



'LADLI BEHNA': SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN'S MASTERSTROKE IN ELECTION YEAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the BJP swept the Madhya Pradesh election, the result flying in the face of exit poll predictions, the spotlight is on the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's welfare schemes such as 'Ladli Behna' that helped BJP tap into women votes and swung the polls in its favour.

The 'Ladli Behna' scheme, aimed at making women financially independent, is being considered a masterstroke by the four-time chief minister that helped BJP seal the victory in the heartland state.

The Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behna Scheme was launched by Chief Minister Chouhan in March this year. Under the scheme, women in the 23-60 years age group receive Rs 1,000 every month in their bank accounts. This amount, the BJP has promised, will go up to Rs 3,000 gradually. The objective is to make women self-reliant and also empower them to address their health and nutrition requirements by providing them financial support.

Married women residents of Madhya Pradesh in the 23-60 years age group are eligible to avail the scheme's benefit. This includes widows, divorced and abandoned women, according to the scheme's website.

Women from families with an annual income more than Rs 2.5 lakh are not eligible for the scheme's benefits. Women who are income tax payers or whose family members



are government employees are also ineligible. Unmarried women cannot avail of the scheme either. Women whose family members are elected public representatives cannot avail the benefits. If a woman is already receiving an amount less than Rs 1,000 under any other scheme, the difference will be paid to her under the 'Ladli Behna' scheme. The scheme also stands out because the monthly instalments would only get deposited in her

account and not that of her husband or any other relative.

The 40-member team involved in implementing the scheme pulled off a Herculean task by registering 1.25 crore women under the scheme and crediting the assistance monthly in 99 per cent of the accounts, all within just 100 days. This was achieved through hundreds of camps set up for the registration. There would be long queues, but the

process would take just minutes, even in rural areas.

When the Congress announced a monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 in the run-up to the Assembly polls, the ruling BJP tweaked the 'Ladli Behna' policy and hiked the monthly amount to Rs 1,250. Chief Minister Chouhan also said this amount would be increased gradually and go up to Rs 3,000 a month.

"The Mukhya Mantra Ladli Behna Yojana has started with Rs 1,000, but it won't stop there. Your brother will keep increasing it," Mr Chouhan then said. Congress's Kamal Nath had then said this was a desperate attempt by the ruling party to save its 'sinking ship' and stressed that it won't work, but the Chief Minister was confident. Even a day after the election, Mr Chouhan said the scheme was removing all thorns from the BJP's way to victory.

Only about 40 per cent of women in the state own house/land individually or jointly. Only 38.5 women in the state have a mobile phone of their own. The number of women in the state's workforce, both in urban and rural areas, are also dismal. Against this backdrop, a scheme that puts money in their hands can potentially help them better care of themselves. 'Ladli Behna' also ensured that the amount did not go to a male relative - a system that has often been misused. The scheme worked for women and, as the results showed, for the BJP too.

Kamal Nath meets Chouhan, congratulates him for election victory



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A day after the BJP's landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, the state unit Congress head Kamal Nath met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The veteran Congress leader paid a customary visit to Chouhan at the CM's house in Shyamla Hills in Bhopal. Chouhan himself received Kamal Nath and his son and Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath.

Both the leaders had a warm meeting after a month-long heated poll campaign in

which they went hammer and tongs at each other.

Kamal Nath, who led the Congress campaign from the front, after witnessing defeat in the election on Sunday, had said that the BJP should work for the development of Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh after securing as many as 163 seats. The Congress, which was looking to come back to power, could win only 66 seats, which was 48 seats down from its 2018 tally.

The BJP improved its count as it had won 109 seats in 2018.

Saints will circumambulate Kamadgiri for public welfare in Chitrakoot

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Ram spent most of his exile period on the banks of Mandakini river in Chitrakoot. This is why Chitrakoot is a pilgrimage site. It is believed in Sanatan Dharma that one's wish is fulfilled by circumambulating Mount Kamadgiri.

Today, more than three hundred sadhus and saints of seven Akharas are going to do parikrama for public welfare. On the occasion of various festivals, lakhs of people come to take bath in Mandakini river and circumambulate Kamadgiri with the darshan of Kamtanath.

Social entrepreneur Dr. on Tuesday. Swapna Verma has organized the parikrama of



Kamadgiri. More than 300 saints and sages from seven Akharas will participate in this parikrama. It is believed that by circling the holy land of Kamdagiri in Chitrakoot, all the wishes of the people are fulfilled.

Every year lakhs of devotees reach here and circum-

ambulate Kamadgiri bare-foot. Lord Kamtanath fulfills all his wishes. There are many ancient temples on the route of Kamdagiri Parikrama and the length of this parikrama path is about five kilometers. There is a paved circumambulation route around Kamadgiri.

Congress's weak strategy strengthened Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

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If there was maximum attention on any one area in the assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, then it was Gwalior-Chambal, the reason for this is Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The election results have proved one thing that Congress's weak strategy has further strengthened Scindia.

In Gwalior-Chambal division, Congress had won 26 out of 34 assembly seats in the 2018 assembly elections and this victory was achieved when Scindia was with the Congress. When Scindia left Congress and joined BJP, the situation of BJP changed in this area.

The MLAs of both BJP and Congress became 17-17. Even though Congress and BJP are tied in the assembly by-elections. But, Congress strengthened its position in the urban body elections. The charge of this area was then with National Secretary Sudhanshu Tripathi. His activism, marches and strategy in the area were also suc-



cessful in showing their impact. Due to that, Congress won the post of mayor in Gwalior and Morena. In the recently held assembly elections, BJP has got great success in this area and has won 18 out of 34 seats. Many stalwarts of Congress have faced defeat in this area, among which Leader of Opposition Govind Singh, former minister KP Singh, Digvijay Singh's brother Laxman Singh are prominent. A Congress leader, on the condition of anonymity, has said that Congress continued to make mistakes in this area and as a result, the party had to face defeat in the assembly elections.

The officials who were active in this area for some years and used to listen to the workers, were removed and new officials were deployed. The result was that the grassroots level workers were not listened to and the leaders here were not very active due to being in contact with big leaders. Overall, BJP has achieved great success only because of the weak strategy of the party. BJP has not only become stronger, but Scindia has also benefited.

Strength of BJP organization visible in Madhya Pradesh assembly elections



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The organization of Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh has been considered to be the strongest as compared to other states of the country and this has also been proved in the recently held assembly elections.

In this election, the organization

has played an important role in everything from grassroots gathering to participation in candidate selection and taking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poor welfare campaign to the masses.

After the defeat in the 2018 assembly elections, BJP was more alert and cautious. After the defeat in the last elections, the party made major changes in the organization and handed over the command to Vishnu Dutt Sharma as the new face.

Sharma has been the organization head of BJP for the last four years and he not only made strategies to strengthen the party at the grassroots level, but was also seen roaming in small towns and villages instead of Bhopal. When the national leadership of BJP handed over the command of the state to Sharma, many questions were raised and it was being said that it would be difficult for him to keep the party running on the right path.

But as time passed, Sharma launched the campaign as per the wishes of the national leadership and the needs of the state. The party's booth expansion campaign became an example for other states. Sharma's working style started being compared to Kushabhau Thackeray's working style. Contact and communication were the great strengths of Kushabhau Thackeray and Sharma also followed this path.

Initially, Sharma did not get the support of senior leaders and he either considered it appropriate to sit at home or chose the path of protest. Despite this, the organization's vehicle started gaining momentum on its track. After Sharma became the president, a major achievement came to the party's credit - the formation of the government. Jyotiraditya Scindia had left Congress along with his supporting MLAs. Not only this, after BJP returned to power, BJP got a bumper victory in the by-elections also. Since

then all the party leaders started calling Sharma as Shubhankar.

Now assembly elections have been held and in that too the party has got a huge majority.

A senior BJP leader says that this time the party has got more support from the public than expected in this election. The main reasons behind this have been the policies of the Central Government, the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the strategy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. But the organization played a big role in taking all these things to the ground in the state. It is a different matter that some people remained angry, but the organization did not deviate from its path. The result of this is in front of all of us today. The party gave ample opportunity to new faces in the assembly elections and old ones were also fielded. Overall, the politics of coordination was clearly visible in these elections.

Clouds in four divisions of the state, drizzle may occur

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It will be cloudy in the districts of state capital Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior divisions. There may also be drizzle. Four weather systems are active at different places. Due to their effect, moisture is coming in the atmosphere. According to meteorologists, the direction of the winds also remains eastern and north-eastern. It is cloudy due to moisture coming with the winds.

According to the Meteorological Centre, at present a cyclone is forming in the upper part of the air over the Arabian Sea. A Western Disturbance has formed as a cyclone in the upper part of the air over the southern part of Haryana. A



Dronika is also associated with it. The cyclone formed over southern Rajasthan has now reached western Uttar Pradesh. It may remain cloudy in the districts of Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior divisions. There may also be drizzle. However, now there will be some increase in day temperature, while there may be some drop in night

temperature. Former senior meteorologist Ajay Shukla said that moisture is coming due to the effect of these weather systems. Apart from this, the direction of the winds remains eastern and north-eastern. Along with the winds, some moisture is also coming from the Arabian Sea. This is why clouds are formed.

KAMAL NATH CALLED A MEETING OF CANDIDATES TODAY

Bhopal: After the results of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, Congress State President Kamal Nath has called a meeting of all 230 candidates in Bhopal.

This meeting will be held in Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium. State Congress vice president and organization in-charge Rajiv Singh has said that presence of all the candidates in the meeting is mandatory. This meeting will take place at 11 o'clock. Let it be known that BJP has got a huge majority in the state assembly elections, out of 230 seats in the state, BJP has won 164 places. Whereas, Congress had to be content with winning 66 places.

Resignation sought from Kamal Nath, discord in Congress after defeat

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Senior state Congress leader and former member of Backward Classes Commission Balkaran Patel has sought resignation from former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. There is discord in the Congress after the defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections. Kamal Nath's former aide Balkaran Patel issued a letter and wrote that after the defeat in the assembly elections, Kamal Nath should immediately resign on moral grounds.

Balkaran Patel is an old friend of Kamal Nath and has been his supporter. He has been associated with Kamal Nath in state politics since the beginning. Has been with Kamal Nath since he first contested elections. A few days ago, he had expressed his displeasure over the



working style of the party to MP Nakul Nath. He has also been the former secretary of the State Congress and a member of the Spices Board of the Central Government.

On the other hand, when the results of Madhya Pradesh elections were reduced to less than 70 seats, State Congress President Kamal Nath said that in this contest of democracy, we accept the decision of the voters of the state. As an opposition party today and in future, we will stick to what is our duty. I always said that I trust the voters of Madhya Pradesh and I do so even today. We will discuss the winners and losers and draw conclusions. We congratulate the BJP and hope that the way the public has supported them and the confidence that the public has reposed in them, they will fulfill it responsibly.

THE BEAUTICIAN, SEPARATED FROM HUSBAND WAS RAPED WITH FALSE PROMISE OF MARRIAGE

Bhopal: A case of rape of a woman living separately from her husband by a young man on the pretext of marriage has come to light in Bairagarh, a suburb of the city. After the accused refused to marry, the matter reached the police.

According to the police, a 25-year-old woman living in Bairagarh area said in her complaint that due to family reasons, she lives separately from her husband and runs a boutique. Recently she had come in contact with a young man named Vikas alias Bunty Dudhani. Vikas had to visit his boutique. The accused got acquainted with her and started visiting her house. Three days ago, Vikas reached the woman's house and, taking advantage of the loneliness, forcefully made her a victim of his lust. When the woman protested, the accused lured her into marriage. After this, the accused again physically abused her the next day. When the woman asked him to marry her, Vikas first refused to marry her and then when the woman put pressure on him, Vikas beat her. After this the victim reached the police station. On her complaint, the police have registered a case against the accused under sections of rape and assault and started further investigation.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Is the party now over for Mayawati and BSP in UP?

The Bahujan Samaj Party has miserably failed to arrest its downslide in politics. The BSP failed to open its account in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and bagged just two seats in Rajasthan, negating party President chief Mayawati's claim of emerging as a 'kingmaker'. The BSP's poor performance in the state Assembly elections will have a direct impact on its fortunes in Uttar Pradesh where its graph has been rapidly sliding down since 2012. Moreover, the BSP now stands completely isolated and its stocks have further gone down after the results in four states. For Mayawati to join hands with the Congress could prove to be an uphill task since the Samajwadi Party will not accept the same and this could disturb the fragile alliance within the INDIA bloc. The BSP has fared worse than it had done in 2018 in four states where polls were held. The party polled 2.09 per cent of the votes in Chhattisgarh, 1.82 per cent in Rajasthan, 3.32 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 1.38 per cent in Telangana. Sadulpur and Bari in Rajasthan were the only seats that the BSP won this time. The BSP had polled 4.03 per cent votes and bagged six Assembly seats in Rajasthan in 2018. In Telangana, the BSP had fielded candidates on 106 Assembly seats but failed to open its account in 2018 whereas in the 2014 Assembly election, it had bagged two seats even as the BRS (then TRS) wave swept the state. Mayawati had steadfastly maintained equidistance from the two national political blocs and insisted that it would neither join the Congress-led Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

New quota cap may be Nitish's trump card against BJP in 2024 LS polls

Ajay Kumar

With the Lok Sabha elections slated to be held within six months in the country, the Mahagathbandhan government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar, put the BJP on the back foot with two major achievements. While the first feather in the Nitish Kumar Government's cap was the successful caste survey, the second was reservation up to 75 per cent for EBCs, OBCs, SCs, STs and 10 per cent quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the upper castes. Now, it looks like the leaders of the JD(U) and RJD will make strategies only on these lines to defeat the BJP and other NDA leaders. Neeraj Kumar, MLC and chief spokesperson of the JD(U) said, "EWS reservation is not implemented in 12 states of the country. I want to ask BJP leaders why there is 10 per cent reservation for EWS people in General Category in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry and in Chandigarh?" "In India the Constitution drafted by Baba saheb Ambedkar is implemented and reservation is the right of the poor of the country," Kumar said. Reacting to Neeraj Kumar's claim Arvind Kumar Singh, senior leader and spokesperson of the BJP said, "Neeraj Kumar is talking about reservation in northeastern states but he does not know that the maximum population of those states is tribal. The Narendra Modi Government has given 80 per cent reservation to them and hence the JD(U) leader talking about 10 per cent reservation in EWS General Category is just a political gimmick. "Neeraj Kumar is trying to analyse the caste equations of the entire country on the basis of Bihar which is not wise. Does the Bihar Government have the guts to give 100 per cent reservation in the state? The answer is 'no'. They cannot give 100 per cent reservation and do not have the guts to give reservation according to the populations of particular castes. "In many states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajputs come under the OBC category. Similarly, in many states Kurmi people are considered upper castes. So whatever, Neeraj Kumar is saying is not right. He is doing a political gimmick in Bihar to mislead the people and get their votes. Elections cannot be won through deceit." Why do quotas matter for the JD(U) in Bihar? In the 2020 Assembly elections, the JD(U) was



in the third position and the biggest reason for this was the fact that EBC votes were cut by leaders like Chirag Paswan. This time, too, Chirag Paswan represents Dushadh (Pasi) voters in Bihar and they have a huge population. Jitan Ram Manjhi is another leader who represents the Musahar community. Upendra Kushwaha and Samrat Choudhary represent the Koiri caste which is the core vote bank of Nitish Kumar. JD(U) leaders have limited options of intruding into the Dalit and Mahadalit vote banks and hence reservation up to 75 per cent could prove to be a trump card for Nitish Kumar in the Lok Sabha elections. The party is projecting Dalit leaders like Ashok Chaudhary and Ratnesh Sada and organising events like 'Bhim Sansad' in Patna to give a message to Dalit and Mahadalit communities that Nitish Kumar is a trusted leader for them and 75

per cent reservation is an example of it. The 10 per cent reservation in the upper caste EWS category is for the simple reason that upper caste people in Bihar are the core voters of the BJP. The state government also knows the strength of the EWS in the upper caste through the caste-based survey. So, the JD(U) is hoping that a sizeable number of the voters in the upper caste EWS would become silent voters of the JD(U) in the Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly polls in 2025. What is Nitish Kumar's biggest challenge? The biggest challenge for the Nitish Kumar government, are the people living Below the Poverty Line (BPL), as their number is very high. As per the caste-cum-economic survey, 25 per cent people under the General Category have a monthly income of Rs 6,000.

While 23 per cent have a monthly income between Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000 and 19 per cent people have incomes between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000, almost 16 per cent of the population has an income between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 9 per cent people have an income of more than Rs 50,000. In Other Backward Castes, 33 per cent people have a monthly income of Rs 6000 and 29 per cent of them have a monthly income between Rs 6000 to 10,000, while 18 per cent have an income between Rs 10,000 to 20,000 and 10 per cent people have an income between Rs 20,000 to 50,000 and 4 per cent of them have income above Rs 50,000 per month. In Extremely Backward Castes (EBC), 33 per cent earn Rs 6000 per month, 32 per cent people have an income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000, while 18 per cent get between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 and 8 per cent earn between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and just 2 per cent have income above Rs 50,000 per month. In the Scheduled Castes, 42 per cent people earn Rs 6000 per month, 29 per cent people have income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000 monthly, 15 per cent people have income between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 while 5 per cent people have income between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 1 per cent people have income over 50,000 per month. In the Scheduled Tribes, 42 per cent people have income of Rs 6000 per month, 25 per cent have income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000 and 16 per cent have income between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 while 8 per cent earn between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 2.53 per cent get over Rs 50,000 per month in Bihar. An expert's take: Dr Sanjiv Mishra, former Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, CBIC, Union Finance Ministry, said, "The recent caste-cum-economic survey indicates that a large number of people in every category, including upper castes, EBCs, OBCs, SCs and STs have a monthly income of up to Rs 6,000 per month. How will a family live in just Rs 6,000? "The state government needs to present a blueprint of how it will enhance the earnings of individuals. I also want to point out that the state GDP in 2011-12 was 2.57 per cent and it has increased to 2.75 per cent in the last 10-11 years. So, the picture is gloomy here and it needs serious thinking on how to implement policies for the betterment of the common people of Bihar, especially the BPL category."

international

Israel determined to eliminate Hamas all around the world: Top official

Jerusalem | Agencies Israel is determined to eliminate the Hamas militant group from all over the world even if it takes years, chief of the intelligence Shin Bet agency Ronen Bar said. Shin Bet, also known as the Israeli Security Agency, is the Jewish nation's domestic security agency, tasked with combating terrorism. "The cabinet set us a goal. In the words of the street, it is to eliminate Hamas. And we are determined to do it. This is our Munich. Everywhere: in Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Qatar, everywhere," CNN quoted the Shin Bet chief as saying in a recording aired by Israel's public broadcaster Kan on Sunday. Bar's mention of Munich is a reference to the events on September 5, 1972, during the Munich Olympics when two Israelis were killed and nine were taken hostage by the members of Black September, a Palestinian terrorist movement demanding the release of political prisoners by the Israeli government. "It will take a few years, but we will be there to do it. The security responsibility is ours. Our duty is to provide both security and a sense of security. Unfortunately, on October 7 we were unable to do it.



"I think we are on the rise. We are not waiting. We are already drawing our lessons from the events," he added. The Shin Bet chief's remarks came as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced on Sunday night that it was expanding its ground operations to the whole of the Gaza Strip. "The IDF is resuming and expanding the ground operation against Hamas' strongholds across the whole Gaza Strip," CNN quoted IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari as saying at a news conference. Hagari also underlined "the importance of air assistance provided by the Air Force to ground forces", saying airstrikes against

terror headquarters, weapons manufacturing facilities, terror tunnels, and rocket launching sites limit the threats posed against the ground operation. "Our policy is clear - we will forcefully strike any threat posed against our territory," he added. Israel has been bombarding Gaza as combat operations resumed following the collapse of the seven-day humanitarian truce on December 1. Since the resumption of the hostilities, the Israeli military said it struck Hamas tunnel shafts, command centres and weapons storage facilities in the besieged enclave. Between December 2 and 3, at least 316 people were killed and 664 others injured in Gaza, says the Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health. The overall death toll in Gaza since the war erupted on October 7 has increased to 15,523 as of Monday morning. According to the Ministry, 70 per cent of the total figure comprises women and children. Meanwhile, 77 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ground operations on October 7. In Israel, the casualty toll remains more than 1,200, including foreign nationals.

11 climbers die after Indonesia's most active volcano erupts

Jakarta | Agencies Eleven climbers died and some others remain missing following the eruption of Mount Merapi, the most active volcano in Indonesia located in the Sumatra Island, a rescue official said on Monday. "In the first stage, 49 climbers were found. They all survived and were taken to hospital, and some have returned home. In the second stage, we found 14 people, three survived and 11 others died," head of Padang Search and Rescue Agency Abdul Malik told Xinhua news agency. The climbers were on their way to the foot of the mountain amid the eruption.



Authorities have deployed nearly 100 people to search for a total of 75 recorded climbers. Mount Merapi, which is as high as 2,891 meters above sea level, erupted on Sunday, spewing a column of ash of 3,000

meters, spreading volcanic ash and rocks into the surrounding area. The authorities have prohibited people from being in the danger zone within a 3-km radius of the main crater. Located on the border of the provinces of Central Java and Yogyakarta, Mount Merapi has erupted regularly since 1548. A major eruption in 2010 killed 353 people and displaced over 20,000 residents. Since 2010, Merapi had experienced several smaller eruptions, most noticeably two phreatic eruptions which occurred in November 2013 and May 2018. In July this year, Merapi had erupted 16 times in just 24 hours.

Japan confirms season's 4th bird flu outbreak

Tokyo | Agencies Japan has confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a poultry farm in the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima, local media reported. The Kagoshima prefectural government said that work to cull some 23,000 egg-laying chickens at the chicken farm in the city of Izumi started on Sunday morning, Xinhua news agency



reported, citing a Jiji Press report. A local livestock hygiene centre on Saturday morning received a report of an

increase in dead chickens from the farm, the report said. Three of 13 dead chickens showed positive results after a simple virus test. Infection was confirmed on Sunday in a detailed genetic examination, according to the prefectural government. This marks the fourth bird flu outbreak confirmed at a poultry farm in Japan this season, the report said.

Death toll from floods, landslides in Tanzania rises to 23

Dar es Salaam | Agencies The death toll from the floods and subsequent landslides in northern Tanzania caused by overnight torrential rains increased to 23 on Sunday afternoon. Rescue efforts are underway to assist individuals trapped in the landslides on Hanang hills in the Hanang district of Manyara region, and retrieve bodies trapped in the debris, Xinhua news agency reported, citing local officials. Queen Sendiga, commissioner of Manyara region, said Katesh town and the villages of Jorodom, Gendabi, Mogito and Gedang'onyi as the most severely affected areas. Describing the situation as "horrifying", Sendiga told the news agency by phone that one



village had been completely engulfed by mudflow, suggesting a potential rise in the number of casualties. "The rescuers are extricating people and bodies trapped in

fallen trees, stones and mudflow. Though we have confirmed 23 fatalities, the count could rise," she said, noting that individuals displaced by house damage were being accommodated in three public schools. Gabriel Mbogoni, a senior official from the Geological Survey of Tanzania, said that a team from the institution was en route to the area for investigations. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed condolences for the deceased and instructed relevant authorities to mount an immediate response. She directed the Prime Minister's Office responsible for disaster management, security agencies and the Ministry of Health to relocate to Manyara region to aid

4 Indian-origin men sought in connection with aggravated assault in Canada

Toronto | Agencies Police have sought public assistance in locating four Indian-origin men, aged between 22-30 years, in connection with an aggravated assault that took place in Canadian city of Brampton. Aftaab Gill (22), Harmandeep Singh (22), Jatinder Singh (25) and Satnam Singh (30) assaulted a victim in the area of McLaughlin Road and Ray Lawson Boulevard on September 8. Officers from the Peel Regional Police's Criminal Investigation Bureau said on Sunday that multiple parties assaulted the victim and fled



the area prior to police arrival. The victim suffered serious non-life threatening injuries and was taken to a local hospital. All four of them are residents of Brampton, Ontario,

and wanted for aggravated assault. Police are asking anyone with information on the whereabouts of the four men to contact investigators. In August this year, murder charges were laid against Parminder Singh Brar (31) and Simarpal Singh (21) in connection with an aggravated assault that left a 55-year-old man dead in British Columbia province. In the same month, Dilip Kumar Dholani, a senior citizen visiting from India, was stabbed 17 times in broad daylight while taking his granddaughter out in a stroller in Oshawa, Greater Toronto Area.



BJP Maha chief: Fadnavis to take oath as CM at Wankhede Stadium in 2024

Team Absolute | Bhandara (Maharashtra)

The ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party state President Chandrashekhar Bawankule has predicted that the Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn-in as the next CM at the Wankhede Stadium in 2024. Addressing a party workers' meeting at Lakhni town, he asked "who will be next CM of Maharashtra" after the Assembly elections, and the crowd roared back 'Fadnavis, Fadnavis', cheered and clapped. Seeing the buoyant mood, Bawankule asked the party activists to make three commitments for the next year. The first resolution would be to elect 45 MPs from Maharashtra to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi and enable him take over as PM for the third consecutive time in May 2024, for which the workers must ensure the Bhandara BJP candi-



date is elected with the highest majority. The second was to work dedicatedly to ensure that Fadnavis is sworn-in as the CM for the second time (after 2014-2019) of the ruling MahaYuti alliance, at a grand function in the Wankhede Stadium of Mumbai.

The third would be to dedicatedly work for any official BJP candidate in the upcoming municipal corporation/council and other civic elections and ensure their victory with huge votes. He asked all BJP workers to spare three hours daily for the next 13 months to achieve the triple objectives. Taking a swipe at ex-CM and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, Bawankule said that "there is only one tiger in Maharashtra, and that is Fadnavis." The gathering responded to the BJP chief's call enthusiastically and resolved to work for the three political targets set for 2024. The meeting was held in an exuberant atmosphere last night as the BJP notched a hat-trick, bagging three states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh -- Assembly elections, the results of which were announced on Sunday.

PM Modi to witness Navy Day-2023 in Maha's Sindhudurg, unveil Chhatrapati statue



Team Absolute | Mumbai/Sindhudurg

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reach Sindhudurg this afternoon to participate in the 'Navy Day-2023' celebrations being held off the picturesque Tarkarli Beach, officials said here on Monday. The Prime Minister is expected to land at the Chipli Airport here around 3.45 p.m. and then proceed to the Rajkot Fort where he will inaugurate an equestrian statue of the legendary Maratha warrior-king,

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Then he will proceed to the Sindhudurg Fort and pay respects at the sole temple of Chhatrapati there before moving to Tarkarli Beach. He will attend the display of the Indian Navy's muscles and readiness as part of the 'Navy Day-2023' celebrations, including live demonstration by naval ships, aircraft, submarines with the men and women in dazzling whites. The Maharashtra and Sindhudurg Police have made elaborate security arrangements for the PM's

visit here with major markets in Tarkarli, Malvan and surroundings remaining closed for the day. Traffic restrictions have been implemented on the route from Chipli Airport to Tarkarli Beach and other places which have been given a facelift and other necessary amenities created. Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the Deputy CMs and other ministers, local elected representatives, top brass of Indian Navy and other dignitaries will be present for the events.

Dalai Lama, global leaders to attend world Buddhism meet in Mumbai on Dec 16

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Dalai Lama will attend an international conference, 'Dhamma Diksha', scheduled to be held in Mumbai on December 16, Union Minister of State for Social Justice, Ramdas Athawale, said here on Monday. The meet, to be conducted at the Mahalaxmi Race Course on the evening of December 16, will also have a host of international participants and prominent VIP guests comprising the royalty, prime ministers and top Buddhist functionaries, Athawale told mediapersons. Some of the dignitaries due to attend the event are Sri Lanka PM Dinesh Gunawardena, Thailand PM Srettha Thavisin, Bhutan Princess Kesang Wangmo Wangchuk, plus top Buddhist spiritual leaders from Vietnam, Cambodia and another 16 countries, the minister said.



"After B.R. Ambedkar had embraced Buddhism in Nagpur on October 14, 1956, he had planned a 'Dhamma Diksha' in Mumbai. But he passed away on December 6 the same year. With the conference being held here now, it will be fulfilling Ambedkar's cherished dream," said Athawale. Athawale and other leaders of the Republican Party of India (A), including Avinash Kamble, Bhadani Bodi and Kalpana Saroj of the 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Dhamma Diksha Samaroh Samiti', appealed to the followers of Ambedkar and Buddhists to attend the conclave in large numbers.

'It is a good sign for us for 2024 Lok Sabha elections'

Uddhav Thackeray as BJP sweeps Hindi heartland states



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Chief of his faction of Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray Monday congratulated the Bharatiya Janata party leaders after the party's election victory in the Hindi heartland states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The former chief minister of Maharashtra while addressing his party workers at an award event on Sunday, said, "We saw the results of four states (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana). They (BJP) won and we congratulate them for their victory. This is called democracy, and we must appreciate other's wins. I also believe such elections should continue even in the 2024 Lok Sabha

elections and to save our democracy, let the people decide who will be the king of this kingdom." Thackeray said: "Now today there is a trend that those who give something they left us, so it's also dangerous to give something to someone (Eknath Shinde). These traitors joined them and they are in power today but we will fight against them and win the upcoming elections, whether it's Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha 2024." The former CM also boosted the morale of his party workers and said, "We will fight and save the country. In past elections in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and MP, the Congress had won, but in Parliament, the Congress lost the elections. It is a good sign for us for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024." "In 1999, we

won the parliament elections but lost the Maharashtra assembly at that time, so this election is hope for us," he added. "You all made me Chief of Shiv Sena UBT but I want to tell you that you are the main gem and gold of our party, without you, we can't win the upcoming elections in Maharashtra," Uddhav Thackeray said. The BJP swept the Hindi heartland states that polled for their assemblies last month. With its stunning mandates in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the BJP stumped not just their rivals but also some pollsters who had predicted tight races in these states. However, in the South Indian state of Telangana, the Congress saw consolation and emerged victorious dethroning BRS's decade-old rule.

Not allowed to raise Maratha quota issue in House: Priyanka Chaturvedi

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi on Monday expressed surprise after she was not allowed to raise the issue of Maratha reservation during the 'Zero Hour' despite it being listed and dubbed it as unfortunate. Chaturvedi said, "It is unfortunate that despite my zero hour submission on



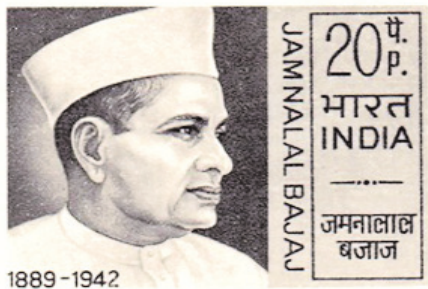
Maratha Reservation being balloted and listed to be taken up on the first day of Parliament, I was not allowed to raise it, citing that it was a

state subject." The Shiv Sena leader said that this ongoing issue of reservation can only be resolved via Parliament intervention for constitutional amendment. "Hence Parliament was the right forum. Yet I was denied the voice to speak up for the people of my state," she said. The Maratha Reservation issue has been boiling for some months in Maharashtra.

CJI D.Y. Chandrachud to present 45th Bajaj Awards in Mumbai on Friday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Supreme Court Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud will be the chief guest and give away the prestigious 45th Jammalal Bajaj Foundation Awards at a mega-event here on December 8, an official said here on Monday. The winners shall be felicitated by the Jammalal Bajaj Foundation Chairman and industrialist Shekhar Bajaj, and Trustees like Nobel laureate K. Satyarthi, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar and others at the Hotel Taj Mahal Palace. This year (2023), the Foundation received 125 nominations for Constructive Work, 61 for application of science and technology for rural development, 123 for development and welfare of women & children, and 24 nominations from 14 countries



for the international award category for promoting Gandhian values in the world. The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs 20-lakhs, a Citation and a Trophy is presented to hon-

our and motivate the unprecedented contributions of the individuals towards the upliftment and development of society, rural community and the nation at large. Jammalal Bajaj, also known as the 'Merchant Prince', was a renowned industrialist of the pre-Independence era, a freedom fighter and philanthropist who was adopted by Mahatma Gandhi as his fifth son and later Bajaj was the 'alter-ego' of Gandhiji during the Gandhian Constructive Movement. Subsequently, Jammalal Bajaj's second son, Ramkrishna Bajaj also embraced Gandhian philosophy and dedicated his life in the service of the nation in many different ways, and set up the 'Jammalal Bajaj Foundation' in the memory of his illustrious father.

BMC hospital saves mother with ruptured uterus having dead baby

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a life-saving operation, a team of medics at the BMC's LTMG Sion Hospital managed to save a pregnant woman with a ruptured uterus, which had a dead baby inside owing to a placenta leakage, officials said here on Monday. The 29-year-old woman, a resident of Govandi suburb in northeast Mumbai, was rushed to the hospital at an advanced 38.2 weeks pregnancy recently. A team of medics headed by Dr. Niranjan Chavan, Dr. Pushpa C, Dr. Darshana Ajmera, Dr. Monika Dhausak, and Dr. Swara Patel examined her and an ultrasound test indicated an 'intrauterine fetal demise' (the baby dead), with the placenta completely covering the patient's internal organs. "The patient had some bearable pain for the past 12 hours which was not linked to any vaginal bleeding... and she appeared to be asymptomatic. During the physical examination of the abdomen



which was soft and tender, the foetal parts could be felt, but the uterus outline was not palpable, and the foetal heart sounds were missing or inaudible," said Chavan. The patient, who has a four-year-old son from her previous pregnancy, was sent for a repeat obstetric ultrasound scan which showed an empty uterine cavity and the apparently dead foetus thrown to the left side of the uterus in the abdominal cavity. Chavan's team rushed the woman for an emergency surgery and successfully

managed to stitch up the punctured uterus by stitching the laceration in the lower segment that helped save her life and the uterus. At the same time, the dead foetus was also delivered and around half-litre blood which had accumulated in the mother's abdominal cavity was removed. After five days of post-operative care, the patient was discharged this week, and she was found to be recovering well in all her subsequent week-long follow-up examinations, Chavan added. LTMG Sion Hospital Dean Dr. Mohan Joshi said that the overall incidence of uterine ruptures in patients with a prior caesarean birth is around 0.3 per cent (3/1,000 deliveries). However, a punctured uterus is more rampant in patients with a second vaginal delivery after a caesarean (1.59/1,000) in contrast to first vaginal birth after a caesarean (0.72/1,000). Joshi lauded his team for the successful management of the patient with the unusual and one-of-its-kind case reported at the civic hospital.

Engine failure on express train disrupts suburban train traffic

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's suburban train traffic has been hit in Thane district due to an engine failure of an express train. According to the report in PTI, the engine of Dhule-CSMT Express faced a failure around noon today which resulted in the disruption of local train services from Thane district to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. The Divisional Railway Manager, of Central Railway told the media that the express engine failure incident occurred near Vashind railway station in Thane district at approximately 12.08 pm affecting both suburban and long-distance trains operat-



ing between Kalyan and Kasara stations. "LOCO FAILURE:- Near Vasind station. 11012 (DHULE-CSMT UP express)- Engine failed near Vasind station at 12.08 hrs. Assisting engine planned, movement going on. Kasara to Vasind UP line traffic was

affected. DOWN line traffic is running," wrote the DRM in a social media post on X (formerly Twitter). Central Railway CPRO, Dr Shivraj Manaspure, told PTI that efforts are underway to substitute the failed engine with an assisting one. He said that while the up line towards CSMT from Kasara has been impacted, trains to head to Kasara are running on schedule. The delay caused a hold-up for a Kasara-CSMT local and the 12168 Varanasi-LIT Express train behind the affected Dhule-CSMT Express in the Kasara-Igatpuri section. Commuters travelling beyond Kalyan station reported delays of approximately 15 to 20 minutes on suburban train services.

Andheri water pipeline's repair completed after over 50 hrs of work, says BMC

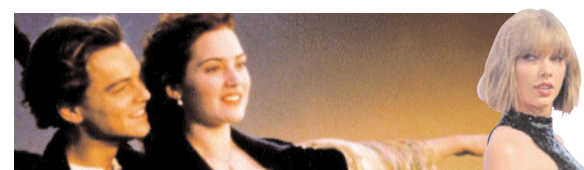


Team Absolute | Mumbai

After over 50 hours of relentless work, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has completely repaired the 1800mm water main pipe at Veravli Service reservoir in Mumbai's Andheri area. The pipeline had reported a leak near SEEPZ because of which some western suburbs had been struggling with water supply. The civic agency, in its social media post, wrote, "Overcoming ground and technical challenges during a 50-hour marathon, the repair of the 1,800 mm water main of Veravli Service Reservoir, in Andheri, is finally complete! Now, water is set to flow back into the water main, and then service

reservoirs will be replenished." "We are working ahead for phased water supply restoration in all affected areas. Mumbai, your patience and cooperation during this period are deeply appreciated," the BMC further wrote. Earlier in the day, the BMC had taken to X (formerly Twitter) to announce that the repair work of the 1800 mm pipeline was approaching its final phase. They had said that after the completion of repair work, the water supply would be restored to normal by evening. They informed the citizens that the remaining stages of the repair involved the final placing of nuts and bolts, the grad-

ual release of water into the main pipeline and subsequent replenishment of the service reservoir. "The work of repairing the 1,800 mm water main of Veravli Service Reservoir, in Andheri, is now in the final stages! The repairs are expected to be completed in the next 2-3 hours. After that, all the actions like releasing water in the water main and filling the service reservoir will be done and the water supply can be restored by today evening," BMC had written. It further added, "The municipal administration has been working uninteruptedly for repairs for more than 50 hours. We hope that these efforts will yield success soon."



Tom Hanks served Cher when he worked as bellhop at a hotel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood legend Tom Hanks has reminisced about his youthful brush with Cher. The actor recently appeared on "The Graham Norton Show" alongside Cher and fellow actors Julia Roberts and Timothee Chalame, and regaled the audience with a story from his days working at a hotel in the 1970s. "I have worked for Cher. I was a bellman at the Oakland Hilton Hotel," he began, prompting a surprised "No" from the 'If I Could Turn Back Time' singer, 77, reports People magazine. "You were with one of your rock-and-roll husbands, and we had your bag. And then word came down, 'Hey, run this up to Cher's room,' so I did," Tom continued. The actor further mentioned, "I knocked on the door and I put it down and you came out and said, 'Yeah, that's it. Thanks, kid.' And that was it." "So I have worked for Cher." As per People, he surmised that their brief interaction occurred sometime in 1975 or 1976. At that time, Cher was in a much-publicised relationship with Allman Brothers Band frontman Gregg Allman, whom she married in June 1975. During the stars' talk show appearance, Tom had high praise for Cher, who admitted during the conversation that she isn't "a big Cher fan" herself and doesn't like to watch her own films or listen to her own music.

"You're missing out," the 'Elvis' star told her. "Motion picture perfection -- Mamma Mia! 2," he raved of the 2018 film in which Cher played the role of Ruby Sheridan. "When she busts out 'Fernando,' the world stops. Suns clash with the stars. It's perfection!" Chalame, 27, and Roberts, 56, then chimed in by sharing their favourite Cher films -- Moonstruck and Silkwood -- prompting Tom to suggest a group outing to the cinema. "I think we should all go to the theatre and watch Cher's movies right now," he said.



Robert Downey Jr not reprising Iron Man role in MCU, says Kevin Feige

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr will not be coming back as Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, says Kevin Feige. "We are going to keep that moment and not touch that moment again," Feige told Vanity Fair in the Downey Jr. profile. "We all worked very hard for many years to get to that, and we would never want to magically undo it in any way."

Downey Jr. last played the role in 2019's 'The Avengers: Endgame' when the superhero died, reports deadline.com.

Fans of the MCU hoping Tony Stark would be resurrected in some form can forget about it. Director Joe Russo added: "We'd already said tearful goodbyes on the last day of shooting. Everybody had moved on emotionally. We promised him it would be the last time we made him do it ever."

Co-director Anthony Russo noted that for Downey Jr it was a "difficult thing" for him to say his last line as the superhero. "When he did come back, we were shooting on a stage directly opposite where he auditioned for Tony Stark. So his last line as Tony Stark was shot literally a couple hundred feet from his original audition that got him the role," Anthony said. Downey Jr. has been the center of the MCU but Feige had to fight to cast the actor in the Iron Man role.



Vanessa Hudgens seen in white dress on beach amid swirling wedding rumours

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Vanessa Hudgens was spotted wearing a white dress amid rumours she has tied the knot with Cole Tucker. Over the weekend, a photo surfaced on X (formerly Twitter) of the actress, 34, posing on the beach barefoot in a casual white dress, reports People magazine. Further fuelling speculation that Vanessa celebrated her wedding, her former High School Musical co-star Monique Coleman posted a video on her Instagram story showing footage of a tropical setting in Tulum, Mexico, where the nuptials are believed to have taken place. "Last morning in paradise," Monique wrote in the caption. "Vanessa and Cole, 27, first shared the news that they were engaged in a joint Instagram post on February 9."

"YES. We couldn't be happier," the pair wrote, alongside a photo of the couple embracing by the Seine in Paris and a close-up image of Vanessa's oval-shaped diamond ring. The 'Downtown Owl' star told People in March that the proposal took her completely by surprise. "We had definitely talked about it, but I did not expect it to happen the way that it happened and the moment that it happened," she said. "It definitely caught me off guard and I was bawling my eyes out." As per People, Vanessa opened up about wedding planning earlier this year during an appearance on 'The Drew Barrymore Show', admitting that the process had her feeling a bit "lost." "It's hard," she told host Drew Barrymore. "I don't know, finding a venue is tough. I kind of just want to elope." Her baseball player fiancée, meanwhile, was taking a more relaxed approach to things. "I mean he just wants to get married to me," Vanessa shared. "He's like, 'Whatever you want babe'."



Florence Pugh shocked as she gets hit in face during 'Dune 2' panel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Florence Pugh has become the latest victim of fans throwing things at stars onstage as she was hit in the face by a flying object during an appearance in Brazil. The 27-year-old attended the panel for 'Dune: Part Two' panel in CCXP 2023 with her co-stars, including Timothee Chalame, Zendaya Coleman and Austin Butler, as well as director Denis Villeneuve on December 3.

As their segment came to a close, the entire cast and the filmmaker posed together for pictures, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In videos capturing the incident which have circulated online, they were all smiles until Pugh got startled by a thing thrown by an audience member at her direction. She appeared to shout "wow" or "ow" before putting her hand to the eye that was hit.

The 'Oppenheimer' star then leaned over to pick up the object, but it was not clear what it was that hit her. Timothee and Austin, who was standing right next to her, also expressed shock in the moment and appeared to show concern for Pugh, while Zendaya and Villeneuve seemingly missed the moment as they were engaged in conversation.

The actress and her co-stars were at the Comic Con event in Sao Paulo to promote their upcoming sci-fi sequel.

Moments before the incident, the British actress spoke about her excitement to be part of the panel. "I had an amazing time coming in and just hanging around with these people, let alone actually getting to work with them," she said. "Coming in here - the power in this room - is because of that first movie, and we felt that when we went on set every single day. So it feels really, really special being here with the second one."

The incident happened despite multiple warnings from other performers about hurling objects at them.

Timothee Chalame jokes about getting auto-tuned in 'Wonka'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Timothee Chalame, who plays confectioner Willy Wonka, joked that he needed "a lot of auto-tune" in 'Wonka', the 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' prequel. "I try. It is a lot of auto-tune... No, I'm kidding!" he joked about his singing when speaking to Extra at the world premiere of the movie in London.

And of the dancing, he added, "I loved it... My mom is a dance teacher and my grandmother was a dancer, my sister is a dancer, so I was always sort of around it but it's a big difference between being around it and having to do it... It was a great learning experience."

Chalame recalled how quickly he was "charmed" by the script for the origin story and insisted it is a valid addition to Roald Dahl's original tale, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He said: "I thought it was very clever, and I know people can be kind of cynical about Hollywood remakes and there's a fine line between it feeling warranted, but within three pages of reading the script I was so charmed by what Paul (King) had come up with for Willy's origin story and a snapshot of how Willy was before success, before becoming the man that wants to give away the chocolate factory, before being the man that has a chocolate factory."

The 'Dune' actor needed to learn how to "live and love the tone" of the film by going back to his younger years as it was much less "serious" than a lot of his recent work.

He told People magazine: "I realised everything I've worked on (has had a) grounded seriousness to it, and here I had to loosen up and play, kind of like I did in high school, but I hadn't done in 10 years or something. So, that was the learning curve. But once it was in full swing, then it felt like we were cookin'."



Addison Rae

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY





Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Animal' dominates global box-office, ahead of 'Napoleon,' 'Hunger Games'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor's recently released film 'Animal', directed by Sandeep Vanga Reddy, has not just set the Indian box-office on fire but has also emerged as the Number 1 film globally surpassing the likes of 'Napoleon' and 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes' with \$42.1 million, according to data published by ComScore.

The film, which is gore galore and credits Ranbir as a superstar, features Ranbir in dual roles. It released across 38 global territories. The worldwide gross total includes \$6.1 million in North America where it was released across 850 locations and opened at Number 7, reports Variety.

In 'Animal', Ranbir Kapoor plays the son of India's richest man (portrayed by Anil Kapoor) who takes on an antagonist played by Bobby Deol. The cast also includes Rashmika Mandanna.



Like Reddy's previous films, the Telugu-language 'Arjun Reddy' (2017) and its Hindi-language remake 'Kabir Singh' (2019), 'Animal' is a study of toxic masculinity.

As per Variety, in second position, Ridley Scott's Apple Original Films-produced and Sony Pictures-distributed action epic 'Napoleon' collected \$35.7 million worldwide, including \$28.6 million internationally. It now has a global total of \$137 million.

'Napoleon' is playing on more than 21,500 screens in 63 markets. The key market still to release is South Korea, where it releases on December 6. In third place, Lionsgate's 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes' grossed an estimated \$29.4 million globally from 88 territories over the weekend, taking its international total to \$123 million and the global gross to \$244 million. In fourth position, 'Renaissance', a concert

film written, directed and produced by Beyoncé, earned \$27.4 million, including \$6.4 million internationally and \$21 million in North America where it opened as the No. 1 title. The film is playing in 88 territories.

Rounding off the top five was Disney's 'Wish' with \$26.2 million from 34 territories, including \$18.8 million internationally and \$7.4 million in North America for a global gross of \$81.5 million.

In a first, Deepika Padukone attends Academy Museum Gala in LA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Deepika Padukone is in attendance at the Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles. She is the first Indian star to be invited to the prestigious event.

The Academy Museum Gala is the second biggest stage after the Oscars which is organised by the same board.

Earlier this year Deepika was seen on the stage at the Oscars to present the Indian song act.

Deepika took to Instagram Stories, where she shared a string of pictures dressed in a dark purple velvet floor-sweeping gown with a plunging neckline. She completed her look for the event with some sparkly diamonds.

On the work front, Deepika had a fabulous year with 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'. She will next be seen in 'Fighter' alongside Hrithik Roshan and Anil Kapoor.

Deepika also has 'Kalki 2898 AD' with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan.



Neha Joshi's winter ritual includes organic products, homemade face packs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neha Joshi shared her best-kept secrets for winter skincare, adding that she uses natural and organic products in her daily routine.

Neha shared: "I use natural and organic skincare products in my daily routine, such as face oils and aloe gel, which help to keep my skin moisturised. Additionally, I prefer using homemade face packs and scrubs to nourish my skin during winter."

The 'Drishyam 2' fame actress said: "Drinking plenty of water is also essential for my skin, and I always carry a water bottle with me, whether on set or working out. To moisturise my skin during winter, I use a homemade scrub made from pomegranate seeds, my go-to home remedy. I combine two teaspoons of pomegranate seeds and one cup of raw oats and then pour it into a mixing bowl with two tablespoons of honey and butter-milk."

"I apply the mixture on my face for a few minutes and then rinse it off. This helps remove dead skin cells, rejuvenate the skin, and remove excess oil. It is high in anti-ageing ingredients like antioxidants and vitamin C and is the best remedy for my skin," said the 'Doosri Maa' actress.

She concluded: "Moreover, I take care of my hair by oiling it regularly and avoiding using hot tools like blow dryers or curling irons that can strip the natural oils from my hair."

Neha is currently essaying Krishna Devi Vajpayee in 'Atal'. Produced by Euphoria Productions, 'Atal' deep dives into the formative years of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



There's an inbuilt emotion of motherhood in every woman: Yashashri Masurkar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Dabanggi - Mulgi Aayi Re Aayi' has intrigued audiences with its gripping narrative centered around the feisty and Dabanggi tevar waali - Arya (Maahi Bhadra), who embarks on a quest to find and unite with her father. Arya believes that her father is a super-cop, but unbeknownst to her, she is the daughter of Satya (Amir Dalvi), an unscrupulous gangster willing to go to any length for power. In the on-going track, a pivotal twist unfolds as Satya's brother, Inspector Ankush (Manav Gohil) decides to get Arya to his home, a move driven by compassion for the child's plight. Worried about how this situation will play out, Ankush introduces Arya to his wife Bela (Yashashri Masurkar) as the daughter of one of his informants, who is no more. Bela embraces Arya with unconditional love, treating her as her own, taking Ankush by surprise. However, this new dynamic leaves their



daughter, Zia (Nancy Makwana) jealous and she feels instant dislike for Arya.

Yashashri Masurkar, portraying Bela, expressed her deep connection with the role says, "I feel there's an inbuilt emotion of motherhood in every woman. There's no need to study or seek inspiration, especially with kids like Nancy and Maahi. Their innocence and love are so pure that no effort is required. I vividly

remember a scene with Arya where I had to cry; her delivery was so innocent that I didn't need glycerin-I started crying naturally. We don't just have 3 kids on set, everyone is a kid over here; even Manav Gohil is like a mischievous boy on set. But he's also so grounded and mature, creating a comfortable camaraderie both on and off screen. My character Bela is incredibly giving and forgiving-qualities I wish to embody. Despite having her own daughter, she loves another child, which is easier said than done. As she gets to know about Arya's parental situation, her maternal instinct kicks in, and she wholeheartedly cares for her. Her dedication to the family is admirable, and that's something I truly love about her." As the story progresses, Satya and his family visit Ankush's house and meet Arya. To create hurdles in Ankush's life, Satya and Kasturi provoke Bela and sow the seeds of doubt in her mind, leading her to question Ankush about Arya's true identity. Will Ankush tell Bela the truth about Arya?

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA: GREW UP FASCINATED WITH BIG B, RAJESH KHANNA, SRK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana revealed how cinema was a part of his daily life while growing up, and said that he grew up fascinated by the works of towering heroes like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor, Salman Khan, and Amir Khan.

Ayushmann said he is living his childhood dream of being a big screen hero.

"I remember being supremely excited about going to the cinemas every single time. I loved the world films transported me into. I idolised the heroes. We used to always watch movies on TV too and then rented movies as time progressed. Cinema was always an important part of our daily lives," said the 'Vicky Donor' fame actor.

He continued: "So, I grew up being fascinated by the works of towering heroes like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, to name a few! I also wanted to be a big screen hero. So, I'm living my dream now and I consider myself extremely fortunate to have created a niche for myself."

"The industry has been extremely welcoming and the audience has given me a lot of love. I respect that from the bottom of my heart," he shared.

The 39-year-old actor is grateful that his parents pushed him to pursue his dream of becoming a Hindi film hero.

"The love for the movies is what made me pursue theatre in college. It pulled me to Mumbai where I tried to make a name, struggled for years, cried in joy when my films worked. I wouldn't have survived the city or the industry if my love for movies wasn't strong enough in my heart and mind," he said.

Added Ayushmann: "When I look back, I can't help but feel grateful that I grew up on cinema and how my parents pushed me to pursue my dream."

Meanwhile, on the work front he was last seen in 'An Action Hero'. He next has 'Lovebirds' in the pipeline.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aahna Kumra