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MP Polls: Narottam Mishra kicks up political storm with 'offensive' remark on Hema Malini

GABBAR & BASANTI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is known for walking into controversies, has once again hit the headline by making indecent remark on yesteryear actress Hema Malini during a poll rally in his Assembly constituency Datia.

Highlighting the party's achievements during a poll-rally, Mishra said he has brought in a lot of developments in Datia. Addressing a public gathering, Mishra said he has developed his constituency in a way that "Hema Malini was made to dance here." A video of his controversial remark went viral on social media



"Listen to the real meanness of the honourable minister of Sanskari BJP towards women."

Digvijaya Singh

and the Opposition grabbed the opportunity to corner the BJP and Mishra terming his statement an "insult to the women". Not only the Congress media cell or social media department, but some senior leaders also took jibe at BJP.

Importantly, Mishra, who has won three consecutive elections (2008, 2013 and 2018) from Datia, is facing a tough challenge from his old political rival and Congress candidate Rajendra Bharti.

Political circles are abuzz with murmurs that Mishra, who won in 2018 against Bharti with just 2,656 votes, is likely to face a tough contest

because of the high anti-incumbency factor against the BJP which has been ruling Madhya Pradesh for nearly 20 years.

To counter the anti-incumbency against the BJP government, Mishra has come out with a strategy to present himself as a 'vikas purush' of Datia in the election.

As the second most powerful minister (after CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan) in the BJP government, Mishra has managed to get a lot of projects for Datia.

The Congress has earlier fielded the former BJP leader with an RSS background - Avdesh Nayak against

Mishra. However, an internal rift prompted the party to replace him with Bharti, as he had given Mishra a tough fight in 2018.

Importantly, Bharti had also filed a case against Mishra in a paid news case. The verdict went in favour of Bharti, but was challenged and the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. The 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly will go to the elections on November 7.

The campaign has reached an acerbic height with both BJP and the Congress fighting tooth and nail eyeing the state which is one of the five states going to the polls next month.

RBI fixes Rs 100 per day compensation for customers in case CIs don't resolve complaint in 30 days

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The RBI on Thursday announced new rules that entitle complainants to a compensation of Rs 100 per calendar day in case their complaint is not resolved within a period of 30 calendar days from the date of the initial filing of the complaint with a Credit Institution (CI) or a Credit Information Company (CIC).

The circular has been sent to all banks, NBFCs, financial institutions, asset reconstruction companies, and credit information companies.

The new rule introduced by the RBI as part of the new compensation mechanism that has been put in



place for delayed updation/rectification of credit information by credit insti-

tutions (CIs) and credit information companies (CICs).

The RBI has directed CICs and CIs to implement the compensation framework as follows

A complainant may request a CIC or CI to update the credit information by making an appropriate correction, addition or otherwise, and on such request, the CI or CIC shall take steps to update the credit information within 30 days after being requested to do so.

A CI shall pay compensation to the complainant if the CI has failed to send updated credit information to the CICs by making an appropriate correction or addition or otherwise within 21 calendar days of being informed by the complainant or a CIC.

A CIC shall pay compensation to the complainant if the CIC has failed to resolve the complaint within 30 calendar days of being informed by the complainant or a CI, despite the CI having furnished the updated credit information to the CIC within 21 calendar days of being informed by the complainant or the CIC.

The complainant shall be advised by the CI/CIC of the action taken on the complaint in all cases, including the cases where the complaint has been rejected. In cases of rejection, the reasons for rejection shall also be provided by the CI and the CIC.

Compensation to be provided by the CICs/CIs to the complainant (for delayed resolution beyond 30 calendar days of filing the complaint) shall be apportioned among the CIs/CICs concerned proportionately.

Some people only did politics in name of farmers: PM Modi's dig at Sharad Pawar

Shirdi | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said some people from Maharashtra only did politics in the name of farmers, in comments aimed at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar, who handled the agriculture portfolio during the UPA government.

PM Modi said his government was committed to farmer welfare and pointed out that cultivators are now getting MSP (minimum support price) money for their



products directly in their bank accounts. The PM was speaking at an event in the temple town of Shirdi in western Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district after inaugurating several development projects. "Some people in Maharashtra only did politics in the name of farmers. A senior leader of Maharashtra served as the country's agriculture minister. I personally respect him, but what has he done for farmers?" PM Modi said, without naming Pawar.

The NCP founder served as the agriculture minister when the Congress-led UPA government was in office at the Centre (2004-14). Modi said when Pawar was the Union agriculture minister, farmers had to be at the mercy of middlemen. "For months, farmers had to wait for their money. Our government gave MSP money directly in the bank accounts of farmers," he added.

ED raids Raj Congress president's premises, summons Gehlot's son in FEMA case

Jaipur | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate carried out raids at the residences of Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Dotasara in the paper leak case and also summoned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case.

In a post in Hindi on X, the Chief Minister said: "Date 25/10/23: Congress launches guarantees for women of Rajasthan... Date 26/10/23 - ED raid on Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Ji Dotasara - Summons to my son Vaibhav Gehlot to appear in ED."

"Now you can understand what I have been saying that ED's raids are happening inside Rajasthan because BJP does not want that women, farmers and poor in Rajasthan should get the benefit of the guarantees given by Congress." The Chief Minister has also called for a press



conference to discuss Thursday's developments that came just weeks ahead of the crucial November 25 Assemble elections in the state. In reaction to the raids, the state Congress president said on X: "Satyamev Jayate." According to sources, ED teams searched Dotasara's private residence in Sikar, as well as his government residence in Civil Lines, Jaipur.

In total, raids are being carried out at a total of 11 locations in the poll-bound state.

The Congress state president was present at his Sikar residence when the ED officials arrived at around 9.30 a.m., following which he was interrogated. Beside Dotasara, the premises of independent MLA Omprakash Hudla, is also being searched in Dausa and Jaipur, the sources said.

The ED teams searched for documents in the office built inside Hudla's residence.

Simultaneous searches were also carried out at the MLA's hotel Hudla Park in Mistry Market, Mahwa, during which the legislator was also present at the location. Hudla's interrogation is currently underway. According to the information, the name of Hariom Meena, Hudla's brother, had come up during the course of investigation in the paper leak case. Jaipur Police had arrested him about a year ago for placing a dummy candidate in the examination, but he is currently out on bail.

5 Lashkar Terrorists Killed In J&K Encounter, Infiltration Attempt Stopped

Srinagar | Agencies

Five Lashkar terrorists were killed today during a counter infiltration operation by police and army along the Line of Control or LoC in Jammu and Kashmir, said police.

The encounter took place in Machil sector of Kupwara district today. In the initial shootout today, two terrorists were killed and in the ensuing gun battle three more terrorists were shot dead, police said.

According to police, the killed terrorists belonged to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). Increasingly, the police are also being used in the counter infiltration operations, which was earlier done exclusively by the army. The operation is still underway. Dilbag Singh, Director General of J&K police, said



that 16 terrorist launching pads are still operational across the LoC and there are efforts to push in terrorists from Pakistan. The role of foreign terrorists in Kashmir was one of the big talking points at the meeting.

"The number of foreign terrorists has gone up again as local recruitments have gone down drastically," said an official. Out of 46 terrorists killed in the Union Territory this year, 37 were Pakistanis and only nine were locals, official figures reveal. This is the first time in the 33 years of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir that the number of foreign terrorists killed is four times as high as local terrorists.

About 130 terrorists are operating in the Valley currently, of which half are foreign terrorists, says the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Onion prices up, selling at Rs 50-80 per kg across NCR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Onion prices rose up sharply in markets across Delhi-NCR on Thursday.

While the staple vegetable was selling at Rs 35 to 40 per kg last week, the prices are touching Rs 50-80 across Delhi-NCR now. The sharp rise of nearly 50 per cent is attributed by customers across Delhi and Noida to the end of Navratri week. "I purchased onions at Rs 40 per kg last week. But, today I bought



them for Rs 80 per kg," Shekhar, a resident of Noida, told reporter. Madhu Sharma, a resident of Yojana Vihar in east Delhi said that the onions are selling at Rs 60 per kg in her area. Deepak Dogra a resident of Gagan Vihar said that he bought onions from

Reliance store at Rs 56 per kg. However, local vendors are selling onions for nearly at Rs 80 per kg in his locality, he told reporter. Rajeev, a resident of Ghaziabad, told reporter that he bought onions from Mother Dairy at Rs 65 per kg from Mother Dairy near his house. In Safal stores across Delhi, onions were selling at up to Rs 56 per kg depending upon the quality. The retailers are attributing the rise in price rise in local mandis and increased demand post Navratri.

22 killed in two mass shootings in US, culprit identified

Washington | Agencies

At least 22 people were killed in two mass shooting incidents in the US state of Maine, authorities said, adding that a "person of interest" who is "armed and dangerous" has been identified.

In a statement late Wednesday night, the Lewiston Police Department said the 40-

year-old person of interest Robert Card, who is currently absconding, should be "considered armed and dangerous", CNN reported. "Law Enforcement is attempting to locate Robert Card 4/4/1983, as a person of interest regarding the mass shooting at Schemengees Bar and Sparetime Recreation this evening. CARD should be con-

sidered armed and dangerous. Please contact law enforcement if you are aware of his whereabouts," the statement added. On Wednesday evening, the police department said that had responded to two locations in Lewiston -- a restaurant called Schemengees, and Sparetime Recreation, a bowling alley, the BBC reported.

ISRAEL LAUNCHES BRIEF GROUND RAID INTO NORTHERN GAZA

Jerusalem | Agencies

Israeli armoured vehicles take part in an operation as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues at a location given as the northern Gaza Strip in this still image taken from handout video released on Thursday.

The Israeli military says its troops and tanks briefly entered northern Gaza overnight into Thursday, striking several militant targets in order to "prepare the

battlefield" after more than two weeks of devastating air raids.

During the raid, the military said soldiers struck fighters, militant infrastructure and anti-tank missile launching positions. There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side. The action came after the UN warned it is on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts in the territory, which has also been under a complete siege since Hamas militants

stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7. Hamas's surprise rampage stunned the country with its brutality, its unprecedented toll and the failure of intelligence agencies to know it was coming. On Thursday, Global Affairs Canada said seven Canadian citizens have now been confirmed killed in the war.

Two more Canadians are missing, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech Wednesday night that he

will be held accountable for Israel's actions, but only after Hamas is defeated. The war, now in its 20th day, is the deadliest of five Gaza wars for both sides. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry said Thursday more than 7,000 Palestinians have been killed so far - more than three times the number killed in the six-week-long Gaza war in 2014. In the occupied West Bank, more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in violence and Israeli raids.



8 NAVY VETERANS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN QATAR; INDIA TO CONTEST ORDER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian government on Thursday expressed shock over the news of the eight former Indian Navy personnel, who have been in custody in Qatar since last year, being awarded the death sentence, saying it will contest the order.

"The Court of First Instance of Qatar has today passed a judgement in the case involving 8 Indian employees of Al Dahra company. We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Qatari authorities," it added.

Due to the confidential nature of proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture, the statement said further.

The eight persons were arrested last year after being charged with spying for Israel by Qatar authorities.



"Our Vishwa Guru (PM Modi) must intervene. Eight Indian ex-Navy officers given the death penalty by a Qatar court. Held accountable on charges which have not been even made public by Qatari authorities. Our government must explore all options for their release."

Kapil Sibal, Former Congress

"Today they have been sentenced to death. Narendra Modi has boasted about how much "Islamic countries" love him. He must bring our ex-naval officers back. It's very unfortunate that they face the death row."

Asaduddin Owaisi, President, AIMIM

The men also include decorated officers who once commanded major Indian warships, were working for Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a private firm that provided training and related services to Qatar's armed forces.

Their bail pleas were rejected numerous times and their detention extended by Qatari authorities.

On Thursday, the Court of First Instance of Qatar passed a judgement.

We won't run away, but will answer, says Vaibhav Gehlot after ED summons

Jaipur | Agencies

After Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot, who's also the president of the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA), was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in a case of violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on Thursday, he questioned the authorities regarding the timing of the notice and said that he had answered queries regarding these allegations some 12-13 years ago.

"The same allegations were made 12-13 years ago also. They were answered at that very moment. Now after 12-13 years, a notice has come again regarding the same things. Do the people of the state understand why this matter has been brought up before the elections," questioned Vaibhav Gehlot while speaking during a program in Fatehpur (Sikar) on Thursday. He said, the public is understanding all these things. Why have they remembered this years old matter only after the election code of conduct was imposed? We are not going to be afraid and we are not going to run away but will answer every question. Today when I was leaving from Jaipur, I came to know that the ED has raided the residence of Congress state president Govind Singh Dotsara. The Congress government is being targeted and in this connection raids have been conducted on the state president, said Vaibhav.

"I received the ED summons yesterday (October 25) at 3 p.m. Summoned at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday. Gave less than 24 hours. I



have spoken to lawyers and asked for time. I will answer whatever questions the ED has." He said all this is being done as per a well thought out strategy. There is nothing new in this whole issue.

Today the Chief Minister has also expressed his views on the entire issue. We are not going to run away, everyone will answer. This matter is 12 years old.

"The same allegations were levelled in 2011-12 also.

When the elections have come, the allegations are recalled. The same allegations are made in every election. Elections were announced, code of conduct was imposed. Now the things which I answered 12 years ago, summons have been received to ask those things. People's blessings are with us. We will soon come out of all this," he added.

Cong releases 3rd list of 19 candidates for Raj polls; fields expelled BJP MLA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Thursday released its third list of 19 candidates for Rajasthan Assembly elections, which includes the name of expelled BJP MLA Shobharani Kushwah, who joined the grand old party on Wednesday after quitting the saffron camp.

The 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will go to the polls on November 25, while the results will be declared on December 3.

The third list also includes the names of BSP-turned-Congress MLAs Wajib Ali and Lakhani Singh Meena.

Kushwah, who was expelled by the BJP in June



last year for 'cross-voting' in the Rajya Sabha elections, will contest from Dholpur, a seat she had won in 2018 on a BJP ticket. She joined the Congress on Wednesday in the presence party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadhra. While Wajib Ali has

been fielded from Nagar, Lakhani Singh Meena will contest the Karauli Assembly seat. The party has also fielded Independent MLA Ramkesh Meena from Gangapur. The Congress has also given ticket to sitting MLA Gayatri Drvi's brother-in-law Rajendra Trivedi (Sahara), but has replaced Pilot camp MLA Rakesh Boyat (Keshoraipatan, SC seat) with Gehlot camp's C.L. Premi Bairwa.

The party has fielded a new candidate -- Motiram Koli -- from the Reodar SC seat. The Congress had earlier released two lists for the Rajasthan polls, naming 33 and 43 candidates, respectively.

Visa scam racket busted in Delhi, 3 arrested

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the arrest of three men, the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang involved in duping thousands of people across the country on pretext of offering visas to Canada and Gulf countries.

The accused were identified as Tarun Kumar (43), Vinayak alias Binni (29), and Jaswinder Singh (25), all residents of Punjab.

The Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ravinder Singh Yadav, revealed that they received information about multiple people being defrauded by a company known as "Birla-G," based in Chandigarh, Punjab. This company promised to provide Canadian Visas but eventually supplied counterfeit visas to the victims. "Investigative efforts led to the identification of the culprits, Tarun and Karan, who were operating under



the guise of another business named 'Chandigarh to Abroad' at Sector-34A, Chandigarh. They were involved in deceiving numerous innocent citizens," said the Special CP. Throughout the investigation, the team compiled a comprehensive set of evidence, including Call Detail Records (CDR), Customer Application Forms (CAF), Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDR), recharge histories, bank statements, IP logs, online wallets, and GST-related data. "Through the use of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), email addresses linked to mobile numbers used by the fraudsters were

identified," said the officer.

A raid was conducted at the Chandigarh to Abroad office, where Tarun was apprehended. "The search of the office yielded various fake and forged documents, laptops, passports containing counterfeit visas, a bar-code maker, laminator machines, rolls, and stationery used for creating forged documents, as well as stamps from multiple firms and international banks," said Yadav. It was discovered that Tarun had been operating the office under the identity of one of his employees, Jaswinder Singh. "Tarun admitted to procuring forged visas from a person named Vinayak, who was running an office under the name 'Shri Sai Education' at Sector 34 Chandigarh, Punjab. Consequently, Tarun, Jaswinder, and Vinayak were arrested," said Yadav. During interrogations, it became evident that Tarun was the mastermind behind this fraudulent operation. "Despite having

only completed 12th grade, he hired graduate employees to facilitate the acquisition of a Manpower licence from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, using the names of these hired employees," said the officer. This tactic was designed to deceive law enforcement agencies. "Tarun reached out to potential clients through social media advertisements and subsequent phone calls in various states, offering consultation and visa arrangement services," said the officer. He charged victims amounts ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs two lakhs in advance, depending on the destination country. "The fees were ostensibly for various stages of visa approval, such as application fees, medical fees, and job offer letter fees, followed by the presentation of counterfeit visas via WhatsApp photographs. In this manner, clients were defrauded of approximately Rs 15 to 20 lakhs in total," said the officer.

13 killed as SUV rams into parked truck in Karnataka

Chikkaballapur | Agencies

As many as 13 people were killed after an SUV rammed into a parked truck on the Bengaluru-Hyderabad National Highway-44 on the outskirts of Chikkaballapur near Bengaluru on Thursday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that he will pray to the souls of the deceased and announced Rs 2 lakh compensation for the families of all deceased persons.

The police have identified 12 bodies and one person's identity is yet to be ascertained. The deceased are Aruna (32), a resident of Doddaballapur city, Narasimhamurthy (37), a resident of Margakunte in Bagepalli, Narasimhappa (40) from Kaligere near Gorantla in Andhra Pradesh. Ruthwik (6), a resident of Doddaballapur, Perimal Pavankumar (32) from Kottacheruvu in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, Subbamma



aka Venkatalakshamma (45), a resident of Vrushabhavathi Nagar in Bengaluru,

Shantamma (37) and Rajavardhan (15), a resident of Gowripenta village near

Penukonda in Andhra Pradesh. Narayanappa (50) from Marakorapalli

in Andhra Pradesh, A. Venkataramana (51) from Navaba Kota in Andhra Pradesh, Bellala Venkataadri (32) and Bellala Laxmi (20) from Vanavolu village near Gorantla in Andhra Pradesh.

The bodies have been kept in the premises of the Chikkaballapur mortuary. Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar and district commissioner visited the mortuary and condoled the deaths.

A thick layer of morning mist blocked the driver's vision leading to the tragedy. Chikkaballapur Superintendent of Police (SP), D.L. Nagesh stated that the SUV crashed into a truck from the rear killing 13 people.

While five persons were killed on the spot, seven others succumbed to the injuries on the way to hospital and one died at the hospital. Due to the impact of the collision, the doors of the car got jammed and the locals and police had to break them open to rescue the victims. Further investigation is on.

CASH FOR QUERY CASE: LOK SABHA ETHICS COMMITTEE SUMMONS MAHUA MOITRA ON OCT 31

New Delhi: The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to appear before it on October 31 in connection with the cash-for-query allegation against her.

On Thursday, BJP leader Nishikant Dubey, who had lodged a complaint against Mahua Moitra with the Lok Sabha Speaker, and advocate Jay Anant Dehadrai appeared before the Ethics Committee chaired by Vinod Sonkar and recorded their statements.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had referred the matter to the Ethics Committee for investigation.

The panel had summoned Dubey and the advocate over their allegations against Mahua Moitra of "cash for Parliament questions".

All promises by PM Modi like women's reservation, caste-based census are 'empty envelopes': Priyanka

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday claimed that the BJP got so much angry with her over her empty envelope remarks that they filed a complaint against her, and said all promises like Women's reservation, OBC caste census, ERCP by Prime Minister Narendra Modi are "empty envelopes" only.

In a post on her WhatsApp channel, Priyanka Gandhi said, "BJP people got so angry at one of my words that they filed a case against me. I had said that I saw on TV - Prime Minister came to Devnarayanji's temple with an envelope. When it was opened, 21 rupees came out."

"From the work they do, it is also seen that Modi ji's envelope is empty. Women's reservation, OBC caste census, ERCP are all empty promises because Modiji's envelope is empty," she said.

Her remarks came a day after the BJP complained to the Election Commission on Wednesday accusing her of "invoking the personal religious devotion of Prime Minister Modi" to make "false claims" during her poll campaign in Rajasthan and urged it to take action against her.

A BJP delegation, including Union ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Anil Ram Meghwal and party leaders Arjun Baluni and Om Pathak, submitted a complaint to the EC to take appropriate legal action against the



Congress general secretary.

The BJP in its submission to the poll panel said Priyanka Gandhi told a public meeting in Dausa on October 20 that she saw it on TV that when an envelope of donation made by the Prime Minister at a temple was opened, it carried only Rs 21. She added that she saw the news and is not aware if the claim is true or not, the BJP's complaint read.

She then went on to launch a political attack on the BJP saying that "envelopes" are shown to public by the party but nothing is found in them after the elections. The BJP included a video of her remarks in its complaint. Assembly polls for 200 members assembly are scheduled to be held in Rajasthan on November 25 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

Poor air quality driving 50% rise in lung, chest problems in Delhi-NCR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid deteriorating air quality levels, there has been a 50 per cent increase in cases of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other chest problems in Delhi and around, city doctors said on Thursday. The overall air quality in Delhi on Thursday morning continued to be in the "poor" category, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) at 256, as per SAFAR-India.

According to the daily bulletin of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the national capital's AQI, as of 4 p.m. on October 25, was 243. Neighbouring Noida and Ghaziabad were also in the "poor" category, with AQIs of 212 and 203, respectively. Gurgaon, however, fared better with an AQI of 190, falling in the "moderate" category. "Amidst the rising levels of pollution in Delhi-NCR, we are witnessing a notable increase in patients with COPD and chest problems coming to us in our OPD these days. We are seeing roughly 30 to 35 patients each day in our OPD, from 7-10 patients a day earlier -- marking almost a 50 per cent increase," Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Grover, Head of Critical care and Pulmonology, C.K. Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told reporter.

Dr. Vivek Nangia, Principal Director & Head Pulmonology, Max Hospital, Saket, added he is



also seeing a "dramatic increase" in the number of patients visiting the OPD and the emergency room. "The majority of patients that we treat nowadays present with cough, cold, sore throat, feeling of a foreign body in the throat, watering eyes, tightness in the chest, and shortness of breath. And in the majority of cases, we must administer medications such as nasal decongestants and anti-allergy medications," he said. While Delhi's air quality struggles every year

due to stubble burning, there is a notable decrease in these incidents, with only 1,794 farm fires in Haryana and 714 in Punjab recorded till October 23. In addition, increasing temperatures in Delhi and decrease in the speed of the wind may result in an increase in pollution, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday. "The particulate matter is staying near the ground," he added.

Dr. Grover said patients who already had respiratory issues are now getting diagnosed with pneumonia and are being hospitalised. People are also getting newly "affected with upper respiratory issues and if not treated well in time they can also get affected with lower respiratory issues", he said.

Dr. Arun Chowdhary Kotaru, Consultant, Respiratory & Sleep Medicine at Artemis Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS the effect of air pollution is profound in the lungs and heart. "We are also seeing one member of every family is suffering from a cough, sore throat and fever. Supportive therapy and a good diet with physical activity is a must for all the patients," he suggested.

The health experts also advised quitting smoking and staying away from secondhand smoke, avoiding dust and pollution as much as possible. They recommended people above 60 years of age or below 15 years to take flu and pneumonia vaccines.



PM should meet fasting activist, resolve Maratha Quota issue: Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange and resolve the issue of reservation for the community. Thackeray was speaking to reporters here, a day after Jarange launched an indefinite fast in Jalna district over the Maratha quota demand.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his speech at his party's Dussehra rally held in Mumbai on Tuesday vowed to provide reservation to the Maratha community by bowing before the bust of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the dais.

Taking a dig at chief minister Shinde, Thackeray said making a vow and then resorting to delaying tactics



was not a way out. "The government should tell the Maratha quota protesters what is the way out. Why isn't the government not resolving the issue if there is a way out?" Thackeray asked.

"I welcome the Prime Minister, but he should meet Jarange and resolve the issue of granting reservation to the Maratha community," the former Maharashtra CM said. PM Modi was on a visit to Shirdi in

Maharashtra on Thursday. He performed puja at the revered Shri Saibaba Samadhi Temple in Shirdi and offered prayers. He later performed the 'Jal Pujan' of Nilwande dam, located in Ahmednagar district, and inaugurated the dam's left bank canal network. Jarange, who has become the face of the Maratha quota agitation, launched his hunger strike at his native Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district on Wednesday as the 40-day deadline he had set before the Maharashtra government to provide reservation to the community came to an end on October 24.

Expressing disappointment over the state government's "failure" to take steps for giving reservation to the Maratha community, the 40-year-old activist said he gave ample time to the government and would not wait any longer.

Maulana Azad Vichar Manch seeks education, job quotas for Muslims

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With barely 2-3 per cent of Muslims graduating and hardly 2-2.5 per cent getting jobs in the government or private sector, the plight of the community in Maharashtra is worse than that of the OBCs or the Marathas, making a strong case to provide quotas in jobs and education for impoverished Muslims. In order to highlight the plight of the community, the Maulana Vichar Manch president Hussain Dalwai, ex-MP, has convened a national-level Muslim Rights Conference here on Saturday.

Addressing mediapersons, Dalwai said that though Muslims comprise around 11.5 per cent of Maharashtra's population, their proportion in education and jobs is minimal. He added that the number of Muslims living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) was the highest among all other communities and the Muslim community remains backward.

He said that nearly 75 per cent of children in the age group of 6-14 drop out of school within the first few years and barely 2-3 per cent are able to graduate or pursue higher education. Consequently, they hold hardly 2-2.5 per cent of the jobs in the government and private sector.

Dwelling on the historic aspects at the national level, Dalwai said the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had set up the Dr. Gopal Singh Commission with the late Dr. Rafiq Zakari as a member, and he first proved the decline of the Muslim society with correlational statistics and authentic data.

"After that, a 15-point program was announced for the Muslim community, but was



never implemented, so there was no improvement in their social, academic and economic levels," Dalwai said.

Later, former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh set up the Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee, and he made a comparative study of Muslim and non-Muslim societies and put the exact condition of Muslim society in front of the country.

It was followed by the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission which clearly stated the need for reservation for Muslims.

In Maharashtra, the then Congress government set up a commission in May 2008 headed by Dr. Mehmood-ur Rahman, which recommended at least 8 per cent quota for Muslims.

Finally, in July 2014, the then Congress government granted 5 per cent reservation to Muslims (along with the Maratha quotas), giving quotas to 50 categories of Muslims but there were many errors in the government circular.

"However, while the Maratha community circular was cleared by the Social Justice Department, the Muslim reservation proposal was passed by the Minority Welfare Department though the authority was vested with the Social Justice Department," claimed Dalwai.

He rued that Muslims, especially those who are economically backward, need quotas and concessions in education but no government has taken any action on this count in the last ten years.

"While the government and leaders of various political parties have promised to do their best for Maratha quotas, no party or leader is willing to take a stand on reservation for Muslims, who have been deprived of education and development for generations, leading to great unrest," cautioned Dalwai.

He urged all leaders, political and social, to put aside their differences and speak up for providing Muslims with education, jobs, livelihood, healthcare, poverty-alleviation and Constitutional rights, on the lines of other communities.

"Beside quotas, the Muslim should get equal representation in power, wealth and prestige. Funds on the lines of other communities and tribes should be provided in Union and state budgets based on their population apart from 100 per cent scholarships and hostel accommodation at the district levels, etc," urged Dalwai.

In order to ascertain the exact status, he said that there should be a census of the Muslim community on the lines of the recent caste survey in Bihar, deploying the Waqf resources for the welfare of the community, and stringent laws to abolish mob-lynching.

The seminar on Saturday shall be attended by top Muslim leaders like Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Dr Salman Khurshid, Mohammed Adib, Dr. Amin Patel, Wajahat Mirza, Abdul Rahman, Yusuf Abrahami, Maulana Naseem Siddiqui, NCP President Sharad Pawar, Congress state chief Nana Patole, Mumbai Congress leader Professor. Varsha Gaikwad, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray, and MP Arvind Sawant, and Mumbai Congress President Varsha Gaikwad.

Medico among 9 killed in two separate road crashes in Beed

Team Absolute | Beed (Maharashtra)

At least nine persons, including a doctor, were killed and more than 25 others injured in two separate accidents involving a bus and a mini ambulance in Ambhora and Ashti villages in a matter of eight hours, police officials said here on Thursday. In the first incident, at least four persons travelling in an ambulance were killed when it hit a truck taking a turn from the rear, around 10 pm on Wednesday, said Assistant Police Inspector Mahadeo Dhakne.

The second incident took place around 5 a.m. on Thursday when a passenger bus from Mumbai to Beed skidded and overturned on a sharp stretch of the highway near Ashti, said Police Inspector Santosh Khetmalas.



Dhakne said that the ambulance was apparently ferrying a patient when it rammed into the truck from the back side when the heavy vehicle was taking a left turn to go to Ahmednagar.

The victims include the ambulance driver Bharat S. Lokhande, 35, Manoj P. Tirpude, 34, Pappu P. Tirkunde, 33, all of whom succumbed on the spot,

while a medico Dr. Rajesh B. Zinjurke, 35 died during treatment at the MacCare Hospital, Ahmednagar. According to Khetmalas, a speeding bus suddenly skid and overturned on the Beed highway and slid for over a 100 metres before coming to a halt, around 5 am. "So far five persons are killed and more than 24 persons are injured in the accident, and a few are serious. The Sagar Travels bus was proceeding from Mumbai to Beed, and the exact cause of the accident is being investigated," said Khetmalas. Both Dhakne and Khetmalas said that the vehicles involved in the crashes - a bus, a truck and an Omni ambulance - have been towed aside from the highways where normal traffic has resumed, the families of the deceased and injured have been informed and cases have been lodged in the two accidents.

Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium to host women's Test match in December; reports

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The iconic DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai will host the women's Test match after almost 9 years, with England due to play a four-day game there from December 14-17, said a report.

England will tour India in December for three T20Is and a Test and according to ESPNcricinfo, all matches will be played in the state of Maharashtra. The T20Is will be held at the Wankhede Stadium on December 6, 9, and 10 - with back-to-back weekend games representing an attempt to maximise crowds - and the Test at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai from December 14.

The tour will also feature an England A series in Mumbai, likely to comprise three T20s in Mumbai starting late November.

However, the date confirmations haven't been made by the association nor from the BCCI, and



are awaiting final sign-off and will soon be made public.

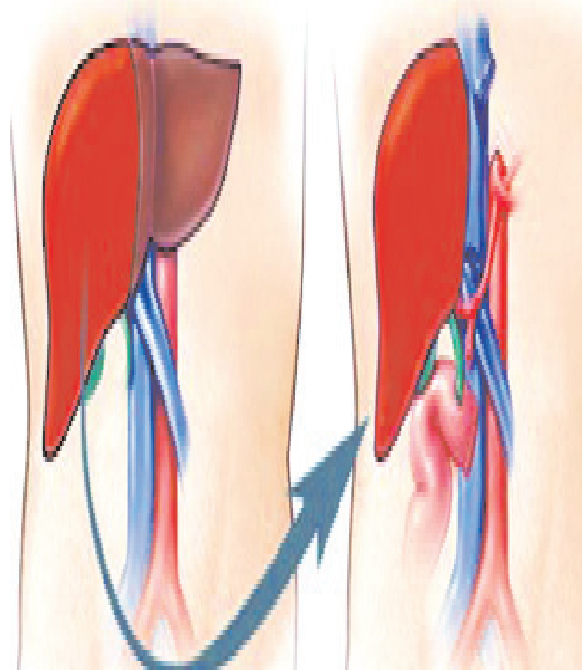
England women last toured India in 2019, losing 2-1 in the ODI leg of the tour at the Wankhede before winning the T20I series 3-0 in Guwahati. The state of Maharashtra has evolved out as the

hub of Women's cricketers, with the entire first season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) played at the two venues in Maharashtra - Brabourne Stadium, which neighbours the Wankhede, and the DY Patil Stadium - earlier this year the state has been nurturing the yo'fund talents with better facilities.

India will be toured by Australian Women soon after England and according to Code Sports the Test and ODI games of that tour will be staged at the Wankhede, with the T20Is held at the DY Patil.

England's women last played a Test in India in 2005, and India has only staged one women's Test in the 18 years since: an innings win for India over South Africa in 2014. Two years ago, Indian women played their first Tests, drawing in England and Australia. It will be the first series for Amol Muzumdar who was appointed as Indian Women's team head coach on Wednesday evening.

On Dassehra, deceased Mumbai man's organs give new life to three patients



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three persons waitlisted for organs got a new lease of life on Dassehra (October 24) from a 66-year-old male from Mulund, who was declared brain dead a day earlier, officials said here on Wednesday. The patient succumbed to complications following intracerebral bleeding on Monday at the Fortis Hospital in Mulund. But in the hour of grief, his family, comprising his wife and two sons, consented to donate his organs. The Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre (ZTCC) assigned three waitlisted patients who have now got a fresh start in life, marking the city's 38th cadaveric organ

donation so far in 2023. The recipients include a 54-year-old man from Nashik, who was given the liver; a 55-year-old woman from Mulund, who was given one kidney; while the other kidney went to a patient in a local BMC hospital. The harvested corneas of the deceased man were handed over to an eye bank in Ghatkopar. Fortis Hospital Director Gaurav Gupta and a medical team comprising Kapildev Yadav, Prashant Kadam, Ramesh Mahajan and others played a key role in ensuring that the donated organs were retrieved and transplanted to the recipients in time, said a hospital spokesperson.

Officer tells woman on wheelchair to go to his 2nd floor office, suspended

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A marriage officer has been suspended after a disabled woman was forced to go up to the second-floor office of a marriage registrar at Khar in Mumbai on her wedding day to complete the formalities.

The Maharashtra revenue department on Wednesday issued a government resolution (GR) suspending the officer - Arun Ghodekar.

Viral Modi, who uses a wheelchair and identifies herself as a disability rights activist, in a post on X last week claimed she had to be carried to the second-floor office of the marriage registrar in the city on her wedding day because the building had no lift and the officials refused to come down to complete the formalities.

"How is this fair? What happened to the Accessible India campaign? Just because I'm a wheelchair user, do I not have the right to get married to someone I love? What if someone had slipped and what if I had fallen on my wedding day? Who is responsible?" she asked.

The post, which was shared many times, had also elicited a response from Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis who said he was sorry for what she had to face and assured to take "corrective and appropriate action".

The state revenue department in the GR said Ghodekar, as a government officer, insisted that the disabled person come to the second floor on the ground of



collecting her and the groom's fingerprints and photos on the computer.

"There are provisions in the Special Marriage Act 1954 where the marriage officer needs to go to the wedding location at a reasonable distance from the marriage registration office.

The government officers have to respond and provide service to the weaker sections," the GR said. "People close to Viral Modi and her fiancé, Kshitij Nayak, telephoned Ghodekar, requesting him to come downstairs to complete the marriage registration procedure. But Ghodekar insisted that they come to the second floor of the building, which had no lift.

For violating the service rules and indecent behaviour, Arun Ghodekar will remain suspended till further order," it added.

Viral Modi in her post last week said, "I am disabled and I got married at the Registrars Office at Khar Mumbai on 16/10/23. The office was on the 2nd floor WITHOUT a lift. They wouldn't come downstairs for the signatures and I had to be carried up two flights of stairs to get married."

"I am disheartened that my country's government and citizens cannot accommodate to my disability. My faith in humanity has been destroyed by this ordeal. I am not a piece of luggage that needs to be carried up two floors. I am a human being and my rights matter!" she added on an anguished note.

'Baap Of Chart' banned from market, ordered by SEBI to refund \$2.1 million

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Market regulator SEBI barred a popular influencer on social media from securities trading and ordered him to refund Rs 17.2 crore rupees collected from followers after its investigation found he gave stock recommendations in the garb of providing educational training.

The action by the Securities and Exchange Board of India follows a growing clamor on social media platforms like X, formerly known as Twitter, for a crackdown on so-called finfluencers amid concerns over the viability of their claims of making profit through trading strategies that they communicate to their followers.

In an interim order Wednesday, the regulator banned Mohammad Nasiruddin Ansari, who operated on social media in the name of "Baap of Chart," from buying, selling or dealing in securities. It also barred an individual and a firm linked to Ansari.

"It is observed that Nasir is inducing clients/ investors by assuring profits/ returns of a minimum 3,00,000 rupees and extending to 6,00,000 rupees per month and also giving recommendation to buy," Sebi said in the order. The regulator added that its investigation found Nasir would offer support and guidance to those who paid him for 'live market' transactions.

In August, the regulator sought comments from the public on a regulation that will thwart the activities of investment advisers and market analysts who are not registered with it. Sebi's crackdown comes amid rising popularity of stocks among Indian retail investors.



EDITOR'S SPECS

MAYAWATI TO BEGIN CAMPAIGNING FROM NOVEMBER FIRST WEEK

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati will launch her election campaign in the poll-bound states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana from the first week of November. According to a BSP functionary, Mayawati will address eight rallies each in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in support of party candidates. She will address two rallies each in Chhattisgarh and Telangana. The party state unit presidents have been directed to start preparations for the rallies by mobilising workers and supporters, he said. The rallies are being organized in areas that are considered strongholds of the BSP. In Madhya Pradesh, the rallies will be organised on November 6, 7, 8 and 14, and in Rajasthan on November 17, 18, 19 and 20. Mayawati will address two rallies in Chhattisgarh on November 9 and two in Telangana on November 22 and 23. In Madhya Pradesh, the BSP chief will address public meetings in Datia, Niwari, Chattarapur, Damoh, Satna, Rewa, Morena and Bhind, the functionary said. The BSP is contesting the Assembly elections in alliance with the Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In Rajasthan and Telangana, the party has decided to go solo. In the 2018 Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the BSP polled 5.01 per cent votes and bagged two seats. In Rajasthan, it polled 4.03 per cent votes and secured victory on six seats. In Chhattisgarh, the BSP secured 3.9 per cent votes in 2018 assembly elections and bagged two seats.

Russia tries to capitalise on US self-isolation at UNSC on Gaza

Arul Louis

A stern-faced US Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield, peering over her glasses, raised her right hand to cast a lone veto on a near-consensus resolution condemning the Hamas attack on Israel, but also calling for a pause in the fighting, while close ally Britain's envoy Barbara Woodward looked down, studying papers on her desk.

That tableau on Wednesday at the Security Council captured the shifting mood at the UN where Russia had been on the defensive and a solid Western alliance had stood together on Ukraine, which has been the main polarising factor.

Britain abstained on the resolution, while France voted for it.

Next, the issue will go to the General Assembly with vivid pictures of the wounded or killed, who included children, in Israel's retaliatory attacks - not counting the contentious hospital explosion - continuing to stir emotions amid reports of over 3,500 people killed in Gaza.

On the day of the Council vote, US President Joe Biden was in Israel in a show of support for that embattled nation, but had been rebuffed by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine who called off a planned summit.

And Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, unwelcome in Israel, was preparing to visit Egypt the next day and by the weekend, was at a peace summit, convened on Saturday by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, which had high-powered representation from the region and beyond hoping to douse the flames of conflict.

Showing a shift from the ineffective Security Council in New York, but with UN participation, eight heads of state including from Jordan, UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, as well as notably South Africa were expected at the summit; so were Prime Ministers of five countries - Spain, Italy, Greece, and Iraq, among them, and Foreign Ministers from Britain, France, Japan and Germany and three others. (Russia and China were represented by senior diplomats at other levels).

The principals in the conflict - directly or indirectly - Israel, Hamas, and the US were glaringly absent.

Guterres told the assembled leaders: "The time has come for action, action to end this godawful nightmare - action to build a future worthy of the dreams of the children of Palestine, Israel, the region and our world."

When the the Council met on Wednesday it



was under the cloud of the gruesome explosion at a Gaza hospital that killed more than 470 people.

Palestinians said it was an Israeli missile strike, while Biden said it was done by the "other side", echoing the stance of Israel, which claimed that it was a Palestinian Islamic Jihad group's rocket that misfired.

The vetoed resolution proposed by Brazil, the Security Council President, had most of what the US wanted, principally an unequivocal condemnation of Hamas for "the heinous terrorist attacks" that killed about 1,700 people in Israel with about 200 taken hostage, and also a demand for a "humanitarian pause" in the fighting rather than a ceasefire.

But Thomas-Greenfield, defending the veto, said: "The United States is disappointed this resolution made no mention of Israel's right of self-defense."

Moreover, she said: "We need to let that diplomatic play out."

Diplomatic isolation on the world stage was the price that Biden was willing to pay for the domestic compulsions: An overwhelming majority of Americans are equally unwavering in their support for Israel.

A Quinipiac poll showed that 76 per cent of US voters believe that supporting Israel was in the national interest of the US, and CNN found that 70 per cent of Americans say that Israel's response to the Hamas attack was fully or partially justified.

If Britain and France broke ranks with the US, it was also because of domestic factors as both have a vociferous Muslim population largely aligned with Palestinians and not as robust a support from others for Israel like in the US.

Trying to capitalise on the veto, Russia's Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia said: "We have just been witnesses once again of the hypocrisy and double standards of our American colleagues."

Earlier, Russia moved two amendments to the resolution - one to change the call for a pause in the fighting to a "humanitarian ceasefire", a semantic difference that would have required a more lasting stoppage of the fighting, and another to condemn attacks on civilians and civilian facilities in Gaza.

Both of them failed to get the required minimum of nine votes with several countries abstaining, which did not make the US negative vote a veto. In a clever ploy that would not make it appear against the main thrust of the resolution's demand for a "humanitarian pause" while, at the same time, not going along with the condemnation of Hamas, Russia abstained -- like Britain, which did so for different reasons.

China, which has played a delicate game at the Council by putting some distance between it and Russia by abstaining on a resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine, this time openly broke with Moscow and voted for Brazil's resolution - perhaps knowing that it would be nullified by the

US veto.

Russia has been aiming for the leadership of the Arab and Muslim countries on the Gaza issue and to score points against the US.

On Monday, Moscow presented a resolution along with Bangladesh, Pakistan and 23 other countries, most of them Muslim, calling for a ceasefire but not condemning specifically the Hamas attack.

It failed to get the required nine votes for adoption and the negative votes of permanent members -- the US, Britain and France -- did not translate into vetoes.

Under a General Assembly resolution adopted in response to Russia's veto of a Council resolution condemning its invasion of Ukraine, any permanent member that uses its veto will have to appear before the Assembly within ten working days to explain its action.

Now it will be Washington's turn to defend its veto.

There are two requests for reconvening an emergency special session of the Assembly on Palestine, one by Russia and its allies, Nicaragua and Syria, and another by Jordan as the head of the Arab Group and by Mauritania as the chair of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation at the UN. UN officials are trying to sort out whether the reconvening of the emergency session or the meeting to hear the US defend its veto takes precedence and either of the meetings could happen within this week or the next.

Russia and its allies and/or the Arab and Muslim countries will propose resolutions at the Assembly critical of Israel.

The lineups have been different in the Assembly when it comes to Ukraine and Palestine and Britain and France have broken ranks with the US. The last resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine received 143 votes in the 193-member Assembly, with five votes against it and 35 abstentions, including that of India, in September last year. There is a strong possibility that a properly modulated resolution on Gaza and Israel could get at least the 97 votes needed to pass, a reversal from the Ukraine resolutions backed by the US and strongly critical of Russia. A resolution criticising Israel's actions in the Palestine territories and calling for protection of civilians passed in June with 120 votes, while there were eight votes against it and 45 abstentions. France voted for it and Britain abstained

international

MASSIVE MANHUNT UNDERWAY IN US STATE AFTER MASS SHOOTINGS LEAVE 22 DEAD

Washington | Agencies

A massive manhunt is currently underway in Maine for the gunman who killed 22 people in two mass shooting incidents, with the police asking residents of Lewiston, the second largest city in the US state, to shelter in place.

There were two active shooting incidents on Wednesday evening in the city -- at Sparetime Recreation, a bowling alley on Mollison Way, and Schemengees Bar & Grille Restaurant on Lincoln Street, according to the Lewiston Police Department.

The two locations are at a distance of 6.5 km from each other.

State officials said the shootings began at 6.56 p.m., CNN reported.

In a statement late Wednesday night, the Lewiston Police Department said the 40-year-old person of interest Robert Card, who is currently absconding, should be "considered armed and dangerous".

"Law Enforcement is attempting to locate Robert Card 4/4/1983, as a person of interest regarding the mass shooting at Schemengees Bar and Sparetime Recreation this evening. CARD should be considered armed and dangerous. Please contact law enforcement if you are aware of his whereabouts," the statement added.



As of Thursday, hundreds of officers continue to search for Card, a trained firearms instructor and member of the US Army Reserves, Xinhua news agency reported citing authorities as saying.

Law enforcement officials said Card "recently reported mental health issues".

The Central Maine Medical Center had also confirmed of reacting to a "mass casualty, mass shooter event" and is coordinating with other hospitals in the area to treat the injured.

Although the number of injured persons was not immediately clear, but reports have suggested that at least 50 to 60 people were hurt.

The shelter-in-place order remained for Lewiston

and now is also in place for Lisbon, which is around 7 miles southeast of the city, Michael Sauschuck, commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety, told reporters.

Police also shared a photo of a white vehicle, saying its front bumper was believed to be painted black, and asked anybody who recognised it to contact police.

Sauschuck said that a "vehicle of interest" was found in Lisbon but the person of interest remains at large.

Lewiston Public Schools Superintendent Jake Langlais has announced that schools will remain closed on Thursday.

The White House said President Joe Biden has been informed of the incident, adding that he spoke on the phone with a number of Maine lawmakers in the wake of the mass shootings, reports CNN.

"The President spoke by phone individually to Maine Governor Janet Mills, Senators Angus King and Susan Collins, and Congressman Jared Golden about the shooting in Lewiston, Maine and offered full federal support in the wake of this horrific attack," it added.

Lewiston is a city of about 38,000 people located about 35 miles north of Portland, Maine.

Israeli intelligence, IDF arrest 60 persons for links with Hamas

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Israeli intelligence agency Shin Bet and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have conducted joint raids starting Wednesday night that resulted in the arrest of 60 persons on charges of affiliation to Hamas.

Based on tip-offs given by Shin Bet, the IDF conducted the raids inside the Gaza border, the IDF said in a statement on Thursday. The IDF is preparing for a ground offensive in the Gaza Strip for which troops have been deployed at the borders. The IDF has moved tanks into the Gaza Strip and destroyed some terror check-posts and missile



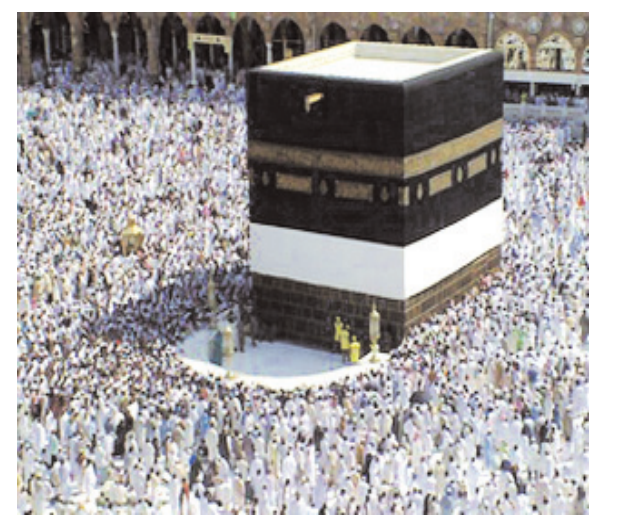
launching pads. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) in a statement on Thursday said that Hamas was preventing the citizens of Gaza from evacuating. The IDF spokesmen confirmed that they had appealed to the people in the Gaza Strip to evacuate only to understand that the Hamas telebots had blocked the access routes to Southern strip. The Military said that they had communicated to the people living in Gaza Strip but they had responded stating that all the roads were blocked.

Dubai Police arrest Indian expat for defrauding 150 people in Haj pilgrimage racket

Dubai | Agencies

The Dubai Police have arrested an Indian expat accused of defrauding 150 UAE nationals by accepting advance payments to the tune of 3 million dirhams for a Haj pilgrimage that never materialised, a media report said. Shabin Rasheed, 44, who runs the Sharjah-based Baitul Ateeq travel agency, was taken into police custody earlier this month after people complained that he left him in a lurch and did not refund the money, the Khaleej Times newspaper reported on Wednesday.

"If missing out on Haj wasn't bad enough, we also have our money stuck," said Mohammad Saquib, a Dubai resident, who had booked the pilgrimage package with Rasheed. Rasheed initially apologised claiming that a last-minute change in visa issuance caused the issues and promised to refund payments. Last month however, Rasheed said that he is selling his property in India for refunds and is exploring a compensation case against a Saudi company, citing financial loss, defamation and emotional damage. But the refunds never came through, following which the residents filed a police complaint. A notification



regarding Rasheed's arrest was sent by the Dubai Police to the clients of Baitul Ateeq. Following this, a Baitul Ateeq representative reached out to individuals awaiting refunds via WhatsApp, confirming the news. "We regretfully inform you that Shabin is under custody due to a report made by some Haj members. Thus, we can't respond to any progress related to refunding until his release," the message shared by Khaleej Times read.

"However, our partner in Saudi is still working on refunding from there. We are in dire need of your patience and support during this time," the message added. Dubai resident Saquib Imam, who had paid Dh20,000 around this time last year, said he has received only Dh5,000 so far. The report said it remained unclear as to how many police complaints were filed against the company or how many clients have been partially refunded. Earlier, Rasheed claimed to have refunded 20 individuals, but failed to provide evidence in terms of names and contact numbers despite repeated requests by the newspaper.

Ukraine begins forced evacuation of kids from frontline areas

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian authorities have started forced evacuation of some 1,000 children from frontline areas in the southern Kherson and eastern Donetsk regions as Russia has intensified attacks in recent days. The authorities have asked parents that they must move their families to safety from 31 settlements in these two regions, adding that anyone below the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, the BBC reported. Oleksandr Tolokonnikov, spokesman for the Kherson regional administration, said that some families were still reluctant to leave their homes, despite constant shelling and increased danger from enemy attacks. "There are different cases. For example, when families barricade themselves inside. Of course the police don't break doors. They talk to people. They show



videos to people of what happens if the shell hits, with killed and injured children. It is more psychological work," the BBC quoted the spokesman as saying. In the Donetsk region, a special police unit known as the White Angels is responsible for getting people to safety. Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk, said the evacuation teams were risking their lives and appealed to parents to be ready: "If you're warned about evacuation, please don't delay, pack the most necessary

things, your documents, and leave." But she also acknowledged that the authorities in Kherson lack sufficient armoured vehicles to transport children to safety. Meanwhile, authorities in the north-eastern Kharkiv region are also preparing to evacuate 275 children from 10 settlements, reports the BBC. The development comes as Russian troops have launched major assaults on a few areas along the Eastern front in recent days and intensified shelling in the south.

Record 114 mn people displaced worldwide: UN

Geneva | Agencies

The number of people displaced by war, persecution, violence and human rights violations globally is likely to have exceeded 114 million at the end of September, the United Nations (UN) Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has said. By the end of June this year, 110 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, up 1.6 million from the end of 2022. In the three months from June to the end of September, the number of forcibly displaced grew by 4 million, bringing the total to 114 million, Xinhua news agency reported. The conflict in the Middle East erupted on October 7, beyond the period covered by the UNHCR, therefore the report does not take into account its consequences in terms of human displacement. According to the agency, the main drivers of forced dis-



placement in the first half of 2023 included violence, droughts, floods and insecurity. Low and middle-income countries hosted 75 per cent of the refugees and other people in need of international protection, the UNHCR said, adding that globally, 1.6 million new individual asylum applications were made in the first six months of this year, the largest number ever recorded. According to the agency, the second Global Refugee Forum, the world's largest gathering on refugees and other forcibly displaced people, is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 13-15 this year.



CONGRESS'S ARROGANCE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF TEARING CLOTHES: PRAHLAD PATEL

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Congress leaders have become blind in appeasement. Therefore our Indian traditions and heritage are being ridiculed. The kind of sentiments expressed by Digvijay Singh regarding Kanya Puja are condemnable and exposes the entire character of Congress. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Water Power, Prahlad Patel said this while talking to journalists. Patel said that it is very unfortunate that Digvijay Singh's conscience was not awakened even after doing Narmada Parikrama. The identity of Congress is feudalism and nepotism, apart from this, whatever they do is an illusion and the public has understood the entire conspiracy. Patel said that Congress has always been against the welfare of the poor. Within its short tenure of 15 months, Congress had closed the Sambal Yojana, due to which the problems of workers and lower classes increased. Congress also neglected Jal Jeevan Mission and provided pure water to only 2.5 percent of the people. Congress also returned the amount of PM Awas Yojana instead of delivering it to the beneficiaries. He said that Congress has interest in making liquor policy. He has nothing to do with the problems of the public. He said



that due to all these reasons the situation has become such that the situation has reached the point of tearing clothes. Patel said that Congress had to change its candidates because the balance of the party has deteriorated. Union Minister Patel said that Congress should talk on reality. He should answer the public on the liquor policy made by him, he should tell them why he had stopped the poor welfare schemes. Patel said that the intention of the elections is not to start misleading the public and spreading confusion. If Kamal Nath or his MP son, who boasts of being the leader of the people, shows the life of a common man for a day, then

he can be considered as a leader.

Prahlad Patel said that BJP is in favor of one country, one election, because the country's expenditure on elections will be less and there will be no hindrance in the development plans. On Nisha Bangre's resignation issue, Patel said that she has many options. On the issue of empty envelope by Priyanka Gandhi, Patel said that there are many schemes in our envelope like toilet construction, PM Awas, Ladli Behna Yojana and Ujjwala. On a question on his election campaign, the Union Minister said that whatever responsibility the party gives him, he fulfills it with full dedication and he is still doing the same.

KAMAL NATH FILES NOMINATION FROM CHHINDWARA

Team Absolute | Chhindwara

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and state Congress chief Kamal Nath on Thursday filed his nomination from Chhindwara assembly seat for state assembly polls scheduled to be held next month.

Ahead of filing nomination, the former Chief Minister said that he had especially selected auspicious time (Muhurt) to file the nomination for the upcoming poll.

"I have selected auspicious time (Muhurt) for nomination. I remember November 1979, when I filed the nomination for the first time from Chhindwara, I did not understand then, I went among people. Here in 40 years I not only get support but also



receive love and trust. Out of 2000 villages, there was electricity in only 480 villages. When I used to tour by jeep, one and a half kilos of dust used to be deposited on my body," Kamal Nath said.

He further said that people's love was the biggest asset of his life. The upcoming state assembly elections are for the future of Madhya Pradesh. "Your (public) love is the biggest asset of my life.

This election is for the future of Madhya Pradesh. In 18 years, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has pushed Madhya Pradesh into corruption, has given inflation and ruined the state," he said.

He also claimed that Chief Minister Chouhan was a great artist, he did not focus on unemployment, did not pay attention to farmers but only talked a lot. "Chief Minister Chouhan is

a great artist. He does not see unemployment, he does not listen to the voice of farmers, but he only talks a lot and he is not able to run the state," Nath said. The former Chief Minister said that when there was no slogan of Skill India, he had set up a skill centre in Chhindwara 15 years ago. Chhindwara would have its flag high in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls 2023. Meanwhile, reacting to the ticket of former Deputy Collector Nisha Bangre, Kamal Nath said, "Nisha Bangre is not contesting elections, we need her services in the state." Madhya Pradesh will undergo polls on November 7 and the counting of votes will take place on December 3. Through the polls, the state will elect legislators from 230 Assembly constituencies.

Inauguration of "Adolescent Clinic" at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On 26th October, 2023; Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO AIIMS Bhopal inaugurated the adolescent clinic. Various departments like Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Endocrinology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Community & Family Medicine (CFM) have collaborated to provide services to this unique "Adolescent Clinic" at AIIMS Bhopal. This specialty clinic will cater to the spectrum of needs of adolescent boys and girls. The common problems to be cared for in this clinic will include emotional and psychological issues, development and growth related issues, issues related to sensitive matters like menstruation, teenage contraception, immunisation and endocrinology problems. This clinic will specially cater to co-occurring gynecological and endocrinology problems, body image distortion



related problems. Department of CFM will contribute to preventive aspects and outreach activities for adolescents as required. This clinic will provide its services in the afternoon on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month in the OPD area at ground floor.

The programme was attended by heads of the departments of all collaborating departments (viz Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Endocrinology, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Community and Family Medicine (CFM), resident doctors and faculty members of the institute.

Nisha Bangre will not contest elections



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former administrative Officer Nisha Bangre, who came into limelight after resigning from the post of SDM, joined Congress. Nisha Bangre took membership of Congress in the presence of Kamal Nath. While addressing the public meeting, Kamal Nath said that Nisha ji, no matter you are contesting elections, we will make you serve the state, you will become an example.

Cop tries to save snake's life by "Giving It CPR"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh constable has made headlines, thanks to a viral video that shows him trying to give CPR to a snake. Yes, you read it right. The cop reportedly attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to revive a snake that had become immobile after consuming water laced with pesticide.

The shocking video was widely shared, with many praising the cop for his act. However, the role that this "kisses of life" played in reviving the reptile is suspect. A veterinarian spoke with said CPR would not revive a snake and it might have regained consciousness on its own. The viral video is from Narmadapuram in Madhya Pradesh. The non-poisonous snake had entered a pipeline in a residential colony. When the residents' attempts to remove it from inside the pipe failed, they poured water laced with pesticide down the pipe. This knocked the snake out. Unsure of what to do next, the residents called the cops. Enter constable Atul Sharma, who calls himself a "self-taught snake rescuer". He reached the spot and located the snake. The video shows Mr Sharma examining the



snake closely, trying to check if it is breathing. He then starts blowing into the snake's mouth. Occasionally, the cop sprinkles clean water on the reptile as people gathered around him ask him to wash its pesticide-drenched body.

Soon, the snake starts moving as the crowd cheers the cop. Sharma claims to have saved as many as 500 snakes in the past 15 years. Asked where he learnt to do this, the cop said he follows Discovery Channel closely.

Candidates will have to give information about criminal cases

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan held a meeting with representatives of recognized national political parties at Nirvachan Sadan, Bhopal on Thursday. Information was given about the preparations being made for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections 2023 and the nominations received till October 25.

Rajan said that seizure action of more than Rs 140 crore has been taken by joint teams in the state. This includes seizure of money, illicit liquor, drugs, precious metals, gold, silver, jewelry and various types of materials. 152 general observers, 35



police observers and 102 expenditure observers have been appointed in the state. Till October 25, 290 candidates have submitted 327 nomination papers.

Rajan said that apart from the Voter ID card, voters will be able to vote on the basis of 12 alternative documents recognized by the Election Commission of India. Voter slips and voter guides will be distributed to voters. This

time QR code will be used in the voter slip.

Arrangements for ramps, electricity, water, furniture, help desks, toilets and proper signage have been made at polling stations. Rajan said that senior voters above 80 years of age and voters with more than 40 percent disability have been provided easy facility to vote from home. Under this, 1 lakh 18 thousand 687 applications for 12D

have been received in the state. Candidates and BLAs will be informed about the route chart before voting.

Every candidate will have to fill and provide an affidavit in the prescribed form along with nomination. The candidate will have to give information about criminal cases. For this, the candidate will have to get it published in newspapers and broadcast on news channels on three different dates, so that voters can know about the background of such candidates. 50 percent of the total polling stations in each assembly constituency will be monitored through webcasting/CCTV, so that critical incidents can be monitored.

Vishwas Sarang arrived on a scooter to file nomination, said - Lotus will bloom with overwhelming majority

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The nomination process for the assembly elections has started in Madhya Pradesh. On Thursday, BJP candidate from Narela, Vishwas Kailash Sarang, also filed his nomination. Sarang reached Govindpura SDM office riding a scooter and handed over his nomination form to SDM Ravish Srivastava.

After filling the nomination form, Vishwas Sarang while talking to the media said that today I have filled my nomination with the resolve to win with a huge majority. This time the entire Narela family is contesting the elections. The voters of Narela have given the message that this is their election and this



time the lotus will bloom with a huge majority. He said that we have made development and the public has supported it. Lotus will bloom once again in Narela and the state. Before filing nomination, Vishwas Sarang reached

Khedapati Shri Hanuman Ji temple located in Chhola and paid obeisance and had darshan of Bajrangbali. He also took blessings of Mahant Sri Sri 1008 Jagdish Das Tyagi Ji Maharaj and other elders. After filing nomination, Sarang did public relations in ward number 75. During this, he reached door to door and took blessings from everyone for victory. During this, Minister Sarang said, we have broken records in terms of development in Narela. There is a tsunami of development for BJP here. The public is in favor of BJP. We made Narela Assembly Narela Parivar. Today the entire Narela family is contesting the elections together. BJP will win with a huge majority in Narela and the state.

H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection

Team Absolute | Bhopal

H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood.

For The Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops. Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern.

Starring actress Athiya Shetty, H&M India bring out the sparkle of the collection with a sophisticated and jubilant campaign. Wearing a gold embroidered trouser and cropped tank set, Athiya and models Anjali Torvi, Ashley Radjaram and Zinnia Kumar can be seen in a gorgeous palace setting with architectural columns and vaulted ceilings. Shot by renowned fashion photographer Gregory Harris, the campaign invites viewers into the world of The Festive Collection - vivid colours, sparkle and joy.

"I'm so excited to be a part of The Festive Collection by H&M. Everything is absolutely stunning - it took my breath away when I first saw it! The whole shoot was also a joy. Working with the amazing team on set and in the studio, the happiness and celebration of the festival really came through. We all had so much fun!" says Athiya Shetty.



Key pieces of The Festive Collection include a red trouser suit with tie-up detail, dresses with asymmetric necklines and all-over sequinned tops, blazer, and dresses. The shine, shimmer and glam also extends to a range of big and bold jewellery, bijou bags, strappy shoes and pointed flats at affordable price points with tops starting at INR 1499 and accessories from INR 799. The first drop of The Festive Collection will be available in stores and online at hm.com as well as myntra.com from October 12th.

All eyes fixed on assembly Vidisha

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The election campaign for the assembly elections to be held in Madhya Pradesh on November 17 has reached its peak. Only four days are left for the nomination of candidates but BJP is not able to decide its candidate in Vidisha, the home constituency of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh. Since the candidate could not be decided, the eyes of the entire country are fixed on Vidisha. According to BJP sources, Shivraj wants to get ticket to the most special Mukesh Tandon from his Vidisha seat, who lost the elections in 2018. Regarding which there has been maximum opposition internally in Vidisha BJP. Whereas, the choice of BJP organization is said to be Shyam Sundar Sharma. Shyam Sundar Sharma has got the flag of the organization. But the issue is stuck on Shivraj's consent.

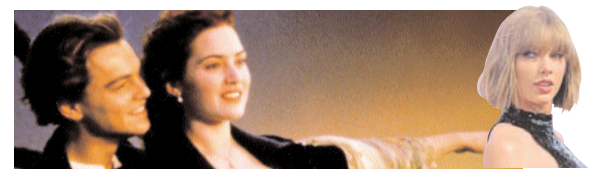
Vidisha is considered the home area of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh. Shivraj has been MP from here five times and MLA once. Therefore, it is believed that only Shivraj will decide who will be given ticket in Vidisha and who will not. Congress has given ticket to sitting MLA Shashak Bhargava on this seat. This has been an invincible seat of BJP for 60 years. But in 2018, Congress snatched it from BJP and Shashank Bhargava was elected MLA.

In 2018, Congress had registered victory in Vidisha, which had been a BJP stronghold for 60 years. Therefore, BJP



wants to give ticket on this seat very thoughtfully. Along with this, BJP is also worried that in the 2018 elections, PM Narendra Modi had come to this seat to campaign in favor of the BJP candidate. Despite this, BJP lost this seat. Therefore BJP does not want to take any risk on this seat. Raghavji Bhai, former finance minister in Shivraj government, wants to get ticket for his daughter Jyoti Shah. Jyoti has been a former municipality

president and former district president in Vidisha. CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan wants to give ticket to his close associate Mukesh Tandon. If not Mukesh, then Toran Singh Dangri is considered to be Shivraj's second choice, who has been District Panchayat President and BJP District President. Apart from this, sometimes Manoj Katare, who was close to Sushma Swaraj, is also making a claim.



Kendall Jenner

Reveals Why She's 'Actually Scared' to Have Children

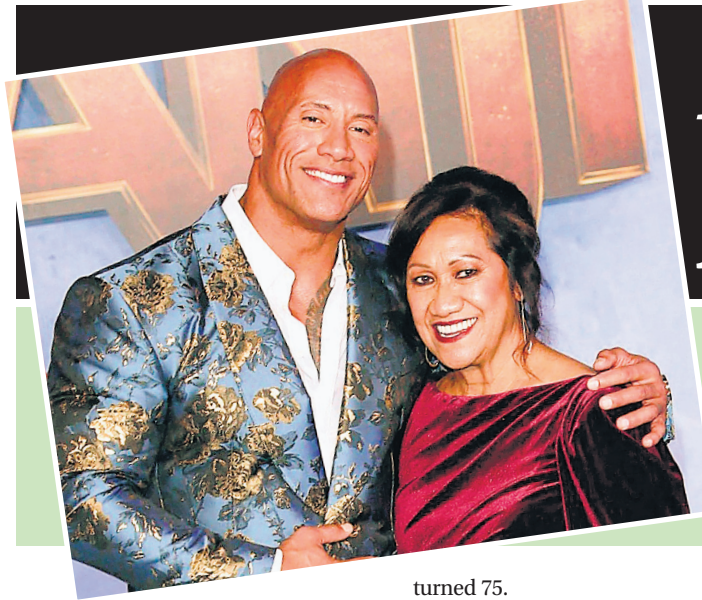
Los Angeles | Agencies

Kendall Jenner stops by one of the houses that Scott Disick is flipping, and they have a candid chat in the October 26 episode of *The Kardashians*. Kendall, 27, talks to Scott, 40, about her anxiety, and the model admits she's been "really bad" lately. She acknowledges that her anxiety has been "worse than ever."

She adds, "It's one of the reasons why I'm actually scared to have children." Scott gives Kendall some wise words. "You can't not have kids because of it, but it is scary," Scott says. Kendall admits that the "scariest part" for her is the idea that her anxiety could get even worse as she gets older.

A producer asks Kendall when her anxiety started. "I think I was about, like, 8 from what I remember," Kendall says. At that point, Kris Jenner took Kendall to several different doctors to try and find out what was wrong. Kendall notes that people are much more open about discussing anxiety today than they were back then. "I never knew that that's what that was until later in life," Kendall says about her anxiety.

Kendall is the only one of her sisters who does not have children yet. The 818 Tequila founder has been open in the past about having children. "I'm excited for that time in my life," Kendall told *WSJ Magazine*. "I just know [that time is] not right now." Whenever she does decide to have kids, Kendall is adamant about moving out of Los Angeles.



Dwayne Johnson

Sings to mom on her 75th birthday: 'Feel like the luckiest son on earth'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has wished his mother Ata Johnson a happy birthday. Recently, Johnson, 51, shared a video on Instagram of himself singing with his mother, who has turned 75.

Los Angeles, Oct 26 (IANS) Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has wished his mother Ata Johnson a happy birthday. Recently, Johnson, 51, shared a video on Instagram of himself singing with his mother, who has

turned 75. Ata can be seen playing a ukulele in the video as she and Dwayne performed a special birthday song together, reports *People* magazine. "Don't start crying," Dwayne jokes in the video, before his mother says: "I want to sing. Do you know how to sing in tune?" "I know how to sing in keys that don't exist," Dwayne joked, before launching into the tune.

As per *People*, during the song, the pair joked that Ata is only turning 59 before Dwayne placed a pink-coloured lei around her neck and planted a kiss on her head. "Before I

even start singing to my mom her special Happy Birthday song, she starts to cry", Dwayne wrote in the caption to his post. "Probably because I always sing in keys that don't exist."

"Happy birthday Mom," he added in the caption. "75 years of experience, wisdom, hard times, good times, laughter, mana, and yet through it all - you TRULY have the KINDEST HEART I have ever known. I feel like the luckiest son on earth (sic)."

To top the post off, Dwayne wrote: "Ou Te Alofa Ia Te Oe", which roughly translates from Samoan to English as "I love you".

Khloe Kardashian Admits She Didn't Speak to Tristan Thompson 'At All' for 6 Months

Los Angeles | Agencies

Khloe Kardashian gets real with best friend Malika Haqq about how she feels about Tristan Thompson in the October 26 episode of *The Kardashians*. Khloé, 39, brings up how she's been hurt by Tristan, 32, in the past, the latest time being his paternity scandal.

"What happened between me and Tristan, I've been cheated on by many people, I've dealt with it, I got it. This other situation was the most wild thing," she tells Malika, 40. "And not only was it finding out he had someone else pregnant, but I secretly had my own surrogate pregnant. Never in a million years would I have thought that. Then this while year goes by, my son's not even one yet, and look how much has changed."

She adds, "I didn't speak to Tristan at all for six months. Not even about the kids. Now look, now we're back to being really good friends."

Back in December 2021, personal trainer Maralee Nichols filed a paternity lawsuit against Tristan and claimed she was pregnant with his child. At the time, Khloé and Tristan were engaged, but she soon broke it off. After months of back and forth, Tristan confirmed in January 2022 that he is the father of Maralee's son.

While Khloé wishes she was "married," she confesses that she's "not attracted to Tristan" anymore. She continues, "Tristan is so handsome, he's a beautiful statue of a human. Like I'm not blind. But I can't think about kissing him on the lips. None of that. It's just not in my wheelhouse."

Khloé isn't sweating being single right now. She's focusing on her kids, True, 5, and Tatum, 1, and hopes to open up her heart again someday. "I want to date people I think and see what's out there," she says. "I want to feel proud like when I go into a room and I'm with my man and I don't think everyone is laughing at me for being a weak b***h for staying with someone."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kelsea Ballerini transformed into Barbie for a Halloween party she hosted at Flaming Saddles in NYC on October 25. The 30-year-old dressed up as cowgirl Barbie when she rocked a sleeveless hot pink vest with a plunging V-neckline. She styled the top with matching high-waisted flare pants that were covered in stars.

Kelsea put her toned abs and tiny waist on display in the tiny crop top and styled the shirt with matching pink pants that laced up the front and had metallic silver stars on the flared hems. The back of the pants featured two metallic stars on either side of her butt and she accessorized with a white cowboy hat, a pink bandana tied around her neck, and a pair of pointed-toe metallic shoes. As for her glam, Kelsea had her long blonde hair down in thick, voluminous waves while a smokey eye and a glossy lip tied her look together. Kelsea posted a transformation video to her TikTok mouthing the words to a scene from the Barbie movie where they say "Hi Barbie," and "Hi Ken," while showing herself lying down on a bed with no makeup on and her hair pulled back. During the video, she showed her hair and makeup transformation before showing off her final, gorgeous look.



Al Pacino, girlfriend Noor Alfallah dismiss split rumours as they step out for date

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Scarface' star Al Pacino and girlfriend Noor Alfallah dismissed rumours about their split as they headed out for a date night in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Oct 26 (IANS) 'Scarface' star Al Pacino and girlfriend Noor Alfallah dismissed rumours about their split as they headed out for a date night in Los Angeles.

The 83-year-old actor was spotted with the producer, 29, going for dinner at Pace Italian restaurant, just days after she was enjoying a playful date with Prince Alexander von Furstenberg, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

Noor, who gave birth to their son Roman in June, reportedly filed for sole custody of their child. The producer had filed a petition in Los Angeles Superior Court and along with reasonable visitation, she had also requested that the award-winning actor have "joint legal custody."

However, the couple defied the rumours and enjoyed a romantic outing in Los Angeles, with Noor walking ahead of the veteran Hollywood icon as he ambled behind her.

As per *Mirror.co.uk*, she dressed casually for the occasion, rocking a pair of black drawstring trousers and a cropped leather jacket, while Al tried to keep a low profile with a dark coat and sunglasses. A spokesperson for the 'Scarface' star shut down reports of their break-up with a statement, as they told *DailyMail.com* that the couple have "mutually reached an agreement regarding their son", and were still together. "Al and Noor have successfully worked together and have mutually reached agreements regarding their child Roman. They are together. They haven't split," they added. Noor's date night with Al comes just a few days after she was spotted having a playful lunch outing with Prince Alexander von Furstenberg, the son of fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg and Prince Egon von Furstenberg. The duo indulged in lunch and were captured hugging and being touchy-feely while waiting for their valet in the queue.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Gemma Owen



ICC ODI Cricket World Cup

SRI LANKA BEAT ENGLAND BY 8 WICKETS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Glenn Maxwell and David Warner's brilliant show with bat, Australia's Adam Zampa spun a web around the Netherlands' batter as Australia achieved the biggest victory in WC history - 309 runs in the 24th match of the ongoing ICC World Cup, here on Wednesday.

Zampa scalped four wickets, while Mitchell Marsh took two to bundle the Netherlands out for just 90 in 21 overs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins also managed to take one wicket each.

The five-time champions earned two points, and got a massive NRR boost, and are once again on course for a spot in the semis if they continue this way. A target of 400 was always going to be daunting and fans wanted to see how Netherlands would respond to the target. However, it turned out to be a disappointment. The wickets just kept tumbling, and Zampa ran through the tail. Zampa now has the most wickets at the 2023 WC with 13 wickets. Vikramjit Singh (25) was the highest scorer for the Netherlands.



Earlier, Maxwell scored the fastest century (106 off 44 balls) of the World Cup to guide Australia to a mammoth 399/8. Maxwell reached one of the most entertaining ODI centuries of all time in just 40 balls, breaking

the previous record held by Adien Marken (in 48 balls) at the same ground. Maxi smashed the Netherlands' bowlers in all parts of the stadium. And he was given a standing ovation by the crowd for his

thrilling innings. Meanwhile, David Warner, too, hit an impressive 104 runs off 93 balls. Warner made the ton more iconic by celebrating it in his famous 'Pushpa' style at the almost packed stadium. It was his 6th ODI World Cup ton.

After deciding to bat first, Australia didn't get the kind of start they thought of as Mitchell Marsh (9) lost his wicket to Logan van Beek in the fourth over. From there, Warner and Steven Smith (71) built up a solid 132 runs partnership to put Aussies on the drivers' spot. Both the batters played some brilliant shots to entertain the cricket fanatics present in the stadium. However, Aryan Dutt dismissed Smith to break the partnership. M Labuschagne (62) then joined hands with the opener batter to frustrate the Netherlands bowlers. The duo stitched 84-runs together. At 244, Australia lost Labuschagne. Next batter Josh Inglis (14) also failed to spend time on crease as he was sent back early by Bas de Leede. Soon after that, Warner also got out by Logan Van Beek. But from there Maxwell changed the gear and entertained the cricket fanatics with some brilliant eye-catching shots all over the ground.

Asian Para Games: Monu Ghangas clinches silver with his personal best in discus throw



Hangzhou | Agencies

India's Monu Ghangas clinched a silver medal in the men's discus throw F11 event at the ongoing Asian Para Games 2023, on Thursday.

Monu with a throw of 37.87m finished second on the podium resulting in his personal best. Iran's Mahdi Olad won the gold medal with a throw of 42.73m while Hassan Bajoulvand bagged a

bronze medal with a throw of 37.62m.

Indian para-athletes created history by winning the highest number of medals in the Asian Para Games, taking the country's tally to 80, including 18 gold medals.

India had won 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) in the last edition in Jakarta which was the best before this Hangzhou Games.

India is currently positioned eighth with 81 medals.

Felix sails into Swiss Indoors second round, Etcheverry beats Murray to enter quarterfinal

Basel | Agencies

Defending champion Felix Auger-Aliassime eliminated Swiss wild card Leandro Riedi 6-3, 6-2 to reach the second round at the Swiss Indoors Basel.

The sixth seed will next play Dutchman Botvic van de Zandschulp, who ousted Roberto Bautista Agut in three sets.

Auger-Aliassime has long thrived indoors, winning all four of his titles in such conditions. This is his first indoor appearance outside of Laver Cup since Rotterdam in February.

The 23-year-old Canadian stayed out of trouble on his service games for the most part, relinquishing just one break in the Wednesday's match. He consistently challenged his opponent's serve, winning 50 per cent of his return points and earning four breaks in the 75-minute match, ATP Tour reports. In other action of the day, Argentine Tomas Martin Etcheverry battled past former World No. 1 Andy Murray 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-2 after three hours and eight minutes to reach the quarterfinals. In the pair's first ATP Head2Head meeting this year at Indian Wells, Murray triumphed in three hours and 12 minutes. On this occasion, Etcheverry saved five of the six break points he faced, including all five he confronted in the second



set. Etcheverry will next play top seed Holger Rune or countryman Sebastian Baez for a place in the semifinals. The 24-year-old is pursuing his first ATP Tour title this week.

Men's ODI WC: Try to put myself in their shoes and think about what this individual will be needing now, says Rohit Sharma

Team Absolute | New Delhi

It has been a stellar 2023 Men's ODI World Cup for India captain and opener Rohit Sharma. Under him, India have won all five of their league matches so far and Rohit himself has been giving the team blistering starts in the first ten overs to set the base for successful chases.

With India set to play against defending champions England in Lucknow on October 29, Rohit shared his thoughts on leading the hosts' in the global event and how he is managing everyone in the team, stressing on knowing the individual first.

"I think when it comes to managing players, it's quite important that you understand the individual first and their requirement, what are the likes and dislikes of that particular individual because you know in a team sport it's just not about one or two individuals or few individuals, it's about everyone."

"We do understand as well that when you want to win championships, big tournaments, everyone need to come to the party and play



their part. So, it's important that you keep everyone in good mental space. So, it's very important to hear everyone out, understand what they want, how they want to operate and things like that and then you take everything into consideration and move forward and that is something that I always do," he said to Star Sports.

In the first power-play of 2023

Men's ODI World Cup, Rohit has made 197 runs, with a strike-rate of 134, smashing 22 fours and 12 sixes, becoming an all-out attacker for India in the first ten overs of their innings.

Rohit revealed that he practices empathy to get a sense of how to manage the team and its individuals, a practice which he says hasn't come to him naturally. "I try and put myself

in their shoes and think about what this individual will be needing now. So, it's important to think like that and you know luckily, I have got good bunch of guys around me; the players, the support staffs are quite understanding in terms of the requirement of the team, the players and everyone."

"So, yeah that is something that I wouldn't say comes naturally to me, I've learned it over the years, gone through my personal experiences and understood what is needed for a team to be successful. I think what is needed to be successful is to understand everyone's need, their requirement and give them that space and freedom to go and execute their job and their roles." "Because it can be quite daunting at times because when you are playing such a high-profile tournament, the pressure can get to you at times. So, it's important to just stay together as a team, understand what each one needs to be in that good zone where they can come out and play free cricket and not worry about what is happening outside," he concluded.

Manish Sureshkumar, Madhwin score upset wins enroute to quarters at Men's World Tennis

Bengaluru | Agencies

On a day when four seeds bit the dust, Manish Sureshkumar and Madhwin Kamath of India created ripples with an upset victory each en route to the quarterfinals of the ITF Davangere Open Men's World Tennis.

In the pre-quarterfinal matches played at the Davangere Tennis Association courts here on Thursday, 24-year-old Manish edged past third seed Digvijay Pratap Singh in a close encounter 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2) while qualifier Madhwin battled past fourth seed Florent Bax of France 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 6-4 in a match that lasted 3-hours and 13 minutes.

In the other upsets of the day, Karan Singh showed sixth seed SD Prajwal Dev the door with a 6-1, 6-4 victory while in a minor upset, win-



ner of the last leg, Ramkumar Ramanathan brushed aside the challenge of seventh seed Rishab Agarwal 6-0, 6-3.

While Florent Bax, who had won the Ahmedabad leg of ITF 15K about

9 days ago, had confidence and experience in his armour, former Junior National Champion Madhwin had the determination and resilience.

With a break in the fifth game and holding onto his serve, the Indian

went 4-2 up but soon Florent, not only levelled at 4 but went ahead 5-4. Both the players traded a break each before the set was decided via tie-breaker with the younger opponent winning at 4. The 21-year-old Madhwin whose roots belong to Mangaluru in Karnataka but lives in Gujarat, capitalised on his rival's mistake and raced to a 5-2 lead.

However, he lost his rhythm while on the cusp of grabbing the match as Florent saved two match points before winning the second set which was decided via tie-breaker.

The final set saw Madhwin taking control of the match with a 5-1 lead, courtesy breaks in the first and fifth games. However, the Frenchman clawed back into the game winning three consecutive games and reduced the margin to 4-5 before Madhwin served out for the match.

Asian Para Games: Pramod Bhagat, Sukant Kadam secure bronze in men's doubles

Hangzhou | Agencies

Para shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam secured bronze medals in men's doubles SL3-SL4 category at the ongoing Asian Para Games, here on Thursday.

World No1 Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam went down fighting to the Indonesian pair of Setiawan Fredy and Dwiyoiko in a tight 3-game encounter. The Indians took the first set 22-20 and both the teams were not giving an inch and fighting tooth and nail for each and every point, the second set was also closely fought with the Indonesian pair claiming the game with a score of 21-23. In the decider, Pramod and Sukant couldn't



make a comeback and lost with a score of 12-21. The final score read 22-20, 21-23 and 12-21. On the other hand, Sukant went down fighting to Malaysia's Bin Burhanuddin Mohd Amin in the men's singles SL4 category. The first set was close with little to choose from between the athletes. The Malaysian somehow managed to pip Sukant to claim the first set with a score of 23-21 and the second set with a score of 21-09. In other matches, Suhas

LY confirmed his place in the men's SL4 final where he will face Malaysia's Bin Burhanuddin Mohd Amin. Krishna Nagar defeated China's Lin Naili to the final in the SH6 category.

Krishna Nagar and Solaimalai Sivarajan took the bronze in the SH6 men's doubles category while Nitesh Kumar and Tarun reached the finals on the SL3-SL4 category. Chirag and Rajkumar secured their final spot in men's doubles SU5 category. In the women's category, Murugesan Thulaisimathi also reached the singles SU5 final. Manisha Ramdas secured a bronze medal in SU 5 category. On the other hand, Nithya Sre secured a bronze in the SH 6 Women's category.

Argentina retain ranking lead as Venezuela return to top 50

Zurich | Agencies

No fewer than 165 international matches were contested earlier this month, with FIFA World Cup 26 qualifiers, encounters in the preliminary rounds of continental competitions, and Concacaf Nations League clashes among the highlights.

These fixtures certainly made a mark, including on the latest edition of the FIFA World Ranking.

However, there are no changes in the top three. Argentina (1st) maintains a healthy lead (8.18 points) over their closest challengers, France. Meanwhile, Les Bleus have cemented their grip on second place, extending the gap (which now stands at 40.91 points) between themselves and



Brazil (3rd). After being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Venezuela and succumbing to a 2-0 defeat away to Uruguay, England (4th) breathing down their necks.

Belgium continue to round out the top 5, but will also be looking over their shoulders, with a resurgent Portugal (6th, up 2) knocking on the door. Like their Iberian neighbours, Spain (8th, up 2) have also made strides - they are now hot on the heels of the Netherlands (7th).

Bit weird that I had to calm myself down for the first 20 odd balls and rebuild, says Maxwell

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Australia's big-hitting all-rounder Glenn Maxwell admitted that it was a bit weird for him to calm himself down in the first 20 balls of his innings, before smashing the fastest hundred in Men's ODI World Cup history when he reached his century in 40 balls against the Netherlands.

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday, Maxwell broke the record of fastest ODI World Cup century held by South Africa's Aiden Markram, who reached three-figure mark off just 49 deliveries at the same venue earlier this month.

He eventually made 106 runs off 44 deliveries, hitting nine fours and eight sixes, to score what is now overall the fourth fastest century in men's ODI cricket and the fastest-ever hundred for Australia.

"It's a bit weird that I had to calm myself down for the first 20 odd balls and rebuild. I think the circumstances of the timing of the



wickets probably changed the way I would have gone about it if it was just me and Davey (David Warner) at the back end."

"I felt like I was just super selective. Even with the boundaries I was hitting, until I got to about 50 or 60, I was literally hitting them flat through the gap or picking my spots pretty clearly where I wanted to go and it was only the back end where I tried to just pump every-

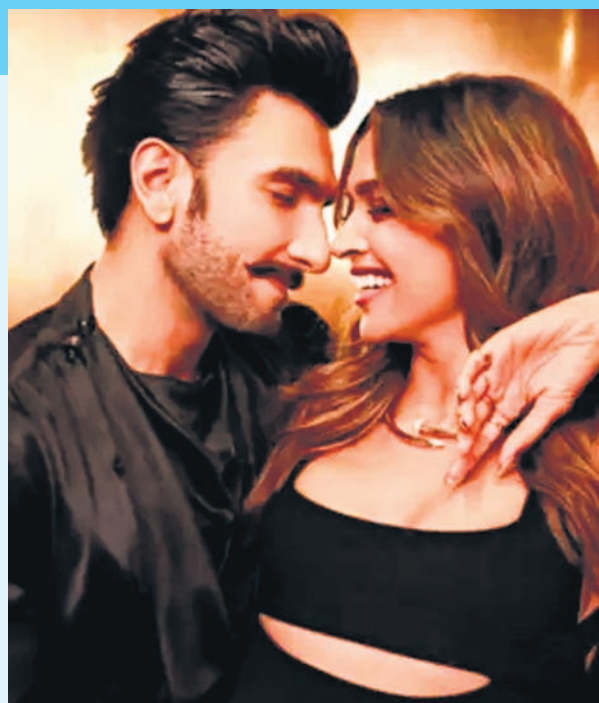
thing," he said in the post-match press conference. Maxwell reached his fifty in 27 balls and then took only 13 balls to get a record-breaking century in a breath-taking assault over Netherlands' bowling attack. He also conceded that he had one eye on number of deliveries faced at the scoreboard during his whirlwind knock, citing the previous opportunity he missed during 2015 World Cup.

"I'm very aware of them. I'm very aware of balls faced. I love the fastest 50 and 100 records. I think they're pretty cool records. Sometimes to the detriment of myself, I've always probably pushed the boundaries a bit too much."

"I think against Afghanistan in 2015, I was 88 off 37 and I was like I'm getting into the next two balls I hit one straight to cover and butchered it. I think I got my fastest 100 next game. So, it was I've been in those positions before I could make fast hundreds when I get on the run - I know I'm difficult to bowl to. It's just about getting past the first ball." "The last 12 months had been a mixed bag for Maxwell, starting by being out of action for a long time after breaking his leg during a birthday party post the end of Australia's campaign in the 2022 Men's T20 World Cup. He admitted that the thoughts of the injury came back in his mind after he was out of T20 series against South Africa due to minor ankle injury."



Deepika's Ranveer relationship mantra



'WE KEEP THE CHILD IN EACH OTHER ALIVE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Deepika Padukone, who is set to grace the couch of the chat show 'Koffee With Karan' season eight with her husband Ranveer Singh, shared about their relationship, and revealed that they keep the child in each other alive.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) Actress Deepika Padukone, who is set to grace the couch of the chat show 'Koffee With Karan' season eight with her husband Ranveer Singh, shared about their relationship, and revealed that they keep the child in each other alive.

Bollywood's power couple Deepika and Ranveer have once again captured the hearts of their fans with their enchanting appearance on 'Koffee with Karan', hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar.

The couple's recent rendezvous on the show has left their admirers in awe, as they witnessed the genuine and endearing connection between Deepika and Ranveer, re-

firming their status as the darlings of the film industry.

They graced the stage of this talk show twinning in black outfits.

Talking about their relationship, Deepika shared: "I think one of the most special things about our relationship is that we keep the child in each other alive. You know, if someone says summarise what your relationship is, it is on the weekends, because we're so private, but we also like dancing and letting our hair down on a Saturday night."

"It's just him and I, we have dinner then we pack everyone off, it's just him and me, watching something, then we finish watching that then we play music. And I love music and he loves music and we love sharing our music with each other so now we start this sort of 'juggalbandi' of like who's playing what are the new tracks we found and before we know it, we're dancing just the two of us in our living room till 4 a.m. in the morning," she added. To this Ranveer quipped: "Two person dance party."



Big B reunites with Rajinikanth on sets after 33 years, shares picture on 'first day of work'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was most recently seen in the science fiction film 'Ganapath: A Hero is Born', has reunited with Thalaivar Rajinikanth for their upcoming film which is tentatively titled 'Thalaivar 170'.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was most recently seen in the science fiction film 'Ganapath: A Hero is Born', has reunited with Thalaivar Rajinikanth for their upcoming film which is tentatively titled 'Thalaivar 170'.

The megastar recently took to his social media and shared a picture from the first day of shooting with the south megastar.

Taking to his Instagram, Big B shared a picture of himself holding a magnifying glass and donning a grey-coloured suit. It seems like he was at the shoot of

the sets, filming for his next.

Sharing the picture, Big B wrote in the caption: "Trying to magnify the moment. First day of work after 33 years with THE THALAIVAR, RAJINIKANTH sirrrrrr."

Big B and Thalaivar last worked together in the Hindi film 'Hum', directed by Mukul Anand which was released in 1991. 'Hum' was a massive rage in the 1990s and a huge success, receiving great acclaim from critics, viewers, as well as a big box office.

The movie, which starred Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Govinda, Anupam Kher, Kimi Katkar, Deepa Sahi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Danny Denzongpa, and Kader Khan in pivotal roles, also led to the Thalaivar's 1995 classic 'Baasha', as it employed several unused plot points from the original script of 'Hum'.

'Hum' is also very well remembered for its song 'Jumma Chumma De De'. 'Baasha' is also well known for two of its classic tracks 'Naan Autokaaran', and 'Style Style Thaan'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On her mom Raveena Tandon's birthday, daughter

Rasha wished her by recreating her 2001 film 'Aks' look.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) On her mom Raveena Tandon's birthday, daughter Rasha wished her by recreating her 2001 film 'Aks' look.

The 'Laadla' star was given a heartfelt birthday present by her daughter Rasha Thadani as she recreated her iconic look from the 2001 film 'Aks'.

She gave a tribute to the actress' erotic look from the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer film

Rasha has gained her mother's looks as she was able to successfully recreate Raveena's look from 'Aks'.

Donning the exact same costume from the song 'Yeh Raat', she went on to recreate the dance in a small post on her Instagram.

While imitating the moves, she was also posing in a glamorous light with Neha Kakkar's song 'Kar Gayi Chull' in the background.

Before that, she also posted pictures of herself donning her mother's getup. Captioning the post, she wrote: "Recreating an iconic look for a very special person's tomorrow. Any guesses?"

Raveena was more than pleased with this gift, as she along with many netizens were swooning over this birthday gift.

Responding to this gift, Raveena took to Instagram and wrote: "Shuulllllllll this is sooooo amazing!! What an awesome, thoughtful Best Gift Ever!!"

Rasha hasn't just gained her mother's beauty, but rather she bears a very uncanny and strong resemblance to her.

On the work front, Raveena, who was seen in the blockbuster Kannada film 'KGF: Chapter 2', will next be seen in her upcoming romantic-comedy film 'Ghudchadi' alongside Sanjay Dutt.

Raveena's daughter Rasha recreates mom's 'Aks' look on former's b'day



Anushka Sharma flaunts baby bump amid pregnancy rumours

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sharma shared a picture flaunting her baby bump amid rumours of her pregnancy.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) Actress Anushka Sharma shared a picture flaunting her baby bump amid rumours of her pregnancy.

Though the couple is tight lipped about this, it has been speculated by netizens that this will be her and Virat Kohli's second child after their daughter Vamika.

Teasing the pregnancy though not confirming it, the 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi' actress posted the picture of her first pregnancy alongside another photo. Sharing the pictures sitting in a similar position, the actress captioned: "Time flies... And it was time for that much-needed upgrade, so why settle when you can upgrade."

Anushka was promoting a mobile brand in the post.

In the picture, she was donning a black outfit and flaunting her belly while sitting in a garden area with a phone in hand, with her eyes closed and smiling happily.

'KHALNAYAK' STARS SANJAY DUTT, JACKIE SHROFF, MADHURI DIXIT REUNITE AT SUBHASH GHAI'S WEDDING ANNIV



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director Subhash Ghai hosted an intimate gathering at his place to mark 45 years of his film studio which coincides with his wedding anniversary.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) Director Subhash Ghai hosted an intimate gathering at his place to mark 45 years of his film studio which coincides with his wedding anniversary. Celebrating his success, actor Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Jackie Shroff, Anupam Kher, among others presented the 'Ram Lakhan' director with gifts.

The director later posted a picture of himself with actors Sanjay Dutt and Jackie Shroff. Sharing the

picture on his X handle, he wrote:

"It's amazing to talk N laugh heart to heart to your friends actors as good as in 1990s. We had great laugh together with my Nayak n khalnayak great friends like #Sanjay Dutt N #Jackie Shroff on the eve of our 45th anniversary of mukta arts at my home. As young as ever (sic). Subhash also shared a group photo where he was standing alongside Anupam Kher, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Madhuri Dixit, and Dr. Shriram Nene. Posting the photo on X, he captioned: "I was touched last night to see my favourite friends n actors of mukta arts at my home to wish us our marriage anniversary and 45th anniversary of Mukta Arts n joined the fun! Had a lovely time

together."

On his special day, Subhash spoke of his studio and said: "Mukta Arts' 45th anniversary is a testament to our commitment to storytelling, creativity, and the love we have for the art of cinema. We are proud of our journey, and we look forward to many more years of contributing to the world of entertainment."

Mukta Arts is known for films like 'Pardes', 'Aitraaz', 'Khal Nayak', 'Ram Lakhan' and others.

In a heartwarming display of appreciation and camaraderie, veteran actor Jackie Shroff gifted Mukta Arts a remarkable gold medallion, beautifully inscribed with 'OM', in celebration of this momentous occasion.

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Actress Katrina Kaif is over the moon with the response she is getting for the song 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' from 'Tiger 3'. She said that dancing is one of her true passions and that she takes it as a compliment that song and dance are a part of the culture.

Mumbai, Oct 26 (IANS) Actress Katrina Kaif is over the moon with the response she is getting for the song 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' from 'Tiger 3'. She said that dancing is one of

her true passions and that she takes it as a compliment that song and dance are a part of the culture. The track has been composed by

Katrina Kaif: 'Dancing is one of my true passions'



Pritam, sung by Arijit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi. The Tamil and Telugu version has been sung by Benny Dayal and Anusha Mani.

Katrina said: "For all these years as an artiste, the one thing that has kept me going is the love of my fans, media, and audience. The true barometer of success is in the love that one gets organically from people. Leke Prabhu Ka Naam is being celebrated is a such a wonderful feeling for all of us."

"Dancing for me is one of my true passions and seeing the audience's love is just pure joy."

Katrina feels people have a huge expectation from actors to not just showcase their acting skills but also give them great songs to cherish and dance to. She said: "A film, an acting performance, a song they all have to connect to our audiences for it to be called a success and I'm grateful that I have found that throughout my career."

"I know that along with performance in a film, people also are excited to see the songs we do."

She added: "I take that as a big compliment because songs and dances are part of our culture and our movies and have been celebrated and loved since forever."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sidhika Sharma