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PM INAUGURATES DELHI-GHAZIABAD-MEERUT RAPID RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, CALLS IT A HISTORIC MOMENT

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON FRIDAY LAUNCHED THE 17-KM PRIORITY SECTION OF THE DELHI-GHAZIABAD-MEERUT REGIONAL RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM (RRTS) AT SAHIBABAD'S RAPIDX STATION.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Of the 82.15 km route, the priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot was inaugurated and will be available for passenger operations from Saturday, i.e., October 21. The entire corridor is expected to be operational by June 2025.

Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on the occasion that the trains of the RRTS would be known as 'Namo Bharat'. The foundation of the larger Delhi-Meerut corridor was laid by Modi in March 2019.

The Prime Minister took a ride in a 'Namo Bharat' train and formally dedicated to the nation, two Bengaluru metro stretches connecting Balyappanahalli to Krishnarajapuram and Kengeri to Challaghatta. These two metro stretches were opened for the public from October 9 for the convenience of the people commuting on this corridor, without waiting for formal inauguration. Speaking on the occasion, Modi said it was a historic moment

for the nation as India's first rapid rail service, the 'Namo Bharat' train was being dedicated to the people.

He recalled laying the foundation stone for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor four years ago and marked its operation today on the Sahibabad-Duhai Depot stretch.

Modi reiterated the government's commitment to inaugurate the projects whose foundation stones had been laid and expressed confidence that he would be present to inaugurate the Meerut stretch of the RRTS after 18 months. Modi shared his experience of traveling in the 'Namo Bharat' and expressed delight at the transformation of the Railways in the country. "India of the 21st century is writing its own saga of progress and

development in every sector", the Prime Minister said.

He mentioned the recent success of Chandrayaan 3 and also touched upon the successful organisation of G20 which has made India a centre of attraction for the entire world.

Modi also mentioned the record-breaking performance of Indian sports persons who bagged more than a hundred medals at the Asian Games, the launch and expansion of 5G in India, and the record number of digital transactions taking place.

He also mentioned the 'Made in India' vaccines which turned out to be lifesavers for crores of people in the world.

Referring to India's rise in the manufacturing sector, the Prime Minister

spoke about the eagerness of multinational companies to set up manufacturing units in the country for mobile phones, TVs, laptops and computers. He also touched upon defence manufacturing including fighter jets and aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. "The 'Namo Bharat' train is also 'Made in India'", Modi underlined as he informed that the screen doors installed on the platforms were also made in the country.

Modi also informed that the noise levels in the 'Namo Bharat' trains are less than that of helicopters and airplanes and stressed that 'Namo Bharat' is a glimpse of India of the future and exemplifies the transformation of the nation with growing economic muscle.

Telangana's wealth is in the hands of one family: Rahul Gandhi

Jagitial | Agencies

Stepping up his attack on Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Friday that one family is ruling Telangana and the entire wealth of the state is concentrated in its hands.

He termed the next month's Assembly election a fight between 'Dorala Telangana and Prajala Telangana' (feudals' Telangana and people's Telangana) and urged the people to bring Congress to power to realize the dream for which they fought for Telangana state.

The former Congress chief was addressing a public meeting in Jagitial as part of 'Vijayabheri yatra' in Telangana on the third day.

Reiterating that if voted to power Congress will conduct caste census in Telangana, the Congress MP said this would be the first step to realize the dream of people's Telangana.

He alleged that the state's wealth, be it land, sand and liquor is concentrated in the hands of one family. "You had dreamt of people's rule in Telangana but after achieving Telangana state you found a family ruling you," he said.

Rahul Gandhi reiterated his allegation that BJP, BRS and MIM are working together. "BRS backs BJP in Delhi, extends support to it in Lok Sabha and in Telangana, BJP and MIM support BRS," he said. He said wherever the Congress fights BJP in states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Assam, MIM fields its candidates to help BJP.

Slamming the BRS government for closing down sugar factories in the region, he promised that once voted to power Congress will re-open them.

He also promised that farmers will be paid Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 12,000 to 15,000 per quintal for turmeric.



The Congress leader also announced that whatever farmers grow in the state they get Rs 500 more than the MSP. He reiterated that his relationship with Telangana is not political but that of love and family.

It is a relationship of several decades from the days of Jawaharlal Nehru, he added.

Gandhi said it was because of this special relationship that he brought his sister Priyanka Gandhi to Telangana with him for launching the election campaign.

The Congress leader announced that if voted to power Congress will conduct a caste census in Telangana so that OBCs know what is their population and what should be their share. "The caste census is like X-ray. The treatment will start after an X-ray. This will be the first step to fulfill your dream of people's Telangana," he said.

He also promised that if voted to power at the Centre, Congress will make public the statistics of the caste census conducted earlier and a new census will be done on the basis of caste. Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister KCR don't want to conduct caste census. "OBCs work hard and they are the backbone of the country but Modi and KCR do not want OBCs to know what their population is," he said.

People who are truly engaged in nation building are not able to get loans: Congress



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Friday attacked BJP government at the centre saying that it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friends get as much loan as

they want without any guarantee, but the people who are truly engaged in building the country are not able to get it.

"Taking forward the Bharat Jodo Yatra, recently Rahul Gandhi met the carpenter brothers in the furniture market of Kirti Nagar. People working there said that due to lack of capital they are not able to use technology. They are unable to get loans," Congress General Secretary (Communication) Jairam Ramesh wrote on X. Taking a swipe at the government, the Congress leader said, "It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister's friends get as much loan as they want without any guarantee, but the people who are truly engaged in building the country are not able to get it."

He said that we are constantly talking about this inequality. "On one hand, the Prime Minister's capitalist friend is getting all kinds of facilities and exemptions. On the other hand, people engaged in small jobs have been left to fend for themselves," the Rajya Sabha member added. He also attached the video link of Rahul Gandhi's interaction with the carpenters and the workers at the furniture market in Delhi.

SIDDHARTH MRIDUL SWORN-IN AS 7TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF MANIPUR HIGH COURT

Imphal: Justice Siddharth Mridul was on Friday sworn in as the seventh Chief Justice of Manipur High Court during a brief ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here.

Governor Anusuiya Uike administered the oath of office to Justice Mridul, who had previously served as a judge of Delhi High Court for over 15 years. "Looking forward to a productive tenure in office... I took stock of the situation and in total 3,335 cases are pending with the (Manipur) High Court," the Chief Justice told the media after the swearing-in-ceremony. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, his cabinet colleagues and high dignitaries were present at the Darbar Hall event. Meanwhile, Justice M. V. Muralidharan, who was acting Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, has recently been transferred to the Calcutta High Court. Justice Muralidharan in April this year gave a controversial order asking the Manipur government to consider sending recommendations to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry to examine the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes list.



Maha Wildlife Board green-flags twin tube tunnel in Borivali National Park

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra State Wildlife Board has accorded clearance for constructing a twin-tube tunnel road linking Borivali and Thane under the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, officials said here on Friday.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) will build the twin-tube tunnel through SGNP to link the eastern and western suburbs and slash the travel time by one hour between the two points.

The crucial clearance was granted at the 22nd meeting of the Board chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and will pave the way for the project to get more approvals, said MMRDA Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee. As per the plan, the MMRDA will construct the 4-lane subterranean road, plus an emergency lane in both the twin-tubes, for the mega-project costing around Rs 16,600-crores including land acquisition, and likely to be completed in five years, through SGNP which is teeming with wildlife.

The tunnel road will be around 10.25 kms long plus an approach road of 1.55 kms, and the diameter of each tube tunnel will be 13.05 metres.



It will have a dedicated ventilation system all through the tunnel, cross passages at every 300 metres, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, LED light, etc for the safety and convenience of the users. To be built in several packages, two of the packages shall be constructed by Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd., and four tunnel boring machines shall be deployed for the works.

The twin-tube tunnel road's construction will require about 46.57 hectares of land, of which nearly 35.54 hectares land is forest area under the control of the state government, mandating the Board's approval before starting construction.

Besides saving time, fuel and costs, the new twin-tunnel road will provide a direct link between Ghodbunder Road in Thane (east) and Western Express Highway in Borivali (west).

Talk of a leadership challenge to UK PM Rishi Sunak

London | Agencies

Less than a year into his premiership and a visit to India said to be in the offing to sign a trade treaty, Rishi Sunak, who is of Indian origin, could be in slight danger of a leadership challenge after a disastrous night for his Conservative party in by-elections.

The Conservatives lost two safe House of Commons seats in the early hours of Friday.

One of Sunak's party MPs told Sky News' political editor Beth Rigby that some lawmakers will write to what is known as the parliamentary party's 1922 Committee asking for a leadership contest. The MP added, "but the mood is that the game is up and even if letters went in he'd win a vote. The MPs are literally blind and they back him because he's bought off so many with jobs".

On October 24, Sunak will complete a year in office. At least 15 per cent or 53 of his MPs need to write to the 1922 Committee to seek a vote for a leadership challenge to take place. Sunak was touring Arab countries to persuade them not to escalate the Israel-Hamas crisis when the debilitating news about the by-election setbacks surfaced.

Boris Johnson, who, as Prime Minister, fast-tracked Sunak to the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, has since the latter led the revolt against him last year,

made no secret of his loathing of his once protégé. But prospects of Johnson's comeback were likely throttled by damaging evidence against him last week by Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary in the British government, who was deposing before an inquiry into Johnson's handling of the Covid pandemic.

He described the response to the health menace as a "terrible tragic joke". He further disparagingly commented that Johnson's wife Carrie appeared to be "the real person in charge" of the government.

The other person disgruntled about Sunak is his immediate predecessor Liz Truss. However, her party colleagues may not be ready to forget and forgive her catastrophic 45 days at the wheel. In short, notwithstanding Sunak's lacklustre performance, there is either no credible alternative or no one interested in leading the party to what seems like an unavoidable defeat in the next general election, expected to be held next year.

Daniel Finkelstein, a pro-Conservative commentator in The Times newspaper, wrote: "The short-term impact of the by-elections will cause Rishi Sunak problems."

The beneficiary from the Conservative losses was the main opposition Labour party. It hailed the swings of more than 20 per cent as a "political earthquake". It puts the party - which is 15 to 20 per cent ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls overall

in the country - on course for a 1997 type landslide in its favour.

The signing of a trade treaty between Britain and India is nearly a year behind schedule. It was hyped by Johnson - who initiated negotiations under his watch - as a free trade agreement, when it will at best be a limited no tariff treaty, with more items to be added to the list of duty free or low duty exports and imports as the years go by.

India-British relations have been on a downward spiral since a critical BBC television documentary on Narendra Modi in January of this year. Subsequently, anti-India Sikh militants held a demonstration at the Indian High Commission in London, which resulted in the Indian flag being pulled down. More recently, the Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami was barred by Sikh militants from entering a gurdwara in the Scottish city of Glasgow. The Indian government reacted angrily to the episodes, thereby introducing an element of tension in the relationship.

But Sunak sees Modi and his BJP as being helpful to his party's politics. Since 2019, RSS fronts in the United Kingdom have been campaigning strenuously among Hindu communities against Labour. Earlier this year, they tasted success with Gujarat-dominated boroughs in north-west London and Leicester city voting for Conservatives in local government elections at Labour's expense.



Peace agreement with ULFA soon: Assam DGP

Guwahati | Agencies

The discussions with the pro-talks faction of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) to strike a peace deal is in its final stage, Assam DGP G.P. Singh said on Friday.

"The process to sign a peace agreement with the ULFA is in its final stage. I am hopeful that it will be done within the next few days," Singh said.

Earlier, the pro-talks faction of the ULFA expressed its displeasure with the draft peace deal that the Central government provided to them for initiating the talks. Anup Chetia, the general secretary of the pro-talks faction of the ULFA, stated that their battle is to defend Assam from illegal infiltrators and to safeguard the Constitutional rights of the indigenous population in the state.

He asserted that without a few of their core demands being met, the signing of the peace agreement is not possible. "Because of ongoing illegal infiltration, the indige-



nous population in Assam is eroding into a minority. We requested that 102 of Assam's assembly constituencies out of a total of 126 be set aside for indigenous people as part of the peace pact," Chetia said. He also said that they earlier presented 12 demands before the Central government, including updating of the NRC, land rights for indigenous groups, ST status for six indigenous tribes, the declaration of the Assam flood as a national calamity, and an 88 per cent seat quota for indigenous people. "The seat reservation is one of the demands that has not yet been approved by the Central government, however, most of our demands have been accepted by the centre," he said.



DELHI SOON TO GET PREMIUM BUSES WITH WIFI, GPS, DIGITAL PAYMENTS & CCTV: KEJRIWAL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced a premium bus aggregator scheme to encourage the middle class and upper middle class passengers to switch to public transport.

Addressing a press conference here, Kejriwal said the scheme will be notified following Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena's approval of some small changes he has brought to the previously approved scheme by the L-G. "When the metro started in Delhi, there were many people who stopped using their private vehicles and started using the metro. But as the metro trains started getting crowded, they again went back to using their own cars and scooters... This leads to more pollution and traffic in Delhi," the CM said.

Generally, people from the lower middle class and economy classes



travel in buses but with this scheme, people from the middle class and upper middle class will also opt for public transport, Kejriwal said.

Under the new premium bus scheme, the aggregators who take licenses will have to run air-conditioned buses with not less than nine

seats. In these buses, standing will not be allowed. The buses will have WiFi, CCTV, and GPS facilities. Only digital bookings and payments will be allowed in the buses.

The aggregators will be required to maintain a fleet of 25 buses. And from January 2025, all buses will have to be electric.

Under this new premium scheme the routes for these buses will be decided based on the market demand and the aggregators will just have to inform the Transport Department of the routes they decide to add.

Kejriwal further added that the fares will be dynamic and not less than the peak fare of DTC air-conditioned buses. These buses will not compete with DTC buses.

Kejriwal further said that the Centre's amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) in 2019 has facilitated the scheme the AAP government has been trying to bring in since 2016.

Fadnavis blames earlier Maha regimes for contractual recruitment in govt jobs

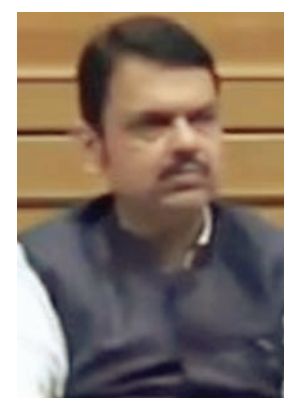
Team Absolute | Mumbai

He said that the first decision to this effect was made in March 2013, when Sushilkumar Shinde was the CM, for the Education Department, and later the first contractual recruitments started when Ashok Chavan was the CM, and continued under the tenure of CM Prithviraj Chavan.

The recruitments were carried out in various categories of posts like teachers, drivers, clerks, data entry operators, for periodic or short-term requirements, Fadnavis added.

When the MVA CM Uddhav Thackeray was in power, contractual appointments were taken up in September 2021 through a contractor, said Fadnavis, seeking to turn the tables on the Opposition onslaught.

"This was their sin which they are trying to pass on to us... Why should we bear it?"



So we have cancelled the Government Resolution for contract recruitments of the previous governments. Will the MVA leaders now apologise to the people of Maharashtra," he asked. Fadnavis' revelations came even as the government has been under fire from the Opposition which has accused it of privatising government jobs and making recruitments in the police department and others on contract basis.

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS ON FRIDAY HELD THE PREVIOUS DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND MAHA VIKAS AGHADI REGIMES RESPONSIBLE FOR INTRODUCING THE SYSTEM OF CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES WHILE THE CURRENT MAHAYUTI IS BEING BLAMED FOR "PRIVATISING" GOVERNMENT JOBS.

Congress slams govt over import management system for IT hardware, says yet another example of Modi government's FAST approach

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the government rolled out an 'import management system' for IT hardware, including laptops and computers, modifying its initial stance of imposing physical restrictions, the Congress on Friday hit back saying that it is yet another example of the Modi Government's FAST (First Act, Subsequently Think) approach.

In a post on X, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Yet another example of Modi Government's FAST (First Act, Subsequently Think) approach. On August 3, 2023 a mandatory licencing system was announced for import of electronic goods like laptops and tablets. Expectedly, the announce-



ment was widely and rightly criticised. On August 4, 2023 the government deferred the licencing system by introducing a three-month-long transition period." "The Rajya Sabha MP added, "On October 13, 2023, complete withdrawal of laptop import restrictions announced. So this is the cycle. Announce then, defer then, withdraw."

His remarks came after the government on Thursday rolled out an 'import man-

agement system' for IT hardware, including laptops and computers, modifying its initial stance of imposing physical restrictions, months after suddenly announcing the move to introduce a licence system which was aimed at boosting domestic production but had drawn flak from industry as an interference with free trade.

The move is a breather for companies like HP, Apple, Dell, Lenovo and others who rely on imports to meet the surge in demand in the country for their PCs, laptops and tablets, especially in the festive season.

Under the proposed system, IT hardware companies will be required to register and disclose data related to their imports, and countries from which they import, among other things.

Mahua Moitra puts brave face says ready to face CBI, Parliament's Ethics Committee questions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, who is in the controversy over the alleged "cash for parliament questions" on Friday put up a brave front, saying that she is ready to face the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questions and the Parliament's Ethics Committee.

In a post on X, Moitra said: "I welcome answering questions to (the) CBI and Ethics Committee (which has absolute majority of BJP members) if and when they call me."

Hitting back at the media trial, she said: "I have neither time nor interest to feed a Adani-directed media circus trial or answer BJP trolls. I am enjoying Durga Puja in Nadia. Shubho Sashthi." In another post in the day, Moitra, who is a Lok Sabha MP from West Bengal's Krishnanagar seat also slammed the Chairman Ethics Committee over the affidavit of

Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani and said, "Chairman Ethics Committee openly speaks to media. Please see Lok Sabha rules below. How does 'affidavit' find its way to media? Chairman should first do enquiry into how this was leaked."

"I repeat - BJP one point agenda is to expel me from Lok Sabha to shut me up on Adani," she added.

Moitra on Thursday night had hit back at the affidavit of businessman Hiranandani, alleging that the Prime Minister's Office "held a proverbial gun" to his head and made him sign the white paper that was later "leaked to the press". She also dubbed the contents of the letter by Hiranandani as "joke".

The Trinamool Congress MP shared a two-page statement on her X profile, formerly Twitter posing five questions. She said that three days ago (October 16), the Hiranandani Group put out an official press release

stating that all charges leveled against them were "baseless". "Today (October 19) an 'approver affidavit' has been leaked to the press. This 'affidavit' is on a white piece of paper with no letterhead and there is no official origin aside from a press leak," she said.

"Hiranandani has not been summoned by the CBI or the Ethics committee or indeed by any investigative agency yet. Who then has he given this affidavit to? The affidavit is on white paper and not on official letterhead or notarised. Why would one of India's most respected or educated businessman sign a letter like this on white paper unless a gun was put to his head to do it?"

Her remarks came after Dubai-based businessman Hiranandani has said that Trinamool Congress MP provided him her Parliament login and password to post the questions directly on her behalf when required.



Delhi HC dismisses Sanjay Singh's plea against arrest in excise policy case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh's plea challenging his arrest and remand in connection with a case pertaining to the now-scrapped excise policy, calling it premature.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma pronounced the order after having reserved it on Thursday.

On Thursday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had told the High Court that a clear-cut case was made out against Singh.

Opposing Singh's plea, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju appearing for the ED had said that the accused was arrested in accordance with law, and that his plea was not maintainable. The ASG said that Singh's plea was a bail application in the guise of a

writ petition.

On Tuesday, Singh told the High Court that the law against money laundering cannot become an instrument of oppression.

Senior advocate Vikram Choudhari had submitted that his arrest was illegal, malicious and a case of perversion of power. On October 13, the High Court had sought the ED's response on Singh's plea and had issued notice to the financial probe agency.

Special Judge MK Nagpal of Rouse



Avenue Court had, the same day, sent Singh to 14 days' judicial custody in the case.

Singh has challenged his arrest by and remand to the ED saying that the grounds of arrest were not given to him by the financial probe agency.

On October 10, the ED had sought his further custody from Judge Nagpal on the grounds that his behaviour was totally non-cooperative with regard to the source of acquisition of some confidential documents of the ED pertaining to this

case. The other grounds on which the ED sought Singh's custody were that he refused to acknowledge or sign the Call Detail Record (CDR) of his mobile number in respect to the calls appearing between the said number and the number of the co-accused, Amit Arora.

It was further submitted that the digital data of around 200 GB had been recovered during the course of the fresh search and the same is yet to be analysed and the task of confrontation of the accused with the said digital data is not completed.

On the other hand, senior advocate Rebecca John, who argued for Singh, claimed that the ED had no grounds for seeking extension of his custody in the case. The financial probe agency on October 4 arrested Singh after carrying out searches at his residence in the North Avenue area.

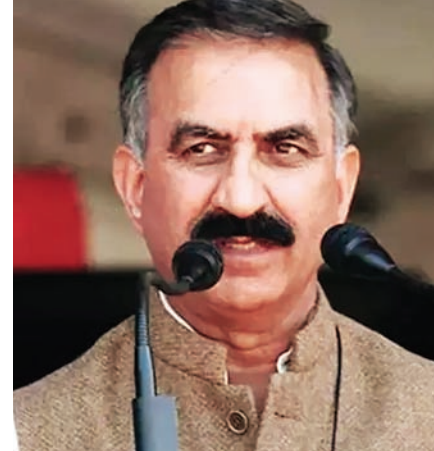
Shimla | Agencies

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said here on Friday that the new code containing an updated compilation of land-related rules, laws and instructions will be soon released by the Revenue Department after almost 31 years in the state.

The first land code was published in 1992. The people have to do day-to-day dealing with the Revenue Department and every resident is concerned with land-related matters during his lifetime, he said.

"The unanimous solutions to land disputes also play a major role in social synchronization and family bonding. For quick resolution of public problems, it is essential for the revenue justice system to be well maintained and for this it is necessary that the rules and regulations and departmental guidelines are easily available to the revenue officers and people," said the Chief Minister in a statement.

The new code will not only provide guid-



ance to the revenue officers but will assist in quick disposal of land-related issues to benefit the common man who will also get information regarding the laws and rules of the Revenue Department and the instructions issued therein from time to time.

'CBI claims 90% probe complete, but no official has approached me': Shivakumar



Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday stated that though the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) claims that 90 per cent of the investigation against him with regard to disproportionate assets case is complete, no investigation officer has approached him till date.

Speaking to reporters on the High Court rejecting his plea to quash the disproportionate assets case, Shivakumar stated that no investigation officer had approached him for any information. "I will discuss the matter with my advocates," he said.

The then chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa had handed over the case to the CBI only for

political reasons. Though, there were other cases, only his case was handed over to the CBI, the Congress leader said.

"The advocate general had clearly said that this case can't be handed over to the CBI for a probe. This was not even taken to the Speaker of the House and Yediyurappa handed over the case to the CBI," Shivakumar maintained.

When asked about attacks on him by the Opposition leaders, Shivakumar stated, he can't keep giving answering any and everybody. The court and proceedings have to be respected. Even the media should not pay heed to them, he stated. Notably, in a setback to Shivakumar, who is also the state chief of Congress, the high court on Thursday rejected his petition seeking quashing of the CBI proceedings against him.

The court also lifted the stay order issued on the CBI probe against him.

The Karnataka High Court bench headed by Justice K. Natarajan directed the CBI to complete the probe in three months.

The development is considered to be a serious setback to Shivakumar who has been aggressively taking on the opposition parties BJP and JD(S) in the state. Former chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel had stated that Shivakumar would land up in Tihar jail once again. Shivakumar had replied that Kumaraswamy and Kateel are not judges to send him to the prison. The Congress party had maintained that Shivakumar's family had been tortured every day.

MNF will return to power, win 25 seats, claims Mizoram CM Zoramthanga

Aizawl | Agencies

Mizoram Chief Minister and ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) President

Zoramthanga on Friday claimed that his party would retain power, securing more than 25 seats in the 40-member Assembly in the November 7 elections.

After filing his nomination from the Aizawl East-1 seat, Zoramthanga said that his party's main opponent was the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and not the Congress.

"The ZPM has a grassroots base. Every election is challenging, so is this election. However, the MNF will return to power with a comfortable majority. We would win 25 seats in the elections," the MNF supreme told the media after coming out from the Aizawl Deputy Commissioner's office, where he submitted his candidatures.

The 79-year-old Zoramthanga is looking for a fourth term as the Chief Minister. The militant leader-turned-politician since 1987 has been elected to the state Assembly six times and was Chief Minister for three terms (1998-2008 and 2018-2023).

In the 2018 Assembly polls,



Zoramthanga won the Aizawl East-1 seat defeating his nearest rival, ZPM-backed independent candidate K Sapdanga, by a margin of 2,504 votes.

Refuting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's accusation that both MNF and ZPM are instrumental in the entry of the BJP in Mizoram and both parties follow the BJP and RSS' ideologies, he said that these allegations were absolutely wrong and "we always follow MNF ideology".

He said that the MNF was an ally of the NDA at the Centre and has no electoral and political relations with the Congress.

"The ideologies of the BJP and the MNF are completely different and the MNF is an independent party and does not come under the control of any other party," Zoramthanga clarified. During his two-day election campaign (October 16-17) in Mizoram, Rahul Gandhi claimed that the MNF

and the ZPM followed the RSS' and BJP's ideologies and these two parties were responsible for the entry of the BJP in Mizoram. In the outgoing Assembly, the ruling MNF has 28 seats, while the ZPM has six seats, the Congress five and the BJP one.

Friday was the last day for filing of nominations. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on Saturday and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 23.



MP POLL

41 NEW FACES, FIVE BJP TURNCOATS IN CONG 2ND LIST OF 85 CANDIDATES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress has given tickets to 41 new faces and five BJP turncoats in its second list of 85 candidates for the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh, and replaced three candidates in its first list.

The list came out late on Thursday. With this the party has declared 229 candidates for the 230-member Assembly.

The Congress has fielded Ravish Singh Tomar against Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar from the Dhimni seat of Morena district, while, from Gwalior Assembly constituency, which is the bastion of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Congress has fielded Sunil Sharma.

In its second list, the Congress has fielded 41 new and five those who shifted from the BJP to the party.

Former BJP MLA Abhay Mishra, who has been making headlines for his frequent party hopping, has been fielded from the Semaria seat, which



he lost in 2018 to BJP's K.P. Tripathi with a close margin.

At least five BJP leaders, who shifted to the Congress in the past few months, managed to get tickets. These are -- Deepak Joshi, the son of former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi from Khatgaon seat of Khandwa dis-

trict, Abhishek Choukase (Jabalpur Cant), Bhavar Singh Shekhawat (Badnvar), Samandar Patel (Javad) and Girjashankar Sharma (Hoshangabad).

The Congress replaced its candidate for the Datia Assembly constituency, fielding Rajendra Bharti in

place of Avadesh Nayak. He will contest against BJP candidate and Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Bharti, a former MLA, had defeated Mishra in the past but lost the last election by a slender margin.

The ruling BJP has announced 136 candidates so far in four separate lists.

Expressing his good wishes to all candidates of his party, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath has appealed to the party cadres to work for the party and to uproot the BJP from Madhya Pradesh.

"I wish all the candidates good luck. The candidates of Congress Party are not just standing to become MLAs, but have also entered the election field to shape the future of Madhya Pradesh. Let us all join our duties with all our might from today and gear up to end 18 years of mis-governance in Madhya Pradesh. Form the Congress Party government in Madhya Pradesh with an overwhelming majority," Kamal Nath said in a media post.

New Cong faces from Vindhya region makes it 'Chacha Vs Bhateerja' in Devaltab

Team Absolute | Bhopal

By bringing in fresh faces for the November 17 Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, the Congress has left several, more in the Vindhya region, surprised. As per the second list of 85 candidates released late on Thursday night, the grand-old party has decided to field Rajendra Sharma from Rewa to take on state minister Rajendra Shukla.

Sharma, who is a businessman, has a clean image. However, he may still face resentment from his own party workers, especially those who were contenders from that particular seat. In its another master stroke, the Congress has fielded Padmesh Gautam against his uncle and the Assembly speaker Girish Gautam.

In the 2022 Zila Panchayat election, Padmesh had defeated Girish Gautam's son Rahul Gautam, and is likely to give a tough contest in Devaltab seat.

Rewa's Sirmour seat, which the BJP's Divyaraj Singh won for the last two consecutive elections (2013 and 2018), has Congress fielding Ramgareeb Adivasi.

As the sitting BJP MLA Divyaraj Singh (son of ex-Congress MLA Pushpraj Singh, now in BJP) hails from Rewa's royal family, the Congress has fielded adivasi candidates in Brahmin dominated seats.

Ramgareeb, who is an old guard of the Congress, had defeated BJP's strong leader



and state minister (Late) Ramakant Tiwari in 2008. Kamal Nath led-MP Congress has played this master stroke to send a strong message among the tribal (Kol community) as it has a sizable population in several seats of district - Rewa, Mangavan, Devaltab, Sirmore, and Gurh etc.

From Semariya Assembly seat of Rewa district, the Congress has fielded BJP's former MLA Abhay Mishra, who will be contesting the election against his arch political rival and sitting BJP MLA K. P. Tripathi.

Mishra, who had switched over to the Congress following a rift with state minister Rajendra Shukla in 2018, returned to BJP two months back only to resign again. He managed to convince the Congress leadership for a ticket from Semaria.

Similarly, the Congress has fielded district president Gyan Singh from Sidhi. He will be contesting against two-time BJP MP Riti Pathak.

Former BJP MLA Jitu Jirati refrains from assembly elections

Team Absolute | Bhopal



Jitu Jirati, former MLA of Rau assembly of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, has written a letter to State President VD Sharma requesting him to keep him free from contesting elections. This letter of his is going viral on social media. There were discussions going on about Jeetu Jirati getting ticket from Kala Peepal. The letter written by Jitu Jirati, former MLA from Rau assembly of Indore district, to state president VD Sharma went viral on social media. This letter was written by Jitu on 10 October. In which he said that respected brother, being the in-charge of Ujjain division, the responsibility given to me by the organization, for the responsibility of those 29 assembly seats, I will remain free from contesting the assembly elections and will work to ensure that as many of our candidates win as possible and the BJP government is formed again. You are requested to exempt me from candidate selection in the current assembly elections 2023.

There was a strong discussion for a long time regarding Jitu Jirati making him the BJP candidate from Kalapal assembly seat. Amidst these discussions, this letter is now going viral on social media.

Congress candidate from Tikamgarh questioned by Assam Police in connection with fraud case

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A four-member of Asaam Police on Thursday arrived at the residence of Madhya Pradesh Congress leader and November 17 Assembly polls candidate Yadavendra Singh to question him in connection with a fraud case.

The development came five days after the Congress leadership announced Yadavendra Singh a candidate from Tikamgarh seat.

Tikamgarh police said Assam Police had informed about their plan and sought the cooperation. Therefore, before the Assam Police team arrived at Singh's residence, local police personnel were deployed in the area to ensure that there was no disturbance during the operation.

Tikamgarh police said that Asaam Police came to interrogate the Congress leader in connection with a fraud case registered in Assam. The action was taken following a court order.

"We were informed about the development through a letter from a court in Assam via mail asking us to cooperate in an ongoing investigation against Yadavendra Singh," Tikamgarh Kotwalli police station in-charge, Anand Raj told the press.

He further informed that the Assam Police team arrived in Tikamgarh on Thursday morning and informed the local police. It questioned the Congress



leader and his family for hours.

According to Assam Police official Uttam Dhule, the matter was recently reported and the investigation is still ongoing.

"A case was registered by the CID in Assam in connection with this matter and we were here to question

the Congress leader after securing a warrant from the court. The investigation in the case is ongoing. The case was registered under IPC sections 120B, 225, 356, 257, 259, 260, 406, 417, 419, 420, 463, 465, 466, 468, 471, 472, 474 and 506. The case is not very old, it was registered only recently," Dhule told the press.

CONGRESS CANDIDATES ON ALL 7 SEATS OF BHOPAL DECLARED, BET ON PC AGAIN, TICKET TO ARIF'S SON, WALKOVER AGAIN IN GOVINDPURA...?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has declared candidates for all 7 seats in Bhopal district. The party has given ticket to Atif Akil, son of Bhopal North MLA Arif Akil, in the second list. PC Sharma has been shown confidence by giving him ticket from South-West for the second time. The ongoing dilemma regarding Bhopal North seat has also been ended. Here Congress has promoted nepotism. Atif Akil, son of ailing MLA Arif Akil, has been made the candidate. His uncle was unhappy about Akil, but he has been persuaded, while PC Sharma, the current MLA from Bhopal South-West, has



been given another chance. There was confusion regarding his seat, but now this suspense is over. However, it has not been decided yet who will fight against BJP. Naresh Gyanchandani has

been fielded in Huzoor against MLA Rameshwar Sharma. Once again he will face Sharma. Ravindra Sahu will contest against BJP MLA Krishna Gaur in Govindpura. Before this, candidates of

both the parties have been declared in Bhopal Central and Berasia.

Expressing confidence in the family of Arif Akil, Congress has also given ticket to his son Atif Akil for Bhopal North Assembly seat. In the last elections, BJP had fielded Fatima Rasool Siddiqui against Akil but she too could not defeat Arif Akil. This time BJP has fielded Alok Sharma on this seat.

This time Congress has given ticket to former CM Digvijay Singh's close friend Ravindra Sahu. He will contest his first election. He was busy preparing for this for the last few years by organizing socio-religious events and taking people of the area on

pilgrimages. The BJP candidate from here is Krishna Gaur, daughter-in-law of former CM Babulal Gaur. It is the traditional seat of the Gaur and has been in the possession of the Gaur family since 1967. It is believed that here Congress has once again given a walk over to BJP.

The South-West Assembly seat is one of the high profile seats in the state. From here, Congress has expressed confidence only on PC Sharma. However, Sanjeev Saxena was also contesting from here. In the last election, he was made to sit after convincing, but this time again he can contest as an independent candidate. If this happens, it may pose a threat to the PC.

BJP may change Sohagpur candidate

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has put BJP in a dilemma by giving tickets to OBCs from Sohagpur seat in Narmadapuram district. Vijaypal Singh, who won from here three times in a row, has met CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan to change his seat. According to sources, Vijaypal Singh is willing to contest elections from Hoshangabad. Only yesterday Congress released the second list, in which OBC Pushparaj Singh has been given ticket from Sohagpur. After this Vijaypal reached CM



House Bhopal and said that his seat should be changed from Sohagpur to Hoshangabad. There Congress has given ticket to Girijashankar Sharma. There is said to be huge opposition to Vijaypal in Sohagpur, hence he is insisting on changing the area.

UNCLE THREW SEVEN YEAR OLD INNOCENT CHILD INTO POND, THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A seven-year-old innocent nephew was thrown into a small pond by his uncle from Khatlapura Ghat behind the police headquarters located in the Jahangirabad police station area of the capital. Seeing his actions, a young man raised an alarm and the uncle also jumped into the pond. Both of them died due to drowning in the incident. On receiving the information, police arrived and recovered their bodies with the help of divers. According to the information received, 24-year-old Kaiser Taj, who lives with his family on Chiklod Road, had gone to school on Thursday afternoon on the request of his brother Faisal Taj to take his child and his nephew Ahmed Taj, seven years old. From here he took the innocent child to Khatlapura

small pond and threw the child in the water. Meanwhile, a resident of Raisen saw him doing this. He tried to catch the accused by making noise. Fearing being caught, Kaiser Taj himself jumped into the water. Other people passing by informed the police. Police reached the spot, took out the bodies of both of them from the pond and sent them to the PM. Why Kaiser did this has not been revealed yet. According to sources, Kaiser used to argue with his family members every day regarding his demand for share in the property. A few days ago, he had also beaten his father, after which the father had thrown him out of the property.

The family has a prestigious shop named Taj Kirana Store in Jahangirabad, this shop was started by his father. At present this shop is managed by father and Kaiser's elder brother Faisal. After the fight, the father had stopped taking him to the shop. Police officials say that preliminary investigation has revealed that the mental balance of the deceased Kaiser was not good. He is married and has a child. The matter is being investigated from every angle, at present both the bodies have been handed over to the relatives after the PM.

Better eye health could boost Indian economy by US\$27bn (Rs.2.2trn) this World Sight Day

NEW RESEARCH RELEASED THIS WORLD SIGHT DAY SHOWS AVOIDABLE SIGHT LOSS COSTS INDIA US\$27 BILLION (RS.2.2TRN) PER YEAR IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY.

INDIAN ECONOMY LOSES MORE TO AVOIDABLE SIGHT LOSS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY BAR CHINA AND THE US.

30% OF PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS EXPERIENCE A REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT. 90% OF VISION LOSS IS AVOIDABLE WITH EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT.

THE LOVE YOUR EYES CAMPAIGN URGES BUSINESS LEADERS TO PUT EYE HEALTH ON THE WORKPLACE WELLBEING AGENDA.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Avoidable sight loss would add US\$27 billion (Rs.2.2 trillion) per year to India's economy, according to new research released this World Sight Day. The Love Your Eyes campaign is releasing the figures to highlight how improved eye health boosts productivity, urging business leaders to put eye health on the workplace wellbeing agenda this World Sight Day.

The study, conducted by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and Prof. Kevin Frick from Johns Hopkins, calculated the costs of avoidable sight loss among people over 50.



India had the third-highest potential savings of all countries in the study.

As technology transforms the world of work, the future economy will be dominated by service

industries and office-based jobs involving the prolonged use of screens. Without proper precautions, this can lead to eye strain and negatively impact eye health.

Sight loss costs the global economy US\$411 billion every year, according to the Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health. An estimated 30% of people with sight loss experience a reduction in employment, with women, people in rural communities and ethnic minority groups among the groups most affected. However, 90% of sight loss is avoidable with early detection and treatment. In India, there are currently 70 million people with visual impairment. Preventing sight loss with early detection and treatment for eye conditions like cataracts and myopia is vital to protect livelihoods and allow businesses to thrive.



EDITOR'S SPECS

JAGANNATH TEMPLE'S 'RATNA BHANDAR'

Amid a growing chorus for the opening of 'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) of Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, a delegation of the opposition BJP on Wednesday met Puri King, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, at his residence here. "We requested Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb to constitute a high powered committee as instructed by the High Court at the earliest so that the process for opening of Ratna Bhandar could move forward. The discussion was held in a very cordial manner," said Samir Mohanty, former state unit president of BJP. Mohanty also said Gajapati Maharaja is in favour of the opening of Ratna Bhandar, the Treasury of the 12th century temple. He said the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTM) is a recommending authority and it had already recommended the state government to open the Ratna Bhandar on August 4. He said it was the duty of the government now to take a final decision in this regard. BJP leader and advocate Pitambar Acharya told mediapersons that the High Court has clearly directed the state government to constitute the high-powered committee and carry out inventorisation of the ornaments and other valuables within two months of the receipt of a formal request from the SJTM. He said more than two months have passed since the recommendation of the management committee but the state government is yet to set up the high-powered committee. The party alleged that nothing has come out of Justice Raghbir Das commission which was set up June 6, 2018 following widespread public discontent and protests by the BJP over the issue of the missing Ratna Bhandar keys. The government has also not divulged the findings of the commission so far. The temple's treasury has not opened for the last 45 years since 1978.

Fempowerment Foundation, in association with Gingerblu, presented a spectacular evening blending the best of East and West for a cause of Women Empowerment in New York!

Fempowerment Foundation Forum was held at the beautiful rustic Angel Orensanz in New York. The evening highlights included first of its kind All male Panel discussion on women empowerment, A Unique Fashion Show by Gingerblu, The event also honoured Aroon Shivdasani and Gloria Starr Kins with each woman receiving an honour from the Fempowerment Foundation for their exceptional contributions to the arts, culture, and the empowerment of women. The fashion show highlighted Resurgence Gingerblu SS24, a collection tailored by women participating in the Fempowerment Foundation, who are trained in stitching, on a journey to be financially independent, utilising Indigenous fabric sourced from different states in India, for the women of the world. The Inauguration and keynote address by fashion industry icon, Creator of New York Fashion Week and former executive director of Council of Fashion Designers of America, Fern Mallis, known for her unparalleled support for the fashion industry globally throughout her career. After lighting the auspicious lamp, Fern Mallis said, "I can think of nothing more important today than to 'empower women.' It's the only way we will save the planet, govern, make peace and possibly even live in harmony. I applaud the Fempowerment Foundation for all they are doing to make this a reality."

Ajay Shrivastav Founder and Creative Director Gingerblu and Fempowerment Foundation said "I believe that women are already empowered, we as the masculine energy should support them to make this world all inclusive with Equality."

The all-male panel discussion where each shared their perspectives on women's empowerment, gender diversity, equality, and the vital role men play in the journey of Fempowerment. The esteemed panelists included Kunal Sood (Award Winning Disruptive Innovator, Impact Strategist and United Nations Brand Ambassador), Alberto Ferreras (Journalist, Filmmaker and Author of the award winning novel B as in Beauty), Pranav Yadav (CEO Neuro Insight Americas and Europe, Speaker at United Nations), Jeffrey Banks (Renowned Fashion Designer and Author, worked with Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren), Freddie Leiba (Renowned Stylist in America), Creative director Harpers



Bazaar, having styled Janet Jackson, Beyonce Knowles, Sarah Jessica Parker, Katie Holmes have been dressed by Freddie. Oscar winners and nominees like Halle Berry, Cate Blanchett, Sandra Bullock, Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep, Kate Winslet, Salma Hayek, and Catherine Zeta-Jones, moderated by Kiren Srivastav Founder of Fempowerment Foundation & Awards asking some thought provoking questions which really emphasised on action for women empowerment...for instance when will America have its first woman president the event entertainment was further enhanced by mesmerising music performance by Raga Boyz (The 9th generation of Patiala Gharana)

Kiren Srivastav Founder Fempowerment Foundation and Awards said "An empowered woman is a happy woman. A happy woman is an empowered woman. I would also humbly request all women who are in positions of power

and capable of bringing about change, to be fair to women, to men and to all other genders. Because, only in our coexistence can the world move forward and become an even better place than what it already is."

Mr. Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for International Affairs in the NYC Mayor's office also attended. Meera Gandhi, Dr BK Modi, Rekha Modi and many more dignitaries attended. Art and performances were provided by artist Paul Moses from Amsterdam, Kathak dancer Parul Shah, show was anchored by Kanika Chaddha Gupta from NYC which made the Fempowerment Foundation event truly global.

The event was supported in various ways by Keyur Shah (Leap to Shine), Vikas Mehta, Sunil Hali, Annie Arora (President, Kitchen King), Fashion Mingle, Navjot Arora of Chutney Masala Bistro and Maalicious.

ABOUT US:

The Fempowerment Foundation is a global organisation dedicated to Women Empowerment, social impact and sustainability. With the objective of helping women becoming economically independent Fempowerment has Free skill development centres for underprivileged women and also helping them to get job opportunities and starting their own ventures. www.fempowermentfoundation.org

Gingerblu is a brand committed to circular fashion, sourcing materials from organisations that support women and sustainability. Our mission is to create fashion that leaves a positive impact on the planet and empowers women to become financially independent. www.gingerblu.com

international

INCREASED ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITY SEEN NEAR ISRAEL-GAZA BORDER

London | Agencies

Columns of Israeli tanks massed on the Israel-Gaza border and thousands of soldiers readied themselves for battle as an invasion of the war-torn enclave appears imminent, media reports said.

Tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers and scores of tanks and armoured vehicles are now positioned on the border - ready for a ground assault on the Gaza Strip where 203 hostages are being held captive by Hamas.

The massing of artillery and men at the border comes after heavy machine gunfire was heard along the border in the early hours on Friday morning, Daily Mail reported.

Israel continued to pound Gaza with a relentless stream of airstrikes and it began evacuating a northern



Israeli city near the Lebanese border in yet another sign of an impending

ground invasion that could trigger turmoil across the Middle East.

The two million Palestinians trapped in the small enclave, where thousands have been killed and entire towns obliterated, are now bracing themselves for the invasion that is expected to result in further major casualties, Daily Mail reported.

Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defense minister, also visited troops positioned along the Gaza border, and told them they would soon see the Palestinian enclave 'from inside'.

An infantry commander in the IDF told DailyMail.com that they were ready to invade, adding there was 'a very high level of optimism' among his troops. Israel's leaders are determined to rid Gaza of its Hamas rulers, even if that means going house-to-house in an operation that could last 'years' and result in further major casualties among Palestinians.

44-truck convoy delivering aid in Sudan after 6-week conflict delay: UN

United Nations | Agencies

UN humanitarian aid, which had been delayed by conflict for six weeks, is delivering aid in Sudan, a country suffering from twin crises of a deadly conflict and a cholera outbreak. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it opened the way for the convoy to deliver supplies from the UN Refugee Agency, the World Food Programme and the UNICEF to Kordofan and Darfur, reports Xinhua news agency. The trucks got their green light to roll out on Wednesday. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported more than 1,400 suspected cases of cholera and 64 associated deaths in Sudan since the outbreak



was declared late last month.

OCHA said humanitarian agencies have scaled up their response to the outbreak, coming as Sudan's health-care system is stretched to its limits, with 70 per cent of hospitals in conflict-affected states not functional.

Facilities in states unaffected by conflict have been overwhelmed by an influx of people displaced by the fighting.

The humanitarian aid UNICEF and WHO warned that at least 10,000 children under the age of 5 in Sudan could die by the end of this year due to rising food insecurity and health and nutrition services disruptions.

The WHO said in a release on Monday that urgent action was needed to preserve Sudan's health systems, especially at community and primary healthcare levels.

Biden directly appeals to Americans to support Israel, Ukraine over 'existential threats'

Washington | Agencies

In a direct appeal to Americans, US President Joe Biden urged citizens to support Israel and Ukraine as the "two fellow democracies" are facing existential threats amid the raging wars in both the nations. In an address to the nation from the Oval Office on Thursday, the President, who became the first world leader to visit Israel this week as the Hamas continues its war against the Jewish nation, cast "this moment in history as an inflection point" -- a battle between the world's democracies and autocracies, CNN reported. While arguing that "this is one of those moments", he made a direct appeal to the American people on the eve of the White House requesting some \$100 billion from Congress to deliver aid and resources to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and the US border with Mexico, even though the legislative branch is paralysed by the dysfunction in the House of Representatives which remains without a Speaker for a second week. "Hamas and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin represent different threats, but they share this in common: They both want to completely annihilate a neighboring democracy, completely annihilate it," Biden said. "We can't let petty partisan, angry politics get in the way of our responsibilities as a great nation. We cannot and will not let terrorists like Hamas and tyrants like Putin win. I refuse to let that happen." He laid out the stakes for the people in the US, calling the wars



a national security imperative and a critical moment for the future of American leadership and democracies worldwide. "American leadership is what holds the world together. American alliances are what keep us in America safe. American values are what make us a partner nation you want to work with. "To put all that at risk - we walk away from Ukraine, we turn our backs on Israel - it's just not worth it," CNN quoted the President as saying. He went on to say that support for both wars is "vital for America's national security". "History has taught us that when terrorists don't pay a price for their terror, when dictators don't pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos and death and more destruction. They keep going. And the cost and the threat to America in the world keep rising. "If we don't stop Putin's appetite for power and control in Ukraine, he won't limit himself just

to Ukraine. If we walk away and let Putin erase Ukraine's independence, would-be aggressors around the world would be emboldened to try the same. "The risk of conflict and chaos could spread in other parts of the world - in the Indo Pacific, in the Middle East, especially in the Middle East," he added. Biden informed that he would be submitting an "urgent budget request" for supplemental funding for Israel and Ukraine, among other national security priorities. "That's why tomorrow (Friday), I'm going to send to Congress an urgent budget request to fund America's national security needs - needs to support our critical partners, including Israel and Ukraine. It's a smart investment that's gonna pay dividends for American security for generations," CNN quoted the President as saying. He however, reiterated that his administration will not "send American troops to fight in Ukraine". "All Ukraine is asking for is help. For the weapons, munitions, the capacity, the capability of pushing invading Russian forces off their land and the air defence system to shoot down Russian missiles before they destroy Ukrainian cities." Regarding his high-profile visit to Israel on Wednesday, which came a day after the deadly hospital blast in Gaza, Biden said: "The terrorist group Hamas unleashed pure, unadulterated evil in the world. But sadly, the Jewish people know, perhaps better than anyone, that there is no limit to the depravity of people when they want to inflict pain on others."

US troops in Iraq, Syria attacked several times in recent days

Washington | Agencies

US Navy warship has intercepted missiles and drones launched from Yemen by the Iran-aligned Houthi movement, officials confirmed.

A Pentagon spokesman said the missiles had been launched "potentially towards targets in Israel", the BBC reported.

The USS Carney, a guided-missile destroyer, was operating in the northern Red Sea on Thursday.

The Pentagon also said US troops in Iraq and Syria had been attacked several times in recent days, adding that Washington is on alert for activity by Iran-backed groups as Israel continues to attack Hamas targets in Gaza.

The Pentagon's Brigadier General Patrick Ryder said three land attack cruise missiles and several drones fired from Yemen had been downed, the BBC reported.

There were no injuries reported from the incident and a US official said the warship did not appear to be the target.

"We cannot say for certain what these missiles and drones were targeting, but they were launched from Yemen, heading north along the Red Sea, potentially towards targets in Israel," he told reporters.

Brig Ryder added that information about



the nature of the activity was "still being processed" and the attack may "be ongoing". "Our defensive response was one that we would have taken for any similar threat in the region where we're able to do so against our interest personnel and our partners," he said. In Iraq, drones and rockets have been launched at several bases housing US and other international forces, the Pentagon said. One of the attacks caused injuries to "a small number of troops", the BBC reported. Iraqi militant groups had warned the US against supporting Israeli actions against Hamas in Gaza.



XDrug don a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, never probed in narcotics case: Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major revelation, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the arrested drug don, Lalit Patil, was a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader who has never been interrogated in the narcotics case in which he was first nabbed in December 2020.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Fadnavis said that after his arrest in December 2020 he was sent on a 14-day police remand, and immediately admitted to the Sassoon Hospital, Pune.

"Thereafter, the government did not make any application pertaining to his health, or to put it up before a medical board. The result was that till today, Lalit Patil has not been interrogated or investigated in such a big drugs bust case," said Fadnavis.

Since at the relevant time, Patil was the Nashik city president of the Shiv Sena (UBT), it raises ques-



tions whether the drug don was given the special treatment due to his political status, said Fadnavis.

"Was there pressure on the authorities not to interrogate him in this matter, whether the then Chief Minister (Uddhav Thackeray) or the then home minister were involved in this in any manner... These are the questions that arise now," declared Fadnavis. The Mumbai Police arrested Patil after busting two illegal factories manufacturing Mephedrone (MD) drug, and he remained in custody since then. However, in a sensational development, he suddenly managed to 'escape' from Sassoon Hospital on October 2, was on the run in different states for 15 days, but was finally nabbed near Chennai, brought to Mumbai and is under police custody till October 23. Fadnavis warned that he will be making some more revelations in this regard soon as the investigations are underway, and then "all those who make allegations against the government will have to shut up".

Centre declares Mumbai's Sir JJ School of Art de novo deemed university

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The iconic Sir JJ School of Art, along with two adjoining institutes, finally received the union government's nod for 'de novo' deemed-to-be university status on Thursday. The institute will now be known as Sir JJ School of Art, Architecture and Design. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled the foundation stone of the de novo deemed university on Thursday evening. The union education ministry had also released a notification to this effect. Present at the occasion were Speaker of Maharashtra's Legislative Assembly, Rahul Narwekar, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Minister of Higher and Secondary Education, Textile Industry and Parliamentary Affairs Chandrakant Patil, Minister of School Education and Guardian Minister of Mumbai City Deepak Kesarkar, Principal Secretary of Higher and Technical Education Department Vikas Chandra Rastogi, Director of Arts Directorate Rajeev Mishra among others. Pradhan handed over the letter granting the deemed university with de novo status to Fadnavis. Speaking at the event, Pradhan said, "In the field of art, there is the power of creation. Indian society has been very progressive from ancient times through arts the depicted culture and the way of life. This had been a society that is connected with culture, is creative and contributes to innovation. The Art school established in the 19th century is a proud heritage of India and will continue to shine in the future." The 'De Novo' category is awarded to institutions devoted to innovations in teaching and research. After the Union government's nod, the Sir JJ School of Art, Architecture and Design is now Maharashtra's only government-run deemed-to-be university and one among a handful of institutes with the 'de novo' status across India. September this year, the centre granted NCERT, an apex organisation for school education the deemed-to-be-university status in the 'De Novo' category. On June 28, the Maharashtra state cabinet approved the merger of three colleges of the Sir JJ School of Art to form a De Novo-deemed university, and the government also announced the proposed courses of the university and mid-day.com reported this on June 29. The cabinet has approved a budget of Rs 50,37 crore for the university, earmarked for salaries and other essential expenses in June of this year. The process of merging the country's oldest art school with the adjacent



institutions, Sir JJ College of Architecture and Sir JJ Institute of Applied Art, into a university has been underway for several years. The state submitted a proposal for this merger to the University Grants Commission (UGC) in March 2020. Subsequently, the UGC issued a letter of intent in October 2021, specifying approximately nine conditions the state needed to meet to obtain de novo status. In September 2022, the state government dissolved a committee established to convert the art school into a state-level art university-a decision made during the Maha Vikas Aghadi regime. A government resolution was issued to announce this change. Protests erupted on the campus of the premier art institute, where hundreds of students demanded better infrastructure, faculty, and administration, believing these improvements would only materialize if the institute received deemed university status under the 'de novo' category. Officials revealed that the plan to secure deemed university status from the UGC under the de novo category was already in progress, with a letter of intent having been submitted. In response, a committee, chaired by Dr. Vijay Khole, the former vice-chancellor of the University of Mumbai, was formed to explore the possibilities. Subsequently, the government submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the UGC, outlining that the new university would be administered through a section 8 (non-profit) company owned by the state

Two killed, one injured in truck accident on Mumbai-Nashik Highway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two persons were killed and another injured after a loaded truck fell into a valley along the Kasara ghat between Mumbai and Nashik. The accident took place in the early hours of Thursday when the driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle while taking a turn, PTI reported quoting an official. The truck rolled down 400 feet and crashed into a valley. While two persons on board the vehicle died, the truck driver suffered injuries. He has been admitted to a local hospital, said the official from Kasara police station. Meanwhile, a training aircraft belonging to a private aviation academy crashed near a village in Maharashtra's Pune district on Thursday evening, injuring the pilot who was the only one on board the plane, police said. Police had earlier in the day said besides the pilot, one more person was on board the plane, and after the crash, they were rushed to a nearby hospital. However, they later maintained that information gathered by them indicated besides the pilot, no one else was inside the aircraft. The aircraft, belonging to the



Redbird Flight Training Academy, crashed near Katfal village under Baramati taluka of the western Maharashtra district, said the police. "A training aircraft belonging to the Redbird Institute crashed near Katfal village at around 5 pm. The pilot sustained injuries in the crash. We are verifying whether there was a co-passenger on board the plane when the incident took place," said Prabhakar More, senior inspector, Baramati police station. The cause of the crash was not yet known. Also read: Shinde cabinet permits govt offices to carry out transactions with Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank More said a team of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will visit the crash site on Friday and launch a probe into the accident. "After the DGCA team visits

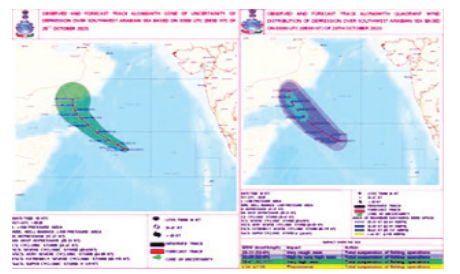
the site, it will be revealed what caused the crash. We have also sought some details from the academy," the police officer said. Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man died after a temporary shed over an underground water tank collapsed on Thursday afternoon in Vikhroli area of Mumbai, a civic official said.

The incident took place at Building no. 2 in Kannamwar Nagar at around 12:15pm, he added. "A temporary shed over the underground water tank collapsed along with material such as cement, sand at the construction site of a MHADA redevelopment building. Rajendra Phasi was brought out of the debris by fire brigade personnel and rushed to Rajawadi hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival," the official said.

IMD warns of cyclone forming in Arabian Sea, may affect Mumbai & Konkan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of a cyclonic storm, 'Tej' developing in the Arabian Sea with a possibility of affecting Mumbai and coastal Konkan region, here on Friday. In a post on X, the IMD said that a depression was formed over South-west Arabian Sea around 920 east-southeast of Socotra in Yemen, 1190 kms southeast of Salalah Airport in Oman at 8.30 a.m. "It is to intensify into a cyclonic storm during next 24 hours and further into a severe cyclonic storm on October 22 (Sunday)," the IMD has forecast. The depression is expected to move towards south Oman and adjoining Yemen coasts. Thursday night the IMD observations indicated that the low pressure area over southeast and adjoining southwest Arabian Sea was moving westwards and lay as



a well-marked low pressure area over south-west Arabian Sea around midnight of October 19. Owing to these disturbances, the wind speeds will touch up to 55-60 kmph in south east Arabian Sea, and increase up to 65-70 kmph on Saturday-Sunday, creating very rough sea conditions, and fishers have been advised against venturing into the sea till Monday.

Bombay HC junks MPCB's closure order on NCP MLA Rohit Pawar's factory

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Thursday set aside the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's order directing the closure of a factory controlled by Nationalist Congress Party MLA Rohit Pawar, the grandnephew of NCP President Sharad Pawar. A division bench of Justice Nitin Inamdar and Justice Manjusha Deshpande has asked the MPCB to reconsider its September 27 notice to Baramati Agro Ltd., a sugar factory run by Rohit Pawar, on various grounds.



high court ordered the MPCB not to execute its directives till the next hearing of the matter. In the plea filed through lawyer Akshay Shinde, the Baramati Agro Ltd., which started operations in 2007-2008, said it was

granted environmental clearance in 2022. However, during a recent inspection, the MPCB detected some alleged irregularities and ordered closure of the 15-year old factory, which the factory challenged.

Shiv Sena activists stage protest against toll collection on Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The activists and citizens led by Palghar MP Rajendra Gavit carried banners and placards and shouted slogans against toll collection.

Talking to reporters, Rajendra Gavit said that the traffic gets held up on the highway for four to five hours before and after monsoon and citizens have to face severe problems.

While it takes three to three and half hours to travel from Surat to Virar, it takes people four to five hours to reach Ghodbunder Road (Thane) from the Vasai-Virar area in Palghar, he said. The situation is problematic for pregnant women, heart patients or those suffering from medical emergencies, he said, claiming that 55 people had lost their lives while travelling from Virar to Ghodbunder in the last six months. Rajendra Gavit further said he held meetings with municipal commissioners, police commissioner, district superintendent of police, collector, and senior officials, but there was no outcome, which is why he staged the protest.

"For the time being, they have started filling potholes. But it

will not solve the problems. The road needs to be repaired completely," he said, adding that a meeting will be held with officials of the NHAI, according to the news agency.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has assured that standard road works won't be tolerated and FIRs will be registered against contractors who are found to be carrying out substandard work, and they will be blacklisted, Rajendra Gavit said.

Meanwhile, MNS Chief Raj Thackeray and Minister Dada Bhuse met at Thackeray's residence on October 13 to discuss the toll issue. Following the meeting, a press conference was held where they conveyed an agreement between MNS and the government to hold toll operators accountable and enhance transparency in the toll collection process at five toll entry points in Mumbai and on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway. During the press conference, they also announced that a yellow line would be drawn approximately 200-300 metres before the toll collection booth. If the line of vehicles extended beyond this yellow line, the vehicles between the yellow line and the toll booth would be allowed to proceed without paying tolls to prevent traffic congestion.

SEBI eases norms for mandatory bond issuances, announces incentives

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Large corporates which have raised more than the mandated share -- 25 per cent -- of their qualified borrowings by issuing bonds will be incentivised through reductions in the annual listing fee of its debt securities and in the company's contribution to the Core Settlement Fund (CSF), according to a circular issued by SEBI on Thursday.

LCs (Large corporates) that have a shortfall will be disincentivised by being asked to pay an additional contribution to the CSF, added the circular.

The market regulator has been trying to deepen the corporate bond market, and this circular is in line with that effort, to ease the framework for fundraising by issuing debt securities by LCs.

On SEBI notifying revised framework for fund raising by issuance of debt securities, Makarand M. Joshi, Founder MMJC & Associates, a corporate compliance firm, said: "The frame-work released on Thursday has increased the



applicability threshold for raising incremental borrowing from debt market to Rs 1,000 crore from the previous limit of Rs 100 crore as stipulated in the previous circular. The move by the regulator, will not only deepen the bond market in Asia's third largest economy, but elimination of penalty provision for non-

compliance along with incentives or concession in listing fee of debt would aid in ease of doing business. Further SEBI has stated that one time relaxation from penal provision will be given to listed entities who endeavoured but couldn't raise incremental borrowing through the debt market till now."

Durga idol immersions: Mumbai Police restricts heavy vehicles in city, check details

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police on Friday issued traffic restrictions in the city ahead of Goddess Durga idol immersions in the city and have restricted heavy vehicles in the city, the Mumbai Traffic Police said.

In a traffic notification, the Mumbai Traffic Police said, On the occasion of Devi Immersions day in Mumbai city i.e. on October 24, 2023 from 07:00 hrs. to October 25, 2023 till 07:00 hrs., the entry of heavy vehicles on the roads in greater Mumbai shall be prohibited.

The police, in the notification said that the essential vehicles carrying items such as vegetables, milk, bread and bakery products and tankers of drinking water (except other water supplying tankers), Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene tankers, government and semi government vehicles, school buses and vehicles/ buses carrying peo-



ple for Dussehra Melava have been exempted from restrictions.

Meanwhile, On Monday, the North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti celebrated the arrival of Goddess Durga through the traditional folk ceremony known as Protima Sthapna.

The North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti

is celebrating its 76th year. "This year's celebration promises to be an unparalleled spectacle, celebrating the rich culture, art, and spirituality of the Thai Temples," the North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti said in a statement.

According to the Durga Puja Samiti, without the mukut, the idol stands tall at

an impressive 17 feet which is 30 feet long in breadth. The sculpture weighs over 3 tons, necessitating the use of forklifts and cranes during the immersion process. The Protima takes seven rounds before the immersion.

The North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti said that the theme of "Thai Temples" for this year's Durga Puja has been inspired by the rich and ornate designs found in the temples of Thailand. The Art Director, Kiran, has incorporated Thai aesthetics into the pandal.

The Samiti has organised live performances by artists like Sonu Nigam, Shaan, Mika, and more.

North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja Samiti was established in 1948. The founder members were Sasadh Mukerji, Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar, Bimal Roy, Hemant Kumar, S D. Burman, Joy Mukerji, Pradeep Kumar, Ram Mukerji and many such celebrities.



Britney Spears claims Justin Timberlake 'slept with six or seven girls' weeks after break up

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles: Pop icon Britney Spears claims that her ex-boyfriend Justin Timberlake "slept with six or seven girls" in the weeks after they "officially" split. Writing in her new memoir 'Woman in Me', Britney says that Timberlake slept with "six or seven girls" in the weeks after they "officially" ended their relationship, reports Mirror.co.uk.

According to new excerpts seen by Time, Spears says she was still torn up after the split and embarked on her own rebound.

Britney admits she enjoyed a fling with Irish actor Colin Farrell. "He was a girl's dream," she writes. "I was in love with him."

The Princess of Pop, 41, has shared extracts from the upcoming book and revealed she fell pregnant with Justin Timberlake's child, but decided to have an abortion.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the singer said her NSYNC boyfriend thought they were "too young" to have a baby. Britney then took to Instagram to give fans an insight into the writing of her book. Sharing a picture of a woman with a key under her chest, she wrote: "Been so busy lately and there are so many hard things to read in the news about my book!!! Writing the book was so hard."

"Then I woke up this morning and said it's all relative, nothing really matters at this point!!!" Britney also shared a video of her dog playing in bed and wrote: "As long as Snow has her Noonie the world is a better place!!! Psss swipe to see the killer dog!!! #TheWomanInMe."

In extracts of Britney's memoir, seen by People, the 'Gimme More' hitmaker said her then-boyfriend Justin "wasn't happy" when she told him she was pregnant. She claims he said they weren't ready to be parents, which led to her ending the



Rolling Stones, Lady Gaga stun audience at surprise gig at NYC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Legendary band The Rolling Stones performed at a New York city club recently to celebrate the release of their new album 'Hackney Diamonds'. It is the band's first album of new material in eighteen years. With DJ Questlove on the turntable, the celebration quickly turned into a rock show when Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood took the stage to perform songs from the new album and iconic hits. They were joined by singer-actress Lady Gaga on stage as they performed 'Sweet Sounds of Heaven' at the Racket NYC.

Many prominent members of the cinema and music world attended the event including Bruce Springsteen, Daniel Craig, Mary Kate Olsen, Elvis Costello, Diana Krall, Chris Rock, Taylor Hill, Rachel Weisz, Dianna Agron, Christie Brinkley, Minka Kelly, Tommy Hilffiger and more.

The 12-track album has been recorded in various locations around the world, including Henson Recording Studios, Los Angeles; Metropolis Studios, London; Sanctuary Studios, Nassau, Bahamas; Electric Lady Studios, New York; and The Hit Factory/Germano Studios, also in New York.

The band's late drummer Charlie Watts is featured on two tracks, 'Mess It Up' and 'Live By The Sword'. 'Live By The Sword' additionally features bass from the band's former bassist Bill Wyman. 'Sweet Sounds Of Heaven' features vocals from Lady Gaga and keys & piano from Stevie Wonder, 'Get Close' and 'Live By The Sword' with piano from Elton John, and 'Bite My Head Off' with bass from The Beatles icon Paul McCartney.

'Hackney Diamonds' is The Rolling Stones' first studio set of new material in 18 years since 2005's 'A Bigger Bang'. Since then, they have continued to smash box office records on a series of global sell-out tours and released 2016's Grammy-winning 'Blue & Lonesome', which featured their versions of many of the blues tracks that helped shape their sound, and topped album charts around the world.



CHRISTOPHER NOLAN IS A FAN OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY



Los Angeles | Agencies

The Prestige filmmaker Christopher Nolan's love for the theatrical releases is not a secret. The filmmaker has now praised pop icon Taylor Swift's business model for her film, 'The Eras Tour'. Christopher engaged in a discussion with fellow filmmaker Emma Thomas and Pulitzer Prize-winning American Prometheus author Kai Bird about 'Oppenheimer' at the CUNY Graduate Center, reports Deadline.

In the course of their conversation, he pointed to Taylor's decision to release 'The Eras Tour' documentary as a step forward for content distribution strategies. "Taylor Swift is about to show the studios, because her concert film is not being distributed by the studios. It's being distributed by the theatre owner, AMC, and it's going to make an enormous amount of money", Christopher said.

"And this is the thing, this is a format, this is a way of seeing things and sharing stories, or sharing experiences that's incredibly valuable. And if they (the studios) don't want it, somebody else will. So that's just the truth of it," he added. As per Deadline, Taylor's film of her tour will see her get a 57 per cent cut on a \$19.89 ticket, revenue that normally would go to a distributor.

The film grossed approximately \$125 million at the worldwide box office after opening weekend.

Khloe doesn't trust her taste in men

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular media personality Khloe Kardashian now wants her sisters to play matchmaker for her, so that she can find herself a good partner as she doesn't trust her own taste in men. In the latest episode of 'The Kardashians', Khloe, 39, and her mother Kris Jenner interviewed five potential suitors for socialite Scott Disick after seeking the help of a professional matchmaker. "Khloe and I took everything that we know about what Scott might be looking for to a matchmaker," Kris told cameras as she and Khloe geared up to meet the women.

"And what she came up with was five candidates of lovely women that she thinks would be amazing. So we're gonna see what happens," People reported.

While interviewing her first candidate Celine, Kris was suddenly struck with an idea and opened up on her epiphany. She spoke of the time when she attended the same high school as her son Rob Kardashian and seeing him at the games with Khloe and Kim Kardashian.

"Wait, maybe she could date Rob," the 67-year-old manager remarked while Khloe chided, "Well, one brother at a time, then we'll figure it out."

In a joint confessional with Khloe, Kris admitted that she turns off "mom" mode when asked who she's really "doing these screenings for." "Listen, I'm a mom and I always have Rob in the back of my mind," she explained. "So you know, it's just like a little thought." Continuing with the interview, Khloe jokingly said: "I wish someone would do this for me," when one of Scott's potential suitors remarked how "cool" and "thoughtful" the gesture was. Though her sisters have yet to enlist the services of a matchmaker, Kim has attempted to set her up with a new partner on a few occasions with mixed results.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lottie Moss

John Stamos credits wife Caitlin, son Billy for helping him stay sober



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actor John Stamos has credited his wife Caitlin McHugh Stamos and son Billy for keeping him sober during

"You could get going for a little while. Then it's like, 'I can drink again.' So it's staying on the path is what they mostly do for me."

The 'Born to Ride' actor has detailed his battle with alcoholism and attaining sobriety in his upcoming memoir 'If You Would Have Told Me', which is coming out on October 24, 2023.

"It's hard, but it's not because it's hard for a lot of people. It's not that hard for me because it's still so fresh in my mind that I have to do is look at that picture of me in handcuffs on that street," he said referencing the 2015 DUI that eventually led to him entering treatment. "I was sitting on a curb or

whatever. It just makes me throw up right now just thinking (about it). ... Never again."

The actor went on to say that he knew he had to straighten up to get his life on the line. Talking about his gratitude for his wife, he had said that despite being the older one, given that Stamos is over 23 years older than Caitlin; he has "learned a lot from her."

"Being older with someone younger, you go, all right, you know everything and they need to listen to me. But I'm always learning something from her." Talking about his 5-year old son Billy, he said: "He's so charming and people come up to him and say, 'Oh, my God, you're so handsome. You're so charming. I'm like, 'Don't tell him!'"





Australia vs Pakistan, Cricket World Cup 2023

DAVID WARNER, MITCHELL MARSH HUNDREDS, ADAM ZAMPA MAGIC LEAD AUSTRALIA TO 62-RUN VICTORY

Bengaluru | Agencies

David Warner and Mitchell Marsh symbolised Australia's insatiability with the bat and Adam Zampa's relentlessness with the ball as the five-time champions registered a revitalising 62-run win over Pakistan in the World Cup match in Bengaluru on Friday. Brutal hundreds by Warner (163 off 124 balls) and Marsh (121 off 108 balls) led Australia to an imposing 367 for 9. Pakistan batters fought valiantly but could only manage 305 as leg-spinner Zampa (4/53) inflicted blows at vital junctions. Australia need to profusely thank both Warner, who hammered his 21st ODI hundred, and Marsh, his second ton, for keeping their World Cup campaign on track with a blistering assault. The Aussie openers amassed 259 runs in just 203 balls, and it was only the fourth instance in World Cup history that both openers notched centuries in the same match.

Australia needed a dominant show to spruce up their confidence



after three middling efforts that fetched two defeats and a win in this tournament, and they did it with a bang. The only spanner in their easy rollicking was left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, whose five-wicket haul (5/54) was just a sad reminder as to what other Pakistan

bowlers could have done with a bit of thinking. Warner, who was dropped twice on 10 and 105, and Marsh were at their marauding best against a Pakistan attack that lacked direction on a smooth M Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch with a quick outfield adding value to their

shots. They were either too full, too short or strayed on to the leg side, and the Aussie batters did not need any second invitation to exploit the flowing freebies.

All this could have been a tad different for Pakistan had Usama Mir, who replaced Shadab Khan, held on to a simple skier from Warner off Afridi, whose clever variations were a treat to watch, inside the ring. Warner was on 10 then in Australia's total of 22. Pakistan captain Babar Azam gave the ball to Haris Rauf in the ninth over, hoping for a breakthrough. But the Aussies slipped into the top gear precisely from that over. The right-arm pacer was carted for 24 runs in his first over. Warner started the carnage with a four and six and Marsh finished it with three fours in succession. Thereafter, Australia's run-rate hardly came under seven for the rest of the innings. Hasan Ali found some early movement away from Marsh, but Warner took him head on with a series of pulls and flicks, including a monster six that thudded on to the roof.

IPL 2024: Mumbai Indians rope in Lasith Malinga as bowling coach

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Indians have announced Sri Lankan fast-bowling legend Lasith Malinga as their new bowling coach ahead of IPL 2024 season. Malinga will be replacing Shane Bond, who held the position in the side since 2015 till he stepped down earlier this week.

Malinga, who was previously the bowling coach of IPL side Rajasthan Royals for 2022 and 2023 seasons, joins the Mumbai Indians coaching team led by Mark Boucher, and his former teammate, Kieron Pollard, who is serving as batting coach.

The Sri Lankan was the bowling coach of the MI New York franchise which won the inaugural MLC title earlier this year, and will be involved with MI Cape Town in SA20 from its 2024 season.

"It is truly an honour for me to be appointed Bowling Coach of Mumbai Indians and my journey in the #OneFamily continues, following MI New York and MI Cape Town. I am looking forward to working closely with Mark, Polly, Rohit and the rest of the team, especially the bowling unit, whose approach I loved last season, and the young MI talent that has the potential to excel, backed by the passionate MI Paltnan," said Malinga in a statement issued by the franchise. As an IPL player, Malinga won four IPL titles with Mumbai in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019, apart from the Champions League T20 trophy in 2011. Overall, Malinga played 139 games for Mumbai, picking 195 wickets at an economy rate of 7.12.



170 of those scalps of Malinga came in the IPL, which is the joint-sixth-highest wickets taken by a bowler in the tournament's history. Malinga had also served as the side's mentor in 2018, apart from 11 years as a Mumbai player, before retiring in 2021.

Hardik Pandya to not travel to Dharamsala for New Zealand match due to ankle injury, says BCCI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hardik Pandya, the fast-bowling all-rounder and India's vice-captain, will not be traveling with the team to Dharamsala ahead of Sunday's clash against New Zealand due to a left ankle injury, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday.

On Thursday, Pandya limped off the field after injuring his left ankle while fielding on his own bowling during India's fourth league match of the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, against Bangladesh at MCA Stadium in Pune, and did not participate in the rest of the match.

As a result, he will now miss India's clash against New Zealand at HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala on Sunday. "The all-rounder was taken for scans and is advised rest. He will be under the constant supervision of the BCCI Medical Team," said the BCCI in a medical update.

It added that Pandya will join the India team directly in Lucknow for the match against defending champions England on October 29. At Pune, while



trying to stop a boundary hit by Litton Das on third ball of the ninth over, Pandya seemed to twist his left ankle in his follow-through after slipping in the process of saving the four.

The Indian team physio ran out immediately to attend Hardik on his left ankle for several minutes, with Virat Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma by his side. After some time, the all-rounder tried to continue bowling, but couldn't do so due to too much pain in his strapped left ankle and walked off for getting further treatment.

In his absence, Virat Kohli bowled the three remaining deliveries in the over, with the BCCI later saying that time Pandya was taken for scans. Pandya has been a vital cog in the wheel for India in white-ball cricket and is irreplaceable due to his all-round skills - batting in top six and being the third fast-bowling option in the team.

Though he batted only once, making an unbeaten 11 in India's opening tournament win over Australia in Chennai, Pandya had picked five wickets till the ankle injury came in. With him now missing the match against New Zealand, India need to see how they cover up for the skills he brings to the table.

They have a fast-bowling all-rounder option in Shardul Thakur, but he is not close to being called a like-for-like replacement for Pandya. An option can be that Thakur plays the role of Pandya with both bat and ball or bring in a specialist batter in his absence while operate with only five bowlers in their bowling innings. Another option that India could look at is to bring in a specialist batter and bowler respectively while leaving out Thakur.

Salima, Sangita, and Nikki excited to play in front of home fans at Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi

WITH JUST A WEEK TO GO FOR THE START OF THE PRESTIGIOUS WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY RANCHI 2023, INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM PLAYERS SALIMA TETE, NIKKI PRADHAN, AND SANGITA KUMARI, WHO ALL HAIL JHARKHAND, EXPRESSED THEIR EXCITEMENT FOR THE UPCOMING TOURNAMENT.

Ranchi | Agencies

The tournament, which will take place from October 27 to November 5, will see India competing alongside Japan,

China, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Savita will be leading the team in the tournament with Deep Grace Ekka as her deputy. India will open their campaign in the tournament against Thailand October 27.

India forward Sangita expressed excitement about returning to Ranchi for the major tournament, saying, "I played my first tournament in Ranchi when I was in the U-14 team, and we won the Bronze medal for Hockey Jharkhand. Later on, I played at the Sub Junior level here as well."

"However, this will be my first time competing in such a major international event in Ranchi. I can't wait to walk out in front of the home fans, who will be out in force to show their support," Sangita was quoted by Hockey India website.

Sangita has fond memories of playing matches in the city when she was younger, and

she feels proud of the growth of hockey in the state. "When I arrived at the hostel, there were few facilities available. Previously, only a few players emerged from the state. However, Jharkhand now has many players on the National Team. All the required facilities, including hockey turfs and equipment, are available here. Over the years, Hockey India and the Jharkhand government have worked hard to ensure the growth of hockey in the state."

After their first match against Thailand, India will take on Malaysia on October 28. India will face off against China in their third game October 30, and then compete against Japan on October 31.

India will play their final pool game against Korea on November 2. The Semi-Finals and Final of the tournament will be played on November 4 and 5, respectively. Meanwhile, defender



Nikki, who has already earned over 150 International Caps for India, said that the tournament will help the young players in the state.

"I am happy that Hockey India and the Jharkhand government decided to organise such a prestigious tournament here in Ranchi. Hockey is growing in the state, and this tournament will further boost the rise of the sport. Soon, there will come a time when our state will be known by its best hockey players."

HARYANA CM HONOURS ASIAN GAMES WINNERS

Chandigarh | Agencies

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday felicitated the state's athletes and coaches who won medals in the recently held 19th Asian Games held in China.

While the gold medal winning athletes were awarded a cash reward of Rs 3 crore, the silver medalists and bronze medalists were honoured with Rs 1.5 crore and Rs 75 lakh respectively.

In addition to the awards, the winners were handed commendation and job offer letters.

At a state-level function in Karnal, where both the medal winners and participating players were present, the Chief Minister said be it the Olympics, Paralympics or Khelo India, Haryani sportspersons with their outstanding performances have made the country and the state proud.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister made key announcements for athletes, including the establishment of shooting ranges in Nimana village in Jhajjar district and Sector 32 in Panchkula to promote shooting sports, two archery centres in Tejli Stadium in



Yamunanagar district and the District Sports Complex in Faridabad.

The government would formulate a policy to provide sports equipment for local sports events organised in villages and towns to enable athletes can have access to the necessary equipment, he said.

He also announced that winners of smaller and local sports events, which are not included in the list of national games, would receive cash awards, similar to those in mainstream sports, to encourage and promote such local sports. Before the felicitation ceremony, the Chief Minister inaugurated 10 Khelo India Centres in the state as part of the Khelo India Scheme.

Djokovic, Swiatek headline United Cup team event ahead of Australian Open

Sydney | Agencies

Grand Slam giants Novak Djokovic and Iga Swiatek will headline a stellar field at the new-look United Cup mixed team event in Perth and Sydney from December 29, 2023 to January 7, 2024.

Five of the world's top 10 women and nine of the world's top 20 men will feature at the exciting innovative mixed-team event in 2024, with the draw to be revealed on October 23, the tournament organisers said.

Team Poland, led by four-time major champion Swiatek and 11th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz, have been named as the top seeds for the 2024 edition after the entries from the top 16 countries were confirmed. Top-10 stars Stefanos Tsitsipas and Maria Sakkari will lead No.2-seeded Greece, while defending champions United States - represented by world No.4 Jessica Pegula and 10th-ranked Taylor Fritz - are seeded third.

France, the No.4 seeds, will be steered by world No.10 Caroline Garcia and Adrian Mannarino.



Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova will headline the Czech Republic team alongside Jiri Lehecka, while Croatia rounds out the top six seeds, a team featuring Borna Coric and Donna Vekic.

Host nation Australia is represented by top Aussie Alex de Minaur - a player on the brink of the top 10 - plus three-time major quarterfinalist Ajla Tomljanovic, doubles stars Storm Hunter, Matt Ebden and Ellen Perez, and former world No.33 John Millman.

KL Rahul reveals why Virat Kohli avoided singles in ODI century chase

Pune | Agencies

Virat Kohli brought up his 48th ODI century by hitting the winning six against Bangladesh, aided by KL Rahul at the other end, as the pair turned down easy singles Kohli could reach the landmark.

Kohli's 48th ton in the format means he could yet overtake Sachin's all-time record of 49 during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India.

The 34-year-old's hundred is his third at ICC Cricket World Cups and the 48th of his ODI career, but it looked all the world like he was going to full short of reaching triple figures when India required 19 runs to win with Kohli himself still 19 short of the landmark.

But, he was ably supported by Rahul at the other end and took the strike through to the close of the innings, and reached the milestone he wanted with



a maximum that also sealed victory.

After the match, which India won by seven wickets with 51 balls to spare, Rahul revealed that refraining from taking singles was his idea to enable Kohli to maintain strike and thereby enhance his

prospects of reaching a century.

"He was confused, he said it will not look too nice, not to take the single, it's still a World Cup, and it's still a big stage. I don't want to look like I am just trying to get the milestone," Rahul told Star Sports as quoted by ESPNcricinfo. "But I said, I mean it is not won but still I think we'll win quite easily, so if you can get to the milestone why not, you must try. And he did that in the end. I wasn't going to run the singles anyway," he said. In the process of reaching his century, the Indian star became the fastest batter in the history of the men's game to score 26,000 runs in international cricket, bettering the previous record, held by Sachin Tendulkar, but 33 innings. Kohli's unbeaten 103 against Bangladesh on Thursday means that only India captain Rohit Sharma has now scored more runs so far at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, with the pair sitting top two in the Most Runs table.

Odisha CM announces cash incentives of para-athletes

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday announced a cash incentive of Rs 10 lakh each for the seven para-athletes from Odisha who will participate in the Asian Para Games scheduled to be held from October 22 till October 28.

As per the press release issued by the Chief Minister's Office, Patnaik also wished the para-athletes success in the upcoming mega tournament.

"We are immensely proud of our para-athletes who have worked tirelessly to qualify for the prestigious Asian Para Games 2022 in



Hangzhou, China. The para-athletes are a testimony to human spirit and determination. I wish them and the entire India contingent the very best in their endeavour to bring laurels to the country," said the Chief Minister said. The seven para-athletes

from Odisha who will represent India at the Asian Para Games include Pramod Bhagat (para-badminton), Jayanti Behera (para-athletics), Soundarya Kumar Pradhan (visually impaired chess), Rakhal Kumar Sethi, V Ramesh Rao, Prafulla Kumar Khandayatray, and Pujaswini Nayak (wheelchair fencing).

Amongst the athletes from Odisha, the reigning Paralympic gold medalist, Pramod Bhagat will be defending his gold medal in the para badminton mixed single's event. In the previous edition held in Jakarta, Bhagat also secured a bronze in men's doubles.



'I feel my film debut has been worth the wait', says Nupur Sanon

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nupur Sanon, whose film debut has been the talk of the town for quite some time, is finally on the big screen with the Telugu film 'Tiger Nageswara Rao'. The actress said she is happy that she is making her debut with this film and it has been worth the wait.

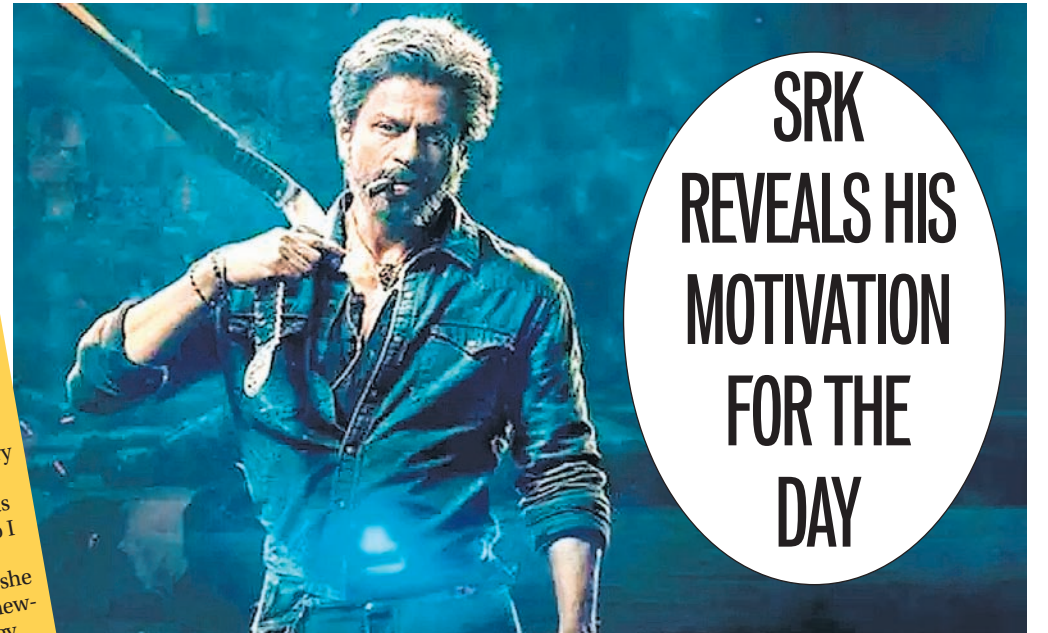
Nupur, who previously appeared in a music video with actor Akshay Kumar, opened up about her debut and her experience working with the actor Ravi Teja. Talking about her debut, she said, "I am very happy. I was wanting my debut to happen in one language. Now I am getting six times the love of the audience and in six different languages. I feel my debut has been worth the wait."

The actress said: "Also, I am playing a very nice character in the film where I got to do commercial dance, fun, romantic scenes as well as intense and challenging scenes. So I got the best of both to do in my first film."

Sharing about working with Ravi Teja, she said, "I got to learn a lot from him. As a new-comer, you want to have that great energy and it was amazing to work with him. He is such a secure actor and he helped me a lot in delivering my scenes. He loves to work with newcomers and he really puts his faith in newcomers. As a human, he is the most humble and honest man. He is a man of few words. It was an amazing experience to work with him."

'Tiger Nageswara Rao' is a Telugu-language period action thriller film written and directed by Vamsee and produced by Abhishek Agarwal.

The film stars Ravi Teja in a lead role along with Anupam Kher, Nupur Sanon, Jishu Sengupta, Gayatri Bhardwaj and Murali Sharma. The film released in cinemas on Friday.



SRK REVEALS HIS MOTIVATION FOR THE DAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who is currently basking in the success of his mega-blockbuster film 'Jawan', is finding his motivation for the day, with the quaint quote: "Trading my shoes in for wheels under my feet."

The quote belongs to the song 'Sunoh' from Zoya Akhtar's streaming film 'The Archies' which stars SRK's daughter Suhana Khan.

Known as one of the biggest and most hardworking actors in Bollywood, SRK, who also goes by the moniker of 'King Khan', is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Dunki' which is touted to be yet another mega-blockbuster despite being shrouded in mystery.

Furthermore, as the film is coming on the same date as superstar Prabhas' much awaited film 'Salaar - Part 1: The Ceasefire', it is one giant colliding with another in the cinemas, so December 22, is going to be a very interesting date for cinephiles.

Taking to the platform, SRK spoke of his motivation from the quote while sharing a clip of the song 'Sunoh' from Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'The Archies'. He wrote: "This is so quaint and beautiful the world of 'The Archies'. Also my motivation line for today is 'Trading my shoes in for wheels under my feet!' #ZoyaAkhtar #SuhanaKhan #AgastyaNanda #Dot #KhushiKapoor #VedangRaina #YuvrajMenda #MihirAhuja."

As SRK's own daughter Suhana Khan is making her acting debut with the film, the 'Pathaan' star is eagerly awaiting the movie and has wished all the stars and the film's crew best of luck.

A vibrant and energetic track whose rhythm and melody harnesses old-school rock 'n' roll vibes, 'Sunoh' emits pure 1960's garage rock vibes while simultaneously bringing in aspects of modern production and catchy teenage grooves.

A reimagining of the American comic book 'The Archies', the new Zoya Akhtar version follows the comic's main characters from an Indian perspective, and is set in the fictional town of Riverdale from the comic book in 1960's India.

The cast of the teen comedy coming-of-age musical includes: Dot (real name Aditi), Agastya Nanda, Khushi Kapoor, Mihir Ahuja, Suhana Khan, Vedang Raina and Yuvraj Menda.

The film will drop on Netflix.



Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal

TO SHARE THE STAGE FOR 1ST TIME IN INDIA FILM PROJECT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor couple Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal, who are known for their work together in the 'Fukrey' franchise, are set to share the stage before a live audience, together as a couple for the first time at the upcoming India Film Project in Mumbai during the weekend. Both Ali and Richa have recently registered huge success with their Richa's 'Fukrey 3' entering the Rs 100 crore club and Ali's streaming release 'Khufiya' receiving a positive response from the audience.

The two day event acts as a nurturing environment and a platform for creative minds across arts and culture, offering in-depth discussions about their professions, addressing pertinent questions, and providing valuable insights.

Expressing her excitement, Richa said: "It's a unique occasion for Ali and me to come together on a public platform like the India Film Project. We're thrilled to share our experiences, both as actors and as collaborators in Pushing Buttons Studios. I have always loved watching when two actors collaborate in this unique platform. Ali and I always are each other's sounding board and this platform is a unique way to engage in a chat with the audiences and with each other." Richa and Ali are the founders of the production house Pushing Buttons Studios, and will engage in a captivating exchange in a unique format of actors, where they will be interviewing each other on their craft. Their conversation will also touch upon various facets of their careers, from their dynamic collaboration within their production venture to their personal journeys, navigating the intricacies of being both life partners and professionals in the same industry.



MARATHI MOVIES POSSESS ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH RIGHT AUDIENCE: NEHHA PENDSE

Mumbai: Actress Nehha Pendse, who has worked in the Marathi projects like 'Dusari Goshta', 'Premasathi Coming Soon', and 'Natsamrat' among others, shared her insights on the unique charm of this regional cinema, and how it differs from the Hindi and South Indian film industries. Nehha has a diverse portfolio that spans across Marathi, Hindi, and regional films.

She said: "I firmly believe that Marathi movies possess an inherent ability to connect with the right audience. "While it's true that most Hindi and South Indian films are often dubbed to broaden their reach and appeal to a wider demographic, Marathi cinema, in my opinion, is still evolving to a point where its content can be effortlessly adapted and released in multiple languages." "However, as I've previously mentioned, it's all about that one exceptional film which transcends language barriers and effortlessly finds its way to the audience," she shared. Pendse went on to cite examples of Marathi films that have transcended language barriers to become a part of the national cinematic landscape.

She commented: "For example, movies like 'Sairat' and 'Maharashtra Shaheer' are spectacular movies and managed to reach the audience from all over the country."

"People watched these movies and loved them, whether they understood Marathi or not. That's the magic of Marathi movies." Nehha is currently seen as Sanjana Madam in the show "May I Come In, Madam?" which airs on Star Bharat.



Amitabh reveals his dream of joining Air Force; rejected due to long legs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is known for sharing interesting unknown personal anecdotes on the show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15, and now the thespian has revealed how he wished to join Air Force, but got rejected after few attempts. The actor is currently seen as the host of the knowledge based reality show 'KBC 15'.

In the episode 49 of the show, Jitendra Kumar from Ambala, Haryana, won the fastest finger first, and reached the hot seat.

Talking to the contestant, Amitabh said: "From childhood.. Is this what you always aspired to do or something else?"

Replying to the 81-year-old actor, he said: "Sir, I wanted to join the Air Force. I attempted the CDS and NDA exams quite a few times. My NDA SSB interview took place in Allahabad, but I could not clear it. I did not pass the CDS exam after many attempts either and felt quite demotivated." The contestant continued saying, "Sir, everyone has friends who talk about celebrities. Mine told me about you. He said, 'Amitabh Bachchan attempted the test'. I wish to know if it's true, sir. Did you attempt the CDS and NDA exams?" The 'Zanjeer' fame actor said: "When I passed out from school. I didn't know what I should do. Right across from my house in Delhi - lived a Major General of the Army. I'd meet him often." "He approached my father (Harivansh Rai Bachchan) one day, and told 'I want this lad. I'll ensure he becomes an Army Officer.' I thought I'd do that. I did attempt it, but it was futile," said Big B. The actor further said: "I wanted to join the Air Force too. We have so much in common. We both pursued BSc. We both aspired to join the Air Force. They rejected me on sight saying I had long legs."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Yashika