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NATION	>02	HOLLYWOOD	> 06	SPORTS	>07
India equipping its youth with skills and education to harness...		Sharon Stone says doctors thought she was 'faking' her...		Men's ODI WC: Australia overcome New Zealand by 5 runs in...	

Climate change impacts & adaptation: Does India have a plan?

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In conversation with India Energy Hour, Chandni Singh, CEO, National Solar Energy Federation of India, takes a deep dive into India's climate adaptation challenge calls for holistic, inclusive strategies that balance development with long-term climate resilience, amid concerns of fragmented, short-term solutions and unintended consequences.

The recent IPCC report unequivocally confirms that climate change affects every aspect of our world, including India, posing a substantial threat. This blog post explores insights from experts Shreya Jai and Chandni Singh's conversation on climate adaptation in India and maladaptation, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, long-term solutions. Chandni Singh highlights the current state of climate adaptation as fragmented, small-scale, and reactive, lacking transformative



INDIA'S UNIQUE CHALLENGES

India's adaptation landscape is complex, emphasizing mitigation over adaptation and overlooking emerging threats. Vulnerable groups are often excluded, while institutional and policy constraints hinder long-term planning and capacity building. Maladaptation poses concerns, with examples like disruptive sea walls and over-extraction from farm ponds illustrating the unintended negative outcomes of well-intended adaptation measures.

Balancing development and climate resilience

Balancing development and climate resilience requires climate-resilient development, evaluating adaptation options for compatibility with mitigation and sustainable development goals. Nature-based solutions, education, and behavioral change play pivotal roles in mobilising society towards climate action. India must shift to transformative, inclusive adaptation approaches, considering vulnerabilities, and avoiding maladaptation. Prioritizing climate-resilient strategies and nature-based solutions can guide India toward a more resilient future. (This is an excerpt from an episode of the India Energy Hour. Tune into the podcast for more conversations on climate and India's green energy sector. Available on all major podcast platforms)

ment state of climate adaptation as fragmented, small-scale, and reactive, lacking transformative

approaches. Closing the implementation gap is an urgent challenge, with limited

recognition of climate impacts' unequal distribution among vulnerable groups.

India sends LoR to France for 26 Rafale-Marine jets

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has initiated a step forward to buy 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets by issuing a request to the French government for this important deal. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had already approved proposals to procure 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets and three Scorpene diesel-electric submarines for the Indian Navy. The ministry said that DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French government through an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). The price and other terms of purchase will be negotiated with the French government after taking into account all relevant aspects, including comparative procurement price of similar aircraft by other countries, it added. Further, integration of Indian designed equipment and establishment of Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) Hub for various systems will be incorporated into the contract documents in due negotiations. Now a detailed letter of request (LoR) has been issued by the Indian defence ministry to the French Directorate General of Armaments for the proposed deal. It will include 22 single-seat jets and four twin-seat trainers, along with weapons, simulator, spares, crew training and logistics support, sources said. According to the defence experts France should respond



with its offer, pricing and other details in a couple of months. Once the contract is inked after the cost negotiations and the Cabinet Committee on Security's final nod, deliveries will begin in three years. The LoR for the government-to-government deal, which involve off-the-shelf procurement of the Dassault Aviation-manufactured jets, comes soon after defence minister Rajnath Singh visited France on 10, October. As per the defence experts, there is an urgent requirement for aircraft and submarines, as the Indian Navy has been facing shortages and needs to shore up its requirements keeping in mind security challenges, especially in the Indian Ocean region. Aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and Vikrant have been operating the MiG-29s and need the Rafales for operations on both carriers. The deals are estimated to be worth thousands of crore but the final cost will only be clear only after the contract negotiations are completed, a source added.

The country is likely to seek some concession in the price and may also insist on greater focus on a 'Make In India' content in it, an official said.

X INTRODUCES 2 NEW SUBSCRIPTION PLAN TO BOOST USERS' REPLIES



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elon Musk-run X on Saturday launched two new subscription plans for its users, including a \$16 per month Premium Plus plan that lets people pay more to get the biggest boost for their replies.

In addition to Premium Plus, the company has also launched a new "Basic" option for \$3 per month for a small boost to your replies.

"Introducing Premium+. No ads in For You or Following, largest boost for your replies (vs other Premium tiers or unverified users), and access to our full suite of creator tools," the social network said.

The platform also launched a new Basic tier for \$3 per month (when signing up via web) that "gives you access to the most essential Premium features".

Both the new subscription plans are available only on the web and will come to mobile users later.

In the basic plan which does not give you

Blue checkmark, subscribers will only receive a "small boost" to their replies.

X's standard Premium plan costs \$8 a month. An average user on X is spending more than 32 minutes a day on the platform, its CEO Linda Yaccarino has revealed. Yaccarino said on Thursday that overall, users spend 7.8 billion active minutes every day on X, driven by growth in "our video and community products".

"Today, the average user spends more than 32 minutes of their day on X. We continue to see sign-ups average around 1.5 million per day," she wrote in a blog post.

She further stated that Community Notes now has over 100,000 contributors in 44 countries and is growing. According to her, over 1,700 advertisers returned to X last quarter, from small businesses to major brands -- including 90 of the top 100 ad spenders from a year ago.

In a bid to retain users on its platform, X Corp has paid over \$20 million (more than Rs 166 crore) to creators so far.

6-ft crocodile remains inside UP house for 3 hrs before rescued



Team Absolute | Sitapur

A six-foot long crocodile crawled into a house in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district and remained inside for some three hours before it was rescued.

The incident took place on Thursday in Madnapur Kalli village.

While the crocodile rested inside the house located barely 100 metres from the Ghaghra River, the family members and other locals ran around trying to get a forest team.

Finally, a forest team reached the spot and rescued the reptile with the help of villagers.

A forest department employee said the crocodile must have come out of the river and crawled into the house.

The locals said that this was the first such incident in the village.

37th National Games Small-town girls become backbone of West Bengal football team

Team Absolute | Vasco (Goa)

Children of small town Jhargram, a small town in the South West region of West Bengal, seems to have become the main feeder of the West Bengal women's football squad that is competing here in the 37th National Games.

What is more inspiring is the fact that despite their humble background -- their parents are either small-time farmers or do odd jobs -- the youngsters have unmatched zeal to play football.

At least 40 percent of the players in the first eleven that figured in West Bengal's first-round match against Tamil Nadu on Friday here at Tilak Maidan are from Jhargram in the Madinapore district.

Tulsi Hemran, Mugli Hemran (not related to each other), Mamata Sing and Mamata Mahata were four players in the first eleven from Jhargram.

The girls proved to be hardworking and kept West Bengal's hopes alive during the 90-minute exciting contest. West Bengal missed two golden opportunities to move the scoreboard against the resolute Tamil Nadu side and the contest ended in a goal-less draw.



"We were hoping to collect full points, but just missed," the 23-year-old Tulsi said in the post-match interaction.

Tulsi has been passionately involved in soccer since her school days and it has been more than a decade now. "I started playing football during my school days. There was support from the school. It allowed me to kick the ball around," she said.

She added: "As a teenager, I saw Messi (the star Argentina soccer player) on the TV. He is my idol. I want to be great like him."

To fuel their passion and support their parents, young soccer-playing girls have enrolled themselves under the West Bengal Police Department sports quota scheme. Under the scheme, the promising footballers are

entitled to a monthly stipend of Rs 9,000.

"Majority of the girls in Jhargram play soccer to escape poverty. The players might not get big money but whatever amount we get, it enables us to support our parents and continue to play football," the 22-year-old Mugli said.

Mugli is also with the West Bengal Police Department though temporarily.

"I'm happy with what I'm earning. I invest some money back into football to purchase playing kits and give some money to parents."

The youngsters also play in the women's league and get additional funds. But meagre resources have never hindered their unmatched zeal to keep football alive, at least in Jhargram.

India's first all-women police station golden jubilee celebrations

Team Absolute | Kozhikode

It has been 10 days of celebrations at the country's first all-women police station in Kerala's Kozhikode. It was the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who inaugurated the police station in 1973 and present with her was the then Governor N.N. Wanchoo, Chief Minister C. Achutha Menon and Home Minister K. Karunakaran. Though these personalities have all become history, the first Sub Inspector of the Police M. Padminiamma, now retired, leads a peaceful life in the state capital city.

Gandhi gave her a pen to sign the register which is preserved at the station.

Among one interesting anecdotes connected to the



first case that was registered soon after the station was inaugurated was the case of a missing boy, who had come along with his parents to witness the momentous occasion.

The boy had gone missing soon after the function got over. The boy, R.L. Baiju was later found and today he is a Family Court judge near here. The present Sub Inspector at the station K.K.

Tulasi is happy with all the attention that the station was getting, and she said that it has been a busy 10-day celebration. "Today is the last day of the celebrations and all of us have enjoyed it. Most of the cases that we are getting relate to domestic issues because this is an all women police station and women can freely come to us. They come to us and open up," said Tulasi.

BRO completes Kandi Tunnel ahead of schedule in J&K

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Border Road Organisation (BRO) on Wednesday said that it has achieved a significant milestone by completing 260 meters-long Kandi Tunnel ahead of schedule in the ongoing Project Sampark on National Highway 144A (NH144A) which connects Akhnoor with Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BRO said that this crucial project has been divided into eight packages, and there is a remarkable progress in enhancing the horizontal and vertical profile of the road.

Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said that in a commendable feat of engineering, the first four tunnels including 260 meters Kandi Tunnel has achieved its breakthrough.

"This incredible accomplishment is a testament to



the dedication and hard work of the BRO team," an army official said.

Bartwal said that the tunnel work, which commenced in March 2023, has seen remarkable progress despite facing adverse weather conditions, including heavy rainfall and landslides along the entire road stretch.

BRO said that the Package-1 of the project is expected to be completed by June 2024.

Once completed, this tunnel will reduce the length of the road by 2.5 kilometres, improving connectivity and facilitating more efficient travel between Akhnoor and Poonch. The BRO said that additionally, this tunnel will play a vital role in enhancing strategic connectivity for the armed forces, enabling smoother and more expedient movement from Jammu to Poonch.



RAJINIKANTH RESEMBLANCE MAKES KOCHI TEA SHOP OWNER A 'CELEBRITY'

Team Absolute | Kochi

Sudhakar Prabhhu, along with his wife Sudha, was busy running their small tea shop at Fort Kochi but their lives transformed after a leading Malayalam film director shared his video, noting his resemblance to superstar Rajinikanth.

A mighty pleased Sudha said things were all quiet till Prabhhu went to see a film shooting near their tea shop. "As he was observing the shooting, film director Nadir Shah caught a view of Prabhhu. Soon he was called upon and was told he resembles Rajinikanth and a selfie was taken," she said.

"Soon the video became viral and the tea shop also started getting more and more customers and some of them ask if they can take a

selfie with him and he readily agrees. We now have started enjoying this new status."

Sudha added that they all knew her husband resembled the great actor, but things changed when the director took the lead to share the video.

"For long, we have been fans of the great actor and we went to see his recent film 'Jailor'.

During the interval, Prabhhu went out and there was a commotion as some felt seeing my husband, they thought the great actor has come," said Sudha.

Meanwhile, Prabhhu, 63, basking in his present glory, has one desire which he thinks will happen.

"I want to meet the great actor and I am sure, he will allow me if he hears about my desire," he said.



CONGRESS SSYS KAMAL NATH, DIGVIJAYA SINGH LIKE "JAI-VEERU". BJP COUNTERS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Head of the elections in Madhya Pradesh, Congress equated its state president Kamal Nath and senior leader Digvijaya Singh with "Jai" and "Veeru" from the iconic film "Sholay", played by Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra. The comparison by Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala triggered a counter by the BJP, which called the two "jail escapees" and deceitful.

Actors Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra played the role of two friends Jai and Veeru, respectively in the 1975 blockbuster Sholay. In the movie, the two friends flee from jail and are later hired by a retired police officer to fight Gabbar, a dreaded dacoit.

Asked about the bond between Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, Surjewala drew the analogy from Sholay.

"The relationship between them is the same as was between Dharmendra and Amitabh Bachchan (in Sholay). Neither 'Gabbar' (the film's villain) could get



them into a fight (in the movie) nor will the BJP's Gabbar be able to get it done here," Surjewala told reporters in Bhopal.

Surjewala was asked about the change in the candidates for some seats and the apparent differences between Singh and Nath over the distribution of tickets in the state. Alleging that a huge conflict is going on within the ruling BJP over ticket distribution, the Congress leader said that his party has decided where ticket changes were required and this matter is now over.

"They (the BJP) say such things every day to show

their irritation. What is the BJP's problem with our party? There is love and coordination between Digvijaya Singh, Kamal Nath, and all our leaders. This is for the development and progress of Madhya Pradesh," he said.

Reacting to Surjewala's statement, state BJP spokesman Pankaj Chaturvedi said the remark established that the two Congress leaders are like the "deceitful characters of Jai and Veeru, who escaped from jail".

"These were movie characters who escaped from jail. The same is the condition of Bantadhar (as BJP calls

Digvijaya Singh) and Corruption Nath (for Kamal Nath) in Madhya Pradesh. They have looted Congress workers and the general public whenever they got an opportunity. No one was spared by these two," Chaturvedi said.

Earlier this month, a video of Kamal Nath surfaced purportedly showing him asking party men to "tear" Digvijaya Singh's clothes after a leader from Shivpuri was denied a ticket. This fuelled talks of a rift in the party over the selection of candidates.

However, the former Chief Ministers sought to make light of the episode and put up a united face. The BJP on Friday again alleged that Singh distanced himself from the campaign following the "dispute" over ticket distribution.

As BJP latched on to the video to target Congress, Kamal Nath clarified that his relation with Singh was not merely political.

Elections to the state's 230 seats will be held in a single phase on November 17 and votes will be counted on December 3.

THIS TIME WE WILL CELEBRATE THREE DIWALIS IN MADHYA PRADESH: AMIT SHAH

Team

Absolute | Chhindwara

In a veiled swipe at Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said a brother and sister whose "origins are in Italy" won't be able to understand the development done by the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing a public meeting at Junnardeo in Chhindwara district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Mr Shah said the people of India can clearly understand the development and referred to the construction of Ram temple and the abrogation of Article 370 among other achievements.

When the world is praising India's growth story, the Congress is unable to see any positivity in the country, the BJP MP alleged.

"The brother and sister (Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra) while roaming in poll-bound states keep asking what has been done (by the BJP-led Centre), but they won't be able to understand this (development) as their origin is in Italy. Those having their origin in India will clearly understand this," Mr Shah said.

Chhindwara is the pocket-borough of Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former chief minister Kamal Nath who is in the fray for the November 17 assembly elections.

"Rahul Baba used to



remark that the BJP will only talk about the temple (in Ayodhya) but won't tell its date. Now see, Modi ji has not only constructed the temple but has also told the date (of the consecration). Just go there and seek blessings to get satisfaction," he said.

A day before, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in Chitrakoot that the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready soon and also mentioned the invitation given to him by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra for the consecration ceremony, which is expected to take place on January 22.

Shah said the people of Madhya Pradesh will celebrate three Diwalis this year.

Besides the annual festival of lights, people will celebrate the BJP's victory in the Madhya Pradesh elections and the consecration of the

idol of Lord Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, he added.

"Not only the (Ram) temple is being constructed, but Modi ji has abrogated Article 370 (granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir), nullified triple talaq, conducted air strike and surgical strikes, launched the moon mission, and provided 33 per cent reservation to women among other things," Shah said.

By banning the "dreaded terror organisation", the Popular Front of India, Modi ji has finished all the possibilities of the emergence of terrorism in the country, the Union home minister said.

"People of Madhya Pradesh will celebrate three Diwalis this year. The first one will be the festival of lights, second one is when the government will be formed in the state (after the counting of votes on December 3). A third Diwali

will be celebrated when the idol of Lord Ram Lalla will be established in Ram Mandir by the hands of the Prime Minister," Shah said.

He also listed several measures undertaken by the Modi government for the uplift of tribals in the last nine years.

"In a first, a tribal woman from Odisha (Droupadi Murmu) has become the President of the country," he added.

While campaigning for Congress in Madhya Pradesh, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has accused the BJP-led central and state governments of not working for the poor, middle class and farmers. She has also targeted the government over unemployment and inflation.

Rahul Gandhi has also been criticising the government on similar lines.

Congress first became devotees of Ram, now their devotion to Babar has come to the fore: VD Sharma

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP State President BD Sharma said that Sonia devotees first became election devotees of Ram and now they have come forward as Babar devotees. Their devotion to Babar is clearly visible. He said that this time the basic character of Congress has been exposed in the assembly elections. Earlier they were against Ram Mandir, now they are spewing venom against Hindutva and Sanatan.

BJP State President VD Sharma said in the press conference organized at BJP Media Center on Saturday that Congress is objecting to the installation of hoardings of Ram Temple. She is going to the Election Commission demanding removal of the hoardings of Ram Temple. This is the basic character of Congress. Congress has done the work of attacking Ram temple. He said that Congress leaders say that Ram Mandir belongs to everyone, then why are Mr. Bantadhar and Corruption Nath facing problems when hoardings of Ram Mandir are put up. He said that the real pain for Congress is the construction of Ram temple. The character of Congress is Ram in the mouth, Baka in the armpit. They can only see



Babar. BJP State President Sharma said that on October 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program will be heard at all the booths in the state. During this period, 41 lakh BJP workers, leaders and officials will listen to Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat at 63 thousand booths in the state.

Action for more than Rs 150 crore 58 lakh taken in 19 days in the state

Enforcement agencies seize large quantities of illegal liquor, drugs, cash, gold, silver, jewelry and other items

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that since the Model Code of Conduct for Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections 2023 came into effect, contin-

uous action is being taken by the enforcement agencies in the state. In order to conduct the process of Assembly Elections 2023 in a free, fair and transparent manner, the joint team of Flying Squad (FST), SST and Police seized illegal liquor, narcotics, cash, gold, silver, jewelry and other materials.

Action for Rs 150 crore 58 lakh 36 thousand 316 has

been taken by the joint teams from October 9 to 27 October.

Seized items include cash worth Rs 19 crore 74 lakh 18 thousand 994, more than 16 lakh 62 thousand 511 litres of illicit liquor worth Rs 28 crore 90 lakh 15 thousand 533, intoxicants worth Rs 10 crore 12 lakh 3 thousand 350, precious metals, gold-silver, jewelry worth Rs 53 crore 55 lakh Rs 82 thousand 585 and

other items worth Rs 38 crore 26 lakh 15 thousand 854.

During the Model Code of Conduct in the 2018 assembly elections in the state (between October 6 and November 28), action for Rs 72 crore 93 lakh was taken by the enforcement agencies, whereas in the 2023 assembly elections this year, action for more than Rs 150 crore 58 lakh was taken in 19 days.

Successful operation of A Rare eyelid tumor with reconstruction at AIIMS Bhopal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

An old age patient of 50 has been suffering from a growth (tumor) for the last 12 months in her upper eyelid. It involved the upper eyelid, and the patient could not see from her right eye. The patient visited surgical oncology OPD of AIIMS, Bhopal. After clinical, radiological, and histopathological examination, the diagnosis was confirmed, and the patient was planned for wide local excision and staged reconstruction under Dr. Neelesh Shrivastava and Dr. Deepak Krishna, Associate Professor Burns, and plastic surgery.

The surgery consisted of 2 stages; in the first stage, the flap

was raised from the forehead and made suitable to apply on the inner side of eye contact, and after 1 week in the 2nd stage, the wide excision of the tumor and reconstruction of the upper eyelid was done. The surgery was successfully done by the team headed by Dr. Neelesh Shrivastava, Dr. Deepak Krishna, and Dr. Zainab, Associate Prof. Anaesthesia. Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS, Bhopal congratulated the team. An eyelid tumor is a very rare type of disease, and proper planning is needed for the best outcome in these cases. This procedure is done in the AIIMS BHOPAL surgical oncology department for the first time. The patient is now doing well and able to see from both eyes normally.

Congress has lead in C4 survey, Mama is in tension, Kamalnath camp happy

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Is BJP going to face a big blow in Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections? Is the ruling party going to lag behind in the upcoming elections? These questions have arisen from the shocking results of an election survey. We are talking about Zee News C Fore Survey, in which Congress is projected to be ahead. In this latest survey of Zee News, BJP seems to be getting a crushing defeat. Congress can become the largest party in the state. According to the election schedule, there is voting in a single phase on November 17 in the state. This latest survey, which came out just before this, has definitely increased the tension of the ruling BJP.

There are total 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh Assembly. Zee News C4 survey has come out just before voting on 17th of next month. In this survey, Congress seems to be getting bumper seats. Congress may get 132 to 146 seats. BJP seems to get 84 to 98 seats. Others are also expected to get 5 seats.

In this survey regarding MP elections, the voting percentage also seems to be in favor of Congress. Indian National Congress has got 46 percent votes. The



ruling BJP is at second place with 43 percent vote percentage. Independents and others seem to be getting 11 percent votes. Inflation may be the biggest issue this time in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly. This revelation has come to light in the latest survey of Zee News. According to the survey, 25 percent people believe that inflation is the biggest issue in this election. The second num-

ber is unemployment, 24 percent people have considered it as the main issue. 12 percent people have said corruption, 9 percent sewerage and 7 percent people have said that drinking water is a big issue. Roads and health services have been considered as big issues by 6 percent people, education by 4 percent, electricity by 3 percent and law and order by 2 percent people.

Mirchi Baba to contest against CM Shivraj from 'Budhani'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Samajwadi Party has released another list of candidates. This list has greatly increased the political temperature in Madhya Pradesh. Actually, the name of Mirchi Baba is included in this list of candidates, who has been given ticket from Budhani against CM Shivraj. Vairagyanand Giri Maharaj alias Mirchi Baba has been involved in many controversial controversies.

SP has given ticket to controversial Baba Mirchi Baba. Let us tell you that he is considered a staunch opponent of CM Shivraj. Many times CM has even openly challenged Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Before SP, Mirchi Baba was a member of Congress. For the victory of former CM Digvijay Singh, Vairagyanand Giri Maharaj had performed Havan with 5 quintals of chilli, after which he came into limelight with the name of Mirchi Baba. Kamal Nath government made him the Chairman of the Corporation and gave him the status of Minister of State.

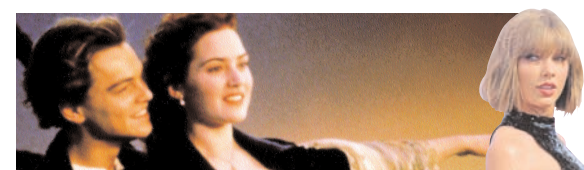
Last year, Mirchi Baba was arrested in the controversial case of rape of a woman. A childless woman had accused him of raping her by feeding her intoxicating liquor. After which



Mirchi Baba was arrested in August 2022 and sent to jail. But the prosecution could not prove these allegations in the court, after which the court acquitted Mirchi Baba in September 2023.

Mirchi Baba came into limelight in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when he performed a havan with five quintals of

chilli for the victory of former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh from Bhopal Lok Sabha seat and claimed that if Digvijay Singh did not win the elections, he would commit Jal Samadhi. But after Digvijay Singh lost the election to Sadhvi Pragya Singh, Mirchi Baba went back on his words.



Kourtney Kardashian

celebrates Halloween

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kourtney Kardashian Barker celebrated Halloween recently by referencing one of her sister Kim Kardashian's most well-known looks; from the latter's 2013 Met Gala get-up when she was pregnant. Kim Kardashian, 43, also shared the post on her Instagram Story, applaud-

ing her sister's costume choice.

On the night of October 27, Kourtney showed off her belly bump while wearing a dress similar to Kim's Givenchy gown from a decade prior.

The dress includes a floral printed jersey with grommet details that are attached to the sleeves, a turtleneck and perfectly matched gloves and shoes, as reported by 'People'.

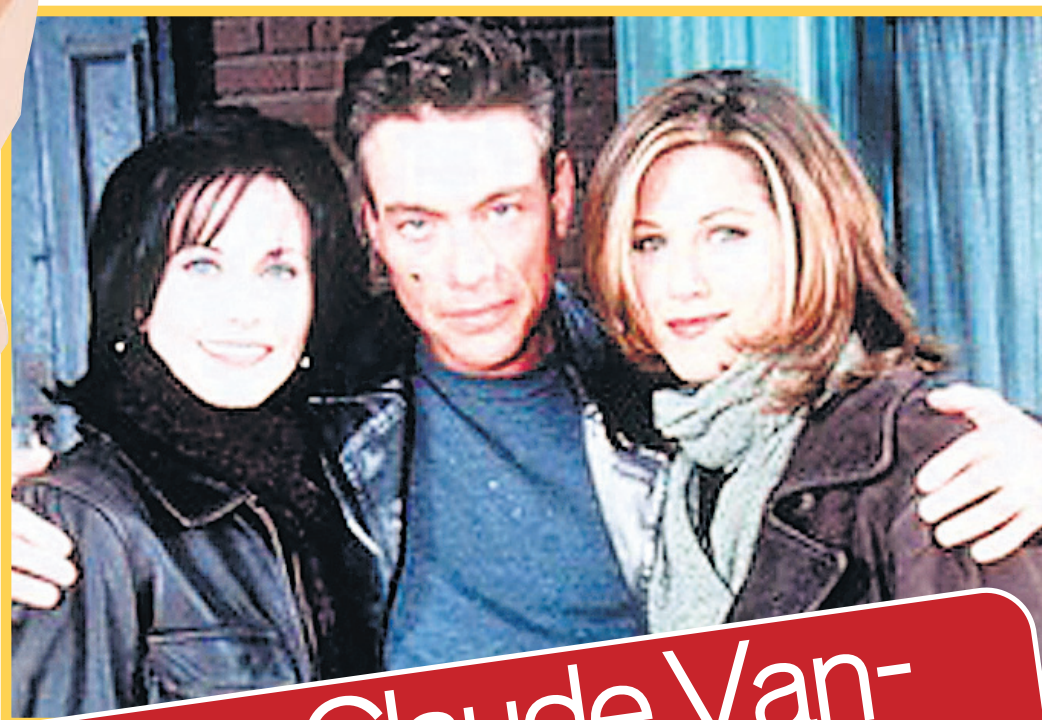
Before this, back in early October, the

44-year old reality TV star embraced the arrival of the month on Instagram by posing for some spooky season snaps. After Kourtney announced that week that she was "ready for" the month, she shared a pair of images that both celebrated her baby bump and gave another hint about her excitement for Halloween.

"Tis the season," she wrote in the caption, which accompanied two

images of her wearing a sleeveless floral print monochrome dress from her collection with fashion retailer Boohoo. In the pics, the reality star stood alongside a pile of white Halloween pumpkins.

In September, the 'Kardashians' star surprised her husband, the punk rock band Blink182's drummer Travis Barker, by decorating their home for Halloween a little early.



Jean-Claude Van-Damme is 'ashamed' of his 'Friends' cameo

Los Angeles | Agencies

The iconic sit-com series 'Friends' has featured cameos of many celebrities over the years. One of these is iconic Belgian actor-martial artiste Jean-Claude Van Damme, who recently admitted that he feels ashamed about his cameo with Jennifer Aniston and Courtney Cox.

In the episode titled 'The One After the Super Bowl: Part 2', the actor played himself opposite Jennifer Aniston's Rachel and Courteney Cox's Monica.

In the episode, Rachel and Monica both have a crush on Jean-Claude Van Damme after he starts filming a movie in New York City. But when Rachel approaches him first since Monica is too shy, it leads to a fight between

them about who gets to go on a date with him.

Van Damme recalling the incident told the New York Post in a recent interview: "My acting is so bad. I look so like a ham. Like, 'Hey, girls.' ... It's like, I'm ashamed of myself (sic)."

He continued: "So, then I was on the set, and those girls, they go, and they kiss me, and they kiss me on the lips. I didn't know what to do, how to do ... It was strange. They were very nice."

Van Damme added that he actually didn't know much about the show, before making an appearance in its second season.

"So, when I go to the show, I see those two beautiful girls, and they say this is the hottest show right now in the world. So, I was very glad," the 'Kickboxer' star recalled. "And my agent said, 'You have to do an episode with them. So you're going to play this guy!'"

Though he doesn't like his cameo in the series, the actor said the experience overall "was a good memory."

BEYONCE, JAY-Z HAD ANOTHER NAME FOR DAUGHTER BEFORE LAST-MINUTE CHANGE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singers Jay-Z and Beyonce may have thought outside of the box when naming their daughter Blue Ivy, but it wasn't their first choice.

The superstar couple welcomed their first child in 2012 and in a new interview with 'Gayle King', Jay-Z, 53, revealed how he and Bey finally came up with their little girl's moniker, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

He said: "Her name was meant to be Brooklyn".

When asked if they had dubbed her Blue because it was his favourite colour the rapper grinned as he explained: "I wish it was that simple. It was supposed to be Brooklyn. That was the name we had in theory. When we got to the sonograms, she was super small there and we were calling her blueberry, like 'Look at the little blueberry!'"

He continued, "It was a nickname for nine months. It was natural, we just took the berry off and called her Blue."

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', the 11-year-old has become well known for her comical side in recent years, for moments like when she made her world famous parents stop clapping during a Grammy Awards speech. Jay also admitted that Blue, like any other young girl, is a bit embarrassed by her dad.



Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone recall old feud that led to all out hatred between them

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood action stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone have opened up on an old feud which they had back in their early days, which led to massive rivalry and even hatred between the two, with Stallone saying that even their DNA hated each other.

The 'Rocky' and 'Terminator' stars are close friends today, but back in the 1980s when the two were dishing out their most iconic action films such as 'Rambo' and 'Predator', they were excessively hostile against one another taking pot shots at each other in press meetings, and insulting each other on a personal level.

All of that, however, ended in the late 1990s as both the action stars having both in the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain, found themselves traveling together to various openings.

This ended up bringing the two closer, and soon their hatred dissipated and they became fast friends leading them to collaborate with each other in various projects

such as 'The Expendables'.

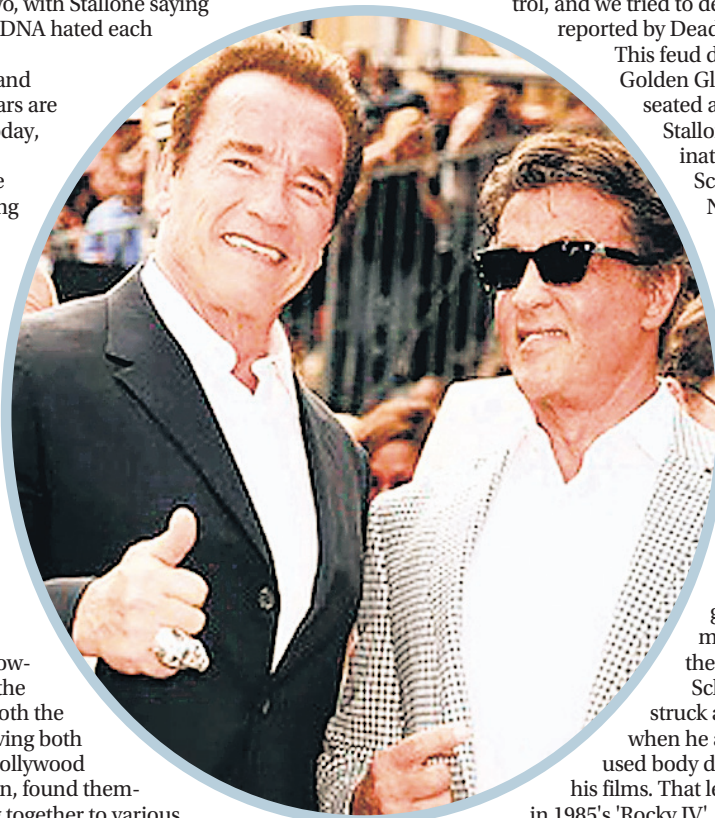
Speaking at 'The Graham Norton Show', the 'True Lies' actor said: "We were movie rivals, but we took the competitiveness to the extreme - we each had to have the best body, we had to kill more people in our films, and we had to have the biggest guns. It got out of control, and we tried to derail each other," as reported by Deadline.

This feud dates back to the 1977 Golden Globes, where they were seated at the same table.

Stallone lost in five of six nominated categories, while Schwarzenegger won the New Star award.

Stallone claimed that Schwarzenegger laughed at his losses, leading Stallone to throw a bowl of flowers at him when 'Rocky' eventually won for Best Motion Picture - Drama. After that, the two constantly sniped at each other in heated press meetings. They'd get bigger guns, shoot more people, and generally try to out-macho the other guy in their roles.

Schwarzenegger then struck a nerve with his rival when he alleged that Stallone had used body doubles in a number of his films. That led many to assume that in 1985's 'Rocky IV', the character of Ivan Drago was a subtle dig at Schwarzenegger given the foreign European accent, tall height, and muscular build.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Irina Shayak



When Kishore Kumar sang 'Khaike paan Banaras wala' with a paan in his mouth

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Legendary music composer Anandji Virji Shah, on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' took a stroll down the memory lane, and reminisced about the time when late ever-green singer Kishore Kumar had recorded the iconic song 'Khaike paan Banaras wala', while having a 'paan' in his mouth.

The song is from the 1978 action thriller 'Don', directed by Chandra Barot. The film stars Amitabh Bachchan in a dual role, alongside Zeenat Aman, Pran, Iftekhar, Om Shivpuri and Satyen Kapru in pivotal roles.

The music is composed by Kalyanji-Anandji with lyrics by Anjaan and Indeevar. The upcoming episode will see an entertainment extravaganza as Anandji Shah along with his wife Shanta Ben Shah will be seen gracing the 'Celebrating-Kalyanji-Anandji' special episode.

Amidst impressive performances from all contestants, it was Sneha Bhattacharya's rendition of 'Khaike Paan Banaraswala' and 'Rafta Rafta' songs that left everyone spellbound. It is the first time that the



viewers will get to hear a female version of 'Khaike Paan Banaraswala'. Right after her performance, Anandji went down memory lane and was reminded of the time when the song was recorded by Kishore Kumar. He shared that to make the lyrics of the song match the sound, Kishore Da actually

kept 'Paan' in his mouth while singing. Talking about the same, Anandji said: "After watching this performance, I remember Kishore Da and the studio where we recorded this song. Kishore Da entered the studio and asked for a 'Paan' because the character in the movie is also

eating Paan and that's how he decided to record the song for authenticity." "He sang the song so beautifully that it is loved by everyone till date. Today, Sneha, you sang this song very nicely and I just loved your performance," he added.



Galaxy of stars descend at Mumbai Film Fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the new edition of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival kicked off in the city, stars from B-town and other industries swarmed to attend the event. The opening ceremony of the film festival was held at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in the BKC area of Mumbai.

Among those who attended the opening night of the coveted film festival were Kamal Haasan, who looked suave in a fossil grey coloured blazer which he paired with matching denims and a black t-shirt. The veteran actor sported a thick stubble and a salt and pepper look.

Actress Sanya Malhotra, who has been basking in the success of her recent blockbuster release 'Jawan' graced the event in a stylish black and white blazer and black pants. She tied her hair neatly in a bun and kept her jewellery minimal.

Actor Sunny Kaushal too was spotted at the event wearing a traditional black and white attire. The actor accentuated his look with the shimmering black kurta and a light stubble.

'Qala' actor Babil Khan graced the event with a statement attire. He donned a textured coat with long sleeves with matching kurta. He interacted with the paparazzi stationed at the venue and had a gala time engaging in a fun banter with them.

Actress Bhumika Chawla, who was recently seen in the Salman Khan-starrer film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', also attended the opening night of the film fest as she chose a black and white salwar kurta. She tied her hair in a pony.

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari, who is celebrating her birthday on Saturday, attended the event with her rumoured beau Siddharth Suryanarayan. The actress sported a traditional Indian attire while Siddharth chose a black coloured suit which he paired with sneakers.



Niharika NM joins Megan Thee Stallion, Jordan Peele, Billy Porter for 'Big Mouths S7' series as a guest voice actor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular content creator Niharika NM, has made her TV debut in Season 7 of the American adult animated series 'Big Mouth'.

Joining a star packed ensemble of celebrities, Niharika lends her voice to one of the characters in the show along with Megan Thee Stallion, Maya Rudolph, Lupita Nyong'o, Jordan Peele, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, and Billy Porter.

Representing India teenage girls and how they deal with the various aspects of puberty, and growing up in general, Niharika NM lends her distinctive voice in Hindi for the animated series, thus adding an extra layer of authenticity to the show regarding its nuances and attention to detail.

The character which she is voicing in the show, is in fact a caricature loosely based on her own personal characteristics.

'Big Mouth' explores the complexities of adolescence, the challenges that come with it, and encourages open conversations about the human body in a manner that ranges from satirical, to comical, and even fully serious.

While comedy icons like John Mulaney, Nick Kroll, Maya Rudolph, and Jordan Peele voice the central characters, Niharika NM's animated portrayal of a typical Indian teenager adds a unique layer, as it represents the experiences of an archetypal Indian female adolescent while also shattering stereotypes.

Niharika NM started 2023 by opening the show and walking the ramp at a fashion show before she proudly showcased the uniqueness of Indian artistry and vision at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival exclusively wearing designs from Oscar-worn designers Shantnu & Nikhil.

'Big Mouths Season 7' streams on Netflix.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has revealed the ground rules that his wife Deepika Padukone has set for him to follow before he transitions into his next character.

The power couple of B-Town have graced the couch of the chat show 'Koffee With Karan' season 8. They have once again captured the hearts of their fans with their enchanting appearance on the show hosted by film-maker Karan Johar.

They have

spilled the beans on their marriage, proposal and more.

While Ranveer is widely appreciated for the diverse roles he plays, here are some ground rules of Deepika that he has to follow before he transitions into his next character.

Talking about the same, Ranveer said: "There are some ground rules, I have to inform her about

my haircuts, my drastic change in look

beforehand so that it doesn't come across as a rude shock."

Explaining her rules, Deepika said: "He leaves home as one person in the morning and comes home like some other person".

DEEPIKA HAS SET RULES WHICH I NEED TO FOLLOW: RANVEER



SHOOTING STARTS FOR KAMAL'S FILM AFTER 36 YRS WITH MANI RATNAM



Team Absolute | New Delhi

'Ulaganayagan' Kamal Haasan has begun shooting for the film tentatively titled 'KH234', which sees him coming together with Mani Ratnam 36 years after the maestros collaborated on the all-time classic 'Nayakan'.

The film also marks the A.R. Rahman's return to Mani Ratnam's universe after the two parts of the Tamil epic film 'Ponniyin Selvan'.

Kamal Haasan's production company Raj Kamal International Films also announced the collaboration, stating on X: "Unified forces of Indian Cinema, let the celebration begin!"

The production is a joint effort by

Kamal Haasan, Mani Ratnam, G. Mahendran, and Siva Anand, under the banners of Raj Kamal Films International and Madras Talkies. Additionally, Udayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies will also be collaborating in the production of this cinematic spectacle.

The video that announced the shooting showcased the cast and crew of the film. The movie is to be released on November 7, 2024, which is the star's birthday.

Kamal had a cameo in Thalapathy Vijay's action-thriller 'Leo' and his shoot for the upcoming political thriller drama 'Indian 2' is also completed. In addition, he will star in Prabhakar's upcoming Tamil film 'Kalki 2898 AD' alongside Amitabh Bachchan, Dulquer Salmaan, Deepika Padukone, Disha Patani and Pasupathy.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ruhi Singh