

NATION > 02	HOLLYWOOD > 06	SPORTS > 07
Maratha quotas: CM Shinde seeks to buy time till Feb 2024...	Jennifer Lopez, Jenifer Lewis sing together at her & Ben Affleck's...	IPL 2024 Auction: RR get Rovman Powell for Rs 7.4 crore, Travis...



49 MORE MPS SUSPENDED FOR REMAINDER OF WINTER SESSION

With the fresh suspension of 49 MPs from the Lok Sabha for the remainder of the Winter Session, the Opposition's Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc has lost almost two-third of its strength in the House. The INDIA bloc MPs had been protesting in the House, demanding a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on the December 13 Parliament security breach. Tuesday's suspension of 49 MPs follows Monday's suspension of 33 MPs. Earlier on December 14 as many as 13 MPs were suspended from the Lok Sabha. Now, the total Lok Sabha MPs suspended stands at 95 out of 138 MPs of the INDIA bloc parties as only 43 MPs are left in the House. Now, only nine MPs of the Congress, including former party presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, are left in the House.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Lok Sabha (LS) was on Tuesday adjourned amid uproar by opposition MPs and 49 opposition MPs were suspended for the remainder of Winter Session, including Congress MP Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor, NCP's Supriya Sule and NC MP Farooq Abdullah. Other MPs suspended included Karti Chidambaram, Kinwar Danish Ali, Sudip Bandhopadhyay, Abdul Smad, Pradyut Bardoloi, Geeta Kor, SR Parthiban, A Ganeshmooorthy, Mala Rai, A Chellakumar, Dimple Yadav, Hasnain Masoodi, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Santosh Kumar, Ravneet Bittu, Dinesh Yadav, K Sudhakaran, P P Mohammad Faizal, Amol Kole, Sushil Kumar Rinku, Sunil Kumar Singh, ST Hassan, Pratibha Singh, Chandreshwar Prasad, Adur Prakash and others were suspended for remainder of the Session.

unfortunate that I have to name the MPs. Before moving the resolution, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that all of us had agreed that we will not bring the placards. Meanwhile, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal moved the motion to suspend the MPs for remainder of the session for utter "disregard", raising slogans and bringing placards. The house passed the resolution with a voice vote. Following the suspension of 49 MPs, the House was adjourned till 2 p.m. On Monday, 33 Lok Sabha MPs and 45 Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended. On December 14, 13 Lok Sabha MPs and one Rajya Sabha MP was also suspended. The opposition bloc has been demanding for a statement by Home Minister Amit Shah over the December 13 Parliament security breach and revocation of suspension of MPs suspended on December 18 and 14.

ALL PARTY PROTEST AGAINST SUSPENSION OF MPS ON DEC 22: KHARGE

New Delhi: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said that the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will start deliberating on the seat sharing process soon and also hold a joint protest on December 22 against the suspension of MPs. Kharge said that the decision was taken at the fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc which met at the Ashoka Hotel in which 28 political parties participated. The meeting lasted for two to three hours. "Today was the fourth meeting that took place in Delhi. In the meeting, 28 parties participated. All leaders presented their views and suggestions. Everyone unanimously decided to take forward the work of the INDIA bloc," Kharge said while talking to the media after the meeting. "If all of us do not come together on a stage, then people will not identify the alliance and thus it was decided we will hold eight to ten meetings across the country," Kharge said. He said that the suspension of 141 MPs was also discussed in the meeting.



DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN SUSPENDED NOT MPS: RAGHAV CHADHA

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday expressed anguish at the Central government for suspending opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) who questioned the security breach in Parliament. Chadha said that it's not just the MPs who have been suspended from Parliament but rather democracy within the country has been suspended. Hitting hard at BJP, Chadha, while addressing the media, said that ironically, the BJP MP on whose approval, the accused of the parliament security breach entered the house, is still sitting in the parliament. "It's ironic that with the signature of a BJP MP, two accused individuals obtained visitor passes and entered the Parliament to attack the house. Both those accused were, in a way, guests of the BJP MP. Despite this, this BJP MP is still sitting inside the house as an MP with no jeopardy to his membership," said Chadha.

ACT OF SOME LEADERS 'SHAMEFUL': RS CHAIRMAN

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar is unhappy after a Trinamool MP on Tuesday mocked him during an opposition protest in the Parliament premises. Dhankhar said that Members of Parliament are mocking the institution of Chairman by taking him on. Dhankhar said in the House: "I have adjourned the House. You are not aware of the kind of response that is against this institution in the mind of the people and we had the occasion to see the lowest level."



Trinamool sets deadline of Dec 31 to finalise seat sharing talks of INDIA bloc

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc on Tuesday held the fourth meeting to devise a strategy to take on the BJP-led NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Trinamool Congress and many INDIA parties have set a December 31 deadline for finalising the seat-sharing arrangement. According to sources, the seat sharing talks will begin from Wednesday itself in many states and if the matter becomes complicated the issue would come to Delhi for final deliberations. This was the fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc, which was attended by Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, Farooq Abdullah, Nitish



Kumar, Rajiv Ranjan, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, Uddhav Thackeray, Sanjay Raut, MK Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Akhilesh Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav. The source also said that eight to ten joint public meetings will be planned from January onwards. During the meeting, every leader got the opportunity to share their views and suggestions. The first meeting of the INDIA bloc took place in Patna

on June 23 while the second meeting took place in Bengaluru on July 17 and 18. The third meeting of the alliance was held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1 and the 14-member coordination committee and 19-member election strategy committee were announced. As many as 28 parties have come together to take on the BJP at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Delhi horror: Nine-year-old girl abducted, raped, killed; body dumped into canal



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a heart-rending incident, a nine-year-old girl in north Delhi was kidnapped, raped, and killed and her body dumped into a canal, police said on Tuesday, adding that

the accused has been arrested. According to police, the kidnapping of a girl, a resident of Nangli Poonia village, was reported at Swaroop Nagar police station on December 12 evening. An FIR under Section 363 of the Indian Penal Code

(IPC) was registered and a probe was initiated. The official said that the parents of the girl work in a factory as labourers and live in a rented accommodation. "While the search for the girl was going on, police scanned the CCTV footage and traced the accused, identified as Sanjeev Rana, 52, a resident of Nangli Poonia. However, when the police team reached to arrest him, it was revealed that the accused was admitted in a hospital at Rohini due to a serious traffic accident on December 15 and was unfit to make a statement," a senior police official said. Meanwhile, during further investigation, it was found that the girl sat in the vehicle of the accused from a street near her home on December 12 at around 2 p.m.

88.78% active Covid cases in India found in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

The number of active Covid cases in Kerala continues to remain at the top with 115 fresh cases getting reported in the past 24 hours, taking the number of active cases in the southern state to 1,749. According to Centre's data, India reported 142 fresh cases on Monday, out of which 115 were reported from Kerala. State Health Minister Veena George is closely monitoring the situation with the health authorities, who are of the opinion that the active case-load is high in Kerala because of increased testing of patients coming to the hospitals with fever and flu. At a meeting on Tuesday, George pointed out that no harsh restrictions will be put in place, adding that there is no reason to panic as the situation is under control. Various types of fever, including dengue, leptospirosis and viral fever, have also been reported from across the state. Masks have been recommended for all those visiting the hospitals and with Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi recording



higher number of cases, extra caution has been advised at these two places. Authorities have been asked to ensure that all the facilities at the hospitals are kept ready. Meanwhile, a meeting has been convened by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday, where all his state counterparts are expected to be present.

6.2-MAGNITUDE QUAKE IN CHINA KILLS 111 PEOPLE

Beijing: At least 111 people were killed after a massive earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck China's Gansu province, authorities said on Tuesday.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the quake occurred at 11.59 p.m. on Monday night and had a focal depth of 10 km, reports Xinhua news agency. The epicentre Liugou Township is about 8 km from the county seat of Jishishan Bao'an, Dongxiang, Salar Autonomous County in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu. The earthquake was also felt strongly in the cities of Xining and Haidong in Qinghai, where some houses collapsed and cracked. The fatalities were reported from Gansu and neighbouring Qinghai. The provincial fire and rescue department has sent 580 rescuers aided with 88 fire engines, 12 search and rescue dogs, more than 10,000 sets of equipment to the disaster area. The railway authority has suspended passenger and cargo trains passing through the quake zone and ordered a safety check of the tracks. In the Dahejia Township where the temperature dropped to 16 degrees Celsius below zero at dawn, more than 140 medical staff at a local hospital were busy taking care of the injured people, some of whom also have loved ones out of contact in the quake. President Xi Jinping has ordered full rescue efforts to Gansu.

Allahabad HC rejects Muslim plea against worship in Gyanvapi mosque

Prayagraj | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday rejected all petitions from the Muslim side, challenging the Hindus' plea to worship at the Gyanvapi mosque. The petitions were filed by the Sunni Central Waqf Board and Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee regarding the ownership between the Gyanvapi Mosque and Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi. The High Court rejected two petitions against the maintainability of a 1991 civil suit filed by Hindu worshippers and pending before a Varanasi District Court, and three against a 2021 Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey order. The single-judge bench of Justice Rohit Ranjan Aggarwal also asked the lower court to complete the hearing on the matter within six months.



The High Court further said that if anything is left while conducting the survey, it can be done again, and that report could be submitted to the Varanasi District Court. The Muslim side had challenged the civil suit that sought the right to worship and also the Varanasi District Court's 2021 order of an ASI survey in the mosque complex. They had argued that the civil suit was barred under the 1991 Places of Worship Act.

The Hindu side, meanwhile, said in their civil suit that the Gyanvapi mosque is a part of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. During the hearing on Tuesday, the High Court said that the 1991 civil suit is maintainable and not barred by the 1991 Act, which prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and maintains the religious character of the site as it existed at the time of independence. Justice Aggarwal had, on December 8, reserved the verdict after hearing arguments by the advocates of both petitioners and the respondent. The verdict came a day after the ASI submitted its scientific survey report on the mosque complex before the Varanasi District Court in a sealed cover, which will be shared with the petitioners on December 21 and a copy of it will also be sent to the Supreme Court.

India Hits Out At IMF For Saying "Currency Intervention Excessive"

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India pushed back against the International Monetary Fund for saying the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the foreign-exchange market was excessive, implying that the country was trying to influence the level of the rupee. The Washington-based lender said the currency moved within a very narrow range from December 2022 to October 2023, suggesting the central bank's intervention "likely exceeded levels necessary to address disorderly market conditions." As a result, the IMF reclassified India's foreign-exchange regime to a "stabilized arrangement" from a "floating" system, it said in its annual Article IV country report released on Monday. India "strongly disagreed" with the assessment, calling it "unjustified," the IMF said. The Reserve Bank of India stated that the period was restricted to a short-term, and that the IMF's assessment would fail over a two to five-year horizon, the fund said. "The RBI strongly believes that such a view is incorrect as, in their view, it uses data selectively," the IMF said in its report. A RBI spokesperson didn't immediately respond to text messages seeking further information. The rupee weakened about 2% against the dollar between



December 2022 and October 2023, after falling about 8% in the prior 12 months. The RBI is estimated to have intervened to the tune of \$78 billion dollars in those nine months, according to Bloomberg Economics. The country's FX reserves of \$604 billion is approaching the record high \$642.5 billion reached in 2021. In its Article IV report, the IMF gave a fairly optimistic outlook for India's economy, saying it has the potential to grow faster than the fund's forecast of 6.3% in the current and next fiscal years if the government undertakes key structural reforms. India needs "ambitious" fiscal consolidation over the medium term in order to curb its public debt, the IMF said in an accompanying statement to its report. The central bank's current neutral monetary policy stance was "appropriate," and should help bring inflation back to the 4% target, it said.

Finance Ministry allows states to borrow additional Rs 60,877 crore for pension scheme

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday approved an additional borrowing of Rs 60,876.8 crore to 22 States in 2023-24 for contribution to the National Pension Scheme (NPS). This will be over and above the net borrowing ceiling for 2023-24. The normal ceiling for net borrowing by states has been fixed at 3 per cent of their gross state domestic product (GSDP). The GSDP currently stands at Rs 8.59 lakh crore. The ministry also issued approval for raising Rs 6.99 lakh crore for open market borrowing and Rs 69,370.81 crore for availing of negotiated



loans during 2023-24. The finance ministry said it has also allowed extra borrowing to states equivalent to employer and employee share of contribution of its employees, over and above the 3 per cent ceiling. Earlier in June, the Centre had approved additional financial incentives worth Rs

66,413 crore to 12 states for power sector reforms. The Union Finance Minister announced the initiative in the Union Budget 2021-22. Under this initiative, an additional borrowing space of up to 0.5 per cent of the GSDP is available to the states annually for a four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25. On Tuesday, the ministry said that it had allowed additional borrowing of Rs 39,175 crore to 12 States in 2021-22 and Rs 27,238 crore to 6 states in 2022-23, linked to performance in the power sector. For 2023-24, states are eligible to borrow Rs 1.43 lakh crore on the recommendation of the power ministry.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP 'unhappy' with K'taka leaders

The BJP high command is reportedly displeased with the Karnataka BJP unit for not addressing the issue of a horrifying incident in which a mother was paraded on the streets after being stripped naked, according to sources. This incident occurred following the elopement of her son with a local girl when the winter Assembly session was being held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi city. The incident had shocked the state and proved to be a significant embarrassment for the Congress government, as it happened in a place located close to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The BJP high command criticized its state leadership for not raising the issue during the session and for not holding the Congress government accountable for the failure in law and order system and protection of women. Sources state that BJP national President J.P. Nadda criticized the state leadership for not effectively addressing the issue during the state Assembly session. The incident occurred on December 10 when Kamalavva, a resident of Vantamuri village, was dragged outside and stripped naked. She was paraded naked and tied to an electric pole and assaulted after her son eloped with a girl from the village. The family members of the girl, infuriated by this, unleashed terror on the boy's mother. The Karnataka High Court strongly criticized the Congress government for the failure of the police department to prevent the incident. The bench, headed by Chief Justice P.B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, remarked on December 14, "What will be the fear among other women? She will feel unsafe in the country. It did not even happen in Mahabharata. Draupadi had Lord Krishna who came up to help her, but in the modern world, no one came to help her. Unfortunately, this is a world of Duryodhanas and Dushyasanas."

They Call It Marketing!

Vinod Mirani

What we need in the film industry is writers who can turn out a decent script that appeals to all classes of the audience. That has not happened, so the makers have to keep devising new gimmicks to promote a film. Isn't the star power good enough?

Really speaking, films never needed marketing because they have a ready and keen viewership and, still, new-generation whizkids try to deviate from the traditional and foolproof promotion strategies and come up with complicated ideas to promote a film that serve no purpose.

The recent one is about how the promos or trailers are released on digital platforms before a film's release.

As if calling these trailers promos or trailers was not enough, now they are named in a manner that they coincide with a film's theme or title! Oh, yes, they were also called teasers for some time.

The trailers of 'Dunki' starring Shah Rukh Khan, for instance, are titled Drop 1, Drop 2 and so on! It seems the film is about illegal migration in countries such as the UK and the US and the activity is described as 'donkey flights' in the North. This is also known as 'kabutarbazi' in some sections.

'Dunki' is yet to release and the connection of naming or ranking the trailers as a series of 'Drops' with the film's story remains unclear so far. The tragedy is that those unaware of this bright idea but searching for promos of 'Dunki' on YouTube will still have to type in the keywords 'Dunki promo'!

I don't know who thought of this idea because you may publicise a film, but how will you tell people that when you look for 'Dunki' promos, look for Drop 1 and so on!

'Dunki', though, is not the only one to have people with such grand ideas. There are quite a few other films being promoted this way. I have often mentioned 'bhed chaal' in the film industry. If one filmmaker does or tries to do something different, others follow him and make it a trend.

The 'Jawan' trailer was launched as a Prevue. The 'Pathan' trailer as 'Pathan ka conversation' and Tiger 3 as 'Tiger ka message'; for the 'Dream Girl' trailer the name was 'Pooja ka kiss'. Films such as 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', all followed and dubbed their promos as something or the other. Did it help?

The thing is that the number of hits on promos released on YouTube are seen by many more people than those who watch the movie. So, hits on an online promo are not a measure of viewers attracted to the cinemas and, hence, nothing to



gloat about. What worked when there was no Internet and no social media? They relied on street publicity. Posters of varied sizes -- 30"x40" or six sheeters (5'x10') and so on -- were plastered all over the cities. There were no radio jingles yet, forget television. The big attractions in those days, though, were trailers played in the cinemas. These promos were so exciting that people going for a movie made sure they reached in time so as not to miss the trailer of the forthcoming film. They just about summed up an upcoming film in three minutes with onscreen captions such as Drama, Romance, Music, Emotions, Comedy and Action. The prospective viewers instantly decided if they were going to catch that film.

The Internet and social media are not devised to spread lies or deceive. What good are these hits on an X post or YouTube promo because it is common knowledge that an army of bots are engaged to produce these hits. What are the cinema chains doing in the name of marketing? On Monday, the fourth day after the release of 'Animal', they took prospective spectators who came to the booking window by surprise when the admission rates were hiked suddenly and arbitrarily from Rs 150 to Rs 300 out of the blue in a matter of minutes.

By the way, the online booking site still claimed that Rs 150 was the rate and the booking chart showed an almost empty house. There were some unhappy people at the booking window and they made sure the video went viral. This was contrary to the normal practice of reducing admission rates on the Monday or Tuesday after a film's release.

Now, is this any way of attaining the set target, which nowadays is anything between Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,000 crore? I think it is easier to fake figures on social media like it is done with the figures of all the major films lately, instead of cheating people with ad hoc admission rate hikes. Suppose a young lad had somehow put together Rs 300 for two tickets to take his girlfriend out on a movie date, but comes to the cinema to learn that he cannot afford the revised rates. It would be awkward for him and a real let-down!

India's "first cinema with bar and lounge". So what?

Multiplexes have food plazas and, if you order, the snacks are delivered to your seat. And they are located within the cinema lobby. As for the lounge and bar, it is not the same as a food plaza and can't serve alcohol at your seat. It is just another facility attached to the property.

Publicising it as a multiplex with a bar is misleading. Airports have bars and lounges, but you cannot carry your drink to the flight. At least not in India. BKC is a purely commercial area with few residential buildings. More residential properties are still in the development stage and the present population of the area would not be more than 80,000. The area gets so deserted post office hours that even transport is hard to find.

Being in a commercial area, lounges and bars may still attract patrons who wish to discuss business or unwind over an after-office drink or two! The same cannot be assured for this six-screen multiplex.

Now, PVR's newly acquired property at the Jio World Plaza in BKC, Mumbai, boasts of being

international

Military offensive in Gaza to continue: Israeli leaders to US NSA

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Israeli leaders have told US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Israel will continue its military offensive in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza Strip, despite the international calls for a ceasefire.

Sullivan was in Israel on Thursday for meetings with officials as the US voiced its concerns about the rising civilian casualties in the continued Israeli strikes on Gaza.

Speaking to the press alongside Sullivan, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that the war against Hamas "will require a long period -- it will last more than several months", Xinhua news agency reported.



The two met in the Israeli Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv to discuss the Israeli offensive in Gaza, its border conflict with Lebanon, and dozens of

on Israeli-linked ships as well as Eilat, an Israeli resort city on the shore of the Red Sea, Gallant said that Israel will support "international efforts in countering naval threats and will defend itself against any threat."

Later, Sullivan met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thanked the US for its "support for Israel in the supply of munitions, in blocking the attempts at the UN to stop the fighting, and in the assistance in returning our hostages".

Sullivan said that Israel has "the support of the United States as you take on this terrorist threat".

I don't think Trump is right person to be President right now: Haley

Washington | Agencies

Indian-American Nikki Haley, who has emerged as a strong contender in the Republican presidential primary race, doesn't think her rival Donald Trump is the right person to be President at the moment.

During the fourth Republican debate on December 6, Haley, the former South Carolina Governor, did not answer whether Trump is fit to be PPresident, but she told ABC News that it is not about fitness but rather Trump is just not the right person to be President right now.

"It's not about fitness. I think he's fit to be President. It's 'Should he be President?' I don't think he should be President. I thought he was the right President at the right time," Haley said in an interview that was aired on Monday.

"We've got to look at the issues that we're dealing with, coming forward with new solutions, not focusing on negativity and baggage of the past. So it's not about being fit. It's just I don't think he's the right per-



son to be President," she said. Trump maintains an unprecedented lead over his rivals in both early state and national polls, with 61 per cent of self-identified Republicans saying they would vote for the former President in the state-by-state nominating contest, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll. Haley, who served as Trump's UN ambassador for

his policies, but chaos follows him. Rightly or wrongly, chaos follows him. We can't afford four more years of chaos and survive it," Haley told CNN.

However, at the first Republican debate, Haley had indicated that she would support her former boss as their party's nominee for the 2024 race even if he was convicted of a felony.

"I'm not going to be 100 per cent with him. I'm not going to be 100 per cent against him. It's not personal for me. This is about what's right for the country," she told ABC.

"This is about how we're going to lead. This is about the direction we should go. It's not about the personal thoughts of an individual. It's about the fact that we have a country to save."

Haley recently got a big edge in the presidential race with an endorsement from New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu.

He called her "the candidate with the momentum to win and get our party back on track to delivering conservative victories across the country".

Indian-origin hotel owners arrested in US for 'hiding' fugitives

New York | Agencies

Two Indian-origin hotel owners have been arrested in the US state of Tennessee for allegedly lying to the police about the whereabouts of fugitives whom they hid inside their building.

Dakshaben Patel and Harshil Patel, who own the Super 8 and Mountain Inn in Monteagle, were each charged with felony on Wednesday for making false reports to police officers during an investigation on July 18, Fox News reported.

The Monteagle Police Department said their officers had been conducting surveil-



lance on the rear of the hotel due to "high drug transition" in the area. They spotted two individuals on the bal-

cony, and identified them as having felony warrants out of Franklin County.

Officers chased the wanted suspects on foot and quickly took them into custody. After interrogation, investigators found that the hotel had a "hide out room on the corner of the building" and determined that was where the fugitives had been living, police said.

"Both Patel subjects had been advised multiple times about the wanted suspects and had lied to officers about their residence at the hotel," the department said in a release.

Yemen's Houthi militia claims attack on Israel-bound cargo ship in Red Sea

Sanaa | Agencies

The Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen has claimed a drone attack on an Israel-bound cargo ship in the Red Sea, amid increasing tensions in the region since the Israel-Hamas war erupted on October 7.

"The military operation against the Mersik Gebrlater container vessel that was heading to Israel was precise and caused damage to the ship," Xinhua news agency quoted Houthi military spokesman Yehya Sarea as saying in a statement late Thursday.

"The attack came after the ship's crew refused to respond to the call of our naval forces,"



he said. The spokesman claimed that Houthis had successfully prevented the passage of several other Israel-bound foreign ships during the past 48 hours.

Strip," Sarea added.

This was the latest in a series of anti-Israel attacks claimed by the Houthis since October 7.

On Tuesday, the militia group said they launched a missile at a Norwegian ship loaded with oil that was heading to Israel in the Red Sea.

On November 19, the Houthi fighters hijacked a commercial ship, Galaxy Leader, in the Red Sea and brought it to the port city of Hodeidah.

The Houthis have been in control of much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah since the Yemeni civil war broke out in late 2014.

Finland closes border crossing points with Russia again

Helsinki | Agencies

The Finnish government announced that it will close the crossing points at its land border with Russia once again, from Friday evening until January 14, 2024.

Following an earlier two-week complete closure, Finland on Thursday had opened two southeasterly crossings, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to Minister of the Interior Mari Rantanen, the



arrival of asylum seekers resumed immediately, and the phenomenon was accelerating. She told reporters that the situation on the eastern border creates a national security risk. The two crossings that opened on Thursday, Vaalimaa and Niirala, will close on Friday evening at 8 p.m. All land border crossings to Russia will remain closed until January 14, 2024. Finland shares a 1,340 km border with Russia, Europe's longest.



CENTRE'S GUIDELINES ON NEW COVID-19 VARIANT IMPLEMENTED IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said his government has implemented guidelines issued by the Centre in connection with a new variant of COVID-19, amid an uptick in the viral infection cases in some states.

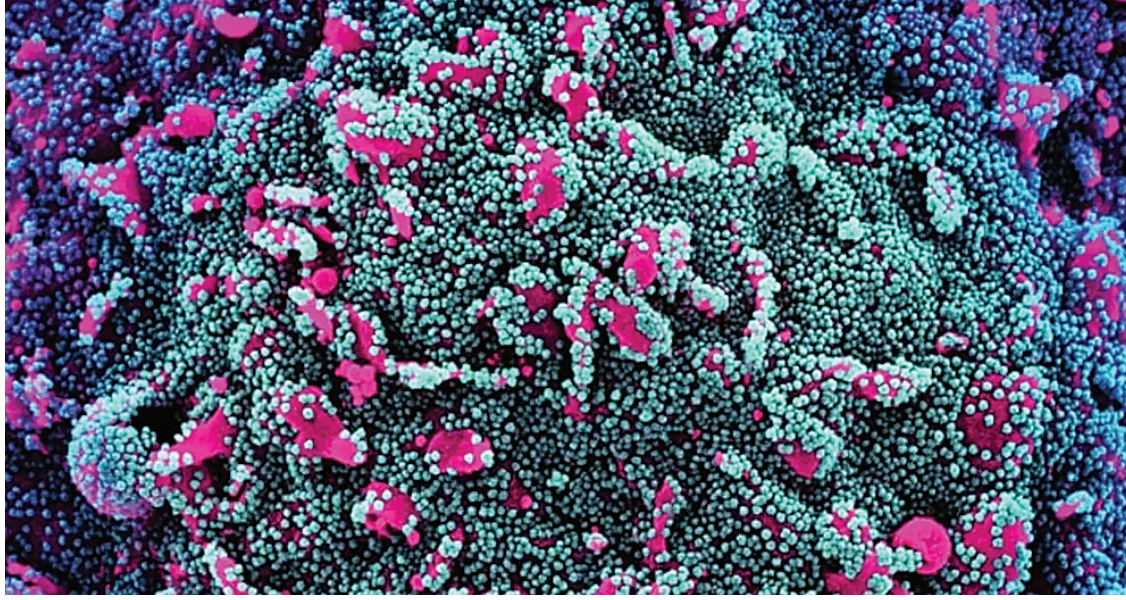
Yadav on Monday night visited Hamidia Hospital, the largest state government hospital in Bhopal, to take stock of the arrangements.

"The health department is working with full efficiency to deal with COVID-19 as well as all other diseases," Yadav told reporters after visiting the medical facility.

"We have implemented guidelines issued by the Centre regarding a new variant of COVID-19 in the entire state," he said.

Yadav said the country got victory over the pandemic earlier also under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister also interacted with the attendants of patients during the visit to the hospital.

On Monday, the Centre asked states and Union Territories to maintain constant vigil amid the rise in COVID-19 cases and the detection of



the first case of the new JN.1 variant in the country.

India's first case of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 was detected in Kerala on December 8. Earlier, a traveller from Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli district tested positive for the JN.1 variant in Singapore. In a letter to states and Union Territories, Union Health

Secretary Sudhanshu Pant has underlined that "due to consistent and collaborative actions between the Centre and state governments, we have been able to sustain the (COVID-19) trajectory at sustainable low rates".

"However, as the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate and its epidemiology behaviour gets settled

with Indian weather conditions and circulation of other usual pathogens, it is important to keep the momentum going to effectively deal with the challenges in public health," he said.

Recently, a few states like Kerala have reported a slight increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, Mr Pant noted.

In Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Nehru out, Ambedkar in, Congress protests

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The new BJP government in Madhya Pradesh held its first Assembly session Monday and triggered a row after a portrait of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was swapped out for one of the late Dr BR Ambedkar. It was one of two behind the Speaker's Chair; the other is of Mahatma Gandhi.

The change has prompted protests from the Congress. The opposition party said it had no objection to a photograph of Dr Ambedkar in the Assembly, but would not accept the removal of Nehru's portrait.

The Congress accused its rival of "working day and night to erase history". A spokesperson said the party "condemns the removal of Nehruji's photograph", and that it revealed the BJP's "mentality". The party demanded the portrait be re-installed "immediately... otherwise we will do it at the same place".

Assembly officials have said the swap took place in July, on the orders of then Speaker Girish Gautam; the four-time MLA from Deotalab noted the portrait needed repair and had it shifted to another room.

"The poster was in bad shape... so the then Speaker decided to replace it in July... we have a Gandhi-Nehru room in the assembly so the picture of the first Prime Minister was placed there," AP Singh, the Principal Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, told NDTV in response to the row.

The picture was, therefore, changed earlier but this only came to light this week, after the new Assembly took its seat for the four-day



inaugural session, which includes swearing-in of MLAs. Nevertheless, the Congress' Umang Singh has accused the BJP of playing "cheap politics". "The BJP wants the Congress to appear anti-Dalit... this is their thinking. They do not want to talk on the issues of the state," he said, "When the time comes, you will also see the picture of (Nathuram) Godse (the man who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi). There should not be such cheap politics."

The full-length photo on the right side of the Speaker's Chair is that of Gandhi.

The BJP has hit back through former education minister Inder Singh Parmar, who accused the Congress of spreading "misconceptions". "Congress cannot think of anything except Nehru family. We want to tell them Nehru's philosophy is different from that of the country," he declared.

"Ambedkar's contribution is many times more than Nehru's contribution."

The first session of the Assembly began with pro-tem Speaker Gopal Bhargava administering the oath to the new MLAs. The session also saw the Congress' Umang Singh, who won the Gandhinagar seat, elected Leader of the Opposition.

BJP showed small mentality by removing Nehru's picture: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has termed the removal of the picture of the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru along with Mahatma Gandhi behind the Speaker's chair in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly as a small mentality of the BJP. Kamal Nath wrote on Twitter, "Removing the portrait of the great freedom fighter, country's first Prime Minister and nation builder Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from the Madhya Pradesh Assembly is extremely condemnable. I welcome the installation of the portrait of Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the Assembly. Baba Saheb's portrait could have been placed at a place of honor in the Assembly. But, Pandit Nehru's portrait was deliber-



ately removed."

Referring to what he had said earlier, he said, "I want to remind that I had announced that if the Congress government is formed in Madhya Pradesh, the biggest statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar will be installed. If the BJP government is actually if she wanted to respect Dr. Ambedkar, she too would have taken the ini-

tiative to install the biggest statue of Baba Saheb in the state, and not show her small mentality by removing Pt. Nehru's picture."

Kamal Nath demanded that the portrait of Pandit Nehru be installed with respect in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly and the construction of the tallest statue of Dr. Ambedkar in the state should be started.

Meat and fish markets will be built in urban areas in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The government has banned the sale of meat and fish in the open market in Madhya Pradesh. The process of action against shops operating against rules is continuing. In such a situation, the Chief Minister of the state, Dr. Mohan Yadav has given instructions to create separate markets for the sale of meat and fish in urban bodies.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has told the Urban Development and Housing Department that the state government has imposed a ban on open sale of meat and fish. To ensure that their vendors do not face any problem, urban bodies should necessarily construct buildings for the meat-fish market. Until the buildings are constructed, a place for selling meat and fish should be earmarked and arrangements for temporary sheds should be ensured immediately. This facility should be made available in urban bodies as well as big rural panchayats.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that necessary plants should be set up using latest technology to ensure that water from Kanh River reaches Kshipra River only after purification. In this regard, instructions were also given to immediately organize a



joint meeting of the Water Resources and Urban Development and Housing Departments. The Chief Minister has said that the rules and procedures of building permission and compounding should be simplified. The rules should be clear and simple, which the common man can easily understand and he should not face any problem. A common person builds a house once in his life, arrangements for building permission etc. should be made in such a way that he does not get troubled and the work is done within the stipulated time. Arrangements for quick passing of maps from urban bodies should be ensured. Assess the software related to building

permits and find out how many days, on an average, building permits are being issued at present.

The Chief Minister said that permission should also be obtained from urban bodies for the construction of government buildings. All the agencies involved in the construction of government buildings including Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, Development Authority, Housing Board, Tourism, take building permission and take mandatory care of building line, open space, parking etc. during construction. Effective action should be ensured in the field of TDR and TOD so that residents get facilities and better planning of cities can also be ensured.

Principal Secretary of Urban Development and Housing Department, Neeraj Mandloi informed that Madhya Pradesh has been first in the country in Smart City Mission 1.0. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and PM Swanidhi Yojana.

Along with this, the state is included among the leading states of the country in AMRUT 1.0, Swachh Bharat Mission 1.0 and DE-NULM. In the presentation, the progress of the ongoing capital schemes for urban infrastructure development like Kayakalp, Master Plan Road, Smart City, Unity Mall etc. was informed.

CELEBRATION OF 'WORLD AIDS FORTNIGHT' BY AIIMS BHOPAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

'World AIDS Fortnight' was observed by AIIMS Bhopal from 1st to 15th December 2023. Under the dynamic leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director and able guidance of Dr. Debasis Biswas, Prof. and Head, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS Bhopal various programmes were organized during the fortnight. The theme for this year was 'Let Communities Lead'.

Throughout fortnight, HIV awareness activities were conducted at AIIMS Bhopal and in the community. At AIIMS Bhopal, Nukkad Natak was performed by MBBS students, 2022 batch and Nursing students to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among the general public and patients. Mrs. Sarojmani Nandey, Mr. Arun Vishwakarma, Mr. Jais Raj Bhargav [Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) staff] and Priyanka Waghmare, Ratna Bachley [Sampoorna Surksha Kendra (SSK) staff] conducted awareness drive for the patients and



their attendees who visited ICTC centre during the fortnight. Dr. Shashwati Nema, Additional Professor, Microbiology conducted an interactive session for MBBS students on prevention of blood and body fluid exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis.

Community outreach activities were organized at Navin Public Higher Secondary Government School, AIIMS Bhopal construction site, Anganwadi, and Peripheral health centers by departmental faculties and ICTC/SSK staff. During HIV awareness camps at these sites students, migrants/labors, pregnant women, patients and their attendees were educated about the transmission, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Quiz, poster and slogan-making competitions were organized for students of the adolescent age group.

IEC material was distributed to all the attendees of the awareness camp. More than 2000 participants were benefited from the awareness activities organized by the Department of Microbiology during fortnight.

Shivraj met Nadda in Delhi, discussed new role

Team Absolute | Bhopal | New Delhi

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan is in New Delhi on Tuesday on the call of the national leadership of BJP and he also met the party's national president JP Nadda. There is talk that Chauhan's role in the party may be decided.

Bharatiya Janata Party registered a big victory in the assembly elections held in the state and Mohan Yadav was given the responsibility of Chief Minister in place of Chauhan. While leaving the post, former Chief Minister Chauhan had said that I will not go to Delhi to ask for anything for myself, it would be better for me to die than this.

Former Chief Minister Chauhan, while discussing with reporters yesterday, had accepted that the National President had called him to Delhi. Later it was changed and Chauhan reached Delhi on Tuesday. He met National



President Nadda. This meeting is being considered very important politically. Cabinet expansion is proposed in the state in the coming days, and Lok Sabha elections are also in the coming time. There is a strong discussion in the political circles that a decision can be taken on the role of Chauhan in the coming times, and the party can hand over a big responsibility to him and a decision in this regard can be taken soon.

Dr. Govind Singh announced not to contest elections

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former MLA from Lahar Assembly seat of Madhya Pradesh and senior Congress leader Dr. Govind Singh has announced not to contest the assembly elections. He also blamed the alleged malfunction in EVMs for the defeat in the assembly elections. In the gratitude meeting organized at the Pharmacy College of Lahar yesterday, Singh said that the people of the area should not be disappointed. As long as we are there, we will stand at your service day and night.

I will never turn my back on the people of the area. Singh said that he will fight with all his might against the injustice being done to the public and will extend full support. The people of Lahar made me MLA for 33 years. Due to the love of the public, he was a minister of three departments and was also the leader of opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly. I don't want anything more than this, now I will not even contest legislative elections. Dr. Govind Singh held EVMs responsible for his defeat. Dr. Singh said that now not by becoming an MLA but by becom-



ing Govind Singh of the year 1980, I will take to the streets and protest against the atrocities being committed on the people. Dr. Singh said that now I also believe that elections are being won by tampering with the machines. Because when everyone was saying that BJP has gone and Congress government will come, then Home Minister Amit Shah had said that more than 160 seats will come and 163 seats have come, which means clearly that elections are being won only by rigging the machines. Dr. Singh said that he will never let the workers get frustrated and disappointed. Dr. Singh said that we will also work with the leader whomever you people choose from among you.

KGMU seeks help from AIIMS Bhopal to set up paediatric trauma section

Team Absolute | Lucknow/Bhopal

The King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow has approached AIIMS, Bhopal to start paediatric trauma section at KGMU.

A knowledge sharing plan is being worked upon where resident doctors will visit Bhopal and learn how the paediatric trauma emergency works over there.

Prof. Ajai Singh, director of AIIMS, Bhopal, who was here recently, said, that up to 35 per cent of serious injuries among children remain overlooked, leading to greater trouble and even permanent disability later on.

"Internationally over 25 per cent paediatric injuries are missed, but in our country the ratio is 35 per cent. This is because we lack focus on injuries among children and often



lack of training to identify such injuries makes the job tough," said Prof. Singh.

"Paediatric trauma cases need a different kind of speciality/ability to diagnose the injury. Children are

unable to tell specifically and keep crying out of shock and pain, and here is the role of expert," he added.

Prof. Singh who has established India's first paediatric trauma wing at the AIIMS, Bhopal added, "Injury in a child is different than an adult. The point of swelling might not be the same as injury is. Hence learning to make diagnosis for paediatric trauma helps in better and speedy treatment."

According to Dr. Singh, the solution to the issue is not separate centres for treating paediatric trauma but separate wards and separate and trained staff.

"Available diagnostic such as X-ray, CT scan and pathology can be used. The only difference is upon reaching triage area adult and paediatric patients are to be handled by separate staff," he explained.



Jennifer Lopez, Jenifer Lewis sing together at her & Ben Affleck's holiday party



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez treated her holiday party guests with a sweet serenade. The Grammy winner, 54, was joined by party guest Jenifer Lewis for a special rendition of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'.

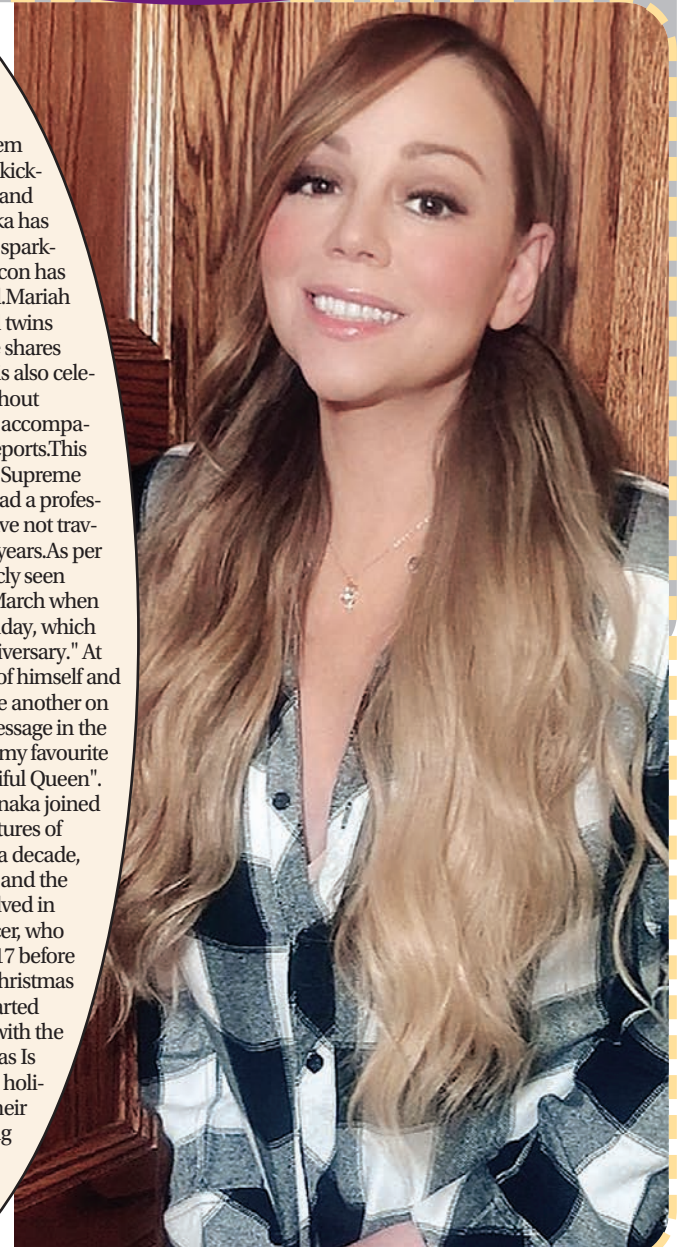
JLo and her husband, Ben Affleck, threw a star-studded Christmas bash at their home in Los Angeles, with Lewis, 66, Margot Robbie, Michael B. Jordan and Lily Rabe among the many guests in attendance, reports.

During the celebration, Jennifer sang the Christmas classic alongside the 'Hustlers' star. "There was so much love in the room," Lewis wrote on X (formerly known as Twitter) after a video of the performance circulated. "Great party baby girl. Happy Holidays Everybody." As per People, in the video, the two can be seen embracing behind a grand piano and a smaller keyboard. Lopez kept her arms wrapped around the Sister Act actress as the two sang together. "They threw a really fun party," a source said. The insider shared that JLo led the partygoers into singing Christmas carols late into the night. While Lopez and Affleck were meeting with friends separately while also hosting, the source went on to say: "They were both in such good spirits." The house was decorated in holiday decor with a huge Christmas tree at the entrance. "The kids were all there dancing and having a great time, especially the twins and Violet," added the source. This is Affleck and Lopez's second holiday season together after marrying in 2022. They were engaged in 2003 and 2004, and reconnected romantically in 2021.

Mariah Carey, Bryan Tanaka seemingly split after 7 years

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Mariah Carey and Bryan Tanaka seem to have called it quits. Since kicking off her Merry Christmas One and All! tour in mid-November, Tanaka has been absent from Carey's shows, sparking fan speculation that the pop icon has split from her longtime boyfriend. Mariah Carey, who's mom to 12-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe (who she shares with ex-husband Nick Cannon), is also celebrating the holidays in Aspen without Tanaka, 40, who has traditionally accompanied her to the snowy getaway, reports. This marks the first time the Songbird Supreme and creative director, who have had a professional relationship since 2006, have not travelled together for the holidays in years. As per People, the couple was last publicly seen spending time together back in March when the hitmaker celebrated her birthday, which she prefers to refer to as her "anniversary." At the time, Tanaka shared a photo of himself and Carey smiling and embracing one another on Instagram and shared a sweet message in the caption. He wrote: "This is one of my favourite pictures. Ever. Happy Anniversary my Beautiful Queen". The couple first connected in 2006 when Tanaka joined the superstar out on the road on her Adventures of Mimi tour. Then after working together for a decade, the 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' singer and the choreographer became romantically involved in 2016. "The 'Obsessed' singer and the dancer, who briefly broke up for a period in spring 2017 before reuniting, have toured and celebrated Christmas together in some capacity since they started dating. In 2017, Tanaka took the stage with the star during her All I Want for Christmas Is You shows and spent the December holiday with her and her children on their annual Aspen trip. Between hitting the slopes, Carey even took to Instagram to share adorable photos from their festivities together.



CHRISTOPHER NOLAN: 'OPPENHEIMER' IS LITERALLY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FILM I'VE EVER MADE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Christopher Nolan explains why the Cillian Murphy-starrer 'Oppenheimer' is his most successful film to date.

He also talked about the movie business. The filmmaker struck box office gold with 'Oppenheimer' this year. Nolan is now looking back at the year and giving his take on the cinema landscape as of now.

"I've just made a three-hour film about Robert Oppenheimer, which is R-rated and half in black-and-white - and it made a billion dollars. Of course I think films are doing great," Nola said in an interview with

Empire. "The crazy thing is that it's literally the most successful film I've ever made." He continued: "I've been doing this for 20 years and in the United Kingdom, it's my highest-grossing film. So, I feel great about the state of the movie business based on my own experience. But also based on seeing other movies break out, seeing audiences come back." Nolan is frequently asked to give his opinion on the Hollywood industry. Having directed superhero movies in the past with The Dark Knight trilogy, he is often queried about the reliance on this genre in more recent years versus other types of films. Nolan feels the industry needs a good balance of all types of movies to keep it moving.

JONATHAN MAJORS DROPPED BY MARVEL AFTER FOUND GUILTY IN ASSAULT CASE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jonathan Majors is said to have been fired by Marvel after he was found guilty of harassing and assaulting his ex-girlfriend Grace Jabbari.

The 'Creed III' star, was being lined up as one of the future leading faces of the superhero movie studio, but has reportedly been dropped by bosses after a jury delivered the verdicts on Monday, December 18, reports. It was reported that just after the finding was reached in court that a "source close to the studio" said it had "parted ways with Jonathan Majors," as per Variety.

The actor had been cast to play Kang, the central antagonist in the Multiverse Saga of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

He has been convicted of two misdemeanor counts of harassment and assault of his ex-partner Grace. Majors was also found not guilty of one count of intentional assault in the third degree and one count of aggravated harassment in the second degree. The actor was arrested on March 25 on assault and harassment charges, after Grace accused him of assaulting her in the backseat of a private car after she took his phone to read a text message he had received from another woman. She reported the star forcefully took his phone back from her, causing an "excruciating" injury to her right middle finger. And she said when she got out of the car Majors hit her on the back of her head and then tried to force her back into the car, causing a



cut behind her right ear. Majors denied he assaulted Grace and his defense team alleged she was the aggressor when she took his phone. During the actor's nearly two-week trial, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office released a series of texts between him and Grace, as well as an audio recording that was used as evidence. It included messages in which Majors seemingly attempted to persuade Grace not to go to hospital following a head injury and another in which the actor threatened suicide. In the audio, Majors tells Grace she needs to act like Corretta Scott King and Michelle Obama, because he's "a great man" who is "doing great things, not just for me, but for my culture and the world."

Julia Roberts talks about her idea for 'Pretty Woman' sequel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Julia Roberts believes her 'Pretty Woman' co-star Richard Gere's character Edward died after the end of the film. Roberts in the 1990 film played a prostitute named Vivienne opposite Gere, who essayed a businessman called Edward. He falls in love with her and helps her get off the street. "I think he (Edward) passed away peacefully in his sleep from a heart attack, smiling. And now she runs his business," she said on CBS Mornings.

The actors reunited almost a decade later to film 1999's 'Runaway Bride' and Roberts said the couple in that movie get a happier



ending, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The host asked: "(Your character) Maggie literally rides off into the sunset with Richard Gere after leaving four other men at the altar. What happens to her?" The actress then replied: "They stay together. He doesn't die in this one. They're going to stay together." Asked about her movie star character from 'Notting Hill', who fell for a bookstore owner played by Hugh Grant, Roberts said: "She's retired. She has six children and has maintained her waist size amazingly. Anna has also traded glamorous film sets for quiet days behind a shop counter." (William) runs the bookshop still and now there's a little knitting annex next to the bookshop that (Anna) runs."

Taylor Swift booed by US football fans as she cheers on boyfriend

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Taylor Swift was booed by American football fans as she cheered on boyfriend Travis Kelce.



Swift was booed by New England fans at Sunday's Chiefs vs. Patriots game as she cheered on boyfriend Travis Kelce and she handled the situation. "Gillette Stadium is the most joyful place on Earth" - Taylor Swift, a message on the Jumbotron read, before a wave of boos poured out around the stadium, reports.

In response, Swift, 34, kept it cool by smiling, waving and blowing a kiss to the audience, according to a video shared on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In her Time 2023 Person of the Year interview earlier this month, Swift opened up about the impact she's made on the NFL and the newfound attention as she cheers on Kelce, also 34, at his games.

"I don't know how they know what suite I'm in. There's a camera, like, a half-mile away, and you don't know where it is, and you have no idea when the camera is putting you in the broadcast, so I don't know if I'm being shown 17 times or once," she said. But "I'm just there to support Travis," the 'Blank Space' hitmaker added. "I have no awareness of if I'm being shown too much and pissing off a few dads, Brads and Chads." Her appreciation for the game itself has also evolved since she and Kelce began dating. "Football is awesome, it turns out," Swift said. "I've been missing out my whole life."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lily James



BIG B JOINS ISPL AS THE OWNER OF MUMBAI TEAM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was most recently seen in the Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon-starrer 'Ganapath: A Hero is Born', has now become the owner of Mumbai team in the first edition of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

The senior actor took to his social media to announce his association with the league. Sharing a picture of himself alongside Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, he wrote in the caption, "What an exciting and most noble, filled with

courage and care, concept, the initiation of the ISPL - the Street Premier league."

"An opportunity for them that exhibited their capacity on the streets, gullies and make shift home made pitches to play cricket, now to get selected for a team professionally and exhibit their talent in formal setups before the millions the world over. For me an honour and a privilege to be with Mumbai as Team Owner, and to be privy to the surge of talent erupt, for a grand visionary future (sic)," he added. The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium. It will feature 19 matches, with a line-up of six

teams - Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar. Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar owns the Srinagar team in the league.



ARSHAD WARSI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF 'MUNNABHAI MBBS', SHARES INCIDENT FROM RECENT SHOOT WITH SANJU BABA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Arshad Warsi, who recently narrated the streaming series 'Choonaa', is celebrating 20 years of his iconic film 'Munnabhai MBBS'. The actor shared a recent incident when he and Sanjay Dutt shot for a project and the whole unit was just in awe of them as they donned their iconic costumes of Munna and Circuit.

Arshad's character of Circuit has become a cult over the years and sets the biggest example of friendship goals as his chemistry with Munna is the stuff of legends. One could even feel a void when Munna and Circuit have a misunderstanding in 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai', and the scene where Munna reluctantly says sorry to Circuit brings tears in everyone's eyes.

Walking down the memory lane, Arshad said: "I cannot believe it has been 2 decades. Circuit is a very special character for me, it is very close to my heart." The actor also took to his Instagram to share an image from 'Munnabhai MBBS' as he wrote in the caption, "20 years, wow, seems like yesterday... I thank you all for loving Munna & Circuit so much."

He even shared an incident: "After many years we went back on the sets of a project and it was shocking, the whole unit could not believe it, they wanted to take pictures with us because we were in our costumes as Munna and Circuit."

"It was flattering to see the new young generation and the old ones identify with us and take pictures. Guess, that's the magic this movie has created," he added.



KJo was 'traumatised' by Amrish Puri on the sets of 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood producer-director Karan Johar, who hosts the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan', shared that he was "traumatised" by the late actor Amrish Puri while working on the iconic film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'.

KJo worked as an assistant director on the Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol-starrer 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', and he was intimidated by Amrish Puri as the latter was very particular about detailing of the scenes.

The upcoming episode of the streaming show will see Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn and director Rohit Shetty gracing the couch.

During the course of the episode, Karan reminisced about the old times, as he said: "I have to tell you, my father and Amrish ji (Amrish Puri) come from the same village, so the first per-

son my father told me whose feet I had to touch was Amrish ji's."

Ajay Devgn said: "The only person whose feet I have touched is also Amrish ji because the first shot I took with him, I touched his feet."

Karan added: "So I used to be very scared of him. When I was an AD on 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', he was particular about detailing, he would come and say ki time kya hai? I gave the time of what the time was, I thought he was asking me the time. He said, London mein time kya hai? scene ka time kya hai? Taaki mein ghadi ko uss time mein set karu. About the continuity, he said, shawl kis tarah mein drape karun, I used to be traumatised by him. He was such a wonderful man." Talking about Amrish Puri, Ajay Devgn said: "They used to say, and it is a fact, that kisi ke ghar pe shaadi ho, kisi ke ghar pe koi death ho jaaye, he was the first man to be there."

AKSHAY KUMAR'S 'MISSION RANIGANJ' GETS NUMBER ONE SPOT AS MOST WATCHED FILM GLOBALLY THIS WEEK



Mumbai: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar's disaster-thriller film 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue', directed by Tinnu Suresh Desai, has got the global top position on Netflix.

The film is produced by Pooja Entertainment known for their commercial blockbusters at the box-office. It has claimed the number one spot in the globally most watched films segment on Netflix With an astonishing 5,700,000 hours viewed and a whopping 2,500,000 views. Talking about the same, actor Jacky Bhagnani said: "This film is a celebration of real-life heroism. Jaswant Singh Gill's courageous rescue mission story was waiting to be told. We at Pooja Entertainment, put all our creative might behind it to make this story come to life." The film is the retelling of the Raniganj coalfields collapse of 1989 in West Bengal, the film also stars Parineeti Chopra. The film is based on Jaswant Singh Gill, a brave and diligent mining engineer from IIT Dhanbad who rescued 65 trapped miners at the Raniganj Coalfields in 1989. Jacky added: "We are thrilled that the film continues to conquer the hearts and screens of audiences across the world. Its magnetic pull is a reminder that a great tale about heroism told well has universal appeal."

SONAM KAPOOR: BELIEVES WHATEVER IS MADE IN INDIA HAS GREAT VALUE

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor said that the West has finally realised how India can now contribute to fashion globally and she is proud to represent our country and its craftsmanship to the world.

Sonam, who was also the only Indian actor at the coronation ceremony of King Charles III, said: "I think the West didn't understand the power of our impact in this part of the world before."

"We are developing nations, but that is slowly changing, and we, as people here, have our voices as individuals and spending power as clients, making it difficult to be ignored anymore. Whenever I am at an international event, I make sure to wear from an Indian or South Asian designer."

She added: "Whenever represent India, I represent the diversity, resilience, and coexistence that the country enjoys."

Sonam strongly believes whatever is made in India has great value.

"The fact that we have such a strong cultural heritage and ancient civilisation means that whatever is made in India has great value. It's a multicultural place where people from many faiths live together in harmony, and representing that is of utmost importance."

She said: "Besides being the land of yoga and spiritualism, for which India is renowned in other parts of the world, it is also celebrated for its music and artisanal craftsmanship, the realms of jewellery and embroidery." Most notably, numerous haute couture and luxury houses have their clothing intricately embroidered in India."



Randeep Hooda hilarious birthday wish for wife Lin Laishram: 'Didn't have to run away'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Randeep Hooda, who recently tied the nuptial knot with Lin Laishram, shared a sweet message for his wife on the occasion of her birthday on Tuesday.

The actor took to his Instagram and shared heartwarming pictures of himself in the company of his wife.

In the 1st picture, he can be seen sitting on a bike with his wife. The second picture is from their reception. He wrote in the caption, "Phew, didn't

have to run away. From the highway to this way.. Happy Birthday. On a serious note, Didn't know then that life will change so much and that too for the better. I'm just grateful to you being in my life and giving it the steadiness and calmness it needed. Love always." The couple got married in a traditional Meitei ceremony in the presence of family members and a few friends on November 29 at Imphal.

Meanwhile, on the work front both Randeep and Lin are busy with their professional commitments.



Sonal Chauhan