

# absolute india

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

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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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



### INDIA'S UNIQUE CHALLENGES

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

### Balancing development and climate resilience

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

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

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

recognition of climate impacts' unequal distribution among vulnerable groups.

## India sends LoR to France for 26 Rafale-Marine jets

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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



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

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

## X INTRODUCES 2 NEW SUBSCRIPTION PLAN TO BOOST USERS' REPLIES



Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

In addition to Premium Plus, the company has also launched a new "Basic" option for \$3 per month for a small boost to your replies. "Introducing Premium+. No ads in For You or Following, largest boost for your replies (vs other Premium tiers or unverified users), and access to our full suite of creator tools," the social network said.

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

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

In the basic plan which does not give you

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

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

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

She further stated that Community Notes now has over 100,000 contributors in 44 countries and is growing.

According to her, over 1,700 advertisers returned to X last quarter, from small businesses to major brands -- including 90 of the top 100 ad spenders from a year ago.

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

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



Team Absolute | Sitapur

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

The incident took place on Thursday in Madnapur Kalli village.

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

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Vasco (Goa)

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

entitled to a monthly stipend of Rs 9,000.

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

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Kozhikode

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

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

Among one interesting anecdotes connected to the



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

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

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

## BRO completes Kandi Tunnel ahead of schedule in J&K

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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

"This incredible accomplishment is a testament to



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

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

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

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



## RAJINIKANTH RESEMBLANCE MAKES KOCHI TEA SHOP OWNER A 'CELEBRITY'

Team Absolute | Kochi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# INDIA EQUIPPING ITS YOUTH WITH SKILLS AND EDUCATION TO HARNESS EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES: PM MODI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that today India is equipping its youth with skills and education to harness emerging opportunities.

While addressing the National Rozgar Mela via video conferencing, the Prime Minister also distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various Government departments and organisations.

Modi noted that the journey of Rozgar Melas has reached an important milestone as Rozgar Melas started in October last year providing appointment letters for government jobs to lakhs of youths in various Rozgar Melas in the Centre and NDA-ruled states and Union Territories.

"Today also, more than 50,000 youths have been given government jobs," he said.

"Today, India is equipping its youth with skills and education to harness emerging opportunities. India's trajectory and the pace of its progress are generating new employment prospects across all sectors," he said.

Modi underlined that the Rozgar Melas organised in various states and Union Territories are signs of the government's commitment towards the future of the youth where work is underway in mission mode.

"We're not only providing employment but also



maintaining a transparent system in place," Modi said as he noted the increased trust by the youth in the recruitment processes.

The Prime Minister said that the government is making an effort to not only streamline the processes but also restructure the examination proce-

dures. He underlined that the time taken for recruitment under the staff selection cycle has also been reduced to half. "The overall time between the notification of employment to the employment letter has been significantly reduced," Modi said.

Speaking about certain examinations under SSC, the Prime Minister said that the exams are now being conducted in 13 different regional languages apart from Hindi and English making it easier for those aspirants to break the language barrier.

Referring to the speed of development that is creating newer job opportunities in every sector, he mentioned Dhordo village which has been awarded the best tourism village by the United Nations, and World Heritage site recognition for the Hoysala temple complex and Shanti Niketan.

"These developments and increased tourism will create new opportunities for the youth. Similarly, strides in the sports are also creating new avenues," he said.

"Government is strengthening the traditional sectors providing employment opportunities while also promoting new sectors such as renewable energy, space, automation and defence exports," the Prime Minister said. He also touched upon opening up "new avenues" in the drone technology sector and gave examples of crop assessment and nutrient spraying being carried out with its help.

Under the Swamitva Scheme, the Prime Minister said that drones are being used for land mapping,

# Scam accused Arpita Mukherjee starred in film produced by bizman arrested in ration distribution case

Kolkata | Agencies

Directorate (ED) has found information about a Bengali film released in 2014, which was produced by Bakibur Rahman, the Kolkata-based businessman who has been arrested by the ED in connection with the alleged multi-crore ration distribution scam in West Bengal.

Call it a coincidence if you may, the lead female role in the movie titled 'Mangrove' was played by Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of former state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee, both prime accused in the multi-crore cash for school jobs case and are presently in judicial custody.

In July last year, the ED had recovered cash amounting to over Rs 50 crore along with a large consignment of gold bars and gold biscuits from two residences of Arpita. The poster of the film 'Mangrove' also features Bollywood actress Rakhi Sawant.

The ED believes that besides shell companies, investment in films was an avenue for Rahman to channelise his ill-gotten proceeds from the alleged ration distribution scam.

The ED has already tracked a hotel, a posh bar-cum-restaurant and multiple rice mills registered in the name of Rahman.

The central agency has also tracked two high-end residential flats in Dubai registered in the name of the arrested businessman.



The confessions made by Rahman as well the documents seized from the office and residence of the accused gave ED crucial clues about the alleged involvement of state Forest Minister Jyotipriya Mallick in the case.

Mallick, the former Food & Supplies Minister, was arrested by the ED on Friday morning. The question of scam proceeds being invested in film production also surfaced during the investigation into the multi-crore cash for school jobs case, wherein a number of film personalities were questioned.

# Supporters of Gehlot's OSD seek ticket for him from Bhilwara, gather at CM's residence in large numbers

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan CM's OSD and Congress' youth leader Lokesh Sharma is seeking party ticket from the Bhilwara City Assembly seat for the November 25 Assembly elections in the state.

On Saturday, thousands of supporters of Sharma from Bhilwara reached Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence here as a mark of show of strength.

Raising slogans in support of Sharma, the supporters demanded ticket for their leader from Bhilwara City as they met Ashok Gehlot.

They said there are BJP MLAs in the area for the past two decades, due to which the condition of Bhilwara has deteriorated



and the pace of development has completely slowed. The people of the area are suffering a lot due to the three-time sitting BJP MLA ignoring the demands of the residents. In such a situation, the people of the area are demanding that the Congress should give ticket to a young leader of the party like Sharma, so that the wait of two decades ends, and Bhilwara can move forward on the path of development again, they said. Gehlot assured them that while deciding on tick-

ets, the Congress will keep in mind Sharma's loyalty and devotion towards the party, and see to it that his interests are protected. He also said that the local people should support a young face.

It needs to be mentioned here that a meeting of the Election Screening Committee of the Congress will be held in Delhi on Sunday under the chairmanship of Gaurav Gogoi to discuss Rajasthan polls.

At the meeting, the names of possible candidates for the remaining 105 seats will be discussed. After this, a meeting of the Central Election Committee will be held on Monday. It is expected that at this meeting, the Congress will finalise the names of the remaining candidates.

# AAP SLAMS CENTRE FOR POOR AIR QUALITY IN NORTH INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday strongly attacked the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the poor air quality in North India.

The AAP's senior leader and national spokesperson, Reena Gupta, accused the BJP-led government of lacking any action plan to control air pollution in the region.

Gupta referred to a report indicating that out of the 50 most polluted cities in the world, 39 are located in India, with 20 of them being in the BJP-ruled state of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Gupta said that, at present, only the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi is taking strong measures to reduce air pollution by implementing winter and summer action plans. As a result, Delhi's air quality has seen a 30 per cent improvement in the last few years. She pointed out that data from the Central government's Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)'s website reveals that 70 per cent of Delhi's air pollution is coming from outside states, and when they raised their voices about controlling pollution from outside states, the Central government shut down that



website.

The AAP has demanded a high-level meeting of all Environment Ministers from Northern states and the reopening of the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting Research (SAFAR) website to provide transparency on the sources of pollution.

Gupta expressed concern over the rising Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in northern India and criticised the Central government for not announcing any plans to address air pollution. She said that people in the region are suffering from respiratory problems, particularly during the winter, and called on the Modi government to take appropriate measures to protect the health of Indian citizens. Gupta mentioned that while there has

been a significant increase in the number of patients with asthma in northern India during the winter, the central government has failed to address the issue. She also highlighted that China, which faced a similar air pollution problem in the past, took significant steps to address it by involving all state governments and setting a specific timeline for them to work on the issue. In contrast, she criticised the BJP government for not taking responsibility for air pollution and failing to work collaboratively with state governments to find solutions. The AAP called for a high-level meeting of Environment Ministers from northern states to discuss measures to combat air pollution and demanded the reopening of the SAFAR website to provide public transparency on the sources of pollution. The party emphasized that the central government should take concrete actions to address the pollution problem, particularly in the heavily populated Indo-Gangetic plains region.

Gupta underlined that the Kejriwal government in Delhi has taken several steps to reduce pollution, including shutting down power plants, implementing an electric vehicle policy, and encouraging industries to switch to piped natural gas (PNG).

# Under fire, BMC to sprinkle water daily on Shivaji Park to settle dust & soothe tempers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Under fire from locals over dumped red mud on the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park and the resultant air pollution that is playing havoc in the vicinity, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation on Saturday announced immediate remedial measures to settle the dust and soothe frayed tempers.

To begin with, the BMC has started spraying nearly 3 lakh litres of water on the 28-acre ground - renowned as the 'cradle of Indian cricket' - from a network of 35 ring-wells that were built to harvest rain-water there in the past two years, said an official.

The civic body hopes that this will help settle the red-dust pollution that is choking the locality and also



make efforts to increase the greenery on the ground to prevent dust from flying with the wind. The ring-wells were constructed as part of the huge park's beautification project initiated in 2021 during the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, when the red-

earth was also dumped there to level the ground surface.

For a long-term solution to the air-pollution problem, the BMC plans to appoint an expert consultant to recommend measures and implement the same, according to officials.

After some local media reports, a BMC team led by Deputy Municipal Commissioner Ramakant Biradar had visited the ground on Friday when some residents staged a protest and demanded that the red-earth must be removed and the ground restored to its original status before the revamp project was taken up. He discussed the problems with them and informed about the measures being taken by the BMC to resolve the issue.

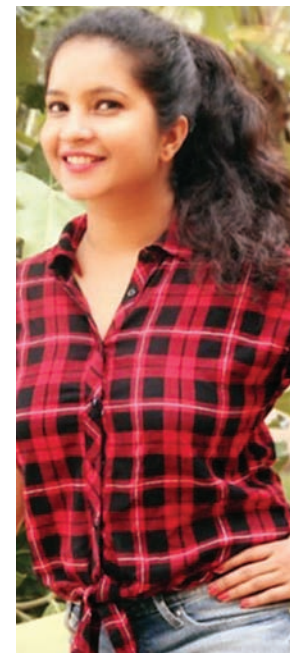
An annual gathering at the ground is the upcoming Mahaparinarvan Day marking the death anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar on December 6, when lakhs of his followers will arrive from all over the state. Accordingly, all the long-term dust pollution control related works will be taken up after that day, said the officials.

# Miscreants barge into film set, misbehave with heroine in K'taka

Chikkamagaluru | Agencies

A group of miscreants reportedly barged into the floor of a film shooting set and misbehaved with an actress in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday.

According to sources, when a song was being picturised for the Kannada movie 'Koragajja' starring famous actress Shubha Poonja, the bike-borne miscreants with sharp-edged weapons barged into the shooting area. They allegedly misbehaved with Poonja, held her hand and even tried



to drag her. The shooting was stopped following the incident.

The incident took within the limits of Kudremukha police station, but the film crew is yet to lodge a formal complaint on this count. The film's director, Sudheer Attavara, told the media that they took necessary permission from the concerned authorities before building the set spending lakhs of rupees. The team had also hired famous choreographer Ganesh Acharya from Bollywood. The police said that they would take action if a complaint is lodged regarding the incident.

# Delhi excise policy case: SC to deliver verdict on Monday on bail pleas filed by Manish Sisodia



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court is set to deliver its verdict on October 30 on bail pleas filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in cases related to the now-scrapped excise policy.

As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti will pronounce the judgment on Monday.

Sisodia is behind bars in connection with alleged corruption and money laundering cases arising out of the alleged scam in the Delhi excise policy.

On October 17, the top court had reserved its decision on the bail petitions filed by Sisodia after hearing arguments from senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represented the former Deputy Chief Minister and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju, who had appeared for the CBI and the ED.

On July 3, a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court refused to grant bail to Sisodia saying that he was not able to meet the twin conditions for grant of bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and the triple test for grant of bail.

# Facing 'financial difficulties', 7 of a bizman's family commit suicide in Gujarat

Surat | Agencies

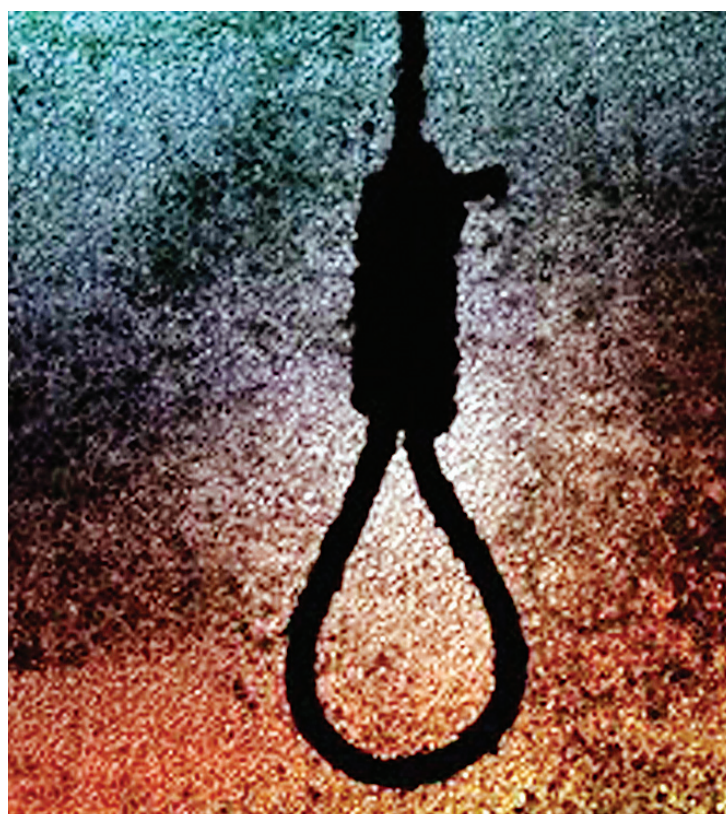
In a shocking incident, seven members including three children, of a businessman's family, ended their lives in an apparent case of mass suicide in Surat on Saturday.

Police responding to the incident, discovered a suicide note at the scene, shedding light on the distressing circumstances.

The victims have been identified as Manish Solanki, a furniture businessman, whose life came to a tragic end as he was found hanging from a ceiling fan. Alongside him, the deceased include his wife Rita, father Kanu, mother Shobha, and their three young children - Dishka, Kavya, and Kushal.

Reports suggest that the incident unfolded against the backdrop of severe financial difficulties, though the precise cause remains under investigation.

Speaking about the heartbreaking event, Rakesh Barot, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in Surat, remarked, "Seven members of a family have committed suicide. They have written a suicide note,



and we are verifying the reason."

The discovery was made when local residents grew concerned upon failing to reach Manish Solanki this morning. Solanki, who employed around 35 carpenters and labourers, had been encountering financial hardships for a considerable period, according to residents of the locality. Worried about his well-being, his workers attempted to contact him but received no response, and their knocks on his door went unanswered.

Fueled by concern, the neighbours decided to take action, entering the family's residence by breaking a window at the rear of the house.

While the police have not yet disclosed specific details of the suicide note, it has reportedly cited financial woes as a factor contributing to the family's desperate act.

However, the note refrains from identifying any particular individuals in connection with their distressing circumstances. In the wake of this incident, family relatives who arrived at the scene have opted to maintain silence, withholding further details.

# I-T DEPT CONDUCTS RAIDS AT RAJASTHAN MINISTER'S OFFICE

Jaipur: The Income Tax Department on Saturday conducted raids at the office of Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Uday Lal Anjana in Udaipur.

According to sources, Anjana, who was named the Congress nominee from Nimbahera constituency, was not present when the I-T department team arrived.

A source said that around six teams of the Income Tax Department from Mumbai raided the office of Cooperative Minister -- Chetank Enterprises, which is engaged in work related to the National Highway.

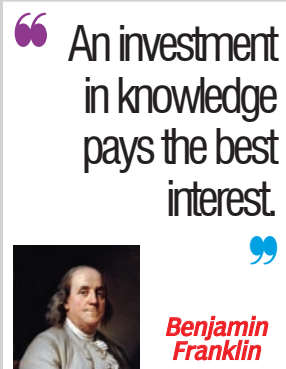
The I-T team examined some documents.

Anjana's staff in the office were reportedly shocked when the I-T team reached there at around 4.30 p.m. on Saturday. The Police accompanied the I-T team.

A source said Anjana was campaigning in Nimbahera during the raid.

The Income Tax Department questioned his office staff and examined some documents.





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## Israel expanding ground operations, Gaza loses communication

# NOW, MAN TO MAN

Jerusalem/Gaza | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is expanding ground operations in Gaza in continuation of the offensive carried out in the last few days, said IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari.

Israel says its troops and tanks remain on the ground in Gaza after launching a major incursion to fight Hamas.

The IDF said that it has killed Hamas Naval commander Abu Sahiban and aerial commander Abu Rakbeh in an overnight attack.

The IDF said that Sahiban had planned and executed Hamas infiltration by sea which was foiled by the military.

With the killing of aerial Chief Abu Rakbeh and Naval Commander Abu Sahiban, the IDF



seems to be focusing on its targets.

Halagary had told media persons that the army has advanced into the Gaza Strip and may step up its operations.

The IDF has said that it had destroyed 140 underground structures of Hamas on Friday and Saturday. Communication networks in

Gaza went down on Friday evening, resulting in a lack of information in and out of Gaza.

According to Hagari, lorries with food and aid would be delivered to people in southern areas of Gaza, BBC reported.

Earlier, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling for a humanitarian truce in Gaza.

Palestinian Minister of Communications and Information Technology Ishaq Sidr confirmed an almost complete interruption of internet and telecommunication in Gaza amid the Israeli strikes, as two communication towers in Gaza had come under the attacks.

Xinhua correspondents stationed in Gaza, after regaining network, said intensified Israeli air strikes in northern and central Gaza were lightening up the night sky amid blackout.

In a statement, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said it lost mobile and internet contact with operation rooms in Gaza,

expressing grave concern about whether local crews could continue ambulance services. Meanwhile, armed Palestinian factions fired rockets at Israeli cities in retaliation, according to Israeli media reports.

### INDIA VOTES AGAINST UNGA RESOLUTION BACKING PALESTINE

**United Nations:** In a first, India has voted against a UN General Assembly resolution backing the Palestine cause.

India's opposition to the resolution on Friday was because it failed to condemn Hamas for its terrorist attack and the Assembly rejected an amendment supported by New Delhi that would have named the terror group.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojna Patel said after the vote, "The terror attacks in Israel on October 7 were shocking and deserve condemnation."

"The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts. Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero tolerance approach to terrorists," she added.

The resolution that called for a truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict and provision of assistance to the people of Gaza passed with 120 votes while there were 14 votes against it and 45 abstentions, giving it a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

India backed the amendment to the resolution moved by Canada that named Hamas and condemned its 7/10 attack, but it failed to pass, getting only 88 votes, while there were 54 votes against it, with 23 abstentions.

## Modi cancels visit to poll-bound Mizoram, Cong takes a jibe

Aizawl | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cancelled his election campaign trip to poll-bound Mizoram scheduled on October 30, and Home Minister Amit Shah would instead lead the BJP's campaign in the north-eastern state, party sources said on Saturday.

Mizoram BJP President Vanlalhmua said that Shah is likely to address an election rally in Mamit district, where the Prime Minister was scheduled to address a gathering on October 30.

However, Shah's campaign schedule is yet to be finalised, he said.

BJP sources did not cite any specific reason for the cancellation of Modi's visit to Mizoram. Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari is likely to campaign in the northeastern state on



Monday. Commenting on the cancellation of the Prime Minister's visit, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said that Modi cancelled his Mizoram election rally due to his silence over the Manipur crisis.

Ramesh said in a post on X: "The Prime Minister was to address an election rally in Mizoram on Oct 30. But now there are reports that he has cancelled his visit. Could it be because questions would be raised that he had not found time to visit the deeply troubled neighbouring state that has been on the deep edge for almost 180 days... with what face would he go to the rally in Mizoram?"

### 'THE EARTH IN GAZA SHOOK': ISRAEL'S DEFENCE MINISTER

**Tel Aviv:** Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Saturday that Israel has "moved to a new phase" in the war against Hamas, after ground forces pushed into Gaza and the military bombarded terror targets in the Strip overnight, media reported.

"We attacked above ground and below ground, we attacked terror operatives of all ranks, at all places. The commands to the forces are clear: The operation will continue until a new order," he said, Times of Israel reported.

He added: "Regarding other areas, we are preparing to defend Israeli citizens, to safeguard their security. We are doing this in the north, the centre and everywhere."

Gallant's remarks came after he met with top security officials, including the heads of the IDF, Shin Bet and Mossad, Times of Israel reported.

### "SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS": SAUDI'S WARNING AMID ISRAEL'S GAZA STRIKES

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia on Saturday warned Israel against any further ground operations in the embattled Gaza Strip over the threat to Palestinian civilians, denouncing an "unjustified" violation of international law.

The warning came after Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said Friday night that the Israeli army was "extending" its ground operations after two straight nights of tank incursions.

Saudi Arabia "condemns and denounces any ground operations carried out by Israel due to the threat they pose to the lives of Palestinian civilians", the kingdom's foreign ministry said in a statement.

It warned against "the danger of continuing to carry out these blatant and unjustified violations of international law against the brotherly Palestinian people", saying it would have "serious repercussions for the stability of the region".

Israel unleashed its bombing campaign after Hamas gunmen broke across the Gaza border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing more than 220 hostages, according to Israeli officials. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Israeli strikes had killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, including more than 3,500 children.

## Indore Doctor beats patient for not disclosing HIV infection, Suspended

Indore | Agencies

A junior doctor of the state-run Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital (MYH) in Indore was suspended after a purported video showing him slapping an HIV-infected man surfaced on Saturday, an official said.

The 45-year-old HIV-infected man was sent to MYH from a hospital in Ujjain to treat a broken bone, the official said. The junior doctor was angry at not

being told by the patient or his attendant about the HIV infection before he began the bone treatment, he said. In the purported video of the incident, the junior doctor is seen continuously slapping the patient on the stretcher and abusing him.

MYH Superintendent Dr Pramendra Thakur said the doctor, posted in the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, has been suspended with immediate effect.

## I am being specifically targeted: Mahua Moitra

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tripuramool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, who is facing a Lok Sabha Ethics Committee examination over cash for query in Parliament, speaks to The Indian Express about the charges against her and her party's reaction to the same, and says she stands by the questions she asked in Parliament.

Why do you say that the stance you have taken against the Adani Group is behind the allegations levelled at you?

It's very clear that I am being specifically targeted because I am one of the very few who stand up against the bullies running this government and have been playing an integral role in



exposing (Gautam) Adani and the nexus that he runs with Modi and this government. It is very clear that they are using any means possible to run a media trial to put me down.

It's meant for everyone who criticises the government. In a way, they have been a little late in getting to

me. Because, if you see, the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party), (Congress's) Rahul Gandhi, (TMC's) Abhishek Banerjee, who raised their voices against this government, they also got after them. (Since) They had nothing on me, they had to go in this manner and use a fake, malicious complaint arising out of an acrimonious relationship break-up.

The issue here is cash for questions. It's a serious issue. One side of the issue is that there was a quid pro quo, and the other side is the cash. I have asked a total of 61 questions in the Lok Sabha, whereas the national average for questions by 17th Lok Sabha's MPs is 191. I am not even at one-third. The average of West Bengal MPs is 129.

## Gold prices soar ahead of festive, wedding season

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Gold prices in India have shot up by as much as Rs 4,150 per 10 grams during October to touch the Rs 60,825 mark on Friday from Rs 56,675 on October 3, according to figures compiled by the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association.

The sharp increase in the price of the yellow metal comes ahead of the auspicious Dhanteras occasion for buying gold on November 10, as well as the approaching festive and wedding season when the demand for jewellery shoots up.

In the international market, too, gold prices have surged above \$2,000 an ounce during the week, making it the third consecutive weekly gain, as geopolitical tensions rise amid the Israel-Hamas war.



According to market analysts this has spurred the demand for gold as a safe-haven investment.

Kama Jewelry MD Colin Shah expects the demand for gold to remain buoyant due to the strong "sentimental value" attached towards buying gold during the festive season and the Indian culture of gifting jewellery during weddings. The recent volatility in the stock markets has also prompted investors to look at a safer bet and gold appears to be the ideal asset. Besides, the gold also provides a hedge against the strengthening dollar as the rupee has been weakening, said a senior bank official.

## Free Education from KG To PG if Congress is re-elected: Rahul Gandhi

Raipur | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday promised free education in government schools and colleges in Chhattisgarh and Rs 4,000 a year for 'tendu' leaf collectors if his party retains power in the state.

Addressing an election rally in the Bhanupratappur assembly constituency in Kanker district, Mr Gandhi asked that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi brings up 'OBC' (other backward classes) in his speeches, why was he scared of a caste census.

A caste census will be conducted in the country if the Congress is voted to power, he added. Bhanupratappur is among the 20 constituencies that will see polling on November 7 in the first phase of the Chhattisgarh elections. The second phase will be held on November 17.

"We are going to take a major step for you which we call 'KG to PG'. From KG (kindergarten) to PG (post-graduation), free education will be provided in government institutions to students (if Congress retains power in state). They will not have to pay a single penny," Gandhi said.

Gandhi promised that if the Congress



forms the government in the state after polls, tendu leaf collectors will be given Rs 4,000 per year under the Rajiv Gandhi Protsahan Yojana. This is being seen as a major announcement from the Bhanupratappur seat, which is a part of the tribal-dominated Bastar region.

Pitching for a caste census, he said, "Narendra Modi ji uses the 'OBC' word in every speech but why is he scared of the caste census... OBCs have to become aware as they are being ditched." Gandhi also announced that the Congress would conduct a caste census in the country if it is voted to power in Delhi (at the Centre). "We have already made this promise for Chhattisgarh," he said.

## New flyover linking highway with Mumbai Airport takes shape

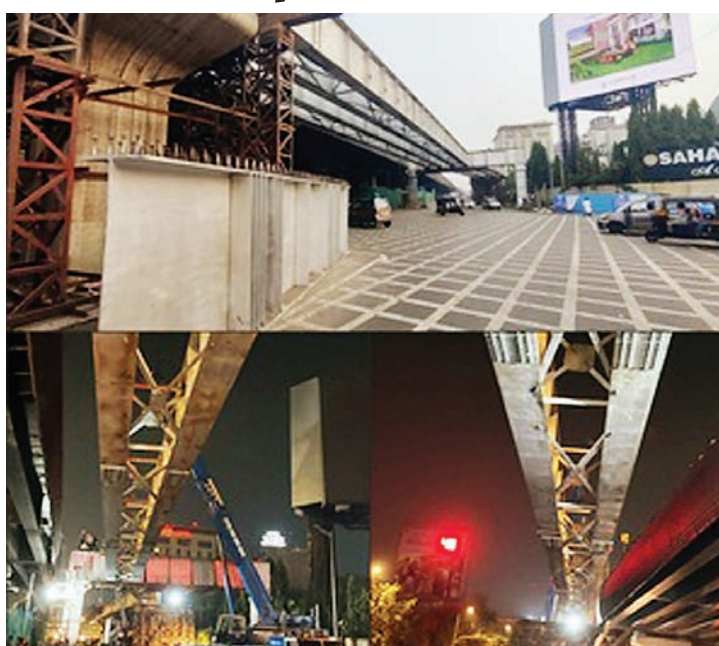
Team Absolute | Mumbai

A new flyover with an innovative design is fast taking shape to link the Western Express

Highway with the Mumbai Airport domestic Terminal 1, reduce travel time and ease traffic congestion in both directions, an official said here on Saturday.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) launched eight steel and PSC girders for the flyover, which have a total length of 74 metres, and completed the feat without using temporary supports on one of the busiest roads in the city and avoiding traffic snarls.

The MMRDA has incorporated an inverted T for the purpose, plus the flyover is designed with a shorter length and minimised height considering the Funnel Zone Criteria, giving numerous benefits like limited intrusion and enhanced aesthetics, besides complying with Indian Road Congress standards.



There are other advantages like reduced land footprint of the flyover and in turn limited land acquisition, huge cost savings and low impact on

the environment, said MMRDA Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee.

The 615 metre long and 8 metre wide flyover -- to be completed by December, starts from the Vile Parle bridge to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport T-1, with a two lane one-way for traffic directed towards Bandra from the International Terminal 2.

The peak hour traffic around the T-1 junction often exceeds more than 10,000 cars leading to major traffic congestion, but after the new flyover is completed, it will bring huge relief to passengers travelling to and from the airport, said Mukherjee. Regular travellers have said that a drive from places like Borivali or Bandra to the airport takes at least an hour, and more during peak hours or monsoon, while negotiating the spots around Jogeshwari-Andheri and Vile Parle-Santacruz become a nightmarish experience. The traffic decongestion will make the travel to and from the airport quick.

## Three Cong leaders, including ex-Jaipur Mayor, join BJP in Raj

Jaipur | Agencies

In a boost for the BJP ahead of the November 25 Assembly elections in Rajasthan, three senior Congress leaders, including former Jaipur Mayor Jyoti Khandelwal, joined the saffron camp on Saturday.

Besides Khandelwal, who had contested the last Lok Sabha elections on Congress ticket, Chandrashekhar Baid, son of veteran Congress leader Chandanmal Baid, and former MLA Nandlal Poonia too joined the BJP.

Former Jodhpur University Students' Union President Ravindra Singh Bhati also joined the saffron camp on Saturday, along with retired IPS officer Kesar Singh Shekhawat, Bhim Singh Bika, Rajasthan Heritage Promotion Council Vice President Sanwarmal Mahiya, and Hari Singh, an Independent candidate from Mandawa. Ravindra Singh



Bhati has been active in Western Rajasthan for a long time. The BJP may field Khandelwal as a candidate from Kishanpole.

Khandelwal had been a prominent female face for the Congress in Jaipur. She was in the Sachin Pilot camp and a contender for Congress ticket from Kishanpole.

Speaking to mediapersons at the party headquarters here, BJP's Rajasthan in-charge Arun Singh said: "(Ashok) Gehlot government is going to go. The Chief Minister's statements clearly indicate that his government has failed. The kind of words he used for ED shows his nervousness."





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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team

Absolute | Chhindwara

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

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

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

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

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

"Rahul Baba used to



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

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

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

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

idol of Lord Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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



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

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

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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

Action for Rs 150 crore 58 lakh 36 thousand 316 has

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

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

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

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

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



Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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

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



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

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

## Mirchi Baba to contest against CM Shivraj from 'Budhani'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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

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

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



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

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

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





# 'I changed the face of Indian agriculture, WFO lauded it', Pawar rebuts PM's jibe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked without naming him "what did he do for farmers", Nationalist Congress Party President hit back on Saturday saying, "I changed the face of Indian agriculture."

Flanked by party leaders Hemant Takale and Vidya Chavan, Pawar (82) said that when he took over as Union Agriculture Minister in 2004, there was a shortage of foodgrains in the country.

"India had to import wheat from the USA and this was unsettling... I did not sign that wheat import file for two days," Pawar said.

With his efforts over the next 10 years, India not only became self-sufficient in foodgrains, but changed from being an 'import-dependent nation' to becoming an 'exporter' to the world, he said.

The World Food Organisation (WFO) also took note of the country's achievements in the agriculture sector and wrote a letter on November 2, 2012, congratulating India for its record rice and foodgrain yield, Pawar said.

Replying to Modi's attack against him in Shirdi on Thursday, Pawar



shrugged dismissively to observe that "the PM's statements were far away from the ground realities and he may not have been briefed properly" on the issue.

Recalling the strategies, he said that the immediate priority was to encourage farmers to boost their crops output and in order to achieve this, under the leadership of then UPA Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the government decided to substantially increase the 'guaranteed price' of foodgrains and pulses.

Later, Singh said that if that decision (to hike the 'guaranteed price') had not been taken, the "situation

could have worsened".

Accordingly, the guaranteed prices of wheat, rice, cotton, soybeans and other crops were more than doubled in nearly a decade during Pawar's 10-year long tenure.

Many ambitious, broad, and far-reaching schemes were launched to bring about revolutionary changes in agriculture and allied sectors, of which the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (2007), and the National Horticulture Mission (2005) stood out, Pawar said.

"If we review the success of the RKVY and NHM schemes, it will be noticed that they changed the face of

the agricultural sector of the country," he said.

Under this, the farmers were motivated by the hikes in the guaranteed prices of their produce, as the country became self-sufficient in foodgrain and "India became the first country in rice output and second in the world in wheat production".

The country also led in the first or second position in sugarcane, cotton, jute, milk, fruits, vegetables and fish, he said.

Citing figures, Pawar said fruit production doubled from 45.2 million tonnes to 89 million tonnes, while leafy vegetables output also nearly doubled from 88.3 million tonnes to 162.9 million tonnes.

"During the 10 years (2004-2014), the export of agricultural and related products grew phenomenally by nearly six times - from \$7.50 billion to \$42.84 billion," Pawar said.

On the other hand, the farmers were getting nearly Rs 3 lakh crore from the sale of their agriculture produce, though the main reasons for farmland suicides was indebtedness through the private money-lenders, he said.

In order to overcome this, Pawar said he announced the biggest loan waiver of Rs 62,000 crore at the time.

# As Maratha stir intensifies, Maha extends caste panel deadline by two months

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government gave a two-month extension till December 24 to a committee entrusted with determining the methodology to issue 'Kunbi' caste certificates to the Marathas, even as the community intensified its pro-quotas stir, here on Saturday.

The government resolution was issued late on Friday and cited various reasons for the extension including translation of old documents, collecting comparative district-wise data of Kunbi and Maratha communities, among others.

The panel was formed on September 7 during the first phase of the agitation led by



Maratha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil and it was given a month's time to complete the work, but the committee has been overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task.

Considering the complexity of the task in hand after touring nine districts, reviewing 1.50 crore entries, a series of nine meetings, and with much more needed to be done, the panel decided to ask the govern-

ment for a two-month extension to complete the work.

The panel is scrutinising old records of the land, revenue, educational, birth-deaths, service records to the Nizam era before 1967, police and prisons, Waqf boards, some documents are in Urdu or Persian requiring translations, etc, leading to the deadline extension till December 24.

The state government is also in touch with the Telangana state on the issue of procuring Nizam-era documents, but the process there is ostensibly delayed owing to the assembly elections scheduled there on November 30, with the results expected on December 3.

# Rs 20 cr extortion-cum-death threat email to tycoon Mukesh Ambani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani has received an extortion-cum-death threat via email, officials said here on Saturday. The email demanding Rs 20-crore threatens to shoot Ambani, 66, if he fails to cough out the amount. A company source,



while confirming the development, declined to comment saying that the police are probing the matter. A

complaint has been registered by the Gamdevi Police Station and investigations are launched into the antecedents of the email threat-given. Earlier in the past few years, Ambani and his family have been threatened on multiple occasions and there were threats to blow up his iconic Antilla residence in south Mumbai.

# Sacked cop's reinstatement by Thackeray drove biz out of Maha: Minister

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Attempting to turn the tables on the Opposition in Maharashtra, a ruling alliance minister alleged that it was the erstwhile government of ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray which was 'solely responsible' for the flight of big businesses out of Maharashtra, here on Saturday.

Under attack from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the past over one year after major projects like Vedanta-Foxconn, Tata-Airbus and the bulk drugs park among others shifted out of the state, Industry Minister Uday Samant made the revelations on Saturday.

In a statement, he said that a former police officer, Sachin Vaze, who was dismissed from service, was reinstated in 2020 after being suspended for his alleged involvement in a custodial death case.

"Those aware have confirmed that Aditya Thackeray recommended to CM Uddhav Thackeray to reinstate Vaze," Samant contended.

Samant's sharp rejoinder came in response to Aditya Thackeray's comments on Friday when he took a jibe at the government - "Vedanta-Foxconn, Tata-Airbus, Bulk Drugs Park, 40 Traitors, Cricket World Cup Final, and now the Diamond Bourse..."



everything for Gujarat! A well-performing MVA government was toppled, now what is the Shinde-BJP regime doing after treachery?"

Continuing, Samant said that later, in Feb. 2021, Vaze had planted a car laden with gelatin sticks/explosives near Antilla, the iconic home of Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani.

"MP Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT) and architect of the MVA government in March 2021 protected Vaze and called him an 'honest and capable' officer," Samant pointed out.

The Minister said that "this incident sent shockwaves in the business world" and it was one of the reasons for loss of confidence in the state.

"The overwhelming support to Vaze by the Thackeray government had demoralised business and investors... It also tarnished the image of Mumbai as a safe destination for business," claimed Samant.

He added that the Vaze incident and the political protection given to him 'will have long-lasting impact' on Maharashtra as a safe destination for business and investments.

"The Thackeray government had played a major role in driving out businesses from Maharashtra. Instead of politicising big projects, they must apologize to the people of the state for making investors lose faith and confidence in the state government," demanded Samant.

He assured that now, the state is regaining investors' confidence through various decisions and policies taken in the past one year under CM Eknath Shinde.

# Powerloom owners in Bhiwandi announce complete shutdown for 20 days from November 1

Team Absolute | Thane

Powerloom owners in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district have called for a complete shutdown of their units from November 1 to 20 to press for their long-pending demands from the government.

Around 700 powerloom owners held a meeting here and decided to keep the units shut for 20 days to draw the government's attention to their woes, ranging from yarn prices and taxes to electricity rates.

"The Central and state governments are to blame for the pathetic situation in Bhiwandi, which is considered the Manchester of India," said Naresh Sancheti, a representative of the powerloom owners.

The Bhiwandi industry employs nearly five lakh workers drawn from different states and during this period they will have to starve as they won't have any work or wages, he said.



Of the 15 lakh powerlooms, only 10 lakh are functional due to various reasons, he said.

The shutdown will affect around 20,000 owners of the powerloom units in the town and impact the transport industry, Sancheti said.

The government, which has been receiving 12 per cent GST on yarn, will have to go without any income for the 20 days, he said.

# Maharashtra BJP Chief reveals truth behind D Fadnavis's "I'll Return" viral video

Team Absolute | Palghar

A day after the Maharashtra BJP posted an old video of former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis announcing that he will return to helm the state, the saffron party's state unit president Chandrashekhar Bawankule claimed the video was posted by an "enthusiastic" party worker and no wrong interpretation should be drawn out of it. Talking to reporters here on Friday, Bawankule also said that the upcoming Maharashtra elections would be fought under the leadership of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.



he will return (to lead the state). Hence, there should be no misunderstanding about it," he said.

"CM Shinde is and will be the chief minister of the state and the elections will be fought under his leadership. The central leadership as well as Devendra Fadnavis have said the same thing," Bawankule said. Before the Maharashtra assembly elections in 2019, Fadnavis, who was then the chief minister, had said, "Mi punha yein" (I will return). The remarks had evoked many social media memes. Fadnavis is now one of the two deputy chief ministers in Maharashtra, the other one being Ajit Pawar of the

Nationalist Congress Party's rebel faction.

Talking about the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said the BJP plans to take 10,000 people from Maharashtra for the darshan of Lord Ram.

He also said that out of the total 48 Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra, he has so far toured 23 seats. "From what I saw during the tour, I am confident that 45-plus candidates of the Mahayuti of 13 parties will surely get elected to the Lok Sabha, and Maharashtra will strongly support Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give him one more chance," he added.

# Train delayed in checks after passenger writes about terrorists on board

Team Absolute | Palghar

A police team had to rush to the Jaipur-Bandra Express in Palghar district on Saturday morning after a passenger put out a message on social media about the presence on board of four "terrorists" in the guise of "sadhus". A thorough check of the train was carried out jointly by the railway police and the Railway Protection Force, while the documents of the four sadhus were verified, an official said.

"They were on their way from Jaipur to an ashram in Wadrai in Palghar. We are on the lookout for the passenger who uploaded the message about terrorists, which caused so much panic and led to the train being held up for more than 10 minutes," the official said.

# After PM's Pawar jibe, Shiv Sena (UBT) asks 'what did Modi do in 10 years'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's much-debated jibe targeting Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar - without naming him - Maha Vikas Aghadi ally Shiv Sena (UBT) rose to his defence and countered, "what had Modi done in 10 years", here on Saturday.

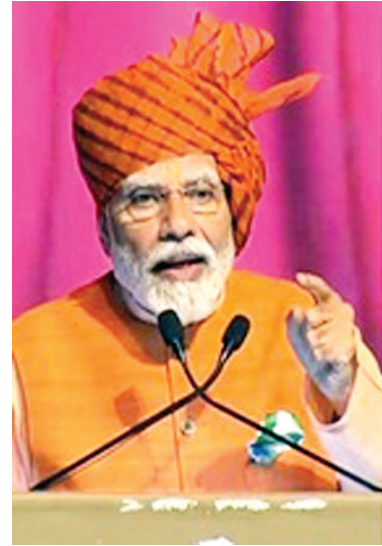
In sharp edits in "Saamana" and "Dopahar Ka Saamana", the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s publications, the party said that at least Modi could have checked his past comments on Pawar before talking exactly the opposite now.

"It was the Modi government which conferred Padma Vibhushan on Pawar for his contributions to the agriculture and social sectors... Just 4-5 years ago, Modi praised Pawar's work and leadership qualities, how had helped Gujarat as the Union Agriculture Minister, and that he (Modi) came into politics holding Pawar's finger," said the Saamana edit.

Today, everything has changed, there is no consistency in Modi's words and actions and this is a sign of a confused mentality, said the editors.

Hitting out hard, the Saamana retorted, "What has PM Modi done for the country" and listed various issues, alleging he has made life in India difficult with his policies.

"Many affluent people no longer want to live in India and are migrating to other countries. The BJP has made this country 'unlivable', people are scared,



farmers are committing suicide, the youth is frustrated..." slammed Saamana.

Under the BJP regime, public enterprises have been shut down, unemployment has increased, existing jobs have disappeared, big industrialists defaulted on loans which the Modi government waived off, but farmers' homes are being seized for not paying even paltry loans of Rs 5000-10,000, while those businessmen who financed the BJP have fled abroad without repaying their bank loans. It cited how China has entered Ladakh, infiltration continues in Jammu & Kashmir, the promise of Kashmiri Pandit returning home remains unful-



filled, there were riots in Gujarat under Modi tenure (as CM) and now Manipur is burning.

The Indian Rupee had slid against the US Dollar which was Rs 55 in 2014 but has now fallen to Rs 82, the big assurances made to farmers on MSP and doubling their incomes are not fulfilled, the tillers had to fight against the three black agricultural laws which were finally withdrawn.

Referring to Modi's Shirdi trip on Thursday and his frequent visits, the edit said there was nothing wrong as Maharashtra has always been weak for the Bharatiya Janata Party vis-à-vis Lok Sabha elections, so it needs more focus.

# Fire breaks out at godown; no casualties

Team Absolute | Thane

A fire broke out at a godown in which discarded cosmetics were stored in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday, and no casualties were reported in the incident, a civic official said, reported news agency.

The blaze erupted in a shed-like structure, where a stock of cosmetics had been stored, between Bhiwandi and Kalyan towns around 10.30 am, fire officer Khalil Darekar from the Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC) said.

Eleven fire engines, including four from the BNMC and seven from Kalyan, rushed to the scene and doused the blaze, he said, adding the cause for the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out at a textile manufacturing unit in an industrial area of Navi Mumbai in the wee hours of Saturday, an official from the fire brigade said.

No one was injured in the blaze that erupted at a factory in the Pawna MIDC area around 1.30 am, the official from the fire station said.



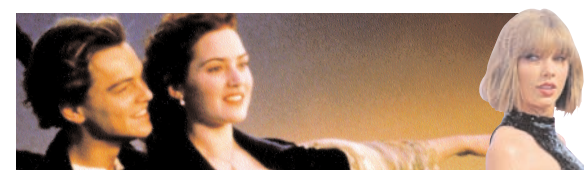
Nine fire engines and water tankers of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) and MIDC rushed to the spot and battled the blaze till around 8 am when it was brought under control, he said.

The cooling operations were underway, the official said, adding that the cause for the fire will be probed.

According to the district disaster management cell, the factory belonged to a company manufacturing textiles and further details were not immediately available.







# Kourtney Kardashian

## celebrates Halloween

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

ing her sister's costume choice.

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

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

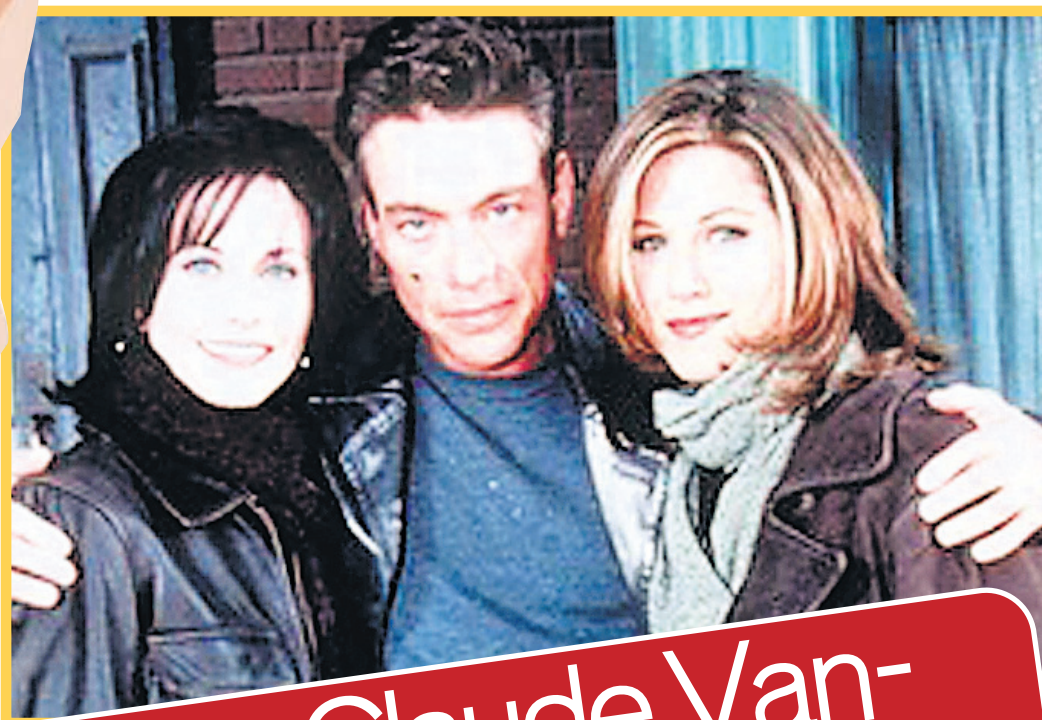
Before this, back in early October, the

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

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

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

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



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

**T**he iconic sit-com series 'Friends' has featured cameos of many celebrities over the years. One of these is iconic Belgian actor-martial artiste Jean-Claude Van Damme, who recently admitted that he feels ashamed about his cameo with Jennifer Aniston and Courtney Cox.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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

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

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

such as 'The Expendables'.

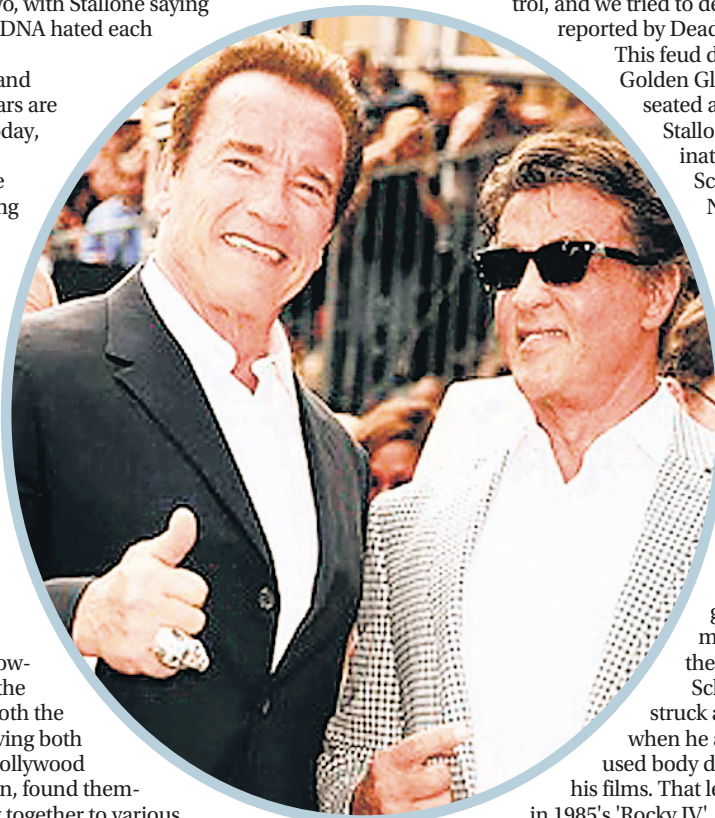
Speaking at 'The Graham Norton Show', the 'True Lies' actor said: "We were movie rivals, but we took the competitiveness to the extreme - we each had to have the best body, we had to kill more people in our films, and we had to have the biggest guns. It got out of control, and we tried to derail each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

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

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

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

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

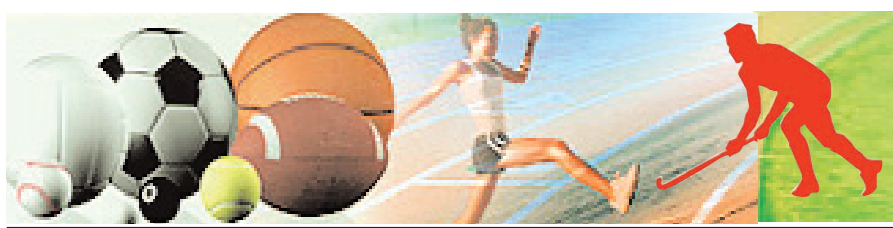


## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Irina Shayak





## MEN'S ODI WC: AUSTRALIA OVERCOME NEW ZEALAND BY 5 RUNS IN HIGHEST-SCORING MATCH

Dharamsala | Agencies

In a game that produced the highest match aggregates in one-day Internationals -- 771 runs in two innings, Australia clung on to record a narrow win off the final ball against Neighbours New Zealand in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 here on Saturday.

Set an improbable 389 to win, New Zealand were inspired by Rachin Ravindra's outstanding century to set up a nail-biting finish in the highest-scoring match in the history of ODIs. Jimmy Neesham's extraordinary 58 from 39 balls took them to the cusp of an extraordinary comeback victory, only for a brilliant run out to remove Neesham off the penultimate ball of the innings.

With six required off the last ball, And Mitchell Starc held his nerve to deny No.11 Lockie Ferguson as the Black Caps ended on 383/9 and Australia won a nailbiter by just five runs.

Runs flowed like water in a river during the monsoon, Australia rode on a brilliant opening partnership in an unusual first innings as they posted 388 at the picturesque ground in the foothills of the



Himalayas.

A remarkable opening partnership between David Warner (81 off 65) and the returning Travis Head (109 from 67) got Pat Cummins' side off to a blistering start. Head's first appearance of the tournament was a memorable one, as he slammed 17 boundaries, including seven maximums, in his brilliant century. Though the opening pair put on 175 in just 19 overs, Australia struggled to build on the platform through the middle overs.

Mitchell Marsh (36 from 51) and Marnus Labuschagne (18 from 26) got particularly bogged down, with Glenn Phillips bowling superbly for 3-37 off ten overs, stepping up at just the right time for their team when Lockie Ferguson was forced off with an injury early in his spell. Glenn Maxwell (41 off 24),

Josh Inglis (38 from 28) and Pat Cummins (37 off 14) exploded through the death overs to boost Australia's score, but their 388 could have been even higher, with New Zealand taking four wickets for just 1 run in the last two overs to bowl their neighbours out for 388.

Earlier, Head scored 109 from just 67 deliveries at the top of the order, in what was his first match of the tournament, as Australia put their trans-Tasman rivals to the sword by posting 388 in good batting conditions.

Australia were also helped by contributions at the death from Glenn Maxwell, Josh Inglis, and Pat Cummins, whose quickfire knocks helped the side rack up 96 runs in the final powerplay.

Several missed chances punctuated the New Zealand fielding effort, although Trent

Boult did them something to cheer about late in the innings, with a three-wicket penultimate over.

Returning to the Australia side after recovering from a fractured hand, Head combined with fellow opener David Warner (81 from 65 balls) as Australia put on 175 for the opening wicket on their way to the massive total.

The 771 runs the two teams produced in this match is the highest match aggregate in ODIs, improving on the 696 runs they scored when these two teams met at Hamilton in 2007. On that occasion, Australia scored 346/5 and in response, New Zealand reached 350/9 in 49.3 overs.

### Brief scores

Australia 388 all out in 49.2 overs (David Warner 81, Travis Head 109, Glenn Maxwell 41, Josh Inglis 38, Pat Cummins 37; Glenn Phillips 3-37, Trent Boult 3-77, Mitchell Santner 2-80) beat New Zealand 383/9 in 50 overs (Rachin Ravindra 116, Daryl Mitchell 54, James Neesham 58; Adam Zampa 3-74, Pat Cummins 2-66, Josh Hazlewood 2-70) by five runs.

## Men's ODI WC

# Netherlands stun Bangladesh by 87 runs

Kolkata | Agencies

Scott Edwards' fifty; superb bowling help Netherlands stun Bangladesh by 87 runs

Kolkata, Oct 28 (IANS) Medium pacer Paul van Meekeren claimed four wickets to lead an outstanding bowling performance as the Netherlands secured an 87-run victory over Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

Scott Edwards' half-century helped the Dutch to a competitive score of 229 in a struggle of a first innings. But his bowling attack also took advantage of a helpful surface to leave Bangladesh's reply in tatters, with the Tigers slipping to 142 all out.

With this win, the Netherlands, who had stunned South Africa earlier in the event, moved to eighth position with four points, placed ahead of Bangladesh and England, who have two points each.

The Netherlands captain Edwards won the toss at Eden Gardens and gave his side the chance to get a score on the board. But wickets fell in clusters as Bangladesh took control of the match through the first half of the first innings, with Taskin Ahmed particularly impressive. The Tigers suffered early setbacks in their search for 230 to win, with Litton Das the first to depart, caught behind off Aryan Dutt for cautious three from 12 balls.



### Brief scores

Netherlands 229 all out in 50 overs (Scott Edwards 68, Wesley Barresi 41; Shoriful Islam 2-51, Taskin Ahmed 2-42, Mustafizur Rahman 2-36, Mahedi Hasan 2-40) beat Bangladesh 142 all out in 42.2 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 35; Paul van Meekeren 4-23, Bas de Leede 2-25)

## Manu Bhaker secures India's 11th Paris Olympic quota in shooting

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Olympian and one of India's most successful contemporary shooters Manu Bhaker, secured India's 11th Paris 2024 Olympics quota place in Shooting, finishing fifth in the women's 25m Pistol at the on-going 15th Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea.

Manu shot 24 in the final, bowling out in a shoot-off to miss out on yet another international medal. Iran's Haniyeh Rostamiyan finished second, spoiling a Chinese medal sweep as the power-house nation took all the other spots from one to four.

Given China could only claim one quota and Haniyeh already had hers secured earlier, the second



Paris spot was clinched by the Indian. Before bowing out, Manu was often in the top two and throughout in medal position, before a score of two and three in the seventh and eighth series saw her go into a shoot-off with Zhao Nan of China for fourth position. She missed out but the quota had already been secured.

"The aim was obviously the quota, because there are few chances left to win them after this. So yes, I am happy that I have won the quota but a podium finish would have been better. I have been

working on a few improvements and I feel I am on the right track but will need to work even harder from here," said Manu after her event.

Earlier she had topped the qualification stage with a strong 591 even as teammates Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan finished 17th and 23rd with scores of 579 and 576 respectively.

India picked up four more medals, all silvers, on the day, as Manu, Esha and Rhythm placed second in the 25m pistol team event while Divyansh Singh Panwar and Ramita in the 10m air rifle mixed team also lost out 12-16 to a Chinese pair in their gold medal match. Divyansh and Ramita had also shot well to top their qualification round with a combined score of 631.1.

## HOCKEY: INDIA HOLD PAKISTAN TO A THRILLING 3-3 DRAW IN SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP

Johor Bahru (Malaysia) | Agencies

Defending Champions Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team came from behind twice after trailing by a goal to hold nemesis Pakistan to a 3-3 draw in a thrilling opening match at the Sultan of Johor Cup on Friday.

It was goals by Amandeep Lakra (30'), Aditya Arjun Lalage (56') and Uttam Singh (59') that ensured India earned a point from the draw while Arbaz Ahmad (31', 58') and Abdul Shahid (49') scored for Pakistan.

Both teams lived up to the billing, producing some fine-skilled hockey in the campaign opener - setting the moment for an exciting tournament which promises to be a litmus test for the teams participating in the forthcoming FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2023 in Malaysia this December.

While both teams took time to settle into the game, shaking off those early nerves, the first big opportunity to score came in the 12th minute through India Junior Men's Hockey Team forward Angad Bir Singh. But his shot went across the goal with no one at the far end to tap the ball in.

Even though neither team came up with potent attacking formations in the first quarter, both teams defended well to keep the score at a stalemate. The second quarter saw Pakistan make a



minute half-time break, Pakistan were quick to equalize in the 31st minute through a PC by Arbaz Ahmad. Showcasing positive body language, Indian didn't seem perturbed by the goal and continued to build on their attack. Poovana Boby Chandura took a brave shot on goal in the 39th minute but was well-saved by the Pakistani keeper Ali Raza.

The next few minutes saw India create potential forays into the striking circle, but a goal remained elusive. The final quarter started with a 1-1 stalemate on the scoreboard, both teams pushed themselves to fetch the important 3 points. But it was Pakistan which ended up taking a 2-1 lead in the 49th minute when their Captain Abdul Shahid took a shot on goal from the top left corner beating Indian goalie Mohit. Though India replied to this goal with a PC in the 50th minute, the opportunity was lost with the Pakistani goalkeeper making a bright save off the Indian dragflick.

With five minutes left on the clock, India found another opportunity through a PC and this time they were brilliant in the execution with Aditya Arjun Lalage getting a deflection off the rebound from Ali Raza's pads. The equaliser ensured the final few minutes remained intense with both teams vying for a winner. Just under three minutes for the final hooter, Pakistan bounced back with a PC well-converted by Arbaz Ahmad.

## Haryana Open golf: Consistent Jairaj Singh Sandhu clinches maiden title in playoffs

Panchkula (Haryana) | Agencies

Chandigarh golfer Jairaj Singh Sandhu's consistency through the week paid off as he clinched his maiden title at the INR 1 crore Haryana Open 2023 at the Panchkula Golf Club.

Jairaj (66-69-68-67), who was in the lead on the first two days before slipping to second place on Day 3, produced a flawless five-under 67 on Saturday before finally prevailing in a playoff to weather the storm called Honey Baisoya (68-70-66-66), who on his part shot the last day's best score of six-under 66.

Jairaj and seven-time winner Honey headed to the playoff after both players were tied at the top at a total of 18-under 270 at the end of the regulation 72 holes.

The tall and lanky left-hander Sandhu sank a five-footer for victory on the playoff hole to pick up a cheque worth INR 15 lakh that lifted him 31 spots from 44th to 13th position in the TATA Steel PGTI



Ranking.

Jairaj thus became the fifth first-time winner on the PGTI this season, the other four being Sachin Baisoya, Karan Pratap Singh, Sunhit Bishnoi and Harshjeet Singh Sethi.

Round three leader Akshay Sharma, another Chandigarh-based professional, took the third spot at 16-under 272 following his fourth round of 71.

The other Tricity golfers to finish inside the top 10 were Yuvraj Singh Sandhu in tied fourth at 15-under 273 and Angad Cheema in tied sixth at 12-under 276.

Jairaj Singh Sandhu, lying two shots off the lead in second place at the start of round four, made an early birdie on the second and followed that up with a couple of 25 to 30 feet conversions and a good up and down to add three more birdies on the front-nine. Sandhu made another quality up and down for his last birdie of the day on the 15th.

Honey Baisoya of the DLF Golf & Country Club, Gurugram, who sat in tied third, three off the lead, at the start of the day, made a charge on the front nine on Saturday by scoring five birdies. Honey then dropped a double-bogey on the 11th but roared back with an eagle on the 12th and birdies on the 16th and 17th. Just when Baisoya was staring at victory he made a three-putt for bogey on the 18th. With Jairaj's par on the 18th, the match went into a playoff.

## PKL: Grateful for the support received from fans over the last 10 years, says Pardeep Narwal ahead of Season 10

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kabaddi has always had a strong connection with the people of India, and with the advent of the Pro Kabaddi League, the game has grown to another level over the last nine years as the organizers of the league packaged the sport brilliantly for television by introducing unique innovations to the game.

One of the most loved Kabaddi players in the country, Pardeep Narwal, is one of the deadliest raiders in the game, and has been scoring plenty of points every season.

Pardeep is currently the raider with the most raid points in the history of PKL



with 1568 raid points in 153 matches to his name.

Narwal, who turned out for the UP Yoddhas in Season 9, has been retained for the upcoming season.

Looking back at the previous seasons, Narwal, who walked away with the Most Valuable Player award in Seasons 4 and 5, said, "PKL

over the last 9 years has really changed our lives and careers. PKL has helped and ensured that more people now know about us, and it has given us a lot.

Season 10 should be a massive milestone and we all expect the tournament to be a great one. This is a big year for the tournament, and it is fantastic that we will be going back to all the 12 cities during the competition," he added.

Having jumped onto the PKL bandwagon in Season 2, Narwal has entertained fans and stunned opposition defences with regularity, and ahead of the iconic 10th Season, he has his blinkers on and is focussed on the top prize.

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

Vasco (Goa) | Agencies

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

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

At least 40 percent of the players in the first eleven that figured in West Bengal's first-round match against Tamil Nadu on Friday here at Tilak



Maidan are from Jhargram in the Madinapore district.

Tulsi Hemran, Mugli Hemran (not related to each other), Mamata Sing and Mamata Mahata were four players in the first eleven from Jhargram. The girls proved to be hardworking and kept West Bengal's hopes alive during the 90-minute exciting contest. West Bengal missed two golden opportunities to move the scoreboard against the resolute Tamil Nadu side and the contest ended in a goalless draw.

## National Karting Championship: Patnaik, Madesh, Rivaan Dev emerge champions

Bengaluru | Agencies

Aditya Patnaik (Mumbai), Ishaan Madesh (Bengaluru) and Rivaan Dev Preetam (Chennai) emerged champions in their respective categories as the fifth and final round of the National Karting Championship 2023 which concluded at the Meco Kartopia circuit here on Saturday.

Aditya Patnaik (Rayo Racing) topped the Senior Max category with a tally of 408 points, just ahead of Bengaluru's Akshat Mishra (396) of Peregrine Racing despite finishing fourth in both Pre-Final and Final races. Pune's Arjun Chheda (Crest Motorsports) was third in the championship with 387 points.

Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing), who had dominated the weekend's out-



ings, finished the season with 439 points in the Junior Max category while fellow Bengalurean and teammate Nikhlesh Raju ended up second, 26 points adrift, but only three ahead of Gurugram's Hunner Singh (Birel Art India).

Rivaan Dev Preetam (MSPORT) took the title in the Micro Max category garnering a total of 413 points, just two clear of team-mate, Bengaluru's Darsh Nawalgaria while Zephaan Ardeshr (Mumbai, Peregrine Racing) ended up

third on 407.

The three National champions will represent India in the 23rd Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals 2023 scheduled to be held in Bahrain from December 2 to 9. Earlier, Peregrine Racing made a clean sweep of all three Final races as Akshat Mishra, Nikhlesh Raju and Zephaan Ardeshr won in the Senior, Junior and Micro Max categories, respectively, on a day that witnessed close racing up and down the grids.

In the 14-lap Senior Max race, Akshat Mishra nursed his P1 position to the finish while Mumbai's Rayo Racing pair of Raaj Bakhru and Raiden Samervel came in second and third, respectively. Aditya Patnaik was fourth. The top four had finished in the same order in the Pre-Final race held earlier.

## Afridi backs Pakistan team after devastating loss by 1 wicket against Proteas

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi has backed the Pakistan team, praising them for all of their hard work after their heart-wrenching loss by 1 wicket against South Africa on Friday.

Shahid Afridi took to X (previously Twitter) to express his thoughts stating "Chin up". Afridi also thanked the Chennai crowd for their support which reminded him of the 1999 test. "The thriller #CWC23 was desperately waiting for! Hard luck boys, on any other day, things would have gone your way. One-wicket losses are devastating, but you need to keep your chins up as you gave your best



and fought gallantly till the end. A big round of applause to the Chennai crowd. Reminded me of their overwhelming support to us in the 1999 Test." Afridi also thanked South Africa for pulling out the win from the jaws of defeat despite tumbling down early."





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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Legendary music composer Anandji Virji Shah, on 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' took a stroll down the memory lane, and reminisced about the time when late ever-green singer Kishore Kumar had recorded the iconic song 'Khaike paan Banaras wala', while having a 'paan' in his mouth. The song is from the 1978 action thriller 'Don', directed by Chandra Barot. The film stars Amitabh Bachchan in a dual role, alongside Zeenat Aman, Pran, Iftekhar, Om Shivpuri and Satyen Kapru in pivotal roles. The music is composed by Kalyanji-Anandji with lyrics by Anjaan and Indeevar. The upcoming episode will see an entertainment extravaganza as Anandji Shah along with his wife Shanta Ben Shah will be seen gracing the 'Celebrating-Kalyanji-Anandji' special episode.

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



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

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

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



## Galaxy of stars descend at Mumbai Film Fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Big Mouths Season 7' streams on Netflix.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

They have

spilled the beans on their marriage, proposal and more.

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

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

my haircuts, my drastic

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

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

DEEPIKA HAS SET RULES WHICH I NEED TO FOLLOW: RANVEER



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



Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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

The production is a joint effort by

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

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

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

### INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ruhi Singh