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EVERY MEDIA HOUSE'S PHILOSOPHY REFLECTED IN REPORTAGE, IS NOT NECESSARILY BAD: DELHI HC

Freedom of Expression



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court, dealing a plea between two media outlets, on Friday said every media house, TV channel, or social media platform have their own philosophy, which gets reflected in the manner of reportage and content of the programmes, and that is not necessarily a bad thing.

Dismissing the defamation and copyright infringement suit moved by TV Today Network against news portal News Laundry, Justice Asha Menon said the right to free speech is an important right, but reputation is an equally important right.

The court also pointed that it cannot accept self-appointment by the defendants (news portal) as a "regulator" of the content of the media, for the reason that mechanisms exist for redressal of

grievances relating to content of news channels and for social media content, set up statutorily, including by the platforms themselves.

"It is obvious that there can be no 'free for all' in the regulatory sphere. Every individual or organisation cannot claim authority to regulate - the chaos can be imagined - there will be only regulators and none willing to bide by regulations!! But, dehors this claim to the status of a regulator, albeit an informal one, what is seen is that basically, the defendants No.1 to 9 disapprove of the coverage of current news both, in the style, as well as its prioritisation, by the mainstream media and TV channels or even the social media platforms," it observed.

"Every media house and channel on TV or the social media platforms, including that of the defendants No.1 to 9, have their own philosophy, which gets reflected in the manner of reportage and con-

RULING OF DELHI HIGH COURT

"The right to free speech and expression has been enshrined in our Constitution as a Fundamental Right. The right to free expression has therefore been stoutly protected by the courts. No doubt, the right to free speech is not unbridled nor is it recognised as absolute. It is subject to reasonable restrictions, which includes the right to reputation, as has been recognised in several judgments."

"Quite clearly, the right to broadcast programmes would be included in the right to free speech and expression."

"... the right to free speech and expression carries with it the right to publish and circulate one's ideas, opinions and views with complete freedom and by resorting to the available means of publication, which, in the opinion of this court, would also mean and include not only the electronic media and TV channels, but also the social media platforms as the object of publication and broadcast is the same i.e., to reach out to the public."

tent of the programmes and that is not necessarily a bad thing," the court held.

Reliance Jio leads as India sees 5G spectrum bids worth Rs 1,49,855 cr



New Delhi: The 5G spectrum auction saw bids worth Rs 1,49,855 crore after 23 rounds on Friday, with the government saying the bids will continue on Saturday. The bids for 5G airwaves are being led by Reliance Jio, followed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and a Gautam Adani company.

According to Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the cumulative bid on Day 3 (Thursday) had reached Rs 1,49,623 crore. Vaishnaw said that the ongoing 5G spectrum auction indicates that the country's telecom industry has come a long way in 5G advancements. He said that the industry has emerged to become a sunrise industry in India and a benchmark for the world. As India prepares for the 5G era, the installed base of smartphones with 5G capabilities crossed 5 crore in the country, according to Counterpoint Research.

Putin preparing to flee Russia should he be defeated in Ukraine, claims report

LONDON | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his friends are "making preparations to flee Russia" should his army be defeated in Ukraine, according to a Telegram channel that claims to come from inside the Kremlin, a media report said.

With his Donbas offensive stalling, Ukraine preparing to re-capture Kherson and his economy crumbling, the Russian leader is "aware of the possibility of a sharp change of mood in the country", the Daily Mail reported. Last week, the General SVR channel reported that the 69-year-old had suffered from "severe nausea" overnight, with doctors at his bedside for around three hours.

Following on from that report, they claim that "Putin himself and his entourage are preparing plans for evacuation from Russia."

It is thought that any plane carrying Putin and his family out of Russia would head to Syria, the nearest friendly state and whose leader, Bashar al-Assad, Putin bailed out by intervening in the Syrian civil war in 2015.

Any flight from Russia to Syria, however, would have to fly through the airspace of Turkey, a NATO member.



Were Turkey's strongman leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to refuse permission to the plane carrying Putin and his family to enter his airspace, it would effectively scupper the Russian leader's "quickest" and perhaps "only" getaway route, the media outlet reported.

Erdogan and Putin have a complex relationship, having been friends and enemies at various times over the past decade as each leader tries to navigate their country through a challenging geopolitical neighbourhood.

Iran is another regional power - and Western foe - that would be interested in Putin's fate. "In principle, it is beneficial for Iran and Turkey to keep the Russian president in

exile in reserve, using him, depending on the situation, as a lever or as a bargaining chip," the channel was quoted as saying.

Although Turkey is a member of the Western military alliance, under Erdogan's leadership the country has "cut its own diplomatic path in international relations".

Earlier this month Putin met with his Turkish and Iranian counterparts in Tehran, ostensibly to discuss Syria.

It is not too much of a stretch to imagine that Erdogan and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi discussed in private the possibility of Putin requiring asylum from a coup or revolution at home, the report concludes.

Ola may lay off 1,000 employees to ramp up EV plans

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola aims to ramp up its electric vehicle (EV) business, media reports have claimed that the ride-hailing platform is laying off around 1,000 employees from across verticals.

According to reports citing employee records, verticals like mobility, hyper-local, fintech, and Ola's used car operations have included in the layoff process. However, according to sources close to the company, these layoffs may impact less than 500 employees and not 1,000, and "are a result of restructuring in the Cars and Dash businesses".

The company currently has nearly 1,100 employees in its core ride-hailing business. Senior executives at the SoftBank-backed company were recently tasked with identifying team members who can be asked to leave based on performance. Ola is planning to cut costs amid a challenging funding environment and global downturn.

The company aims at "leaner and consolidated teams" to keep its "strong profitability intact".

OLA DENIES PLANNING MERGER WITH UBER

New Delhi: Ola Founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal on Friday refuted a report that said Ola and Uber are considering a potential merger. "Absolute rubbish. We're very profitable and growing well. If some other companies want to exit their business from India they are welcome to! We will never merge," Aggarwal posted.

The Economic Times report, citing sources, said the Indian cab aggregator Ola and Uber Technologies are considering a potential merger. Ola Chief Executive Aggarwal met top Uber executives in the US, said the report.

"That report is inaccurate. We are not, nor have we been, in merger talks with Ola," Uber said in a statement.

IAF to phase out entire MiG-21 fleet by 2025

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to retire a squadron of MiG-21 Bison aircraft by September 30. Thereafter, only three squadrons of the aircraft will remain in service, which would be phased out by 2025.

The 51 Squadron based out of Srinagar airport is being number plated on September 30. Thereafter, every year one squadron will be fitted with a number plate, sources said.

The 51 Squadron is famous for thwarting Pakistan's air strike on India on February 27, 2019 and shooting down an F-16 by an aircraft flown by Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman.

Sources said this is the only instance when a MiG-21 aircraft shot down an F-16 in



an air-to-air combat. IAF is replacing MiG-21 fighter jets with more capable aircraft like Su-30 and indigeneous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

In the last 20 months, 6 MiG-21 aircraft have crashed in accidents in which five pilots have lost their lives.

The MiG-21 was supposed to be discontinued long back, but the delay in induction of the LCA Tejas aircraft has forced the IAF to continue flying these aircraft.

DELHI HC ISSUES SUMMONS TO 3 CONG LEADERS, ASKS THEM TO REMOVE TWEETS ON SMRITI IRANI'S DAUGHTER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued summons to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D' Souza, and also directed them to remove tweets on allegations against Union Minister Smriti Irani and her daughter related to a recent bar controversy.

The case is related to the political controversy surrounding Silly Souls Cafe and Bar, allegedly operated by Union Minister Smriti Irani's daughter Zoish Irani in Goa's Assagao.

"I am of the prima facie view that slanderous allegations were made against the plaintiff without verifying actual facts. Grave injury has been caused to the reputation of the plaintiff in view of the tweets and retweets carried out due to the press conference of the defendants. Plaintiff has made out prima facie case and balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants," Justice Mini Pushkarna remarked.

The Congress party has alleged that the daughter of Smriti Irani was running an illegal bar in the BJP-ruled Goa. While Smriti Irani refuted Congress' allegations terming them as "malicious" intended to "malign" her and assassinate the character of her 18-year-old student daughter, the Congress party urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack her as Union minister.

Smriti Irani has served legal notice to Congress leaders Pawan Khera, Jairam Ramesh, and Netta D' Souza and demanded a written unconditional apology and asked them to withdraw the allegations against her daughter with immediate effect.

After the development in the court, taking to his Twitter account, Jairam Ramesh said: "The Delhi High Court has issued notice asking us to formally reply to the case filed by Smriti Irani. We look forward to presenting the facts before the court. We will challenge and disprove the spin being put out by Ms. Irani."

Mistakenly used incorrect word to describe the position you hold, Adhir to Prez

New Delhi: Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, whose remarks on President Droupadi Murmu created a furore, has written to her, offering his apology for alleged derogatory remarks.



"I am writing to express my regret for having mistakenly used an incorrect word to describe the position you hold. I assure you that it was a slip of the tongue. I apologise and request you to accept the same," the Congress leader said in his letter.

Chowdhury on Wednesday courted controversy after he, in the house, referred to President Murmu as 'Rashtrapati'.

Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi was also targeted by the BJP who demanded an apology from her and on Thursday, said that she was unnecessarily being dragged into the controversy, noting that he had already apologised.

How some people dodge arrest after consuming alcohol in dry Gujarat

SOME PEOPLE EVEN GO TO UNION TERRITORIES LIKE DAMAN & DIU AND DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI, OR MOUNT ABU OR UDAIPUR, IN RAJASTHAN, OR DAHANU, MUMBAI OR NASIK IN MAHARASHTRA AND EVEN AS FAR AS GOA FOR LIQUOR.

VIVEK IS PARTY-GOER IN AHMEDABAD AND HAS ATTENDED MANY LIQUOR PARTIES. HE INVITES VERY INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONALS, POLITICIAN AND OFFICERS TO THE PARTY. THEIR PRESENCE IS A COVER OF PROTECTION. BIG BUSINESSMEN AND BUILDERS ARE NEARLY IMMUNE FROM ARRESTS.

In Surat and South Gujarat, there are some castes and communities that serve liquor to guests on certain occasions like wedding or death in family. This is a tradition. Original Surtis serve liquor with snacks to those who have come to the crematorium with dead body. Being aware of the custom, the police are liberal in this region.

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

The police may be arresting hundreds of people across Gujarat every week for violating the prohibition law, but there are people who dodge arrests despite being inebriate.

Senior crime reporter Sailesh Trivedi shared certain pertinent facts. Trivedi said: "Nowadays, a well-to-do families mostly organise parties at their farm houses that are in remote places, and after drinking, they don't return to the city in next 24 hours."

"If people are not that financially sound, they organise parties at home; and when guests have to



return, they either chew mouth fresheners or eat chocolates to kill

the smell of liquor. Some even travel with family so that police doesn't

suspect them," he said.

However, "Nowadays in cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Anand, it is very common to book club houses and hotel rooms for booze parties. The club house security or hotel staff protects guests from the police," said Anita Patni, a crime reporter from Ahmedabad.

"If any individual is arrested on the street, the person will see the rank of police personnel and then contact a politician or senior officer to influence the cop on ground and evade arrest. Sometimes, even media persons intervene, requesting the police to not arrest," said the crime reporter.



COAL SCAM CASE: CBI COURT CONVICTS FORMER COAL SECY H.C. GUPTA, OTHERS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Special CBI court on Friday convicted former Coal Secretary H.C. Gupta and Joint Secretary K.S. Kropcha, Grace Industries Ltd, Nagpur, and its Director Mukesh Gupta in a case related to the allocation of Lohara East Coal block in Maharashtra.

"The evidence on record as encapsulated above shows that there was criminal conspiracy amongst Grace Industries Ltd, Mukesh Gupta, H.C. Gupta and K.S. Kropcha for procuring recommendation of allocation of Lohara East Coal Block in favour of Grace Industries," special judge Arun Bhardwaj said in the order.

"There were no ripples in spite of coming to know that Grace Industries Ltd had made false representations regarding kiln infrastructure and production capacity," the order said.

"In the opinion of this court, the circumstantial evidence noted above is sufficient to return a finding that there was a criminal conspiracy amongst these four accused persons for securing recommendation of Screening Committee in favour of



Grace Industries Ltd and for allocation of Lohara East Coal Block in favour of M/s GIL," it added.

The coal block, located in an area of 3.5 sq km and was having estimated geological reserves of approximately 57 million tons, was jointly allocated to Grace Industries along with Murlidhar Industries Ltd.

As per the CBI statement, during the investigation, it was revealed that Grace Industries had secured an allocation of 16.14 million tons of coal reserves in the Lohara East coal block on the basis of false informa-

tion about net worth, capacity, equipments and status of procurement and installation of plant.

It was found that the said private company, in its application, claimed its net worth as Rs 120 crore whereas its own net worth was Rs 3.3 crore and falsified its existing capacity as 1,20,000 TPA against actual project capacity of 30,000 TPA.

The company claimed 2 kilns in production and 3 kilns under installation whereas as on September 7, 2006, it had only one kiln in operation. After allocation of coal block,

Mukesh Gupta sold the entire equity/share of his company to another person at a profit of about Rs 20 crore. It was found that 51 private companies had applied for the said coal block, however, criteria for inter se priority was not followed to determine the most suitable company.

The company had also submitted an incomplete application, which as per the guidelines of the Coal Ministry, was liable to be rejected.

However, officials concerned of the Ministry did not ensure scrutiny of applications. Moreover, the application of the company was also not sent to the Steel Ministry, the administrative ministry concerned, for its assessment. It was also found that the company was recommended for allocation of coal block without the recommendations of the Ministries of Steel and Power and the Maharashtra government. Moreover, excess coal was allotted to the company despite a written complaint made by the other allottee company.

After a thorough investigation, a charge sheet was filed on October 28, 2014, and the charges were framed on June 7, 2016 against six accused.

KCR, Akhilesh deliberate on 'national politics', other issues



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the national capital on a 3-day visit, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao on Friday met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Over the past few months Rao has been talking of his entry into national politics and counter the BJP. He has been trying to forge an alternative to the BJP and Congress parties.

KCR, as the chief minister is popularly known, had arrived in Delhi on Tuesday

night.

On Friday, he met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. The two leaders met at KCR's official residence here and reportedly discussed the current political scenario in the country. The meeting lasted for around an hour.

Akhilesh Yadav was accompanied by Ram Gopal Yadav, general secretary of the Samajwadi Party. With BJP raising the ante against the ruling TRS party in Telangana, the two parties are facing off against each

other.

In recent times, KCR has become a vociferous critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his policies. KCR had announced his support for the opposition's presidential candidate Yashwanth Sinha. Over the past few months, KCR has been visiting different states to meet the leaders of various non-Congress opposition parties. As part of his national thrust, KCR has earlier met Mamata Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray, M.K. Stalin, and H.D. Deve Gowda.

Delhi continues with 1K-plus Covid tally for 3rd day running, one more death

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi on Friday reported 1,245 fresh Covid cases in last 24 hours, the third successive day when its tally crossed over 1,000 after around one month, while there was one new death, the government health bulletin said.

The capital had reported 1,128 Covid cases on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Covid positivity rate has also risen to 7.36 per cent, and the number of active cases stands at 3,844, out of which 2,355 patients are being treated in home isolation.

With 926 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries has gone to 19,23,024,



while Delhi's total caseload is 19,53,175 and the death toll 26,308.

The number of Covid containment zones stands at 173. A total of 16,924 new tests -- 11,167 RT-PCR and 5,757 Rapid Antigen - were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the total to

3,94,79,404 while 30,448 vaccines were administered - 3,371 first doses, 6,586 second doses, and 20,491 precaution doses. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries vaccinated so far stands at 3,57,72,501, according to the health bulletin.

Five bodies of Assam workers located in Arunachal forest after 25 days

Itanagar | Agencies

Five decomposed bodies of Assam workers, who were among the 19 missing from a road construction site in Arunachal Pradesh's border Kurung Kumey district 25 days ago, were located in a dense forest, officials said on Friday.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams found the five mutilated bodies in the thick forest between Huri and Tapa in the last two days while another worker was drowned in Furak river and three other remained missing, Kurung Kumey Deputy Commissioner Bengia Nighee told IANS over phone.

He said that the bodies were found in different locations of the



forest. The five decomposed bodies could not, however, be brought back.

With these five bodies, the number of deaths in the incident rose to six, the Deputy Commissioner said.

Earlier this week and last week, ten workers were rescued in a very sick condition and they are now recuperating in different hospitals, Nighee said.

He said that the Indian Air Force's chopper operation could not be carried out properly due to bad weather conditions in the mountainous areas. Nighee, who personally supervised the rescue operation, said that after fleeing from their project site camp at Huri on July 5, the 19 workers had entered a dense forest infested with poisonous snakes and wild animals.

NMC allows medical graduates returned from Ukraine, China to appear in FMG exam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Medical Commission on Friday allowed final year students who returned to India due to Covid-19 or the Russia-Ukraine war and got degrees from their institutes on or before June 30, 2022, to appear in the Foreign Medical Graduate exam.

"It is informed that the Indian students who were in the last year of their undergraduate medicine course (and due to Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine war etc had to leave their foreign medical institute and return to India) and have subsequently completed their studies, as also have been granted certificate of completion of course/degree by their respective



institute, on or before June 30, 2022, shall be permitted to appear in Foreign Medical Graduate Examination," it said in a statement.

Upon qualifying the Foreign

Medical Graduate (FMG) exam, they will be required to undergo a Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) for two years instead of the existing one year, the NMC said in the statement.

"Thereafter, upon qualifying the FMG examination, such foreign medical graduates are required to undergo Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) for a period of two years to make up for the clinical training which could not be physically attended by them during the undergraduate medicine course in the foreign institute as also to familiarise them with practise of medicine under Indian conditions," it added. The foreign medical graduates will be eligible to get registration only after completing the two-year CRMI, it said adding the relaxation granted to the foreign medical students is a "one-time measure" and shall not be treated as a precedent in the future.

INDIGO PLANE SKIDS OFF RUNWAY IN ASSAM'S JORHAT

New Delhi: An IndiGo plane from Assam's Jorhat to Kolkata skidded off the runway during take off, and a pair of its wheels got stuck in the muddy outfield, leading to the flight being cancelled, an airline statement said on Friday.

As per the airline, the incident took place on Thursday when the aircraft, with 98 passengers on board, was taxiing out for take off.

"IndiGo flight 6E-757, operating from Jorhat to Kolkata, returned back to bay during departure. While taxiing out, the pilot was advised that one of the main wheels had partially run over the grass adjacent to the taxiway. The pilot held the taxi procedure as a precaution and asked for necessary inspection," it added.

Meat shops in Gurugram to stay closed for 9 days during Jain festival

Gurugram | Agencies

In compliance with the orders given by the Director, Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Department, Haryana, all meat shops and slaughterhouses in the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) and Municipal Corporation Manesar (MCM) area will remain closed from August 24 to September 1 for nine days during the Jain festival of Paryushan Parv.

"The orders have been received from ULB Department in this regard. As per the orders received, all meat sale shops and slaughterhouses in MCG and the MCM area will remain closed from August

24 to September 1. In these nine days, the festival of Jain community, Paryushan Parv, will be celebrated," Deputy Municipal Commissioner Vijaypal Yadav said.

We have directed all the meat sellers located in the corporation area to keep their shops closed during these nine days i.e. from August 24 to September 1. The corporation teams will monitor the area during these days and action will be taken against those who do not follow the orders," he added.

"TANDOORI CHICKEN" VS "TONGUE AND CHEEK"- MAHUA TAKES JIBE AT BJP SPOKESPERSON

New Delhi: Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Friday took a jibe at BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla over his comment against the MPs protesting against their suspension on Parliament premises. Mahua, responding to tweets, said: "BJP's hired help commenting on what food suspended MPs eat on dharna. Silly Souls! Don't you know your masters serve both tongue & cheek? Her tweets came in response to BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla's allegation that protesting MPs in Parliament ate Chicken in front of Gandhi statue. Four MPs from Lok Sabha and 23 from Rajya Sabha are facing suspension for disrupting proceedings Parliament proceedings and holding placards. These MPs are a 50-hour protest against the action. AAP member Sanjay Singh was also suspended from the Upper House for a week on Wednesday unruly behaviour and showing utter disregard to the Chair.

On Tuesday, 19 Opposition Members were suspended from the Rajya Sabha for a week for disrupting House proceedings.

Indian defence sector scales newer heights with latest technology

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian defence sector is bolder than before and with every passing day it is arming itself to combat any kind of situation whereby providing stability to the country.

The Indian Army is planning to procure approximate quantity 800 Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicle (LAMV) for Mechanised Infantry and Armoured Corps. The LAMV is planned to be procured in sync with 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

The Request for Information generated by the Defence Ministry stated the LAMV will be employed by Reconnaissance (Rece) & Surveillance Platoons of Mechanised Infantry and Recce Troops of Armoured Corps for Recce & Surveillance tasks.

Hence, the proposed LAMV must possess adequate mobility and provide protection for troops on board.

In addition, it should be able to carry the battle loads to include weapons, ammunition, surveillance and communication equipment required to carry out mandated operational tasks.

The LAMV should be modular in design, thereby offering the scope for future upgrades through simple modifications and to facilitate subsequent development. The LAMV will be deployed for on road and cross-country movement in the plain and desert terrain along the Western borders. These advanced multipurpose vehicles will also be employed in the high-altitude regions, up to



5,000 metres altitude, mountainous terrain including snow bound areas as occurring along Northern borders, including eastern Ladakh and North Sikkim.

On the operational requirements, the Indian Army stated that it intends to carry out silent recce and continuous surveillance of intended area of operations with protected mobility in the battle field and provide early warning and intelligence of hostile elements. It will be used for carriage of weapons, ammunition, surveillance and communication equipment along with recce and marking stores apart from integrating with dynamic resources like drones and loiter munitions. On the other hand, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trail of futuristic unmanned aircraft.

According to reports, in a major leap in indigenous flying technology, the DRDO carried out the successful

maiden flight of the 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator' from the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka. Operating in a fully autonomous mode, the aircraft showcased a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown. Congratulating DRDO on this major achievement Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted: "Congratulations to @DRDO_India on successful maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from Chitradurga ATR. It is a major achievement towards autonomous aircrafts which will pave the way for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in terms of critical military systems." Designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a premier research laboratory of DRDO, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is powered by a small turbofan engine. It also consists of an airframe, undercarriage, entire flight control and avionics systems. Notably, all these components have been developed indigenously in India. The defence acquisition council (DAC) -- India's apex procurement body -- accorded its acceptance of necessity (AoN) for the capital acquisition proposals. Under India's defence procurement rules, AoN by the council, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, is the first step towards buying military hardware. India has imposed a phased ban on the import of 310 types of weapons and systems, including next-generation corvettes, in the past two years to boost self-reliance.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 15702037Y L/NK RAMESHWAR VISHWAKARMA son of Late GYANI VISHWAKARMA presently residing at Vill Nardha Post Dhanora Teh Khurda dist sagar (M.P) Pin : 470117 have changed my Father name from LATE GYANI VISWAKARMA to LATE GYANI VISHWAKARMA Vide affidavit No. 75AA 644577.

CHANGE OF NAME

I PARMAR NIRMALABEN is legally wedded wife of HAV PARMAR MULJIBHAI KANJI BHAI (Rank - AV Unit 11 MAHAR Regiment Army No. - 4572013P) presently residing at Vill Post- VASANA Tehsil-DHANDHUKA District-AHMEDABAD Pin-382460 have changed my name from NIRMALA to PARMAR NIRMALABEN vide affidavit No. 75AA 644578.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4578088H L/HAV PATEL PRAKASH KUMAR NARAN BHAI s/o PATEL NARAN BHAI MULJI BHAI presently residing at Vill Narnamuvada Teh Kapadwanj District Kheda State- Gujrat Pin-387620 have changed my daughter name from SONAKSHI BEN to PATEL SONAKSHI PRAKASHKUMAR and changed my daughter DOB from 05/06/2014 to 05/01/2014 vide Affidavit No. 75AA 644601.



BALASHEB THACKERAY'S GRANDSON NIHAR JOINS EKNATH SHINDE GROUP



Team Absolute | Mumbai
Nihar Thackeray, a member of the Thackeray political clan, on Friday met and extended support to Shiv Sena rebel and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde. Nihar Thackeray is the son of the late Bindumadhav Thackeray - who was the elder son of the Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray. He is thus the nephew of ex-CM and Sena President Uddhav Thackeray

and cousin of former state minister Aditya Thackeray. He is married to Ankit, the daughter of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Harshvardhan Patil, and is likely to launch his political career under the tutelage of Shinde.

Initiate steps to raze 'structures' near Mumbai airport, Bombay HC to Collector

In a significant order, the Bombay High Court has directed the Mumbai Suburban District Collector to initiate demolition of 48 obstacles like buildings and other structures in the vicinity of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport for violating height restrictions and endangering air safety.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M.S. Karnik pulled up the Collector for attempting to divert the responsibility for demolishing the structures onto the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The court has directed the Collector to personally affirm and submit an affidavit indicating the steps to demolish these structures by August 19, with the next hearing on this and other related matters scheduled on August 22.

The bench noted sternly that "the Collector has to do something" about this "menace" (the hindrances) near the airport, and suggested that the authorities concerned could disconnect the electricity and water supply to the errant buildings served notices



for the violations. The court's directives came in a public interest litigation filed by lawyer Yashwant Shenoy who raised

serious concerns over the dangers posed by the tall buildings near the CSMIA that pose a risk to air traffic. The CSMIA authorities informed

the court that during its period surveys, in 2010, they had identified a total of 137 such buildings/obstacles.

From these, 110 buildings/structures were served with notices and final orders issued to 63, nine appeals were filed and six buildings complied with the norms, and the airport authorities had informed the Collector and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of the same in November 2017.

However, the remaining 48 structures need to be razed immediately as there are no compliances or appeals filed in the courts, it was stated.

The high court observed that there is no law that prevents the Collector from initiating demolition process, and said that the BMC and the Mumbai Police would give all help to the Collector for the demolition.

Declare 'wet drought' in flood affected regions of Maharashtra: Ajit Pawar

Nagpur | Agencies

The leader of opposition in Maharashtra Assembly, Ajit Pawar, on Thursday demanded that a "wet drought" be declared in the rain-affected districts of the state.

The NCP leader, who is touring the flood affected districts in southeast region of Vidarbha, also demanded that farmers whose crops have been damaged by heavy rains in different districts in the state - particularly Gadchiroli and Chandrapur - be paid Rs 75,000 per hectare as relief.

Pawar is on a four-day Vidarbha and Marathwada tour to assess the flood-hit regions of eastern Vidarbha and some areas of



Marathwada. Citing his interaction with farmers, local politicians and villagers,

Pawar said that crops on about 25,000 hectares in Gadchiroli alone have been

damaged by the incessant rains. "In view of the current situation in Gadchiroli, the state government should provide immediate assistance to the flood-hit people and farmers of the district," he said. "So far, 12 people have died in the district due to floods... Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis should give importance to this and immediately declare wet drought," Pawar asserted, adding that the situation of people in tribal districts "was very pathetic". Lashing out at the Shinde-led government, he said, "No relief measures were taken for flood-hit Gadchiroli as the new government has not appointed a guardian minister so far."

MAN FOUND DEAD, WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN FOUND POISONED: COPS

Mumbai | A 34-year-old man was found dead, while his wife and two children were also found dead at their residence located in an eastern suburb of Mumbai, police said on Friday.

The man's children and his wife have died of poison consumption, police said. The incident, which occurred in Shivaji Nagar area, came to light this morning, they said. "The man, Shakil Jilil Khan, was found hanging, while his wife and two children were found dead inside the house. Police suspect that they were poisoned to death by him," an official said. A police team is conducting a probe into the incident, and the bodies of the four victims have been sent for post-mortem.

Fire guts film set in Mumbai's Andheri west, 1 dead

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One person was killed when a massive fire engulfed an open air film studio set near the Andheri Sports Complex on Friday, BMC Disaster Control said. The blaze was noticed around 4.30 p.m. in the Chitrakoot Studio, spread across over 5,000 square feet where 2 decorative film shooting sets were erected, and thick clouds of smoke were seen billowing out.

Following an alert from the NDRF the Mumbai Fire Brigade and other rescue agencies rushed to spot within around 10 fire tenders to battle the conflagration.

The blaze was brought under control after four hours and the body of Manish Devashi, 32, was retrieved from the tragedy site. The cause of the fire is being probed and the victim's details are awaited. The BMC said that the fire was completely extinguished by 10.30 p.m. and cooling operations are underway. Meanwhile, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) spokesperson Shashikant Singh said that the victim was reportedly a



lightman working on the pre-lighting work on the dual sets, erected for a Rajshri Productions film and another movie by filmmaker Luv Ranjan. The second film, titled "Anam", stars Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor, who were scheduled to shoot a song there, though both actors were not on the set at the time of the tragedy. FWICE President B.N. Tiwari, and General Secretary Ashok Dube have expressed shock over the tragedy. Both Tiwari and Dube said that in view of such growing number of incidents, they have repeatedly written to the BMC and state government demanding stricter regulations for film sets. However, their pleas have not been heeded and film sets are erected anywhere without giving due weightage to safety issues which result in such calamities, said FWICE.

Rupee gains 51 paise to close at 79.25 against US dollar

The Indian rupee appreciated 51 paise to close at 79.25 against the US dollar on Friday, following positive trends in domestic equities and on hope that US Fed will go slow with rate hike after contraction of the US economy for the second consecutive quarter.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee ended at 79.25 against the US dollar, compared to 79.76 a dollar on Thursday.

"Rupee traded strong as dollar index witnessed weakness which pushed the dollar against rupee to low of 79.17 on Friday's trade as Fed's data-driven stance dragged the dollar lower at 1065... Crude price volatility kept gains somewhat limited in rupee as rupee rose from 80.00 to 79.25 in the week," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

The domestic benchmark indices ended higher for the third consecutive day and ended on a positive note. Sensex ended up 712.46 points, or 1.25 per cent, at 57,570.25, and the Nifty 50 closed up 228.65 points, or 1.35 per cent, at 17,158.25.

"The dollar index was trading lower on Friday. It was at 105.72 by the closing of market hours. "DXY had sharply fallen towards 105.55 levels and large exporters were also seen hedging their exposure helped rupee to appreciate. For USDINR, 79.02 now acts as an immediate support followed by 78.80 while 79.60 now turns as an immediate resistance," said Kunal

Sodhani, Assistant Vice-President at Shinhan Bank India. On the other hand, the US economy contracted for a second consecutive quarter, signaling a technical recession. Data showed that US GDP fell at a 0.9 per cent annualised rate in the second quarter. Consumer spending grew at its slowest pace in two years and business spending contracted.

"In FOMC, Fed indicated that further rate hike trajectory will be data dependent and later softer US GDP data indicated a technical recession which is now making investors price in a less aggressive tightening by the Fed," Sodhani added.

Foreign investors turned net buyers in July, net investment Rs 4,989 crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Foreign investors turned net buyers in July nearly after 10 months, with an investment of around Rs 4,989 crore in the Indian equity markets. This comes after heavy sell-off by these entities of around Rs 50,203 crore in June.

According to the NSDL data, investment of foreign investors in July month stood at Rs 4,989 crore, as compared to over Rs 50,000 crore outflow in June, Rs 39,993 crore outflow in May, and Rs 17,144 crore outflow in April.

"This reversal in FPI activity is one of the important factors driving the market rally in July. The steady decline in dollar index from above 109 to around 106.20 now has slowed down capital outflows from other markets to US. Good Q1 results from financials have resulted in increased demand for these stocks. Change in FPI strategy has led to short covering in financials and in too in recent days," said Dr V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief



Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Even as foreign investors were on the selling spree, domestic Institutional investors supported the market by remaining net buyers in

equity. As per data compiled by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, domestic investors bought equity worth \$1.33 billion in July and \$5.97 billion in June.

The sell-off by these entities were

attributed to the tightening of monetary policy by the US Federal Reserve, which is doing aggressively to combat multi-year high year inflation. Similarly, other central banks across the globe also following the same, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Inflation was the major concern for the central banks across the globe. In India, inflation hit more than 7 per cent which forced the RBI to raise interest rate by 90 basis points to 4.90 per cent. Even now, inflation in India is sailing above the upper tolerance band of the central bank.

According to market participants, the recent SEBI decision to allowing foreign investors in commodity derivatives is likely to boost inflows.

On the other hand, sell-off by these entities put pressure on the rupee. India's foreign exchange reserves fell after and remained above \$550 billion. But, in this week, rupee has appreciated fairly due to various overseas cues and firm domestic markets in three sessions.

GIRL FALLS TO DEATH FROM SEVENTH-FLOOR FLAT IN PALGHAR

Palghar: A three-year-old girl fell to death from the seventh floor of a residential building in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Friday, police said.

The incident took place at a housing society in Vasai town around 7 am, an official from Manickpur police station said.

The child, Shreya Mahajan, was asleep in the seventh floor apartment, as her mother had gone to drop her elder sibling at the entrance of the building for the school bus, he said. The girl woke up and started looking for her mother and on not finding her, she took her mobile phone and went to the balcony, the official said. The mobile phone slipped and fell from the girl's hands and to get the device, she leaned out from the balcony and fell, he said. The child was found lying in a pool of blood, and was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, the official said. A case of accidental death has been registered in this regard, he added.

POLICE BUST ONLINE INSTANT LOAN RACKET, 14 HELD

Police's cyber crime cell arrested 14 people who were part of a racket involved in harassing people through mobile phone applications offering instant loans, the police said Friday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a press conference, Joint Commissioner (crime) Suhas Warke said, the officials have frozen around 350 bank accounts, comprising Rs 14 crore, and crypto currency worth 2.17 lakh US dollars.

Initially, a case was registered in the matter when a complaint was filed by a victim in May this year and following a probe, the arrests were made in the last couple of weeks, he said. The official added, while



applying for instant loans on mobile phone applications, all

the personal data of the applicants would go to the company

of the accused persons, which they then used for harassing people who failed to repay loans. The accused allegedly morphed obscene images of the victims who failed to repay loans or defaulted on the payment of interest and circulated the same to their friends and family members, the official said. The accused were nabbed from Bengaluru (Karnataka), Andhra Pradesh, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Uttarakhand, he said, adding that further probe is underway.

Woman's throat slit by lover in Kandivli; accused held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 27-year-old woman was murdered allegedly by her boyfriend, who suspected she was in a relationship with another manon Thursday, police said.

The police cracked the murder case within 12 hours of the incident by arresting the accused, Akhilesh Pyarelal Gautam (24), from suburban Mankhurd in the afternoon, an official said.

Gautam and the woman, Manisha Jaiswar (27), were in a relationship and planning to get married in near future, he said. However, Gautam suspected his girlfriend was having an affair with another man, the official said.

He went to her residence in suburban Kandivli in the early hours of Thursday and after an argument, slit her throat. The woman was rushed to a hospital, where she was declared dead before admission, he said.

She also had two major injuries on her head, following which a case of murder was registered, the official said. The police formed three teams to investigate the case and started collecting information about the deceased, he said. After gathering details about her boyfriend, the police traced him and nabbed him for the murder, the official said, adding further investigation was on.



EDITOR'S SPECS

After all; Public concern addressed

Parliamentary Standing Committee has expressed concern over accidents on national highways due to stray cattle and animals and noted that provisions for fencing or boundary wall to prevent animals are planned for such spots where accidents are frequent. "There should be some mechanism to monitor the frequency of incidents of wildlife/ cattle straying on roads even when the same has not caused any fatal accident yet, and proactive steps may be taken to curb the same," the committee on transport, tourism and culture said in its recent report on national highways. "Necessary action may be taken to coordinate with local law enforcement or concerned agencies to impose a penalty on cattle/animal-rearers for letting out their animals on National Highways," the report asserted. The committee notes that special corridors for the movement of wildlife/cattle, if required, is envisioned by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways at the DPR stage itself and in case certain specific locations develop into black spots due to repeated incidents, fencing/boundary wall is planned for rectification of the spots. "Provisions already exist for imposing fines for parking outside the designated areas on national highways but the ground reality points to the lack of proper implementation of the same. Trucks and vehicles parked on ill-lit highways at night time cause severe accidents and as such, tackling this problem should be a matter of high priority," the report said. The panel recommends that the ministry or the National Highways Authority of India "may take a serious look into the issue of encroachment of service roads by local markets and create an effective policy in order to curb the same, which may be implemented in coordination with concerned agencies".

IS CHINA A THREAT OR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RUSSIA?

Dmitry Kosyrev

That was just another political talk show on Russian TV, and, to make things lively, the editors rolled out a question list to all the attendees: Is China a sincere and powerful friend to Moscow in the current crisis, or is it a very fickle friend not to be trusted?

War, sanctions and a global crisis made such shows an intermittent fixture on all the main channels of Russian TV. Basically, they are all alike. Experts on foreign policy, on military questions and economy are standing or sitting in a circle and exchanging opinions.

Not every channel had such shows in the past, but now things are different. For the audiences, some of these have replaced even the news programs. After all, your country is at war, so you need not only facts, but their assessment -- constantly.

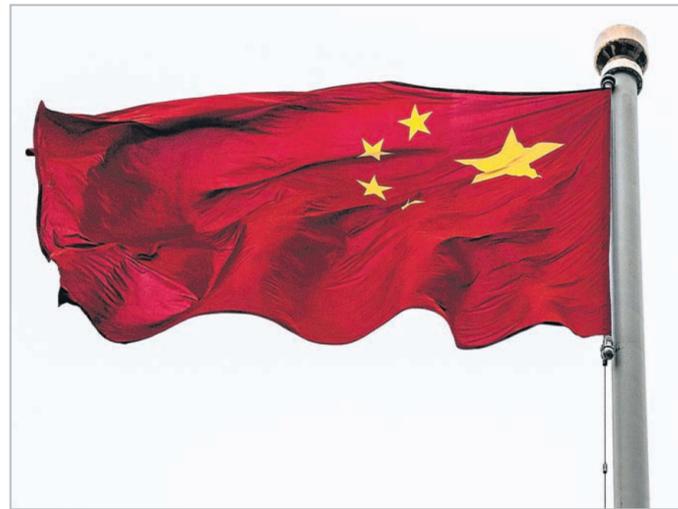
The problem is, the channels have to compete, so the shows need to be emotional, and your experts have to clash with each other. And what can be better for tickling the nerves of the audience, than debating on how reliable is China, Russia's #1 trading partner and a "strategic competitor" of the West.

At the show I've just attended as an expert on China, we were presented with a very familiar set of questions. We'll talk later about why it's familiar; let's see some of these questions right now.

Is China just using Russia in its own clash with the West? Is China really eager to replace the Western consumer goods and technologies, denied to Russia due to Western sanctions, or is it abandoning the Russian market?

Does Russia feel comfortable with China's economic activities in Central Asia and every other area of the world? Will Russia, one day, become only a junior partner of its huge neighbour?

This set of questions is vital to millions and millions of very ordinary Russians. The things is, with China, a #1 economy in the world at our side, we may rest assured that our military will easily finish the task of putting an end to that endless Ukrainian civil war -- that, inci-



dentally, is the real meaning of events unfolding in Ukraine these days. With China's help, the Western sanctions against Russia's economy will go on failing, while hurting the West, as they do now.

The Russian TV show I was attending evolved along predictable lines. These lines were dividing the experts who knew how "Xi Jinping" sounds in Russian, and the ones who could not really pronounce it. Meaning that the people who are just generally dabbling into foreign affairs have no idea about the exact facts. And facts do matter.

The anchor at the show have presented information coming from an obscure American research centre, claiming that the Russo-Chinese trade have plummeted 40 per cent in the first half of 2022. The experts on China, after an initial shock, have retorted that in fact that trade had jumped up between 30 and 40 per cent this year, and that's not just oil. The Chinese media, after all, is following the subject very closely. And that media knows its facts well. The share of China-made

gadgets in Russian shops (as in smartphones, printers and all kind of such things) used to be like 36 per cent, now it's close to 70 per cent. The Chinese factories have received Russian orders on these items that they cannot fulfil in time. And that's not to mention funny things, like a sharp rise in China's export of wooden logs to the US, while China could never produce such amount of these by itself, only Russia can, and does.

And, no, nobody in Moscow (the people in the know, that is) is worried about the growing Chinese economic activities in Central Asia or anywhere else in the world.

There are two reasons for that, one is that Russia is not producing what China does, so we are not competing. The other is, Chinese presence is welcome anywhere if it squeezes out Western presence in all forms.

And so it went on, point by point in the mentioned list of question marks about the essence of the Russo-Chinese alliance. So, where have we seen that list before?

Here you have to look at expert publications in several American magazines, from The National Interest to The American Conservative to the Foreign Affairs. One and the same idea is being discussed by many authors.

Namely, our (American, Western) war against Russia in Ukraine has failed, our sanctions have hurt ourselves more than anybody else and have alienated about two thirds of the world.

So it's time to stop posturing and making angry speeches, time to do the only thing that may yet work -- namely, look for splits that could, if we are lucky, crack the Russo-Chinese alliance, sow distrust and suspicions in the two societies.

But how exactly do you create that distrust? You introduce the proper ideas into these societies, which are of course not isolated from the global media space. The only thing you need is to make a kind of a list of questions, that may shake folks in a serious way.

Which questions are these? Why, we have already listed them. Is China just using Russia in its own clash with the West? Will Russia, one day, become only a junior partner of its huge neighbour? And so on.

I've seen all these ideas all over the Western media, from where they spill into Russia over the non-existing information borders. In fact, I've seen similar lists in 2014, when the Western sanctions began in earnest after a referendum in formerly Ukrainian Crimea, that led to its incorporation into Russia. The very same ideas about China, the unreliable ally, were circulating then with dull regularity.

And if you are not Russian, but some other China's partner, the list will be slightly different. There you'll read about "predatory nature" of Chinese business and a "debt trap".

These primitive ideas are unlikely to impress the real experts, but then there are always the TV shows to promote them.

(Dmitry Kosyrev is a columnist for the Russian State agency website ria.ru, as well as for other publications)

international

'PAK ARMY, TTP BEHIND TARGETED KILLINGS IN PASHTUN BELT'

Peshawar | Agencies

A recent wave of targeted killings has hit Pakistan's Pashtun tribal belt, a volatile region along the border with Afghanistan that was a former militant stronghold. No group has claimed responsibility for the killings, a media report said. The surge in targeted killings and assassinations has coincided with Pakistan's controversial peace negotiations with the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) extremist group, RFE/RL reported. Under a proposed peace plan that has been widely criticised, TTP militants based in Afghanistan would be allowed to return to their former strongholds in northwestern Pakistan and bear arms. Local activists and residents said the recent killings could be an attempt by Pakistan's powerful army and the TTP to silence those opposed to the peace process, a claim rejected by the militants.



Many of the victims have been Pashtun tribal elders, religious leaders, and activists critical of the army and militant groups in the region, RFE/RL reported.

Residents have long accused Pakistan's military and its intelligence agency of carrying out extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic minority. But many residents do not openly criticize the authorities for fear of

retribution. Since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, Pakistan's impoverished tribal belt became the scene of deadly army operations, US drone attacks, and militant attacks that uprooted millions of people and left thousands dead. Pashtuns make up the majority of recruits and members of militant groups active in the region, including the TTP. A massive Pakistani Army offensive in 2014 drove out the

TTP, Al-Qaeda, and foreign militant groups from Pakistan and across the border to Afghanistan, bringing relative peace to northwestern Pakistan. But since 2019, the TTP has intensified its cross-border attacks against the Pakistani Army and targeted killings have spiked.

There are no official statistics for the number of targeted killings in Pakistan. Mir Kalam Wazir, a lawmaker from the provincial assembly of the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, estimated that around 450 people have been killed in targeted killings since 2018. Most of them occurred in North Waziristan, a former TTP stronghold, he said, RFE/RL reported. There have been at least 50 targeted killings so far this year, in what observers have said is a noticeable increase. Local activists recorded 70 targeted killings in 2021 and over 50 in 2020 and 2019.

AUSTRALIA REPORTS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY COVID DEATHS

Canberra | Agencies
Australia on Friday reported the highest single-day Covid-19 deaths in recent months as the country continues to battle against the Omicron wave.

There were 157 new Covid-19 deaths reported, including 107 in Victoria and 22 in New South Wales, reports Xinhua news agency.

The new figure takes Australia's overall Covid death toll to 11,669, of which almost 10,000 have occurred in 2022. Figures published by the Guardian Australia on Friday revealed the country has one of the highest coronavirus death rates among Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations.

The seven-day average of deaths per million residents was 2.77 in the week to Wednesday, trailing only New Zealand and Norway.

Australia on Friday reported more than 40,000 new Covid-19 cases, taking the overall to 9,326,212.

According to Department of Health data, there were 5,245 cases being treated in hospitals.



GERMAN CITIES IMPOSE COLD SHOWERS, TURN OFF LIGHTS AMID RUSSIAN GAS CRISIS

Berlin | Agencies

Cities in Germany are switching off spotlights on public monuments, turning off fountains, and imposing cold showers on municipal swimming pools and sports halls, as the country races to reduce its energy consumption in the face of a looming Russian gas crisis.

Hanover became the first large city to announce energy-saving measures, including turning off hot water in the showers and bathrooms of city-run buildings and leisure centres, The Guardian reported.

Municipal buildings in the Lower Saxony state capital will only be heated from October 1,

2022 to March 21, 2021, at no more than 20 degrees Celsius room temperature, and ban the use of mobile air conditioning units and fan heaters.

Nurseries, schools, care homes and hospitals are to be exempt from the saving measures, The Guardian reported.

"The situation is unpredictable," said the city's mayor, Belit Onay, of the Green party.

"Every kilowatt hour counts, and protecting critical infrastructure has to be a priority."

Hanover's 15 per cent savings target is in line with the reductions the European Commission this week urged member states to make to ensure they can cope in the event of a total gas cutoff from Russia.

3 DEAD, 4 MISSING AS FLASH FLOODS HIT INDONESIA

Jakarta: Three people have died killed and four others were reported missing as flash floods struck Indonesia's province of Central Sulawesi, a disaster agency official said on Friday.

Heavy downpours triggered the flash floods that submerged all the houses in the Torue village of the Parigi Moutong district, the official told Xinhua news agency.

"After the impacted areas were checked, three people were killed and four others remained missing, while search and rescue office's personnel are looking for the missing people now," he added.

As the water submerged the houses by about one meter high, villagers took shelters in higher grounds, he said, adding that evacuation centres have been set up.

VIDEO FOOTAGE SHOWS UKRAINIAN POW BEING CASTRATED BY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS

London | Agencies

A horrifying video has emerged appearing to show a Ukrainian prisoner of war being castrated by his Russian captors, the media reported.

The footage shows a group of men wearing Russian camouflage pinning a soldier in Ukrainian fatigues down and using a box-cutting knife to remove his genitals and then hold them up to the camera, Daily Mail reported.

It is unclear exactly when or where the footage was taken, but some of the Russian soldiers who appear in it were filmed on the frontlines in Donbas back in June. Ukrainian MP Inna Sovsun tweeted the footage, saying: "Russia has to pay for it."

"Give Ukraine the weapons we need to stop this nightmare once and for all. The world can't pretend like this is not happening."

It is also unclear what happened to the Ukrainian soldier in the video but it is unlikely he survived his injuries without immediate medical attention.

Aric Toler, from investigative website Bellingcat has told The Times, UK that the video is likely genuine.

There is no evidence that the video has been manipulated, he said, pointing to Russian state media that showed some of the same Russian soldiers in the city of Severodonetsk back in June - shortly after it was captured from Ukraine.

Internet users are now attempting to identify the soldier seen doing the castrating, and believe he may have come from a Chechen unit that ultimately falls under the command of Vladimir Putin crony Ramzan Kadyrov, Daily Mail reported.

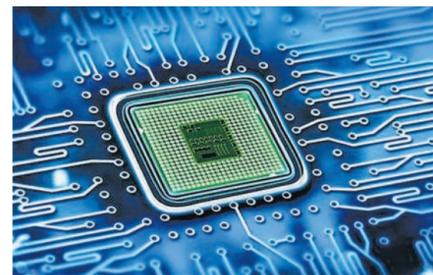
Others have suggested the camouflage he is wearing is from a Rosgvardia unit - Russian national guard that report directly to Putin.

US House clears historic \$280 bn bill to cut chip dependency on China

Washington | Agencies

After the US Senate, the House has also cleared the historic \$280 billion CHIPS and Science Act to strengthen science and technology innovation and cut dependency on China when it comes to semiconductors, manufacturing and other technologies.

The House passed the bill 243 to 187, with 24 Republicans voting alongside 219 House Democrats, on Thursday. The bill, a Biden administration priority, includes \$52 billion in subsidies to encourage chip manufacturers to build out semiconductor fabrications plants, or "fabs", in the US,



reports The Verge. Biden is now expected to sign the bill into law anytime soon.

On Wednesday, the US Senate passed a \$280 industrial policy bill 64 to 33, with 17 Republicans voting in favour. "The American peo-

ple may not know it, but semiconductors are integral to their everyday experiences. They are microchips that are used in automobiles, consumer electronics, and washing machines," said Democrat Representative

Frank Pallone Jr in a statement. The CHIPS and Science Act is the Biden administration's bet to incentivise chipmakers to reverse course and build fabs in the US. "For decades, some experts' said we needed to give up on manufacturing in America. I never believed that. Manufacturing jobs are back," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "Thanks to this bill, we are going to have even more of them."

The bill also creates a 25 per cent tax credit for semiconductor manufacturing, earmarks \$1.5 billion for technology development for US firms dependent on foreign telecommunications, according to Forbes.



SCUFFLE BETWEEN CONG AND BJP LEADERS DURING VOTING FOR DISTRICT PANCHAYAT PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A scuffle broke out between Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh and BJP Minister Vishwas Sarang over alleged 'bogus' voting for district panchayat president in Bhopal on Thursday.

Both leaders came face to face outside district panchayat office in Bhopal, while voting to elect district panchayat president was underway.

It started after Congress alleged that "nine votes were caste with fake medical certificates". Accusing the BJP of "bogus voting", several Congress leaders, including Digvijaya Singh tried to enter district panchayat office.

However, they were stopped by police personnel heavily deployed there. Meanwhile, Sarang, who is MLA from Bhopal also reached the spot and he was heard ordering the cops: "le jao inko, gundagardi ni chalegi" (Take them away, hooligans will not be tolerated).

"Anyone who is uneducated or not fit to cast their vote can get another family member to do it. They are bringing government cars full of people, who cast votes. It's a violation of



election rules," said Digvijaya Singh.

Earlier, BJP Minister Bhupendra Singh reached the District Panchayat office where Congressmen protested fiercely and did not let his vehicle enter the premises of the panchayat building. "This is my personal car. I

am a minister and have the security that is given to a minister," said Bhupendra Singh. However, Congress leaders protested against his entry into the office. Workers of BJP and Congress are creating a ruckus by gathering outside the Zila

Panchayat office in Bhopal on a large scale. Notably, the election of District Panchayat President is underway in many districts including Bhopal, which has become a question of credibility for both BJP and Congress.

Shameful for Digvijay to hold police officer's collar: VD Sharma

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the election of the President of District Panchayat in Madhya Pradesh, such a picture has come out from Bhopal, about which BJP has attacked Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh. In the picture, Singh is holding the collar of a police officer. BJP State President Vishnudutt Sharma termed the incident of misbehavior by former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh with a police officer during Bhopal district panchayat election as shameful. He said that such behavior does not suit the former Chief Minister, the way he grabbed the collar of a police officer and scuffled at the constituency, it is very shameful. He said that the basic character of Congress has been that of criminalisation. When Digvijay Singh was the Chief Minister, he encouraged crim-



inals. Even when the Kamal Nath government was there for 15 months, goondaism prevailed in the state. He said that today Kamal Nath is missing from the election and all the pressure was on Digvijay Singh, due to this also Digvijay Singh has come down on hooliganism due to the anguish of defeat. He asked Digvijay Singh that defeat in elections is a victory, but who gave you the right to take law in your hands? Congratulating the party leadership and workers

on being elected BJP-supported president in 41 districts in the district panchayat elections, BJP state president Sharma said that out of 51 district panchayats, BJP has created history by registering a historic victory at 41 places. The credit for this victory goes to the policies and schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the welfare of the poor, which our workers and public representatives have been successful in reaching the villages.

Cop caught on camera thrashing elderly, suspended

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A police constable of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district was suspended on Friday after a video of him thrashing and dragging a senior citizen went viral on social media.

While the constable was kicking and dragging the old man, several people present at the platform of Jabalpur Railway station were mute spectators.

The incident came to the fore as a passenger made a video of the entire episode and posted it on social media which went viral. However, it was yet to be ascertained as to why the constable thrashed the senior citizen. Jabalpur police said they are investigating the matter.



ZOMATO DELIVERY BOY STABBED TO DEATH IN INDORE

Indore: Zomato's delivery boy was stabbed to death in Madhya Pradesh's business city Indore, this incident took place in Banganga police station area late on Thursday night.

According to the information received from the police, 24-year-old Sunil, originally a resident of Biaora, was doing Zomato delivery work in Indore, he was going to deliver an order in Karol Bagh Colony on Thursday night, during which three youths on the way stopped him and stabbed him.

It is told that Sunil was bleeding after being stabbed and reached the hospital located about one and a half kilometers away on his motorcycle, he parked the motorcycle on one side and reached Aurobindo Hospital and told the security personnel about the incident, later Sunil was sent to MY Hospital. Was referred where he died.

There is apprehension that Sunil may have been attacked with the intention of robbery, the police have registered a case against unknown accused and started their search.

Contaminated water claims 2 lives in Damoh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two persons died and several others were hospitalised after consuming contaminated water in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district.

According to officials, the condition of those admitted is stated to be out of danger. Many of them have also been discharged. However, the incident which took place three days ago has led to panic among the villagers. On July 27, residents of a village named 'Kanchari Pati' suddenly started complaining of vomiting and abdominal pain. Soon around 35 people got admitted at a community health center in Damoh.

Doctors and other health officials suspected that they might have eaten something which turned out to be poisonous.

As per doctors at the district hospital, acute gastroenteritis and related problems are likely to have been caused by consumption of contaminated water, possibly from a well.

Meanwhile, the district administration was informed and additional health workers were deployed to cater number of patients. A 45-year-old



woman and another patient died during the treatment following which the district administration swung into action and sent a team of health officials to the village.

Contaminated water from a well caused gastroenteritis or diarrhoea, a doctor in Damoh said. Around 200 families are dependant on a well in the village for potable water.

"It seems that consumption of the

contaminated water of the well has triggered the outbreak of the stomach infection," he added. Notably, Damoh is the constituency of union minister Pahlad Patel, who is also heading Jal Shakti Mantralay which is working for Centre's dream project "Har Ghar Jal" scheme. Also, the Madhya Pradesh government has claimed that by 2024, every household will get water through taps.

CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPLINGS IN SMART CITY PARK



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Banyan, Neem and Pink Cassia saplings in the Smart City Park.

Banyan tree has religious and medicinal significance. According to Ayurveda, the treatment of many diseases is possible with the help of Banyan leaves, bark etc. Consumption of its decoction boosts the immunity. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the ultimate medicine. It is also full of medicinal qualities. The bark and leaves of Pink Cassia are used in making Ayurvedic medicines.

CM Chouhan pays homage to social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar on his death anniversary



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has paid homage to the great social reformer and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar on his death anniversary. CM Chouhan offered garland at his portrait in the auditorium at the residence office. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang was present.

Villages in Bhopal district count on communities to keep public spaces clean

Sanavver Shafi | Bhopal

Wielding a long broom to sweep the road, Sunita Bai of Acharpura says, "It is our responsibility to keep public spaces as clean as our homes. The garbage and filth in our main market is disturbing. As women, it is our duty to teach men and children to be tidy. Our men visit the tea shops and litter the place. When our children and men see us cleaning up the streets and drains, they will be shamed into using bins."

Sunita Bai and several other women from Acharpura, Gunga and numerous villages are part of the Swacchhata Maha Abhiyaan (Grand Cleanliness Campaign) initiated by the District Panchayat in all 187 gram panchayats. Two days each month will be set aside for cleaning up drains, markets and public spaces in villages by the entire community. The aim is to make people more mindful of littering these public spaces.

While the campaign needed women to lead it from the front and centre, it wasn't easy initially to get them to come forward. Smita Devi, an Acharpura local, admits, "I was sceptical when I first heard of this campaign. But I later decided to become a part of it. At home too, our husbands never care to be tidy. It is the same habit manifesting itself outside. I have become a part of this campaign to discipline our men, and teach them to be responsible."

It went beyond persuading a single individual. As Sadhana Lodhi, President of the Mahila Swayam Sahayata Samuha of Gunga village, says, "It was no small challenge to get the women working in our Swayam Sahayata Samuha (Self Help Group) involved; it is one thing to clean up your own home, and another to clean the village. Initially, they all declined. It took a lot of persuasion to get them to agree to be a part of it. Even after they had agreed, husbands and in-laws told them that cleaning up drains and roads was the job of bhangis, or sweepers. The women were too scared to defy their families. It was then that I took up the matter with District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rituraj Singh."

CEO Singh, determined to get the community involved, first spoke to the women, and then their families. A woman in Gunga



remembers how she was excited about the campaign when she first heard of it but her husband had opposed the idea. Then the matter was placed before the panchayat and CEO Singh had personally spoken to a few family members, including her husband. When they objected to allowing their women to clean the village, he said that if cleanliness was maintained in the public spaces in the first place, we wouldn't be in this situation. "If we don't correct ourselves now, our children will do the same thing in the future. I can get the whole village cleaned by myself, but if you want to do something good for the village and pass on these habits to your children, you will support the campaign," he had said.

The primary problem

Recalling the challenge she faced to engage her community in the cleanliness campaign, the newly-elected Sarpanch of Adampur Camp Gram Panchayat Krishna Rawat told 101Reporters, "Garbage dumps and filth are the greatest problems here. Despite this, people were reluctant to be part of the campaign since they felt cleaning up was the responsibility of the village panchayat, and conservancy workers ought to be deployed for the same."

"When nothing worked, we called for a chaupal (meeting) of the panchayat, to put our point of view across, while inviting villagers to voice their opinions. Just like our

panchayat was elected unopposed in a chaupal, we thought the campaign could also be debated and adopted in such a setting only. We discussed the importance of cleanliness and untedly resolved that we as a community will regularly and together take care of the cleanliness of the village."

Explaining the community-spearheaded move, Farmer Purnanlal Singh of Karondiya village told 101Reporters, "There are several problems faced by us in the village, including the shortage of water, but cleanliness is a huge challenge. It is common to see piles of garbage in public spaces. This can spread disease. The district panchayat is, hence, making efforts to tackle it; garbage is also being collected door to door." Farmers Hemant Kushwaha and Ram Singh agreed. "Water shortage and hygiene are the major problems plaguing this village. To rid ourselves of this, we are willing to pitch in."

"Of course, we have managed to stop open defecation for now through our combined efforts. Now we hope to clean up our village too," labourer Deepak Jadhav of Binapur village said.

Speaking to 101Reporters, District Panchayat CEO Rituraj Singh admitted to his resolve to elevate all 187 panchayats of the district to ODF plus ranking. This, he felt, could not be possible unless communities got involved. "We kicked off the campaign with a trial, and it proved quite successful. From now on, the campaign will be run on

the first and third Sundays every month, wherein cleaning up will be done with the help of panchayat officials and staff, members of the community, village functionaries, social activists, and representatives of NGOs, among others."

Saying that the roadmap for this campaign had been in the works for a long time, he stressed the voluntary nature of the campaign and said that no pressure will be created on anyone to participate, especially at the cost of lost wages.

Changing attitudes

More than anything else, the campaign has effected a transformation in people's attitudes to the gender roles associated with cleanliness and hygiene.

Take the case of farmer Nilesh. "Forget sweeping the home, I had never even served myself a glass of water. But now, I am part of the cleanliness campaign." The change, he admits, was wrought by the District Panchayat CEO's visit to his neighbourhood, wherein the importance of cleanliness was put across. "When I heard my wife and child talk of keeping the village clean, I resolved to become a part of this campaign. Now I have pledged to clean up my village."

Gunga Gram Panchayat Secretary Sumer Singh Rajput sums up the transformation brought about, thus, "Farmers and labourers in the village would not have liked losing a full day in cleaning up the village; hence, it posed a challenge. Besides, you can understand the attitude of those who never raise a finger to pour themselves a glass of water in their homes, to clean up drains and roads. But the trouble taken by the CEO to reach out to individual families by visiting homes door to door, worked wonders. This accounts for our success in the trial run."

As for the challenges that are bound to crop up while trying to run the campaign in a sustained manner, they will be dealt with as and when they arise, CEO Singh says. "If you worry about long-term challenges at the beginning itself, nothing will get done," he says. "Right now we have entrusted this responsibility to the gram panchayats and everything is being monitored. Panchayats that do good work will be honoured and action will be taken against those that are negligent in the campaign."



Beyonce's 'RENAISSANCE' officially arrives, singer calls out leakers

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Beyonce dropped her seventh solo album 'Renaissance' on Thursday night as scheduled, called out those who leaked the album two days early, and thanked her fans for being patient.

"So, the album leaked, and you all actually waited until the proper release time so you all can enjoy it together," she wrote. "I've never seen anything like it. I can't thank y'all enough for your love and protection."

"I appreciate you for calling out anyone that was trying to sneak into the club early," she continued. "It means the world to me."

Unusually, apart from a couple of brief teasers, Beyonce had not released any videos from the new album at the time of this article's publication, even through the first single, 'Break My Soul', dropped more than a month ago. It seems possible that a video collection is a third chapter of the project, which was originally said to comprise two albums.

Beyonce released a 65-minute film containing multiple music videos simultaneously with her previous solo album, 'Lemonade'.



DENYING BOTOX; KIM KARDASHIAN TALKS ABOUT ANTI-AGING PROCEDURES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has gone candid about her anti-aging procedures. Having repeatedly denied accusations of her using Botox to keep her youthful looks, the star shared with her fans details of her skincare treatments in erasing wrinkles and aging spots, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Kim used her Instagram Story to unleash short clips displaying her treatments.

"So Kim's here to continue her skin journey," the cosmetic specialist began sharing.

"As we get a little bit older, we get some sun, our skin develops different pigmentations, so you get all sorts of

different skin tones and colours and textures."

In the short video, Kim could be seen dressed in a white robe with her hair tied in a high bun while receiving facial care. Over the footage, she added a short explanation of the procedures by writing, "I'm having TWO treatments done simultaneously at @drghavami's MedSpa @gpsaesthetics. Moxi & Broadband Light & Sciton's Moxi Laser."

In her post, Kim also spilled on one of her treatments: "Sciton's Broadband Light: Broadband light is an advanced light therapy treatment that addresses a range of skin concerns, including acne, rosacea, age spots, sun spots, fine line and wrinkles, and uneven textures." She further explained that it "treats superficial sun damage on the face and body," adding that the treatment only took 5 minutes.

Kim additionally admitted that she is "obsessed" with skin and facial care.



'Rocky' film franchise expands with 'Drago' spinoff

Los Angeles | Agencies

"Drago", a spinoff of the film "Creed", which itself is a spinoff of "Rocky" - the successful boxing franchise starring Sylvester Stallone as the ultimate underdog Rocky Balboa, is being developed by studio MGM.

According to "Variety", Robert Lawton has been hired to write the screenplay. He got the job after impressing MGM executives with his spec script "Becoming Rocky", about the making of the first "Rocky" film, according to

The Wrap, which first reported the news of Lawton's hiring.

Though the studio didn't move ahead with his film idea, it appointed Lawton to build out a back story about Russian boxer Ivan Drago, who took on Rocky in 1985's "Rocky IV".

His character's son, Viktor Drago, appeared in 2018's "Creed II", stepping into the ring against another offspring of Rocky's rivals, Adonis Creed.

"I'm incredibly humbled and grateful for this opportunity, and I'm approaching it as an enormous fan of the 'Rocky' franchise, who happens to be a screenwriter," Lawton said in a statement to Variety.

There had been rumblings that MGM wanted to make a movie about Drago, but nothing had ever been officially announced. MGM declined to comment.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jason Momoa has dropped an interesting spoiler from 'Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom'. The actor has revealed that Ben Affleck will return in the upcoming sequel to his solo 'Aquaman' movie. The 42-year-old actor spilled the beans through his social media account, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He first took to his Instagram Story to tease fans that he's "back on set" and "can't tell you what I'm doing" as it's "top secret". "All I can say is, thank you to one of my favorite produc-

tion companies for having me and taking care of the environment, because I can't say much more," Momoa said in the video. "But good

things are happening." Later,

he got "busted" by fans who were on a tour at the studio. "Well, it's not a f***king secret anymore, is it?" he said as he filmed the fans laughing on the tour bus, before apologising for cursing in front of the kids. "That's what happens, Warner Bros., when you walk out of your set and there's our fans. ... Well, we tried to keep it a secret," the Arthur Curry depicter added, laughing at himself.

He then briefly showed Affleck in his trailer as he opened the wrong door. "REUNITED bruce and arthur," Momoa wrote in the caption.

Jason Momoa confirms Ben Affleck's return For 'Aquaman 2'



Annie Murphy blames wrong birth control pill for her mood swings

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Schitt's Creek' star Annie Murphy suffered from mood swings after being given the wrong birth control pill. Starting to take a version of the contraceptive pill as a teenager, the 35-year-old actress, who is known for her starring role as Alexis Rose on the popular show, said she was left with "ups and downs" as a result, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"It was like, 'Here's the pill, this is the thing that you use. So kind of no questions asked, my young 16-year-old brain was like, 'I trust this doctor, they want what's best for me.' And I started on the pill," she said.

"I would have goblin days where I just didn't even recognise myself; I was feeling really, really sad, really down, really anxious," she further explained. "Slowly I started putting two and two together and realising that it was the pill that was causing these really big ups and downs." However, the Emmy Award-winning actress, who has been married to rockstar Menno Versteeg since 2011, has these days switched to a different product and urged women to speak up for themselves when being prescribed something at the doctor's office.



Lily James understands why Pamela Anderson doesn't want to watch 'Pam & Tommy'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Stars Sebastian Stan and Lily James became first time nominees at Emmys, courtesy their work on the limited series 'Pam & Tommy', which was also nominated for outstanding limited or anthology series.

The Emmy nominated pair guest on the Awards Circuit podcast this week, in separate interviews, and discuss how they immersed themselves into the roles of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee, reports Variety. James also reveals what it was like going back and watching 'Baywatch' to prepare for the role and the stress of putting herself in Anderson's shoes during some of the emotionally gruelling scenes, reports Variety.

Stan discusses moments he can relate to being in the eye of the public and delves into working with his acting coach Larry Moss, who helped him prepare for Tommy. First up, James discusses how watching Anderson's early work was key to her 'Pam & Tommy' portrayal including the star's breakthrough role in 'Baywatch'. Asked how the show holds up today, James says: "A lot of montages, a lot of rock ballads. A lot of Pamela looking fucking amazing. You know what, it really stands up. And I can see why it took the world by storm because it's like these beautiful people on a beach, literally saving the world."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Amelia Hamlin



Commonwealth Games 2022

India women's hockey team beat Ghana 5-0

Birmingham | Agencies

Drag flicker Gurjit Kaur struck a brace as the Indian women's team started its campaign in the 2022 Commonwealth Games here with a comprehensive 5-0 win against minnows Ghana in a Pool A encounter here on Friday. The Indian team, seeking to redeem themselves following a below-par performance in the FIH Women's World Cup in Netherlands and Spain earlier this month, made a tentative start, scoring a goal each in the first two quarters before slamming two goals in the third and finally wrapping things up with a goal in the fourth quarter. Gurjit Kaur opened the scoring for India in the third minute when she slammed home a drag flick off a penalty corner to make it 1-0 for India. Forward Neha



made it 2-0 with a field goal in the 28th minute; Sangita Kumari made it 3-0 in the 36th minute before Gurjit converted a penalty stroke to make it 4-0 for India. Youngster Salima Tete scored the fifth goal for India four minutes from the final hooter. The Indians dominated possession (52-48), though Ghana did well in the second half and almost came close to scoring a goal. The Indians were very aggressive and made 45 attacking circle penetrations but did not take enough shots at the goal. They also missed a number of chances. Between themselves, Gurjit Kaur and Deep Grace Ekka failed to score on nine penalty corners -- their efforts either saved by the Ghana goalkeeper or a defender. Attackers Monika, Neha, Vandana Karariya, Navneet Kaur and Sangita Kumari had multiple shots at goal saved by the Ghana defensive unit. Overall it was satisfying for the Indians to get the full three points from the match.

ENGLAND'S ALEX YEE WINS FIRST GOLD OF GAMES

Birmingham:

Home favourite Alex Yee has won the first gold medal of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, taking victory for England in the men's triathlon here on Friday. Yee chased down Hayden Wilde to clinch victory in 50 minutes 34 seconds, beating the New Zealander by 13 seconds with Australia's Matthew Hauser three seconds further back. Wilde had been hit by a 10-second penalty, which cost him dear, after leading heading into the 5km run. Yee described his win as "my greatest achievement ever", adding, "It's the first time I've been able to race in front of my parents for a long time at a major Games." "I'm just happy. It's bizarre it's me that's doing this and I can feel extremely grateful to be in this situation. I feel proud to be a triathlete today, to see so many different nations who I've never raced before and who are doing triathlon for the first time." "It's just wicked. Really proud of the guys in my team, they helped me," he said.



Australia defeat India by three wickets

Birmingham | Agencies

Pacer Renuka Thakur's devastating spell of 4/18 went in vain as Ashleigh Gardner's 52 not out helped Australia defeat India by three wickets in first Group A match of women's T20 event in 2022 Commonwealth Games at Edgbaston. After skipper Harmanpreet Kaur slammed 52 off 34 balls and opener Shafali Verma chipped in with a 33-ball 48, Renuka's magnificent opening burst took out Australia's top four and with Deepti Sharma (2-26) taking out Rachael Haynes, Australia were in deep trouble at 49-5. But Gardner stitched stands of 51 with Grace Harris (37 off 20 balls) and 47 with Alana King (18 not out) to be unbeaten for a 35-ball 52, hitting nine boundaries under pressure to take Australia to a cracking victory on cricket's



comeback in the multi-sport event. They were also helped by the fact that apart from Renuka and Deepti, rest of the Indian bowling attack had an off day.

Brief scores
India 154/8 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 54, Shafali Verma 48; Jess Jonassen 4/22, Megan Schutt 2-26) lost to Australia 157/7 in 19 overs (Ashleigh Gardner 52 not out, Grace Harris 37; Renuka Thakur 4/18, Deepti Sharma 2/24) by three wickets

Shiva Thapa romps past Pakistani opponent into pre-quarters



Birmingham | Agencies

India's former World Championship bronze medallist, Shiva Thapa made a strong start in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games here on Friday, outplaying Pakistan's Suleman Baloch 5-0 in a Round of 32 bout in the men's light welterweight division (60kg-63.5 kg) to make it to the pre-quarterfinals here. Playing from the Red corner, Shiva, the lone Indian boxer on display on the opening day of the competition, started strongly and did not give his opponents any chance as he won a unanimous decision for

a win on points. The seasoned Shiva launched a flurry of punches at the start of each of the three rounds and was scored as the winner by all five court-side judges. He was scored 30-26, 30-25, 30-28, 30-36, 30-26 and 30-23 for the bout by the five judges. India has put up a strong 12-member team including eight male and four female boxers. Shiva, the former Asian Championships gold medallist, was too strong for Suleman Baloch, Pakistan's national champion in his division. Shiva will now take on Reese Lurch of Scotland in the Round of 16 bout on Sunday (July 31).

INDIAN PADDLERS OUTPLAY BARBADOS 3-0 IN MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION

Birmingham: Led by Achinta Sharath Kamal and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, India expectedly defeated Barbados 3-0 in their opening match in the Men's Team section of Commonwealth Games table tennis competitions at Hall 3 at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) at Solihull here on Friday. India's top singles players Sathiyam and Sharath Kamal won their matches 3-0 in the best-of-five contest. Sathiyam had earlier paired up with Harmeet Desai to win the doubles match to give India a winning start. The make-shift pair of Sathiyam and Harmeet outgunned Kevin Farley and Tyrese Knight 11-9, 11-9, and 11-4 in straight games. Though the first two games looked close, the Indians were never in danger of losing a game though their opponents put up a good fight. The Indians won eight of the 11 points in the first game on serve, claiming a total 18 out of the overall 33 points they won the match on service. The 40-year-old Sharath Kamal then stepped to the table and made short work of Ramon Maxwell, beating him 3-0 (11-5, 11-3, 11-3) to make it 2-0 for India. Sathiyam then sealed victory for India by beating Tyrese Knight 3-0 (11-4, 11-4, 11-5) to seal the comfortable victory for the defending champions.



Easy openers for Sindhu, Srikanth as India beat Pak in mixed team badminton

Birmingham: Though it was only their first match and the opponent too was not so strong, the Indian thinktank pushed in some heavy artillery in the form of World Championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu in their opening match of the Mixed Team competition against Pakistan here on Friday. India are the defending champion in the Mixed Team competition and also the most successful team in the 2018 edition of the Games in Gold Coast, Australia. Both Srikanth and Sindhu had won silver medals in men's singles and women's singles respectively. Pakistan players had not crossed the Round of 32. There is also a huge ranking disparity between players from the two countries. But the coaches apparently wanted the Indian heavyweight to have some early match practice and put in both Sindhu and Srikanth besides the top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. India eventually outplayed Pakistan 3-0, handing the min-



nows a comprehensive defeat without even breaking a sweat. The mixed doubles pair of B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponappa set the ball rolling for India as it defeated Mohammad Irfan Saeed Bhatti and Ghazala Siddique of Pakistan 21-8, 21-12 in straight games. Srikanth then stepped into the court at the NEC Hall No 5 to get the better of Murad Ali, playing in his second successive Commonwealth Games, a 21-7, 21-12 defeat. World No 7 PV Sindhu then sealed victory for India as she defeated Mahoor Shahzad 21-7, 21-6 in double quick time. Senior player Srikanth was happy with his performance though he said he was initially a bit tense as he was playing his first match here.

MANIKA BATRA LEADS WOMEN'S TT TEAM TO EASY WIN OVER SOUTH AFRICA

Birmingham: The Indian women's table tennis team started its defence of the title it won four years ago at Gold Coast by outplaying South Africa 3-0 in a Group 2 preliminary round match at Hall 3 at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Solihull, here on Friday. The team spearheaded by star paddler Manika Batra did not have to break a sweat as it handed South Africa a comprehensive defeat. Manika won her singles match in straight games against Musfiqah Kalam, Reeth Tennison and Sreeja Akula while the doubles while Sreeja Akula overcome Danisha Patel for a comprehensive 3-0 win for the favourites. Reeth and Sreeja set the ball rolling for India as they defeated the South African pair of Laitaa Edwards and Danisha Jayavant Patel 11-7, 11-7, 11-5. Reeth and Sreeja took an early lead in each of the three games in the best of five games match and did not allow their lower-ranked opponents many chances. Manika Batra was at the table for the first singles game and thoroughly outplayed her opponent, Musfiqah Kalam, allowing her to win only 10 points combined in the three games, romping to an 11-5, 11-3, 11-2 win in double quick time.



Protesting Pakistan contingent for Chess Olympiad returns home via Attari-Wagah border

Ravinder Singh Robin | Attari-Wagah (Amritsar)

Protesting over the Chess Olympiad torch passing through Kashmir, the 13-member Pakistan team, including two officials, crossed the international border via the Integrated Check Post (ICP) here and returned home on Friday. The Pak chess team had arrived in India to participate in the 44th Chess Olympiad being held in Chennai from July 29 to August 10. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had accused India of mixing politics with sports. As a mark of protest, the Pakistan government announced the pull-out of its contingent. The contingent had also refused to take part in the opening ceremony on July 28, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With withdrawal of Pakistan, the total number of confirmed entries for the Chess Olympiad has gone down to 187 in the Open category and 161 in the women's section.



India was allowed to field a third team to make the entries into even. Normally, a Chess Olympiad host nation can field two teams in both the sections. The FIDE had earlier banned Russia and Belarus from participating in the event following Russia's military action in Ukraine. China is also not participating in the event.



Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Dominant India U-20 registered their first victory in the ongoing SAFF U-20 Championship after they beat Sri Lanka 4-0 at the Kalinga Stadium, here on Friday. After a barren first-half, goals from Himanshu Jangra (50th minute), a brace from Parthiv Gogoi (69th and 90+3rd minutes), and Gurkirat Singh (73rd minute) made the difference between the two teams. The tireless Jangra, who wasn't to be bogged down all throughout, followed a deep Parthiv Gogoi cross from the right and nodded it home to open the scoring five minutes after the interval. Immediately thereafter, Jangra had another chance to double the lead two minutes later. But after being set-up in the clear by Vibin Mohanan,

Dominant India register 4-0 win over Sri Lanka

his first-time shot on goal was palmed away by an outstretched rival goalkeeper Shane Banuka. The wait for the second goal, however, wasn't that long -- and it came in the 69th minute - this time Jangra turned feeder for Gogoi. Collecting it around the offensive third, Jangra, with the outstep of his foot, found Gogoi inside the rival box. An ice-cold Gogoi, trapped it, cut in as his rasping right footer bulged the net. The third goal came three minutes later - in the 72nd minute. Gogoi's volley hit Sidque Kalik's hand and the referee pointed to the spot. Gurkirat Singh, who had failed to head into an empty net off a Jangra cross some minutes back, gleefully converted from the spot. Gogoi completed the rout in 90+2 - and all he had to do was to tap it into the empty net after Gurkirat outran the entire rival defence to set it up for Gogoi. The two changes by Head Coach Shanmugam Venkatesh at half-time - Gurkirat and

Taison Singh coming in for Sajad Parray, and Harsh Patre -- enabled India to go attack in numbers, and make the domination count. Earlier in the first-half, the easiest chance fell to Jangra in the 36th minute but Banuka anticipated it right to deny him. The nimble-footed Brajesh Giri, despite the jungle of legs, had managed to find Jangra at the top of the box. The latter sidestepped his marker with a deft first touch, but with just the Lankan goalkeeper to beat, Jangra shot directly at Banuka. Much in frustration, Giri was booked by the referee the very next minute for a nasty foul. Jangra also picked up a yellow in the 81st minute, and was substituted two minutes later. A minute's silence was observed prior to the kick-off in memory of Late Gulab Chauhan, former member AIFF Executive Committee and FIFA Referee, also Secretary, Gujarat State Football Association who passed away on Thursday.

1ST T20I: INDIA THRASH WEST INDIES BY 68 RUNS, TAKE 1-0 LEAD IN SERIES

Tarouba (Trinidad) | Agencies

Impressive knocks by captain Rohit Sharma and veteran Dinesh Karthik followed by a clinical bowling effort powered India to a comprehensive 68-run win over West Indies in the first T20I and helped them take 1-0 lead in the five-match series at Brian Lara Stadium, here on Friday. A brilliant half-century by Rohit (64 off 44) and final flourish by Karthik (41 not out off 19) propelled India to 190/6 in 20 overs, after they were invited to bat first. Apart from Rohit and Karthik, Suryakumar Yadav (24 off 16) was the other main contributor with the bat for India. Chasing a challenging total, Kyle Mayers made his intent clear at the very start, going all guns blazing against the Indian pacers. However, he couldn't last long, as Arshdeep Singh set him up with a short delivery. The move to send Jason Holder backfired as he was cleaned up by Ravindra Jadeja. Shamarh Brooks was the next to depart, bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Ravichandran Ashwin also recovered from being hit for a few boundaries by getting the big scalp of Nicholas Pooran, as the hosts found themselves at 66/4. It was a tall task for West Indies from there and the Indian spinners ensured that there was no miraculous chase on the



cards. Ashwin took another wicket, while Ravi Bishnoi also bowled with great guile after being introduced into the attack. Eventually, West Indies were restricted to 122-8 in 20 overs, losing by a huge margin. Ravichandran Ashwin (2/22), Arshdeep Singh (2/24) and Ravi Bishnoi (2/26) were the most successful bowlers for India. Earlier, India tried out a new opening pair as Suryakumar Yadav came to start the innings along with Rohit. The duo put up a quickfire opening partnership of 44 runs off 28 balls before Suryakumar (24 off 16) got out to Akeal Hosen in the fifth over. Shreyas Iyer, who came to bat next departed for a duck in the 6th over as India ended the

powerplay at 45/2. The India captain was hitting regular boundaries, including a pull for a six off Joseph and helped India make good progress despite the couple of quick wickets. Pant also got into the act with a couple of boundaries off Keemo Paul but ended up edging the last ball of the 10th over to short third man to depart for 14 off 12, leaving India to 88/3. Despite the wicket of Pant, Rohit remained positive and got to a 35-ball fifty with two successive fours off Joseph. But Hardik fell in the same over, ramping a short delivery to third-man where McCoy took a good catch. From there on, it was left to Karthik - the designated finisher - to do the job for India. The veteran justified his role and he along with R Ashwin (13 not out off 10) scored 21 and 15 runs in the 19th and 20th over respectively and took India to 190-6 in 20 overs. Alzarri Joseph (2/46), Jason Holder (1/50), Akeal Hosen (1/14), Keemo Paul (1/24), Obed McCoy (1/30) were the wicket-takers for West Indies.

Brief scores
India 190/6 (Rohit 64, Karthik 41 not out; Alzarri Joseph 2/46) in 20 overs beat West Indies 122/8 in 20 overs (Shamarh Brooks 20; Ravichandran Ashwin 2/22, Arshdeep Singh 2/24) by 68 runs

'Virat Kohli asked selectors to rest him for West Indies tour': Ashok Malhotra

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Star India batter Virat Kohli has grabbed more headlines for his ongoing rough patch than for his power-packed performances for so many years. Since 2019, Virat Kohli has been struggling with his form. It's not like he has not scored runs but the batting marvel has set his standards so high that mere 40 or 50 odd runs would not be counted in line with his talent and potential as anything less than a century is considered a low score by Kohli. With Kohli's recent poor performances, questions have also been raised about his place in the team. choing

similar sentiments, former India cricketer Ashok Malhotra said that it is high time for the team management to look beyond Kohli and give opportunities to youngsters who have performed well in the recent past. "I know he is a great player but it is difficult to make a comeback in the shorter format. It is easy to come back in the longer format, you have time there. But in T20Is, you have to hit from the word go and keep the momentum going. I think these are worrying signs for Virat Kohli," Malhotra, who is the President and Director of the Indian Cricketers' Association, told Jagran TV.



'ANNAKONDA' IN MUMBAI'S LOCAL TRAIN



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday starrer Pan-India sports drama *Liger* is all set to hit the silver screens on 25 August 2022. Be it the poster, the first song of the film to the trailer, with each passing day the excitement for the film goes up a notch higher among the audience.

Ananya Panday and Vijay Deverakonda and leaving no stones

turned to promote their film.

Earlier today, Vijay and Ananya opted for a unique way to promote their film, *Liger*. The co-stars were seen travelling in an empty local train in Mumbai to beat the traffic for their radio trails and the photos and videos are doing the rounds on the internet.

Ananya Panday shared a glimpse of the local train ride on her social media handle and looks like the two had fun. In one of the pictures, Ananya and Vijay were seen chatting with each other, in the other it was seen that Vijay took a nap in Ananya's lap while travel-

ling. For the event, Ananya opted for a yellow crop top with denim while Vijay looked handsome in a casual black t-shirt paired with jeans.

While sharing the photos on Instagram, Ananya Panday wrote, "#LIGER promotions are 'on track' let's go boyzzzzzzz (sic)."

For the unversed, Ananya and Vijay's pan-India film is directed by filmmaker Puri Jagannadh and backed by Karan Johar's production house.

Arjun Bijlani and Shraddha Arya join Karan Johar's next project

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Arjun Bijlani and Shraddha Arya are among the popular names on television. Well, the two have all the right reasons to rejoice as they are all set to join hands with ace filmmaker Karan Johar.

Sharing the news with their fans and followers, Shraddha and Arjun shared pictures with Karan Johar and gave a glimpse of the note they received.

Well, the details about the project in which they are going to appear are not revealed. But speculations are rife that the two are all set to make a brief appearance in Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh starrer *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani*.

On the work front, Arjun Bijlani was recently seen with Kanika Mann in the web show *Roohaniyat*. While Shraddha Arya is seen in the popular daily soap *Kundali Bhagya*.



Good Luck Jerry: The outstanding portrayal of a fantastic Script

FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Direction: Sidharth Sengupta

Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Deepak Dobriyal, Sahil Mehta, Mita Vashisht, Sushant Singh, Hardy Nation - Jaswant Singh Dalal, Saurabh Sachdeva.

Run time: 2 hours 28 minutes

Ratings: 3.5/5 (three and half stars)

Synopsis

The film is the official remake of the Tamil movie *Kolamaavu Kokila*, which tells the story of an innocent girl who gets pulled into the notorious world of cocaine smuggling.

Story

The film begins with a lighter tone, establishing the characters and the fundamental plot. Janhvi plays Jerry, an innocent yet intelligent young lady who gets herself into trouble in order to get finances for her mother's cancer treatment. Throughout the film, you have a strong desire to learn more, and there is no feeling that the film is wasting time. The total film is a true masterpiece, with not a single moment of boredom. The film's comedy quotient is so strong that you will laugh your eyes out while viewing it.

Finally, certain facts may surprise you, while others may strike an emotional chord in your heart.



The writing was excellent and crisp. The punches were perfect, with the only overdose being the wow factor. We haven't seen anything like this in years. In the first part of the film, Janhvi's character appears innocent and sweet, but as the film progresses, you realise how incredible and brilliant Jerry is.

The finest part of the film was the introduction in the first 10-15 minutes, where we saw animation after aeons to create the vibe and set the right mood.

Regarding the film's music. There are just a few songs in the film, but they are utilised brilliantly. The tunes and the beat were so apt that even in the most serious situation, you couldn't help but chuckle and enjoy every second of the drama.

This movie is the result of a collaborative effort by each artist. Without a question, Janhvi Kapoor has nailed the role of Jerry, but the whole ensemble of *Good Luck Jerry* has contributed to making

this picture a masterpiece. Throughout the film, not a single character appeared to be unproductive.

Jigar, a Punjabi youngster who is part of the gangster crew, was one of my favourite characters. Everything about his comic time, method of discussion, action or drama he does was nothing but fantastic.

Technically speaking, this picture doesn't have any exceptional VFX, but any movie is weak if the crew doesn't perform their tasks well, and without a question, everyone has effortlessly nailed their roles. The proper amount of close-ups, pans and other effects have created this film a masterpiece.

Whether you like Janhvi Kapoor or not, if you enjoy good content, you will love this flick. This film is unquestionably entertaining. One can also claim that the film had the potential to be a box office success. In short, this movie is definitely worth a watch.

Happy Birthday Sanjay Dutt

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Son of Sunil Dutt and Nargis, Sanjay Dutt made his debut in 1981 with the commercially successful drama, *Rocky*.

Since then, there is no looking back for this Khalnayak of Bollywood. Be it playing an action hero, a romantic one, or the boy next door, perfect family man, or menacing and ruthless villain, Sanjay Dutt makes sure to ace every role with conviction. At the time when the protagonist steals the show in the films, Sanjay Dutt as an antagonist makes sure to leave an indelible mark with his intense avatar. And undoubtedly, the audience loves to hate him.

Apart from the professional front, Sanjay Dutt's personal life has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride. From being at the highest point in his career to being looked at not just as a drug addict but also as a terrorist by society, the actor has seen it all and has only emerged even more stronger than ever. One cannot deny the fact that with his charming personality, he got the heart racing of every girl out there. For those who are unaware, Maanayata Dutt is Sanjay Dutt's third wife, who he calls his pillar of strength. Family comes first for Sanjay, and some of the adorable pictures with his loved ones are proof of it.

On the occasion of the versatile actor's birthday, let's have a look at some of his family pictures.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sneha Ghosh

EK VILLAIN RETURNS: THE REAL VILLAIN IS THE SCRIPT

FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Direction: Mohit Suri

Cast: Disha Patani (Rasika), John Abraham (Bhairav), Tara Sutaria (Aarvi) and Arjun Kapoor (Gautam)

Run time: 2 hours 09 minutes

Ratings: 1.5/5 (one and half stars)

Synopsis

Another serial murderer has been born eight years after Rakesh Mahadkar reigned terror in Mumbai. More brutal and dangerous, but with the same cover, the Smiley Mask. *Ek Villain Returns* is the narrative of two guys who are in a one-sided love relationship. The pathways they choose to realise

their love stories determine who is the Hero and who is the Villain.

Story

The film opens with an introduction to the characters of Gautam and Aarvi, followed by Rasika and Bhairav. The film establishes early on that John's character is killing every female who has broken someone's heart.

During this time, he meets Aarvi and decides to kill her in order to relieve Gautam's heart. The storyline for the film is horrible, and nothing can redeem it. Throughout the film, the characters perform absurd things that do nothing except make you laugh at the screenplay.

The script's weak writing and some filthy dialogue make matters worse. If you want to laugh and make fun of anything, this movie is for you; it provides you with plenty of opportunities to do so. The film has a metro train that stops just

when the fight between the two major characters finishes and Bhairav decides to elope. In the film, a truck arrives just in time to prevent Bhairav from falling, only to leave him alongside his car.

The most hilarious scene in the film was a romantic song for the villain right after the first murder and also when a female dies as a result of a strong grip and a fracture in his spinal cord. It was disheartening to find that some woman's death certificates may list spine fracture as a cause of death.

Concerning the film's soundtrack. There was a lot of music in the picture because Tara was a musician. To be honest, the filmmakers attempted to duplicate Gallyian and failed miserably. In addition, the film's other songs were as ineffective as the Gallyian remake.

There is nothing particular to say about the performances of the different characters. It appears like Disha overacted, whereas John did



not act at all. Tara is gorgeous and attractive, but she doesn't justify the feeling with the correct representation. Arjun tried, but he also ended in failure. It appears that the film's bad screenplay and wrong selection had a toll on the cast as well.

Technically, this film doesn't have any exceptional VFX, but any

film is poor if it lacks a compelling story to back it up. *Ek villain returns* fail at the first hurdle of having a good tale to comment about technicalities.

There is 0% possibility that you will enjoy the film's screenplay. The narrative of the film does not deserve the money spent on it. This film is a complete waste of time.