

# absolute india

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## PARLIAMENT PANEL MOVE AGAINST BJP'S RAMESH BIDHURI AND MP HE ABUSED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A week after BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri hurled communal slurs at Muslim MP Danish Ali in the Lok Sabha, the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee. The sting in the tail, however, is that the panel will not only investigate the complaints against Bidhuri, but also some against Ali.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP had been accused by some BJP MPs of using abusive words against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and "provoking" Bidhuri to make the remarks.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha in the new Parliament building on September 21, Bidhuri had used a string of objectionable and communal words against Ali. The remarks sparked widespread condemnation and outrage, both from the Opposition and on social media, and defence minister Rajnath Singh had apologised in Parliament on behalf of his party MP.



The BSP MP and four opposition parties - the Congress, DMK, Trinamool Congress and NCP - had written to Speaker Om Birla, demanding immediate punitive action against Bidhuri. BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey and

Ravi Kishan had also written to the Speaker later, and alleged that Bidhuri had made objectionable remarks against PM Modi. All of these complaints have now been referred to the Privileges Committee.

### 'REWARD FOR HATE'

The BJP, which had earlier issued a notice to Bidhuri for his abusive remarks, on Wednesday gave him charge of leading the party's poll campaign in Rajasthan's Tonk district. The party is hoping that, being from the Gurjar community, he can help get votes in the district's four seats, one of which is held by former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot of the Congress.

While independent MP Kapil Sibal lashed out at the BJP for rewarding hate, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra posted on X, "Knew it! @rameshbidhuri rewarded for calling Muslim MP \*\*\*\*\* & \*\*\*\*\* in Lok Sabha. How does showcasing person be given new role by @BJP4India? @narendramodiji - is this your Sneha Yatra for minorities, your love outreach?"

## Students killing: Protests continue in Manipur, cars burnt, two BJP offices attacked



Imphal | Agencies

Protests against the killings of the two young students continued for the third day in Manipur on Thursday with mobs burning down a BJP office and vandalised another office of the ruling party in Thoubal district.

Protestors also torched two vehicles inside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Imphal and another civilian vehicle, parked near by the DC office, was set on fire.

CRPF personnel brought the situation under control, police said.

Though the students' protests were more or less peaceful on Thursday, but the mobs, comprising both men and women, turned violent in different places of Manipur.

They burnt down a three-story building, which

housed the BJP office at Khongjam and vandalised another at Wangjing in Thoubal district.

On Wednesday night, the protesters, defying curfew, clashed with security personnel in Uripok, Yaikul, Sagolband and Tera areas, prompting the security forces to fire several rounds of tear gas shells to tackle the situation, officials said.

The protesters, including women, blocked roads with burning tyres, boulders and iron pipes to prevent the movement of security forces from entering residential areas.

Huge contingent of central and state security forces were deployed in various districts while the total curfew was re-imposed in the two districts -- Imphal East and Imphal West.

The Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights, meanwhile, urged

the security forces not to use baton charge, tear gas shells and rubber bullets "arbitrarily and abruptly" against teenagers.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh in a statement strongly condemned the actions of the security forces to deal with the agitations in Manipur.

At least 100 students, including girls, have been injured during the agitations on Tuesday and Wednesday after they clashed with the security forces, who prevented them from marching towards the Chief Minister's bungalow.

The security forces used tear gas shells and smoke bombs to disperse the agitating students. Manipur Police, CRPF and Rapid Action Force personnel have been deployed in large numbers throughout the Imphal Valley in anticipation of possible violence.

### CLAIM, COUNTER CLAIM

In his letter to the Speaker, Nishikant Dubey had condemned the language used by Bidhuri, but demanded that the "unsavoury" conduct of Ali be investigated as well. Dubey alleged that when Bidhuri was speaking, the BSP MP was "busy instigating" him and also - at the top of his voice - made a "highly objectionable and blasphemous remark" against PM Modi.

"This statement made by Danish Ali, I think, was more than enough for any patriotic public representative to 'lose his calm' and fall into his trap by uttering unseemly words," Dubey said. Ali had accused the BJP of trying to frame a false narrative and claimed he had said or done no such thing. "Today, some BJP leaders are trying to frame a narrative that I provoked Shri Ramesh Bidhuri in the Parliament, whereas the truth is that I worked to save the dignity of the post of Prime Minister. I demanded that the Chairman expunge the highly objectionable words used against Modiji from the record," he had said. The BSP MP had also shared a video of what happened after Bidhuri's outburst. In the video, a shaken Ali can be heard saying, "Sir, sir... honourable member is saying 'terrorist'! To whom is he saying 'terrorist'? Are there terrorists in this House?"

### A JOB AT OPPOSITION

The fact that the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee was announced on Thursday by Dubey, who thanked the Speaker for doing so. In the same breath, he also took a swipe at the opposition and said that earlier governments had failed to take action against errant MPs, including former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

"Grateful to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha @ombirlakota, he entrusted the responsibility of investigation in the Danish Ali case to the committee of @LokSabhaSect.

This was possible because BJP has a majority in the Lok Sabha, otherwise no committee was formed or action taken when, in the Lok Sabha, there was an RJD-JDU-Congress' shoe and mic fight in 2016, an assault by Sonia Gandhi in 2012 and a fistfight at time of the formation of Telangana in 2014, when MPs were injured," Dubey posted on X, formerly Twitter. Dubey had earlier alleged Sonia Gandhi had "tried to grab the collar" of a Samajwadi Party member during chaos in the Parliament during a debate on quota in promotions in 2012.

## Ujjain minor girl rape case MAIN ACCUSED ARRESTED; TRIES TO FLEE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested the main accused in the Ujjain minor girl rape case.

The arrested individual has been identified as Bharat Soni, a resident of Ujjain.

Earlier on Thursday, Ujjain SP Sachin Sharma said that a total of five suspects were detained for questioning. One of them was detained on Wednesday, while four were detained on Thursday. Sharma said that the victim hails from Satna district. Meanwhile, the main accused who had been apprehended, tried to escape from police custody and collided with a cemented wall following which he was admitted to a government hospital, police Inspector Ajay Kumar said. Interacting with the press, the police officer said when the accused was taken to the crime spot, he tried to escape. "He (accused) ran away from the spot. However, the police personnel chased him. In the mean time, he collided with a cemented wall and got injured," Kumar said. He further said one of the cops



chasing the accused also got injuries but eventually, the accused was overpowered. When asked if the accused sustained injury due to police firing, Kumar denied, saying, "He collided with a cemented wall."

## Rahul Gandhi now visits furniture market in Delhi's Kirti Nagar, interacts with workers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who surprised the porters at the Anand Vihar Railway Terminal station recently, on Thursday dropped in at a furniture market in the national capital and interacted with the carpenters.

In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "Today I went to Asia's largest furniture market located in Kirtinagar, Delhi and met the carpenter brothers. Apart from being hard workers, they are also amazing artists - experts at carving strength and beauty! We talked a lot, got to know a little about his skills and tried to learn a little."

According to party leaders, during his visit to Kirti Nagar furniture market, Gandhi interacted with the workers and the carpenters of the area.

The photographs of the Congress leader visiting the market was shared



by Indian Youth Congress chief Srinivas B.V. on his official X handle.

In his post, Srinivas said, "When mass leader Rahul Gandhi reached Asia's largest furniture market located in Kirtinagar, Delhi. During this time he met hard working carpenter brothers. Bharat Jodo journey continues."

On September 21, Rahul Gandhi visited porters at Anand Vihar Railway station to understand their issues. During his visit, he interacted with them, donned the red shirt and carried luggage on his head.

The Congress leader, in the last few months, has surprised everybody with his visits among people.

## BRS MLA, EX-MLA SON JOIN CONGRESS

New Delhi:

In another boost to Congress ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Telangana, BRS MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao, along with his son and former MLA, joined the party here on Thursday in the presence of party President Mallikarjun Kharge. Besides Rao and his son, former BRS lawmaker Vemula Veeresham also joined the Congress.

Kharge, inducted the BRS leaders in presence of Telangana Congress unit chief A Revanth Reddy here at his residence, 10 Rajaji Marg. The Congress has been campaigning aggressively come to power in the southern state, which has been ruled by the BRS (earlier TRS) since it came to existence in 2014.



## Father of India's Green Revolution MS Swaminathan passes away

Chennai | Agencies

Visionary scientist and father of the Green Revolution in India, Dr Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan passed away on Thursday morning.

The Padma Bhushan awardee, popularly known as MS Swaminathan, passed away at Chennai at the age of 98. He is survived by his three daughters, Soumya, Madhura and Nitya. His wife Mina predeceased him.

Dr Swaminathan was born in Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu on August 7, 1925 he had his schooling there. His father was MK Sambasivan, a medical doctor and mother Parvathi Thangammal. He did his graduation from the University College, Thiruvananthapuram and



later from the Agricultural College, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University). He had worked closely with two agriculture ministers of the country C Subramanian and Jagjivan Ram for the success of the Green Revolution. The Green Revolution was a programme that paved the way for a huge growth in the production of rice and wheat through the adaptation of chemical-biological technology.

## BJP MLA threatens to behead Manoj Jha over his poem referring to 'Thakurs'

Patna | Agencies

BJP MLA Raghendra Pratap Singh on Thursday threatened to behead RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha following his alleged poem on "Thakurs".

In a video statement, Raghendra Pratap Singh said, "You are a Brahmin. Don't forget it. You have forgotten that I am also a Rajput. We will not even think for a second before beheading you."

He asked Jha why he has commented about the Thakur community in such a manner.

"Don't remind me of the old stories? You should apologise to the Rajput community. If you will not apologise be prepared to face the wrath of Rajput community," he said.

Following the threatening statement of Raghendra Pratap Singh, Rishi Mishra, the former MLA and spokesperson of RJD wrote a letter to the Home Minister Amit Shah seeking 'Y' category



security for Jha. "It is a matter of deep concern that a BJP MLA has given a life threatening statement against RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha. The BJP MLA Raghendra Pratap Singh has threatened to behead Manoj Jha. A former MP (Anand

Mohan) also gave a threatening statement to slit the tongue of Manoj Jha. BJP MLA and former minister Neeraj Kumar Bablu also threatened to cut tongue of Manoj Jha," Mishra said.

He said that such statements may turn life threatening for him in future as well.

"Professor Manoj Jha is a civilized, peaceful and intellectual person. He has won the best MP award on the basis of intellectual speeches. He increased the respect of Bihar in the country. So, we demand Y category security for Manoj Jha," Mishra wrote in the letter.

Manoj Jha had recited a poem referring to "Thakurs" during the debate on the women's reservation bill in the Rajya Sabha last week.

The poem refers to 'Thakur', which the former MP Anand Mohan claimed was aimed at targeting a particular caste. He had said that he wouldn't tolerate humiliation of his community (Rajputs).

## 28% GST on online gaming, casinos & horse racing from Oct 1: CBIC chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is prepared to implement the 28 per cent GST (Goods and Services Tax) rate on online gaming, casinos and horse racing from October 1, CBIC chairman Sanjay Agarwal said on Thursday.

"We are fully prepared to bring it into effect from October 1. As per the decision taken in the last meeting of the GST council, the related notifications are under process," the CBIC chairman told media persons.

This move comes with the consensus of all states and follows the recent passage of amendments to GST laws in the Lok Sabha. "All states need to pass it in their assemblies or issue an ordinance by

September 30 to implement 28 per cent GST on online gaming from October 1," Agarwal said.

The 28 per cent GST will be applicable on bets placed in the case of online gaming, the face value of the chips purchased in the case of casinos and bets placed with bookmaker/totalisator in the case of horse racing. Many online gaming companies have already been issued notices to pay 28 per cent GST instead of the 18 per cent charged currently. On August 11, the Lok Sabha, during its final session of the monsoon season, passed amendments to two GST laws with a voice vote. These amendments relate to the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which aim to introduce a 28 per cent GST for online gaming, casinos,





## CONGRESS MULLING IDEA TO DROP SEVERAL SITTING MLAS IN RAJASTHAN AFTER INTERNAL SURVEY SHOWS ANTI-INCUMBENCY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as the crucial assembly elections are inching closer in Rajasthan, the Congress is mulling the idea of dropping several of the ministers and sitting MLAs in the polls, sources said.

Party source said that the Congress in its internal report has found anti-incumbency against many of the Ministers and the sitting MLAs. The source said that the reporter prepared by the team of party strategist Sunil Kanugolu has found a number of issues and thus highlighted it to the party leadership.

The source said that the team of Kanugolu has identified at least 50 seats where the sitting MLAs and ministers have strong anti-incumbency against them and they would not be able to win the elections.

Following the startling revelation in its internal report, the party is mulling to drop many of its ministers as well as the MLAs in the coming elections.



However, the source further said that the final decision will be taken by the party's central election committee (CEC) which will sit on decid-

ing the candidates for Rajasthan.

The party had earlier said that it plans to release the list of candidates for Rajasthan in the month of

September.

Rajasthan's Screening Committee chairman Gaurav Gogoi had earlier also indicated that the candidates will be decided on the basis of the winnability.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had also launched several pro-people schemes ahead of the assembly election in the desert state. Meanwhile several senior leaders, including party Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi had been visiting the state for campaigning.

Even the BJP, which was voted out of power in the 2018 assembly elections is eyeing to make a comeback in the desert state and is leaving no stones unturned for the victory.

Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President Nadda on Wednesday night held meetings with the senior party leaders in the state to chalk out strategy for the assembly elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been visiting the state to campaign for the party.

## Give 33% tickets to women in MP polls, Akhilesh challenges BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday challenged Madhya Pradesh's ruling BJP to give one third of the total tickets to women in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Visiting the poll-bound Madhya Pradesh to kick-start his party's campaign, the former UP Chief Minister, on the second day of his visit, reached Chhatarpur district of Bundelkhand region, closely connected with Uttar Pradesh. He held a meeting with party workers and reviewed the poll preparations.

During a press conference in Chhatarpur, he targeted the BJP over the recently-passed Women Reservation Bill and challenged the BJP to give 33 per cent tickets to women in Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections.

"If the BJP really wants to give reservation to the women, it should give 33 per cent tickets to women in Madhya Pradesh and if not do so, then it will be clear that BJP has passed this Bill for its political agenda only and it be considered that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cheated the people this country," Akhilesh Yadav said. Meanwhile, he also said that his party will contest the Assembly elections in MP with the



concept "PDA - (Pichde (backward class), Dalits, and Alpsankhyak (minorities)". He added that his PDA alliance will try to give 20 per cent tickets to the women in Madhya Pradesh. Asked about the INDIA bloc, Akhilesh Yadav said alliance's aim is to defeat the BJP in Lok Sabha elections. Asked if the SP will support the Congress in the state, he said: "Congress was short of majority in 2018 and SP was first to support. But, SP will contest elections on its own." Akhilesh Yadav also said that people of Madhya Pradesh have decided to change the government and this time, the SP will win more seats than previous elections in Madhya Pradesh. Later, Akhilesh along with other party leaders had 'pattal bhaj' at a Dalit's home in Chhatarpur.

## Speculation over Vasundhara Raje's future role in Rajasthan after Shah and Nadda's visit

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national President J.P. Nadda's sudden visit to Jaipur with General Secretary, Organisation, B.L. Santhosh has triggered speculation in Rajasthan and raised questions over the future role of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

If sources are to be believed, Raje has been asking for a bigger role while trying to position herself as the CM face. However, the party high command has reiterated many times that the Assembly polls will be contested on the face of PM Narendra Modi and the BJP symbol.

Modi, during his Jaipur visit, asked all party workers to ensure that the lotus



blooms in the state. In fact, he neither spoke of the former government's achievements nor of Raje. Surprisingly, Raje also did not address the meeting.

Even on Wednesday, when Shah and Nadda were in the state capital, speculation was rife about her role.

However, the two leaders stayed silent on the CM face and said that the elections will be fought on the PM's face. Sources said that Raje has been invited as chief

guest to Barmer where the Rajput community members in large numbers will be present. This will put direct pressure on the BJP leaders from the most dominant community in the state to announce her as the CM face. Further some more events of Raje are lined up to show her strength.

Reading between the lines, Shah and Nadda were in Jaipur in damage control mode. Raje and her followers will be pacified as they will get a good chunk of tickets, a source said.

The sources added that further announcements will be made post the party's parliamentary board meeting scheduled in the first week of October which will discuss the poll preparations in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

## Will you resign if nothing found in probe, Kejriwal asks PM Modi over house renovation row

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday asked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that if nothing is found against him in the fresh inquiry initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the alleged corruption related to fraudulent renovation involving his residence, will he resign.

He made the remarks a day after the CBI initiated a preliminary enquiry (PE) in connection with the alleged corruption related to alleged fraudulent renovation involving crores of rupees in Kejriwal's residence.

Speaking to the media here, a defiant Kejriwal hit back at the BJP government and said: "This is not for the first time. This shows that the Prime Minister is in panic mode. This is not first inquiry. They have got 50



inquiries done. They have alleged me in liquor scam, bus scam, school scam and road scam. They had filed 33 cases against me."

He said that they had inquired

everything against me in the last eight years and they did not get anything. "In the new inquiry too again they will find nothing. So what do you expect from the fourth pass king," he

said in an apparent jibe at the Prime Minister. Attacking the government, he said that they keep on playing inquiry game round the clock.

"They don't work. They want to break me and should bow before them. This is not going to happen. Kejriwal will not bow down. No matter how many false cases they file, I will not bow down," Kejriwal said.

"I want to challenge the fourth pass king that if in this inquiry again nothing is found against me then will he resign?" the Chief Minister asked.

Earlier in the day, the BJP hit back at the AAP government and Delhi Chief Minister said that the CBI inquiry will find out the truth.

The renovation of Kejriwal's residence, which took place during the Covid-19 pandemic and involved a significant sum of money, faced allegations of flouting rules and alleged corruption.

## Indian hackers claimed responsibility of taking down website of Canadian Armed Forces

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A group of Indian hackers has claimed the responsibility for a cyberattack that temporarily disabled the website of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The development came in the wake of diplomatic relations between India and Canada nosediving in the last week over the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The group of Indian hackers named Indian Cyber Force shared the screenshot on the social media platform X.

The group also shared the screenshot of taking down the Canadian Armed Forces.

The group in its post on X claimed



responsibility and said: "Canadian Airforce Website has been taken

down. Target - forces.ca/en/ Check host - check-host.net/check-

report/1... Duration: 2 hour."

Besides the Canadian Armed Forces website, the group also claimed the responsibility of bringing down another website.

In a post on X, it claimed: "Canada Election Democracy Website has been taken down. Target - election-sanddemocracy.ca Check Host - check-host.net/check-report/1... Attack Duration: 1 Hour." Diplomatic relations between Canada and India have become nosediving in the last few weeks over the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently announced that Intelligence agencies were investigating "credible" allegations linking Indian agents to the death of Nijjar.

## Student preparing for NEET ends life in Kota, 26th suicide this year

Jaipur | Agencies

Another student in Rajasthan's Kota committed suicide, taking the total number of students who have ended their lives this year to 26.

Mohammad Tanveer, the 20-year-old student ended his life by hanging himself in his room on Wednesday night.

Tanveer, originally a resident of Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh, had been living in Kota with his father and sister since last year to prepare for NEET.

His father is a teacher in a coaching institute in Kota.

Tanveer was preparing for NEET while staying at home.



His sister is also preparing for NEET. The reason for Tanveer's suicide was being

investigated. The body has been taken into custody and sent for post-mortem.

## India's external debt edges past \$629 billion



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's external debt rose by \$4.7 billion in the April-June quarter to touch the USD 629.1 billion mark, although the debt-GDP ratio declined, RBI data released on Thursday showed.

"The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.6 per cent at end-June 2023 from 18.8 per cent at end-March 2023," RBI said.

Valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-a-vis the major currencies such as yen and SDR amounted to USD 3.1 billion.

US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.4 per cent at end-June 2023, fol-

lowed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (30.4 per cent), SDR (5.9 per cent), yen (5.7 per cent), and the euro (3.0 per cent). Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$7.8 billion instead of \$4.7 billion at end-June 2023 over end-March 2023, RBI said.

According to the data, at end-June 2023, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at USD 505.5 billion, recording an increase of USD 9.6 billion over its level at end of the preceding quarter.

The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt declined to 19.6 per cent at end-June 2023 from 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023.

RBI further said outstanding debt of the general government decreased, while non-government debt increased at end-June 2023.

Loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.9 per cent, followed by currency and deposits, trade credit and advances and debt securities.

## 'Untrue', says ISKCON Kolkata to Maneka Gandhi on 'cheat' remarks, seek proof

► THE KOLKATA-OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS (ISKCON) ISSUED A STRONG RE-JOINDER TO BJP MP MANEKA GANDHI'S COMMENTS DESCRIBING THE SOCIETY AS "BIGGEST CHEAT" WHO "SELL COWS TO BUTCHERS".

Kolkata | Agencies

In a statement issued from their Kolkata office on Thursday, ISKCON's vice president Radha Raman Das has challenged the BJP MP to provide evidence in support of her claims that the society was involved in selling cows to the butchers.

"What she had said is



untrue. We strongly deny her allegations. Attacking Sanatana Dharma has become a fashion of the day. Maneka Gandhi will have to prove her allegations," Das claimed

Expressing hope that Gandhi might be censured by her own party for her comments, the ISKCON vice president questioned whether the BJP MP had visited ISKCON's Anantpur Gaushalas ever or

does she have any video substantiating her allegations.

"The residents there have never seen Maneka Gandhi at Anantpur Gaushalas. Does she have any video substantiating her evidence? For years the ISKCON authorities have been involved in the welfare of cows, whom we worship as Goddess. I will request all to visit Anantpur Gaushalas and examine how dedicatedly we have been working for the welfare of Gaumata. So her comments are not only derogatory for ISKCON but also for the entire Sanatan Dharma," Das added.

In a video that went viral, the BJP MP, who is also an animal rights activist, can be heard saying, "ISKCON is the biggest cheat in the country. It maintains gaushalas and gets benefits from the government, including vast lands."

She also recalled her visit to ISKCON's Anantpur Gaushalas in Andhra Pradesh, where she claimed that she couldn't find any cow that doesn't give milk or calves.

## Drug menace: Nagaland govt takes action against 43 cops



Kohima | Agencies

The Nagaland government has taken action against 43 police personnel for their alleged involvement in the drug menace, an official said on Thursday.

A Home Department official said that one police personnel was sent to compulsory retirement and seven were dismissed from service for their involvement in drugs related activities.

Actions against 23 of them under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, were also taken.

Other police personnel were either suspended or their annual increment in salaries withheld or took

both the actions. The ranks of a few of the police personnel was downgraded, he said.

Departmental enquiry had been completed against 23 police personnel, while the departmental probes were pending against 20 personnel.

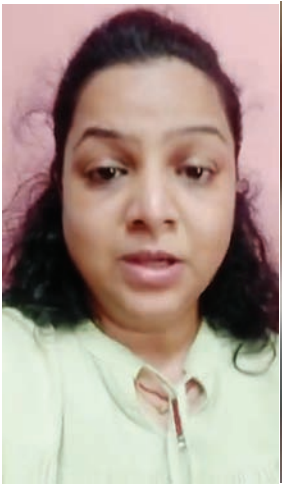
The varied actions against the police personnel were taken since January as the state police and other law enforcing agencies are taking all out actions against the drug peddlers as well as others who are involved in the crime, the official said.

Various drugs valued around Rs 25 crore were seized, 133 FIRs registered and 157 people arrested between June and August this year, the official said.





# POLITICAL ROW AS MUMBAI MARATHI WOMAN REFUSED OFFICE PREMISES IN 'GUJARATI' SOCIETY



Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

A major political row was triggered in Mumbai after a Marathi woman alleged that she was stopped from buying an office in a Gujarati-dominated building society in suburban Mulund recently.

As a video of the fracas between the woman and the society members emerged, the Mulund Police have lodged a complaint and are probing the matter.

The video of Wednesday shows the woman, Tripti Devrukhkar, who had gone to examine a premise for an office in the Shiv Sadan building in Mulund in the city's north-eastern suburbs.

In the emotional video clip, the woman is bursting into tears and narrating the experience when some Gujarati members, led by an elderly man of the society, blocked her bid, saying that "Marathis are not allowed in this society, as per rules".



When she demanded to be shown the rules, they refused, snatched her phone while she was recording the fracas and roughed her up, even as two others rushed there to help the elderly man. "They openly threatened me, dared me to do anything, get anyone but they would not budge... The shocking thing is that not a single Maharashtrian there came to my help," said a shaken Devrukhkar.

Later, as the video of the arguments went viral on the social media, top Maharashtra Opposition leaders attacked the state government and asked "whether action will be taken against the society people" for insulting a Marathi woman in such a manner. "This is horrible... Such a thing is happening to a Marathi in Mumbai and Maharashtra and nobody speaks up for us... If we can't take an office here then should we go to Gujarat?" Devrukhkar added in a choked voice.

Late on Wednesday, based on Devrukhkar's complaint, the Mulund police lodged a complaint against the



society members, and the elderly man, identified as Praveen Thakkar and his son Nilesh Thakkar, who were summoned for questioning.

Congress state President Nana Patole, Shiv Sena-UBT leaders Aditya Thackeray, Sushma Andhare, Nationalist Congress Party's General Secretary Dr. Jitendra Awhad, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande and others reacted strongly over the episode.

Thackeray termed the incident as "irritating" and Andhare questioned whether Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis will do anything in the matter. "Marathas were caned, even women... Will they take action against this building... Will they send the Police and BMC tomorrow, or will they remain silent not to offend the Delhi leaders and 'speed up the work on the Bullet Train' project," said Thackeray Jr. in a sarcastic post. Dr. Awhad said that in Marwari-

Jain-Gujarati societies, Marathis, Dalits, and Muslims are not allowed to buy properties as they are considered "lowly meat-eaters" and the Muslims also because of their religion. "Everyone in Mumbai knows all this... After this incident, there is a clamour on social media that Gujaratis should be thrown out," he said. Patole demanded whether there is "no place for Marathis" in Mumbai anymore, and other Congress leaders asked whether the Shinde regime will take action against the society in the matter. Deshpande said that this incident reflected on the Marathi pride and warned that "the MNS would teach a lesson to such people".

Incidentally, soon after the incident, Mulund MNS activists had landed at the society premises and compelled the Thakkars to tender an oral apology to Devrukhkar.

The aggrieved woman, meanwhile, vented her ire on all state political parties and even the Marathi community for not bothering to protect the interests of their own ilk in their own state against such attitude.

"From where are they (the Gujaratis) getting so much confidence to indulge in this kind of behaviour... What are the parties and our own Marathis doing, except making lavish decorations during Ganeshotsav and calling themselves soldiers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," said Devrukhkar.

Meanwhile, the video and the incident evoked sharp reactions on social media and some even pointed out how several prominent Muslims and celebrities in the past were also subjected to such discriminatory treatment in so-called 'vegetarian' societies.

# After Bollywood-style chase, Nanded cops shoot and nab fugitive criminal



Team Absolute | Nanded

The sleepy pilgrim town of Nanded in Maharashtra witnessed some thrills when a notorious absconder criminal was shot and caught by the police after a Bollywood-style case, officials said here on Thursday.

The incident happened around 5 p.m. on Wednesday near the crowded Canal Road area, a bustling mall and also a school.

The Nanded Police got a tip-off that a fugitive history-sheeter, Avej alias Abu Shooter and some accomplices were likely to visit the mall.

A police team was rustled up and lay in wait for Avej and Deepak Bhokre who arrived there soon afterwards.

Sensing something amiss, the duo attempted to sneak out of there but were accosted by a cop and Avej whipped out a dagger and attacked him before running again. Avej ran and entered the school premises where he attempted to hijack a scooter parked there, but the security guard tried to overpower him and the desperado again took off.

Seeing this, Crime Branch Sub-Inspector Pandurang Mane took a careful aim and shot Avej on his thigh and he fell.

As other cops rushed and the gunshot created chaos in the area, Bhokare took advantage and fled from there.

Despite the bullet injury, Avej made attempts to run off but was caught by the cops and they called for an ambulance.

He was rushed to the SB Chavan Hospital in Vishnupuri for treatment, said a police spokesperson.

After the operation, Nanded Superintendent of Police Shrikrushna Kokate told the local media that Avej was wanted for several years and had at least five serious offences registered against him in different police stations in the district.

The offences include threats, extortion, attempts to murder, etc, and he was also arrested earlier under the MCOCA, but was enlarged on bail and was absconding for over two years.

Besides, at least one police official and a staffer were also injured in Avej's dagger attack and they have been hospitalised, and their condition was described as 'stable' by Kokate.

# Delhi HC upholds restriction on prison visits for MCOCA inmates

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Delhi High Court has upheld a decision by prison authorities to restrict inmates booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) to meeting only their family members and no one else.

The decision came in response to a PIL filed by various undertrial prisoners charged with offences punishable under MCOCA, challenging the prison authorities' decision to restrict their visits.

The prison authorities argued that they are authorised to separate high-risk prisoners or prisoners perceived as security threats and lodge them in high-security wards. They stated that such inmates are permitted to meet their family members in accordance with the law.

The court noted that all prisoners, including high-risk prisoners, are allowed to meet their family members, and provisions for legal



aid have been made. The court upheld the decision and disposed of the petition.

The restriction on prison visits for high-risk inmates is in compliance with Rule 1410 of the Delhi Prison Rules, which permits only blood relations, spouses, and authorised lawyers to conduct interviews with high-risk offenders. In this case, 250 prisoners have been incarcerated in such wards.

# MAHA GRIEVES OVER THE DEMISE OF 'GREEN HERO' M. S. SWAMINATHAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Top Maharashtra leaders grieved over the passing of the renowned agro-scientist and Father of India's Green Revolution, M. S. Swaminathan in Chennai on Thursday.

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais said in a condolence message: "Dr. Swaminathan transformed the face of Indian agriculture and was instrumental in making India 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in the production of food-grains... the country has lost a one-man agricultural university' in his passing."

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "the farmers of the country have lost a great son who sacrificed his life to give them and the country self-respect in the field of agriculture and food security to a billion people".

"India's progress in agriculture, soil and water conservation was due to Swaminathan's continuous efforts, his research which enabled India achieve food sufficiency and giving dignity to the farmers, labourers and earned the title of Father of Indian Green Revolution," said Shinde, of the ruling ally Shiv Sena.



Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said he was "pained to hear about the demise of Swaminathan whose immense contribution to

farmers' welfare will always be remembered". "His recommendations helped policy makers frame many schemes and initiatives on many occasions and help the country become independent in food-grains," said Fadnavis.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said that Swaminathan holds the lion's share in making India self-reliant in terms of food-grains.

"By erasing the stigma of being a food-scarce nation from India's forehead, Dr. Swaminathan gave the mantra of self-sufficiency to the poor farmers to produce more through hybrid seeds, many of which he created, that enabled higher yields even for small land-holder peasants," said Ajit Pawar.

Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole termed him as a remarkable person whose invaluable contributions to agricultural research and innovations altered the course of modern Indian history.

NCP MP Supriya Sule said: "Dr. Swaminathan will always be remembered for radical change in the country's agriculture, making India self-reliant in food production and boosting agriculture by developing new rice varieties that brought more income to the poor farmer."

# 13-Year-old house help thrashed for being late, employer charged

Team Absolute | Palghar

Police registered a case against a man in Palghar district of Maharashtra on Thursday on the charge of severely beating a 13-year-old boy, whom he illegally employed as his domestic help, for coming late to work, an official said.

The incident occurred on Monday at Khamloli village in the district, he said.

The accused, Rajendra Sitaram Patil, was booked under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the police said.

Apart from this, he was also booked under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), they said.



"The victim boy and the accused live in the same village. Patil had employed the minor to look after his cattle at his house. The teenage boy had lost his mother several years back, while his father is a tuberculosis patient," an official of Manor police station said.

The boy lived at the house of the accused, and was paid a salary of Rs 1,100 per month, he said.

"On September 25, the boy went out in the morning to have darshan of Ganesh idols in the village. While returning to the employer's house, he saw some boys playing somewhere and joined them. Due to this, he reached the workplace late," he added.

Angry with him for being late to work, Patil severely thrashed the boy and abused him. The boy went to his father and narrated the incident to him, the police official said.

The victim's father along with some villagers then went to Patil's house to question him about why he beat his son. But the accused abused them as well. The group then approached the police and the boy's father lodged a complaint with the police, they said. The accused has not been arrested so far and investigation into the case is on," the police official said.

# 4-Year-old kidnapped in Mumbai, video shows man walking away with child

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 4-year-old girl was kidnapped while playing outside her house in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. The police have arrested a 74-year-old man in connection with the case.

According to the police, the incident took place near Nerul railway station area of Navi Mumbai. On Thursday, when the girl did not return home, her parents registered a complaint with the Nerul police.

The cops immediately launched an investigation and scanned CCTV footage of the area. One camera caught a person carrying the child in his arms and walking away. Senior police officer Tanaji Bhagat formed a team to track down the accused. The team checked about 150 CCTVs in and around the railway station. Using the CCTV footage, the police were able to identify the man and laid a trap to arrest him. The accused was found to be in the Karave village area of Navi Mumbai. According to the police, the man, identified as



Mani Thomas, had kept the girl at his house. After losing his first wife, Thomas remarried, but he and his new wife had no children. He told police that he kidnapped the girl because he wanted a child. A preliminary investigation revealed that he was planning to leave the state with her.

The girl was rescued unharmed and was reunited with her parents. The accused has been charged with kidnapping and is currently in police custody.

The police are investigating whether the accused is involved in any other child trafficking cases.

# NIA files supplementary charge sheet against 4 in Thane fake currency case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge sheet against four accused, including a "designated terrorist", in the Thane fake currency case.

The four have been identified as Javed Patel alias Javed Chikna (the designated terrorist), Riyaz Shikilkar, Payaaz Shikilkar and Nasir Chaudhari, all residents of Mumbai.

Fayaaz Shikilkar has also been charged under the Arms Act. In April last year, the Thane police had chargesheeted three other accused in the which was originally registered following the seizure of 149 counterfeit notes of Rs. 2,000 from Riyaz Shikilkar. Subsequently, the NIA took over the case and, after investigations, arrested Fayaaz Shikilkar in May this year for possession of illegal arms. Investigations also revealed that he was in contact with Javed Patel through



WhatsApp, and had conspired to carry out unlawful activities in India.

He had also received funds sent by Javed Patel through his associate 'Bhai'.

Javed Patel, a wanted accused, had committed acts of terror through his associates by possessing and circulating fake Indian currency notes (FICNs) with the aim of damaging the monetary stability of India, according to the NIA charge sheet.

# GANESH FESTIVAL: IDOL IMMERSION PROCESSIONS BEGIN IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Various Ganesh mandals in Mumbai on Thursday started processions to immerse the idols of Ganesh, marking the culmination of the 10-day festival. The processions started amid the beating of drums and chants of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya'.

Crowds gathered at various places in the city to catch a glimpse of their favourite deity, as decked-up idols of Lord Ganesh in various forms and sizes were taken out of pandals for their final journey, accompanied by music, dance and prayers, PTI reported. The festival, which began with 'Ganesh Chaturthi' on

September 19, is set to conclude on the 'Anant Chaturdashi' on



Thursday with the immersion of idols in the Arabian Sea and other water bodies here.

In Mumbai's Lalbaug area, famous for celebrating the festival

with grandeur, the procession of idols of Tejukaya and Ganesh Gully mandals started with chants of 'Ganapati Bappa Morya, Pudhchya Varshi Lavkar Ya' (come soon next

year Lord). The procession of the famous Lalbaugcha Raja idol, which attracts a maximum number of devotees during the 10-day festival, started at around 11.30 am.

A large number of people were seen waiting on both sides of the roads for the final 'darshan' of the idol. Thousands of people gathered on the streets of Lalbaug and other major procession routes of Ganesh idols to bid farewell to the deity with heartfelt prayers and witness the vibrant processions being taken out with music, dance and sprinkling of 'gula' (vermillion powder).

There was also a large gathering of people at Lalbaug's Shroff building to witness 'pushpavusti' (show-ering of flowers) on the Ganesh idols.





EDITOR'S SPECS

WOMEN AT 25% HIGHER RISK OF HEART DISEASES

Indian women are at 25 higher risk of having heart diseases than men, say experts on the eve of World Heart Day. Over the last past two decades, prevalence of heart disease in women has increased by 300 per cent due to various factors. India accounts for 60 of the world's heart disease burden and according to cardiologists, the growing issue of heart disease among Indians is multifaceted. Cardiologists say that on the occasion of World Heart Day, everyone has an opportunity to stop and consider how best to use heart for humanity, for nature and for you. Beating cardiovascular diseases is something that matters to every beating heart. Use heart means to think differently, engage for important causes and learn few things about its potential to unite all of us. Heart is a vital organ that is responsible for pumping nutrient rich blood for the body. It also supplies oxygen while removing toxins and waste. Heart can weigh 289.6 grams for men and 284.7 grams for women that beats 60 -100 times per minute. Blood travel 12,000 miles throughout body each day and heart pumps 2,000 gallons of blood a day. According to studies, India's standardised CVD death rate is higher than the global average rate. Indians have been affected by high rates of diabetes, metabolic syndrome, hypertension and smoking which have increased the demographics of heart problems without prior warning. Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight is one of the best things you can do for your heart. For example, eating well, exercising regularly, staying motivated, being aware and mindful can contribute towards a healthy heart. Most of the women face challenges in accessing quality healthcare, such as cardiovascular screening, preventive care, timely treatment etc.

"Transitioning from Academic Pressure to Hope: Paving the Way for a Brighter Future for India's Youth"

Rubal Bansal

India, a nation celebrated for its dreams and aspirations, confronts a hidden crisis that threatens its future - the alarming rise in youth suicides. Beyond the stark statistics, these are stories of young lives cut short prematurely. In this extensive analysis, we explore compelling global case studies highlighting the crucial roles parents and educational institutions can play in preventing this distressing issue.

The Harsh Reality: In 2020, India witnessed a staggering 1.53 lakh suicides, the highest in a decade, and the highest rate globally. However, it is the continuous surge in youth suicides that is most concerning - a shocking 21.2% increase compared to previous years. These numbers are not just statistics; they represent the dreams and ambitions of our youth aged 15 to 24, accounting for a staggering 35% of all documented suicides.

The Hidden Strain and Durkheim's Theory: Beneath these figures lies the burden of relentless academic pressure, a modern manifestation of Emile Durkheim's concept of egoistic suicide - a phenomenon where individuals succumb to social isolation and the breakdown of social bonds. As our youth navigate the treacherous path of UPSC, NEET, JEE, and SSC examinations, they grapple with expectations that seem insurmountable, mirroring Durkheim's notion of anomic suicide in the face of societal disintegration. In August 2023, a parliamentary panel recommended counseling services for struggling exam-takers, recognizing the urgency of addressing the mental toll exacted by these exams.

UPSC Exam Addresses Youth Suicides: A significant development occurred when the UPSC exam in 2023 included questions about the alarming increase in youth suicides, especially among young women. This acknowledgment of the issue's gravity in a prestigious national exam underscores its importance on the national agenda.

Human Narratives:

- 1. Ravi's Desperation (2015): In a tranquil town in Uttar Pradesh, 19-year-old Ravi, an aspiring engineer, faced overwhelming pressure to excel. His dreams crumbled under the weight of expectations, leading to a tragic demise in 2015. His story reflects the hidden crisis that demands our attention.
2. Priya's NEET Ordeal (2022): Chennai, Tamil Nadu, witnessed the tragic saga of Priya, an 18-year-old with unwavering commitment to her NEET preparations. The fierce competition and escalating stress fractured her fragile mental state. In 2022, she left this world, leaving behind shattered dreams and grieving parents, emphasizing the urgent need for mental health support.
3. Jharkhand Teen's Heartache (September 2023): In September 2023, a teenage student from Jharkhand allegedly took their own life in Kota, Rajasthan, while preparing for the NEET exam. This heart-wrenching incident underscores the pressing need for emotional support for students confronting the daunting challenges of competitive exams.
4. Raj's IIT Aspiration (2019): In the bustling heart of Mumbai, a 21-year-old, Raj, relentlessly pursued a seat at an



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). His unrelenting battle with anxiety and despair culminated in his tragic suicide in 2019, revealing the immense pressure within our educational system.

Identifying Causes and Crafting Solutions:

1. Academic Pressure: The relentless pursuit of academic excellence takes a toll on students' emotional well-being, contributing to Durkheim's concepts of egoistic and anomic suicide. The way forward involves reevaluating curricula to prioritize comprehensive education and offering avenues for students to explore their passions.

2. Financial Strain: The heart-wrenching account of a father's suicide in 2009 to secure his daughter's future underscores the financial burdens families endure. Expanding financial aid and scholarships can alleviate this burden.

3. Mental Health Support: Integrating mental health counseling services within educational institutions is crucial. Students should be encouraged to seek help without fear of judgment.

4. Awareness and Education: Society must unite to dismantle the stigma associated with mental health issues, a pivotal step in addressing egoistic and anomic suicide. Comprehensive awareness campaigns can foster open dialogues.

Government Initiatives:

- 1. Counseling Services for Exam-Takers (August 2023): - A parliamentary panel recommended that the health ministry offer counseling services to students grappling with the emotional toll of exams like NEET, JEE, UPSC, and SSC, acknowledging the urgency of mental health support.
2. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-TALK): - A 24/7 toll-free helpline providing confidential support to those in emotional distress or experiencing suicidal thoughts. Call 800-273-TALK (8255) for immediate assistance.
3. Indian Health Service (IHS) - Suicide Prevention and Care Program: - Offering TeleECHO Mental Health and Resiliency Training, this program provides mental health support and resilience training, especially in tribal communities.

4. Bureau of Indian Education - Suicide Prevention Toolkit: - Tailored for Tribal Child Welfare Programs, this toolkit offers resources and guidance to develop culturally sensitive and effective suicide prevention plans.

5. Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC): - Supported by federal funding, SPRC advances the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Explore the Best Practices Registry for suicide prevention programs and culturally relevant interventions.

The Vital Role of Parents: Parents must serve as pillars of support, nurturing an environment where their children's aspirations can flourish without overwhelming expectations. Open communication channels must remain accessible, aiding parents in understanding and addressing their children's anxieties.

The Responsibilities of Educational Institutions:

Educational institutions in India must prioritize the mental well-being of their students as a fundamental duty. This involves incorporating mental health education into the curriculum, equipping teachers and staff with the tools to recognize signs of emotional distress and suicidal ideation, and fostering a safe, inclusive environment free from discrimination and bullying. Moreover, drawing inspiration from global best practices can be transformative. Examples like the UK's "Mental Health First Aid" program, which trains teachers and staff to identify and support students facing mental health challenges, have fostered cultures of empathy and support while reducing youth suicides. Likewise, Australia's "Positive Education" movement, integrating well-being and character development into the curriculum, has decreased youth suicide rates and promoted holistic education. Norway's "Student Welfare Service" ensures that educational institutions offer counseling and mental health support, creating safer and more inclusive environments. By implementing similar initiatives tailored to the local context, Indian educational institutions can play a pivotal role in safeguarding the mental well-being of the nation's youth, ultimately shaping a brighter future.

Global Lessons for India:

Around the world, parents and educational institutions have been instrumental in supporting their children's mental well-being, as evidenced by global case studies. From Japan's parental involvement to Finland's nurturing approach to parenting and South Korea's initiatives in mental health education, these examples serve as beacons of hope, illuminating the path toward safeguarding the mental well-being of India's youth. As India grapples with this heart-rending epidemic of youth suicides, it becomes a clarion call for self-reflection and transformation. It's a plea for change, a demand for a brighter, more compassionate future. Our nation's destiny hinges on the mental well-being and aspirations of our youth. The time to act, to save lives, and to kindle the promise of our future generations is now.

international

MUSK'S X DISABLES FEATURE TO REPORT MISINFORMATION ABOUT ELECTIONS

San Francisco | Agencies Tech billionaire Elon Musk has disabled a feature on X that let users report misinformation about elections, the media reported on Thursday -- a move which has created furore as several countries like the US, Australia and India gear up for key elections in the next months. The tool, available in the US, Australia and South Korea since 2021, was expanded to other countries last year. According to digital research group Reset.Tech Australia, the move is "extremely concerning", as the country is set to hold a key referendum next month to give Indigenous people more rights as well as the 2024 US presidential elections. "A recent change to your reporting process appears to have left



Australian users unable to report electoral misinformation. This is because the categories for reporting in Australia offer no option to report electoral misinformation," Reset.Tech Australia said in an open letter. "Users are offered inappropriate categories such as hate speech, abuse, spam, imitation etc. Previously Australian users could select 'It's misleading' about the 'Politics' category. This may leave violative content subject to an inappropriate review process and not labelled or removed in compliance with your policies," the letter added. Australian

authorities say the spread of electoral misinformation is the worst it has seen yet, reports the BBC.

"There now appears to be no channel to report electoral misinformation when discovered on your platform," the research group said. Musk or X were yet to comment on the report.

The move could also affect voters' ability to report misinformation ahead of the 2024 US presidential elections.

According to Reset.Tech Australia, the feature remains available in the European Union (EU). A recent EU study claimed that X had the largest "ratio of discoverability" of disinformation.

"My message for X is: you have to comply with the hard law. We'll be watching what you're doing," said Vera Jourva, EU's Values and Transparency Commissioner.

Ottawa | Agencies

On behalf of Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has apologised for honoring a Ukrainian man in Parliament who fought for a Nazi unit during the Second World War.

In a statement on Wednesday, Trudeau said: "This is a mistake that deeply embarrassed parliament and Canada," the BBC reported.

"All of us who were in this House on Friday regret deeply having stood and clapped even though we did so unaware of the context... It was a horrendous violation of the memory of the millions of people who died in the Holocaust."

He said what happened was "deeply, deeply painful" to Jewish people and the many millions who were targeted by the Nazi genocide.

Trudeau also apologised directly to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was visiting Canada and present in Parliament at the time of the incident on September 22, saying: "Canada is deeply sorry."

Zelensky was among those pictured applauding the 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka, who had served in the 14th Waffen-SS Grenadier Division, a voluntary unit made up mostly of ethnic Ukrainians under Nazi command.



The Division members have been accused of killing Polish and Jewish civilians, although the unit has not been found guilty of any war crimes by a tribunal.

In the Canadian Parliament, Hunka got a standing ovation and was praised as a Ukrainian and Canadian "hero".

Trudeau's apology comes a day after Parliament Speaker Anthony Rota, who has assumed responsi-

bility for inviting the veteran, resigned, saying he was not aware of Hunka's Nazi ties.

"The Speaker was solely responsible for the invitation and recognition of this man, and has wholly accepted that responsibility and stepped down," the BBC quoted the Prime Minister as saying in his statement on Wednesday.

The incident has drawn widespread condemnation.

Pierre Poilievre, leader of Canada's opposition Conservative Party, called the incident the "biggest single diplomatic embarrassment" in Canada's history.

Canadian Jewish Organisation Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies has said "questions remain as to how this debacle occurred".

The debacle has also played into Russia's accusations that Ukraine is run by neo-Nazis, even though Zelensky is himself Jewish.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov expressed outrage about the Canadian honour and said: "Many Western countries, including Canada, have raised a young generation that does not know who fought whom or what happened during the Second World War."

Over 50 poisoned at wedding in Iraq

Baghdad | Agencies More than 50 people were poisoned at a wedding in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk due to spoiled food, media reported. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the provincial health chief Ziyad Khalaf as saying on Wednesday that the incident occurred in the town of Hawija, west of Kirkuk, the capital city of the cognominal province, as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

Khalaf said the cases of poisoning ranged from mild to moderate, and all the patients received the necessary medical treatment in the hospital, according to the INA. The incident came a day after a deadly fire ripped through a wedding hall in a predominantly Christian town in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, killing 114 people and injuring more than 200.

N. Korea stipulates nuclear force-building policy in constitution

Seoul | Agencies North Korea has stipulated the policy of strengthening its nuclear force in the constitution at a key parliamentary meeting, as leader Kim Jong-un said trilateral security cooperation between South Korea, the US, and Japan poses "the worst actual threat", state media reported on Thursday. The decision was made at the ninth session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) held on Tuesday and Wednesday, with Kim's attendance, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). At the session, the North unanimously decided to "supplement Article 58 of Chapter 4 of the Socialist Constitution" to ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect region-



al and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level, Kim said. At an SPA meeting in September last year, North Korea enacted a new nuclear law authorizing the preemptive use of nuclear arms, calling its status of a nuclear state "irreversible", reports Yonhap News Agency. Kim also stressed the need to "exponentially" bolster the country's nuclear arsenal and diversify its nuclear strike capability as well as deployment with different branches and units of the armed

forces. He also vowed to strengthen solidarity with countries standing against the US.

His message came as North Korea has been seeking to bolster its ties with China and Russia vis-a-vis the strengthening of security cooperation among Seoul, Washington and Tokyo.

Earlier this month, Kim also traveled to Russia on his armored train for talks with Vladimir Putin amid concerns about a possible arms deal between the two nations.

Travis King in US custody after expulsion by N. Korea: Washington officials

Washington/Seoul | Agencies

Pvt. Travis King, an American soldier who crossed the inter-Korean border into North Korea in July, is in US custody after his release by the reclusive nation, capping an intense diplomatic operation facilitated by Sweden and China, senior administration officials in Washington have confirmed.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, the officials said Pvt. King has been transferred out of North Korea across the border with China, and that he appears to be "in good health and good spirits" ahead of his return home, reports Yonhap News Agency.

The announcement on his release came shortly after the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Pyongyang decided to "expel" him following a probe, during which the outlet said he confessed to having "illegally intruded" into the North's territory.

King crossed the military demarcation line separating Korea during a tour to the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on July 18 -- a rare unauthorized trip that led to his detention in the North.

"We are very pleased to announce this morning... the US government has successfully facilitated Pvt. Travis King's departure from the DPRK," a senior official said.

DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We are grateful to the Swedish government for its diplomatic role in serving as the protecting power for the US in the DPRK and to the government of the People's Republic of



China for its assistance in facilitating the safe transit of Pvt. King," the official added.

Having left the North, King arrived in the Chinese border city of Dandong and flew to another Chinese city, Shenyang, and then to Osan Air Base in South Korea, where he was transferred to the Department of Defense, before departing for the US, according to the Department of State.

Hours earlier, KCNA said North Korean authorities conducted an investigation, where he said he had "ill feelings" about the US military and society. "Travis King confessed that he illegally intruded into the territory of the DPRK as he harbored ill feeling against inhuman maltreatment and racial discrimination within the US army and was disillusioned about the unequal US society," KCNA said in its report.

"The relevant organ of the DPRK decided to expel Travis King."





## Ujjain rape case

# FAMILY IN SATNA HAD LODGED MISSING REPORT, FOUR MORE DETAINED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 12-year-old mentally challenged girl, who was raped in Ujjain and begged people for help, has been identified and her family traced in Satna district, said police on Thursday, adding that four more people have been detained.

The police claimed that the girl hails from Madhya Pradesh's Satna district and a missing complaint had been registered by her family.

Briefing the media on Thursday, Ujjain Superintendent of Police (SP) Sachin Sharma said the girl travelled from Satna to Ujjain on September 25. However, it was yet to be ascertained whether she travelled to Ujjain by train or bus.

"A missing complaint of the girl was registered at a police station in Satna on September 24," Sharma added.

Sharma said that four more suspects -- those who came in contact with the girl from Satna to Ujjain -- have been detained for interrogation.

"There is a gap of five-six hours after the girl reached Ujjain and the brutal crime took place against her. When we compiled the chain of evidence collected through our different teams of police, we found that four-five people came in her contact from Satna to Ujjain. And they all have been detained," Sharma added.

The SP further said a special team of 28 police personnel has been formed to investigate the case. Teams have been assigned different tasks. "Our teams inspected bus and railway stations, auto stands and some other places. CCTV footage and some other tech-



nical evidence was collected, subsequently, when this evidence was examined, it suggested that the girl had reached Ujjain from Satna," Sharma added.

## GAVE HER CLOTHES, CALLED COPS: UJJAIN PRIEST WHO HELPED TEEN RAPE SURVIVOR

Ujjain: The priest in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, who came to the rescue of a 15-year-old rape survivor, has described the horrifying state she was in when he found her. Rahul Sharma is associated with an ashram in Badnagar road, about 15 km from Ujjain city.

Around 9.30 am on Monday, he was leaving the ashram for some work when he spotted the girl, bleeding and half-naked, near the gates. "I gave her my clothes. She was bleeding. She could not speak. Her eyes were swollen. I called 100. When I could not reach the cops over the helpline, I contacted the Mahakal police station and informed them about the situation. Police reached the ashram in about 20 minutes," he said.

He said further investigation will proceed on the basis of interrogation of the suspects detained in connection with the case.

"We are very close to solving this case, but the investigation is still underway," the SP said.

Speaking about the victim's health condition, Sharma said that she has recovered and her condition was much better than previous days. Notably, the victim's private part was brutalised and she was referred to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College (MGMC) Indore where surgery was conducted.

"As per the doctors' latest update, the victim has recovered and is better. As surgery was conducted successfully, she is still under observation of the doctors," he added.

On Wednesday police had detained an auto-driver.

## PEOPLE GAVE RS 50-100: COP

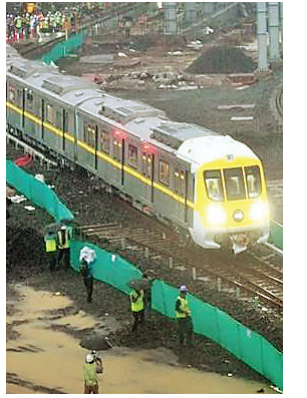
Ujjain: A minor girl, raped and bleeding, went from door-to-door seeking help but was turned away, shows security footage from a neighbourhood in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain.

Ujjain police chief Sachin Sharma, responding to reports that residents refused to help the 15-year-old, disagreed, saying they did help her with money. A grand total of Rs 120. "There were mixed responses. People in the localities she passed through had helped her. Some gave her Rs 50, others gave Rs 100. She crossed a toll booth on the way. The staff there gave her money and some clothes. At least 7-8 people tried to help," the officer told a news channel.

## Metro train trial run on 30th September in Indore and 3rd October in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that metro train facility in huge cities of Madhya Pradesh is an important achievement in terms of easy transportation for the citizens. The continuous work being done in several shifts has been completed. The auspicious time has come for the trial run of metro trains in Indore and Bhopal.



Preparations for the trial run of the metro train in the state's largest city Indore on September 30 have been completed.

Chief Minister Chouhan through video conference, sought information from Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation MD Manish Singh and Collector Indore Ilaiah Raja T about the preparations made for the metro train trial run in Indore.

Chief Minister Chouhan, along with regional MP Shankar Lalwani and other public representatives will be present in the trial run programme in Indore. The trial in Indore will be of 6 kilometers. The metro train will have three coaches. Its total passenger capacity will be 900. In future, 25 metro trains which will carry about seven lakh passengers will operate in Indore.

**Trial run in Bhopal on 3rd October**  
Chief Minister Chouhan

also sought information about the preparations for the metro train trial run in Bhopal. Corporation MD Manish Singh said that world class advanced technology has been used for the metro train. Advanced quality coaches have been manufactured. All necessary works have been completed before the metro train trial run in the capital. Preparations are being made for the trial run from Rani Kamalapati Railway Station to Subhash Nagar in Bhopal. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh and public representatives will be present in the trial run programme in Bhopal.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the staff members involved in the work of starting the metro train facility in Bhopal and Indore deserve appreciation. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and senior officials were present in the meeting.

## Suggestions received by officers and employees will be implemented: Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government has sensitively taken important steps for the welfare of officers and employees of various cadres. Along with the regular employees, the interests of the staff engaged in other types of services have been taken care of. New suggestions received will also be implemented to benefit government servants. In this sequence, if necessary, a committee will be formed for grade pay and other suggestions.

Chief Minister Chouhan was discussing with various



representatives of officers and employees who came to meet him today. Officials of Madhya Pradesh Administrative Service Association, Madhya Pradesh Revenue Officers Association and Mantralaya Karmachari Sangh met Chief Minister Chouhan

today at the Chief Minister's residence. The officials included in this delegation led by Rajesh Gupta, Rajendra Jain and Subhash Verma also expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Chouhan for the employee welfare decisions taken so far.

## DISPUTE OVER 9TH CENTURY KING MIHIR BHOJ'S LEGACY ESCALATES AGAIN IN POLL-BOUND MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A dispute over the legacy of 9th century king Mihir Bhoj has again erupted in Madhya Pradesh with just over a month to go for the crucial state Assembly polls.

The fresh round of controversy erupted after a mahapanchayat of the Gurjar community held in Gwalior on September 25.

The mahapanchayat, which was attended by several politicians, including MLAs belonging to the Gurjar community from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, was called to strengthen their voice over the monarch's legacy.

Fuelling tensions again in the Gwalior-Chambal region ahead of the Assembly elections, the mahapanchayat turned nasty as the participants went on a rampage at the District Collector's (DC) office, pelting stones, and damaging vehicles, including those of the DC and Superintendent of Police.

Police had to use lathi charge and tear gas shells to control the crowd.

Some police personnel, as well as at least a dozen protesters, were injured as a result of the violence.



Later, about two dozen of protesters were detained and 35 leaders of the Gurjar community were booked under the charges of rioting and attacking public servants.

The Gwalior police have lodged an FIR against BSP MP from Bijnor Malook Nagar, SP MLA from

Sardhna Atul Pradhan and sitting Congress leader from Morena Rakesh Mawai.

Although the debate over Mihir Bhoj's legacy was centuries old as reports suggest, a fresh controversy in Madhya Pradesh erupted after a life-size statue of the king was installed in Gwalior city's Chirwal area in 2019.

The Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC) prefixed the word "Gurjar" with the inscription of Mihir Bhoj's name on a plinth of the life-size statue, which did not go down well with the Rajput community. The mention of the word paved the way for a dispute between the Rajputs and Gurjars as the two communities claim Mihir Bhoj's legacy.

In 2021, the dispute reached the Madhya Pradesh High Court and since then the Chirwal area has been declared a prohibited zone and police personnel have deployed for the security. However, the dispute over the matter continued to escalate between these two communities in Gwalior where both the communities have a sizeable population. On their part, the Gurjars argued that Mihir Bhoj belonged to the community and therefore the word "Gurjar" needed to be added with his name on all his statues across the country.

## AMIT SHAH TO VISIT BHOPAL ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS POLL STRATEGY

Team Absolute | New

Delhi/Bhopal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Bhopal on Sunday to attend party meetings, take feedback from candidates and discuss strategy with the state leaders for the upcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, said sources close to the party.

Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Bhopal on October 1 at 11:30 am and will stay for approximately three hours, sources said.

He will also conduct separate meetings at the party headquarters with senior leaders.

Notably, Shah's visit before the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct is deemed significant.



So far, the BJP has released three lists of candidates in Madhya Pradesh, with 39 names in the first and second lists and only one name

announced in the third list. In total, 79 candidates have been announced in these three lists, out of a total of 230 assembly seats, while the names for the remaining 151 seats in the state are yet to be disclosed.

The BJP on Tuesday released its third list containing a single candidate for the forthcoming assembly polls in the state.

The party also announced the list for the Schedule Tribe (ST) reserved Amarwara assembly constituency in Chhindwara district.

Earlier on Monday evening, BJP released its second list of 39 candidates for the forthcoming assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh which includes four party MPs (Member of Parliament) and three Union Ministers.

## Chief Minister Chouhan planted banyan, gular and jamun saplings Best wishes extended to the players for their best performance in the national games

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in the garden located at Shyamala Hills along with social workers, sportspersons, journalists and environment lovers. Chief Minister Chouhan planted banyan, gular and jamun saplings along with the citizens in Smart Udyan. Sant Kumar Banjara, Uttam Singh Banjara, Bunty Banjara, Bhure Singh Banjara, Parmar Singh and Ashish of Gwalior Banjara Samaj also planted saplings. Girl child Anshika, accompanied by father Amkeshwar



Mishra, mother Anjali and brother Anshul along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings and celebrated her birthday.

Similarly, journalist Syed Zahid Mir also planted saplings on his birthday accompanied by his wife Mehboob Jahan Mir.

## Priyanka questions Ladli Behna scheme's relevance if girls not safe in MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday condemned the rape of a 12-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh and asserted that girls, women, Dalits and tribals are unsafe in the 20 years of BJP's "misgovernance".

She also questioned the need of announcing the 'Ladli Behna' scheme ahead of elections, if girls are not safe.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Priyanka Gandhi said, "The barbarity meted out to a small girl in Ujjain, the city of Lord Mahakal, is soul-shattering. After the torture, she kept wandering from door to door for help for



two and a half hours and then fell unconscious on the road but could not get help." "This is Madhya Pradesh's law and order and women's safety? Girls, women, tribals and Dalits are not safe in the 20 years of BJP's misgovernance. What is the use of making election announce-

ments in the name of 'Ladli Behna' if girls can't even get safety and help," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Her remarks came two days after a mentally-challenged minor girl was brutally raped, and faced people's apathy while seeking people's help in Ujjain.

## Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for giving new generation a true sense of history in right perspective

MAHARANA PRATAP INSPIRES US TO FULFIL DUTIES IN ALL ODDS. GRAND MEMORIAL OF MAHARAJ CHHATRASAL TO BE BUILT AT MAU SAHANIYA (CHHATARPUR). FOUNDATION OF MAHARANA PRATAP MEMORIAL LAID

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is responsibility of the state government to give knowledge history

in right perspective to the new generation. Maharana Pratap, an embodiment of bravery, fulfilled his responsibility and duty despite hardships and inspired the future generations. Maharana Pratap's biography, patriotism, and his sacrifice will be presented to the future generations at the proposed Maharana Pratap Memorial. This will be a source of inspiration to them. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of Maharana Pratap Memorial near Taty Tope Stadium, Bhopal. The Chief Minister Chouhan laid the foundation of Maharana Pratap Memorial.

The Chief Minister said that the Maharana Pratap, who sacrificed everything for the mother nation is known for his bravery and sacrifice.



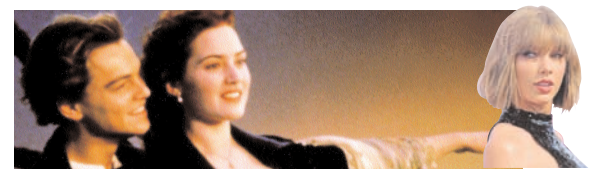
Maharana Pratap Memorial will symbolise patriotism and social harmony. Remembering the contribution of Bundelkhand's pride Maharaj Chhatrasal ji, Chief Minister Chouhan announced that a grand memorial will be built at the samadhi of Maharaj Chhatrasal, Mau Sahaniya (Chhatarpur). Besides, the existing museum in Dhubela will be enriched. Referring to the bravery of Maharana Pratap, Chief Minister Chouhan said that he was courageous since childhood. Maharana Pratap took over the reins

as the ruler of Mewar. The Mughals would be terrified to face Maharana on the battlefield. Maharana Pratap opposed the expansionist policy of the Mughal Empire and fought bravely in many major battles against Akbar, including the battle of Haldighati in the year 1576.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Jhalman, Bhil Sardar Punja and his army, Ramshah Tanwar of Gwalior and his sons, Hakim Khan Sur and Bhamashah had risked their lives to protect the personality of Maharana Pratap. Maharana Pratap never bowed before the Mughals.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that Maharana Pratap Memorial is the result of Chief Minister Chouhan's sense of being connected to the public and his foresight.





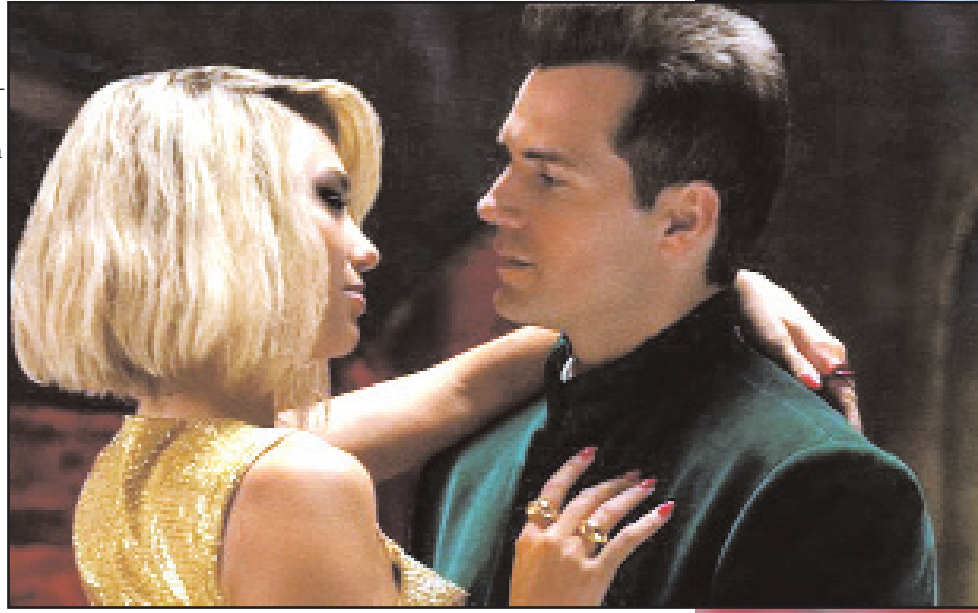
## 'Argylle' trailer presents Henry Cavill, Dua Lipa in an actioner with twist

Los Angeles | Agencies

The trailer of the upcoming film 'Argylle', which was unveiled on Thursday, is as dynamic and wacky as it could get. The trailer begins with a dance-off between Henry Cavill and Dua Lipa before they're thrown into fierce action with gunshots, chase, explosions, crash and pretty much everything that makes up the genre of action but, there's a twist.

All this is happening inside a book written by its lead character of Elly Conway - an author by profession. As Elly, played by Bryce Dallas Howard, boards a train, she meets a detective who happens to be her fan but this is where the real game starts as Conway learns that she is the hot target of assassins because of what she has been writing, and it's majorly because whatever she pens down, comes to life. So now the assassins are on a hot pursuit of her with her fan/detective played by Sam Rockwell coming to her and her pet cat's rescue, and the viewers are again thrown into a heady mix of action which consists of jumping from heights, high speed chase and also a reference to the Inglourious Basterds or rather the 'Bomb Theory' of Alfred Hitchcock as the assassins led by the 'Breaking Bad' star Bryan Cranston search for Elly and the detective hiding underneath a wooden floor but the cat gives it away.

Elly finally learns of her prophecy in her writing as she is introduced to the real agent Argylle - drum rolls - Henry Cavill. The other members of the star-studded cast includes Catherine O'Hara, John Cena, Ariana DeBose and Samuel L. Jackson. The film has been directed and produced by Matthew Vaughn, and written by Jason Fuchs. The film will bow in theatres on February 2, next year.



## Idris Elba thinks video games can help make the world a better place

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Idris Elba thinks video games have the power to change the world. The 51-year-old actor, who stars as Solomon Reed in 'Cyberpunk 2077: Phantom Liberty', a new spy-thriller game, thinks the industry actually has the potential to shine a light on humanitarian issues, reports aceshowbiz.com. "Games have exactly the same tool sets, if not more, to engage people in things they don't understand. If you want to use gaming as a portal to education, to interface between one culture and another, it's a really interesting place to do this. I'm sure there are companies that are looking at it, but anyone who can get that right ... and educate cultures about other cultures is a winner," the movie star told the BBC. Elba actually found shooting his part for the game to be surprisingly challenging. The London-born star said, "It was different and it's multifaceted. There was a component of real performance in CGI and motion capture, and that was the beginning ... of this journey. Then there was obviously the voice component."

"My character is very central to the storyline ... so their approach to me was, 'Listen, this is not going to be easy. This is a big game for us and a big character so we want someone that has a certain type of gravitas.' Elba is a life-long gaming enthusiast and he's now keen to play 'Cyberpunk 2077: Phantom Liberty' after putting "so much work into it." He shared, "I play video games a lot and have done for most of my life. I had an Amstrad back in the day and pretty much every other console. I'm not one to watch my own performances, but I will play this game. I put so much work into it for years."



Angelina Jolie was 'saved' by her children

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie feels she would have "gone under" if she didn't have her children to live for. She told America's Vogue magazine: "I was 26 when I became a mother. My entire life changed." The actress said that her "entire life changed" when she adopted her eldest son and believes now she would have "gone under" if she didn't have her children to live for. She told America's Vogue magazine: "I was 26 when I became a mother. My entire life changed." Having children saved me-and taught me to be in this world differently. I think, recently, I would've gone under in a much darker way had I not wanted to live for them." The 48-year-old actress is proud of the people her children have grown to become, particularly the roles they have taken on in their family. Angelina said: "They're better than me, because you want your children to be. Of course I'm the mother, and hopefully that safe place for them and that stability. "But I'm also the one that they laugh at-and I see them taking over so many different aspects of our family." Angelina herself was "quite dark" as a teenager and didn't care what other people thought of her "punk" style.



## Hailey Bieber scolded by restaurant employee over parking

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Hailey Bieber got into another controversy with her parking habit. In a viral TikTok video, the model could be seen getting yelled at by a restaurant employee for parking her car in the wrong spot in Paris, reports aceshowbiz.com. The clip saw Hailey, wife of Justin Bieber, getting out of her car, which was parked in a handicap spot during a night outing. Followed by a bodyguard, the 26-year-old supermodel could be seen making her way when someone was heard calling out the star. "Go ahead, I'll call the cops right away. You shouldn't do this," the employee said in French. "Even the President of France doesn't do this. No, no, no, it's not classy. What is this mess." Despite that, the Rhode Skin founder appeared to ignore the employee. Upon watching the video, fans were quick to criticise Hailey. "The entitlement is insane for those saying they should get mad at the driver, that driver driving her around is on her payroll so she definitely has a say and responsibility of the driver," one internet user said. "Mean girl behaviour as usual," another added. Someone else criticised, "Are we surprised? She parks in spots for people with disabilities along with Kendall while they go for yoga. Being in Paris does not mean you have decorum." One other noted, "This woman has no sense at all. All she want is attention, so sad to see this." Another comment read, "Hailey Bieber has been copying people and doing whatever she wants to for years and she thinks the world belongs to her." This wasn't the first time Hailey faced backlash for her bad habit of parking. Back in February 2022, Hailey and her fellow model Kendall Jenner caught heat when they parked their expensive cars in handicap spots at Pilates.

## Arnold Schwarzenegger says his 'abusive' dad helped to inspire his success

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger grew up in a small town in Austria, and the actor said his difficult childhood actually helped to shape his personality. In his new motivational book, 'Be Useful: Seven Tools for Life', excerpts of which have been shared with People, Arnold explains: "My mother was very loving. My father was strict, and he could be physically abusive, but I loved him very much. It was complicated." He shared that he thinks a lot about how different his life could have been if he "wasn't a positive person, if I'd responded differently to my upbringing in Thal. I didn't have a hot shower or regular meat in my diet until I left for the army as a teenager," reports femalefirst.co.uk. The actor said: "My daily morning routine involved fetching water and chopping firewood, which was brutal in the wintertime and earned me exactly zero sympathy from my father, who'd been through much worse when he was a kid. There were no free passes in Gustav Schwarzenegger's house. No free meals either. I had to do two hundred knee bends every morning just to 'earn' my breakfast." Arnold learned some important life lessons from his childhood struggles. The actor, who moved to the US in the 1960s, shared: "Even with the undeniably bad things, I choose to remember that they were a big part of what drove me to escape, to achieve, to become the person I am today." "If my childhood was just a little bit better, you might not be holding this book right now. And if it was a little bit worse, you might not be holding it either, because I could have fallen down the same rabbit hole of alcoholism that my brother fell down, which eventually cost him his life in a drunk-driving accident in 1971. I owe a lot to my upbringing. I was made for it and made by it."



Ashley Roberts







## Asian Games

# Pistol shooters bag gold in Men's 10m Team event; fifth gold in shooting so far



Hangzhou | Agencies

The Indian trio Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal won a gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Team shooting in the Asian Games on Thursday as India continued to reap medals at the shooting range at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, here.

After a sensational day on Wednesday when the Indian shooters won 7 medals including two gold, the pistol shooters continued India's brilliant run by winning the fourth gold medal in shooting here.

Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal finished with a combined score of 1734, with a whopping 50 hits in the inner 10 circle, to win gold ahead of China (1733-62x) and Vietnam (1730-59x).

The Indians scored 284 in the first series and then added 287, 291, 294, 290 and 288 in the remaining five.

This is India's sixth gold medal overall in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

In the team competition, Sarabjot shot the best score for the Indians, 580 while Arjun Singh shot 578 and Shiva had 576.

However, Sarabjot and Arjun Singh Cheema could not replicate their performance in the Individual section, finishing fourth and eighth respectively.

Sarabjot had his chances in the Individual event too and was in contention for the bronze medal but a poor 8.8 on his 19th shot put paid to his hopes as he got eliminated with a score of 219.9. He said the aim for him now is to participate in the Asian championship and hope to grab a quota place for Paris Olympics.

## Roshibina Devi wins silver medal in wushu

Hangzhou | Agencies

Naorem Roshibina Devi made history for India in the Asian Game Wushu completions on Thursday, winning a medal in the second successive Games. But the colour of the medal was not what she had wanted and works hard for.

Roshibina won a silver in the Women's Sanda 60kg wushu at the Xiaoshan Geuli Sports Centre in Hangzhou after losing to home favourite Wu Xiaowei of China 0-2 in the final.

Roshibina, who had won a bronze medallist in the same weight category in the 2018 Asian Games, had reached the final by beating Thi Thu Thuy Ngeyen of Vietnam on Wednesday, out up a good fight initially but made some mistakes that helped the Chinese opponent the chance to score two points



## Anush Agarwala wins historic bronze in Dressage Individual

Hangzhou | Agencies

Anush Agarwala made history for India in the Asian Games equestrian championships on Thursday by winning the bronze medal in the Dressage Individual competition at the Tonglu Equestrian Centre in Hangzhou. Agarwala finished third atop his horse Etro as he finished with a 73.030 percentage score as he took the bronze medal behind Malaysia's Bin Mohammad Fathil Mohd Qabil Ambak who topped the standings with a 75.780 percentage score while Hong Kong China's Jacqueline Wing Ying Siu claimed the silver medal with 73.450 percentage score in Intermediate I Freestyle competition. Anush Agarwala thus became the first Indian to win an Individual medal in dressage in Asian Games. All of India's medals before Hangzhou came in Eventing, show jumping and tent pegging. But on Thursday, Anush Agarwala added the Dressage Individual bronze to the gold medal that he along with Hriday Chheta, Sudipti Hajela and Divyakriti Singh bagged in the Dressage Team competition a couple of days ago. India was unlucky to miss a gold medal in this event as Chheta was eliminated from the competition on Thursday.



## Saketh-Ramkumar pair storm into men's doubles final

Hangzhou | Agencies

India will defend its men's doubles title at the Asian Games as Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni made the final at Hangzhou after beating Korean duo of Soonwoo Kwon and Seongchan Hong, here on Thursday. The second-seeded Indian pair beat the Korean duo 6-1, 7-6, (10-0) in the semifinal played at HOC Tennis Centre. The Indian team easily secured the first set, but the Korean pair stepped up their game in the second set, matching Ramanathan and Myneni's level of play to even the match. However, during the 10-point tiebreaker, the Indian duo dominated, winning every point and securing their spot in the final. Ramanathan and Myneni will take on Chinese Taipei's Yu-hsiou Hsu and Jason Jung in the gold medal match on Friday. In the 2018 edition, held in Jakarta, Palembang (Indonesia) ace player Rohan Bopanna with his partner Divij Sharan clinched a gold after in the men's doubles tennis by defeating Kazakhstan's Aleksandr and Denis.

## Men's ODI WC

# Ravichandran Ashwin replaces Axar Patel in India's final squad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was impressive on his return to ODI cricket in the recently concluded series against Australia, replaced left-arm spinner Axar Patel in India's final 15-member squad for the ICC Men's ODI World Cup, International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday. Ashwin was a part of the 2011 and 2015 editions of the World Cup for India. In the tournament Down Under, he scalped 13 wickets in eight matches in India's run into the semi-final. Previously, Axar was part of the 2015 squad and is now all set to miss out on his second ODI World Cup after sustaining a left quadriceps strain during India's Asia Cup Super Four encounter against Bangladesh, subsequently missing the final of the continental event. India have banked on the experience of Ashwin to fill the void left by Axar.



Additionally, Ashwin brings in an off-spinning option that was previously missing in India's World Cup squad, which could prove to be crucial in the 46-day-long tournament when pitches begin to deteriorate.

# Indian men's hockey secure solid 4-2 win over defending champions Japan

Hangzhou | Agencies

Indian men's hockey team on Thursday continued their winning run at the 19th Asian Games, defeating the defending champions Japan 4-2 in their third Pool A match.

Abhishek (13', 48'), Mandeep Singh (24'), and Amit Rohidas (34') scored the goals for India to help their side get an important victory. Genki Mitani (57'), and Ryosei Kato (60') scored the goals for Japan. India began the match with Jarmanpreet Singh making dangerous overlapping runs from the right flank to trouble the opposition. Japan's defence was tested when Jarmanpreet picked up a long pass inside the striking circle and found Sukhjeet Singh in front of the nets. But the tap from Sukhjeet just went wide. A late penalty corner from Japan was well defended by goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak. A minute later, Abhishek (13') picked a deflected pass, and quickly turned around to strike the ball into the nets, putting India ahead by a goal to end the first quarter.

Trailing by a goal, Japan started searching for the equaliser with attacking moves. But Sumit made an important save inside the circle to deflect away the



danger. Mandeep and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay built pressure on Japan's defence with powerful shots on target. Mandeep (24') scored a fantastic goal with a diving tap after receiving a sublime pass from Nilakanta Sharma, and India doubled their lead. India continued to threaten up front, but Japan's

defence managed to hold off India to 2-0 at half-time. At the start of the second half, Japan started maintaining ball possession and made dangerous raids inside the circle. But the rock-solid Indian defence kept their calm and did not allow Japan any momentum in attack. India made the most of an early penalty corner in the third quarter as Amit (34') found the nets with a powerful flick and India went 3-0 up over Japan. Kosei Kawabe created a chance to get a shot on target, but the Indian goalkeeper made another stellar save to maintain three-goal lead by the end of the third quarter. A perfect counter-attack early on in the final quarter led to Abhishek (48') turning the ball into the nets, after combination play with Mandeep inside the circle, and India went ahead by 4-0. Japan made a dangerous run inside India's circle, but Sumit made another important save to deny the opposition. Japan finally found a goal from a penalty corner late in the fourth quarter as Genki (57') put his name on the scoresheet. Ryosei (60') scored another goal for Japan at the stroke of the full-time whistle, but it was not enough to change the result as India secured a 4-2 win. India will next face off against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday.

# National Motorcycle Racing Championship Round-4 from Sep 29 at Madras International Circuit

Team Absolute | Chennai

History will be scripted in the fourth round of the Indian Motorcycle Racing Championship 2023 to be held at the Madras International Circuit on September 29-October 1 with the debut of a battery-powered electric two-wheeler, specifically developed for track racing, and the first of its kind in the country. The TVS Apache RTE (Racing Throttle Electric) will be seen in action with eight hand-picked riders astride the 200cc bikes in a separate category called TVS E Invitation Race. These e-bikes will feature in two practice and qualifying practice sessions of 12 minutes apiece to decide the grid for the four-lap race slated for Sunday. The weekend programme also features races in the National Championship Pro-Stock Open (301-400cc and 165cc), Novice (Stock 165cc), and Girls (Stock 165cc) classes besides the Petronas TVS One-Make Championship (301-400cc Open and Girls) and Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R).



and 165cc), Novice (Stock 165cc), and Girls (Stock 165cc) classes besides the Petronas TVS One-Make Championship (301-400cc Open and Girls) and Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R).

# Girona move top of La Liga after Villarreal win

Madrid | Agencies

Girona are the new leaders of La Liga after a 2-1 win away to Villarreal. Although Dani Parejo's 48th-minute penalty had put Villarreal ahead, the Catalan side saw Artem Dovbyk's header draw them level in the 55th minute, with new FC Barcelona loanee Eric Garcia following up with a winning header from a free kick, reports Xinhua. Real Madrid move second with a 2-0 win at home to Las Palmas, with Brahim Diaz justifying his first start of the season by putting them ahead in first-half injury time. Joselu sealed the win for Real Madrid early in the second half, although Carlo Ancelotti's side were again guilty of wasting chances against the recently-promoted side.



Athletic Bilbao and Getafe drew an entertaining game 2-2, with the home side taking the lead thanks to Yuri's thumping free kick.

However, Oihan Sancet was sent off for a high foot in first-half injury time, and Getafe leveled early in the second half when Gaston Alvarez's

header took a big deflection on its way to goal. Inaki Williams scored an excellent individual goal to put 10-man Athletic back ahead, but another header from Juan Latasa in the 82nd minute earned Getafe a point, before Getafe coach Jose Bordalas was sent off in injury time after apparently telling one of his players to feign injury. Carlos Fernandez scored the only goal of the game as Real Sociedad won 1-0 away to Valencia, with the visitors seeing seven yellow cards and Valencia's Selim Amallah sent off in a bad-tempered affair. Cadiz and Rayo Vallecano drew 0-0 in an even match with both sides guilty of spurning chances and Rayo ending with 10 men after Abdul Mumin's 88th-minute red card. On Tuesday, FC Barcelona drew 2-2 in Mallorca, while Sevilla won 5-1 at home to Almeria.

# 'Overwhelmed with the love and support': Babar Azam awestruck by reception in India

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Pakistan captain Babar Azam was overwhelmed with the love and support from the Indians when the Men in Green landed here for the ICC World Cup 2023, to be held in India from October 5 to November 19. Babar took to his social media account and wrote, "Overwhelmed with the love and support here in Hyderabad."

Earlier, Shaheen Shah Afridi also lauded the Indians for their warm reception for the Pakistani cricketers.

The Pakistan cricket team landed in Hyderabad on Wednesday night amid tight security. The team flew into the city via Dubai for the first tour to India in seven years.

After landing at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, the players and support staff boarded the special bus and checked into a star hotel in the city.



Babar Azam and some other players were seen waving at a few supporters and media persons. A few security personnel also took pictures with the players on their mobile phones. Star pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was seen chatting with a police officer.

## Inter fall to first defeat in Serie A

Rome | Agencies

Inter Milan saw their perfect record in Serie A come to an end as they squandered a 1-0 lead to fall 2-1 to Sassuolo at San Siro. Inter had managed five Serie A wins in as many matches and only conceded one goal before Wednesday, while Sassuolo stunned Juventus 4-2 on the previous matchday, reports Xinhua. The home side created a couple of chances and broke the deadlock before the break when Denzel Dumfries shook off a defender to place a left-footed effort into the net. However, Sassuolo turned around the game in the space of nine minutes when Domenico Berardi laid off for Nedim Bajrami to drill home, before Berardi took matters into his own hands by unleashing a blockbuster from outside the box. In stark contrast, AC Milan fought back from 1-0 down to defeat Cagliari 3-1, as the Rossoneri's new signings Noah Okafor and Ruben Loftus-Cheek got their maiden Serie A goals to add to



Fikayo Tomori's tap-in. The win, coupled with Inter's defeat, allowed AC Milan to move level with their city rivals on 15 points, but they still rank second due to an inferior goal difference. Elsewhere, Napoli ended their poor run by easing past Udinese 4-1. Despite his troubles with the club's hierarchy, Victor Osimhen was among the goals, while Khvicha Kvaratskhelia also notched his first goal of the season. Also on Wednesday, Lazio beat Torino 2-0, Atalanta edged Hellas Verona 1-0 away, and Empoli registered their first win by defeating Salernitana 1-0.

## India enter quarterfinals of BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships

Spokane (US) | Agencies

Indian badminton team continued their impressive run at the BWF World Junior Championships to enter the quarterfinals in the mixed team event after securing a commanding 4-1 win over Germany in their final Group D match. The Indian shuttlers were outstanding against the German team on Wednesday as the pair of Sathwik Reddy Kanapuram and Vaishnavi Khadkekar gave India an early lead with a thrilling 21-13, 23-21 win over David Eckerlin and Amelie Lehmann in the mixed doubles match. In the boys' singles event Ayush Shetty powered to victory against Luis Pongratz with commanding scores of 21-12, 21-7, displaying his dominance on the court. In the girls' singles, Unnati Hooda displayed her prowess, securing a convincing 21-12, 21-11 victory against defeating Selin Hubsch, leav-



ing no room for Germany to come-back. Later in the closely contested match in the boys' doubles show-down, Divyam Arora and Nicholas Raj fell short against opponents David Eckerlin and Simon Krax with scores of 18-21, 21-18, 18-21.

On the other hand, the girls' doubles pairing of Vennala Kalagotla and Shriyanshi Valishetty brought their A-game, securing a 21-15, 21-18 victory against Amelie Lehmann and Cara Siebrecht. This victory against Germany solidifies India's position as the group leader and also guarantees place in the quarterfinals where they are set to face Malaysia.





## Breshna Khan to play lead in Santosh Sivan's period drama set in Kashmir



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Breshna Khan, who is known for her work in the Raveena Tandon-starrer 'Aranyak', and the streaming shows 'Escapade Live', and 'The Freelancer', will now be seen in Santosh Sivan's untitled project. The actress has already shot for her first schedule and will soon be starting the shoot for the next. The film is a period drama and consists of three acts, Breshna will play the lead in the first act and will continue to have an overarching presence throughout the film. Talking about the film, the actress said, "It's a periodic film based 500 years back in Kashmir, directed by Santosh Sivan. The story is divided into three acts and I'm playing one of the leads in the first act who's going to remain a key character throughout the film and appear in flashbacks and dream sequences after the first act." Breshna further mentioned, "This is something completely different from what I've done before, from the way I'm presented by Santosh sir (which is a dream come true) to the genre." Santosh Sivan is one of the most celebrated Indian cinematographers with 12 National Film Awards, 4 Kerala State Film Awards and 3 Tamil Nadu State Film Awards to his credit. He has directed the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Asoka' and most recently the Vijay Sethupathi-starrer 'Mumbaikar', and has worked in Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi cinema.

## Rajkumar Hirani hilariously asks SRK to come out of the bathroom to watch trailer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani jokingly asked Shah Rukh Khan to come out of the bathroom during the superstar's #AskSRK session.

SRK was doing a question and answer session on X (formerly Twitter), where Hirani hilariously asked: "Sirji ab bathroom se bahar aa jao. Kya kar rahe ho? Trailer dikhana hain. #AskSRK"

To which, SRK, who is known for his wit and humour, replied: "Oh Shh%. Coming sir...doston se baat kar raha tha!!! Sorry boys and girls have to rush now. Varna #Dunki se nikaal denge!!! Thanks for ur time boys and girls. See u in the theatres



very very soon. Love u all. So much to do less time to talk to you....Muah." Shah Rukh has currently delivered back-to-back blockbusters with 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'. He now awaits the release of his next 'Dunki', by Hirani.

SRK confirmed that 'Dunki' which stars Taapsee Pannu oppo-

site him, is all set to bow in the theatres this Christmas.

With this, SRK has become the only star in the history of Bollywood to bring his film on national events like the Republic Day with 'Pathaan', on Janmashtami with 'Jawan' and now on Christmas with 'Dunki'.

'Dunki', the details of which are currently under the wraps, is directed by superstar director Rajkumar Hirani, who is known for the 'Munna Bhai' franchise, '3 Idiots', 'PK' and 'Sanju'.

'Dunki' marks first collaboration between SRK and Raju Hirani, the latter has otherwise collaborated more with superstar Aamir Khan on '3 Idiots' and 'PK'.

## Nikki Sharma: Acting is my passion, but singing is a part of my soul

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nikki Sharma, who has been making waves with her portrayal of the character Shakti in the show 'Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti', is also a gifted singer as well.

'Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti' explores the healing power of love in a contemporary take on the Shiv-Shakti dynamic. Produced by Studio LSD Productions, with a stellar cast led by Arjun Bijlani as Shiv and Nikki as Shakti, the show has been a huge success since its debut, keeping audiences glued to their screens.

Amidst all the applause, Nikki has quietly been shining both on and off-screen - with her acting and singing talent. The set of 'ShivShakti' has become a witness to her melodious tunes, as she often entertains the cast and crew with her beautiful voice.

The revelation of Nikki's singing prowess came as a delightful surprise to her co-stars and the production team when they heard her sing for the first time. And now during breaks, and free time, it has become a ritual that Nikki sings with her people on set and everyone ends up having a nice jamming session.

Talking about the same, Nikki said: "I've always had a deep love for music and I'm grateful to share that passion with my 'Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti' family. Acting has been my passion, but singing has always been a part of my soul."

"I feel that practising music gives me inner peace and makes me feel satiated. Singing on set has been a wonderful way to unwind and bring smiles to the faces of the cast and crew when we have our impromptu jamming sessions. It's a beautiful way for all of us to bond and create some unforgettable memories together," she added.

In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness how Mandira will plot Ranjan (Darsh Modi) in Shakti's life so that she can keep her away from Shiv.



## Rakul Preet Singh, Neena Gupta come together for comedy film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actresses Rakul Preet Singh and Neena Gupta are teaming up for an upcoming film which will be helmed by Ashish Shukla.

Ashish is known for his work on the Hindi-language crime thriller streaming series 'Undekhi'.

A well placed source has shared that the cameras will start rolling on the film during the end leg of October and the film will be shot in Mumbai and neighbouring areas. Talking about the same, the source informed, "It is a very differently set comedy and it is super exciting since both are good performers. The film will be going on floors in October end. They will be shooting for it in and around Mumbai. The film will be directed by Ashish Shukla, whose recent



work 'Undekhi' received much praise." The source further mentioned, "Rakul has been doing some great work headlining good projects and this film too will be a treat for her fans. Apart from this, the sequel of 'De De

Pyaar De' with Ajay Devgn is also in pipeline for her." On the other hand, Neena Gupta has been doing very interesting work, one of her shows released today itself. Even otherwise, she has been making headlines with her

opinions and anecdotes. The details with regards to the story of the yet-to-be-titled film are currently under the wraps and the makers will soon make a formal announcement with regards to the same.

# 'YOU MAKE IT ALL MAGICAL'

## Alia Bhatt drops unseen pics with b'day boy Ranbir Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alia Bhatt on Thursday showered birthday love on husband and actor Ranbir Kapoor, as the latter has turned 41, saying he makes everything magical.

Alia took to Instagram, and shared a string of unseen pictures with Ranbir. In the first photo, which is a little blurred, Alia can be seen giving a kiss on Ranbir's cheek.

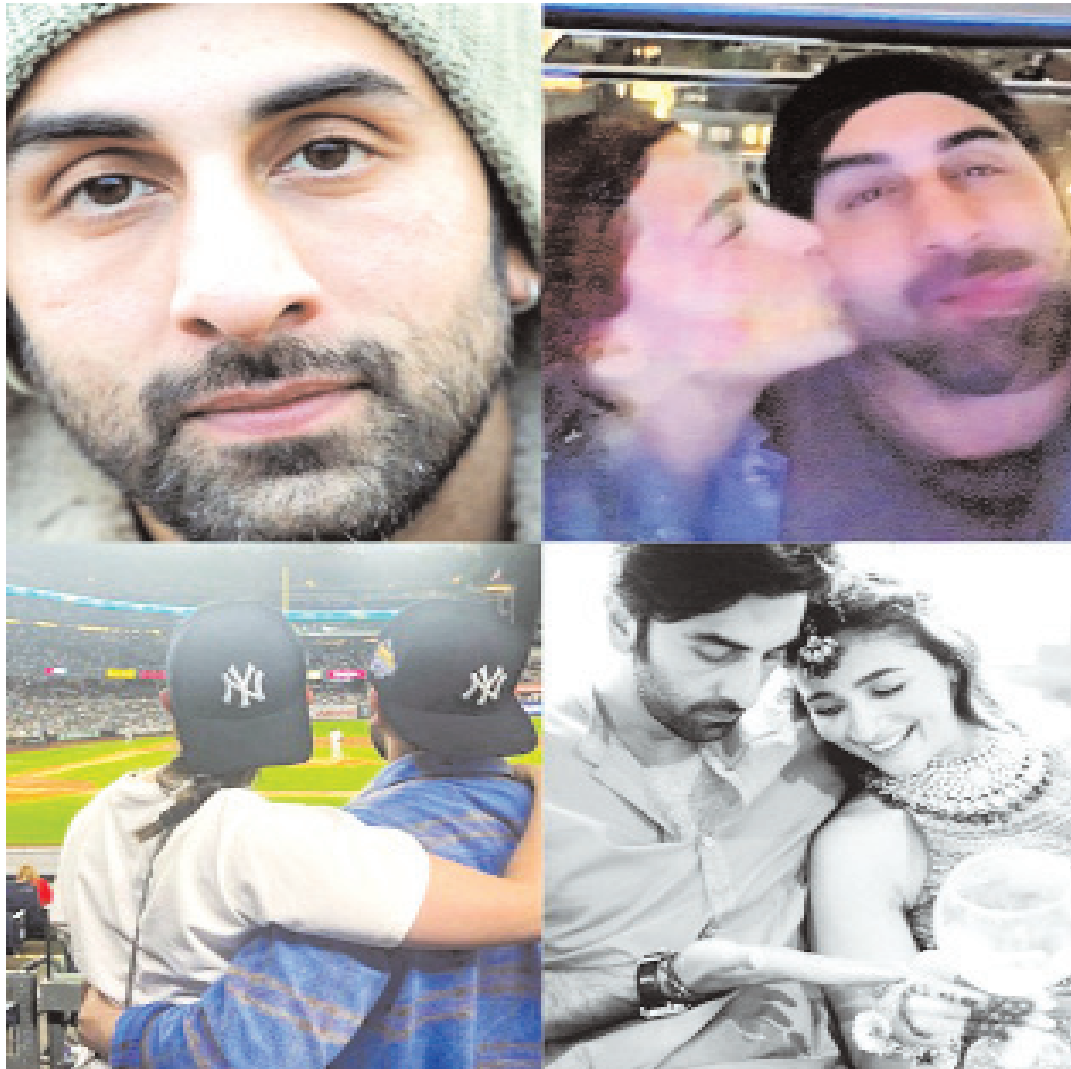
The couple seems to be sitting in a balcony on a high rise building. The selfie is being clicked by Ranbir.

The second picture shows the lovebirds enjoying a game at a stadium.

Both are facing backwards towards the camera, with Alia holding onto Ranbir tightly.

Wearing a matching cap with Ranbir, Alia sports a braided ponytail, and is donning a white tee shirt. While Ranbir is wearing a blue checkered shirt.

The next photo shows Alia flaunting her beautiful smile in a selfie, while she poses with a big figure of numeric 8 in the background. "Eight" is Ranbir's lucky number, and Alia follows it religiously.



Then there is a solo black and white picture of Ranbir from their wedding. There is also a candid photo from their mehendi ceremony, and the series ends with a closeup picture of Ranbir.

Alia captioned the post as: "my love.. my best friend.. my happiest place.. as you read this caption from your secret account sitting right next to me.. all I'd like to say is... happy birthday baby... you make it ALL magical".

Gauahar Khan commented: "Happy Birthday Ranbir", P V Sindhu wrote: "Happy birthday Ranbir!! Love the Yankees support".

Bipasha Basu, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Zoya Akhtar dropped heart emojis, and birthday wishes on the post.

Alia married Ranbir in April 2022, and the couple have a baby daughter Raha. Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia was recently seen as Rani Chatterjee in romantic comedy drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', alongside Ranveer Singh.

She was also seen in American spy action thriller 'Heart of Stone'. The film stars Gal Gadot.

While, Ranbir was last seen in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'. He next has 'Animal' in the pipeline.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shama Sikandar