing state secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin said on Monday that he would repeat his statement on the eradication of Sanatan Dharma again and again. At a function in Thoothukudi on Monday, the DMK leader said, "Day before yesterday I spoke on Sanatan Dharma during a function of progressive writers. I'll repeat whatever I said again and again."

He also said that his attack was not against Hindus alone, but against all religions, adding that he had spoken about condemning caste system.

# ROW OVER UP MINISTER WASHING HIS HANDS NEAR SHIVLING

Lucknow | Agencies

The Congress on Monday released a purported video of UP minister Satish Sharma who is seen washing his hands near a Shivling at the Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple in Barabanki.

The video has gone viral on social media and has sparked criticism.

In the viral video, UP ministers Satish Sharma and Jitin Prasad can be seen standing near the temple with folded hands. Satish Sharma then gestures and communicates with the priest, after which he assists in pouring water. Subsequently, Satish Sharma is seen washing his hands near

the Shivling.

Sharing the video, the Congress said, "UP government minister Satish Sharma is washing his hands near the Shivling. On the side, another minister, Jitin Prasad, is standing and watching. These low-minded individuals, who use religion and deities for politics and sit on chairs, do not even have the basic intelligence to not wash their hands near the Shivling. For them, our faith, our belief in God, and our deities are only a means to fulfill political objectives. They neither have faith in God nor trust in the people's faith."

Meanwhile, former Legislative Council member from the Samajwadi



Party, Sunil Singh Yadav, tagged Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and said, "Satish Sharma, who washed his hands near the Lodheshwar Shivling, is a minister in the Yogi government, and alongside him, there are Brahmins with imported faces who were present at the temple. If a leader of any other caste had done the same thing, the hypocritical BJP would have got him expelled by now. By the way, why is Baba silent?" The priest who was present at the temple when the incident took place, later put out a video statement saying that the minister was performing 'achman' and not washing his hands, as is being alleged.

# First meeting of INDIA bloc Coordination Committee on Sep 13

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after the formation of the Coordination Committee of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, its first meeting will take place at the residence of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Sharad Pawar on September 13, sources said.

The INDIA bloc last week announced the formation of a 14-member Coordination Committee, which includes Congress' K.C. Venugopal, NCP's Sharad Pawar, DMK's T.R. Baalu, JMM's Hemant Soren, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, Trinamool Congress' Abhishek Banerjee, AAP's Raghav Chaddha, Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali Khan, JD-U's Lallan Singh, CPI's D Raja, National Conference's Omar Abdullah, and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti. The CPI-M will give the name of its party leader for the committee later. The sources also said that the first meeting of the Campaign Committee will take place on Tuesday evening at Milap Building in the national capital.

The Campaign Committee includes



Congress' Gurdeep Singh Sappal, JD-U's Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena's Anil Desai, RJD's Sanjay Yadav, NCP's P.C. Chako, JMM's Champai Soren, Samajwadi Party's Kiranmoy Nanda, AAP's Sanjay Singh, CPI-M's Arun Kumar, CPI's Binoy Vishwanath, National Conference's Hasnain Masoodi, RLD's Shahid Siddiqui, RSP's NK Premachandran, AIFB's G. Devarajan, CPI-ML's Ravi Rai, VCK's Thirumavalan, IUML's KM Kadar Moidin, KC (M)'s Jose K. Mani, DMK's Tiruchi Siva and PDP's Mehboob Neg as its members. Trinamool Congress will suggest the name of its party leader for the committee later. The two-day third meeting of the INDIA bloc took place in Mumbai last week with 63 leaders from 28 parties taking part in it.

# Congress appoints coordinators for 7 LS seats in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the crucial Lok Sabha elections just seven months away, the Congress's Delhi unit on Monday appointed coordinators for the national capital's seven Lok Sabha constituencies to help restructure the party and submit reports in the next 15 days.

In a communication, the Delhi Congress said that Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria and city unit chief Arvinder Singh Lovely announced the list of Lok Sabha coordinators for DPCC reorganisation review committee, with immediate effect.

The seven coordinators are Rahul Richcharya for Chandni Chowk, Ghulam Hussain Khalak for South Delhi, Sunny Malik for Northwest Delhi, Chiman Bhai Vinjuda for Northeast Delhi, Hakubha Jada for New Delhi, Sanjeev Sharma for East Delhi, and Uma Shankar Pandey for West Delhi, it said.

Earlier in the day, Lovely met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge days after his appointment as city unit chief and informed him about the present state of affairs of the party in Delhi. He assured Kharge that every effort would be made to further strengthen the party in Delhi by infusing fresh energy



into the organisation to take it to greater heights. In both the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won on all seven seats in Delhi. The Congress also drew a blank in the 2015 and 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, which were swept by the AAP.

# Newly-designed uniform of Navy includes T-shirt, cap, jacket and shoes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The newly-designed uniform accessories introduced in the Indian Navy were displayed during the Naval Commanders Conference in New Delhi on Monday.

The new accessories are meant for enhanced comfort, hygiene and functionality. These include high absorption T-shirts, camouflage cap and jacket, high ankle shoes, and National Civil Dress for Messes/ functions, the ministry of defence said.

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt interacted with the senior naval leadership in this bi-annual Naval Commanders Conference.

He commended the Navy for maintaining a high operational tempo in ensuring secure seas for national security and prosperity.

He praised the Navy for the efforts invested towards indigenisation and innovation for becoming a fully Atmanirbhar force by 2047, which



was exemplified during the recent launch of indigenous stealth frigates Vindhyagiri and Mahendragiri.

The MoS also appreciated the Navy for undertaking steady initiatives in line with the Paanch Pran enunciated by the Prime Minister. Gen Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Defence Staff, Dr Samir V Kamat, Secy DRDO and senior officials from the MoD were present during the inaugural session. The ministry of defence said that the ongoing and planned indigenous projects of the

Indian Navy utilising niche technologies in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Tactical Communications, Combat Management Systems, Cyber Security, Underwater Domain Awareness and Combat Platform Integration, were showcased at the conference. Bhatt also released the Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP) 2023-37, IRS Rules and Regulations Handbook, Family Logbook, and Electronic Service Document Project during the event.

He said that the MIPP aims to synchronise and enmesh the infrastructure requirements of the Navy, over the next 15 years, through a comprehensive Perspective Plan model. The Plan Document is aligned with the GoI vision on creation of sustainable infrastructure, and encompasses salient features for compliance with broader policy directives on the PM Gati Shakti Project, Disaster Resilience, Transition to Net Zero, among others. The IRS Rules and Regulations Handbook for Construction and Classification of Naval Combatants has been revised since the previous edition of 2015 to cater for technological advancements and Atmanirbharta. The new rule book represents the self-reliance in the Naval shipbuilding industry, he added. The Family Logbook for Defence Civilian Personnel of the Indian Navy is a personal financial record book for reference of families of naval civilian personnel, which provides important financial information on insurance, loans, investments etc.



# SHINDE PROMISES MARATHA QUOTAS, BUT NO FIRM DECISION YET; STIR CONTINUES

**► BELYING EXPECTATIONS, MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE ON MONDAY REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO GIVING RESERVATIONS TO THE MARATHAS, BUT DID NOT SPELL OUT THE EXACT QUOTA THAT IS BEING PLANNED.**



Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Shinde said that he presided over a high-level meeting on the quotas issue that was held on Monday.

Apparently disappointed by the outcomes, the Maratha leaders agitating in Jalna announced that they would continue their protests till "the government orders are dispatched".

Addressing a joint media conference with Bharatiya Janata Party Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party-Ajit Pawar

Several points were discussed including the Maratha agitation across the state, the tragic police action against the protestors in Jalna on September 1, the deteriorating health of the Maratha Kranti Morcha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, and the discussions between ministers and officials with the Maratha leaders.

"I also spoke with Jarange-Patil today and have assured him that the Marathas reservations will be given and we are working on it... Some records are available and other old records have to be retrieved which takes time. We are favourable and committed to giving the quotas," he declared.

He also took the occasion to slam the Opposition parties attempting to sully the image of the state government by making misleading state-

ments and called upon the Maratha community to be vigilant against the such elements.

"Some people have been spreading misinformation... The police action that took place was deplorable and we have ordered a high-level probe into the incident. A few officials have been suspended, after the probe report, we shall suspend others who are found guilty," he said.

Referring to the alleged lapses by several former CMs and their governments, Shinde demanded to know what they had done for the Marathas all these years while they are pointing fingers at his regime now, and urged the Maratha community to beware of those trying to exploit the cause for their political gains.

Ajit Pawar, who also slammed the Opposition, declared that if anybody can prove that "the three of us" (referring to CM and Fadnavis) had given the orders for the police clampdown on the Maratha protestors in Antarvali-Sarathi village, "I shall quit politics". Meanwhile, CM Shinde has deputed BJP Minister Girish Mahajan to rush to Jalna and convey the government's point of view to the Maratha leader Jarange-Patil.

# Fadnavis says 'sorry' to victims of Jalna police action on Maratha protesters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday "apologised" to the victims of the police caning and teargas shelling during a Maratha pro-quotas agitation in Jalna on September 1.

"The police action was extremely wrong targeting the protestors, and many were injured, including some women. I seek their forgiveness for it," he said while addressing a media gathering with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and breakaway Nationalist Congress Party Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar here. Under fire from various quarters, including some BJP leaders, Fadnavis deplored the attempts to politicise the ongoing Maratha agitation and the



police clampdown on the protestors at Antarvali-Sarathi village in Jalna.

Fadnavis also attacked and blamed several former Chief Ministers of different govern-

ments for not taking steps to resolve the Maratha reservations issue, and said that the Maratha community will not be misguided by the Opposition narratives.

# One nabbed for Raipur trainee air-hostess' murder in Mumbai flat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a swift operation, the Mumbai Police have nabbed a suspect allegedly involved in the killing of a trainee air-hostess from Chhattisgarh, who was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her home in Marol area, here on Monday, police said.

She was later identified as Rupal Ogrey, 24, hailing from Raipur and undergoing training as an air-hostess with a leading private airline.

A police official said that after getting a tip-off, a Powai Police team rushed to the spot, NG Complex at Ashok Nagar in Marol, Andheri east around 9.45 p.m. on Sunday night. The victim's body was recovered in the flat with nobody else present as her sister and her boyfriend had gone out of station, said an



official of Powai Police Station.

The body was sent for an autopsy to Rajawadi Hospital and the police registered a murder case and formed eight teams to probe the case.

Within hours, using technical and traditional methods, the investigators managed to track down one suspect, whose identity is not yet disclosed, but is said to be linked to the murder and placed him under arrest.

As per initial information, Rupal had come to Mumbai six months ago for her in-flight crew training course with a private airline.

Her sister and her boyfriend, plus other family members in Raipur have been informed of the tragedy and they are now en route to Mumbai, even as further probe is underway, said an official.

# Post-INDIA conclave, Congress launched mega-outreach programme in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three days after the opposition INDIA bloc's conclave held in Mumbai, the Congress Maharashtra unit on Sunday launched a weeklong massive 'Jan Samvad Yatra' aimed at exposing the failures of the Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre and in the state.

The JSY commenced simultaneously in Mumbai-Konkan, Vidarbha, western and northern Maharashtra, but was temporarily suspended in Marathwada which has been rocked by the pro-quotas Marathas unrest for the past three days. Former CM Ashok Chavan said in a social media post that "in view of the police lathi-charge on agitators in Jalna, the JSY in Marathwada is being suspended, and the new schedules would be announced soon".



The JSY started with large numbers participating in different regions - Congress state President Nana Patole and Leader of Opposition in Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar in Vidarbha, north

Maharashtra led by CLP Leader Balasaheb Thorat, western Maharashtra commanded by ex-CM Prithviraj Chavan, and other senior leaders in various districts. All the leaders would converge on

September 12 for a two-day tour of the crucial Mumbai-Konkan coastal belt in a bus-yatra.

Kickstarting the JSY in Wardha, Patole termed it as "a struggle for freedom from the tyranny and empty promises of the BJP government to the farmers, youth, workers and the poor, and its ineptness to curb inflation or tackle unemployment, while indulging in rampant corruption".

The other prominent leaders who launched the JSY included Wadettiwar in Nagpur and Congress Group Leader Satej Patil in Kolhapur, with the participation of local leaders, grassroots workers and people joining in. During the halts, the leaders spoke on the Maratha issue, the lapses and failures of the 10-year BJP rule at the Centre and in states, and lent an ear to the problems and challenges of the local people who gathered there.

# Krishna Janmashtami 2023: Dahi Handi is all about formation and timing, says Spanish expert

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On Monday, a Spanish human pyramid coach stated that the Dahi Handi process is about formation with a lot of safety and stress must be on timing rather than the number of layers. The expert is her in Thane to attend the 'Dahi Handi' festivities on September 7.

Michal Ferret Miralles from Vila de Gracia in Barcelona also stated the Janmashtami festivities in Mumbai are "amazing" and he is here to observe the methods employed by various 'Dahi Handi' mandals and give suggestions.

Speaking to news agency, Miralles said, "The game should be held in a safe manner. The number of layers is not important. It is the manner in which you form the pyramid and the timing".

Miralles further added that the way human pyramids are formed in Mumbai and Spain, where it is an



age-old tradition, are different. Both Mumbai and Spain can work together

to promote the process worldwide. "There is no competition between

us (Mumbai and Spain). We do not want you to change your ways. We are here to guide and provide our expertise," said Miralles, who will be attending the 'Dahi Handi' celebrations organised by Sanskriti Yuva Pratishthan and Pratap Sarnaik Foundation in Vartak Nagar.

The political leader also stated that Miralles and his team from Spain will be invited to take part in the 'Pro Govinda' event next year. The 'Pro Govinda' competition was started by the Maharashtra government in 2023 and the top prize money was of Rs 11 lakh.

The competition was held in Mumbai's Worli area last week.

Dahi Handi, is a form of a human pyramid in which teams of participants, called 'Govindas' break a earthen pot tied several feet from the ground. The Maharashtra government gave 'Dahi Handi' the status of 'adventure sport' in August last year.

# Group of 6 men, 1 woman consumes drugs on local train

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A group of six men and one woman were seen allegedly consuming drugs on a local train in Mumbai.

A video of the incident was shared by a Twitter user who claimed that the group was in possession of various types of drugs. The video has also raised concerns about drug use among youth.

According to the tweet, the incident took place on September 1 when the group got down at the Nalasopara station late at night.

In the short clip, one individual can be observed snorting a substance, while another seems to be assist him in the act.

In response to the online complaints, the Railway authorities reached out to the Divisional Railway Manager of Western Railways. The Mumbai Central Division issued a tweet acknowledging the matter and assuring concerned individuals that appropriate action would be taken.

The tweet said, "Matter has been notified to concerned officials for necessary action." The tweet, directed at the official Mumbai Police account, said, "@Mumbai\_police\_in Local



train Guys Taking drugs, they have many drugs in pocket and they have Group of 6 guys and 1 girl also in there. They all get away in Nalasopara station dated September 1 at 1:25 a.m."

The video sparked immediate reactions from social media users, with many urging appropriate punitive action against the individuals.

# Shiv Sena (UBT's) "General Dyer" Jibe At Eknath Shinde Over Maratha Quota Violence

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Monday sought to know who ordered the lathi-charge on protesters demanding Maratha quota in Maharashtra's Jalna district last week.

Police baton charged and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse a violent mob in Antarvali Sarathi village in Jalna district on Friday after protesters allegedly refused to let authorities shift a man on hunger strike for Maratha quota to hospital.

Several persons, including 40 police personnel, were injured and more than 15 state transport buses were set ablaze in violence.

Speaking to reporters, Raut asked, "Who made a call from the office of chief minister and state home minister

without an order from top officials? The local police will never resort to lathi-charge and open fire. We want to know who gave those invisible orders over a phone call."

"Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the two deputy CMs - Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar - are working with the mindset of General Dyer. They ordered lathi-charge and firing on the Maratha protesters who were sitting on hunger strike peacefully," the Rajya Sabha member alleged.

In April 1919, the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar took place during the Baisakhi festival when the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer opened fire at a crowd staging a pro-independence demonstration, leaving scores of people dead.

# THREE FRAUDSTERS HELD FOR CHEATING MAN OF RS 2.24 CR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra excise department on Monday seized Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) worth Rs 59.48 lakh being transported to Mumbai in a truck and arrested three men hailing from Madhya Pradesh, an official said.

The police have arrested three men who allegedly cheated a Navi Mumbai man of Rs 2.24 crore on the pretext of getting him money on his insurance policy.

According to the police, last week they arrested two accused from Delhi and one from Haryana for the cyber fraud that took place between August 2020 and July this year.

"The alleged accused posed as an employee of the Integrated Grievance Management System (IGMS) and offered to get the victim



good money on his insurance policy after getting it closed. The accused made the man pay Rs 2.24 crore into different bank accounts during this period using some excuse or the other," senior inspector Gajanan Kadam of the cyber police station said.

No longer a need to visit Mumbai, conveyed demands to govt, say protestors. When the Navi Mumbai-

based man did not receive any money, he filed a police complaint.

A case under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology (IT) Act was registered by the police.

"During the probe, the police found that of the total amount, Rs 1.8 crore had gone into the bank account of one Prashant Chamoli, a resident of Gurugram,

Haryana. A police team rushed to Haryana and nabbed him. Five mobile phones, five SIM cards, and a passport were seized from Chamoli, the police said.

Following interrogation, the police arrested Parvez Mohammad (41), a cloth seller, and Ranjit Vyas Tiwari (32), a money transfer agent, both from Delhi.

Meanwhile, on Monday, the Maharashtra excise department seized Indian-made foreign Liquor (IMFL) worth Rs 59.48 lakh being transported to Mumbai in a truck. According to the police, they arrested three men from Madhya Pradesh.

"Based on a tip-off, a flying squad of the excise department's Konkan division laid a trap and intercepted a truck near Turbhe railway station in Navi Mumbai," inspector Dighambar Shewale said.

# Covid-19 body bags purchase 'scam': Ex-Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar gets 2-day protection from arrest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's former mayor Kishori Pednekar got temporary relief after the city police told the Bombay High Court on Monday that they would not arrest her for two days in connection with an alleged scam in the purchase of body bags for Covid-19 victims. Pednekar approached the higher court after a sessions court rejected her anticipatory bail plea last week stating that she was accused of an economic offence involving a huge amount of public money.

A single bench of Justice NJ Jamadar had taken up Pednekar's plea for a hearing. The next hearing of the matter was then posted to Wednesday after the prosecutor, appearing for the police, said that the police would "hold its hands" and



not take coercive action against Pednekar till September 6.

Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police registered a case against Pednekar and two senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) under sections 420 (cheating) and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) and others of the Indian Penal Code based on a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party's Kirit Somaia.



EDITOR'S SPECS

China's domineering on border issue

China has told India to "stay calm" over a new Chinese map that Delhi says lays claim to its territory, according to a media report. India protested after Beijing released the map showing Arunachal Pradesh and the disputed Aksai Chin region as China's territory, BBC reported. Beijing responded by saying its neighbours should refrain from "over-interpreting" the issue, the report said. Meanwhile, media reports say Chinese President Xi Jinping is likely to skip next week's G20 summit in Delhi. Reports suggest that Premier Li Qiang will attend instead. Xi had earlier confirmed he would travel to Delhi for the meeting on September 9-10 -- but China's Foreign Ministry would not confirm his attendance when asked to do so at a regular press briefing on Thursday. The escalation over the 2023 edition of China's standard national map comes just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Xi spoke on the sidelines of the Brics summit in South Africa, BBC reported. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called China's claim "absurd". An Indian official said afterwards that the two countries had agreed to "intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and de-escalation" along the disputed border. Chinese Foreign Ministry has called on relevant parties to stay objective and refrain from over-interpretation of China's new 2023 standard national map, after the Indian side lodged a "strong protest" over boundary demarcations, Global Times reported. China's Ministry of Natural Resources released the 2023 edition of the standard national map on Monday, which caused dissatisfaction from India due to boundary disputes. In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a routine press briefing on Wednesday that releasing the new standard national map "is a routine practice in China's exercise of sovereignty in accordance with the law".

INDIANS RELIEVED AS UAE AMENDS LAWS

Dr. Lal Bhatia

Indians in UAE can heave a sigh of relief as the UAE authorities have decided to change laws pertaining to economic offences and commercial transactions such as cheque bouncing cases.

Laws have been changed in as much as punishment for a bounced cheque has now shifted from the Penal Code to Commercial Transaction Law. This means that instead of automatically treating the issuer of a bounced cheque as a criminal and sending them to jail, the focus is now on ensuring that the creditors get their rightful due," says His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, a member of the Royal family of UAE.

The UAE is a nation that respects tradition and holds its legal framework in the highest regard. Its laws and regulations have been established not only to maintain the order and security of the nation but also to reflect the values it cherishes. Historically, if one couldn't meet their financial obligations, they faced incarceration, a deterrent designed to uphold the sanctity of commitment. But as times evolve, so must UAE's approach to justice is adapting, he opined.

In today's dynamic and interconnected world, financial complications can arise due to myriad reasons. Sometimes, unforeseen circumstances, global events, or even personal tragedies can lead individuals to default on their commitments. In incarceration the best answer for someone who might simply be going through a temporary rough patch?, he asked.

There are an estimated 1611 Indians in UAE prisons, according to a written reply of the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar in Lok Sabha. Also, there are 8330 Indian prisoners languishing in prisons



all over the world, the Minister's reply said.

"Under the new laws, UAE has taken a significant leap forward. Punishment for a bounced cheque has now shifted from the Penal Code to the Commercial Transaction Law. This construes that instead of automatically treating the issuer as a criminal, the focus is now on ensuring the creditor gets their rightful due. Creditors can now directly approach the execution court to claim the unpaid value, initiating enforcement procedures against the issuer after meeting application requirements," his Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi said in a release here.

This change is not only logical but also humane. It strikes a balance between the rights of creditors and the hardships faced by debtors, His Highness added.

Significantly, UAE STRAT: 2071, a philanthropic organization, created by Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, chaired by Dr Lal Bhatia, has been recognizing the complexities surrounding financial obligations. It is now actively collaborating with banks and the government to find win-win solutions that are beneficial for all parties involved.

Rather than seeing defaulters as mere culprits, the focus of UAE's amended laws has shifted to viewing them as fellow citizens in need

of guidance and rehabilitation. They are now offered a bridge of understanding, not a cell of isolation. This would entail providing financial counselling, facilitating discussions between debtors and creditors, and perhaps even assisting with restructuring financial obligations. The end goal is clear: help defaulting debtors citizens stand back on their feet while ensuring creditors receive their dues.

About His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, a prominent scion of Ajman's (UAE) esteemed Royal family, has etched an enduring legacy through his exceptional contributions to both the real estate industry and public welfare. With unwavering dedication, he has spearheaded transformative initiatives spanning crucial sectors like healthcare, education, and law enforcement, reaffirming his commitment to the prosperity and well-being of his people.

Demonstrating a visionary approach, Sheikh Sultan's strategic leadership has propelled the growth of UAE's economy, as evidenced by the construction of renowned hotels and state-of-the-art ports. His indomitable spirit as a driving force for progress and social upliftment continues to resonate powerfully within UAE's Royalty, leaving an undeniable imprint on the emirate's journey of advancement.

Janmashthami - offering our love to God of love

Radhanath Swami Maharaj

Janmashthami is a holy festival commemorating the appearance of Lord Krishna. It falls on the eighth day of dark fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August - September). It is celebrated from Govardhan, Vrindavan and Mathura in north to Guruvayur and Udipi in south and Maharashtra in north to Manipur in east. It is also being celebrated across USA, UK, Russia and Australia. People from all age groups from toddlers to old people take part in the celebration. The celebration consists of holy bathing and worshipping the deity form of Krishna and offering various foodstuffs, hearing narrations of pastimes of Krishna from Bhagvata Purana and enacting those pastimes depicting Krishna's love towards his devotees through dance and drama. Love is a prominent theme across several aspects of life. Love or romance is an essential ingredient practically in every cinema, music and novel. The whole advertisement industry and cosmetic industry capitalize on this, to say nothing of the entertainment and media industry. On one side, there is lot of hype and hope for happiness through love and unfortunately on the other side, there is horror. Love is the third most common cause for murders in India. It is said for US, that half of the first marriages end in divorce. Love can be fatal. Love can fail. The problem is not with love but wrong understanding of love. Love actually refers to a relationship centered on the selfless service and affection to the beloved. In this world, love generally gets tinged or dominated by a selfish desire to enjoy at the cost of beloved. The appropriate term to designate that emotion is lust. Lust naturally leads to entitlement, differences and pride which result in crime and separation. Cupid or Madan is the god of lust - an attraction based on sensuality and selfishness. Inherently lust cannot make one happy but love can.

Can we find true love in this world? It is possible but it will be limited by many factors. A typical mother's love for a child is considered to be a glimpse of pure love. In our worldly existence, the means to express and experience love are our body, mind and intelligence. Body is obviously limited by hunger, thirst and sleep. Mind and intelligence are also limited by their scope of consciousness and comprehension. The love in this world will have a beginning and an end. Real happiness can only be experienced through love that is beyond this world. Both the means of love and the object of love has to be beyond this world. According to Bhagavad Gita, this is only possible in relationship with God. We, in essence are spiritual beings (BG 2.13). God is spiritual. The relationship formed is transcendental to limitations and influence of this world. The process of developing a loving relationship with God is Bhakti-yoga. God has several manifestations Vishnu (the maintainer of universe), Narayana (the four-handed form), Rama (the king of Ayodhya) and Krishna (the darling of Vrindavan). Of all these manifestations, Krishna has special significance. Krishna relates with and reciprocates with all types of devotional attitudes. One can approach Krishna in the mood of an admirer, personal servant, friend, parent and a conjugal lover which is not much possible in case of others. While reciprocating with his devotees, Krishna also completely forgoes his majesty and manifests only his sweetness like the way a prime minister behaves with his family members. In that way Krishna is truly God of love. This Janmashthami Let us establish our relationship with Krishna and express our love through chanting his names " Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare . Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare " and studying about him from Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita and experience real and eternal bliss.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

international

UKRAINIAN DEFENCE MINISTER SUBMITS RESIGNATION LETTER AFTER DISMISSAL

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov on Monday said he has submitted a letter of resignation to parliament chairman Ruslan Stefanchuk after his dismissal by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"It was an honor to serve the Ukrainian people and work for the Ukrainian army for the last 22 months, the toughest period of Ukraine's modern history," Reznikov said on the social media X, formerly known as Twitter.

In the letter, the 57-year-old, who was appointed as Defence Minister in November 2021, said that all the key tasks set for his mandate have been accomplished, reports Xinhua news agency.

Rustem Umerov, who runs Ukraine's State Property Fund, has been nominated by Zelensky as Reznikov's successor.

In his nightly address to the nation, Zelensky on Sunday said: "This week, Parliament will be asked to make a personnel decision... I have decided to replace the Minister of Defence of Ukraine. Oleksii Reznikov has gone through more than 550



days of full-scale war.

"The Verkhovna Rada (legislature) of Ukraine knows this person well, and Umerov does not need any additional introductions... I expect Parliament to support this candidate."

Reznikov's removal comes in the wake of a number of corruption scandals involving Ukraine's Ministry of Defence, reports CNN.

While he has not been implicated in any of them, the scandals have still been seen to damage him by association. Earlier this year, Reznikov's deputy

Vyacheslav Shapovalov had resigned in the wake of the scandals.

At the time, Reznikov said the stress he had endured this year "is hard to measure precisely", adding that his "conscience is absolutely clear".

Meanwhile, Umerov, who represented Ukraine in peace talks at the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, allegedly suffered symptoms of suspected poisoning during peace negotiations in March 2022 alongside Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich -- who was also part of the negotiating party, reports the BBC.

In a social media statement, he later denied the reports, urging people not to trust "unverified information".

Speaking to the BBC at the time, he said it took courage to find solutions but he was determined "to find (a) political and diplomatic resolution to this brutal invasion".

The Ukrainian President made cracking down on internal scandals a central issue in his campaign for office.

On Saturday, one of Ukraine's most powerful oligarchs and a key Zelensky supporter, Ihor Kolomoisky, was arrested as part of a fraud investigation.

2 AIR CANADA PLANES COLLIDE ON TARMAC AT VANCOUVER INT'L AIRPORT

Vancouver: Two Air Canada planes collided on the tarmac at the Vancouver International Airport, local media reported.

While being pushed back from the gate on Sunday, an Air Canada Rouge Airbus A319's wingtip made contact with the wing of a Jazz Air Canada Express Q400, which was parked at a nearby gate, Xinhua news agency quoted the CTV report as saying

No travelers or ground staff were injured, and passengers are being switched to different flights, it said. The Q400 is currently still scheduled to take off Sunday despite a three-hour delay, and passengers on the A319 have been rebooked to a different plane. The Q400 seats about 75 passengers and the Airbus A319 more than 120 passengers.

Biden 'disappointed' Xi won't attend G20 Summit in New Delhi

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has expressed his "disappointment" over his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's likely absence at this week's G20 Summit in New Delhi. According to news reports, Chinese Premier Li Qiang is expected to represent China at the summit which will take place from September 8 to 10 in the Indian capital, reports the BBC.

"I am disappointed... but I am going to get to see him," Biden told reporters on Sunday, without providing any further details.

The last time the two Presidents met was at the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia in 2022.



Xi had earlier said he would travel to New Delhi for the Summit, but China's Foreign Ministry did not confirm his attendance when asked to do so at a regular press briefing on August 31.

Xi and Biden may still have an opportunity to speak in November, at a meeting among leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in San Francisco, the

BBC reported. The withdrawal comes as US-China ties have continued to deteriorate in the past year.

In an attempt to improve ties, a series of top US officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and US Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry, have travelled to China in recent months.

PAKISTANI WOMAN STONED TO DEATH OVER ADULTERY

Islamabad: A woman was stoned to death in Pakistan's Punjab province for allegedly committing adultery, police said as quoted by media sources.

The incident took place in Rajanpur district of Punjab, nearly 500 km from Lahore, on Friday.

According to police, the husband of the woman, who is in her 20s, accused her of adultery.

On Friday, the man along with his two brothers tied the woman against a tree and stoned her to death. Before stoning her, they also brutally tortured her.

The brothers fled after committing the crime and are believed to be hiding at the border region between Punjab and Balochistan, police said.

The woman belonged to the Alkani tribe of Rajanpur.

A few days ago, a young lady doctor was shot dead in the name of honour in Punjab's Mianwali district.

Sudanese army says 16 civilians killed in attack in Khartoum

Khartoum | Agencies

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said 16 civilians were killed in an attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the capital Khartoum.

The army said on Sunday that the RSF carried out "indiscriminate shelling" on Karari and Wad al-Bakhit neighbourhoods in northern Omdurman, northwest of the capital city, killing 13 civilians and wounding multiple others.

"The militia also attacked Al-Maseed area (south of Khartoum) and opened fire randomly on the citizens, killing three civilians," the army said in a statement.

It added that clashes also took place between the two forces in Al-Shajara area, south of Khartoum, resulting in the killing



of five RSF fighters and injuring six others, Xinhua news agency reported. The RSF, instead, accused the

SAF of bombarding residential neighbourhoods in Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur State in western Sudan, killing 14 civilians and wounding dozens.

The paramilitary forces said in a statement that 60 of its soldiers were killed on Sunday during the attack at the SAF's Engineers Corps base, west of Omdurman city. Sudan has been witnessing deadly armed clashes between the SAF and RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, which left over 3,000 people killed and more than 6,000 injured, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry. More than 4.5 million people have been displaced inside and outside Sudan due to the conflict, according to the latest update by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Madrid braces for torrential rain, residents asked to stay indoors

Madrid: Authorities in Madrid have asked residents to stay indoors as the Spanish capital is bracing for torrential rain due to storm Dana.

The state meteorological agency, AEMET, issued a warning for Madrid, Toledo and Cadiz, where Dana is expected to bring strong rain, reports CNN.

According to AEMET, up to 120 liters per square meter of rain could fall over the capital city in 12 hours.

Madrid's mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida advised residents to stay in their houses, calling what was to come an "exceptional situation".

"Due to the exceptional and abnormal situation, in which rainfall records will be broken, I ask the people of Madrid to stay at home today," Martinez-Almeida wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Madrid's emergency services sent texts to residents warning them of flood risks and advising them against using vehicles, CNN reported.





## UJJAIN HAS CHANGED INTO SHRI MAHAKAL MAHALOK, NOW ORCHHA WILL CHANGE IN SHRI RAMRAJA LOK

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed bhoomi-pujan of Shri Ram Raja Lok in the Shri Ram Raja Temple complex in Orchha and laid the foundation stone for the construction work. Chief Minister Chouhan said that "Ujjain has changed into Shri Mahakal Lok and now Orchha will change in Shri Ram Raja Lok". The huge Shri Ram Raja Lok will be constructed in Orchha, the city of Lord Shri Ram, at a cost of Rs 81 crores, encompassing Shri Ram Raja temple complex and surrounding areas. It is worth mentioning that Shri Ram Raja Temple is the main center of the World Heritage Orchha in Niwari district. It was built by the then Bundela rulers.

The center point of Orchha is Shri Ram Raja Temple, which is visited by a large number of devotees and tourists. Shri Ram Raja Lok will be developed in Shri Ram Raja Temple in Orchha keeping in view the sentiments of the devotees and amenities for tourists. Shri Ram Raja temple complex is spread over approximately 2.86 acres. Shri Ram Raja Lok will be developed in about 12 acres of area around the temple. Shri Ram Raja Lok will start from the Grand Durbar Corridor at the entrance.

In the temple premises, the works that will be undertaken with Rs 41 crores include development of Plaza with Sri Ram Raja entrance, Prasadalaya, Qatar Parisar, Development of Sri Janaki Temple Complex, Food Plaza, Restoration of nearby shops, crowd management, beautification of shops and description of the Bal Swaroop, Shri Ram Raja



durbar, courtyard and premises with the description of Bal Kaand.

Some important items related to Ramayana will be used in the courtyard. Kamal Stambh and Pushpak Vimana inspired by the beautiful Kamala Nayan will be seen. The unique form of local architecture, temple courtyard and historical buildings will be seen in this Lok. The architecture of Shri Ram Raja Lok will be an example of the authenticity and integrity of Bundelkhand.

No need to be afraid of drought - we will face every situation together. Chief Minister Chouhan called upon all the people to pray to God for rain in the temples of their respective villages. He said that along with prayers and worship, we will also do work. If any crisis arises due to lack of rain, there is no need to panic. Electricity consumption has increased in the state, dams are not

full, but we are ready to deal with every kind of crisis. Our government will take the farmers and all the people of the state out of every kind of crisis. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan while raising slogans for Achhru Mata said - "There is no need to be afraid of drought - we will face every situation together".

With the merger of Ken-Betwa rivers, every farm in Bundelkhand will get water

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the Ladli Bahna Yojana has increased the self-confidence and self-esteem of women. On the 10th of this month, Rs one thousand will be deposited in the accounts of women from Gwalior. Rs 1250 per month will be made available to the women from the month of October. This amount will be gradually increased to Rs.3000. Urging women to join self-help groups, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the

scope of work being done by the women is continuously increasing. Now they have started operating the toll nakas in the state and 30 percent of the income generated from its operation is being given to them. Along with providing funds to the women, funds are also being made available to the farmers by Prime Minister Shri Modi and the state government. Many public welfare schemes were withdrawn by the previous government. Work is going on to merge Ken and Betwa rivers. Every farm in Bundelkhand will get water from this project.

Conservation of monuments The development of corridor and courtyard with the description of Shri Ram's child form and Raja Ram's court will be done at a cost of Rs 6 crore 25 lakhs and the buildings of archaeological importance of Shri Ram Raja Temple will be conserved at a cost of Rs 20 crores. In this, necessary works will be done in Shri Ram Raja Mandir, Shri Patal Hanuman Mandir, Shri Janaki Mata temple complexes along with lighting arrangement at a cost of Rs 9 crore and development work of public facilities at a cost of Rs 4 crore 75 lakhs.

In Shri Ram Raja Lok, Shri Ram's Bal Leelas will be displayed in the Bal Kaand premises. The Uttar Kaand will be shown through pictures. Shri Ram will be depicted as a king through stories. Along with the development of crowd management and public facilities in Sri Ram Raja Lok, systematic shops will be constructed by developing the chowk in front of the temple as a shopping plaza for the local devotees.

## Uma Bharti continues tirade against MP BJP; decries 5-star culture among politicians

► ENRAGED OVER NOT BEING INVITED TO THE 'JAN ASHIRWAD YATRA' AHEAD OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN MADHYA PRADESH, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER UMA BHARTI CONTINUED HER ATTACK ON THE STATE BJP LEADERSHIP.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Expressing her anguish through a series of posts in her social media handle, the BJP leader said, "I did not receive an invitation at the beginning of Jan Ashirwad Yatra, it is true that I have said so, but receiving an invitation does not me more or less important. Now, even if I am invited, I will not go. Neither in the beginning nor in the closing ceremony on September 25". The firebrand leader, however, said that her bond with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will continue and she will campaign for the party as and when asked.

"Whenever and wherever Shivraj ji asks me to campaign, I will obey and respect him. I am among whose blood and sweat made this BJP," Bharti's another message read.

She also mentioned that she has expressed her disappointment not to hurt anyone. On Sunday, Bharti had said, "May be, the BJP leaders would feel nervous in my presence. If I were there, then the entire public attention would be on me." In her fresh attack this morning, Bharti raised the issue of the poor condition of the government-run hospitals giving her own example. She wrote, "When I went to Bansal Hospital for a check-up, I realised the difference between government and private hospitals which is there between government

and private education." The senior BJP leader also made an appeal to MLAs, MPs, Ministers, Chief Ministers and

all officers that they should be treated in government hospitals and send their children to government schools. Only then can these systems be improved. "It will campaign for this," she added.

She also criticised five-star hotel culture among the politicians and government officials. "I have always denounced the wasteful expenditure of weddings and the stay of our leaders in 5 star hotels. Modi ji also strongly dislikes this lifestyle. I will keep repeating it in future as well. We cannot ignore the teachings of Gandhiji, Deendayalji and Modiji," Bharti's social media post read.

## CM Chouhan performs Maharudra Anushtthan at Mahakal temple for ample rainfall

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed Maharudra Anushtthan (ritual) at Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain today for ample rainfall in the state. In the ritual, 1331 Rudra recitations were performed. This ritual is of utmost importance in the month of Shravan-Bhadav. A total of 66 priests including Pt. Ghanshyam Pujari, Pt. Ashish Pujari, Pt. Yash-Pradeep Guru, Pt. Radheshyam Shastri, Pt. Lokesh Vyas, Pt. Mahesh Pujari got the Maharudra Anushtthan performed.

Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, MLA Paras Jain, Bahadur Singh



Chouhan, Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, UDA Chairman

Shyam Bansal and former MP Chintamani Malviya were.

## Amit Shah To Flag Off BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad' Yatras From Sheopur And Gwalior today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from Mandla and Sheopur districts in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday and address public rallies at both places.

A party spokesperson said Shah will arrive in Mandla, in the state's Mahakoshal region, at 12:20pm and address a rally after inaugurating a leg of the Jan Ashirwad Yatra, and then at 4:40pm will reach Gwalior where he will flag off the mass outreach programme and address a gathering.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, several state ministers and party leaders will attend the two programmes, he said, adding that Shah



will leave for Delhi in the evening. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will flag

off a leg of the Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Khandwa on Wednesday, he said. Polls are set to be held in MP at

the end of the year and the ruling BJP is taking out yatras from different places in the state.

These will culminate with a workers' conclave titled 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' on September 25, the birth anniversary of stalwart Deendayal Upadhyaya, in Bhopal.

The Karyakarta Mahakumbh is expected to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The first Jan Ashirwad Yatra was flagged off by BJP national president JP Nadda from Chitrakoot in Satna district on Sunday. This yatra will pass through the state's Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions, party functionaries said. A leg of the yatra was launched from Neemuch on Monday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

## MPs Solar Power Increases by 11 times

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The renewable capacity of Madhya Pradesh has increased 11 times in last decade following constant efforts. It is about 24 percent of State's installed capacity. The solar energy capacity has increased by 52 percent. Currently, 1000 MW Solar Parks are operational and 1778 MW will become operational soon while 3350 MW is in pipeline.

The operational projects of 1000 MW include 250 MW Mandsaur Solar Park, 750 MW Rewa Solar Park, which achieved record low tariff of Rs 2.97 per unit due to innovative transaction structuring. It has received innovation. World Bank President Award and included in PM book. The solar energy projects of 1778 MW

under implementation include 1500 MW Agar, Shajapur and Neemuch Solar Parks, the projects coming up shortly include 500 MW Neemuch Park and 600 MW floating solar park at Omkareshwar reservoir - the largest in the world. It will be fully operational by end of this year.

Other pipeline projects involving 3350 MW capacity include 1400 MW Morena and 450 MW Chhatarpur Parks, 1500 MW floating solar projects in reservoirs in Birsinghpur reservoir, Indra Sagar Reservoir and Gandhisagar Reservoir.

Great Start Madhya Pradesh has taken a good start. In a little span of time, the state is shining on India's Renewable Energy Map. Many milestones have been achieved. Many records have been made and now a history is in the making. Madhya

Pradesh has come a long way from Power-Deficient to Power-Rich stage by achieving self-reliance in energy. It is now striving to ensure Energy Security for all. Potential Unlimited

Madhya Pradesh today remains the most preferred destination for genuine investors. The investors wish to assure themselves of uninterrupted power supply. Their choice falls on alternative sources, which they can afford to have with them. This is a significant change in the investment behaviour. Madhya Pradesh has readily given space for this in its well-designed policies. The state has a potential of more than 5000 MW in wind power, 1200 MW in biomass, 750 MW in small hydro and 5000 MW in solar sector.

Just eleven years back in 2012, the total installed capacity in wind, solar,

biomass and hydro power sectors was 438.24 megawatts. The installed capacity solar sector was only 2 MW. At present it is 868.65 MW and in next three years it will be 6400 MW. The solar sector will have 2654 MW installed capacity and the wind will have 3261 MW. The Centre has proactively come forward with enthusiastic support to help the state increase the share of renewable sector in State's total power production upto 30 percent.

Asia's first 130 MW solar power project has been set up in Neemuch district in a record time of 8 months. The world's largest 750 MW ultra mega solar power project has come up at Rewa. It is a joint venture of State Government and Solar Energy Corporation of India with the World Bank funding.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Congress on Monday announced appointing additional members as special invitees of the Screening Committee.

The Congress in an official note said, "Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has approved for appointing additional members as the Special Invitees of Screening Committee for the ensuing Madhya Pradesh assembly elections-2023 with immediate effect." The party has now included Arun Yadav, Suresh Pachauri and Ajay



Singh Rahul as the Special Invitees in the Screening Committee.

Congress made Jitendra Singh chairman

On August 2, the Congress had named Jitendra Singh as chairman of the Screening Committee for Madhya Pradesh with Ajay Kumar Lallu and Saptagiri Ulaka as its members. While former chief ministers Kamal Nath

and Digvijaya Singh, CLP leader Govind Singh, state incharge JP Agarwal, campaign committee chairman Kantilal Bhuria, Kamleshwar Patel and party secretaries incharge of the state as its ex-officio members. The party had last month also replaced state in-charge Agarwal with party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala in the poll-bound state. The Congress is hoping to make a comeback in the state and is leaving no stone

turned to return to power, where it had lost power in March 2020 following the revolt by Jyotiraditya Scindia, who along with 22 MLAs deserted the party and switched to the BJP.

## POOR RAIN RAISES FEARS OF DROUGHT-LIKE SITUATION IN MP, CHOUHAN CHAIRS EMERGENCY MEETING

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Poor rainfall during August has raised worries of a possible drought-like situation across Madhya Pradesh as 26 of the state's 52 districts have received around 20 per cent deficient rain, and nine, including capital Bhopal, around 30 per cent, according to IMD reports.

The situation prompted Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to call an emergency meeting of senior officials late on Sunday and issue directions to chalk out a plan to combat the possible drought threat looming in the state.

During the meeting, Chouhan said that due to poor rainfall, farmers may face tough situation in coming days as their crops have been damaged.

"We have to be prepared to combat this possible drought. We have to take steps to protect our farmers," he told officials.

The officials apprised the Chief Minister of about the situation of dams and other water resources in Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan also said demand of electricity has increased manifold and has directed the officials to provide water for irrigation.

"Till now the dams of the state have not been filled due to the rains. The demand for electricity is increasing, efforts are being made to fix all the arrangements. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that everything goes well," he added.

According to India Meteorological Department in Bhopal, the entire state as on September 3 has reported 18 per cent below normal rain.

As many as 47 out of districts have reported below normal rains, ranging between 2 per cent



below normal in Anuppur and 46 per cent below normal in Satna district - both in the Vindhya

region. The IMD report suggested very serious position in at least 29 districts, spanning from Sehore and Vidisha (21 per cent) in central MP and Satna, Mandsaur and Ashok Nagar (40 per cent to 46 per cent below normal) in Vindhya, west MP and Gwalior-Chambal regions, respectively.

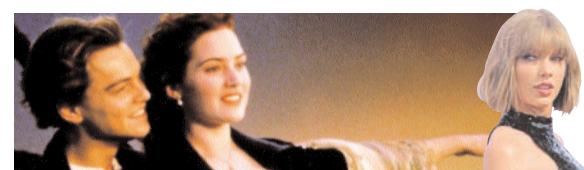
While 17 of the 29 worst hit districts have reported 21 per cent to 28 per cent below normal rain, between June 1 and September 3, at least eight districts have recorded 30 per cent to 39 per cent below normal rain, while three other districts have reported over 40 per cent below normal rain in the same

period.

In western part of the state such as Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ujjain, Ratlam, Barwani and Khargone, which form the main soybean and cotton cash crop cultivating areas of the state, farmers have been resorting to bizarre rituals, like feeding gulab jamuns to donkey, village sarpanches riding a donkey and donkeys ploughing the parched fields to propitiate the rain gods.

Meanwhile, state Congress president Kamal Nath has expressed his concern over possible drought-like situation in Madhya Pradesh and demanded prompt action from the government.

He demanded from the state government that the farmers should be paid immediate compensation to tide over the situation. "It is a matter of worry that due to deficit rainfall, crops like soybean and maize have been damaged in Neemuch and other parts of the state, but the state government is not paying attention to the situation. This area of the state is agriculture-based and an impact on the economic condition of the farmers will adversely impact the economic activities in the entire region and the state," he added.



## 'DEPLORABLE': LILY GLADSTONE LABELS PORTRAYAL OF AMERICAN WEST IN 'YELLOWSTONE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lily Gladstone is not holding back from her criticism of the Kevin Costner-starrer Western drama series 'Yellowstone', calling its depiction of the American West 'deplorable'. The 'First Cow' actress, in an interview with Vulture, said that the popular drama series, in its depiction of the West, was "Delusional!

Deplorable!", Variety reported.

While slamming the drama, she did not blame the Native American actors who have booked roles in the series. "No offense to the Native talent in that. I auditioned several times. That's what we had," she added.

'Yellowstone' and its spinoff series '1883' and '1923' follow different generations of the Dutton family and their cattle ranch in Montana.

Creator Taylor Sheridan has defended the series multiple times in the past from critics who referred to the series

as "anti-woke" or a "red-state show."

Gladstone (37) who has starred with Leonardo DiCaprio in the Martin Scorsese directorial 'The Killers of the Flower Moon', referenced the movie in regards to actual depiction of Native American culture, and how Scorsese worked closely with the real-life Osage Nation to ensure accurate representation of the community in his film.

Set in the 1920s, the crime drama epic revolves around the killing spree of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, who reside on priceless oil fields.

## HELEN FLANAGAN ENCOUNTERS MASSIVE TARANTULA IN HER HOME

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Helen Flanagan came face-to-face with a massive tarantula in her family home which left her completely terrified. The terrified actress confessed to being "creeped out" and took refuge in her dressing room, hoping that her ex, Scott Sinclair, would come to her help, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. However, the mother of three didn't call for help from her ex-fiance, who was visiting their children Matilda, Charlie, and Delilah at their old home. She feared that Scott, knowing her phobia of insects, would "chuck it" at her and chase her around the house in jest.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', the 'Coronation Street' star recounted the incident to her one million Instagram followers, saying, "So I literally have just been tidying up the house and I was going down the stairs and didn't have the landing light on and noticed this tarantula on my stairs."

Despite having participated in 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here' last year, which somewhat lessened her fear of creepy crawlies, she admitted, "I just don't like him, it was like massive and hairy as well (sic)". She later barricaded herself in her dressing room, where she busied herself with some editing work, only to find the tarantula had followed her.

She added, "I thought to myself 'Could you imagine if I opened my door and it was there' and it was like what the hell!?" In a later update, she informed her fans that the eight-legged intruder had disappeared, which she confessed: "creeped her out more."

In a dramatic turn of events, Helen discovered the same spider she had previously encountered lurking ominously around her home. She described it as "so big" and panned her camera over its intimidating spread outside her son Charlie's bedroom.

## Drake gives fan \$50,000 for spending their furniture money on his show

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Drake has returned the love to a super fan by gifting them \$50,000 at one of his latest concerts.

During the 'It's All a Blur Tour' stop in Las Vegas on Sunday, September 3, Drake was speaking to the crowd when he noticed a fan holding an interesting sign.

"He got a sign that says, 'Drake, I spent my furniture money on your two shows, OVO for life,'" he read it aloud for other concertgoers, reports aceshowbiz.com.

From there, he made the decision to give the fan \$50,000 for their troubles.

"You know what my man. Your furniture money, I'mma give you 50 bands tonight 'cause I love you," he told the fan, as the audience cheered on. The 'In My Feelings' hitmaker went on to give a message to the audience, explaining why they need to treat others with kindness. "Hey, listen," he began: "This is what life is about. I'm trying to teach you something now. I want you to understand

something tonight. You never know what the next person is going through. You never know what the person in front of you, to the left of you, to the right of you, behind you, is going through."

Prior to this, Drake surprised a lucky fan with a luxurious gift.

While performing in Los Angeles last month, the 'Hotline Bling' rapper handed out a pink Hermes Birkin bag to one concertgoer.

"Drake aint cheap!" he could be heard joking while carrying the medium-sized handbag

with one of his hands as he approached the audience from the stage. After giving the luxurious bag, he did not forget to give a suggestion for the fan's safety. "Make sure she has security on the way out," he stated.



## Emma Stone felt no shame filming nude scenes for upcoming film

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Emma Stone felt "no shame" filming raunchy scenes in 'Poor Things'.

The actress takes on the lead role of Yorgos Lanthimos' surreal new movie and the filmmaker was grateful for the effort she put into her alter ego Bella Baxter's intimate sequences in the adaptation of Alasdair Grey's novel, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"It's a shame that Emma could not be here to speak more about it, because it will all be coming from me. First of all sex is an intrinsic part of the novel itself, her freedom about everything including sexuality," Yorgos said at the Venice Film Festival, where 'Poor Things' premiered with none of the cast in attendance due to the ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike.

The 49-year-old director continued: "Secondly, it was very important for me to not make a film that would be prudish, because that would be like completely betraying the main character. We had to be confident Emma had to have no shame about her body, nudity, engaging in those scenes and she understood that right away."

Yorgos has worked with Emma on projects such as 'The Favourite' which meant they did not have to spend too long having to discuss the sex scenes. He said: "The great thing about me and Emma is that we have made four films together; there is a shorthand and we can communicate without having to



explain or talk too much about things. As soon as I started saying something about sex, she would say, 'Yes,' of course, it's Bella. We will do what we need to do."

The director hired Elle McAlpine as an intimacy coordinator on the film and praised her positive influence on the picture.

## Adele in talks to make 1.2 million dollars a night in 3rd Las Vegas residency

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Adele is in talks to return for her third Las Vegas residency and could potentially earn a whopping 1.2 million dollars per night.

The 'Easy on Me' singer, 35, started her residency in November 2022, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. It was originally supposed to wrap up in March this year but the star is still going strong in September as she takes over The Colosseum to perform her biggest hits, such as 'Hello' and 'Oh My God', to her loyal fans.

With her second residency coming to an end in November, it has been reported there are talks to bring her back for a third round. As per 'Mirror.co.uk', with the giant 4,000-capacity venue, Adele could even be earning around 1.2 million dollars every night she performs. The new deal could allow her to spend all week with her son Angelo, 10.

"(This tour is) also a lot less physically gruelling than a tour and means she can be a full-time mum from Monday to Friday," an insider claimed. "Bosses at Caesars Palace are desperate to sign her for another spate of gigs in the new year and are coming up with a deal she'll find very difficult to refuse, closer to 1.2 million dollars a night."

They told 'The Sun', "She'll be the highest-paid female music star on the strip." It comes after it was revealed Adele secretly cries before and after her Las Vegas residency shows. Her teary eyes happen as the star feels "deeply connected" to the "sentiments and feelings" of fans on show night.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lady Gaga



### Asia Cup

# INDIA ENTERS IN SUPER FOURS WITH TEN-WICKET THRASHING OF NEPAL

Pallekele | Agencies

Unbeaten fifties by captain Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill powered India to the Super Fours stage of the Asia Cup with a ten-wicket thrashing of Nepal in their Group A match at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

After Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Siraj picked three wickets apiece while Asaif Sheikh and Sompal Kami played gusty knocks in guiding Nepal to a competitive 230, the rain stopped the proceedings for two hours. By then, India had reached 17 for no loss in 2.1 overs and the target was then revised to 145 in 23 overs as per DLS method when the game resumed after the lengthy break. Rohit (74 not out off 59 balls) and Gill (67 not out off 62 balls) slammed whirlwind fifties while stitching an unbroken opening partnership to complete the chase with 17 balls to spare. While Sharma hit six fours and five sixes, Gill slammed eight fours and a six in ensuring India qualified for the next stage of the competition, making up for a sloppy fielding show and lacklustre bowling effort.

India's chase began with Rohit Sharma being cautious and surviving



an LBW appeal off Karan KC. At the other end, Gill stood outside his crease and crisply steered Sompal Kami for three off-side boundaries.

Just as Sharma broke the shackles by dancing down the pitch to hit Karan over mid-on for four, rain came pouring down and stopped the proceedings for nearly two hours. Post resumption, Gill danced down the

pitch to slap through cover while Sharma scooped off Karan for another four. Sharma showed signs of being the aggressor when he slog-swept Sandeep Lamichhane twice for a four and six respectively. After India reached their fifty in 7.5 overs, Lamichhane came under further attack from Gill, who danced down the pitch to lift him for six.

The leg-spinner came under further attack from Sharma, who pulled him for four and smashed a slog-sweep for six. The most amazing shot of the innings came from Sharma's blade when he used his wrists to whip a flick against Dipendra Singh Airee for six. Kami was re-introduced and Gill welcomed him by clipping him through backward square leg for four, followed by Sharma pulling him over mid-wicket for another boundary to reach his fifty. Sharma pulled Lalit Rajbanshi for another six, while Gill reached his fifty in the same fashion off Lamichhane for four.

Karan's reintroduction didn't change much as Sharma lofted him cleanly over long-off for six, before cutting off Gulsan Jha for four more. Gill then finished off the chase in style with a fine glance for four to seal India's win.

#### Brief scores:

**Nepal 230 all out in 48.2 overs (Asaif Sheikh 58, Sompal Kami 48; Ravindra Jadeja 3-40, Mohammed Siraj 3-61) lost to India 147 for no loss in 20.1 overs (Rohit Sharma 74 not out, Shubman Gill 67 not out) by ten wickets via DLS method.**

### Asian TT C'ships

# Indian men's team in semis, assured of a medal; women out in quarters

Pyeongchang (South Korea) | Agencies

The Indian men's team advanced to the semifinals of the Asian Table Tennis Championships, assuring themselves of a medal, while the women's team crashed out in the quarterfinals, here on Monday.

The third-seeded men's team of Achanta Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, clinched a 3-0 victory over Singapore, securing their place in the semifinals.

Sealing a spot in the last four guarantees a medal for the men's team in the continental championships, as both teams that lose in the semifinals receive bronze medals in the competition.

The Indian men's team will face Chinese Taipei on Wednesday for a place in the final. In the men's team quarterfinals, ace paddler Sharath delivered an exhilarating performance by defeating Singapore's Izaac Quek 3-2 in a thrilling contest, giving India the initial advantage. Sathiyam then continued



India's momentum with a dominant 3-0 victory over Pang Yew En Koen. Harmeet sealed the victory for India with a 3-0 scoreline over Clarence Chew Zhe Yu.

Meanwhile, the women's team of Manika Batra, Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee were knocked out following a 0-3 loss to Japan in their last-eight encounter.

In the first match, Ayhika Mukherjee lost the opening tie to Mima Ito with a score of 0-3. Manika encountered Hina Hayata and suffered a 1-3 defeat, while Sutirtha faced Miu Hirano and also lost with a 1-3 score.

The trio will now compete in the classification match for positions 5 to 8, scheduled for Tuesday. India's mixed doubles pair of Manika Batra and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran will be in action on Tuesday. The Indian duo, after receiving a bye in the round of 64, will face the Thai pair of Sanguansin Phakpoom and Parangorn Orawan in the round of 32.

The winners of the men's and women's team events as well as the mixed doubles competition will each secure a place for next year's Summer Olympic Games in Paris.

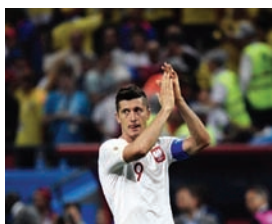
# Late penalty takes Barca third, Girona move second

Madrid | Agencies

A late penalty from Robert Lewandowski secured a 2-1 victory for FC Barcelona against Osasuna in La Liga.

Lewandowski netted the winning goal after a minimal contact from Osasuna defender Alejandro Catana, who received a red card following a VAR review, reports Xinhua.

Barcelona initially led just before halftime with a header from Jules Kounde after a corner kick, although Osasuna claimed he had fouled a defender in the process. Osasuna's Chimy Avila, a second-half substitute, leveled the score with a brilliant curl-



ing shot in the 76th minute. However, Lewandowski's subsequent penalty ensured Barcelona's ascent to third place in La Liga. On Saturday, Jude Bellingham's goal in the fifth minute of injury time allowed Real Madrid to rally for a 2-1 win against Getafe. Former Madrid player Borja Mayoral gave Getafe an early lead in the 10th minute due to a Fran Garcia error. Madrid dominated thereafter, with

Joselu equalizing in the 47th minute after an extended VAR review. Madrid's efforts were repeatedly thwarted until Lucas Vazquez's shot was mishandled by Getafe's goalkeeper David Sorja, allowing Bellingham to capitalize on the rebound.

Girona climbed to second place following a 1-0 victory over Las Palmas. Striker Portu, who rejoined the club recently, netted the match's sole goal in the final moments after two of Girona's goals were disallowed by VAR.

Mallorca and Athletic Club ended in a goalless draw on Sunday. While Athletic maintained more possession, Mallorca posed threats from set pieces.

# OSTAPENKO ENDS SWIATEK'S TITLE DEFENSE, SETS QUARTERFINAL CLASH WITH GAUFF

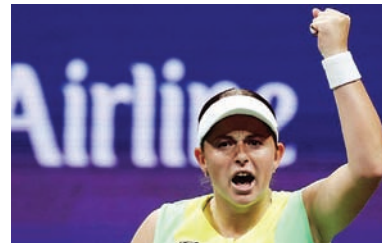
New York | Agencies

Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko maintained her clean sheet against Iga Swiatek, ending the World No. 1's US Open title defense with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory in the fourth round.

Swiatek's loss on Sunday means World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka will overtake the Pole and ascend to the No. 1 ranking after the US Open. Swiatek will have held the top spot for 75 consecutive weeks, the third-longest first-time streak in WTA Tour history.

Into her first US Open quarterfinal, Ostapenko will next face No. 6 Coco Gauff. The two have split their two prior meetings, with Ostapenko knocking the American out of the Australian Open in January.

After taking the first set handily, a listless Swiatek found herself down 1-4 against Ostapenko. It was a deficit she could not overcome, thanks to Ostapenko's solid service games, and the No. 20 seed assertively tucked away



the set to force a decisive third.

It was all one-way traffic from there, as Swiatek fell behind quickly in the third set with two consecutive breaks against her serve. Ostapenko was not holding back, punishing the four-time Grand Slam champion's serve with damaging returns and completely unraveling her game to earn the win in just under two hours.

Earlier in the day, Gauff defeated 33-year-old Dane wildcard Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to become the first American teenager to reach back-to-back quarterfinals at the US Open since Serena Williams.

### US Open

# DJOKOVIC'S QUEST FOR 24TH MAJOR CONTINUES; FRITZ, TIAFOE ALSO FIRE INTO QUARTERS

New York | Agencies

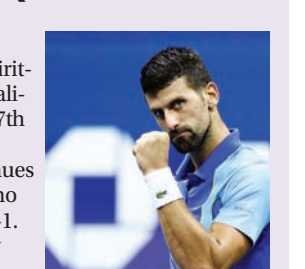
After surviving a scare two nights ago in his five-set comeback win in Round 3, Novak Djokovic snuffed out a spirited challenge from big-hitting Croatian qualifier Borna Gojo 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to reach his 57th Grand Slam quarterfinal.

The chase for Grand Slam No. 24 continues for three-time US Open titlist Djokovic, who extends his 2023 Grand Slam record to 24-1.

The Serb's fourth-round win on Sunday ushers in his 13th US Open quarterfinal appearance, tying him with Andre Agassi and Roger Federer for second-most behind Ivan Lendl's 17. The 23-time major champion, who will reclaim No. 1 in the ATP Rankings on September 11 for a record-extending 390th week regardless of his ultimate result in New York, will meet top-ranked American Taylor Fritz on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, by beating qualifier Dominic Stricker in straight sets on Sunday night, Fritz booked a spot amongst the final eight alongside fellow Americans Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton.

Tiafoe, a semifinalist last year, ended Australian Rinky Hijikata's run when he produced an all-court display to triumph 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth round.



# Latvia into first ever FIBA World Cup quarterfinals

Jakarta | Agencies

After a convincing 104-84 victory over Brazil to cap their group stage, Latvia made the FIBA World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in history here.

The tournament debutants ended their group phase journey in impressive fashion, including wins over medal contenders France and defending champions Spain. Brazil, coming off a major win over Canada, failed to advance after the loss on Sunday, reports Xinhua. Led by Andrejs Grazulis, who shot 11 of 15 to score a game-high 24 points, Latvia had five players in double digits. Bruno Caboclo of Brazil tallied 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Latvia took advan-



tage of their physicality and kept pouring pressure in defense, scoring 18 points from their opponents' turnovers. They blitzed the Brazilians after half-time, outscoring 36-21 in the third

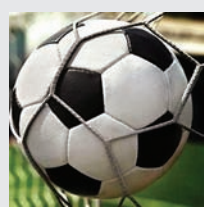
quarter to turn the game into a rout. Set to finish second in Group L, Latvia will play Group K winners Germany on Wednesday, after they thrashed Slovenia 100-71 on Sunday.

# LEIPZIG UPSET FRONT RUNNER UNION BERLIN IN BUNDESLIGA

Berlin: Ten-man Union suffered its first loss of the season after Benjamin Sesko delivered a late brace, sealing a 3-0 victory for Leipzig on the road at the close of the Bundesliga's third round.

Both teams began the top clash with high motivation, exchanging attacks. Union's Kevin Volland narrowly missed from distance, while Frederik Rønnow deflected Yussuf Poulsen's shot over the bar. For the remainder of the first half, scoring opportunities were scarce as both defenses held strong, reports Xinhua.

The Red Bulls started the second half aggressively. Xavi Simons capitalised on Benjamin Henrichs' square pass, driving the ball past Rønnow from the edge of the box into the top right corner. The situation deteriorated for the Eisernen, who hadn't suffered a home defeat since February 2022, when Volland was sent off for a harsh foul on Mohamed Simakan. Leipzig intensified their attack, with Rønnow facing long-range attempts from Dani Olmo and Henrichs. Union couldn't fend off Leipzig's advances, as Sesko secured the win with two rapid goals. The Slovenian executed a counterattack with a well-placed turn shot in the 85th minute. Just two minutes later, Olmo chipped the ball to Sesko, who headed it past Rønnow for his second goal.



# Inter humiliate Fiorentina, Juve conquer Empoli

Rome | Agencies

Inter Milan maintained their flawless record in Serie A, overpowering Fiorentina 4-0 while Juventus secured a 2-0 victory against Empoli on the road.

Inter, having started the new season with two wins and no goals conceded, saw coach Simone Inzaghi deploy a 3-5-2 formation for Sunday's match. Newcomer Benjamin Pavard started on the bench, reports Xinhua.

Marcus Thuram was active from the outset and eventually got his maiden goal for Inter in the 23rd minute, capitalising on a cross from Federico Dimarco. The Frenchman broke the deadlock with a powerful header. Denzel Dumfries nearly



scored just after halftime, but his shot struck the post. However, the Nerazzurri soon doubled their lead when Thuram's pass found Lautaro Martinez, who confidently found the back of the net. The hosts further extended their lead in the 58th

minute. After Thuram was fouled in the box, Hakan Calhanoglu confidently converted the resulting penalty. Juan Cuadrado later assisted Lautaro, who rounded off the scoring for Inter.

With this victory, Inter sit atop the table with nine points, edging out city rivals AC Milan on goal difference. The two teams are set to clash in the next round following the international break.

In other Sunday fixtures, Juventus overcame Empoli, even with Dusan Vlahovic's missed penalty, thanks to goals from Danilo and Federico Chiesa. In other matches, Torino edged past Genoa 1-0 with a late goal, while Lecce convincingly defeated Salernitana 2-0.

# Aryna Sabalenka to claim WTA World No.1 ranking after US Open

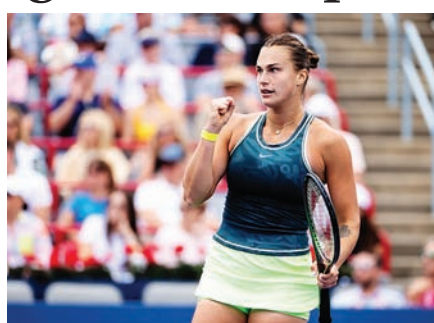
New York | Agencies

The WTA on Monday announced that Aryna Sabalenka will become the new women's singles World No. 1 when the rankings are released on September 11 following the completion of the US Open.

The 25-year-old will be the 29th woman to capture the WTA World No. 1 ranking, and just the eighth player to have held both the singles and doubles No. 1 spots during their career, having also ascended to the top of the doubles rankings in February 2021.

The Belarusian, who confirmed her ascent to the No. 1 ranking following Iga Swiatek's loss to Jelena Ostapenko earlier today in New York, overtakes the Pole which brings an end to her consecutive 75-week stint in the No. 1 spot.

Sabalenka has enjoyed an excellent season on the WTA Tour having won three titles,



most recently at the WTA 1000 level Mutua Madrid Open, in addition to the WTA 500 Adelaide International and her debut Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open. She has reached a further two finals this year, at the WTA 1000 Indian Wells and WTA 500 Tennis Grand Prix (Stuttgart), and made the semifinals at both Roland-Garros and Wimbledon.

# City keep perfect record as Arsenal, Tottenham and West Ham lead chase

London | Agencies

Manchester City head into the international break atop the Premier League, maintaining their perfect start to the season with a 5-1 home victory over Fulham.

Julian Alvarez's opening goal for City was quickly equalized by Tim Ream. However, Nathan Ake restored City's lead just before halftime, a goal that Fulham believed should have been ruled out for offside by VAR. In the second half, Erling Haaland secured the win with his seventh City hat-trick, reports Xinhua.

Tottenham sit in second place after a dominant 5-2 victory against Burnley, who initially led with a Lyle

Foster goal in the fourth minute. The match featured a hat-trick from Son Heung-min and goals from Cristian Romero and James Maddison.

Arsenal, level with Tottenham on 10 points, clinched a 3-1 home win against Manchester United, with two goals arriving deep into injury time. Marcus Rashford and Martin Odegaard exchanged goals within a



minute, making it 1-1. The match seemed destined for a draw until Declan Rice's 96th-minute goal, followed by Gabriel Jesus's strike in the 11th minute of injury time. Liverpool secured a comfortable 3-0 victory over Aston Villa. Jurgen Klopp's team took an early lead with a goal from Dominic Szoboszlai, and Darwin Nunez's shot deflected off Villa's Matty Cash into the net. Mohamed Salah added a third shortly after half-time. Brighton's Ewan Ferguson emerged as another hat-trick hero, scoring in the 27th, 65th, and 70th

minutes in a 3-1 win over Newcastle. Anthony Elanga's 48th-minute goal earned Nottingham Forest a 1-0 victory against Chelsea, who, despite 21 shots, managed only two on target. Ousmane Edouard's brace helped Crystal Palace to a 3-2 win over Wolverhampton. Hwang Hee-Chan equalized after Edouard's first, but goals from Eberechi Eze and Edouard's second seemed to seal the win before Mathias Cunha's late goal for Wolverhampton. Brentford's Bryan Mbeumo netted a last-minute equalizer against Bournemouth, ensuring a draw. Mathias Jensen's early goal for Brentford was countered by goals from Dominic Solanke and David Brooks for Bournemouth.



## AVINASH TIWARY JOKES KAY KAY MENON WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS WIFE NIVEDITA BHATTACHARYA ON 'BAMBAL MERI JAAN' SETS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Avinash Tiwary, who is set to essay the role of Dara Kadri in the upcoming crime-drama series 'Bambal Meri Jaan', has shared that every actor on the sets of the show was trying to impress the highly accomplished actor Kay Kay Menon with their craft. However, Avinash said that Kay Kay

Menon was trying to impress his wife, actress Nivedita Bhattacharya, who happens to play his on-screen wife in the show as well. Talking to the media at the trailer launch event of the film in Mumbai's Bandra area on Monday, Avinash said: "It was heartening to perform alongside Kay Kay and to learn so much from him." But, I would like to say that while every actor on the show was trying to impress Kay Kay sir, Kay Kay

was busy impressing Nivedita ma'am," he added as the room burst into laughter. Kay Kay Menon then held up the mic and took a pause to say, "Ab show ke baare mein baat kar lein (Now, can we talk a bit about the show?)"

Talking about 'Bambal Meri Jaan', the series is set in the Mumbai of the 1970s where gang wars, crimes, and treachery were a common occurrence.

Against this backdrop, the fictional

series is a captivating saga of an honest cop who sees his son choose the path of crime to overcome a life of poverty and struggle. The story of the show has been penned by crime journalist and author S. Hussain Zaidi, with the series created by Rensil D'Silva and Shujaat Saudagar and directed by Shujaat Saudagar.

Produced by Excel Media and Entertainment, the show is set to land on Prime Video on September 14.

## Manjari Fadnis shares memorable moments from upcoming

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Manjari Fadnis, who is best known for her performance in the coming of age romantic comedy 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na', spoke about the moments which still makes her feel nostalgic, after 15 years of its release.

The 2008 movie 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na' directed by Abbas Tyrewala, stars Imran Khan and Genelia D'Souza in the lead. It also stars Prateik Babbar, Manjari, Ratna Pathak, Naseeruddin Shah, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan, and Paresh Rawal.

Manjari played the character of Meghna, who was Jai's (Imran) girlfriend. Recently, the movie completed 15 years of the release, and the 39-year-old actress recalled about the memories from the shoot.

When asked what still makes her feel nostalgic about the movie, Manjari told reporter: "Walking on the empty streets of South Bombay. I think that was the only time I have seen it so quiet, and so quaint, that was so wonderful. I think that makes me nostalgic."

"So, sometimes when I am crossing South Bombay, I just feel nostalgic, and I just want to walk on the streets in the middle of the night. Because my scenes in the movie were walking on the road and talking to Imran's character. That was really memorable for me," she shared.

She further said: "And also the entire shoot in Igatpuri, where we shot that song 'Nazrein Milana', that was something. And of course the whole workshop in Panchgani was another amazing crazy bonding space for us."



## Hansal Mehta predicts medium of OTT will have the same journey as television

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Filmmaker Hansal Mehta, who is enjoying the response to the recently released second season of his 'Scam' series - 'Scam 2003: The Telgi Story', feels that the medium of OTT too will go down the path of redundancy just like its predecessor television. Hansal has returned with the 'Scam' series after almost 3 years. The first season of the show, which starred Pratik Gandhi in the titular role of stock market scamster Harshad Mehta, was released in 2020 and registered a breakout success.

Hansal, who serves as the creative director on 'Scam 2003: The Telgi Story' this time, told IANS: "It is the nature of capitalism and market forces that if something succeeds, that success has to be replicated in order to make more money out of it."

"People repeat it and make it a formula until it fails then, they have to do something new. This is not only limited to films as a business, it's there everywhere and that's because of the market forces."

The 'Aligarh' director then quoted an example as he said: "If a personal computer at a certain price point is doing very well in the market then 20 other manufacturers of personal computers will try selling their machines at different price points." He further mentioned: "The only thing that I find different in our Industries that it's very volatile, you can never gauge or predict what the audience will like or the consumer behaviour in this case will be. What they embrace today they might not embrace tomorrow but is the high probability that they would embrace it later." He then mentioned the monumental success of 'Gadar 2' as an example as he told IANS: "And this is proved by the success of 'Gadar 2'. If 'Gadar 2' came out in the late 2000s or in the early 2010s, I feel it would not have registered the kind of success that it has seen now. But because the film cultivated a legacy of over 20 years, people wanted to watch that film in the theatres when it was released." 'Scam 2003: The Telgi Story' is streaming on Sony LIV.



## KRITI SANON REVEALS HOW SHE GOT COVID-19

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon, who recently won the National Award for the Best Actress which she shared with Alia Bhatt, has revealed how she got Covid-19 back in December 2020. The actress shared that she's very comfortable and liberal when it comes to sharing food with people whom she is very close to, and that's the reason how she got Covid-19.

The actress told Curly Tales that she is not very finicky about sharing food and eating from the same cutlery.

"I can eat jootha (shared food) with people who I know and I'm really close to and that's how I got Covid," she said as she burst into laughter.

Kriti was diagnosed with Covid-19 in December 2020. At the time, the actress took to her Instagram to share the news of her contracting the bug.

She had written: "I'd like to inform everyone that I have tested positive for Covid-19. There's absolutely nothing to worry as I'm feeling fine and have quarantined myself as per BMC and my doctor's advice."

"So I'm gonna ride this tide, rest it out and resume work soon. Till then, I'm reading all the warm wishes and they seem to be working. Be safe guys, the pandemic hasn't gone yet."

Kriti recently won the National Award for her work in the film 'Mimi' which touched upon the subject of surrogacy. She shared the award with Alia Bhatt, who was feted for her work in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'.

The actress earlier told IANS that she was in a meeting at her house when she started getting the calls and was completely unaware about her Best Actress win.

She told IANS: "I couldn't understand what was going on. I usually don't step outside the meetings to take calls but this time I had to, and that's when I really got to know the news."

"I was so elated and emotional that I had to pause the meeting and run down to give my parents a hug and tell them the news and then everybody was really emotional. It's a moment that I will never ever forget in my life."

## NEETI MOHAN'S MANTRA FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

# 'Wherever you are, be there 100 per cent'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Known for her hit Bollywood tracks like 'Nainowale Ne' and 'Ishq Wala Love', singer Neeti Mohan has revealed her mantra for how to balance motherly duties with career.

Neeti is currently seen as the judge on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2023'. The singing reality show also features Himesh Reshammiya, and Anu Malik as judges, and Aditya Narayan as the host.

Talking to reporter, Neeti opened up on the mantra that she follows to manage her personal and professional lives.

Neeti married model Nihar Pandya in 2019. The couple have a baby boy Aryaveer, who was born in 2021.

Neeti said: "My mantra is wherever you are, just be there 100 per cent. If you are with your child, just be with your child 100 per cent, and same goes for the work."

"I am not the one who will have a camera on my child, then check on him every time, because that's not me. So that's what makes me balanced. Wherever I am, I am passionately there. When I am with my child, I am only with him, no phone, nothing. And when I am at work, I will be in that zone. So that makes me balance it well," added Neeti.

On the work front, Neeti said that she is working on some independent music.

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa's new season is airing on Zee TV.



Priya Banerjee