Sunday Special

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WAR LEAPS WORLD FOOD COMMODITY PRICES: FAO

- The FAO Food Price Index averaged 159.3 points in March, up 12.6 per cent from February when it had already reached its highest level since its inception in 1990.
- The Index tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a basket of commonly-traded food commodities. The latest level of the index was 33.6 per cent higher than in March 2021.
- The FAO Cereal Price Index was 17.1 per cent higher in March than in February, driven by large rises in wheat and all coarse grain prices largely as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

World food commodity prices made a significant leap in March to reach their highest levels ever, as war in the Black Sea region spread shocks through markets for staple grains and vegetable oils, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on Friday.

Russia and Ukraine, combined, accounted for around 30 per cent and 20 per cent of global wheat and maize exports, respectively, over the past three years. World wheat prices soared by 19.7 per cent during the month, exacerbated by concerns over crop conditions in the US.

Meanwhile, maize prices posted a 19.1 per cent month-on-month increase, hitting a record high along with those of barley and sorghum. Contrasting trends across the various origins and qualities kept the March value of FAO's Rice

Price Index little changed from February, and thus still 10 per cent below its level of a year earlier.

The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index rose 23.2 per cent, driven by higher quotations for sunflower seed oil, of which Ukraine is the world's leading exporter.

Palm, soy and rapeseed oil prices also rose markedly as a result of the higher sunflower seed oil prices and the rising crude oil prices, with soy oil prices further underpinned by concerns over reduced exports by South America.

The FAO Sugar Price Index rose 6.7 per cent from February, reversing recent declines to reach a level more than 20 per cent higher than in March 2021. Higher crude oil prices were a driving factor, along with currency appreciation of the Brazilian Real, while favorable production prospects in India prevented larger monthly price increases.

The FAO Meat Price Index increased by 4.8 per cent in March to reach an all-time high, led by surging pig meat prices related to a shortfall of slaughter pigs in Western Europe.

International poultry prices also firmed in step with reduced supplies from leading exporting countries following avian flu outbreaks.

The FAO Dairy Price Index rose 2.6 per cent and was 23.6 per cent higher than in March 2021, as quotations for butter and milk powders rose steeply amid a surge in import demand for near and long-term deliveries, especially from Asian markets.

COVAXIN PRICES CUT TO RS 225 BEFORE BOOSTER DRIVE BEGINS

Covaxin will now cost Rs 225 per dose at private hospitals, from Rs 1,200 earlier. Covishield vaccine rates have also been slashed, from Rs 600 to Rs 225.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day before Covid vaccine booster shots become available to all 18 plus population, Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Saturday announced a large slash in the Covaxin vaccine price.

Bharat Biotech co-founder Suchitra Ella said that we have decided to revise the price of Covaxin in consultation with the Central government. The precaution doses vaccination drive will begin for all adults of 18 plus population from Sunday onwards at private vaccination centres.

> *"We welcome the decision to make available precautionary dose for all adults. In consultation with the Central Government, we have decided to revise the price of #COVAXIN from Rs 1200 to Rs 225 per dose for private hospitals."*
>
> *Suchitra Ella, Bharat Biotech*

The Centre on Friday announced that all those who are more than 18 years of age and have completed 9 months after the administration of second dose, would be eligible for precaution dose. This facility would be available in all Private Vaccination Centres.

Meanwhile, in a virtual meeting with all Health Secretaries of states and UTs, the Union Health Ministry announced that the private Covid vaccination centres can charge only up to a maximum of INR 150 as service charge for precaution dose over and above the cost of vaccine.

Google to block outdated apps on Play Store from Nov 1

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a bid to protect users from installing outdated apps which can put their data at risk, Google has announced to block and hide apps on Play Store that have not kept up with latest Android operating system (OS) updates.

Starting November 1 this year, existing apps that don't target an API level within two years of the latest major Android release version will not be available for discovery or installation for new users with devices running Android OS versions higher than apps' target API level.

"As new Android OS versions launch in the future, the requirement window will adjust accordingly," said Krish Vitaldevara, Director, Product Management.

As part of Google Play's latest policy updates, the company is taking additional steps to protect users from installing apps that may not have the latest privacy and security features by expanding its target level API requirements. Google currently requires new apps and app updates to target an Android API level within one year of the latest major Android OS version release. New apps and app updates that don't meet this requirement cannot be published on Google Play.

Users with the latest devices or those who are fully caught up on Android updates expect to realise the full potential of all the privacy and security protections Android has to offer.

"Expanding our target level API requirements will protect users from installing older apps that may not have these protections in place," said Google. According to the company, a vast majority of apps on Google Play already abide by these standards.

Google said it is notifying developers in advance and providing resources for those who need them.

Three more tiger reserves get international accreditation for conservation

- The total number of tiger reserves to get CA|TS certification becomes 17 as on date, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change announced.
- The certificates of accreditation were handed over to the officials from the three tiger reserves at Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh during the 20th National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) meeting being held on Saturday and Sunday there.
- In July 2021, 14 of India's tiger reserves were awarded this global accreditation. India has over 50 tiger reserves. The government had initiated this CATS standardisation process 10 years ago

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu and Bandhavgarh and Pench Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh were on Saturday awarded the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) international accreditation certificates.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav had insisted on NTCA meeting to be held outside Delhi - for the first time - in order to get first hand information about the reserve, local issues etc.

"While promoting tiger reserves across the country, we need to ensure the livelihoods of the people dependent on forests," the Minister said and pressed on active involvement of locals for conservation and better development of forest area and tiger reserve.

Yadav also released Standard Operating Procedure for Tiger Reintroduction and Supplementation in Wild', 'Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves' and a technical manual 'Management Effectiveness Evaluation' (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India prepared by the NTCA. India harbours about 70 per cent of the world's tiger population in the wild.

WhatsApp likely turns off 'media visibility' option for disappearing chats

San Francisco: Meta-owned WhatsApp is likely now automatically turning off the option of "media visibility" for disappearing chats on WhatsApp for Android, which let people view media in their phone's gallery. According to WA BetaInfo, the new move is to ensure a better privacy experience when using disappearing messages and to help keep media more private in disappearing chat threads. In addition, the messaging platform is also rolling out the same change on WhatsApp for iOS, where the option "Save to Camera Roll" is automatically turned off for disappearing chats. In this case, images, videos and GIFs are never automatically saved in a user's camera roll if the general setting is enabled. Users can still save media manually in disappearing chats. Some users on certain versions of Android already have an option to manually save media, the report said. On WhatsApp for iOS, users can save media as normally users do. The changes are rolled out to all users on beta and public builds and full activation to everyone may happen within the next 24 hours.

THAILAND OPEN

STRIKING 3 GOLD INDIA END CAMPAIGN WITH 10 MEDALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Govind Sahani, Ananta Chopde and Sumit concluded their impressive run at the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament with gold medals in Phuket on Saturday.

The trio registered commanding victories against their respective opponents from Thailand while four other Indian boxers - Monika (48kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg), claimed silver medals after enduring defeats in the finals. Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg) secured bronze medals with their semi-finals finish, as the 15-member Indian contingent ended their campaign with 10 medals. The Indian boxers also bettered the last edition's medal tally of eight medals - one gold, four silver and three bronze. Sahani handed the country first gold when he outperformed Natthaphon Thuamcharoen with a 5-0 win in the men's 48kg contest. Chopde and Sumit, too, were quite dominant during their identical wins by unanimous decisions. While Chopde blanked Ritthiamon Saengsawang in the men's 54kg final, Sumit defeated Peetapat Yeasungnoen in the men's 75kg category. Meanwhile, playing the first international tournament post their outings in the 2020 Olympic Games, Panghal and the defending champion Ashish suffered contrasting defeats.

While the 2019 World Championships silver medallist Panghal tried his all but went down fighting 2-3 against Rogen Ladon of the Philippines in a men's 52kg thriller, Ashish lost to Kazakhsta's Nurbek Oralbay by a 0-5 margin in the men's 81kg final.

Monika (48kg) and Varinder (60kg) lost to Thailand boxers Chutamas Raksat and Khunatip Pidnuch respectively by a similar margin of 0-5.

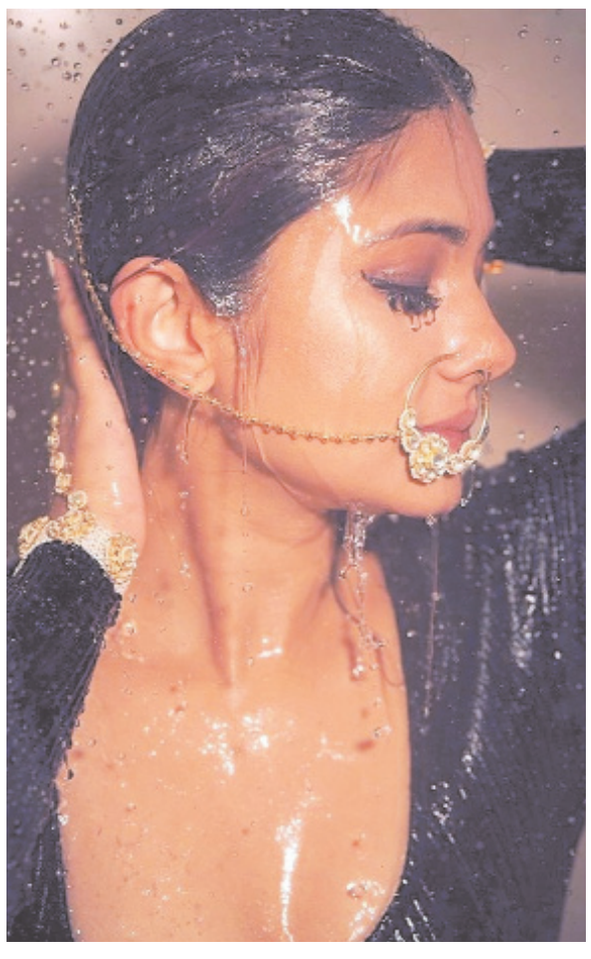
MEDALLISTS:

Gold: Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta Chopde (54kg) and Sumit (75kg)

Silver: Monika (48kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg)

Bronze: Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg).

TV stars taking over Instagram with their fashion sense



Olivia Sarkar | New Delhi

Aside from Bollywood celebrities who have achieved name and fame in their own industry, we cannot ignore television stars who are well-liked by audiences for their acting ability and fashion sense. With a sizable fan base, these television actors are taking Instagram by storm.

MOUNI ROY (22.6M)

With 22.6M followers on Instagram, we wouldn't be mistaken to say Mouni's fashion sense is always on point throughout her journey. She has never failed to look stunning and understated at any event, whether it is a party, a trip, or an award ceremony.

DIVYANKA TRIPATHI DAHIYA (18.9M)

Divyanka has received a lot of love from her fans for all of the different roles she has played on television, particularly her role as Ishita in the TV show 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein', but that isn't all. It's incredible how much love she receives from her fans for her fashion choices.

HINA KHAN (16.6M)

Hina Khan has not only put on a show with her acting abilities on the TV serial 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', but she has also displayed fashion ranging from ethnic to modern, and she has looked stunning in all of them. Even when she isn't on television, she tries to make a statement with her style, as evidenced by her Instagram profile.

JENNIFER WINGET (12.2M)

Diva in Glamour Jennifer Winget is a television-style icon. Is it really necessary for us to say anything to her? Her fashion sense has always been in the spotlight, and the Diva never fails to dazzle her fans.

NIA SHARMA (7.3M)

Nia gained notoriety after being named the sexiest Asian woman for the third time. Her sense of style is incredible, and you'd want to steal it. Just taking a look at her Instagram feed can teach you how to dress up in various avatars.

KRYSTLE D'SOUZA (7.1M)

Krystle D'Souza, the stunning TV star, is the fashionista of television. Krystle is well-known among fans for her stunning appearance and high sense of style. Her hair, outfits, and make-up are always making headlines, and for good reason.

TEJASSWI PRAKASH (5.5M)

Tejasswi Prakash's performance may have taken a topsy-turvy turn, but that hasn't stopped her fans from showering her with love and acclaim for her style game. Tejasswi has always made headlines for her fashion choices, establishing her as one of the most talented actresses in today's small screen industry.

I WAS BORN IN CENTRE OF POWER BUT IT DOES NOT INTEREST ME: RAHUL GANDHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that despite being born in the centre of power, he has no greed or temptation for it.

The Congress MP was speaking while launching a collection of essays edited by former IAS officer K. Raju at Jawahar Bhawan.

"There are politicians who are constantly in search of power.... I was born in the centre of power but honestly, it does not interest me at all. On the contrary, I try to understand the people and the country. In the process, I came to know that India is the only country in the world where untouchability still exists. We need to break free from this regressive mindset," he said.

Expressing his gratitude for the constant love that he received from the people, Gandhi said: "My country has loved me unconditionally for which I shall be indebted eternally. Definitely, there have been times when I have received brick bats as well which caused immense pain but deep within I know that my country wants to teach me so I try to understand it." On people being targetted only because they belong to a particular caste or creed he said: "I have also seen times when mobs assaulted innocent people like animals with sticks and batons simply because they belonged to a different caste or religion. This is happening only with Dalits in the country."

K. Raju in his new book "The Dalit Truth: The Battle for Realizing Ambedkar's Vision" has attempted to depict the Dalit voice. It depicts their fight against the mob of Dalit truth and the lies perpetrated by the caste system.

This is the eighth volume of Penguin Random House India's 'Rethinking India' series.

K. Raju, who is also the National Coordinator of Congress's SC, ST, OBC and All India Minority Departments, said: "This book is a companion for the truth seeker who seeks to demolish the caste architecture that engenders inequality and discrimination in society, maintains it."

6 FIREFIGHTERS AMONG 9 INJURED IN DELHI FACTORY FIRE

New Delhi: Nine people, including six firemen, were injured after a LPG cylinder exploded during a firefighting operation in a Chemical and Electrical equipment manufacturing factory in the national capital on early Saturday.A Fire department official told reporter that they received a call about a fire incident at 4.43 a.m. in a factory located at street no 4, Anand Parvat Industrial Area of Delhi after which as many as 10 fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service."As the firemen were dousing the flames, an LPG cylinder exploded resulting in injuries to six firemen and three civilians," the official said, adding the condition of the injured is now stable. The official confirmed that there have been no casualties in the incident, however, there was certainly a massive loss of property.

Delhi: Students, activists demanding Hindu seer's arrest detained

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Several students and social activists were on Saturday detained while staging a protest outside the Uttar Pradesh Bhawan in the national capital demanding arrest of a Hindu seer, Bajrang Muni.

The protest was called by All India Students Association (AISA), Campus Front of India, and Fraternity Movement, after which students in large numbers along with activists assembled outside the Uttar Pradesh Bhawan at Sardar Patel Marg in Chanakyapuri.

The protesters raised slogans demanding arrest of Bajrang Muni, for allegedly making some objectionable remarks.

"As the students continued to raise slogans outside the Uttar Pradesh Bhawan, they were stopped by the Delhi Police and later detained," AISA general secretary Prasenjit Kumar told reporter. The protesters were then taken to Mandir Marg Police station around 3.30 p.m. and later released at 7.15 p.m. in the evening, Kumar said.

On April 2, an alleged hate speech by Bajrang Muni outside a mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district went viral on social media, and later sparked an outrage.

Six days later -- on April 8, the Sitapur police in Uttar Pradesh, in a statement on Twitter, said that a case under relevant sections has been registered and further steps are being taken on the basis of witnesses' statements. The 2-minute video containing the hate speech is said to have been recorded on April 2 when Bajrang Muni, who is the mahant of Maharshi Shri Lakshman Das Udasin Ashram in Khairabad town, was taking out a procession on the occasion of Navratri and Hindu New Year. Muni can be allegedly heard saying in the video that if any Hindu girl is teased by a man belonging to a particular community, he would himself rape a woman of that community.

He also allegedly made some more objectionable remarks. Sitapur district Additional Superintendent of Police, North, Rajiv Dikshit, had said that legal action will be taken as per rules on the basis of the facts and evidence that surface during the probe.

Delhi BJP leader booked for sharing 'doctored' Kejriwal clip

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Punjab Police have registered an FIR against a Delhi BJP leader for allegedly sharing on his Twitter handle a "doctored video clip" of Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

This is the third FIR against a BJP leader since the AAP formed government on March 16. The FIR was registered against Delhi BJP's media cell head Naveen Kumar Jindal in Mohali, near here.He has been booked on the complaint of advocate Gurbhej Singh, who alleged that Jindal shared a cropped video from the original footage of an interview given by Kejriwal to a TV channel and doctored the original content.The complainant said some words of the Delhi Chief Minister from the original interview were dropped, a police official said.An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology Act.

PRESIDENT KOVIND GREETS CITIZENS ON RAM NAVAMI

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind has extended his warm greetings and best wishes to fellow citizens on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami that will be celebrated across India on Sunday. Taking to Twitter, the President said: "Ram Navami is an auspicious occasion to recall the ideals of Lord Ram and apply them in our lives. His life inspires us to follow the sublime values of virtue, tolerance, kindness, and fraternity. Our lives be guided by these eternal values while following our duties."A communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan also quoted him as saying: "Let us dedicate ourselves to follow the path shown by Lord Ram and resolve to build a glorious nation."

Row over Tipu Sultan resurfaces in Andhra town

AMARAVATI | Agencies

The Tipu Sultan controversy has resurfaced in Proddatur town in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district.

Unidentified person wrote 'Tipu Sultan Centre' on a divider on Jinnah Road Centre, once again bringing to the fire the controversy over the proposal to install a statue of the former Mysore ruler in the town.

On the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, unidentified persons wrote the name in Telugu. Anticipating trouble, the local municipal authorities moved swiftly to wipe out the writing on the divider.

The police beefed up the security as a precautionary measure and began investigation to identify the person who wrote 'Tipu Sultan Centre'.

The town had witnessed tension in July last year after BJP staged protests against the proposal to install Tipu Sultan's statue in the town.

Proddatur MLA Rachamallu Siva Prasad Reddy belonging to ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) wanted to install the statue on Jinna Road in the town on a request from local people and had even laid foundation stone for the same.

However, this met with strong opposition from BJP, which termed Tipu Sultan a tormentor of Hindus. The saffron party threatened the structure, if built.

BJP state president Somu Veerraju had also staged a dharna at the municipal office in the town to oppose the proposal to install the statue of Tipu Sultan.

The saffron party had also tried to take out a rally to the spot where foundation stone was laid, leading to tension. Its leaders had termed the proposal as an attempt to hurt sentiments of Hindus and had urged the state committee to drop the proposal and instead install a statue of late President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

The YSRCP MLA, however, had defended the move saying there was no evidence that Tipu Sultan committed atrocities on Hindus. He had said that if this was proved he would disassociate from the project.

With the issue leading to tension and law and order problems in the town, the municipal authorities had dropped the proposal.

Now, with unidentified persons trying to reignite the controversy with the writings overnight, the authorities are once again on alert to prevent any untoward incident.

Iron bridge thieves inspired by Nitish, BJP, alleges Tejashwi Yadav

PATNA | Agencies

After a 60-feet long iron bridge was stolen from Bihar's Rohtas district, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday alleged that the thieves were inspired by Nitish Kumar and BJP leaders as the latter had "stolen" government in the state in 2020.

Since its defeat in the 2020 Assembly polls, the RJD had been alleging that the party had lost the seats due to counting malpractices and poll rigging.

"When Nitish Ji and BJP can steal the government in Bihar, stealing a bridge is not a big deal. The thieves were inspired by Nitish Kumar and BJP who had stolen the mandate," Tejashwi said in a tweet.

"Nitish Kumar and BJP, who have been ruling the state for the last 17 years, are responsible for allowing the loot of a 45 years old 500 tonne iron bridge in Rohtas. Thieves arrived with gas cutters, JCB machines and uprooted the bridge in broad daylight. They were inspired from Nitish ji and BJP," Tejashwi alleged.

The thieves, posing as officers of the state Irrigation Department, used gas cutters and earth mover machines to demolish the bridge and take away the scrap metal in three days.

Interestingly, they took the help of local Irrigation Department officials and villagers during the removal of the iron bridge. By the time, officials could understand about theft, the thieves had fled with their "heavy" loot.

The bridge was constructed over the Arrah canal in 1972 at Amiyawar village which comes under Nasriganj police station. As by now, it became quite old and was declared dangerous, the local villagers were not using it, and using a concrete bridge adjoining it.

Six girls consume poison, 3 die in Bihar's Aurangabad district

PATNA | Agencies

Three girls died, while as many are battling for their lives after all six of them consumed poison at a village in Bihar's Aurangabad district, an official said on Saturday.

According to police, one of the girls was involved in a one-sided affair. When her marriage proposal was rejected by the boy she was in love with, she took the extreme step. All the others followed suit.

The incident took place in a village which falls under Kasma police station in Aurangabad. Three of the girls are stated to be "critical" in Gaya's Magadh medical college.

Elaborating on the incident, Kantesh Kumar Mishra, SP of Aurangabad said: "One of the girls was in love with her brother's brother-in-law. "On Friday, that girl along with five of her friends went to the boy and proposed marriage to him. The boy turned down her proposal after which they returned home. But the dejected girl consumed a poisonous substance in the evening. The five other girls who were following her, also consumed the same."They were immediately rushed to Aurangabad Sadar hospital where three of them succumbed, while the others were referred to Magadh medical college for better treatment in Gaya. Following the incident, the situation is tense in the village, where the Area Circle officers and SHO are camping to avoid any untoward incident.

Pilot's meeting with Rahul Gandhi in Delhi creates buzz

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Sachin Pilot met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Friday triggering a political buzz. Sources say that Pilot apprised Gandhi of the situation in the state after the Karauli incident in Rajasthan and discussed other political issues with the former party president.

Pilot, who is eyeing a comeback in the state politics since he revolted against the Ashok Gehlot government, is likely to be entrusted an organisational role very soon.

The BJP has been on attacking mode since the clashes broke out between two groups in Karauli. The state government has claimed that it has taken strict action but the Opposition is continuing with its attacking stance.

The BJP on Friday said that it seems like "there is Taliban rule in the state".

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia said that due to the "appeasement politics of the Gehlot government it looks like there is Taliban rule in Rajasthan".

"The appeasement policy of the Chief Minister clearly indicates that he himself has created a divide in the name of majority and minority. If you look at the track record of the last three years, you will find that the Rajasthan's majority community are hesitant to celebrate their festivals, they are afraid," Poonia added.

Fake job racket busted, 5 held

Delhi Police has busted a fake job racket that used to dupe people on the pretext of providing them jobs in private airlines, and subsequently arrested five persons in this connection, an official said on Saturday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The accused were identified as Deepak a.k.a. Mama, Aniket, Sandeep, Avnendra and Pushpender.

DCP (Crime branch) Rohit Meena said a complaint was received at Cyber North police station through National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) in which the complainant had alleged that he received a call from a person who informed that his resume had been selected for Computer Operator Job in Indigo Airlines.

Thereafter, the victim was made to talk with another person -- impersonating as an HR manager and his interview was conducted over mobile phone. After the interview, he was directed to deposit Rs 14,225 in a bank account for uniform fee, salary account activation fee, passport fee etc. Following the directions, the complainant deposited the said amount in a bank account provided by the accused. After some time, when the complainant made a follow-up call regarding the job offer, he was told that due to some internal emergency, the company has stopped hiring. The complainant then asked to return his money but the accused switched off his mobile phone.

Accordingly, on the basis of a complaint, the police registered an FIR under Section 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) at the Cyber North District, and an investigation was carried out.

The police team in an operation spanning two weeks finally zeroed in on the location of accused persons in a flat in Noida and with their arrests recovered 57 SIM cards, 25 mobile phones, 33 debit cards, 4 Wi-Fi routers and fake job offer letters.

Also, 13 bank accounts used to transfer money were also identified and are being scrutinised, the official said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that one of the accused persons namely Pushpender was cheated through similar modus operandi a few years ago. Therefore, he along with other accused persons hatched a plan to dupe job aspirants in the same manner to earn quick money.

For Generation Ace

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"To wish you were someone else is to waste the person you re.r violence in revoluion."

Lord Ram

Speaker refused to allow voting, Pak Assembly adjourned

IMRAN SURVIVES!

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan National Assembly's Speaker Asad Qaiser on Sunday refused to allow the members to cast their votes in the no-confidence motion despite the passage of several hours, reports said.

The Speaker, according to sources, said that since he shares a 30-year relationship with the Prime Minister, he cannot allow the voting to take place, Geo News reported.

Despite the PTI government's hectic efforts to avoid voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the historic session of the National Assembly to decide his fate began on Saturday.

Imran holds emergency cabinet meeting to discuss 'surprise'

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has held an emergency meeting of the federal cabinet, the media reported.Pakistan Federal Science Minister Shibli Faraz told reporters that a "surprise" was discussed at the meeting, adding that the prime minister could go to the Parliament at any moment, Samaa TV reported.The federal minister said that the cabinet did not discuss mass resignations.

Several key decisions were expected at the meeting which will review the prevailing situation in the country.Federal ministers Pevez Khattak, Asad Umar, Shireen Mazari and others arrived at the Prime Minister House for the meeting, which began shortly after 9 p.m.

Imran praises India's foreign policy

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran said he knew India better than other politicians and expressed sadness that Pakistan did not have good relations with it because of its "RSS ideology and what happened in Kashmir".He praised India's "independent" foreign policy, saying no superpower had the courage to tell the neighbouring country to change its foreign policy, Dawn news reported."They (India) are saying they will import Russian oil because it is better for their people despite the sanctions (on Russia)."He said he had the "same problem".

Pak govt files review plea against SC's decision

The PTI-led Pakistant government on Saturday filed a review petition against the Supreme Court's decision to restore the National Assembly and block Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's decision to dismiss the voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, media reports said. The apex court's five-member bench - headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Aijazul Ahsan, Justice Mazhar Alam, and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel - had issued the ruling. The top court had ordered National Assembly Speaker Asad Qasier to summon the session on Saturday to allow the vote on the no-confidence motion against the Premier.

If Imran likes India so much, then he should leave Pak & move: Maryam NawaZ

Maryam Nawaz, Vice President of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), while taking a dig at Prime Minister Imran Khan said the latter has "gone mad" after seeing that he was losing power, the media reported. She said if Khan likes India so much, then he should leave Pakistan and move there.

Maryam Nawaz said that the India Khan is talking about, there were 27 no-confidence motions against the various Prime Ministers but no one has played with the constitution, democracy and ethics. "Vajpayee lost by one vote, went home - did not take the country, constitution and nation hostage like you," she wrote on her Twitter handle.

Temporary respite in heat wave area, intensity soon: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The ongoing heat wave spell is likely to continue over northwest India, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha during next five days with temporary decrease in area and intensity during April 11 to 13, the India Meteorology Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

Hissar AMFU station in Haryana recorded the highest maximum temperature of 45.3 degrees Celsius across India.

A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect western Himalayan region from the night of April 12 and under its influence, light/moderate isolated to scattered rainfall is likely over western Himalayan region on April 12 and 13.

It will also lead to dust raising winds (20-30 kmph) likely over Rajasthan during April 11 and 12. Strong surface winds (25-35 kmph) are likely over southwest Uttar Pradesh on April 10 and 11, the IMD said. In Rajasthan, Ganganagar (44.6) was hottest, in Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj (44.4), in Madhya Pradesh, Rajgarh (44) and in NCR, Gurugram recorded 44.5 degrees Celsius.

Heavy rainfall spell to continue over Assam-Meghalaya

The heavy rainfall spells that have pounded several areas in northeastern India are likely to continue over Assam and Meghalaya during next five days with Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu too likely to receive heavy rainfall on Sunday.

Scores of places across northeast Indian states have been receiving very heavy rainfall for almost a week now while Tamil Nadu and Kerala have received rainfall in varied measures over the last two days.The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, under the influence of strong southwesterly winds from Bay of Bengal to northeastern states at lower tropospheric levels, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm/ lightning is very likely over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya and isolated/scattered rainfall over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura during next five days.

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

मध्यप्रदेश शासन

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

किसान सम्मान और कल्याण के लिए
प्रतिबद्ध मध्यप्रदेश सरकार

प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि
एवं मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना

पिछले 2 वर्षों में लगभग 15 हजार करोड़
रुपये किसानों के खातों में अंतरित

76 लाख 53 हजार से
अधिक किसान लाभान्वित

- योजनाओं के माध्यम से किसानों को प्रतिवर्ष प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि से 6 हजार रुपये एवं मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना से 4 हजार रुपये की सहायता।
- प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि में किसानों के खातों में 10 हजार 337 करोड़ रुपये अंतरित।
- मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना में किसानों को 4 हजार 569 करोड़ रुपये का हितलाभ।

D11010/22

मध्यप्रदेश की यह पहचान, उन्नत खेती खुशहाल किसान

मध्यप्रदेश जनसम्पर्क द्वारा जारी

आकल्पन : मध्यप्रदेश माध्यम/2022

MONITOR SPREAD OF COVID-19: CENTRE TO MAHARASHTRA

- MAHARASHTRA ACCOUNTS FOR 10.9% OF ALL COVID CASES LAST WEEK
- THE STATE WAS ADVISED TO MONITOR CLUSTERS OF NEW COVID-19 CASES AND TOLD THAT IT REQUIRED TO TAKE CONTAINMENT MEASURES. ALSO, IT WAS ASKED TO MONITOR INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS AND SARI CASES IN ALL HEALTH FACILITIES.
- WITH PRIVATE HOSPITALS BEING ROPED IN, THIS DRIVE WILL GAIN BIGGER MOMENTUM AND WITH A LARGER REACH HELP PEOPLE GET BOOSTER SHOTS FASTER," SAID DR SANJITHSASEEDHARAN, CONSULTANT AND HEAD CRITICAL CARE AT SL RAHEJA HOSPITAL IN MAHIM.
- AROUND 18,000 VIALS ARE AVAILABLE WITH US. WE WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO UTILISE THE AVAILABLE VIALS RATHER THAN DISCARDING THEM," SAID DR GAUTAM BHANSALI, CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN AT BOMBAY HOSPITAL.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a letter to the Maharashtra government, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Friday advised the state to focus on five-fold strategy - test, track, treat, vaccination and adherence to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour.In a letter to state Additional Chief Secretary Dr Pradeep Vyas, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan pointed out that Maharashtra had reported 794 new cases last week, accounting for 10.9 per cent of all cases recorded across India. "The state has also seen an increase in positivity rate in the last week - from 0.39 per cent to 0.43 per cent," the letter added.

The state was advised to monitor clusters of new Covid-19 cases and told that it required to take containment measures. Also, it was asked to monitor influenza-like illness and SARI cases in all health facilities. Meanwhile, after the Centre's announcement that booster shots against Covid-19 will be available for all adults from Sunday, private hospitals are gearing up for the vaccination drive. Around 10 lakh adults are eligible for booster shots in Mumbai. The booster shots will also help private hospitals use up their unused vials.

Attack on Pawar home: NCP says 'plot' to physically harm him, Sena senses 'BJP conspiracy'

In a direct charge, Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena on Saturday accused opposition Bharatiya Janata Party of masterminding the conspiracy of the attack on Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar's home on Friday evening, while a Minister said it was a sinister plan to cause physical harm to the senior leader and his family, and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari condemned the incident.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a direct charge, Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena on Saturday accused opposition Bharatiya Janata Party of masterminding the conspiracy of the attack on Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar's home on Friday evening, while a Minister said it was a sinister plan to cause physical harm to the senior leader and his family, and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari condemned the incident.

Housing Minister Dr Jitendra Awhad made a startling claim that the whole purpose of the assault was to cause "bodily harm" to Pawar, his wife and other family members present at that time in their Silver Oaks bungalow.

Talking to the media after meeting Pawar, Sena MP and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the transport workers' stir on Friday was not an agitation, but "a brutal, pre-planned attack" on the NCP leader's residence at Silver Oaks bungalow in south Mumbai.

"It is regretful that the Opposition (BJP) is supporting such acts... They are stooping to the lowest level of politics to target the MVA government and create a law-and-order situation in the state," he said. Training guns on the leader and lawyer of the agitating Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) staffers, GunratanSadavarte, Raut demanded to know the people "behind" him, at whose house he lives, and who is supporting him financially.

Even when scores of MSRTC employees rushed to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), they all had platform tickets and Raut asked how they could all buy the entry tickets simultaneously and who had provided the money for it.Meanwhile, Sadavarte and around 100-plus who were arrested late last night in connection with the attacks, will be produced before a Mumbai Magistrate Court. Between 100-125 employees of the MSRTC - who are on the warpath since November 2021 - went on a rampage outside Pawar's home and later carried out a precision attack with stones and shoes, shaking the state and national polity. The sudden attack has been blamed on "intelligence failure" by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Raut and Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis with demands for a probe into the role of the police and its allegedly delayed response though the media-teams had got advance tip-off and were present there in full strength.

The incident was taken note of at the highest levels including Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray while Home Minister DilipWalse-Patil has ordered a police report into the assault. Taking no chances, the Mumbai Police have beefed up security at the homes of key dignitaries including the CM, DyCM, Transport Minister Anil Parab, the homes of the Pawar clan in Mumbai and Baramati (Pune) and other leaders.

Pawar home attack: Lawyer detained, 100 arrested

Mumbai Police late on Friday detained lawyer GunratanSadavarte, who is at the forefront of the state transport employees' agitation, and arrested at least 100 more in connection with the shock attack on the home of Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar, officials said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police late on Friday detained lawyer GunratanSadavarte, who is at the forefront of the state transport employees' agitation, and arrested at least 100 more in connection with the shock attack on the home of Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar, officials said.

The Gamdevi Police whisked off Sadavarte while Yellowgate Police have carried out the other arrests.

An FIR has been lodged against 100 protesters against for rioting and conspiracy, among other charges.

The development came against the backdrop of the 'surgical strike' on Pawar's Silver Oaks bungalow in south Mumbai, which stunned the national political circles.

The attack by the staffers of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation -- agitating since November -- came a day after the Bombay High Court directed them to join duties by April 22.

STRONG DOLLAR DENTS INDIA'S FOREIGN RESERVES, FOREX DOWN BY OVER $11 BN

Mumbai: Global currency fluctuations, due to a rise in US dollar strength, depleted India's foreign reserve by over $11.173 billion during the week that ended on April 1.

The foreign currency assets (FCAs), the largest component of the forex reserves, got negatively impacted due to the rising US dollar strength against other global currencies.The FCAs consist of global currencies and securities such as US treasury bonds.

As per the RBI data, the FCAs edged lower by $10.727 billion to $539.727 billion. India's overall forex reserves, thus, fell by $11.173 billion to $606.475 billion from $617.648 billion reported for the previous weekThe country's forex reserves consist of FCAs, gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF.The value of the gold reserves also decreased by $507 million to $42.734 billion. While SDR value gained by $58 million to $18.879 billion, India's reserve position with the IMF also gained by $4 million to $5.136 billion.

Burglary at Sonam Kapoor's Delhi residence, valuables worth Rs 2.4 cr stolen

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hindi cinema actor Sonam Kapoor and her husband Anand Ahuja's residence in the national capital was burgled in February and cash, jewellery and other valuable items worth Rs 2.4 crore were stolen, it was officially learnt on Saturday.

Confirming the incident, Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi district) Amrutha Guguloth said a complaint was lodged two months back, on February 23, regarding theft at the residence of Harish Ahuja, the father-in-law of Sonam Kapoor, at Amrita Shergil Marg in Delhi.

DCP Guguloth said the complainant had noticed about the robbery on February 11, however, reported the incident 12 days later on February 23 after which Delhi Police registered an FIR under section 381 (Theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master) of the Indian Penal Code at the Tughlak Road police station and initiated an investigation into the case.

The senior official informed that police teams have been formed to probe the incident which are currently examining the evidence. "The investigation is still underway," Guguloth added.

Notably, the Bollywood diva Sonam and businessman Anand are expecting their first child and that their baby will arrive in fall. They tied the knot in 2018.

NCP criticises Union min Giriraj's 'housing for rural poor' statement

NCP leader Mahesh Tapase said former prime minister Manmohan Singh ushered India on to the path of economic growth by introducing the policy of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

Pune | Agencies

The Maharashtra unit of the NCP criticised Union Minister Giriraj Singh for his statement comparing the performance of the Narendra Modi-led dispensation with that of previous governments at the Centre.

"Time and again ministers of the Modi government are making tall claims about public works done in eight years and comparing them to the work done in the last 60 years.

"On Friday, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said that only 3.26 crore houses were built for rural poor in 60 years while 2.4 crore houses have been constructed in the eight years of the Modi government.

"The ministers of the Modi government need to get their facts right and while comparing they should take a lot of factors into consideration," said NCP Maharashtra spokesperson Mahesh Tapase in a release.

The Sharad Pawar-led party said, "Between 1947 and the early '90s, what was the state of the country's economy? What was the GDP? How much financial resource was available to individual ministries? All these figures have to be made public while drawing a comparison."

The NCP leader said the Union ministers should also place on record the financial outlay of their respective ministries right from 1947 to 1990 and then again from 1990 onwards in the post-privatisation and globalisation era.

Tapase said former prime minister Manmohan Singh ushered India on to the path of economic growth by introducing the policy of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. "The UPA government had already catapulted India into a $2.5-trillion economy before the Modi government took over," he said.

The NCP said despite high international prices of crude, Manmohan Singh never passed on the burden to the common man unlike the current regime.

"Communal harmony, brotherhood and respect for all were an integral part of our daily life," he added.

MAN ON THE RUN AFTER KIDNAP, RAPE OF 6-YEAR-OLD GIRL: POLICE

The accused, age 40, allegedly kidnapped and raped a 6-year-old girl who lived in his neighbourhood.

Thane: A 6-year-old girl was abducted and raped allegedly by her neighbour in Wagle Estate area of Thane city, a police official said on Friday.
The accused has been identified as Anwar Shaikh (40), Inspector (Crime) Sunil Shinde said, "On April 6, the accused took the the girl to his home, locked it and raped her. He fled from the spot after being confronted by neighbours and efforts were on to nab him," he said.

Mumbai businessman nabbed for Rs 14 crore GST fraud

The Maharashtra state GST Department has arrested a businessman for generating fake bills of Rs 102 crore to make bogus input tax credit claims of Rs 14 crore, an official said here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra state GST Department has arrested a businessman for generating fake bills of Rs 102 crore to make bogus input tax credit claims of Rs 14 crore, an official said here on Saturday.

The businessman, who is the proprietor of Cermix, was arrested on Thursday and a Mumbai Magistrate sent to custody for 14 days.

According to the GST Department, the sleuths also managed to get 8 crore from suppliers connected with Cermix, which generated, availed and utilised fraudulent GST ITC of Rs 14 crore from the bogus invoices worth Rs 102 crore.

The operation was jointly conducted by Assistant State Tax Commissioner Amol Suryawanshi with Deputy Commissioner Nilkanth S. Ghogare, and Joint Commissioner Rahul Dwivedi of Investigation-A.

The GST Department has warned that it uses comprehensive network analytic tools, coordinates with other authorities to identify tax evaders and none would be spared for cheating the government.

12-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED IN PUBLIC TOILET

The incident took place in a public toilet between Pune railway station and Maldhakka Chowk on Friday afternoon, an official said. After hearing about the incident from her daughter, the woman approached the police and lodged a complaint. The police have launched a search to nab the accused.

Pune | Agencies

A man allegedly raped a 12-year-old girl in a public toilet in Maharashtra's Pune city, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in a public toilet between Pune railway station and Maldhakka Chowk on Friday afternoon, an official said.

According to the police, the matter came to light, when the girl's uncle saw the accused entering the public toilet which the victim was using and raised an alarm.

"The accused fled the scene after the girl's uncle raised an alarm. The family approached the police and a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered," the official said.

The absconding accused is a middle-aged man, who is homeless and lives in the area, she said, adding that the girl's family are acquainted with the man.

The police said the complainant is a resident of an area near the public toilet where the crime reportedly took place. The complainant said the accused raped her daughter when she went to relieve herself at the toilet around 1:30am on Friday.

After hearing about the incident from her daughter, the woman approached the police and lodged a complaint. The police have launched a search to nab the accused.

Maharashtra property registration probe: Clerks at helm in over 300 sub-registrar offices

In total, more than 300 of 519 sub-registrar offices in Maharashtra don't have a sub-registrar, the IGR's office said.

Pune | Agencies

Following the revelation that over 10,000 property documents were registered illegally in Pune district, it has now come to light that several sub-registrar offices across Maharashtra were being run by clerks. The office of the Inspector General of Registration (IGR) has confirmed that clerical staff and not high-ranking officials were running the show at more than 50 per cent of sub-registrar offices in the state.

In total, more than 300 of 519 sub-registrar offices in Maharashtra don't have a sub-registrar, the IGR's office said. Sources said that this has happened as promotions have not been given in sub-registrar offices for years altogether. "We are taking steps to initiate the process of promotions that has been held up for years," IGR Shravan Hardikar told media persons. Meanwhile, 11 sub-registrars in Pune district have been suspended by the state government after the IGR office found that they have reportedly registered 10,561 documents illegally. The 11 sub-registrars are among the 44 officials who have been suspended pending enquiry. "We have initiated a departmental probe against 44 officials. They are being charge-sheeted. If they accept their guilt, we will take action against them. If they refuse to accept that they are guilty, then the departmental probe against them will proceed," said Hardikar. The suspended officials allegedly registered properties in violation of the Real Estate Regulatory Act and the Maharashtra Prevention of Fragmentation of Consolidation of Holdings Act.

Hardikar said the state government had launched a vigilance probe in this regard over a year ago. "This was done before I took charge as the IGR. The squad verified lakhs of documents and has found that over 10,000 were registered in violation of the two Acts," he said. Initially, four sub-registrars were suspended and now seven more have been suspended. This issue was also discussed in the state legislature. We have now come up with a resolution simplifying the rules so that people and officials can understand them before finalising any deal." "We will probe all stakehold ers in this case, be it the sub-registrars, other officials, agents and advocates," he said.

The IGR said he has been regularly holding discussions with Revenue Minister BalasahebThorat on the issue. "Efforts are underway to make the functioning at sub-registrar offices simple, transparent and corruption-free," he said.

Lamenting that citizens often do not carry out a thorough verification of the properties before buying them, Hardikar said, "People look for the easy way out. They do not want to carry out a proper check, nor do they want to study the rules. As a result, many of them end up with illegal properties."

Hardikar said they have now decided to list FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) to help citizens make the right decision regarding property purchase. "We have sensitised the officials of the collectorate in this regard. The civic bodies should also play a proactive role in encouraging people to own legal properties. For instance, the gunthewari scheme launched by the government is a better way to get properties regularised. Such schemes should be promoted," he added. The official said that the trend of illegally registering property documents was not limited to Pune alone but was prevalent in other parts of the state as well. "We are verifying documents registered across the state," he said.

WILL USHER IN NEW ERA WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EXPERIENCES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CM

- JAN ABHIYAN PARISHAD WILL COOPERATE IN REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AT DISTRICT LEVEL
- CM ADDRESSES CONFERENCE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a conference of voluntary organizations organized to share experiences and participation in sustainable development will usher in a new era of public participation. No stone will be left unturned in implementing the conclusions of the conference. The implementation of the findings will be done jointly by the state government and voluntary organizations. Voluntary organizations are also engaged in the work of development and public welfare according to the goals and objectives of the state government. Chouhan said that the country will be developed only with public cooperation. Public participation in the management of Covid-19 in the state is an example. The success that Indore city has achieved in the field of cleanliness has also been possible only through public participation.

Chouhan was addressing a conference of voluntary organizations organized by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis at Kushabhau Thackeray Hall today for participation in sustainable development and sharing of experiences.

Chief Minister said that to ensure that the voluntary organizations coming forward in the field of development and public welfare in the state do not face any kind of problem, registration facility would be made available at the district level by Jan Abhiyan Parishad. The Jan Abhiyan Parishad will be trained for this work by the Institute of Good Governance. Chouhan said that the initiative of the people has to be included in the process of development. Self-help groups of women formed in the state are contributing Rs 20 thousand crore to the state's economy. Voluntary organizations should also campaign for Urja Saksharta. By launching a power saving campaign, we can save Rs four thousand crore in the state. Chief Minister Chouhan stressed on the need for wide publicity of positive works and innovations being done in the state. He said that the suggestions and recommendations received from the conference would be implemented in the state.

Vice-Chairman of the Institute of Good Governance, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi said that special sessions were held in the conference on partnership in development, health and nutrition, education-skills and livelihood, new opportunities for advancement in agriculture and financial inclusion etc. A two-day conference was organized to increase the participation of NGOs in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and share their experiences.

Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Good Governance GV Rashmi told about the objectives of the conference. She said that a framework on how the state government agencies and civil society organizations should work together in a mutual, complementary manner for inclusive development was discussed. As many as 64 subject experts participated in 6 sessions of the conference.

Interest of Readers Will Have to Be Taken Care of in Development Journalism: Chaturvedi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis has said that the dialogue of development or journalism of development, both mean that while doing journalism of development, the thinking of the readers and their point of view have to be kept in mind. Prof. Chaturvedi was addressing the session "Develop Communication and Writing" on the second day of the conference on Participation in Development held at Kushabhau Thakre Hall today. He said that whether it is writing or speech, it should be understood by the one for whom it is written. Prof. Chaturvedi said that for development journalism four things are necessary, documentation, community participation, health and women's involvement with the economy. Makhanlal Chaturvedi and Good Governance Institute can together create such an ecosystem for development focused courses, where the dialogue of development can get meaningful.

Prof. KG Suresh, Vice Chancellor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi Journalism University, in his address said that attention will have to be paid again on the establishment of community radio stations for development. At present only 250 community radio stations are functional. We have to focus on our traditional media. Also, we have to see how much and how we use digital platforms like internet in rural areas. While writing about development we have to see how youths are attracted towards it. He said that for any channel or newspaper or for that particular programme, its commercial side also has to be kept in mind so that its broadcast can go on uninterrupted. He said that Prasar Bharati is at the forefront of development journalism. Doordarshan and All India Radio have given it priority. While conducting the programme, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, GV Rashmi asked to pay attention to the utility of regional languages along with Hindi and English languages.

As a subject expert on the development dialogue, Sachin Jain said that which is the subject in which there is no development. In my view every subject focuses on development. He said that training programmes should also be conducted for media stringers at district and block level for rural journalism. He said that who would like to read about malnutrition or other such topics in the newspaper early in the morning. For this it is necessary that how the news is presented. While writing the news, the point of view of the audience or readers has to be kept in mind.

Addressing the conference, Pushpendrapal Singh, Managing Editor, Rozgar aur Nirman, said that the importance of development communication writing becomes even greater because of what changes it brings in people, what changes they can bring in their thinking, their behaviour. Change can be of any kind, social, economic, cultural. In the true sense, how we bring about change in knowledge and consciousness is important. How do we share our experiences with people so that they can take their advantage in their lives.Shashikant Trivedi, senior journalist of the national newspaper Business Standard, shared his experience in the conference and said that writing should not be pre-planned. Many times it happens that something different happens than what we think will happen.

CM to dedicate "Shri Ram Rajya" art gallery

5 lakh earthen-lamps will be lit simultaneously in Deepotsav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will dedicate the "Shri Ram Rajya" art gallery at Shri Ramraja Sarkar Temple Complex, Orchha on April 10, 2022 on the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami. On this occasion, five lakh diyas will be lit simultaneously in the Deepotsav to express devotion to Lord Ram in the evening on the banks of the holy river Betwa. Culture, Tourism and Religious Trust and Endowment Minister Usha Thakur will also be present. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the festival of Shri Ram Navami would be celebrated with enthusiasm and reverence in the entire state. A grand celebration of "Shri Ram Janmotsav" is being organized at 12 places in the state, including Orchha, Chitrakoot, Ujjain, Umaria, Shahdol, Vidisha, Rajgarh, Shivpuri, Neemuch, Ratlam, Chhindwara and Panna.

"Shri Ram Rajya" art gallery focusing on Lord Shri Ram has been prepared by the Culture Department in the Shri Ramraja Sarkar Temple Complex, Orchha. In this, each and every form of Lord Ram has been depicted in the folklore style of almost all the states of India. The 36 qualities of Lord Shri Ram and their uniqueness have been expressed through pictures. Along with this, his coronation event has been artistically displayed in the form of a tableau. Lord Shri Ram is revered as a king only in Orchha in the whole country.

On the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, "Shri Ram Janmotsav" will be celebrated from 7 pm on 10 April 2022. The glory of Lord Shri Ram will be displayed through dance, dance drama and music. There will also be a Bhajan Sandhya with presentations on various episodes of Ramayana.

CM PLANTED SAPLINGS IN SMART CITY GARDEN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Cassia and Moulshree in Smart City Garden today. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice Chairman of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Shubham Chouhan, Ashutosh Malviya, Shivam Mishra and Rahul Tiwari of National Service Scheme also planted saplings. These youths expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Chouhan for restarting the "Maa Tujhe Pranam" scheme in the state. Shubham Chouhan, the Swachhagrahi, Swachhata Champion of Municipal Corporation Bhopal and honoured with the National Youth Award by the Government of India this year, is conducting awareness work in the capital Bhopal by constantly engaging in environment-protection activities with the youths. He has done plantation work at about 550 places. Shubham has also been honoured by Chief Minister Chouhan for his contribution in cleanliness activities.

Historical Daly College gets its first woman principal

The historical co-educational institution - Daly College in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district has got its first ever woman principal - Gunmeet Kaur Bindra.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The historical co-educational institution - Daly College in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district has got its first ever woman principal - Gunmeet Kaur Bindra.

The appointment made on Friday was necessitated as outgoing Neeraj Singh Bedhotiya's term was not extended by the board.

However, the move came following a controversy as the chairman of board of governance of the school Narendra Singh Jhabua and his son Jai Singh Jhabua were removed from the board panel. Their ouster followed a complaint by Sathbir Singh Bhatia with the Registrar Firms and Society alleging that Narendra Singh Jhabua brought his son Jai Singh Jhabua to the board of governance illegally.

Subsequently, an investigation was ordered into the matter, which resulted in the removal of father-son duo from the board.

The new board was set up and Vikram Singh Puar was made the chairman, BJP MLA Rajyavardhan Singh was appointed as vice-president, while Dheeraj Lulla, Harpal Singh Bhatia, Sumit Chandhok and Sanjay Pahwa form the board members.

Established in 1870, Daly college of Indore is one of the oldest educational institutions the country and royal families of Indore-Dewas had influence in the governing body.Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, who also belongs to a royal family in the state and he is addressed to as 'Raja Sahab' by his supporters, raised his objection in a manner in which the former chairman of the board was removed and a new set up. Digvijaya Singh reacted stating that Daly College is a 150-year-old College where the President, Prime Ministers, Governors, Central Ministers, CMs, Corporate Giants, eminent social activists have been chief guests. It is one of the top 10 Public Schools of India.

Singh has accused the BJP-led state government and Indore administration of making the historical college a 'political akhada'.

"It has always been above party politics. Unfortunately because of some vested interests GOMP and Indore Administration are openly flouting rules and interfering in the functioning of the School. This must stop. For God's sake don't make Daly College a Political Akhada," Digvijaya Singh tweeted on Saturday.

PROBE ORDERED INTO STRIPPING OF DETAINEES AT MP POLICE STATION

- A DAY AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS OF A GROUP OF SEMI-NAKED MEN INCLUDING A YOUTUBE JOURNALIST AT A POLICE STATION IN MADHYA PRADESH'S SIDHI SPARKED CONTROVERSY AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLICE ACTION, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (DGP) SUDHIR SAXENA ON FRIDAY ORDERED AN INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day after photographs of a group of semi-naked men including a YouTube journalist at a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi sparked controversy and raised questions about the police action, Director General of Police (DGP) Sudhir Saxena on Friday ordered an inquiry into the matter.

Saxena has appointed senior IPS officer Amit Singh, who is posted in Bhopal, to supervise the investigation, a police spokesperson told IANS. The incident was reported from Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district where a journalist along with others was protesting against the arrest of a theatre artiste identified as Neeraj Kunder, accused of using objectionable language against a BJP MLA and his family, and spreading f

YouTube journalist Kanishk Tiwari who was among the men detained and stripped at the police station, told IANS that he and others were put in the lockup, abused, beaten up and forced to strip.

"I had filed a report that was deemed to be against (BJP MLA) Kedarnath Shukla and because of that news, I was targeted," Tiwari

said. Meanwhile, a video that surfaced on social media suggests that Tiwari along with others was protesting outside the police station. In the video, sloganeering was heard against MLA Shukla and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The police personnel present at the site were seen taking them to the police station. The video also shows that the protesters were thrashed by the police. After the photographs surfaced on social media, SHO Manoj Soni -- who has been suspended now, said: "They were not completely naked. We kept them in their innerwear in the lockup for security reasons so that no person hangs himself using the clothes."However, taking cognizance of the matter, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed the police to investigate the matter and take strict action against the police personnel who had forced the detained individuals to take off their clothes.

Superintendent of Police, Sidhi, Mukesh Srivastava told the media that two SHOs -- Manoj Soni and Abhishek Singh, have been suspended."I came to know that a high level enquiry has been ordered by the DGP and a senior officer Amit Singh will be investigating the entire incident," Srivastava added.

Srivastava had on Thursday told IANS that an FIR was registered a few days ago against Kunder who had been allegedly abusing Shukla using a fake ID on the social media.

Motivate People to Conserve Water through Community Activities

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Manish Singh reviewed the water supply projects being implemented by Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company. Singh said that in the projects where experimental trials have started, instructions have been given to motivate people for water conservation through community activities. Experimental trials have started in Betul Bazar, Petlawad, Mauganj, Sohagpur, Bankhedi, Phumpkalan, Isagarh, Susner, Shadaura, Hata, Bhedaghat and Makedon.

While doing physical review of the projects, Singh directed that all the projects should be completed within the prescribed time limit. Issues causing obstruction in the projects should be resolved expeditiously and it should be reviewed every week. It is worth mentioning that Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company, an undertaking of Urban Development and Housing Department, is working on water supply project in 130 bodies in collaboration with Asian Development Bank and 4 bodies in collaboration with World Bank. Commissioner cum Managing Director of Urban Development and Housing Department Nikunj Shrivastava, Additional Commissioner Ruchika Chouhan and Chief Engineer Deepak Ratnawat were present in the review meeting.

Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum can be made with the participation of the tribal community: Chakravarty

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For setting up the National Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Garudeshwar, Gujarat, the second day of National Workshop organized by the Development Support Agency under the aegis of the Tribal Development Department, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal began under the Chairmanship of KK Chakravarty (Advisor & Member to the Govt. of India) at Darbar Hall of Hotel Jehnuma Palace, Bhopal.

Prior to this, all the experts who came to participate in this workshop visited the Tribal Habitat, Mythological Trail, Open Air Exhibition, and Galleries of Veethi Sankul Building under the guidance of Surya Kumar Pandey and other Senior Anthropologists. In the beginning of this workshop,. Shampa Shah and Dulal Chand Manna told about how the Mythological Trail Open Air Exhibition has been created by embodying the abstract form on the basis of myth stories. Former Assistant Curator of IGRMS Arun Kiro said that during the field work for the collection of exhibits, an emotional connection with the communities was developed and with their help, various aspects of the exhibition can be presented. Sri Ravi Srivas ji gave information about a large collection of tribal photography. Thereafter, Naval Jeet Kapoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, invited all the ten TRIs to develop a booklet like booklet made by the representatives of TRI, Orissa about Freedom Fighter and emphasize to organize a workshop focused on tribal culture, cultural program in collaboration with IGRMS, Bhopal.

After this, concept notes made by the directors of tribal development institutions of 10 states about the work done so far on Tribal Freedom Fighter, collection of materials, photographs, books etc. on Tribal Freedom Fighter, and to be displayed in the gallery of the exhibition building. Information about the topics and facts was given through slide show. Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty told that with the involvement of local tribal community, seniors, artists, and by the information taken from them about the freedom fighters, the goal of creating the Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum can be reached.

Nitiraj, Joint Director of Tribal Research Institute of Madhya Pradesh, told about the Freedom Fighter Museum being built in Chhindwara that in that Museum, exhibition is being made on 09 main movements, 17 Freedom Fighters, as well as Tribal Craft, Food Stall, Film Show. Audio guide tour, drama etc. will be organized. Here 05 galleries are being made on the main tribes of Madhya Pradesh Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Korku, Freedom Fighter. Director of Orissa Tribal Research Institute, AB Ota IAS pressed to form a content committee, comprising the tribes, universities Vice Chancellors, freedom fighters etc. and to collect information from the committee for preparing booklets about tribal freedom fighters and what to do in different stages for exhibition construction. After that, it has been decided that a committee has been formed for all 10 tribal research institutes for exhibition creation, collection of exhibits, selection of artists, writing articles and by May 2022, the work of creating the exhibition will be started after finalizing the work.

'I'm curvier and almost 50 years old in this campaign!'

Tyra Banks defends Kim Kardashian's 'empowering' Skims ad after it was accused of being heavily Photoshopped

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tyra Banks has defended the Skims campaign she starred in for Kim Kardashian saying it is an 'empowering' advert despite Photoshop claims.

The model, 48, said it was great to include herself in the photos - a woman who is 'curvier and nearly 50', before adding that Kim, picked her due to her natural physique.

It comes after earlier this week some branded the editing of Tyra's body 'extreme and appalling' after photos taken during the shoot emerged looking dramatically different from the final ad photos.

On Friday Kim, 41, and Tyra appeared together on TODAY With Hoda and Jenna on Friday where they spoke about the campaign, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Tyra said that SKIMS aligned with her what she's always stood for, explaining: 'This is something I've been talking about for decades.

'So, me curvier, me damn near almost 50 years old in this campaign - I think it is pretty empowering,' the beauty said.

17 years on, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez are engaged again!

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood "it" couple and stars Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez are engaged again.

Lopez announced the engagement in a short video via her fan newsletter, On The JLo, in which she stares adoringly at a green-hued diamond ring.

"You're perfect," Lopez says in a voiceover as romantic music plays, reports page-six.com.

Lopez teased the "exciting and special" announcement on Facebook earlier Friday evening.

Sources close to the singer say the video is, in fact, an engagement announcement.

Lopez, 52, and Affleck, 49, sparked engagement rumours earlier this week when she was photographed wearing a ring on her wedding finger while shopping in LA with 14-year-old daughter Emme.

Insiders close to Affleck recently told Page Six they wouldn't be shocked if he had proposed again.

The couple first started dating in 2002 and were quickly dubbed "Bennifer" by fans and the media alike. The two certainly weren't shy about showcasing their love for each other at the time, including in PDA-packed scenes from Lopez's "Jenny From the Block" music video.

By November of that year, Affleck proposed to Lopez with a 6.1-carat pink diamond by Harry Winston. The massive sparkler reportedly cost $2.5 million.

'The Dropout' actor Elizabeth Marvel joins 'The Color Purple' musical movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Elizabeth Marvel has joined the star-studded cast of Blitz Bazawule's adaptation of 'The Color Purple'.

The forthcoming Warner Bros. musical movie is an adaptation of Alice Walker's iconic American novel, as well as the Oscar-nominated 1985 film and Tony Award-winning Broadway musical that it inspired, reports 'Variety'.

Directed by Bazawule (best known for his work on Beyonce's 'Black is King', 'The Burial of Kojo' and 'Cherish the Day'), from a screenplay by Marcus Gardley ('The Chi'), the story spotlights Celie (Fantasia Barrino, in her feature film debut), a Black woman whose personal awakening in the American South of the early 20th century is at the centre of this epic story. Told through a lens of magical realism, dance and an uplifting musical score infused with African American jazz, gospel and blues, the movie aims to astonish lovers of earlier adaptations and introduce these beloved characters to a new generation, reports 'Variety'. Marvel will assume the role of Miss Millie, the unpleasant and overbearing mayor's wife who hires Sofia to be her maid. The character was played by Dana Ivey in Steven Spielberg's 1985 film.

Academy's Oscars ban on Smith can't stop his future noms, wins

Los Angeles | Agencies

Best Actor Oscar winner Will Smith on Friday (U.S. Pacific Time) accepted the decision of the Board of Governors for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences to ban him from all Academy events, including the Oscars, for 10 years, reports 'Variety'. Smith, who resigned from the Academy last week, replied soon after in a statement, saying: "I accept and respect the Academy's decision."

In a statement issued after its 54-member Board of Governors took the call, the Academy noted: "The 94th Oscars were meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our community who did incredible work this past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behaviour we saw Mr Smith exhibit on stage." Apologising for the way it came across as unprepared, the Academy said: "During our telecast, we did not adequately address the situation in the room. For this, we are sorry. This was an opportunity for us to set an example for our guests, viewers and our Academy family around the world, and we fell short -- unprepared for the unprecedented." The statement also hailed comedian Chris Rock, the recipient of Smith's infamous slap. It said: "We want to express our deep gratitude to Mr Rock for maintaining his composure under extraordinary circumstances. We also want to thank our hosts, nominees, presenters and winners for their poise and grace during our telecast." Reporting on the Academy's action, 'Variety' observed: "The organisation did not have too many other options to impose, especially with Smith's membership now no longer active following his resignation."

'Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore': Visually immersive but shallow narrative

FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

(Running in Theatres)

Duration: 142 minutes

Director: David Yates

Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Ezra Miller, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, William Nadylam, Callum Turner, Jessica Williams, Victoria Yeates

Rating: **1/2

Rooted deep in the mythology of J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, this film is the third instalment of the five-part Harry Potter prequel.

The film takes off from where it left in the previous edition, where at the near end of the film, we discovered that Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) had been close to Grindelwald in his youth and had made a magical blood pact preventing them from ever fighting. Earlier, Johnny Depp essayed Grindelwald. In this edition, Mads Mikkelsen replaces him.

Set in the 1930s, Europe, the plot delves into the electoral process and its politics to choose the Supreme Head of the International Confederation of Wizards. The powerful and dark wizard, Gellert Grindelwald (Mads Mikkelsen), who is recently released from prison- is determined to stand for the election. How he plans to make the way clear for him forms the crux of the story.

In a conversation with his one-time paramour, Professor Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law), Grindelwald makes it clear, "With or without you, I'll burn down their world Albus".

Unable to stop him alone, Albus entrusts Magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) to lead an intrepid team of wizards and witches, which includes his brother Theseus (Callum Turner), Lally (Jessica Williams), Bunty (Victoria Yates), and one brave Muggle baker Jacob (Dan Fogler), on the dangerous mission of stopping Grindelwald.

But, "How can you confuse a man who can see the future?" is their predicament.

You get to see, how the team encounters old and new beasts, and clashes with Grindelwald's growing legion of followers.

The plotline of the narrative is paper-thin and superfluously stretched. While the entire electoral process appears like a sham, the epic showdown lacks lustre and takes its own sweet time to unravel as there are endless subplots and character introductions that distract us. Also, most characters somehow still feel underdeveloped even after two hours and twenty-two minutes of watching them onscreen.

With frames- merging, dissolving, morphing, and disintegrating, the film transports you to its magical world with aplomb. There are shape-shifting characters and others who walk through walls or teleport across countries.

The film has all the tropes of its Universe - fantasy adventure with some superb production design and visual effects, seldom slowing down to explain the magic spells or strategies used by its characters, but unfortunately, the novelty and sheen seem to have worn out, and the intriguing factor missing.

The only scenes that seem fresh and are enjoyable are the ones in which Jacob Kowalski is present, and apart from that, the scene where Newt rescues his brother from a species of scorpions in a panopticon-style prison tower, where they engage in a silly crab walk, you chuckle when Redmayne instructs his brother, "swivel, swivel but delicately".

The rest of the film is chaotic, with swelling music and random objects flying across the screen.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Faye Winters

IPL 2022

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD DEFEAT CSK BY 8 WICKETS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A fine knock by Abhishek Sharma (75 runs, 50 balls) and a late cameo by Rahul Tripathy (39 not out) helped Sunrisers Hyderabad register a comprehensive eight-wicket win against defending champions Chennai Super Kings in Match 17 of IPL 2022 at the D.Y Patil Stadium here on Saturday.

The SRH bowlers first restricted CSK to a modest score of 154/7 in 20 overs and then their batters, specially Abhishek Sharma and Rahul Tripathy successfully chased down the target in 17.2 overs.

With their impeccable batting, SRH openers Kane Williamson and Abhishek made the 155-run chase look very easy. They stitched 89 runs for the first wicket and then Rahul Tripathy and the highest scorer of the match, Sharma guided SRH home.

This is the first win for Sunrisers Hyderabad in three matches while Chennai Super Kings are still waiting for their first win this season.

Earlier, fine bowling by SRH bowlers restricted Chennai Super Kings to a paltry score of 154/7 in 20 overs. However, a 62-run partnership for the third wicket between Moeen Ali and Ambati Rayudu came as some respite for the four-time champions. Apart from this, none of the CSK batters applied themselves against the new-look bowling unit of SRH.

Brief scores

Chennai Super Kings 154/7 in 20 overs (Moeen Ali 48, Ambati Rayudu 27, Ravindra Jadeja 23; Washington Sundar 2-21, T. Natarajan 2-30) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 155/2 in 17.4 overs (Abhishek Sharma 75, Kane Williamson 32, Rahul Tripathy 39 not out; Mukesh Choudhary 1-20, Bravo 1-29) by 8 wickets.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT WHERE WE ARE LACKING: RAVINDRA JADEJA

"It's with the ball that we are disappointed but we were 20-25 runs short. We were looking to fight till the end. 155 isn't bad and our bowlers were looking to take wickets. Tomorrow might be a day off but we'll look to improve. We'll talk about where we are lacking. We are professionals and need to work hard, stick together and come back stronger."

IPL 2022

Rawat's 66 helps Bangalore hand Mumbai their fourth loss of the tournament

Pune | Agencies

A sublime 66 from wicketkeeper-batter Anuj Rawat led Royal Challengers Bangalore to a seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in match 18 of IPL 2022 at MCA Stadium on Saturday.

After Suryakumar Yadav lifted Mumbai from 79/6 to 151/6, Bangalore chased down the target with nine balls remaining. Rawat was ably supported by Virat Kohli's 48 as Mumbai endured misfields, dropped catches and overthrows to crash to their fourth loss of the tournament.

Bangalore had a sedate power-play, with 30 runs coming in for no loss. Rawat launching back-to-back sixes on both sides of the 'v' off Jaydev Unadkat were the only boundaries in the first six overs. Mumbai tried hard for wickets, which included bringing in two overs of Jasprit Bumrah. But they couldn't take out either Rawat or a circumspect Faf du Plessis.

Bangalore got a move on when Rawat slog-swept a full toss from Murugan Ashwin over square leg, followed by du Plessis driving through long-off as 15 runs came off the seventh over. Mumbai finally struck in the ninth over when du Plessis holed out to long-on off Unadkat. Rawat and Kohli took a boundary each off Ashwin in the 11th over to keep Bangalore in the hunt. Kohli then flicked Basil Thampi through mid-wicket followed by Rawat producing a beautiful whipped six over square leg and a cracking cut through backward point to take 15 runs off the over.

Rawat brought up his maiden IPL fifty in 38 balls while Kohli pulled Jasprit Bumrah between long-on and deep mid-wicket. He

earned a reprieve at 30 when Dewald Brewis dropped a catch at deep backward square leg and allowed the ball to go through his legs for a boundary. Rawat slammed sixes off Pollard and Unadkat over deep backward square leg and mid-wicket before his knock ended at 66 via a direct hit from Ramandeep Singh at mid-on. Kohli fell lbw to Brevis while trying to defend.Dinesh Karthik slammed a pull over mid-wicket off Bumrah while Glenn Maxwell applied the finishing touches with back-to-back fours through backward point and cover off Brevis to hand Bangalore their third win.

Brief scores

Mumbai Indians 151/6 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 68 not out, Rohit Sharma 26; Harshal Patel 2/23, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/28) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 152/3 in 18.3 overs (Anuj Rawat 66; Virat Kohli 48; Dewald Brevis 1/8, Jaydev Unadkat 1/30) by seven wickets

World Doubles Squash C'ships:

Dipika Pallikal stars as India win maiden doubles, mixed doubles titles

Glasgow (Scotland) | Agencies

Dipika Pallikal, back in the international circuit after a three-year break, played a stellar role, helping India to historic titles in women's doubles and mixed doubles partnering Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal, respectively, in the World Doubles Squash Championships here on Saturday.Dipika, who took a break from squash after her marriage with cricketer Dinesh Karthik and they had twins last year, and Saurav Ghosal made history for India in the mixed doubles final, beating the fourth-seeded English pair Adrian Waller and Alison Waters 11-6, 11-8 in the final to pocket the mixed doubles title and became India's first-ever World Doubles squash champions.

Hours later, Dipika and

Joshna doubled joy for the Indian contingent when they upset England's Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters, the second seeds, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 in a hard-fought final. Dipika and Joshna are Commonwealth Games winners in women's doubles and were seeded third in the event.This is the first time that India has won the World titles. Their previous best were two silver medals in 2014 and 2016. Dipika and Saurav lost in the mixed doubles final in 2016 while Saurav and Ritwik Bhattacharya finished as men's doubles runners-up in 2014.

KOREA OPEN

India's campaign ends with Sindhu, Srikanth's loss in semifinal

Suncheon (South Korea) | Agencies

India's campaign at the Korea Open Badminton Championships 2022 came to an end on Saturday after the country's top shuttlers -- PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth -- lost their respective semifinal matches at the Palma Stadium, here.

Sindhu lost her women's singles last-four match 14-21, 17-21 against the world No. 4 An Seyoung in 48 minutes.

Heading into the fixture, Sindhu, a former world champion had failed to beat the 20-year-old South

Korean in any of their three previous meetings. The last time the two played each other, An Seyoung had denied the Indian ace the BWF World Tour Finals 2021 title. Sindhu tried to start the match aggressively but some astonishing retrievals from An Seyoung frustrated her. Despite Sindhu's best efforts, An Seyoung controlled the flow of the match and won the first game 21-14. However, it wasn't quite enough to topple the in-form South Korean who wrapped up the match. Meanwhile, Kidambi Srikanth also lost his men's singles semis against Indonesian second-seed Jonatan Christie by a 19-21, 16-21 scoreline. Srikanth, seeded fifth, started the match well and led for most of the first game but the world No. 8 Cristie flipped the script right at the end to take the lead.

HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

INDIA GO DOWN TO NETHERLANDS 1-3 IN A SHOOT-OUT

Bhubaneswar: With just six-odd minutes to go in the final quarter, a brilliant drag-flick by Gurjit Kaur bounced off the crossbar as the India women's hockey team was held 1-1 before the Netherlands went on to win the shoot-out 3-1 to claim the bonus point in the second match of the FIH Pro League doubleheader at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday. Having won the first match 2-1 on Friday, India came out with purpose and it took them a total of 34 seconds to get their first goal. It was a perfect start for India, and not what the Netherlands were looking for after a close loss in the previous game. India, confident from the goal, took control of the game and their high press turned the ball over, often in the Dutch half at the Kalinga Stadium here.In the shoot- out, the Netherlands went first and scored through Jansen who calmly slotted the second shot in after Savita had saved the first one. Jyoti and Neha missed the first two shoot-out attempts for India, while Fortuin scored the 2nd attempt as well for the Netherlands, leaving India with a mountain to climb. Savita thwarted Morgenstern's attempt and Navneet followed it up with a calmly taken goal of her own. But Barentsen scored the 4th attempt for the Netherlands and another great save by Remmerswaal from Rajwinder's attempt sealed India's fate as the Netherlands took the extra point from the contest.

Social media goes crazy after Tewatia's match-winning consecutive sixes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The social media has gone berserk praising Rahul Tewatia's consecutive sixes off the last two balls of the match as Gujarat Titans (GT) defeated Punjab Kings (PBKS) by six wickets in an IPL thriller at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday.

Tewatia struck the sixes off Odean Smith to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. From 21 off nine deliveries to 18 off the last five, Tewatia and David Miller brought it down to 13 off three balls when Miller scrambled for a single, leaving Tewatia the unenviable task of hitting two sixes off the last two deliveries of the match and win it for Gujarat Titans, who successfully chased a target of 190.

The 28-year-old first carted Smith over deep mid-wicket with the fielder nearly catching him before falling over

the rope. He then played a slog-sweep over the long-on boundary to seal a memorable victory for Gujarat Titans.

Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag said Punjab Kings should have Tewatia's statue in their dugout. "Waah Lord Tewatia,... Need his statue in Punjab Kings dugout. What a brain fade by (Odean) Smith to concede an overthrow with 13 needed of 2. #PBKSvGT," tweeted Sehwag. Former England captain Michael Vaughan was ecstatic with Tewatia's knock, tweeting, "No tournament gets close to the drama & finishes the #IPL brings... That was ridiculous... #Tewatia." Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya's brother, Kruna, who plays for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), tweeted, "Tewatia, you beauty. What a finish! What a knock, well played Shubhi (Shubman Gill). Wonderful match! @rahultewatia02, @ShubmanGill."Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif wrote, "Forget Titans, if Tewatia was on Titanic even that wouldn't have sunk. #GTvsPBKS."

BILLIARDS: KOTHARI WINS SILVER IN WORLD MATCHPLAY; SITWALA BAGS BRONZE IN IRISH OPEN

Carlow (Ireland): India's Sourav Kothari lost 8-3 to World No 1 David Causier in the final of the World Billiards League (WBL) World Matchplay Championships 2022 here.

The championship is the sport's premier short-format competition and was returning to the circuit for the first time since 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Last held in Leeds, the latest edition was hosted by the Snooker and Billiards Ireland Academy in Carlow, Republic of Ireland. Compatriot Dhruv Sitwala also earned a bronze medal at the Irish Open Billiards Championship, which was held before the start of this event at the same venue. For Sitwala, this was his third international medal within a month. He had won silver at Asian Billiards around 20 days ago and now bagged two bronze medals here. In the World Matchplay Championships, India's 2018 World Champion Kothari, who was enjoying his return to the global scene for the first time since the start of the pandemic, came up short against Causier. The Kolkata cueist also advanced from Group A, with his only defeat to Causier, 4-1. During the single-elimination phase, he ousted Peter Sheehan (England) 5-4 in the last 16 and Martin Goodwill (England) 6-1 in the last eight.

NATIONAL SHOOTING:

Manini Kaushik wins Women's 50M Rifle 3 Positions T4 trials

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rajasthan's Manini Kaushik won the Women's 50M Rifle 3 Positions (3P) T4 National Selection Trial beating Nikita Kundu of Haryana 16-14 in the gold medal match played at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, here.

Manini also topped the qualification round with a score of 588 out of 600 across 20-shots each in the Kneeling, Prone and Standing positions, as well as the eight-woman semi-final stage where she shot 403.6.

Nikita had finished fifth in the qualifiers with 583 while following Manini into the finals with a second-place

semi-final effort of 400.8. Meena Kumari of Haryana won bronze in the event.

In the Junior Women's 3P T4 trials, Nishchal of Haryana and Ashi Chouksey of Madhya Pradesh fought it out for the gold in a repeat of the Junior T3 trials played on Friday. Nishchal emerged triumphant yet again, albeit with a much closer 16-14 scoreline this time. Nikita Kundu picked up her second medal of the day with a bronze in the Junior event to add to her silver in the senior event.

World No. 1 Djokovic gets tricky draw as he aims for third Monte Carlo title

Monaco | Agencies

World No. 1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic of Serbia, faces a tricky path as he aims to add a third Monte Carlo trophy to his collection. The 34-year-old, winner of 20 Grand Slams could face Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz in a blockbuster quarterfinal at the ATP Masters 1000 event, with Indian Wells champion Taylor Fritz (US) too in the Serbian's quarter.

The draw for the prestigious event, which was released on Saturday, has the Serb in a potential rematch with Daniel Evans of the UK in the third round. The Briton had upset Djokovic in the fourth round at Monaco in the previous edition.

Djokovic, who will open against Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina or American Marcos Giron, has never played Alcaraz, who arrives in Monte Carlo riding on the high of winning the Miami Open.

Eighth seed Alcaraz is making his debut at the

clay-court event and will begin against Sebastian Korda (US) or Botic van de Zandschulp (Netherlands).

Alcaraz is 18-2 this season, having also triumphed on clay in Rio de Janeiro.

American Fritz earned the biggest title of his career when he ended Spanish stalwart Rafa Nadal's unbeaten start to the season to win the trophy in California last month. The 10th seed will play wild card Lucas Catarina of Monaco in the first round, with French wild card Jo-Wilfried Tsonga or Croatian Marin Cilic awaiting next.

In the bottom half of the draw, reigning champion, Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, will start his title defence against Italian former champion Fabio Fognini or Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech, with Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime seeded to meet the Greek in the quarterfinals.

Third seed Tsitsipas downed Russian Andrey Rublev to clinch his maiden Masters 1000 crown last year and will be aiming to regain top form this week after losing to Alcaraz in the fourth round in Miami at the end of March.

AJAY DEVGN, AMITABH BACHCHAN HAVE A HILARIOUS FACE-OFF ON TWITTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstars Ajay Devgn and Amitabh Bachchan got into a hilarious face-off on social media, where the two talented actors were seen using each other's film's scenes to get back at each other. Amitabh posted a picture of Ajay doing a split on two motor bikes from his film 'Phool Aur Kaante' and wrote: "T 4246 - Sirji inka record hi hai rules todne ka! Range haathon guilty paaye gaye ho @AjayDevgn, ab kya doge iska jawaab?" To which, Ajay used a still from Amitabh's film 'Sholay'. In the image, Big B is seen riding a bike while veteran actor Dharmendra is seen sitting on his shoulder.

Ajay replied: "Sir you were saying"

The face-off is a promotional stunt for their upcoming film 'Runway 34', which is slated to release on April 29.

Don't know Telugu but will learn it: Gayatri Bharadwaj

All set for her film debut with Telugu movie 'Tiger Nageswara Rao', actress Gayatri Bharadwaj is preparing to learn the language in right earnest.

Recently, it was announced that Gayatri will be making her film debut with the pan-Indian film 'Tiger Nageswara Rao' that also features Ravi Teja in the titular character alongside Nupur Sanon. The film will be releasing in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada.

Recently, the makers launched the project on a massive scale with superstar Chiranjeevi giving the clap for the Muhurat shot.

During the event, Gayatri interacted with the Telugu media where she promised them that her next interaction with them will be in the language. She said, "I don't know Telugu but I am intending to learn it. So, the next time I will be speaking to you, it will be in Telugu. Thank you so much to the producers Abhishek sir, to Vamsee sir and to Ravi Teja sir for seeing the potential in me and giving me this honour to be a part of this film."

Gayatri Bhardwaj made an entry into the entertainment industry with her much lauded comedy series 'Dhindora' that saw her paired opposite Bhuvan Bam. The model-turned-actor first entered showbiz through Miss India, where she was appointed the nation's representative to the Miss United Continents pageant. On an international level too, Gayatri brought laurels to the country as she finished in the Top 10 of the pageant. Now, she is ready to take yet another big step in her career.

Tejasswi Prakash SPOTTED WITH KARAN KUNDRRA ON REALITY SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It was an interesting moment for many fans of Tejasswi Prakash while she made an entry for 'Dance Deewane Juniors event at The Westin, Mumbai, to meet Karan Kundrra. He will be seen as a host on the show.

She caught the attention of the paparazzi as both Karan and Tejasswi are rumoured to be in relationship since 'Bigg Boss 15'.

Tejasswi grabbed the eyeballs because of her sari look and she had applied vermilion. However, that was her look from Ekta Kapoor's show.

The adorable couple were seen walking holding each others' hands. They hugged each other and later Tejasswi left from the hotel without any interaction with the media.

Popular television personalities Karan and Tejasswi are often seen together on several occasions and they are called TejRan by their fans.

Judged by Bollywood actress Neetu Kapoor, actress and dancer Nora Fatehi, choreographer Marzi Pestonji and hosted by Karan Kundrra, 'Dance Deewane Juniors' will premiere on April 23 on Colors.

Vidya Balan wished to write to Satyajit Ray, work with him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She was just a teenager when she secretly wrote a letter to her favorite filmmaker Satyajit Ray, but didn't post it. Naturally, when he passed away suddenly, she felt heartbroken for many reasons.

Many moons later, that teenager, who is now one of the successful stars of Bollywood, Vidya Balan, opened her heart and shared her wish to work with her favorite filmmaker and on how Bengali cinema influenced her.

Vidya told reporter: "If I write a letter to Mr Ray today, it would read 'I wish you had lived longer.' You know even today, I would have loved to work with him. I know everyone talks about Ray's 'Pather Panchali' and 'Charulata' but 'Mahanagar' is one of my favorite films. The film impacted me so deeply. I wish he lived longer and I could have worked with him repeatedly in multiple films." Vidya also mentioned that more than often people told her that her side profile looks like young Madhavi Chatterjee, the legendary actress who played the protagonist in "Charulata" and that is "flattering" for her. The fangirl in her does not stop there as she shared: "I have poster collection of Ray's films like 'Mahanagar' and also a painting that filled with a canvas full of characters from his films! I have many decorative pieces in my home, inspired by Ray's work. My home is full of Ray. I have huge love and respect for Bengali cinema and culture." No wonder her film debut happened in 2003 with "Bhalo Theko" before Bollywood. Interestingly, her Bollywood debut also happened in 2005 with "Parineeta", based on a Bengali novel of the same name.

'POOJA HEGDE IS A 'LUCKY CHARM' OF FILM INDUSTRY'

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Telugu's leading producer Dil Raju, who has acquired the rights to release the Telugu version of the Tamil movie 'Beast', hailed actress Pooja Hegde and called her the 'Lucky Charm'. Dil Raju made the remarks while attending a press meet on Friday, in Hyderabad. The video of his comments on Pooja has now become viral on social media. "Pooja is like a lucky charm to the film industry. 'DJ-Duvvada Jagannadham', 'Maharshi', 'Ala Vaikunthapuramu Loo', 'Aravinda Sametha', all of these movies were super hits because Pooja stepped in. Pooja! I want your dates", Dil Raju said. Dil Raju compares Pooja to a famous regional sweet 'Kaja', which has grabbed much attention. While some netizens commented that it was insensitive to objectify an actress, some of them enjoyed his comments. At the same time, his speech was assumed to be witty, by many others. Hemed by Nelson Dilipkumar, Pooja Hegde and Vijay- starrer 'Beast' will hit the screens on April 13.

Sumukhi Suresh: Comic actors are never treated like stars in our cinema

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stand-up comedian and actress Sumukhi Suresh, known for her performance in web series 'Pushpavalli' and her recent outing 'Hum Do Teen Chaar', says no matter how popular a comedian is, they never get the treatment of a Bollywood star.

Despite many standalone comedy shows, special comic acts on OTT platforms be it 'One Mic Stand', 'Comicstaan' and comedy content on YouTube among others, it is noticed that comedians and actors even in cinema who do comedy well, never get treated like a 'start'.

Decoding the reason behind it, Sumukhi told reporter: "I think it is not just in Bollywood but everywhere that a comedian, who is also an actor, is treated differently. There is no glamour attached to becoming a comic, as opposed to an actor. There is stardom and 'diva' kind of treatment that actors get and comedians do not. "Perhaps that happens because people tend to think that comedy is a much easier thing to do than an intense drama. Whereas the fact is, we put all the hard work to make it look 'easy' and 'effortless'."

Highlighting the element of being relatable to the audience, the stand-up comic also mentioned how it is a double-edged sword.

"The need of the hour in a comedy show is to keep it relatable and every comic has a natural talent, a sense of humour. So the audience look at us as 'yeh toh main bhi kar sakta hoon'. We do not carry the aura of a star, therefore audience does not treat us like one. That is the advantage and disadvantage at the same time." Interestingly when it comes to female-led films in Bollywood, we hardly have any film made exploring that genre like there are many franchises of slapsticks comedy featuring superstars of Bollywood - be it 'Hera Pheri', 'Housefull' with Akshay Kumar, 'Golmaal' with Ajay Devgn.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Mariyam Zakaria

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