



EDITOR'S SPECS

Shift in Dalit politics

The Bahujan Samaj Party has sunk and a new Dalit leader has risen in the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. This is the biggest takeaway of these elections from the state. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has failed to win even a single seat in Uttar Pradesh while Chandrashekar of Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) and founder of Bhim Party was leading massively in the Nagina seat without any support from any political party or leader. His victory with a margin of over one lakh votes in Nagina, a reserved seat, signifies a clear shift in Dalit votes. The BSP had also fielded its candidate in Nagina and Akash Anand, when he campaigned there, targeted Chandrashekar and warned his voters to beware of 'woh aadmi'. Chandrashekar fought a lonely battle but he was confident of his victory. "All parties have positioned themselves against me but the people are with me and I am confident of their support," he said two days ago. Though Chandrashekar carefully avoided any criticism of Mayawati, he ensured that the voters realised the difference between the two. A Bhim Army supporter explained, "Chandrashekar has always made sure to visit every Dalit home where any member has been targeted. Mayawati has never bothered to reach out to families who suffer. People, especially youth, in our community are slowly gravitating towards the Bhim Army, also known as the Azad Samaj Party." Buoyed up by its leader's victory in Nagina, the Bhim Army now plans to build up its organisation across the state. As per the Election Commission data, Chandrashekar was leading with a margin of 1,45,053 over his nearest rival, BJP's Om Kumar. Chandrashekar polled 4,91,045 votes while the BSP's Surendra Pal Singh secured 12,864 votes so far.

SANITY IS A PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE

DC Pathak

All conflicts -- interpersonal, social and political -- are traceable to lesser thoughts afflicting the human mind at the cost of sanity. Sanity is broadly the gain accruing from a combination of 'awareness' with 'acceptance' of the larger realities of life and a certain capacity to relentlessly follow the path of duty without the fear of failure. Life is not a journey entirely free of turbulence and these two precepts by and large provide a level of peace of mind that was the prime requisite for successfully negotiating that journey. Indian spiritual thought upheld the primacy of mental peace over any other form of advantage in life and even prepared the individual to face the journey's end with calm and a healthy sense of 'surrender' to the higher order. This is what imbues the Indian mind with a sense of wisdom -- this was particularly true of the women of India -- and sees an individual preferring peace over want. It goes without saying that India surely is one country where this kind of intrinsic wisdom should come into play to make governance people-oriented going beyond what was done in a so-called 'welfare' state. The state has to nurse the spiritual gift of Indians that got them to opt for peace. We have changed our penal codes to free them of the colonial hangover. Of equal importance is the need for giving a suitable orientation to our national civil services to enable them to serve the larger objective of giving all citizens fair treatment within the firmness of the administrative ethos and contributing to policy-framing for the larger good of the nation. India upholds sanity in international relations as well which is why it has in a short period of time risen to become a major power in the world espousing the cause of global peace and human advancement. India's foreign policy of opting for bilateral and even multilateral friendships based on mutual security and economic benefits that did not prejudice global peace has in a way helped the country to reinforce its position as an independent-looking power in the comity of nations. Projection of the strategy of making India self-dependent in economy and defence has added to this image. On the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation and more recently in the Israel-Hamas conflict India took a stand that seemed to indicate an approach of sanity befitting a world leader who could see things in the wider perspective of the good of humanity. In both these developments of geopolitical importance, India was upfront in suggesting negotiations for peace -- the initial condemnation of the 'terrorist' attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 was in line with India's declared policy of zero tolerance towards 'terrorism' of all kinds. Even in the Ukraine-Russia armed confrontation, India had reached out to the two countries at the highest levels to call for the cessation of hostilities and return to talks on the basis of the willingness of the mediators to understand the 'security concerns' of both sides. All this enabled India to continue with its bilateral friendship with both Russia and Israel without running into any problems with the rest of the international community. In handling geopolitical developments, India has apparently made the point that what was right from the point of view of the interests of humanity, was the correct policy for the simple reason that the voice of sanity would ultimately find



the widest global support. In the governance of a large country like India, it becomes equally important that democratic dispensation prevails in all areas of domestic life like the execution of welfare schemes, the development of all regardless of caste, creed or region and access to the same justice for the high and the low. This is again because this was the approach of sanity and people never failed to see the merit of such a pathway. The areas where the government at the Centre had still to work were to ensure that a uniform level of law & order maintenance was available to the citizens through the length and breadth of the country regardless of the federal polity prescribed by our Constitution, to provide for a satisfactory medical care facility all across the country and to organise free education up to the school level mandated by the Constitution. The country should move towards declaring health and education as strategic sectors where the writ of the Centre would be equally important. The framing of the National Education Policy should have come earlier and its implementation was insisted upon because the responsibilities of the state in respect of education were supposed to stand above party politics. In fact in education and health, the Centre should have primary accountability just as was the case with the maintenance of internal security. Strategic affairs did not admit any political divergences in interpretation. Indian voters are a shrewd judge of the performance of the government at the Centre or in the states and they have exercised their electoral power effectively over the decades. They accept what makes sense to them and make an un-tinted evaluation of the rulers of the day. India is lucky to have people who value sanity on the issues of governance. India is a land of multiple faiths and modes of worship but its governance does not carry any stamp of religion. This makes it so much superior to the fundamentalist regimes in its neighbourhood with a declared system of treatment of minorities that allowed the latter less than equal rights compared to Muslims. India houses more Muslims than what their number

was in Pakistan but has secularism built into its governance by way of the grant of an equal voting right under the Constitutional mandate of 'one man one vote', development policies of the state being open to all regardless of community and the same protection of law being provided to all citizens. Any flaws in this regard noticed locally can be fiercely opposed in the exercise of the freedom of lawful protest. Political parties may be tempted to rely on communal appeals but beyond a point, this would attract adverse notice of law enforcement. Notions of supremacism of faith that lead to an attitude of 'rejectionism' towards other religions have often caused political separatism but that too was largely because of the manipulation by leaders. Indian democracy has passed the test of the validity of its electoral process -- what has made it possible is the vigilance of the electorate that was always very clear about the merits and inadequacies of the government of the day. The average Indian has enough sanity to retain his or her political judgment by even rising above the individual's personal concerns and recording his or her preference for stability and security of the country. Indians have the civilisational legacy of living in harmony with others respecting their faiths and social practices -- this is the reason why the narrative of 'majoritarianism' built by interested lobbies had not brought many converts and the faith in the Constitution had held on. However, the legacy of politics of 'minorityism' keeps on getting revived from time to time though without making too much headway. All communities in India have the uncanny realisation that this was a practising democracy where a party would succeed only on genuine performance. This is a great tribute to the sanity of Indian voters. The maxim of sanity for peace applies to the personal life more than it does to the social and political spheres of the individual's existence. It would be of great help if three civilisational learnings were put to good use while traversing through the journey of life -- a conscious effort to see that there was not too much serious 'unfinished business' at any point of time, a certain degree of awareness that excessive 'attachments' would not work and a willingness to have 'forgiveness' of all those one had dealt with perhaps not fairly. This is not a very big call to make for a sane mind that sees the importance of having an environment of goodwill around oneself. It is important to realise that a sane mind is a rational mind and that rationalisation is the gift of logic. A logical mind is thus the best evidence of sanity and also an instrument of right decision-making in all situations. It brings in peace when it is most needed -- in difficult moments of life. A rational thinking helps to keep away clogging thoughts of the 'after-life' and makes it easy to believe that life had a beginning and an inevitable end -- nothing more. In a strange way, a sane mind will thus bring in peace when it is most needed -- at the final destination. Values of sanity can be cultivated and practised in the lifetime and in fact, should be adopted as the guide for purposeful living. (The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal)

international

South Korea to use loudspeakers near North Korean border after suspension of military pact

Seoul | Agencies South Korea's military on Tuesday said it remains ready to immediately operate mobile loudspeakers near the border with North Korea as Seoul took steps to fully suspend a 2018 inter-Korean military pact. Earlier in the day, the Cabinet endorsed the suspension of the Comprehensive Military Agreement in response to the North's trash-carrying balloon campaign and jamming of GPS signals in recent days, Yonhap news agency reported. The motion will be sent to President Yoon Suk Yeol for signing, and the suspension will allow South Korea to resume large-scale military training near the border and restart loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts toward the North. Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung-jun said various measures could be taken after the suspension, noting that the military has operated both fixed and mobile loudspeakers on the



front lines. "Fixed loudspeakers need to be connected to power, and installing them could take hours to a few days," Lee told a regular briefing. "Mobile loudspeaker operations can be conducted right away." The loudspeakers used to blare criticism of the Kim Jong-un regime's human rights abuses, news and K-pop songs, drawing angry responses from Pyongyang.

A government source said there appears to be no plan to immediately install the fixed equipment as such activities could heighten military tension, noting that the military will likely operate the mobile equipment first if such broadcasts are resumed. Meanwhile, Lee declined to elaborate on the measures the military could take after the pact's suspension but noted that they would depend on North Korea's

actions. "There are things that we can immediately do, and we could make them public, and a lot of those things can be seen as largely depending on North Korea," he said. The 2018 deal included setting up buffer zones around the border to suspend large-scale military drills, as well as banning "hostile" acts between the two Koreas, which restricted the loudspeaker broadcasts.

Russia imposes entry ban on some UK politicians, journalists and experts

Moscow | Agencies Russia has announced entry bans on several British politicians, journalists, and experts, the country's Foreign Ministry said on Monday. "In response to the hostile actions of the UK, it was decided to include a number of representatives of the political establishment, the journalistic corps, and the expert community of the United Kingdom on Russia's entry ban list," the ministry said in a statement, Xinhua news agency reported. The ban was due to their "implementation of London's anti-Russian policy" or "covering important social-political events in Russia in a negative way", it added. The ministry also urged Britain to stop providing military support to Ukraine.

Australian Defence Force recruitment to be opened to non-citizens

Canberra | Agencies Foreigners who have lived in Australia for at least 12 months will be eligible to join the nation's armed forces from 2025, the federal government has announced. Richard Marles, the minister for defence and deputy prime minister, and Defence Personnel Minister Matt Keogh announced the initiative on Tuesday in Canberra, saying it would help grow the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Xinhua news agency reported. Under the expanded eligibility cri-



teria, New Zealanders who are permanent residents of Australia and have lived in the country for at least 12 months will be able to join the ADF from July 1. Starting in 2025, citizens from all other countries who meet the same criteria will become eligible to serve in the ADF. Applicants must not have

served in a foreign military in the previous two years and will be subject to ADF entry standards and security requirements. Keogh said in a joint statement with Marles that expanding eligibility would help reverse ADF recruitment shortfalls. According to the National Defence Strategy, which was launched by Marles in April, the ADF is currently facing a shortage of 4,400 enlisted personnel after achieving 80 percent of recruitment targets between 2020-21 and 2022-23.

Over 300 Afghan refugee families return home from Pak, Iran in two days

Kabul | Agencies More than 300 Afghan refugee families have returned home from Pakistan and Iran over the past couple of days, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Tuesday. A total of 303 families who used to stay as refugees for years in the two neighbouring countries returned to their homeland a couple of days ago, added the state-controlled media outlet in its report without revealing the exact number of the returnees, reports Xinhua news agency. More than one million Afghan refugees, with the majority of them undocumented migrants, have report-



edly returned home from the two countries since last November. The Afghan caretaker government has been repeatedly calling upon Afghan refugees to end living abroad as refugees and return home to contribute to the rebuilding process of their war-torn homeland.

Israel announces deaths of another 4 hostages in Hamas captivity

Jerusalem | Agencies The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has said that they have confirmed the deaths of another four Israeli hostages taken to the Gaza Strip by Hamas on October 7, 2023, claiming the Gaza-ruling group is still holding their bodies. IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari said on Monday that the Israeli forces estimate "that the four were killed together in the Khan Younis area several months ago" when the Israeli forces were operating there. He noted that the confirmation of their deaths was based on intelligence information and was approved by an expert committee at the Health Ministry, Xinhua news agency reported. He added that the IDF is conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances of their death and is examining all possibilities. The IDF identified the four victims as Amiram Cooper, Chaim Peri, Yoram Metzger and Nadav Poppellwell. Cooper, Peri and Metzger, in their 80s, were residents of Nir Oz near the Gaza Strip border



and were seen alive in a video released by Hamas in December. Poppellwell, 51, was from the village of Nirim near Nir Oz. He was last seen alive in a video released by Hamas in early May. Earlier on Monday, the IDF announced that it had located and identified the body of 36-year-old medic Dolev Yehud in his village Nir Oz. Yehud, who had been considered taken hostage until Monday was killed by Hamas on October 7, according to the army. Currently, 124 Israeli hostages remain held in the Gaza Strip, with Israel declaring 43 of them dead.

Microsoft faces complaints in EU over violating children's data privacy

London | Agencies Privacy rights organisation noyb on Tuesday lodged two complaints with Austria's data protection authority against tech giant Microsoft for allegedly violating children's data protection rights. The non-profit organisation said that Microsoft's '365 Education' services violate children's data protection rights. When pupils wanted to exercise their General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rights, Microsoft said schools were the "controller" for their data. "However, the schools have no control over the systems," said noyb. Microsoft, alleged the complaint, is trying to contractually dump most of its legal responsibilities under the GDPR on schools that provide Microsoft 365 Education services to their pupils or students.



"This means, for example, that access requests to Microsoft go unanswered - while schools have no realistic way of complying with such requests because they don't hold the necessary data," the

non-prift mentioned. Maartje de Graaf, data protection lawyer at noyb, said that this take-it-or-leave-it approach by software vendors such as Microsoft is shifting all GDPR responsibilities to schools. "Microsoft holds all the key information about data processing in its software, but is pointing the finger at schools when it comes to exercising rights. Schools have no way of complying with the transparency and information obligations," de Graaf said. Microsoft provides such "vague information" that even a qualified lawyer can't fully understand how the company processes personal data in Microsoft 365 Education. "It is almost impossible for children or their parents to uncover the extent of Microsoft's data collection," said de Graaf.

Six railway workers dead after being hit by freight train in China

Harbin | Agencies Six workers have been confirmed dead after they were hit by a freight train in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Tuesday morning, according to China Railway Harbin Bureau Group Co., Ltd. The accident occurred around 1:55 a.m. when the workers were on the track of a railway section on the outskirts of Jiamusi City, sources with the company said. Two of them died on the spot, while the other four died after rescue efforts failed, reports Xinhua news agency. The cause of the accident is not known yet, and the investigation continues.



BJP SWEEPS LOK SABHA ELECTION IN MADHYA PRADESH



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in the Lok Sabha elections across the country including Madhya Pradesh was celebrated

in the state BJP office. On this occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, BJP State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and State Organization General Secretary Hitanand ji

along with party workers presented the pictures of Bharat Mata, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. He expressed his gratitude to the public by garlanding and bursting fireworks. During this, former State

President Prabhat Jha, co-in-charge of Maharashtra Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, former Union Minister Suresh Pachauri, State Government Minister Vishwas Sarang, Krishna Gaur, State Vice President and MP Alok Sharma,

State General Secretary and others were present on the stage. MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani, Mayor Malti Rai, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, Vishnu Khatri, State Media Incharge Ashish Aggarwal were present.

BJP RETAINS VIDISHA AS SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN WINS AGAIN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP veteran and four-time chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan won the Lok Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha with a margin of 8.20 lakh votes.

He defeated veteran Congress leader and two-time MP Pratap Bhanu Sharma.

Notably, Pratap Bhanu Sharma of Congress won from Vidisha in two general elections -- 1980 and 1984.

While the BJP has retained this high-profile Vidisha Lok Sabha seat since 1989. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and another BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj had represented this seat.

Before becoming the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in 2005, Shivraj Singh Chouhan won four terms from Vidisha.

After the BJP won the assembly election in November last year, the BJP replaced Chouhan with Mohan Yadav as Chief Minister. Subsequently, Chouhan was fielded



from Vidisha again and he won.

After winning the election, Chouhan said, "I express my gratitude to the people of Vidisha for sup-

porting the BJP. People of Madhya Pradesh and from the entire country have shown faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Chouhan further said he was happy to receive a massive mandate and promised that he would continue to serve the people of Vidisha.

BJP wins big in Kamal Nath's bastion Chhindwara

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Celebrations have begun in the Madhya Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the party is set to sweep all the 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

However, what is more important for the BJP is that it has wrested Chhindwara from the Congress, the only seat in MP the BJP could not win since 1997.

In Chhindwara, BJP's Vivek 'Bunty' Sahu has won by over 1.3 lakh votes against his nearest rival and sitting Congress MP Nakul Nath, the son of party veteran Kamal Nath. A low-profile BJP leader, Sahu had unsuccessfully contested his first elections against Kamal Nath



in the Assembly bypoll from Chhindwara in 2019.

The BJP had fielded him again against Kamal Nath in the Assembly elections held in November last year, but he lost again.

However, despite two consecutive defeats, the BJP reposed faith in him to take on the Kamal Nath family from Chhindwara by fielding

him against Nakul Nath. Sahu got an edge after Kamal Nath's close aide Deepak Saxena left the Congress and joined the BJP a few days before voting was held in Chhindwara.

Chhindwara has been the bastion of Kamal Nath since 1980. The family won as many as 13 elections from the seat since then (11 Lok Sabha and 3 Assembly polls).

Kamal Nath represented Chhindwara for a record nine times, while his wife Alka Nath won this seat in 1996. The Jan Sangh's Sundar Lal Patwa (ex-CM) had won Chhindwara in 1997, which was the only win for the BJP from this seat, before Sahu helped the party wrest the seat from the Congress.

BJP's Shankar Lalwani wins Indore LS seat with 10.8 lakh votes

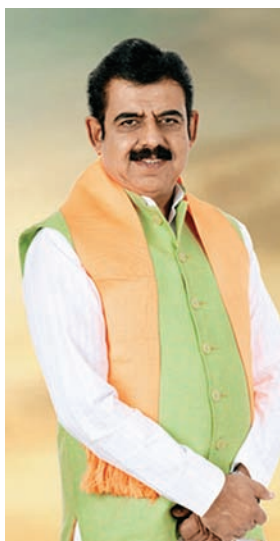
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BJP won the Indore Lok Sabha seat of Madhya Pradesh with a margin of 10.08 lakh votes, probably, the biggest victory of any BJP candidate in Madhya Pradesh.

BJP's sitting MP Shankar Lalwani is a close aide of senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Interestingly, NOTA remained at the second position with over two lakh. Congress' nominee from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination papers at the last minute.

In the absence of a candi-



date from Congress, it was a walk-over for Shankar Lalwani and BJP in Indore. The Congress supporters had campaigned for NOTA during the election.

The BJP has been retaining the Indore seat since 1989. Before Lalwani, BJP member Sumitra Mahajan, who also served as Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019, held the position for an exceptional eight consecutive terms.

Counting is still underway in the remaining 27 LS seats of Madhya Pradesh but the BJP is leading on all the seats with a margin of over 50,000 to 1.50 lakh votes.

Alok Sharma wins in Bhopal by big margin

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The results of Lok Sabha Elections-2024 have come. BJP candidate Alok Sharma has won from Bhopal parliamentary seat. This time the main contest for Bhopal Lok Sabha seat, one of the 29 constituencies of Madhya Pradesh, was between Congress and BJP. Talking about the last Lok Sabha elections, in 2019, BJP had won by a huge majority by fielding Sadhvi Pragya Thakur against veteran Congress leader Digvijay Singh.

But in 2024, both the parties changed their candidates from here. Voting on this Lok Sabha seat was held in the third phase on 7 May. 62.29 percent voting took place in Bhopal.

Even after changing the candidate on the high profile seat of MP, BJP's



Alok Sharma has won the election by 501499 votes. He has got a total of 981109 votes whereas Congress candidate Arun Yadav has got 479610 votes.

People living in Bhopal Lok Sabha seat come from different religions, castes and communities. This constituency has more than 60 per cent youth voters, with the largest population being people under 30 years of age. In which the number of people of Hindu community is considered decisive. It can decide the victory or defeat of any candidate. There are 21 lakh voters in Bhopal. Out of which male voters are approximately 11 lakh and female voters are 10 lakh. This was seen in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. BJP's Pragya Thakur defeated Congress's Digvijay Singh by a margin of 3 lakh votes.

More than 1000 People Served Daily at Annakshetra of AIIMS Bhopal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Annakshetra of AIIMS Bhopal is making a significant impact by serving over 1,000 people every day. This vital service, which pro-

vides meals to the relatives of patients undergoing treatment, has been continuously operating for the past six years. Today, Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, visited the Annakshetra to review the services and personally

experience the operations. During his visit, he distributed food to the attendees and ensured the quality of the meals being served. Expressing his satisfaction, Professor Singh praised the Annakshetra, run by Karuna Dham, as a remarkable initiative in the service of humanity. "Providing medical treatment alone is not sufficient," he stated. "By supporting the patients and their families emotionally, we can contribute to building a stronger nation."

In addition to providing nutritious meals three times a day - in the morning, afternoon, and evening - the Annakshetra also offers accommodation for those traveling from distant regions for treatment at AIIMS Bhopal.

This comprehensive support system alleviates the stress and burden on patient families, ensuring they can focus on the care and recovery of their loved ones.

Professor Singh's visit underscores the institution's commitment to holistic patient care and community support.

The Annakshetra exemplifies AIIMS Bhopal's mission to extend its compassion and services beyond medical treatment, fostering an environment of care and emotional strength.

At over 1.8 lakh votes, Indore registers highest NOTA count ever



Team Absolute | Bhopal

While the BJP has won all the 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh, an interesting phenomenon is being observed in Indore where 1,82,766 voters opted for the NOTA (None of the Above) option (till 1.10 p.m.), setting a new record.

While the BJP's Shankar Lalwani has taken a decisive lead of over 8 lakh votes in Indore, the second-highest

votes so far have been counted in favour of NOTA.

NOTA, or the option to express one's displeasure with every candidate in the fray, was introduced in most Indian elections since 2013.

It should be mentioned here that after the Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, withdrew his nomination at the last minute, giving a virtual walk-over to the BJP, the grand old party had carried out a campaign urging the voters to

press the NOTA button on polling day.

Not only the Congress, but several BJP leaders were also of the view that having no candidate from the opposition was setting a wrong precedent.

However, across Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is upbeat as their candidates are in the lead in all the 29 seats in the state, including in Chhindwara, the only constituency it lost to the Congress in 2019.



It felt like I had hit rock bottom: Demi Lovato

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Demi Lovato says she found "hope" and "light" after her fifth stint of inpatient treatment amid her addiction and mental health struggles. Lovato has checked into rehab five times to treat her substance abuse issues, eating disorder, and other mental health problems.

Talking at the Center for Youth Mental Health at New York Presbyterian's annual benefit, People magazine reports, she said: "I have been to inpatient treatment five times, and it has something that every single time I walked back into a treatment centre, I felt defeated."

"And I know that experience firsthand, but I think the glimmer of hope was when I started putting in the work and I started to, whether it was work, a programme, or talk to my treatment team and build relationships there."

"I think the glimmer of hope started to change when I started to find joy and the little things in life. And that was something that was so foreign to me before because I was so used to, so used to not seeing hope," she said.

The singer said things "definitely felt different" during her fifth stint of treatment as she finally accepted she needed to change, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Lovato said: "It felt like I had hit rock bottom, and I just knew what I needed to do, which was to live a life in recovery. And that was something that I pushed off for so long."

The singer spoke about how medication has played a part in her recovery and has helped her "tremendously".



Miley Cyrus Reveals Her Thoughts on Having Children

Los Angeles | Agencies

Miley Cyrus revealed how she feels about the possibility of having children during a new interview with W magazine. "I'm 31 now, and I still don't know if I want kids or not," the "Flowers" hit-maker told the publication on Monday, June 3.

"I feel like my fans kind of are my kids in some way," Miley added. "I love being an adult. I have a rule that I don't look up or don't look down at anyone. I just look, which allows me the clarity to see the world for what it really is and people for who they really are. I look at myself almost every day in the mirror, and I say, 'I am a woman.'"

Miley's fans have supported her since she landed her role in Hannah Montana. Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, Miley became a music and pop cultural icon. After her Disney Channel show wrapped in 2011, the Tennessee native released multiple albums and appeared in several films, including The Last Song with her ex-husband, Liam Hemsworth.



JENNIFER LOPEZ & BEN AFFLECK STEPPED OUT TO SUPPORT SON, SAMUEL



Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are shutting down split rumors once again. The couple — who have recently been the focus of baseless breakup speculation — reportedly stepped out to support Ben's son, Samuel, at his basketball game. Not only that, but the Good Will Hunting co-writer's ex-wife, Jennifer Garner, was in attendance, a new report claims. However, it's unclear if she crossed paths with J. Lo, 54.

Per E! News, the 13 Going on 30 actress, 52, was seen at Samuel's game. In addition to their 12-year-old son, Jennifer and Ben share Violet, 18, and Seraphina, 15, who introduced themselves as Fin earlier this year. As seen in a social media video, J. Lo and

Ben were spotted walking into a YMCA in Los Angeles on Sunday, June 2. They even shared a quick kiss before walking into the building as cameras flashed. For the outing, Ben wore a dark red corduroy jacket, a matching tee and jeans, while Jennifer rocked a brown long-sleeved shirt and jeans. The pair's outing comes amid ongoing speculation over their relationship status. Multiple reports surfaced over the past few weeks claiming that Jennifer and Ben have been living separately and are hashing out marital issues.

JEREMY RENNER REVEALS WHY HE REFUSED STAR IN HIS THIRD 'MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE' MOVIE



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jeremy Renner, who featured in two 'Mission: Impossible' franchises, including 'Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol' in 2011 and 'Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation' in 2015, has spoken about why he refused to star in 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout'.

Renner, who was asked to reprise the character of IMF agent William Brandt in the 2018 sequel 'Fallout', spoke during an interview on the 'Happy Sad Confused' podcast.

He was offered a role that required him to shoot for one week so that his character, Brandt, could be killed off. "I remember they tried to bring me

over (seas) for a week so they could kill my character, and I was like, 'No, you don't get to do that. You're not going to drag me over there and just kill my character', like get out of here!" Renner said, reports variety.com.

"If you're going to do this and you're going to use my character, you're going to do it right."

"I yelled at (director Christopher McQuarrie)," Renner added.

"Dude, you're not going to do this to me like that; you're not going to do me wrong."

The actor never returned to the 'Mission: Impossible' franchise after 'Rogue Nation', although he said in an interview that he would be open to coming back.

ALEX GIBNEY TO DIRECT SALMAN RUSHDIE DOCUMENTARY



Los Angeles | Agencies

A documentary centred around Indian-born British-American novelist Salman Rushdie, based on his memoir 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder', will be directed by Oscar-winner Alex Gibney.

Gibney is known for making films such as 'Taxi to the Dark Side' and 'Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief'.

Tentatively titled 'Knife', the documentary is inspired by Rushdie's memoir 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder', a gripping account of surviving an attempt on his life 30 years after a fatwa was ordered against him.

The book, released in April, not only details the author's life and career but also recounts the 2022 assassination attempt against the Indian-born, British-American novelist and the long recovery that followed.

Rushdie was stabbed 15 times in Chautauqua, New York, by a 24-year-old New Jersey man with a knife.

The attack targeted Rushdie's neck, eye, and chest, causing him to collapse on stage during a talk he was giving at Chautauqua's amphitheater stage.

He lost vision in one eye and was left incapacitated in one hand.

Through Rushdie's wife Rachel Eliza Griffiths' personal footage, which has never been seen by the public, the documentary will follow the writer during not only his physical recovery but also the recovery of his spirit and hope for the future, reports variety.com.

In 'Knife', Rushdie writes, "it's a story in which hatred, the knife as a metaphor of hate, is answered, and finally overcome, by love."

"I'm delighted we have Alex working with us on this film," said Rushdie.

LUPITA NYONG'O INFORMED ALL ABOUT HER SPLIT TO AVOID TELLING PEOPLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o shared that she chose to publicly announce her split from her beau, Selemu Masekela, to avoid telling people about the break-up "one at a time". The couple, who had been together since 2022, announced their breakup on Instagram ten months into their relationship. Talking about why she decided to take to social media to share the news in October, Nyong'o told Glamour magazine: "Honestly, the thought of having to update people one at a time was going to be harrowing."

"I had made the choice to share the relationship with the world, and I wanted to make the choice to share the end of it with the world. I knew that announcing it or sharing it with the world would mean there would be a reverberation, and I would have to deal with the onset of that," she said. "There is a time to be open, and there's a time not to be, and I chose that time to be open."

The actress asserted that she intends to be a lot more secretive about her private life in the future, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Nyong'o added: "I'm very happy with what I did, and I don't want to do it anymore. I don't want to share that part of myself anymore."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Cara Delevingne



Sonakshi

On heat wave: the damage cannot be reversed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sonakshi Sinha said that intense heat waves across the nation are the direct consequence of human activity, and the damage cannot be reversed. The actress said that now is the time to act to reverse the change by prioritising education and raising awareness.

Sonakshi told: "The recent heat wave and abrupt temperature spike serve as a stark reminder that global warming is undeniably real. In fact, we are experiencing what can only be described as global heating. This dire state of our planet is a consequence of human activity, and while the situation is severe, I believe it's not too late to make a positive change and protect our environment."

India is currently witnessing a surge in temperature in the majority of its parts. While the monsoon arrived in Kerala, it's yet to provide respite in other parts of the country, especially the north, where the mercury is touching 52 degrees Celsius.

The actress further mentioned that although we may not be able to reverse the damage entirely, we can certainly work to mitigate its effects.

"We must prioritise education and awareness about climate change among both children and adults."

The actress also shared tips on how to battle the intense heat, as she told: "Additionally, it's crucial to take care of ourselves during extreme heat. I stay hydrated and seek shade whenever possible, and I urge everyone to do the same."

"Let's take responsibility for our well-being, support each other, and commit to preserving our planet," she added.



Aamir Khan son Junaid sheds 26 kilos in two years for his new character

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Junaid Khan, the son of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, who is awaiting the release of his debut film 'Maharaj', underwent an intense physical transformation for his part in the film. The actor lost 26 kg in a span of two years for his debut movie.

Junaid has been quite busy, of late as he juggles multiple projects.

He will be seen sharing the screen with Jaideep Ahlawat in 'Maharaj'.

In addition to 'Maharaj', Junaid has been working on another significant project with actress Sai Pallavi. The film was shot in the picturesque locales of Japan.

Currently, Junaid is busy with an untitled project with Khushi Kapoor. Recently, he spent his birthday working on the film. A source close to the actor shared that Junaid shot the whole day for the film. The film is helmed by Advait Chandan, who is known for 'Secret Superstar' and 'Laal Singh Chaddha'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shivangi Verma has opened up on the bold scenes in the show 'Tera Ishq Mera Fitoor', sharing how it was comfortable and not 'zabardasti', and how they executed it smoothly and beautifully.

Shivangi shared that executing bold scenes depends a lot on the co-actor, and she did not face any problems as far as being comfortable was concerned.

"I was very comfortable because it totally depends on your co-actor, and I was totally blessed with it. Sebban Azim was really comfortable to work with; in fact, he made me comfortable, and the director, the producer, and everybody else were there on the set, and they kind of created an environment to make both of us feel comfortable, so it was not like a 'zabardasti', but it was part of the story, and we did it smoothly and beautifully, and I am sure the audience will love it," she said.

Calling the show a passionate love story, Shivangi said: "It's an intense love story. It is deep, it's all about love. It's basically a musical love story, and it's just about love."

The actress further shared that the shooting went like a breeze.

Shivangi said: "It was really interesting to meet the cast; it was interesting to shoot the story with them, and we did the entire shoot outdoors, so we were in Igatpuri, Maharashtra, and we had a great time; we had a blast. We used to shoot, and then we used to chill together. I think all these were really interesting for me."

BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES CONGRATULATE VARUN, NATASHA AS THEY WELCOME BABY DAUGHTER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Bollywood star Varun Dhawan announced the arrival of his baby girl on social media, congratulatory messages started pouring in from friends, including Arjun Kapoor, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Varun shared the news on Instagram, posting an e-card featuring a picture of his beagle Joey holding a placard that read: "Welcome Lil' Sis... June 3, 2024."

The actor captioned the post: "Our girl is here. Thank you all for the good wishes for the mama and the baby."

Friends from the industry took to the comments section to congratulate the actor.

Samantha, who will share the screen with Varun in the Indian adaptation of 'Citadel', called it the "best news."

The actress wrote: "The best news, congratulations to both of you."

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who starred in the Russo Brothers' thriller series 'Citadel', wrote: "Congratulations woohoo."

Filmmaker Karan Johar wrote: "My baby had a baby girl!!!! I am over the

moooooooooo!!!! Congratulations to the proud mama and papa!!! Love you Natasha and Varun." Actress Rakul Preet Singh said: "Congratulationsssssss... so much love for three of you."

Kareena Kapoor Khan: "God bless all of you... wonderful news."

Actress Dia Mirza expressed her excitement, saying: "Yayyyyyy, congratulations."

Abhishek Bachchan wrote: "What wonderful news. Congratulations."

Actresses Esha Gupta and Nushratt Bharuccha simply wrote: "Congratulations."

Varun's 'Dishoom' co-star, Parineeti Chopra, wrote: "Congrats!!!"

Neil Nitin Mukesh wrote: "Congratulations to the entire family and blessings to the little one."

Actor Arjun Kapoor, a close friend of Varun, wrote: "Baby John had a baby!! Papa number 1 casting is now locked finally!!"

Congratulations Natasha and Varun Dhawan. Niyara, Abheer, and Joey have a sister."

In other news, Varun will next be seen in the action thriller 'Baby John', directed by A. Kaleswaran. The film also stars Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Jackie Shroff.



Shivangi Verma opens up on shooting bold scenes

Aditya Roy Kapur spotted at Dance Rehearsal Hall embracing summer cool

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the bustling streets of Andheri, Aditya Roy Kapur brought his signature charm and laidback style to the Dance Rehearsal Hall, capturing the attention of onlookers and paparazzi alike.

Arriving in his sleek SUV, Aditya exuded effortless elegance, dressed in white shorts, cotton shirt and leather slippers -- an appropriate ensemble to beat the summer heat while maintaining an aura of sophistication.

As cameras flashed and admirers clamoured for a glimpse of the handsome actor, Aditya graciously paused to pose for photographs. With an air of understated confidence, he effortlessly channelled a relaxed summer vibe, embodying the epitome of casual chic.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sonam Bajwa