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Hindus, Muslims take out Tiranga Yatra in riot-hit Jahangirpuri

SOCIAL HARMONY

- ▶ The people holding the tri-colour walked past several streets of the Jahangirpuri area which witnessed riots just a week back on April 16.
- ▶ The residents showered flower petals on the procession from the balconies of their houses.
- ▶ On Saturday evening, representatives of the local peace committee, Aman Committee, met and hugged each other on cameras, spreading the message of brotherhood between both the communities.
- ▶ Aman Committees were set up in the 1980s so that all religious celebrations in the national capital take place without one community hurting other's sentiments.



Deputy Commissioner of Police Usha Rangani, who accompanied the procession, requested all the people of the area to maintain public tranquility and peace.

"The people have themselves given this idea of carrying out a Tiranga Yatra to spread the message of communal harmony. I welcome this move and expect that normalcy will return soon," she said.

She further said that the situation is completely under control and the people are themselves coming forward to have a dialogue with the Delhi Police.

Speaking on the security arrangements, the DCP said they have already 'scaled down' the police presence and in future they will further do it. The procession began from

Kusal Chowk and then moved towards Block B, BC market, mosque, temple, G block, Kusal Chowk, Bhumi Ghat and culminated at Azad Chowk.

The committee consists of police officers, members of political parties and prominent residents from various communities.

Severe communal clashes erupted

at the Jahangirpuri area on April 16 during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in which 9 people including 8 policemen were injured.

The police have till now arrested 25 people and apprehended 2 juveniles while one of the arrested person's relatives was bound down for injuring a police Inspector by pelting stones at him.

Jaipur police team reaching spot to quell fight attacked, shut themselves in room

Jaipur: The local SHO of Jaipur's Kanota and his team had to shut themselves in a room after they were attacked by people from two groups who were engaged in fighting in the area late on Saturday, police said on Sunday. The police team had, in fact, come to pacify two groups engaged in a spat in Kanota on Saturday evening, but were attacked themselves. Even the SHO's private vehicle was damaged as the crowd pelted stones on it.

Police officials said that SHO Arun Poonia and his team were not in uniform when they reached the spot and one of the quarrelling groups took them to be members of the other group and attacked them.

The team had to take shelter in a room and called the police control room for help. Soon after, a police team, drawn from six stations, reached the site to rescue the SHO and his team which included three policemen. Meanwhile, the SHO and the other trapped policemen were freed and the three injured policemen were sent to the hospital for treatment.

Additional forces were deployed to maintain peace and order in the area. The police are searching for the attackers and have registered a case against them under various sections.

MAINSTREAM MEDIA PLAYS BIGGER ROLE IN DISSEMINATING DISINFORMATION: META

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta (formerly Facebook) has claimed that mainstream media plays a bigger role in disseminating disinformation, and polarisation is decreasing in parts of the world where social media use is rising.

Meta, however, admitted that the world needs more academic research to better understand social media's true impact on society, especially in the American context. Reacting to a recent article in The Atlantic, titled "Why the Past 10 Years of American Life have Been Uniquely Stupid," Meta said that while the article certainly raises valid questions about social media's impact, "the preponderance of research tells a far more nuanced story

and many of these questions lack clear answers".

According to Pratiiti Raychoudhury, Vice President, Head of Research, Meta, research shows that mainstream media plays a bigger role disseminating disinformation than popularly accepted. "Polarisation is decreasing in parts of the world where social media use is rising. More and more research also discredits the idea that social media algorithms create an echo chamber that causes polarisation and political upheavals," she countered. For example, evidence simply does not support the idea that Facebook, or social media generally, is the primary cause of polarisation, she argued.

"Research from Stanford last year looked in depth at trends in nine countries over

40 years, and found that in some countries polarisation was on the rise before Facebook even existed, and in others it has been decreasing while internet and Facebook use increased," said the company. There are also studies showing that mainstream media plays a bigger role in disseminating disinformation than popularly accepted.

Meta said that the strength of civic institutions has been declining long before social media was invented.

"We need more academic research to better understand social media's true impact, especially on democracy in America. That is one of the reasons why Meta is investing in open research and transparency including the Facebook and Instagram Election Study," said Raychoudhury.

Top LeT commander among 3 terrorists killed in J&K encounter



SRINAGAR | Agencies

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander is among three terrorists killed in an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Pahoo area in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said on Sunday.

"Arif Hazar a.k.a. Rehan, deputy of LeT's top cmdr (Basil) killed in Pulwama Encounter. Involved in killings of Inspector Parvez in front of mosque, SI Arshid and one mobile shop owner in downtown.

Several FIRs against him in Srinagar city.

Identification of other 2 terrorists yet to be done," Jammu and Kashmir police quoting Inspector General Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar tweeted. The firefight broke out after a joint team of security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists. As the security forces zeroed in on the spot where terrorists were hiding, they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid heavy deployment of police personnel, members from both the Hindu and Muslim communities took out 'Tiranga Yatra' on Sunday evening at the communal violence-hit Jahangirpuri area of the national capital.

The police, in heavy numbers, could be seen guarding and providing security to the procession of 100 people that had 50 members each from both the communities.

"Today we are living in the information age and the world is going to move into the knowledge age. I think this is the time we fully realise our potential. Once when we ourselves are convinced that this is our heritage then why should we leave any stone unturned to achieve unity in diversity."

Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor, Kerala

PM MODI CONFERRED WITH 1ST LATA DEENANATH MANGESHKAR AWARD



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prieme Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the 1st 'Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award' at a glittering function in Shanmukhananda Hall, here on Sunday evening.

As per his own request, Modi did not sit on dais but occupied a front seat among the audience and walked onto the stage when his name was announced to accept the honour as a commoner. Present on the occa-

sion were almost the entire Mangeshkar clan, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Minister Subhash Desai, though Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray kept away reportedly as his name did not figure in the official invite.

This is the first award instituted in memory of the late Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar, the melody queen of India, who passed away in Mumbai on February 6, at the age of 92.

All seven Indian sailors in captivity of Yemen's Houthis released

Thiruvananthapuram: Seven Indian sailors, in captivity of Yemen's Houthi rebels since January 2 along with their UAE-flagged merchant ship Rwabee, have been released, relatives of some of the sailors said on Sunday. The sailors included three Keralaites - Dipash of Meppayur in Kozhikode, Akhil of Alappuzha, and Sreejith from Kottayam - and their relatives said that they have got information about their release. The Houthi rebels had then claimed that the UAE-flagged vessel Rwabee was carrying "military supplies" and that it had entered the Yemeni waters of the coast of Hodeidah without any authorisation. The External Affairs Ministry was in touch with the UN mission to felicitate the release of the Indian sailors.

Breakthrough in Pak-IMF bailout talks as \$8bn package approved

ISLAMABAD | Agencies

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed, in principle, to extend the stalled bailout programme by up to one year and increase the loan size to \$8 billion, giving markets the much-needed stability and a breathing space to the new government, the media reported.

The understanding has been reached between Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and IMF Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh in Washington, sources told The Express Tribune on Sunday. Subject to the final modalities, the IMF has agreed that the programme will be extended by another nine months to one year as



against the original end-period of September 2022, the sources added.

The size of the loan would be increased from the existing \$6 billion to \$8 billion -- a net addition of \$2 billion, a senior government functionary requesting anonymity said.

The previous PTI-led government and the IMF had signed a 39-month Extended Fund Facility (July 2019 to September 2022) with a total value of \$6 billion. However, the previous government failed to fulfil its commitments and the programme remained stalled for most

of the time as \$3 billion remained undispensed. Before taking Pakistan's case to the IMF Board for approval, Islamabad would have to agree on the budget strategy for the next fiscal year 2022-23, the sources said. Also, the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would have to demonstrate that it would undo some wrong steps taken by the former regime against the commitments that it gave to the IMF Board in January this year.

Pakistan is passing through a phase of political and economic uncertainty and the decision to stay in the IMF programme for longer than original period would bring clarity in economic policies and soothe the rattling markets, Express Tribune reported.

JHARKHAND'S JAMTARA BECOMES COUNTRY'S FIRST DISTRICT WITH LIBRARY IN EVERY VILLAGE

- ▶ The story of the beginning of this initiative is also interesting. A Janta Darbar was initially organised by the district administration to know the problems of the villagers in Changidih Panchayat.
- ▶ However, when a villager complained about the lack of proper educational institutions and books here, Faiz decided to facilitate these libraries across the district.
- ▶ When he received information about derelict buildings in each district, Faiz planned to renovate them and convert them into libraries. On November 13, 2020, the district's first ever community library was inaugurated.
- ▶ Over 10,000 career guidance and motivational sessions have been organised in these libraries in the last one and a half years. Various department officers also take time off to teach classes.
- ▶ Now over 350 teachers have joined these libraries, who regularly guide the 5,000 students enrolled here. Besides these, books for competitive exams, literature, history, spiritual and motivational topics are also available.

Shambhu Nath Choudhary | Ranchi

Jamtara in Jharkhand has become the only district in the country where all gram panchayats have community libraries.

This district with a population of about eight lakh has a total of 118 gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library which is open for students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also held free of cost here. Sometimes, IAS and IPS officers also visit these libraries to guide students. Everyone is welcome to visit these innovative sites! Most of these libraries, whose details, GPS location, photographs and contact numbers, have been provided on the district's official website, were set up around two years ago with the assistance of Deputy Commissioner Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz.

From the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds received from several companies and money received by the district under the 14th and 15th Finance Commission, Rs 60,000-2.5 lakh was spent on the restoration and infrastructure of these libraries. Gradually, libraries were set up in panchayats such as Chandradeep, Panjaniya, Menjhia, Gopalpur, Shaharpura, Champapur, and Jhluva. The villagers elected a President, Treasurer, and Librarian from



amongst themselves, to run these libraries. They also contributed furniture, water filters, blackboards and emergency lights for some.

When schools were shut during the Covid-induced lockdown, villagers used at least two teachers to teach students at each library. Faiz, who is elated with the success of his initiative, told IANS: "The best society is the one which invests the most in education and health. It is our endeavour that capable people of the society adopt these libraries. Azharuddin, who studied in Jajori Panchayat Library, has cleared the Panchayat Secretary examination of the Jharkhand government. Gaur Chandra Yadav, the librarian at Khaira Panchayat library, said that since the library opened in November 2020, the routine of the nearby students have changed.

Ashish Mishra surrenders in compliance with SC order

Team Absolute | Luckhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh):

Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni and also the main accused in the Luckhimpur Kheri violence of October 3, 2021, surrendered in the court of the chief judicial magistrate on Sunday in compliance of the Supreme Court directive.

This comes just a week after the Supreme Court cancelled his bail and further granted him a week to surrender. Ashish surrendered in the court a day ahead of the expiry of his bail term.

He was granted bail by the Allahabad High Court in February 2022. This pertains to the violence that broke out in



Luckhimpur Kheri in October 2021, where eight people including four farmers were killed. Last week, the apex court, while hearing the petitions filed by farmers challenging the accused's bail, ruled against Ashish Mishra. The three-judge bench noted that the victims of the violence were denied the right of hearing in the Allahabad High Court which had granted bail to Mishra. It also asked the high court to reconsider the bail granted to Ashish Mishra.



WORLD WILL TAKE RIGHT DIRECTION IN CUTTING EMISSIONS: EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday said that she is deeply convinced that our world will take the right direction in cutting emissions by clean innovative technology, the demand for which will be enormous.

Von Der Leyen, who has been invited to address the inaugural session of this year's Raisina Dialogue on April 25, on the first day of her two day visit, participated in an interaction at 'TERI Gram' at the The Energy and Resources Institute campus, where she stressed on the need to work together towards a green, sustainable and equitable future.

She said youngsters are the advocates to fight climate change, save the planet and develop solutions.

Von Der Leyen also noted that climate change and biodiversity loss are at the top of the political agenda of the European Union and India and the young should raise their voice for climate action.

Young people have fully convinced about the urgency of the climate crisis and they are doing something about it, she said. "From living more sustainable lifestyles to making their voices heard on the streets and advocating for



greener policies, young people are at the heart of the solution. So make your voices heard," she added. In her first visit to India, she will also be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

India and the European Union share a vibrant strategic partnership which has been witnessing strong growth with wider and deeper co-operation in political, trade and commerce, climate and sustainability, digital and technology aspects as well as people to people ties.

Man in Punjab buys 'prized' horse, wash reveals truth

Chandigarh:

A man in Punjab was duped of Rs 22.65 lakh by traders who sold him a horse that later only turned out to be dyed black, the prized colour in horses. Cloth merchant Ramesh Kumar from Sunam town in Sangrur district, in a police complaint, said he was allegedly duped by horse traders -- Jatinder Pal Singh Sekhon, Lakhwinder Singh, and Lachra Khan -- on the pretext of selling him a Marwari breed stallion. He said when he gave a bath to the horse, the dye washed away and the real red coat of the horse surfaced.



Kumar invested the money in the black horse to start a stud farm.

Police have registered a case of fraud against the accused.

As per the police, the accused had cheated eight other people by selling fake breed horses.

Congress targets govt over proposed GST increase of 142 items

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday attacked the government over the proposed increase in GST of 142 items, including jagery and products which are of daily use.

Senior Congress spokesman Abhishek Manu Singhvi said: "A proposal to increase 92 per cent of items in a list of 143 to the highest available slab category of 28 per cent; I would call it deceitful, dubious, and dissembling. Something like this, hits the common man, of course, who is being crushed, but, it hits the middle class, who is frequently forgotten by everyone. The middle class may be above the lowest class, but, they are hit very - very badly."

He said the list of items include hand bags, suit cases, colour TV sets below 32 inches, walnuts, chewing gum, chocolates, and custard powder.

Singhvi noted that in 2017



Guwahati meeting, 75 items were taken away by the GST Council from the highest 28 per cent slab, leaving only 50 items in it

"Look at these facts. Today 90 per cent of 143, like 120 items, are being moved back into that slab. Can you see any logic to it? At least, I cannot. Can you see any method to it? At least, I cannot,"

he said. "Why do you want to hit the aam aadmi in the stomach? After all, nothing more can be expected from you. You have practiced the worst kind of treachery and hypocrisy on this subject. It was you, Modi Sarkar, Modi in the incarnation of Chief Minister, who called

3 child marriages reported in Rajasthan; case registered

JAIPUR | Agencies

Rajasthan Police have registered a case against unidentified people under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, after at least three underage couples were married recently in Bhilwara during a mass wedding ceremony, an official said.

The FIR was lodged on the basis of a complaint filed by Bhilwara Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairman Girish Kumar Pandey, CWC member Chandrakala Ojha told reporter.

"We received information about child marriage and also received 2-3 photographs along with the information. So got a complaint registered with the police requesting them to take action under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act," she said. "While three marriages were held, we managed to stop two other child marriages," she informed.

Meanwhile, based on Pandey's complaint, Bhilwara Mandal police registered an FIR under sections 9 (punishment for male adult marrying a child), 10 (punishment for solemnising a child marriage) and 11 (punishment for promoting or permitting solemnisation of



child marriages) of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, as well as section 75 (punishment for cruelty to child) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2005. According to Dharm Raj Pratihar, Additional Director, Child Rights (Bhilwara), "It was a samuhik vivah sammelan (mass wedding ceremony) under which at least ten couples were married. Out of them, three were underage. The FIR was lodged on Thursday on the basis of a complaint filed by the Child Welfare Committee. Further investigation is under process to identify the children, said Ojha.

Amritsar customs seize 102 kg drug in consignment from Afghanistan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Customs officers at Integrated Check Post (ICP) Attari, under Amritsar Customs Commissionerate, on Sunday said that they have seized suspected 102 kg of drugs, valued at Rs 700 crore, concealed in a 'mulethi' (liquorice root) consignment imported from Afghanistan by a Delhi-based importer.

This is one of the biggest drugs haul detected and seized by Amritsar Customs after June 2019 when in one of the biggest cases in India, 532.63 kg of drugs were seized at ICP, Attari in an import consignment from Afghanistan.

The seizure came after the goods were subjected to X-ray scanning as per the prescribed examination procedure. Some irregular spots were seen by the alert duty officer in X-ray



images of some of the wooden logs in the consignments. Therefore, in view of the suspicious images, the Customs officers opened the bags in presence of 'panchs' (witnesses) and

other Customs staff.

When all the bags were opened, it was seen that some of them had small cylindrical wooden logs (not 'mulethi'), which appeared to be

sealed on both ends by saw dust mixed in adhesive material. Such wooden logs were segregated and packed in separate bags. These wooden logs were then broken open revealing machine-made cavities in each such log, which was filled with powdery material suspected to be a narcotic substance. The substance was tested with drugs detection test kit both by the Customs as well as BSF separately and they showed positive results for narcotic material.

"The said concealment in cylindrical wooden log inside a cavity created is shown in pictures below. The total weight of such wooden logs was about 475 kg, from which 102 kg of suspected heroin of estimated value of Rs 700 crore in the international market was extracted," said the official. Further investigation in the case going on.

Most wanted terrorist arrested in Punjab

MOST WANTED TERRORIST AND ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE BABBAR KHALSA INTERNATIONAL (BKI) TERRORIST MODULE, CHARANJIT SINGH ALIAS PATIALAVI, WHO WAS EVADING SECURITY AGENCIES FOR 12 YEARS BY USING DIFFERENT IDENTITIES, WAS ARRESTED BY PUNJAB POLICE'S ANTI-GANGSTER TASK FORCE (AGTF) ON SUNDAY, POLICE SAID.

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

The state government has recently constituted an AGTF headed by ADGP Pramod Ban, under the supervision of DGP V.K. Bhawra, to intensify action against gangsters.

DIG, AGTF, Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said accused Charanjit Patialavi, a resident of Patiala district, was declared proclaimed offender on July 23, 2010. However, his associate, Gurmail Singh Boba (now deceased) was arrested in this case along with recovery of detonators and RDX.

He said the AGTF, led by AIG Gurmeet Singh Chauhan and DSP Bikramjit Singh Brar, arrested Patialavi from Dera Bassi town.

"Patialavi, disguising himself as a 'granthi' was staying in Gurdwara Sahib at Khargpur in West Bengal and was not using any communication device," said Bhullar, adding different identification cards on West Bengal address have been recovered from his possession.



Investigation is in process and it may lead to more arrests and important disclosures, said Bhullar.

Patialavi was an active member of the BKI module that was busted by the police in 2010 for its involvement in the

Shingar Cinema bomb blasts in Ludhiana in 2007, and other blasts at Kali Mata Mandir in Patiala and Ambala in 2010. All the other associates of Patialavi were arrested in 2010 by the police.

LONDON | Agencies

In a social media post, BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj asked people to equip their homes with bottles and arrows in case of an attack by a mob, adding that the police would not save them and, hence they should be prepared.

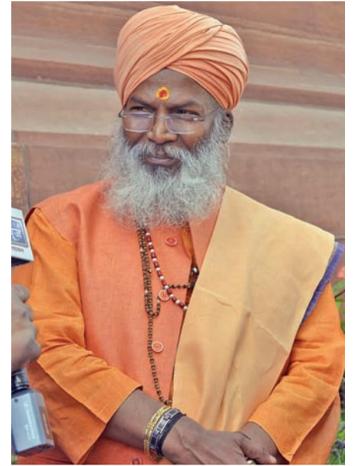
The Unnao MP, who has often been in the news for controversial statements, wrote on Facebook: "If this crowd comes suddenly to your street, neighbourhood or house, there is a remedy for it... For such guests, every house should have one or two boxes of cold drinks and some arrows. Jai Shri Ram."

Along with his message, he posted a photograph of a crowd of people charging down a street armed with sticks.

"The police will not come to save you, but will instead hide to save themselves. After these people do 'jihad' and leave, the police will come with lathis and form an investigation committee after everything is over."

Sakshi Maharaj's post comes in the wake of communal clashes in Delhi's Jahangirpuri that took place on April 16.

Before that, communal clashes were



reported from a number of states on the occasion of Ram Navami.

Former teacher inspires 100 Andhra tribal villages to give up chemical fertilizers

VIZIANAGARAM (ANDHRA PRADESH) | Agencies

While the world has woken up to the hazards of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, transitioning to organic and natural farming is easier said than done. But in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, a former school teacher and his NGO are working since more than a decade to convince tribal farmers switch to natural or bio-farming. Their efforts are beginning to pay off.

Thanks to D Pari Naidu of Thotapalli village, and the Justified Action and Training for Tribal Upliftment (JATTU) Trust, close to a hundred villages in the region have entirely renounced the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in their farms.

"Compared to the plains, the farmers of this hilly region in the district, used less chemical inputs. So it was relatively easy for us to convince the people to stop using chemicals and start using natural materials like cow dung, cow urine, and neem-based pesticides in agriculture," Pari Naidu told reporter.

Pari Naidu's first success story in reintroducing total bio-farming, is Kondabhariki village which was declared



Andhra Pradesh's first bio-village 2018. Thereafter, more and more villages began to join the movement.

"So far, of the 206 villages that JATTU is working in, 93 villages have been officially designated as bio-villages, and seven more are set to be recognised similarly

very soon," Pari Naidu said.

Today, around 10,000 tribal families in the district have migrated to natural farming on around 50,000 acres.

Opting for voluntary retirement, Pari Naidu established JATTU in 1998, to work for the different tribals living in the two

mandals. The NGO began with non-pesticide management and gradually moved to promoting natural farming. Working in an Naxal-affected area brought with it, its fair share of problems for Pari Naidu.

Around 2002, he was warned by Naxals to leave the area. However, he made it clear that he intended to stay on irrespective of the consequences. Thereafter, he was not troubled by them anymore.

The natural farming initiatives have received the whole-hearted support of the local communities. The local womenfolk who earlier used to previously brew illicit liquor, are now preparing natural fertilizers and pesticides for sale.

Apart from lower input costs and better crop harvests, the benefits of bio-farming are slowly becoming evident to the tribals. "Since entire villages are practicing bio-farming, harmful pests are decreasing and beneficial insects are increasing here," Pari Naidu said.

Aiming for the younger generation, Pari Naidu has introduced awareness initiatives school children. JATTU also helps farmers with agricultural equipment such as weeders and cutters. A feature film, 'Amruta Bhoomi' promoting bio-farming is also on the cards.

GURUGRAM: 4 ARRESTED FOR LOOTING RS 1 CRORE FROM CASH VAN



GURUGRAM | Agencies

In a breakthrough, four robbers, who had looted Rs one crore at gunpoint from the employees of a cash collection company on April 18, have been arrested, the police said on Sunday.

According to the police, the accused had thrown chilli powder into the eyes of the employees and driver of the van and held them hostage before fleeing with the huge cash.

Police sources said the fifth accomplice is yet to be arrested and also claimed that

most of the cash has been recovered from the arrested culprits.

The arrested criminals hailed from Haryana's Faridabad and Delhi's Chattarpur.

The police have also recovered a car used in the robbery. During the probe, the investigation teams had scanned more than 1,000 CCTV cameras to identify the criminals.

The Haryana Police had announced a cash reward of Rs 2 lakh for anyone giving information about the culprits.



NARMADA IS THE LIFELINE OF MADHYA PRADESH, IF NARMADA IS THERE THEN THERE IS MADHYA PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Narmada river is the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh. Not only Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are also dependent on Narmada river to a great extent for prosperity. Narmada river is the center of our faith and reverence. Narmada river gives irrigation and drinking water, electricity etc. to Madhya Pradesh. If Narmada is there, then there is Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh government has done many things by making Narmada Seva Mission. This sequence will continue even further.

Under the chairmanship of Chouhan, the work being done for the Narmada revival program was reviewed in Amarkantak on Sunday.

Chouhan said that just as Ganga ji's name is there in the country, similarly there is Narmada ji's name in Madhya Pradesh. Amarkantak is no ordinary place. This is the land of sages and ascetics. The Chief Minister said that Narmada Seva Yatra would be started for the protection and promotion of river Narmada. In the plan that was made during the Narmada Seva Yatra, a large-scale campaign of fruit cultivation, tree plantation was started. Society has played an important role in this campaign with 16 departments. Chief Minister Chouhan said



that it is a fortunate day for Madhya Pradesh, Union Forest and Environment Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav and Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Shri Prahlad Singh Patel have come to Amarkantak because of the flow of Narmada ji and Madhya Pradesh and other states by the grace of Narmada.

Chouhan said that a road map would be prepared for the conservation and promotion of Narmada river. On May 1, people associated with Narmada Seva Abhiyan will launch a public awareness campaign. On June 5, Environment Day, a pledge will be taken to plant different species of plants at

different places. Such plants will be planted which are in line with the ecosystem here.

Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call to build Amrit Sarovar in the Amrit Festival of Independence. For the conservation and promotion of river Narmada, it is necessary to plant trees and make water structures. Water structures formed in the form of Amrit Sarovar should be located on the banks of Narmada. The Chief Minister said that Amrit Sarovar would also be constructed on the banks of 41 tributaries of Narmada ji, so that the flow of Narmada river could become

more wide and vast. Along with this, water kept coming from everywhere in the Narmada river. He said that tree plantation would be done on a large scale in Amarkantak region on Hariyali Amavasya festival. Union Forest and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that for the conservation and promotion of Narmada river, discussions have been held at Amarkantak, the origin place of Narmada. He said that river Narmada is the cornerstone of cultural, spiritual and social life of Madhya Pradesh along with other states. He said that conservation and promotion of Narmada would lead to development of rural and urban areas. Yadav said that Narmada river is an important river of the country, which needs a better action plan to save it. He said that I am happy that the development work of Narmada service area which was started in 2018 is being discussed in detail to take it further. He said that Amarkantak has been the abode of our ancestors religiously, traditionally, culturally and spiritually since time immemorial. It is the duty of all of us to preserve and enhance the waters of the Narmada river coming out from here. To keep Narmada safe, an action plan will be prepared keeping all the aspects. Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Prahlad Patel, MP Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, Environment Minister Suresh Soni also gave suggestions for conservation and promotion of Narmada.

PM Modi Introduced the Nation to the "Halma" Tradition of Bhil Tribe of MP

CM Chouhan Gave the Reaction after Mann Ki Baat Programme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the historical "Halma" tradition of Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh in his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat." He said that this tradition by Bhil tribe giving a wonderful message of water conservation is commendable and exemplary. It will inspire everyone. Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh used their tradition "Halma" for water conservation. In tradition, the people of this tribe gather together and take suggestions from each other to find ways to solve the problem related to water. Due to this tradition, the water crisis has reduced and the groundwater level is also increasing.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Prime Minister Modi has introduced the nation to the historical tradition "Halma" of Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh in Mann Ki Baat programme. This has boosted the morale of our Bhil tribe brothers and sisters and the entire Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan heartily congratulated Prime Minister Shri Modi for his invaluable words.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has accepted Prime Minister Modi's call to construct 75 Amrit Sarovars in one district and now we are making 3800 Amrit Sarovars. On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day, we will fulfill our resolve by hoisting the flag near these Amrit Sarovars.

'Neither Ram is deaf nor Allah, banning loudspeakers will be a good decision': Laxman Singh

POLITICS OVER LOUDSPEAKERS IS HEATING UP IN MP AS WELL. AFTER FORMER CM UMA BHARTI, DIGVIJAY SINGH'S BROTHER AND CONGRESS MLA FROM CHACHAURA LAXMAN SINGH HAS SUPPORTED THE BAN ON LOUDSPEAKERS. CONGRESS MLA LAXMAN SINGH SAID THAT BANNING LOUDSPEAKERS WILL BE A GOOD DECISION. THERE WILL BE NO RIOTS EITHER, PEOPLE WILL GET RELIEF. NEITHER RAM IS DEAF NOR GOD. WHAT WILL SOME FOOLS TELL AND TEACH THE POWERS THAT NURTURE THE WORLD?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Earlier, former State CM Uma Bharti had also welcomed the decision of UP's Yogi Adityanath. He had said

that the DJ of the procession or the noise of any procession should be up to a time and the limited limit of the voice is fixed, only then will we be able to contribute to the creation of a healthy society. He had talked about making a decision like Uttar Pradesh in Madhya Pradesh.

A few days ago, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said that according to religious ideology, everyone has the freedom to follow their method of worship. Loudspeakers can be used, but ensure that the sound does not come out of the premises.

The loudspeaker controversy started after the statement of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray. Thackeray had told the Maharashtra government that the state government should remove loudspeakers from mosques by May 3. Failing this, MNS workers will put up speakers outside mosques and recite Hanuman Chalisa. Then, the war gained momentum over the noise of the loudspeakers across the country.

Role of Parichay Sammelans in self-centred modern lifestyle significant

Seek cooperation of the educated in coordinating matrimonial relations: Governor Mangubhai Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the role of Parichay Sammelans in marital relations is very important in the modern self-centred lifestyle. He said that Adivasi Seva Mandal should take the cooperation of the educated in coordinating matrimonial relations. Educated youth must be identified in every village, who can take initiative for matrimonial relations and support families in matrimonial alliances.

Governor Patel was addressing the Yuva Parichay Sammelan organized by Adivasi Seva Bhopal Mandal. In the programme, Sharad Singh Kumbhare was awarded for his outstanding contribution in the field of environmental protection and social service with the Late Urmila Singh Memorial Award and Medical Social Worker Ayurvedacharya Yashwant Thakur Tekam was honoured with the Dr. BL Singh award. Yashwant Thakur's award was received by his representative. Governor Patel said that family is an important institution in social life. The basis of successful family life is a long married life.



Therefore, determining the marriage relationship is a very important task. There should be a serious discussion on all aspects before marriage. There should be no haste in marriages. Young people should be given the opportunity to understand each other. Parents should also give importance to the wishes of the children. Marriage is a sacred relationship that has to be maintained throughout life. We should support each other in sorrow and happiness. There is no difference between husband and wife. In the responsibilities of the family, both have equal responsibility. This is indicated in the tradition of

pheras. In the first four rounds, the groom remains ahead. In the last three rounds, the bride stays ahead. It is natural to have quarrels between husband and wife in married life. There should be no fights due to prejudices. Appreciating the work being done by Adivasi Seva Mandal, he said that the activities of social organizations are very important in the social, cultural life-values and betterment of the society. It is the responsibility of the social institutions to cooperate collectively in the society, help in the development of harmony and liberal feelings.

Initially, Governor Patel offered prayers at Bada Dev Temple. The Governor was welcomed with a traditional dance based as per tribal tradition. The Governor was welcomed by applying haldi tilak and was presented with a bouquet, a yellow gamchha and memento. Children of Manthan Art Group gave dance-song performances, young men and women introduced themselves and expressed their expectations regarding their future life partner. Office-bearers of Adivasi Seva Mandal and a large number of members of tribal community were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Planted Saplings in Smart Garden Along

- ▶ MAKE THE BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS AN OCCASION FOR PLANTING TREES
- ▶ CM URGED THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
- ▶ GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CORPORATION COMMISSIONER TO REWARD THE BEST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Gulmohar and Moulshree saplings in Smart Udyan on Sunday. Sunita



Vishwakarma, Madhuri Birud and Divya Atri planted saplings along with Chouhan. Residents Association is motivating people to

use cloth bags to protect the environment. Members are active for the development of the area's gardens. Bhopal Municipal Corporation Commissioner informed Chief Minister Chouhan on the occasion of plantation that many resident associations are engaged in constructive works. Chief Chouhan said that the resident associations should also be rewarded for their best activities.

Chouhan asked to plant saplings on the occasion of birthdays and marriage anniversaries. He also urged to take cooperation of citizens to conduct it as a campaign. Among the saplings planted, Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. It is also rich in medicinal properties. Moulshree is a well known tree. It is also called Kes in Sanskrit, Molsari or Bakul in Hindi. Moulshree is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries.

Khargone violence: 64 FIRs, 175 people held so far

Team Absolute | Bhopal

During the curfew relaxation period, shops selling milk, vegetables, medicines, and barber's shops among others, are allowed to remain open, but religious places have been asked to be kept shut.

Police have so far arrested 175 people in connection with the violence in Khargone city of Madhya Pradesh during Ram Navami celebration earlier this month, an official said on Sunday. Local administration relaxed the curfew in Khargone for nine hours - from 8 am to 5 pm - for the second day in a row on Sunday. But, night curfew will continue, in-charge Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani said, adding that no untoward incident was reported during the cur-

few relaxation on Saturday. So far, 64 FIRs have been registered in connection with the violence in Khargone city on April 10, and 175 people have been arrested, Kashwani told reporters on Saturday.

He said that Mohsin aka Waseem, who was arrested in connection with the firing at Khargone Superintendent of Police Siddharth Choudhary, was presented before a local court on Saturday and sent in three-day police remand.

The accused is being questioned and further details are being collected, the police official said. Search for the other accused is underway in areas near Khargone and other places on the basis of technical evidence, he added. Choudhary is currently on leave as he is undergoing treatment after sustaining a bullet injury in his leg.

Communal clashes had erupted in Khargone city during the Ram Navami celebration on April 10, during which shops and houses were damaged, vehicles torched and stones hurled.

Curfew was clamped in the city after the violence. But since April 14, the local administration has been relaxing the curfew for some hours. As per the district administration's order, the curfew relaxation will not be applicable to local agricultural market, petrol pumps and for the sale of kerosene from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops.

During the curfew relaxation period, shops selling milk, vegetables, medicines, and barber's shops among others, are allowed to remain open, but religious places have been asked to be kept shut.

'BACKWARD' BUNDELKHAND TO BENEFIT FROM MULTIPLE GOVT INITIATIVES

Bundelkhand, which has been "synonymous" with drought, migration and unemployment, is now hoping to benefit from several government initiatives.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bundelkhand, which has been "synonymous" with drought, migration and unemployment, is now hoping to benefit from several government initiatives.

Bundelkhand comprises of 14 districts, seven from Uttar Pradesh and as many from Madhya Pradesh. But we are talking about the seven districts of Madhya Pradesh - Datia, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Chhatrapur, Panna, Damoh and Sagar. These districts were a source of prosperity but with the passing of time they got entangled in problems. After a long time, a scheme is being brought which it is hoped will change Bundelkhand for the better.

The Ken-Betwa Link project, which was a dream project of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has been given the nod by the Narendra Modi government with an outlay of Rs 44,000 crore.

Though there can be some fallouts of the project but it can be effective in bringing back prosperity and solving the water



problem of the region. Water scarcity is the root cause of all the problems of the region as farming cannot be done due to lack of water, livestock don't get water to drink and even the common people are striving for water. That's the main reason why industries could not be established which led to an unemployment problem in the state. Work is also being done to improve the transport system in the region. Villages are being connected by roads. National Highway 75 connecting the Gwalior region with Rewa has made commuting pleasant and comfortable. A huge area has also been connected via the rail network. Panna is the only district which does not have a rail line. To connect Khajuraho with Delhi, there are

plans to run the Vande Bharat Express, which was announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently. Khajuraho holds a unique place on the world tourism map. Efforts are being made to enhance its attraction with better facilities for the tourists coming here. A yoga centre and a golf course are also on the cards. A convention centre has already been built here where meetings can be organised. If the continuing efforts bear fruit, tourists' interest in the region will increase.

The terracotta art of Bundelkhand, which had been a great tool of employment in the region 50-60 years back, was forgotten with the passage of time but now efforts are being made to revive the art and provide employment to people. There are also plans to connect Orchha with Chitrakoot by train to increase religious tourism. Khajuraho MP and BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma said that he has a resolution to make "Lehlaha Bundelkhand and Khushaal Bundelkhand" (a prosperous and happy Bundelkhand) and he is working on it.

It's not that previous governments had not made plans and schemes for Bundelkhand or not approved a budget for it and the biggest example of it is the Bundelkhand package. Rs 3,500 crore were spent in the seven districts but the situation did not change as the money was diverted. To resolve the water crisis, crores of rupees were spent but the situation remains the same. There is a new ray of hope but it is to be seen whether it fructifies or not.

CM Pays Tribute to CISF SI Martyred in Kashmir

- Honour Fund of One Crore to the Family and Government Service to One Family Member
- Announcement to Install Statue

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the martyrdom of SI Shankar Prasad Patel, resident of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh posted in Kashmir.

Shaheed Patel was working in Bilal's Third Reserve Battalion. On April 10, he was sent to Kashmir on duty. He was martyred on April 22 in a terrorist attack. Paying hom-

age to the martyr SI Patel, Chief Minister Chouhan said that by bowing to his bravery, I pay my floral tributes. He displayed indomitable courage in the line of his duty.

Chouhan said that the Madhya Pradesh government is with the family of the martyr in the hour of grief and crisis. One crore honour fund will be given to the family of the martyr and after discussing with the family, work will be done to provide government service to one member and install the statue of the martyr in the village. One of the institutions will also be named after the martyr. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Minister of State for Panchayat and Rural Development Ram Khelavani Patel paid tribute on his behalf by laying a wreath on the mortal remains of the martyr.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Batting skills

A unique bat crafting course will begin in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district for skill enhancement to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the youth, officials said on Monday. Bat Crafting Course is a unique four-week course offered by the District Skill Committee (DSC), Anantnag, in collaboration with District Industries Centre, Anantnag through the bat-manufacturing industry. The course structure has been designed with a strong focus on practical training of the candidates, along with a brief theoretical overview of the local bat industry. The theory classes shall be conducted at CFC Sether and the practical training shall be imparted at the nearby bat-manufacturing units. The first batch of the course shall be limited to 30 trainees and post-completion of the course, they shall receive certification by the District Skill Committee, Anantnag. Post their certification; candidates shall be encouraged to take up an apprenticeship at any bat manufacturing unit for a duration of four weeks. The Admission to the course is on first come first serve basis and willing candidates can apply online. The training is being provided free of cost. The candidates must have passed 8th class and should be more than 16 years old. The length of the course is four weeks. The training module covers various topics including origin and history of local bat industry, types of wood used in bat manufacturing, seasoning of willow, shaping of raw bat using compression and Quality control (including weight, balance, punch & finish). The first batch of training will start on April 26.

EXCLUSIVISM DEEPENS CULTURAL DIVIDE, LEADS TO COMMUNAL CONFRONTATION

D C Pathak

In a democratic dispensation a citizen lives in three dimensions - personal, socio-cultural and political. Religion, mode of worship, food, health and family care - all fall in the personal domain and the democratic state grants an almost total freedom of choice there.

Religion defines the relationship of a person with his or her God while culture determines the quality of the individual's social interaction - with religion hopefully making a positive contribution to it.

All religions enjoin upon a man to be at his best behaviour with others in the society. Politics is the sphere of existence where the citizen understands the importance of 'one man one vote' as the ultimate equality of the right to choose one's rulers through a ballot regardless of caste, creed and gender.

In the Indian context, community leaders - particularly those practising 'minority politics' out of vested interest - refused to acknowledge the built-in secularism that the principles of 'development for all', 'equal protection of law for everybody within our legal system' and prohibition on the elected political executive carrying a denominational stamp, clearly established in this country's governance.

Any specific instance where these democratic fundamentals were not being followed can be strongly protested by citizens - the concerned state government rather than the Centre should be the target of agitation if a differential of treatment was noticed on the law and order front by way of inadequacy of action against elements taking law into their hands for communal reasons.

Steadily, however, many forces in the opposition aided by certain lobbies in India and abroad - the latter clearly playing politics by proxy - have built a narrative ever since the BJP secured a large majority of its own in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, and more so after the return of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to power in 2019, that the country is sliding into authoritarianism, majoritarianism and a systemic disregard of religious minorities.

Prime Minister Modi arrived on the national scene primarily because his image of integrity and reputation for strong governance looked like a contrast to the earlier regimes in the eyes of the people in general - the opposition was free to take him on in matters of policy but it decided to run him down by raising the 'pro-Hindu' character of BJP and using it as the means of garnering minority votes in a familiar replay of old domestic politics.



Practising realpolitik, the opposition parties increasingly realised that in a situation where the majority community was a highly divided entity, solid support of the large Muslim minority could be a match winner - this was carried to a point where some backlash was also created.

In the recent Assembly elections, BJP reaffirmed its political strength but Uttar Pradesh also illustrated how block voting by Muslims benefited the Samajwadi Party reducing other non-BJP parties to a jump.

In what certainly was a legacy of Partition, the tradition of Ulema and the communally motivated elite guiding the politics of the Muslim minority continued unabated keeping up the Hindu-Muslim divide and projecting religion into politics by demanding a proportional share of power for the Muslim minority at the national apex. This was no different from the political separatism that had led to the division of the country on communal lines in 1947. The fall-out of Partition riots in which a million people died saw communal violence erupting every now and then in different parts of India over several decades after Independence, but the character of 'minority politics' in the country remained unchanged. Why should the minorities not be led also by leaders of other communities in a secular India? Even in peace committee meetings held after such riots, politics of communal divide was in full play. In a particular case of a serious riot in a North Indian state in late Seventies, the communal leaders felt deflated when a suggestion was made at the Peace Committee meeting - being held in a highly-tense environ - that the Hindus should choose Muslim members of the Committee and Muslims should select the Hindu members.

What is happening is that religious exclusivism earlier injected in politics is now being extended to the socio-cultural sphere as well - this is a cause for concern because revival of aggressive confrontation on festive occasions is increasingly in evidence once more.

After the controversies around wearing of Hijab in class rooms, right to offer Namaz at public places and even the practice of showing respect to national flag and national anthem, violence on occasions of religious processions is raising its head again - the matter needs immediate attention of Central and state governments as forces might be in operation to destabilise the internal scene.

In the recent months at least three new dimensions of threat to India's security have become centre stage and their cumulative impact calls for a review of our strategy of response. First, the atmosphere of communal discord in the country - attributable to a divisive domestic politics - is getting hardened because Pakistan's advocacy for protection of Muslim minority here is now a part of that country's India policy. There is likelihood of Pak ISI stepping up recruitment of agents to provoke communal violence at a time when the Ulema and communally motivated elite are fanning up the environment for their political interests. Secondly, the new regime in Pakistan has lost no time in declaring that Indo-Pak peace is dependent on a solution being found for the 'Kashmir dispute' - with Shehbaz Sharif talking of 'Valley turning red with Kashmiri's blood'. The change of regime in Pakistan has put that country on the US side of the fence creating possibilities of Pakistan again becoming a beneficiary of the American proclivity of making a distinction between 'good terrorists' and 'bad terrorists' as was happening in the past.

The US can again put focus only on Islamic radical outfits which are anti-US and not be bothered too much about ISI-trained militants that targeted only India. This is totally unacceptable to India. Meanwhile, the Kashmir situation is facing an aggravation because of 'lone wolves' enlisted by Pakistan. The current happenings in Kashmir are further deepening the Hindu-Muslim divide in the country as

the adversaries are intent on fishing in the domestic troubled waters here.

Finally, the new Prime Minister of Pakistan has hailed the economic benefits accruing from the Sino-Pak strategic alliance, which makes it clear that this axis will be turned more and more against India without Pakistan running into a problem with the US on this score. There may be new attempts to cause trouble here - in Northeast, Kashmir, Punjab and elsewhere - and intensify recruitment of radicalised elements for terror activity.

Eruption of violence linked to religious processions can become a cascading phenomenon - this country is familiar with the challenge faced by the local authorities in preventing it. his cannot be encouraged in today's times.

National agencies had kept track of organised plans to foment violence but the situation demands an immediate up-gradation of the Thana Police in communally sensitive pockets - these are all mapped out already.

Major Police Stations in vulnerable areas should be headed by a Dy SP who could also act as the Circle Officer for one or two adjoining Thanas. He should have a contingent of Armed Police stationed at his station. These Thanas should have strong Intelligence units keeping track of undesirable elements and their doings in lanes and Mohallas.

Preventive arrests should become an important instrument for pre-empting violence. Also, it should be re-emphasised that no major communal riot is instantaneous - it is always the culmination of a brewing trouble that should never escape the notice of an efficient local administration. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Prime Minister Modi is totally committed to the National Police Mission in which technology would play a crucial role. Threats to Internal Security permeating to the grass-roots like terrorism, instigated communal violence and operations of drug peddlars require a further integration of Central agencies with state and district intelligence units through a system of designated 'nodal officers'. Police is now the first responder to these threats and this specialised function goes beyond the maintenance of law and order. State administration has to move in the direction of preparing the Police for handling these enlarged

(The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau. The Views are personal)

international

VOTING UNDERWAY FOR FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF

Paris | Agencies

Voting is underway on Sunday in the French presidential run-off in which people will make a choice between incumbent President Emmanuel Macron and his far-right challenger Marine Le Pen as their new leader.

Voting began at 8 a.m. and m polling stations in Metropolitan France is set to close at 7 p.m. or one hour later in larger cities such as Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux, reports Xinhua news agency.

Eligible voters in French overseas territories already cast their ballots on Saturday.

After a televised debate on April 20, almost all opinion

polls predicted that Macron would lead this presidential runoff.

But local media are worried that a low turnout rate, especially during this spring holiday period, could reverse the predictions, as the abstention rate of the first round of voting reached 26.31 per cent.

According to opinion polls, voter turnout could be the lowest since 1969.

Most of the unsuccessful candidates of the first round have clearly voiced their support for Macron, while far-left wing party

Unsubmissive France leader Jean-Luc Melancon, reaching third place, instead of calling on his supporters to vote for the incumbent President, asked his sup-

porters not to "give a vote" to Le Pen.

At 8 p.m., highly accurate first estimations and exit polls will be allowed for the public.

According to the results of the first round of voting published by France's Constitutional Council, Macron won 9,783,058 votes, (27.85 per cent) and Le Pen won 8,133,828 votes (23.15 per cent).

During the first round of voting held on April 10, 35,923,707 voters had cast their ballots.

In 2017, Macron and Le Pen also competed for the French presidency in a runoff vote, during which Macron was elected president with 66.10 per cent of the votes.

SL TO APPOINT ADVISORS ON DEBT RESTRUCTURING IN NEXT 20 DAYS

Colombo | Sri Lanka

Lanka will appoint advisors to help with its debt restructuring in the next 20 days, Finance Minister Ali Sabry has said.

The Minister told local media that restructuring the country's unsustainable external debt is a major condition to obtain financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reports Xinhua news agency.

Sabry said that the discussions he started with IMF officials in Washington would end on Sunday, and that there are a lot more discussions to be held ahead.

Meanwhile, IMF's mission chief for Sri Lanka Masahiro Nozaki welcomed the planned negotiations with creditors. "The IMF team welcomed the authorities' plan to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors," he said.



Bilawal Bhutto to take oath as Pak Foreign Minister within 2 days

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will take oath as the country's new Foreign Minister in a day or two, a top official said.

Bilawal was present at the time when the initial federal cabinet members took oath, however, he did not take the oath, Geo News reported.

But Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb had assured that the PPP Chairman would take the oath after he returned to Pakistan.

In a conversation with journalists in London, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said Bilawal has left for Pakistan, after he held two meetings with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to exchange views on political matters.

In their last meeting, the PML-N supremo and PPP chairman, the two key allies in the ruling coalition, discussed the way forward after a "constitutional victory for democracy, the rule of law and supremacy of parliament" and agree to work closely to "repair the rot across the board", read a joint statement. The



joint statement said that during the meeting both leaders agreed that they have accomplished a great deal whenever they work together, the statement said, adding that it was resolved that at a crucial crossroads in history the imperative to work together to rebuild the country was seriously needed.

Matters relating to the broad roadmap for the future with the consensus of all democratic forces and the unfinished business left on the "Charter of Democracy" were also discussed in the meeting.

Afghan economic commission meets on private sector, prioritises power supply

The Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar chaired a meeting to review issues related to Afghanistan's private sector amid continued increase in poverty and unemployment, his office said on Sunday.

Kabul: The Economic Commission headed by Baradar, "after a detailed discussion on all issues in which the private sector is ready to invest, prioritized power generation", Xinhua news agency quoted the office as saying in a tweet.

It said the commission has instructed related departments to start work on assessing renovation of coal-fuelled power generation in the capital Kabul and big cities in a bid to ensure power supply for the private sector.

The meeting required a comprehensive plan to be made on coal-fuelled electricity generation in industrial parks or large cities. War-torn Afghanistan has



been suffering power shortages. The Central Asian country has imported electricity from neighbouring countries including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

UK will provide Ukraine with more military equipment: Johnson tells Zelensky

London | Agencies

In a phone conversation with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that his country is set to provide the war-torn nation with more military equipment.

In a statement, the Downing Street said that during the conversation between the two leaders on Saturday, Johnson told Zelensky more armoured vehicles, drones and anti-tank weapons would be sent to Ukraine, reports the BBC.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that the UK will reopen its embassy in Kiev next week, a move first announced on Friday.

According to a Downing Street, this was a demonstration of "our support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people".

Zelensky also apprised Johnson on the situation in the Donbas, where Russia has been concentrating its military efforts in recent days,



while b leaders condemned ongoing attacks by Russian forces against civilian targets, including in Mariupol, Odessa and Lviv.

The Downing Street said Johnson told Zelensky that Russia would be held to account for its actions and that the UK government was helping to collect evidence of war crimes. He also updated the President on new UK sanctions against members of the Russian military.

Zelensky also thanked the Prime Minister for the training of more than 20 Ukrainian troops who arrived in the UK last week, the BBC reported. According to the British government, the Ukrainian soldiers receiving training in the UK are being instructed on how to use 120 armoured vehicles that will be supplied to the resistance effort against Moscow.

'Ukraine to withdraw from talks with Russia if Mariupol forces killed'

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky revealed the kind of events might force his country to withdraw from peace negotiations with Russia.

During a press conference held at one of Kiev's metro stations amid the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, Zelensky was asked how Kiev would respond to potential independence referendums in the territories controlled by Russian forces, RT reported.

The President admitted that it would force him to stop any talks with Moscow.

"If our people are destroyed in Mariupol, if a referendum, a pseudo-referendum, is announced in any new pseudo-republics of Ukraine, Ukraine will withdraw from any negotiations process," Zelensky said.

Two days ago, Moscow announced the capture of Mariupol. However, President Vladimir Putin called off the assault on the Azovstal factory,

which remains the last hold-out of Ukrainian forces, including the fighters of the neo-Nazi Azov regiment, in the strategic port city. Russian troops should "seal the area so that a fly cannot get through", Putin instead ordered.

Zelensky, meanwhile, admitted that at the moment Ukraine is not able to recapture Mariupol militarily and that the holed-up fighters there are aware of that.

He reiterated his wish to conduct direct talks with Vladimir Putin, as "the war can be stopped by the person who started it". The President explained that, as he thinks, direct negotiations could be a more effective way to reach peace than speaking via mediators, RT reported. "I want to stop the war and end it. There is a diplomatic path and a military one."

Any healthy person chooses the diplomatic path because he knows that even if it is difficult, it can prevent the loss of millions of people," Zelensky aid.

SL TO APPOINT ADVISORS ON DEBT RESTRUCTURING IN NEXT 20 DAYS

Colombo | Sri Lanka will appoint advisors to help with its debt restructuring in the next 20 days, Finance Minister Ali Sabry has said.

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"The IMF team welcomed the authorities' plan to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors," he said.



RANA COUPLE FACE SEDITION CHARGES, GET 14-DAY JUDICIAL REMAND

▶ IN A HUGE SETBACK FOR INDEPENDENT MP NAVNEET RANA AND HER HUSBAND MLA RAVI RANA, THE MUMBAI POLICE SLAPPED SEDITION CHARGES ON THEM EVEN AS BANDRA MAGISTRATE COURT SENT THEM TO 14 DAYS' JUDICIAL CUSTODY, HERE ON SUNDAY.



as Bandra Magistrate Court sent them to 14 days' judicial custody, here on Sunday.

Special Public Prosecutor Pradip Gharad said the court also declined urgent hearing to the Ranas' bail application which will now come up only next Friday (April 29).

The Ranas' lawyer Rizwan Merchant termed the police case as 'fake' and said that certain charges were added later on under pressures. He termed all the charges against them as baseless since the couple had not flouted the laws as

contended. He also accused the police of filing two different FIRs with enhanced charges like IPC Section 124(A), pertaining to sedition, but claimed that this was not mentioned in the remand plea and the government lawyers failed to explain this charge before the court.

Soon after the court verdict, the couple stepped out with disappointment written on their faces, Navneet Rana is likely to be taken to the Byculla Women's Jail and Ravi Rana may be lodged in the Arthur Road Central Jail.

Even as Ravi Rana claimed they are being framed in false cases by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the couple's lawyers are expected to file a fresh plea for bail before a regular court on Monday. The Rana couple was served prohibitory notices, detained, then whisked off by Khar Police Station team and arrested late on Saturday after two days of high-voltage drama in which they threatened to march to the private residence of the Chief Minister and chant 'Hanuman Chalisa', but were prevented by hundreds of aggressive ShivSainiks and the police.

SHIV SENA LEADER ATTACKED, 1 ARRESTED

Amravati (Maharashtra):

A day after Shiv Sena leader Yogesh Gharad was allegedly attacked by unidentified miscreants in Warud city of Amravati, Maharashtra Police on Sunday informed that it has registered a case against three persons in the matter.

As of now, the police have arrested one accused in the matter and the remaining two are missing.

Speaking to media on Sunday, the Additional Superintendent of the Police of Amravati (Rural), Shashikant Satav, confirmed the news and said, "The Police has registered a case against three people on this incident. One of the accused has been arrested and the other two accused are absconding."

"Prima facie, it appears that the incident happened due to a property dispute," he said. On Saturday, Yogesh Gharad was attacked at the Multai Chowk area of Warud city on Saturday.

Gadkari announces expressway project worth Rs 10,000 cr between Aurangabad and Pune

▶ GADKARI ON SUNDAY DEDICATED TO THE NATION 86 KM OF ROADS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 52 WORTH RS 3,216 CRORE HERE. HE ALSO LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF FOUR OTHER ROAD PROJECTS HERE WORTH RS 2,253 CRORE

on Sunday said an access-controlled expressway will be constructed between Aurangabad and Pune at a cost of Rs 10,000 crore to considerably reduce the travel time between the two Maharashtra cities.

Gadkari on Sunday dedicated to the nation 86 km of roads on National Highway no. 52 worth Rs 3,216 crore here. He also laid the foundation stone of four other road projects here worth Rs 2,253 crore.

"The distance between Aurangabad and Pune is around 225 km. We will build an access-controlled expressway between these two cities where there will be no turns and the vehicles could move at a speed of up to 140 km per hour. This will reduce the travel time between the two cities to 1.15 hours (as against four to five hours currently). This new alignment will go from Pathan and Ahmednagar regions," he

said. He also said that a double decker bridge will be constructed on Jalna road in Aurangabad to resolve traffic issues.

The minister also spoke about water crisis in the Maharashtra region.

"Earlier, I had sanctioned a scheme to resolve the water scarcity in Maharashtra. If the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra resolve issues between them, then the Jayakwadi dam (in Aurangabad) will get the biggest benefit and it will become full every year," Gadkari said.

Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Karad demanded an electric vehicle plant in Shendra or Bidkin industrial area here to give a boost to the sector.

There is also a need for an international convention centre to promote industrial tourism in Aurangabad, Karad said.

HM admits stone-pelting incident took place against Kirit Somaiya

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kirit Somaiya claimed stones were pelted at him in Mumbai on Saturday, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil confirmed the attack on the former Lok Sabha MP.

The Minister said that the stone-pelting incident took place.

Speaking to the media, he said, "It is true there was stone-pelting. The probe is underway to find who was behind it. Police will take appropriate action against those found guilty. A case has been registered in the matter."

Somaiya claimed he was injured in the alleged stone-pelting incident by the Shiv Sena workers in Mumbai on Saturday. In a series of Twitter posts, Somaiya said, "Heavy stone-throwing at Khar Police Station by Shiv Sena goondas (goons), my car window glass broken, I am injured,

rushing to Bandra police station." "I am shocked, in the presence of 50 police persons, on the campus of Khar police station, Shiv Sena's 100 goondas assault me with stones. Wanted to kill me. What the Police Commissioner is doing? How are so many mafia Sena goondas allowed to gather in the police station?" he said in another tweet.

Earlier on Saturday, Somaiya visited Khar Police Station to meet Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her husband MLA Ravi Rana who were arrested on Saturday. Meanwhile, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis condemned the attack on the BJP leader Kirit Somaiya and requested the Centre to take action against concerned officials.

"An attempt was made to attack Kirti Somaiya outside a police station in Mumbai last night. We will request Central Government to take action against concerned officials," Fadnavis said.

MAHARASHTRA REPORTS HIGHEST COVID CASES IN NEARLY A MONTH, MOST IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: As many as 194 more people tested positive for Covid-19 across Maharashtra in the last 24 hours, the highest in a day after 25 March, said the state health department on Saturday.

On 25 March, the state reported 272 coronavirus infections.

With this, the cumulative Covid tally in Maharashtra has reached 78,76,697. Further, one more fatality has taken the death toll due to the disease to 1,47,832. The lone Covid-19 fatality was reported from Pune city. Of the total, Mumbai recorded 72 cases, the highest in the state in a day. Mumbai circle, which includes Mumbai and neighbouring cities and districts, reported 92 cases followed by 81 infections from the Pune circle. With 141 patients discharged during the day, the number of recoveries in Maharashtra rose to 77,27,996 with the recovery rate hovering at 98.11%.

Kirit Somaiya hurt in attack

▶ SUSPECTED SHIV SENA ACTIVISTS ATTACKED FORMER BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP) MP KIRIT SOMAIYA'S VEHICLE HERE LATE ON SATURDAY FOLLOWING WHICH HE WAS HURT. DALS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Suspected Shiv Sena activists attacked former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Kirit Somaiya's vehicle here late on Saturday following which he was hurt.

The incident happened shortly before midnight when Somaiya had come to meet the arrested couple, Navneet Rana



and her husband Ravi Rana. The Mumbai Police on Saturday evening arrested Independent Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her husband Badnera MLA Ravi Rana, soon after they suomoto dropped their plans to storm Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray's residence.

BJP bigwigs including Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, Ashish Shelar and other strongly condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the attack. Somaiya, who is accorded Z security, was seen in his vehicle with blood on his jaw and the glass panes of his car shattered in the attack.

Fadnavis said that Somaiya had expressed apprehension to the Khar Police that a large mob was waiting outside and could attack him, and requested them to clear them.

However, the police did not heed his warnings and allowed the attacks to take place despite prohibitory orders clamped in the vicinity.

He said he would write and speak to the Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil demanding stringent action against the perpetrators, and warned the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of consequences.

Yes Bank's ex-Chair was forced to buy painting from Priyanka Gandhi: ED

▶ IN ITS CHARGESHEET FILED BEFORE A LOCAL MUMBAI COURT, THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) SAID THAT FORMER YES BANK CHAIRMAN RANA KAPOOR PAID RS 2 CRORE FOR AN M.F. HUSAIN PAINTING AND THE MONEY WAS LATER UTILISED FOR THE TREATMENT OF CONGRESS INTERIM PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI SONIA GANDHI IN NEW YORK.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In its chargesheet filed before a local Mumbai court, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said that former Yes Bank Chairman Rana Kapoor paid Rs 2 crore for an MF Husain painting and the money was later utilised for the treatment of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi in New York.

Kapoor was forced by then Petroleum Minister Murlid Deora to purchase the painting from Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Deora visited Kapoor's home hand offices many times to force him to buy the paintings, the probe agency said.

Deora also sent messages and called Kapoor in this respect several times.

Kapoor tried to avoid Deora's call and didn't respond to his messages. However, he purchased the painting later.

As per the directions, Kapoor gave a cheque of Rs 2 crore to Milind Deora, the son of Murlid Deora. Kapoor's statements read that he was promised by Murlid Deora that it would help him getting a Padma Bhushan. But it was never fulfilled.

Late Congress leader Ahmed Patel had also told him that since he (Kapoor) had helped Sonia Gandhi at the crucial time, his name would be considered for a Padma Bhushan. Kapoor had said in its statements that it was a forced sale and he was never ready for it.

It was the second supplementary chargesheet filed by ED against Kapoor, his family, DHFL promoters Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhwan.

BIHAR CM FETES NEETU CHANDRA FOR HOLLYWOOD ROLE



Mumbai: Actress Neetu Chandra, who made her Hollywood debut with the 2021 martial arts film 'Never Back Down: Revolt', has won accolades by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, the state's Minister of Industries. Acknowledging Chandra's visit, both the political figures took to their respective social media accounts and shared notes about their meeting with the actress.

"Met actress @nituchandra who is doing a lead role in #Hollywood film #NEVERBACKDOWNRE-VOLT with Sony Pictures," Hussain tweeted.

'Won't remain silent:' BJP warns Maharashtra govt over attacks on party leaders

Somaiya said Mumbai Police has refused to register his FIR after he was allegedly attacked by Shiv Sena goons while trying to visit the Khar Police Station.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil on Saturday slammed the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government over the alleged attacks on party leaders Kirit Somaiya and Mohit Kamboj, and warned of retaliating in the same way.

Talking about the alleged attack on Somaiya, Chandrakant Patil said, "The attack on Kirit Somaiya was

not an attempt to kill him. It happened in the police station premises. Now MVA govt is propagating violence in front of police."

"Do you want to create Kerala or Bengal like situation in Maharashtra?" he asked. Before claiming that another party leader Mohit Kamboj was attacked as well this week, Chandrakant Patil warned, "If the state administration with the help of police will crumble the law and order situation, then BJP would retaliate the same way. Our workers won't remain silent."

Yesterday, Kirit Somaiya visited Khar Police Station to meet Amravati MP Navneet Rana and her husband MLA Ravi Rana. Mumbai Police arrested Rana couple for creating ruckus outside 'Matoshree', the Thackeray residence. Somaiya said Mumbai Police has refused to

register his FIR after he was allegedly attacked by Shiv Sena goons while trying to visit the Khar Police Station.

"Mumbai Police has refused to lodge my FIR. Instead, they lodged a bogus FIR stating that only one stone was hurled. As many as 70-80 Shiv Sainiks attacked me. No action has been taken by Khar Police despite intimation. This is the third attempt by Uddhav Thackeray to take my life. Earlier in Washim, then Pune and now in Khar," Somaiya told media.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Manjunath Shinge said a case has been registered based on Somaiya's complaint.

"Case registered on the basis of his complaint. The investigation will be fair and impartial," said DCP Shinge.

Govt committed to empower Maharashtra police force; over 7,200 posts in dept to be filled: Ajit Pawar

Speaking at the passing out parade of the 119th batch of cadets at the Maharashtra Police Academy (MPA) here, Ajit Pawar also announced that as many as one lakh houses will be built for the police personnel in the state in the near future



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government is committed to empower the police force, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said on Sunday, adding that recruitment process for 7,231 posts in the department will be carried out.

Speaking at the passing out parade of the 119th batch of cadets at the Maharashtra Police Academy (MPA) here, he also announced that as many as one lakh houses

will be built for the police personnel in the state in the near future.

"There will be no compromise in strengthening the home department. Provision of Rs 737 crore in the 2021-22 budget and of Rs 802 crore in this year's budget has been made to provide houses to the police personnel. Besides that, Rs 1,029 crore have been allocated for strengthening the police force and the government is committed for the empowerment of its personnel," he said.

State Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, Food and Civil Supplies Minister and Nashik district guardian minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Additional Director General of Police (Training and Special Squad) Sanjay Kumar, MPA director Rajesh Kumar and other officials were present on the occasion.

"Recruitment for 7,231 posts will be made in the police force and time-bound promotion has been structured in such a manner that a police personnel, who has been recruited as a sepoy, will certainly become a sub-inspector at the time of his retirement

30 years later," Pawar said.

A decision has been taken to repair and renovate old police station buildings and construction work of 87 police stations has already begun, he said, adding that the decision of reducing the duty time of women police personnel to eight hours has already been taken.

As many as one lakh houses will be built for the police personnel in the state in the near future, the senior NCP leader added.

"Maharashtra police has a glorious history. Brave officers such as J F Ribero, who tackled terrorism in Punjab, and (26/11 Mumbai attacks) martyr Tukaram Omble have earned fame for the state police force. There is no doubt that you will certainly increase the glory and fame of the force."

"Our commitment should be with the Constitution of India, rules and laws. We should take care that caste, religion, religious books, political, social and religious views and intellectual commitment should not have a place in public life. Follow your personal beliefs inside your homes.

Avoiding public display of personal beliefs will help in the progress of the nation," Pawar added.

All 309 officers, including 12 women, of the 119th batch (of MPA) will serve the state well in future, he said.

Walse Patil said, "All of you have the responsibility to create a modern, influential and sensitive police service system. You will have to keep this and the honour of the police uniform at the top of your mind while making your moves in future. Your behavior with the citizens should be cordial. Give them respect and take cognizance of their complaints."

While working as the protector of people you should give justice to the victims and the deprived. Your positive attitude will enhance the respect for 'khaki' among people, the minister added.

Pawar later inaugurated a new administrative building, hostel and canteen complex of the Crime Detection Training College in the city.

Maharashtra govt to set up biggest hostel for students of all communities in Mumbai: Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

▶ THIS HOSTEL WILL COME UP ON THE THREE-ACRE LAND BELONGING TO THE STATE HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN SUBURBAN BANDRA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday said the state government will set up the biggest hostel for students of all communities in Mumbai.

This hostel will come up on the three-acre land belonging to the State Higher and Technical Education Department in

suburban Bandra, he said.

"Students from Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHII), Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Research & Training Institute (MAHA-JYOTI), economically backward classes, all castes and communities will be given admission in this hostel," Pawar told the gathering at a programme.

"Based on the Matoshree Hostel, girls hostels will be set up in Ratnagiri, Aurangabad and Nagpur, and the movement to build hostels will be implemented across the state.

The 'Matoshree' hostel has the capacity of 200 students. As many as 75 students from SARTHII, 75 students from MAHAJYOTI and 50 students from the economically weaker sections will be given admission in this hostel," Samant said.



TIFFANY HADDISH REVEALS 'REQUIREMENTS' FOR ROMANTIC PARTNER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Tiffany Haddish has shared the "requirements" when making an appearance on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers'. In the April 21 episode of the talk show, Haddish first tried to shoot her shot with the band's drummer. After he said he's about to "be married", the comedienne opened up about her love life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I'm back out in the streets," the 42-year-old told host Seth Meyers.

"It's interesting, it's an adventure. I'm all about adventure. I'm back on the dating apps. I put all my requirements in my profile."

As for what the "requirements" are, Haddish detailed: "Good credit score 'cause I need to know you're responsible. You need to have good hygiene, that's really important to me."

She went on to note: "I can't stand bad breath and funky armpits."

"I've been attracted to a lot of hip-hop kind of guys. I don't mind them wearing jewellery. But if you own a bunch of diamonds but you don't own no land, that's a problem for me. Land, then diamonds."

"Cause where does the diamonds come from? The land. So own the land, then get the diamonds. I got diamonds 'cause I got land."

Earlier this month, Haddish unveiled the dating apps she uses.

"I'm on the apps: Raya, Tinder, Postmates, Candy Crush, and that therapy app BetterHelp, okay," the Carrie depictor in 'Night School' said when guest-hosting an April 14 episode of 'The Ellen Degeneres Show', before joking: "Hey you never know where you gonna meet a man, and if he's a therapist it might be helpful."

"Now I don't care how tall they are; how old they are; how much they weigh, the only number that matters to me that I care about comes from FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act), because credit scores show how responsible they are," she explained.

"I'm just saying I'm a lot to handle."



'E.T.' WAS THE DIVORCE MOVIE THAT TURNED SPIELBERG INTO A DAD

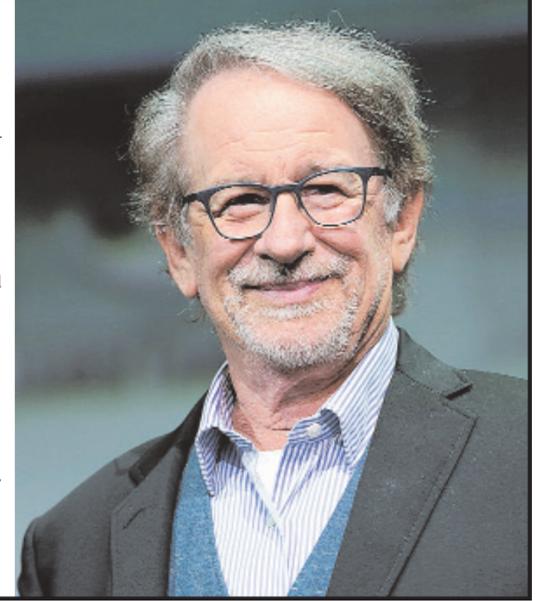
Los Angeles | Agencies

Speaking about his film 'E.T.' on its 40th anniversary at the TCM Classic Film Festival, renowned filmmaker Steven Spielberg explored how the split in his own family growing up informed his original story.

The director explained how making the film was the actual trigger that made him suddenly flip a switch from eschewing the prospect of ever being a father to putting parenthood on his vision board, reports 'Variety'. "What happened was, I had been working on an actual literal script about my parents' separation and divorce", in the late 1970s, Spielberg told host Ben Mankiewicz.

"I was shooting the (climactic) scene and I suddenly thought, 'Wait a second. What if that little creature never went back to the ship? What if the creature was part of a foreign exchange program? (Richard) Dreyfuss goes and he stays? Or she stays?'"

It struck him that he could turn his family drama "into a story about children and a family trying to fill a great need and great responsibility? Divorce creates great responsibility. If you have siblings, we all take care of each other (in the wake of divorce). And what if Elliott, or the kid, I hadn't quite dreamed up his name yet, for the first time in his life becomes responsible for a life form, to fill the gap in his heart?" The filmmaker told the opening-night crowd at the TLC Chinese Theatre about the devastation he felt as a teen child of divorce.



KERRY WASHINGTON IS GOING TO BE A REGULAR ON 'THE SIMPSONS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kerry Washington is set to voice the part of Rayshelle Peyton, Bart Simpson's fourth-grade teacher on the long-running animated sitcom 'The Simpsons'. Washington's alter ego is a replacement for Mrs. Krabappel, who was voiced by the late Marcia Wallace until her death in 2013, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 'Scandal' star told Entertainment Weekly: "She's a great teacher. But like all the best teachers, she knows that her students have just as much to teach her as she has to teach them. "And teaching Bart is a job filled with growth opportunities." The show's Emmy-winning co-executive producer Carolyn Omine created the part. She said: "She's really good at figuring out what the kids need, but she can't really figure out what his problem is until he finally comes clean."

Omine had been keen to get Washington on the show after being impressed by her comedic genius when she hosted 'Saturday Night Live' in 2013. She said: "I had always known she was a super-talented actress who had great range, but just never knew she was funny. She had a lot of characters and just really great comic timing, and I was like, 'We should really think of using her.'"



Ireland Baldwin slams manipulative, 'terrible' Amber Heard amid trial

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Ireland Baldwin has weighed in on the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard trial and she doesn't mince her words.

Taking the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star's side in his defamation lawsuit against his former wife, the 26-year-old model called out the 'Justice League' star, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Baldwin took to her Instagram Story to share her two cents on the highly-publicised trial.

She shared a screenshot of a tweet about Depp's reaction to an audio tape in which Heard admitted to hitting the actor.

"The thing is, I know women who are exactly like this," Ireland wrote over the screenshot.

"They are manipulative and cold and they use their very womanhood to play victim and turn the world against the man because we live in a society where it's cool to say men are all the worst and blah blah f***ity blah."

The daughter of Alec Baldwin continued: "Men can experience abuse too and this absolute disaster of a human being Amber Heard is a terrible person and I hope

life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Showing her support for Depp, she added: "And I hope he's in like 5 Pirates movies."

Johnny and Amber have been meeting in a Virginia court for the defamation lawsuit he filed against the actress in 2019. The 'Edward Scissorhands' star has taken the stand and claimed that he never struck Amber or any woman in his

life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Joe Manganiello joins Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman in thriller 'The Kill Room'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Joe Manganiello has joined Oscar winner Samuel L. Jackson and Oscar nominee Uma Thurman in the upcoming dark comedic thriller 'The Kill Room'. According to deadline.com, principal photography is set to begin this spring in New Jersey and New York on the movie, which will chart the story of a hitman, his boss and an art dealer whose money-laundering scheme accidentally turns the hitman into an overnight avant-garde sensation, forcing Thurman's character to play the art world against the underworld. The project marks another screen team-up between 'Pulp Fiction' stars Jackson and Thurman after they recently appeared onstage at the Oscars as a part of a 'Pulp Fiction' reunion. 'The Kill Room' is written by Jonathan Jacobson and will be directed by Nicol Paone.

Yale Entertainment produces, and its recently launched sales and distribution banner, Great Escape, is handling international sales and co-repping US rights with ICM Partners. The project will be on sale at the upcoming Cannes market.



'Multiverse of Madness' faces ban in Gulf countries



Los Angeles | Agencies

Benedict Cumberbatch's upcoming superhero film 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' will not see the light of day in Saudi Arabia and several other Arab countries due to the inclusion of a gay character, reports 'Variety'.

A source told 'Variety' that Saudi Arabian censors held back their permit to release the film in the kingdom as the changes they requested were not approved by Disney.

The new Sam Raimi-directed sequel stars

Cumberbatch as the titular character, and it also features

the new hero America Chavez, played by 'The Baby-Sitters Club' star Xochitl Gomez. As per reports cited by 'Variety', Gomez's character in the movie is reportedly gay, true to how she is portrayed in the Marvel comics.

The 'Doctor Strange' sequel, which is scheduled to release in the US on May 6, was initially slated for release in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries on May 5.

But in the region, which maintain a conservative outlook on movies concerning or containing sex, homosexuality and religious issues are

routinely cut to comply with censorship rules.

In this case Disney was either unwilling or unable to make edits requested by censors. 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' is set after the events of 'WandaVision', 'Loki' and 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', follows the Sorcerer Supreme

attempts to contain the aftermath of the multiverse-fracturing spell he cast in the recent Tom Holland and Zendaya-starrer 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', which caused villains from across the multiverse to spill over into the central Marvel Cinematic Universe timeline.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Blake Lively



IPL 2022

PANDYA'S 3/19 HELPS LUCKNOW HAND MUMBAI INDIANS ANOTHER DEFEAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Krunal Pandya claimed 3/19 after skipper KL Rahul struck an unbeaten 103 as Lucknow Super Giants handed Mumbai Indians a second successive defeat this season, winning by 36 runs in Match 37 of IPL 2022 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Sunday.

Krunal picked up the wickets of dangerous Rohit Sharma (39), Mumbai Indians' top scorer, Kieron Pollard (19) and Daniel Sams (3) to lead a clinical bowling performance by Lucknow Super Giants as they registered their fifth win of the season and moved to fourth in the points table with 10 points.

Gujarat Titans lead with 12 points followed by Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants, and Royal Challengers Bangalore -- in that order -- all with 10 points.

Mumbai Indians' woe season continued as they slumped to their eighth defeat of the season and remain winless, plumbing the bottom of the table.



After restricting LSG to 168/6 despite Rahul's unbeaten century, Mumbai Indians were in a good position to go for their first win of the season. Things started well but they lost their way in the middle overs and succumbed to another defeat. Mumbai Indians had a good start, reaching 43/0 in the power-play, while Ishan Kishan, Mumbai Indian's costliest buy in the mega auction before IPL 2022, scratched around for a 20-ball eight, skipper Rohit Sharma looked in good form as he made for him partner's lack of

runs. Rohit started with a four of the last ball of the first over, cutting a short and wide one by Mohsin Khan over backward point for a one-bounce four. He smashed Jason Holder and D Chameera for boundaries in successive overs and then struck Holder for a six and a four off successive deliveries in the sixth over. But just when it looked like he and Suryakumar Yadav would take Mumbai to safety, Rohit got out, caught by substitute K Gowtham at short third man as the Mumbai Indians skipper attempts to slog over

a length ball by Krunal on off-stump and top-edges it.

Suryakumar Yadav, promoted in the batting order for this match, did not last long as he is out for 7, Mumbai Indians slumping to 67/4.

Young Tilak Varma and the seasoned Kieron Pollard kept the fight alive by raising 57 runs for the fifth wicket, Varma hitting some pleasing shots as he took the battle to the LSG bowlers. But he got out at the most inappropriate time for Mumbai Indians, caught by Ravi Bishnoi of Jason Holder for 38 (31 balls, 2x4, 2x6) as Mumbai slumped to 124/5. Pollard too was out soon, trying to force the pace, caught by Dipak Hoodo off Krunal Pandya and Mumbai Indians' hopes ended as they went on to lose by 36 runs.

Brief scores:

Lucknow Super Giants 168/6 in 20 overs (K.L.Rahul 103 not out, Manish Pandey 22; Kieron Pollard 2/8, Riley Meredith 2/40) defeated Mumbai Indians 132/8 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 39, Tilak Varma 38; Krunal Pandya 3/19) by 36 runs.

Bayern see off Dortmund to lift 10th successive Bundesliga title



Berlin | Agencies

With three rounds to spare, Bayern Munich made it 10 titles in a row in Germany's top-flight after beating Borussia Dortmund 3-1 thanks to the goals from Serge Gnabry, Robert Lewandowski and Jamal Musiala in the 31st round of matches.

The German record champions caught a perfect start on home soil on Saturday night and showed courageous Borussia Dortmund

with just 15 minutes into the "Klassiker" as Leon Goretzka's lay-up by header, following a Joshua Kimmich corner, allowed Gnabry to break the deadlock with a volley from the edge of the box. The BVB needed time to recover but showed a sign of life in the 27th minute when unmarked Erling Haaland missed the target just wide from ten meters.

The Bavarians were a menace in front of the target and thought they had doubled their advantage at the half-hour mark, Gnabry's

goal was ruled offside by the video assistant referee.

Julian Nagelsmann's men eventually made it two four minutes later through Bundesliga top striker Lewandowski, who benefited on Thomas Muller's through ball to net his 33rd goal of the season.

The Pole had the chance to triple Bayern's lead, but his low effort missed the right post just before the break.

With the result, Nagelsmann clinched his first Bundesliga title in his debut season with Bayern Munich.

Manchester City cruise while Arsenal beat Man Utd to move fourth in Premier League

London | Agencies

Gabriel Jesus scored four goals as Manchester City put the pressure on Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

The Brazilian netted in the fourth, 23rd and 52nd minutes, and scored a 49th minute penalty as Pep Guardiola's side warmed up for Tuesday's Champions League semifinal first leg against Real Madrid with a comfortable 5-1 win at home to Watford, who look increasingly set for a quick return to the Championship.

Hassani Kamara gave Watford brief hope with his goal in the 28th minute, but Rodri's 34th minute goal for City quickly put the game out of reach. The win leaves City four points clear of Liverpool, who entertain struggling Everton in Sunday's



Merseyside derby, Xinhua reports. Arsenal ended Manchester United's hopes of a top-four finish and damaged their chances of playing in any European competition next season with a 3-1 win at the Emirates Stadium. Arsenal were quickly ahead with Nuno Tavares' third minute goal and

Bukayo Saka's penalty in the 32nd minute. Cristiano Ronaldo gave United a lifeline in the 34th minute with the 100th Premier League goal of his career, but after Bruno Fernandes missed the chance to level the scores after his spot-kick went the wrong side of the post, Granit

Xhaka assured a big win for Arsenal with 20 minutes left to play.

That win puts Arsenal back in pole position for a place in next season's Champions League after Tottenham were held to a 0-0 draw away to Brentford, who had former Spurs player Christian Eriksen in their starting 11.

Tottenham were lucky to come away with a point after Harry Kane cleared one ball off the line and Ivan Toney hit the post in injury time with a header.

Newcastle United continued their excellent second half to the season with a 3-0 win away to Norwich, who (like Watford) looked doomed to the drop.

Leicester City and Aston Villa drew a forgettable game 0-0, although the result at least ends a run of four consecutive defeats for the visitors.

INDIA TO PLAY FIVE-MATCH T20I SERIES VS SOUTH AFRICA FROM JUNE 9

Mumbai: India will play a five-match T20

International series against South Africa at home less than a fortnight after the conclusion of the ongoing Indian Premier League, with the opening match scheduled in New Delhi on June 9. The five matches will take place across 11 days, concluding with the final game at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. This will be India's third T20I series in 2022 at home; they swept both West Indies and Sri Lanka 3-0 earlier this year. And with the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia just a few months away, it will be a good opportunity for the hosts to experiment with their bench strength.

India have a slightly better record against South Africa in the shortest format, having won nine out of their 15 matches, with the Proteas winning six of those.

Rublev defeats Djokovic to clinch Serbia Open title

Belgrade (Serbia) | Agencies

World No 8 Andrey Rublev clinched the Serbia Open title after beating World No 1 Novak Djokovic in the final, here on Sunday.

In a hard-fought summit clash, Rublev dug deep against Djokovic as he hit with relentless power and intensity to outlast the home favourite 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-0 at the ATP 250 clay-court event.

The 24-year-old saved five set points in the second set to force a tie-break and while he was unable to prevent Djokovic from levelling the match, Rublev regrouped in the decider as he looked the fitter of the two to triumph after two hours and 29 minutes. After this loss, Djokovic now holds a 37-6 record in Serbia, having lifted the trophy at the Serbia Open in 2009 and 2011 and at the



Belgrade Open last season. It was Rublev's third tour-level title of the season and he has now equalled Spaniard Rafael Nadal for the most tour-level titles in 2022, having also clinched crowns in Marseille and Dubai in

February. With his maiden victory over a World No 1, the World No 8 has levelled his ATP Head2Head series against Serbian Djokovic at 1-1, gaining revenge for his defeat at the ATP Finals last season.

Iga Swiatek defeats Sabalenka to clinch Stuttgart Open title

Stuttgart | Agencies

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek defeated No. 3 seed Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2 in the final to clinch the Stuttgart Open title and extend her winning streak to 23 matches, here on Sunday.

With this victory, the 20-year-old Polish star claimed her fourth consecutive title and seventh career WTA Tour singles title.

Swiatek's winning streak began with a title run at WTA 1000 Doha, and she remained undefeated at WTA 1000 events this year by sweeping through the Sunshine Double of Indian Wells and Miami. Two additional wins for her Polish squad at Billie Jean King Cup qualifying gave Swiatek a 19-match winning streak coming into the indoor clay of Stuttgart.

Swiatek is now the first player to hit 30 match wins this season, as she improved her 2022 win-loss record to an astounding 30-3. After dropping her first meeting with



Sabalenka at last year's WTA Finals, Swiatek has won their following two clashes in straight sets.

Asian Wrestling C'ship: Deepak Punia settles for silver as India finish with 17 medals

Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) | Agencies

Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia settled for a silver medal in the men's freestyle 86 kg while Vicky bagged a bronze in the 92 kg category on the last day of the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships, here on Sunday.

With the two medals on the final day of the meet, India finished with a total tally of 17 medals -- one gold, five silver and 11 bronze at Ulaanbaatar. Tokyo medalist Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the solitary gold in the men's 57kg weight class.

Though the count surpassed last year's haul of 14, India did win more gold medals, five, at the 2021 edition held at Almaty. Punia, a former world championships silver medalist, began his campaign with a 6-0 win over Iranian grappler Mohsen



Miryousef Mostafavi Alanjagh before ousting South Korean Olympian Kim Gwanuk, a bronze medalist at the Asian Games 2014, 5-0 in the semi-finals. Up against

Kazakhstan's Azamat Dauletbekov in the gold medal match though, the Indian grappler came out on the wrong end of a 6-1 scoreline and had to settle for a silver medal at the

Asian meet for the second consecutive year.

In the 92kg competition, India's Viky edged Mirlan Chynbekov of Kyrgyzstan 4-3 in the quarter-finals but was defeated by Mongolia's Orgilokh Dagvadorj by technical superiority in the semis. A 5-3 win over Uzbek grappler Ajiniyaz Saparniyazov in the bronze medal match handed Viky a podium finish.

Another Indian wrestler Mangal Kadyan also managed to make it to the bronze medal match of the 61kg event through repechage but was denied a spot on the podium by 2020 champion Ulukbek Zholdosbekov of Kyrgyzstan, who won the medal bout 6-4.

The other two Indian wrestlers in action on Sunday, Yash (74kg) and Anirudh (125kg) were ousted after their first bouts.

Santosh Trophy WEST BENGAL CRUISE PAST RAJASTHAN, QUALIFY FOR SEMIFINALS

Malappuram | Agencies

A fine second half brace from Md Fardin Ali Molla helped West Bengal ease past Rajasthan by a 3-0 margin in Group A game of the Hero 75th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy at the Kottappadi Football Stadium here on Sunday.

With this win West Bengal joined Kerala in the last four.

The scoreline could have been much more emphatic if not for the profligacy displayed by the Bengal players throughout the game. They created numerous chances in the first half but

could not break the deadlock going into the break.

The second half saw a much improved display from the Bengal players. Seconds after the restart, Bengal won a penalty. Dilip Orawn danced his way into the box and just as he was about to pull the trigger, he was tripped and the referee M Sugandar had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Rajasthan's campaign in the tournament after a gap of 34 years came to a disappointing end but the group will look to make the most of this opportunity in the future. Bengal will face the runners-up team of Group B in the semifinals.

Jamshedpur romp to 5-1 win over Goa; Bengaluru complete hat-trick of wins

Goa | Agencies

Jamshedpur FC produced a five-star performance to steamroll FC Goa 5-1 and underline their credentials as one of the favourites while Bengaluru FC left it late with a 2-1 win over Hyderabad FC and make it three wins in as many games, in third-round Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) matches here on Sunday.

The Red Miners were unstoppable in the morning kickoff at Nagoa Football Ground, especially in the second half as they outmuscled a skillful Goa side and were lethal in the final third.

The win means they now have recorded the highest-margin victory in the inaugural league so far. Jamshedpur



now have seven points from three games.

Bengaluru have nine points and are level on points with Kerala Blasters FC who

have also won their first three fixtures.

Jamshedpur led 3-1 at half-time and came back with more menace after the break

scoring two goals to complete the rout. First, Meitei came off the bench to stab home a Jordan Borges pass from the edge of the area, Hrithik letting the ball squirm from his grasp and into the net. In stoppage time, Phijam dinked past Hrithik who failed to keep his feeble attempt out of harm's way for the latter to slot the rebound into an empty net.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru and Hyderabad took turns to spurn chances in the first and second halves respectively with the former edging past their southern rivals in the end. Raju gave his side an early lead, Lastborn finding the forward with a wonderful through ball that he slammed past Lalbiakhlua Jongte in the Hyderabad goal.

Formula 1: Verstappen wins Imola race; Hamilton finishes 13th

Imola (Italy) | Agencies

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won a dramatic Imola race over teammate Sergio Perez as Ferrari drivers couldn't deliver on home turf and retired from the race here on Sunday.

However, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc spun late on to finish sixth after his teammate Spain's Carlos Sainz retired from the race. Along with Sainz, compatriot Fernando Alonso was the other who could not finish the race.

The Dutchman Verstappen topped Saturday's Sprint and led off the line on Sunday, teammate Perez joining him at the front - while Leclerc momentarily dropped to fourth. Lewis Hamilton was next, the Mercedes driver having



been unceremoniously lapped by Verstappen on Lap 40, to finish 13th - Esteban Ocon finishing 11th but dropping to 14th thanks to a five-second penalty for an unsafe release.



AAMIR KHAN DROPS INTRIGUING VIDEOS AS HE TEASES FANS ABOUT HIS 'KAHAANI'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan left his fans befuddled with a video that revealed how he will share a special 'kahaani' on April 28.

In the video shared by Aamir Khan's production house, the star was seen acing his batting skills, about which we are aware from the time of 'Lagaan'.

In the clip, Aamir promises to narrate a story on April 28.

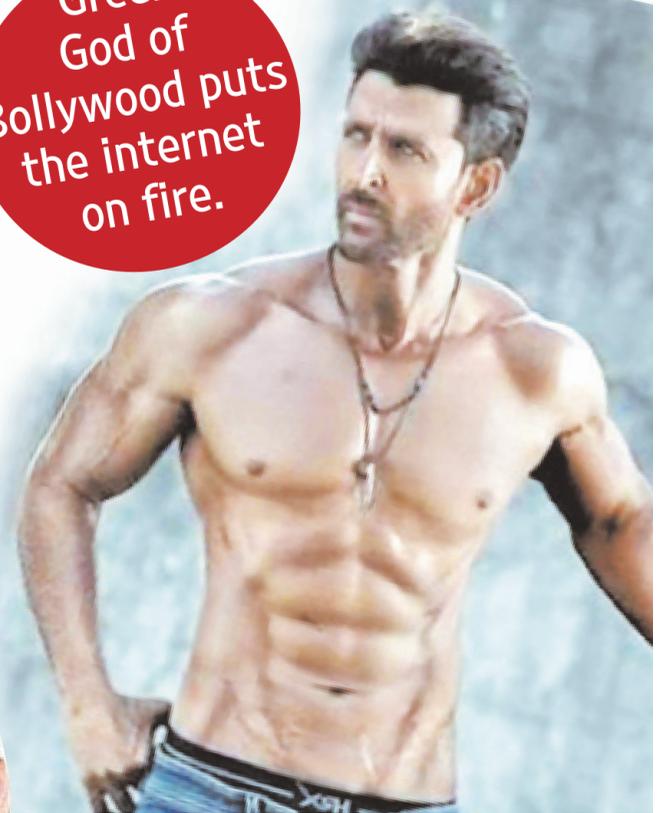
The fact that Aamir is an introvert person, the video sparked heated conversation on digital platforms as fans floated several theories around what this 'kahaani' might be. The comments ranged from the superstar making his debut on the OTT platform, a new personal development, a film announcement, the Laal Singh Chaddha trailer to even a new collaboration with IPL, the theories kept pouring in.

But currently, the details are being kept under wraps at the moment. To add to the excitement, the extremely private Aamir Khan who is rarely in the public eye, next dropped another video of himself playing cricket as he discussed his chances at the IPL and also contemplated where he will reveal this 'kahaani' that everyone's been talking about.

Well, we surely can't keep calm about what Aamir is going to announce on 28th. On the work front, the actor will next be seen in Laal Singh Chaddha.



Greek God of Bollywood puts the internet on fire.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sayani Gupta: It's funny to be a semi-popular actor in public places

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She made her mark in Bollywood as well as in the web space with films like 'Margarita with a Straw', 'Fan', 'Jolly LLB 2', 'Article 15' and 'Axone'. Actress Sayani Gupta says even though in the public places people recognise her as an actor, it's funny for her to get the weird yet curious look.

She also appeared in web series like 'Inside Edge', 'Four More Shots Please!'.

The actress recently appeared in a short film titled 'Shameless' along with the co-actor Hussain Dalal.

In conversation with reporter, Sayani shares, one such incident of how it feels to be what she calls a 'semi-popular' actor.

Sayani said, "I think unless you are Shah Rukh Khan, or a superstar of his level, many actors must have faced it. It is a little weird where in public places like cafe, restaurant etc people walked up to us saying, 'I have seen you somewhere'...and then there is a moment of silence because something is buffering in their head (laugh)! Sometime even the onus comes on you that you have to explain where they have seen you! Funny but reality."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the breakup rumours of Bollywood couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani gain momentum, the two have shared cryptic posts on their respective social media handles. While Sidharth shared a stunning picture of himself from his recent work trip to Turkey on his Instagram, Kiara shared a picture of herself from a photoshoot where she can be seen in a garden appreciating the beauty of bougainvillea.

Sidharth wrote in his caption, "A day without sunshine is like, you know, night. - Steve Martin". Meanwhile, Kiara posted a gorgeous image of herself

With breakup rumours gaining ground, Sidharth, Kiara share cryptic social media posts

enjoying the beauty of nature and captioned the post as, "Plant smiles, grow laughter, harvest love." Sources have revealed that Sidharth and Kiara have stopped meeting each other.

Although both Sidharth and Kiara have neither accepted nor denied the dating rumours, there has been a strong buzz in B-town about the two being together with their on-screen chemistry in 'Shershaah' adding fuel to the fire. In such a scenario, the rumours around their breakup have seemed to shake up their followers. Meanwhile, on the work front, Sidharth has films like 'Mission Majnu', 'Yodha', and 'Thank God' in the pipeline. Kiara Advani, has 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' on the horizon, 'Govinda Naam Mera' and 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' scheduled to release in the later part of the year.

AJAY DEVGN SAYS THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT PLAYING MEN IN UNIFORM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn, who is set to play a commercial pilot, Captain Vikrant Khanna, in his upcoming directorial 'Runway 34', feels that there is something about characters who don a uniform and he feels a certain affinity towards them.

In the past, Ajay has sported uniforms in films like, 'Singham', 'Gangaajal' and 'LOC Kargil'. When asked if he ever feels the pressure while wearing any of these uniforms, he said in a statement, "I have always been drawn to men in uniform. Be it my cop avatar in 'Gangaajal' and the iconic 'Singham'; uniforms have a special significance." However, he feels that this time around with 'Runway 34' things will be a little different as a pilot's uniform is more stylized and has an element of glamour associated with it, he added, "Of course, the pilot's uniform has more glamour associated with it. But believe me, along with the glamour comes a huge responsibility. A pilot is actually a demi-God for the passengers who repose blind faith in him/her while they fly. I was fully aware of what this uniform brings with it. Neither Rakul Preet Singh (my co-pilot) nor I took the uniform lightly."



Shivani Gosain: OTT is a breakthrough for any actor feeling suffocated

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Pratigya 2' actor Shivani Gosain is excited to make her debut on OTT. She will be seen playing a pivotal part in a light-hearted series. Keen on being a part of the digital boom, Shivani is hopeful that this project will open a door of opportunities for her.

"OTT is a breakthrough for an actor who is feeling suffocated in typical roles that limit their growth. Today, one can see the scope to experiment, explore and feel satisfied by portraying performance-oriented roles. OTT actors are becoming international stars, getting global recognition and appreciation. There is enough scope to reach out to a wider audience and try new things," she says.

Intimate scenes on OTT aren't a new phenomenon. While many actors are okay doing them if the script demands it, there are others who aren't comfortable with the same and hence have stayed away from the space.

Talking about it, Shivani adds: "I have not done any bold scenes for OTT till now because my very first series does not have any. If in future any OTT series with a good storyline and performance-oriented role demands bold scenes to a certain limit I would consider doing it, but definitely no nudity or unnecessary vulgarity for me."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Pranutan