

absolute india

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GOOGLE'S PARENT COMPANY ALPHABET TO LAY OFF 12K EMPLOYEES

DEEPLY SORRY: PICHAI

▶ THE ROLES THE COMPANY IS ELIMINATING CUT ACROSS ALPHABET, PRODUCT AREAS, FUNCTIONS, LEVELS, AND REGIONS.

▶ MORE THAN 1,600 TECH EMPLOYEES ARE BEING LAID OFF PER DAY ON AN AVERAGE IN 2023 GLOBALLY, INCLUDING IN INDIA, AND THE SACKING EPISODES HAVE GAINED SPEED AMID GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN AND RECESSION FEARS.

▶ AMAZON ANNOUNCED TO LAY OFF 18,000 EMPLOYEES GLOBALLY, INCLUDING NEARLY 1,000 IN INDIA.

▶ GOOGLE WILL PAY 2022 BONUSES AND REMAINING VACATION TIME TO THOSE IMPACTED.



In an email to employees, Pichai said the company has already sent a separate email to employees in the US who are affected by the layoffs. "In other countries, this process will take longer due to local laws and practices," he added.

In the US, Google will pay employees during the full notification period (minimum 60 days) and also offer a severance package starting at 16 weeks salary, plus two weeks for every additional year at Google, and accelerate at least 16 weeks of GSU (Google stock) vesting.

"We'll be offering 6 months of healthcare, job placement services, and immigration support for those affected. Outside the US, we'll support employees in line with local practices," said Pichai.

The Google CEO said that these are important moments to "sharpen our focus, reengineer our cost base, and direct our talent and capital to our highest priorities".

The layoffs at Google's parent company were expected amid the deepening funding winter that has hit companies of all sizes in the global slowdown and recession fears.

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said earlier this week that the company will be "making changes that will result in the reduction of our overall workforce by 10,000 jobs through the end of FY23 Q3 (third quarter)".

SWIGGY LAYS OFF 380 EMPLOYEES



New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Swiggy on Friday confirmed that the company is laying off 380 employees as food delivery growth slows.

The impacted employees will receive a minimum assured payout of 3 months, which will include variable pay/incentives at 100 per cent.

The joining bonus and retention bonus paid out will be waived off.

Moreover, the affected employees will get medical insurance coverage for themselves and nominated family members till 31st May, 2023, the company mentioned.

The company also said that it will be shutting down its meat marketplace very soon as the company was not able to achieve product-market fit despite their iterations.

If needed we will take legal action against WFI: Bajrang Punia

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Friday formed a seven-member committee to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The Members of the committee are Mary Kom, Dola Banerjee, Alaknanda Ashok, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sahdev Yadav and two advocates.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia on Friday addressed the media in a press conference held by protesting wrestlers here at Jantar Mantar and said that if needed, they "will take the legal route" to get their demands fulfilled.

Punia said, they "have only one demand which is to dissolve the federation" adding that the protesting wrestlers will go back to their homes if their demands are fulfilled by the government.

"Still, many players are scared that there are many tournaments ahead, and what will happen to them. So, we have cancelled them. Hopefully, this information will reach to the young athletes through media," Punia added.

He further said, like the WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan said that he will hang himself if the allegations against him are to be proven then "we hope that day will come soon." Star wrestler Vinesh Phogat alleged that the WFI President has been sexually harassing female wrestlers.



Wrestlers write to IOA chief PT Usha

New Delhi: Olympian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Ravi Dahiya, and Deepak Punia on Friday wrote to PT Usha, president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) regarding the "sexual harassment" complaints against Wrestling Federation India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. In a letter to the IOA president, the top Indian grapplers accused Brij Bhushan of sexual exploitation and financial irregularities.

WFI CHIEF REFUSED TO QUIT

"If I make a statement, there will be a tsunami. I am not here on anyone's charity. I am an elected representative. There is no question of resigning. I have not spoken with the Prime Minister's Office and Home Minister."

GOVT ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS; FINE UP TO RS 50L, 6-YR BAN ON REPEAT OFFENCE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Social media influencers and celebrities will face a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh, which can go up to Rs 50 lakh on repeat offence and even lead to a ban of up to six years, on violation of guidelines for them, which were released by the consumer affairs ministry on Friday.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told mediapersons, while releasing the guidelines, that the whole issue is centred around consumers' right.

"It is the responsibility of the endorser, celebrities and influencers or other advertisers to truthfully disclose whatever information the consumer must know before making any decision for purchase," the guidelines said.

Singh further said social media influencers should disclose the nature of their endorsements.

Influencers are defined as creators who advertise products with a strong influence on the decisions or opinions of their audience. Virtual influencers, which are defined as fictional computer-generated people with realistic features of humans, are also required to disclose their endorsements, the guidelines said further.



The department noted that, "When there is a material connection between an advertiser and celebrity/influencer that may affect the weight or credibility of the representation made by the celebrity/influencer."

These material connections include monetary or other forms of compensation, free products, contests and sweepstakes entries, trips or hotel stays, media barter, coverage and awards, or any personal, family or employment relationship,

the rules note.

The influencers should be able to substantiate the claims made by them. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides the framework for the protection of consumers against unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.

The product and service must have been actually used or experienced by the endorser, the ministry said, adding that consumers can seek legal actions against those defaulting.

Joshimath crisis: Demolition work halted due to heavy snowfall

Joshimath | Agencies

The demolition of the structures declared unsafe after being affected by land subsidence in Joshimath has come to a halt due to heavy snowfall, which has added to the woes of the residents. Their belongings, lying outside Hotel Mount View and Malari Inn, are covered in snow as they could not be shifted due to the adverse weather.

The national highway near the hotels has been opened after the demolition drive was halted.

More than a dozen villages in Chamoli district are covered with snow. The weather in the city is freezing due to rain and snowfall in the area, since Thursday evening.

Chamoli DM Himanshu Khurana said that the labourers are unable to work, which is why the demolition work has been stopped. It will be resumed when the weather improves.

The Mandal-Chopta highway and the Ghat-Ramani motorway have been closed due to snowfall. According to information received from the District Disaster Control Room on Friday, several areas including Badrinath Dham, Hemkund Sahib, Auli, Gorson Bugyal, Lal Mati and villages like Sutol, Kanol, Dumak, Kalgoth are experiencing snowfall.

About two feet of fresh snow has accumulated in Badrinath Dham and up to three feet in Hemkund Sahib. The Joshimath and Ghingharan region experienced the year's first snowfall. The district administration has made arrangements for bonfires at various places in the city in view of the harsh weather.

The administration has permitted the people of Jaypee colony to demolish the 15 houses declared unsafe in the colony themselves.

The Shri Badri-Kedar Temple Committee has banned Yagya, rituals and other events without permission in Narsingh Temple premises. According to Secretary, Disaster Management, Ranjit Sinha, the water leakage near Jaypee colony has increased from 100 LPM to 150 LPM. Sinha said that as per the reports of the crackometer installed in the affected buildings, the cracks have not increased in the last three days.



1.8 KG 'URANIUM' SEIZED IN PATNA, 9 ARRESTED

Patna: Nine persons, including two Nepalese nationals, were arrested in Patna on Friday for smuggling highly radioactive "uranium metal", police said.

A team of Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) learnt about a uranium consignment that reached the city's Patrakar Nagar police station area, a team was set up, and carried out a raid, seizing the metal and arresting nine.

Apart from two Nepalese nationals, the 7 others belong to Patna and Purnea districts.

According to an ATS Patna official, who requested anonymity, the 1.8 kg of highly radioactive metal was in two black bags with each having 900 gram weight. The manufacturing and expiry dates of June 3, 2017 and October 28, 2024, respectively mentioned on each of the bags, which also had "metal from the US" written on them.

The officials have sent the seized items to a forensic lab to ascertain the actual nature of the substance.

US covertly sponsoring IS, says Russia

Moscow | Agencies

The US has been reaching out to armed groups that oppose the Taliban and secretly giving money to Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS), as per Russia's Presidential envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, media reports said.

Asked if the US is in contact with the Afghan opposition, Kabulov, in an interview with Russia 24 TV on Friday, said: "Yes, there is such data", RT reported.

The Americans have been acting this way "because they really want to avenge their shameful military-political defeat in Afghanistan, and in retaliation they do everything so that peace isn't established in this troubled land".

"But worst of all is that, in addition to contacts with the armed opposition in Afghanistan, the Anglo-Saxons are covertly sponsoring Islamic State, who are aimed at undermining not only the stability of our Central Asian partners... but also the security of Russia," Kabulov added.

The US and its allies pulled out of Afghanistan in August 2021 after a two-decade intervention. The chaotic withdrawal, which saw billions of dollars' worth of American military equipment left behind, was carried out after the Taliban swept through the country and captured the capital, Kabul in a matter of weeks, facing little resistance from the Afghan military which US forces had trained to resist it.

Siachen Hero Captain Bana Singh joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu

Jammu (Kathua) | Agencies

Param Vir Chakra awardee Captain Bana Singh (retired) joined the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of Rahul Gandhi in Kathua district on Friday.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi could be seen holding Captain Bana Singh's hand as the 'Yatra' resumed its Jammu and Kashmir leg on Friday.

Rahul Gandhi appreciated Captain Bana Singh's presence in the yatra through a tweet.

"Whenever we speak of protecting India and its ideals, the names of brave sons of the country like Bana Singh are taken," he wrote.

"Captain Bana Singh, a Param Vir Chakra winner who hoisted the tricolour on the icy heights of Siachen, is



an inspiration to me and every patriot," Rahul Gandhi added in his tweet.

Captain Bana Singh (Retired) was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, the high-

est gallantry award for his contribution to 'Operation Rajiv'. He is known to have captured Pakistan's Qaid Post in Siachen Glacier and hoisted the national flag.

The post was renamed 'Bana Post' after that.

Shiv Sen leader Sanjay Raut also joined the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Kathua on Friday.

JD-U leader warns of 'turning cities into Karbala'

Ranchi | Agencies

A convention on social reform was conducted by an organisation called Idara-e-Shariah at Karbala Maidan on Thursday, where Rasool spoke to the crowd of thousands, who raised slogans upon hearing him.

He termed it surprising that none of the leaders of parties who claimed to be "secular" had condemned Sharma's statement.

Rasool said that "we would not tolerate anything which raised questions on the community's Messenger (Prophet Mohammad)". Gulam Rasool Balyawi stood firm on his controversial 'Karbala' remarks that he had made in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Thursday. "I am firm on my statement and need not to take it back," Balyawi said.





CHARGE SHEET CAN'T BE EQUATED WITH AN FIR FOR FREE PUBLIC ACCESS: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday junked a PIL seeking free public access to charge sheets filed by police departments and investigative agencies - CBI and ED -- saying that a charge sheet is not a public document.

It also held that copies of the charge sheet and the relevant documents along with the charge-sheet do not fall within Section 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act (RTI) Act.

The bench said: "Putting the FIR on the website cannot be equated with putting the charge sheets along with the relevant documents on the public domain and on the websites of the state governments."



It stressed that if charge sheets are put on the public domain, then it will be contrary to the scheme of the Criminal

Procedure Code and may also violate the rights of the accused as well as the victim and/or even the investigating agency.

LEENA MANIMEKALAI PROTECTED FROM ARREST OVER GODDESS KALI POSTER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim protection from arrest to filmmaker Leena Manimekhalai in multiple FIRs lodged against her for depicting Hindu goddess Kaali smoking a cigarette in a poster of her documentary.

The bench said: "At this stage, prima facie, it appears that the institution of FIRs in multiple states would be a matter of serious prejudice to the petitioner. We are inclined to issue notice so that all the FIRs shall be consolidated in one and the same place in accordance with law."

The bench said pending further orders, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner either on the basis of the FIRs which have been instituted against her, or pursuant to any other FIR which may have been lodged or may be lodged hereafter in respect of the same film.

Jaipur Literture Festival, Day 2

The perfect mix of traditional and contemporary

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The second day of the iconic Jaipur Music Stage opened with a refreshing mix of traditional and popular music at the festival's cherished home Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur on 20th January 2023. Following the musical extravaganza of opening evening, Day 2 of the Music Stage featured a coveted lineup of artistes, including the extraordinary folk music ensemble Rhythms of India featuring BC Manjunath, Darshan Doshi, Nathu Lal Solanki, Pramath Kiran, Praveen D Rao, Ned McGowan and Varjashree Venugopal; and the trans-cultural musical factory of ideas Peter Cat Recording Company (PCRC). Talking about the festival, Peter Cat Recording Co., said, "We are very excited to



bring music to a space that encourages literary and creative thought outside the bounds of mainstream art and culture in India, and we'll hopefully add a new dimension to this year's Jaipur Literature Festival." On performing at the Jaipur Music Stage 2023, Rhythms of India artist, BC Manjunath said, "Our main aim is to create melody through rhythms and rhythms through melody. The group plays a wide variety of instruments and genres as we belong to the music traditions of Carnatic, Hindustani, Light

Classical, Improvised Jazz, and World Music while embracing influences from many other music forms from around the world. It will be a unique experience with different emotions of music."

The Peter Cat Recording Co. (PCRC) left the audience stunned and stimulated as they concluded the Music Stage with a spectacular performance at the 2023 edition. People all across the globe attended the Festival and rejoiced in the diversity that the Jaipur Music Stage offers for all its attendees.

Husband, in-laws convicted of murdering woman for dowry 15 years ago

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Delhi court has convicted four accused, including the husband, in the case relating to a woman, who died on October 3, 2007 in unnatural circumstances, of causing her death for dowry and subjecting her to cruelty.

Additional Sessions Judge Gautam Manan held the four - husband, mother-in-law, father-in-law and brother-in-law - guilty under Sections 498 A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 304 B (dowry death), and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

"...It is held that prosecution has been successful to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt against accused persons for the offences under Sections 498 A, 304 B and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. They are convicted for said offences," he said.

The court listed the matter for arguments on sentencing on January 30.

However, the court acquitted the accused of the charges of murder and causing disappearance of evidence. It was stated that even though the Investigating Officer (IO) added the murder charge after receiving the post-mortem report, he did not look into the murder trail. The cause of death was suffocation



from smothering, the court noted, citing the post-mortem findings.

It stated that neither was any evidence inspected or seized in this regard, nor did authorities attempt to determine how the woman was suffocated.

"Prosecution has not discharged its initial onus to prove the manner and persons behind homicidal death," the court said.

"Incidents narrated by prosecution witnesses cannot be segregated from one another and they all form a part of the continuous transaction. These incidents qualify the criteria of soon before death due to the rule of the proximity of time because it was a continuing ordeal having continuity of action and community of purpose," it added. The court also made note of a particular incidence of dowry demand made the day before the victim's passing.

Kamal Nath, Jyotiraditya Scindia spar over parties' strength in Gwalior-Chambal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress' Madhya Pradesh unit President Kamal Nath on Friday attacked his Union Minister - and former party colleague - Jyotiraditya Scindia, whose defection to the BJP led to his government's fall in 2020, saying he has become "politically redundant" even in his pocket borough Gwalior.

Citing results of the municipal elections held few months back, Nath, who was visiting Tikamgarh district in Bundelkhand region, noted that the ruling BJP lost mayoral posts in both Gwalior and Morena, despite having Scindia on their side.

"If he (Scindia) was such a big gun, why did they (BJP) lose mayoral seats in Gwalior and Morena?" he said in response to a question by a reporter on the Congress contesting the upcoming Assembly elections without Scindia.

"We (Congress) don't need Scindia anymore. They were doing a conspiracy to dissolve the Congress government three months before it (March 2020) and I was aware of it. I too, could have purchased MLAs to save my government, but I didn't do that because I didn't want to tar-



nish Madhya Pradesh's image," the former Chief Minister said in an aggressive tone.

The BJP had lost the mayoral posts in Gwalior and Morena, the home turf of two Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Scindia earlier in July last year. The Congress had won five

out of 16 mayoral posts against the ruling BJP, which had been in power in all 16 municipal corporations in Madhya Pradesh, but was now restricted to nine only.

Notably, in the 2018 Assembly elections, Nath and Scindia had together campaigned in Gwalior-Chambal region, where the Congress defeated the BJP by a slender margin after 15 years.

However, in March 2020, Scindia, along with over 20 Congress MLAs shifted into the BJP, forcing Nath to resign as Chief Minister's post and paving the way for the return of Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in the state.

Scindia hit back at Kamal Nath's remarks, leveling a series of charges against the then Congress government, including making the Madhya Pradesh government a 'transfer industry', indulging in corruption, breaking promises made to the people and 'mafia raj'.

Taking to Twitter, Scindia, on Kamal Nath's comment "if he was a big gun," wrote: "Record of 15 months cannon government of Madhya Pradesh Congress. Transferred, Industries, Breaking the promise, Corruption and Mafia-Raj," adding that "It is good that I do not fit your definition of cannon".

Mizoram NGOs seek action on Myanmar's 'violation of Indian air space'

Aizawl | Agencies

The NGO Coordination Committee (NGOCC), a conglomerate of major voluntary organisations, civil societies and student bodies in Mizoram, urged the Central government to take proactive action on the reported "violation of Indian airspace by the Myanmar Air Force".

Officials from the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) said that the Indian territory remained unaffected after the Myanmar military's bombing on militants' camps of that country on January 10 and 11.

Villagers residing along the India-Myanmar border earlier claimed that a bomb was dropped near Tiau river on the Mizoram side. The river divides the two countries.

According to the villagers, a truck owned by a village council member has been damaged in the explosion when it was carrying river sand.

A spokesman of the NGOCC on Friday said that they sent a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday to take appropriate action on the issue of violation of Indian airspace by the Myanmar Air Force.

The NGOCC claimed that the Myanmar's Tatmadaw (military) during its airstrikes against pro-democratic forces along the Indo-Myanmar border on January 10 and 11 "not only violated Indian airspace, but also dropped and exploded bombs inside the Indian territory of Mizoram".

The bombardment on Indian soil caused a feeling of insecurity for the people living along the border areas, the memorandum said.

It urged the Home Minister to speak and act in

defence of Indian citizens and ensure that the Indian territory of Mizoram, either on land or in air, is vigilantly safeguarded from potential military intrusions.

The NGOCC also demanded that the Centre should take initiatives to bring peace in the neighbouring country where the military junta would engage all political parties, different ethnic insurgent groups and all the other stakeholders.

Meanwhile, in view of the recent trouble in Myanmar, around 400 refugees of that country have taken shelter in Mizoram's Champhai district since last week.

District officials said that the Myanmarese have taken shelter in three villages in bordering Champhai district since the airstrikes on the headquarters of Chin National Army (CNA), a civilian armed outfit.

Sisodia resends proposal for teachers' training in Finland to LG

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Delhi Lt Governor V.K. Saxena sent back the file pertaining to government teachers' training programme in Finland with his comments of cost benefit analysis, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday sent the file again to the LG for his approval.

In the proposal moved this time, the Deputy CM has noted, "The Government has examined proposals from all aspects, including cost benefit analysis and finds it essential to improve the quality of education. If the CM and Education Minister have



decided to send their teachers abroad, then how can LG

scuttle it by repeatedly raising flimsy objections. It is against democracy and the Constitution that an unelected individual is

deciding and altering almost every decision of a democratically elected government."

He further noted, "Hon'ble LG's remarks are extremely unfortunate. According to the 2018 judgment of the Constitution Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble LG does not have the power to order such cost benefit analysis or issue directions that the teachers may be trained in India rather than sending them abroad."

CONGRESS SUSPENDS 38 FOR ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES IN GUJARAT POLLS

Ahmedabad: The Congress Discipline Committee suspended 38 workers and leaders for anti-party activities during the Gujarat Assembly elections held in December 2022, a party leader said on Friday. Discipline Committee convener Balkrushna Patel told the media that the party state unit and the committee had received 71 complaints against 95 workers and leaders. On January 19, all complainants and local leaders were heard, where concrete evidence was found against 38 workers and leaders, who are suspended from the party for six years.

In 18 complaints, those accused of having indulged in anti-party activities will be heard in person soon, after which action will be taken against them, Patel said. In five complaints, action will be taken only after discussing issues with the district Congress committee presidents, while 12 complaints were rejected as no substance was found against workers.

Three siblings from remote Doda district qualify J&K administrative service exam



Jammu | Agencies

Three siblings, two sisters and their brother belonging to Doda district have qualified the J&K administrative service (JKAS) exam.

The results were declared on Thursday.

Two sisters -- Huma Anjum Wani, Ifra Anjum Wani and their brother, Subail Ahmad Wani -- belonging to far off Kahi Trankhal village of Bhaaleesa area in J&K's Doda district have qualified the JKAS exam. The family has now settled in Jammu city.

Suhail, the youngest of the three siblings has secured 111th rank while Huma secured 117th and Ifra 143th rank among the 187 successful candidates.

Munir Ahmad Wani, father of these three candidates, is proud of the exemplary success of his children. He said his children have achieved success without joining any coaching centre.

"My children don't have a mobile phone even today. Whenever they wanted to connect to the Internet, they would use their mother's phone," the father said.

Father attributes the success of his children to their hard work and focused study.

"They used to study for 12 hours a day for the last several years. Right after passing their Class 12 exam, they were determined to pass the civil service exam," he said.

While Ifra did her masters in physics, Huma and Suhail have taken their masters degree in political science.

Delhi HC questions CBI on lookout circulars against Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday queried the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the lookout circulars (LOC) issued in view of the registration of two FIRs dated June 2, 2017, and August 19, 2019, against journalists Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy in 2019.

The counsel representing the CBI said that the lookout circular is still continuing. It was also noted that an earlier LOC had expired on June 19, 2020, and that a second LOC was thereafter opened.

To that, Justice Prathiba M. Singh, dealing with the petition, orally said that "you cannot continue in perpetuity".

She said that the matter cannot go on like this and listed the matter for the next hearing on April 28.

The HC on June 1, 2022, allowed the Roys to travel abroad stating that the duo has cooperated with the CBI. The single-judge bench of Justice Yashwant Varma had passed the order. The couple has sought permission to travel abroad between August 1 and 30, 2022.

The CBI had argued that the investigation into the allegations of financial irregularities was still on and that



they are 'flight risks'.

However, justice Varma had concluded that there was no material to show that the couple was a flight risk.

"It is also not shown or established that they have failed to render cooperation in the ongoing investigation. From the material placed on behalf of the applicants, it is manifest that the

petitioners have deep-rooted ties in the country and consequently the prayer for interim permission as made would merit acceptance," he said.

In 2017, the CBI registered a case against them alleging financial irregularities during the couple's tenure on NDTV's managing committee.

नाम परिवर्तन
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम ASHISH KUMAR JAIN था। जो कि मेरे पासपोर्ट में दर्ज है। किंतु अब मेरा नाम परिवर्तित होकर ASHISH JAIN हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम ASHISH JAIN S/o M.K. JAIN से जाना व पहचाना जाए।
पता : मकान नंबर-1, आग्रपाली एक्लेव, चूनाभट्टी, कोलार रोड, भोपाल (म.प्र.) - 462016

नाम परिवर्तन
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम MITHILESH था। किंतु अब मेरा नाम परिवर्तित होकर MITHILESH CHOUHAN हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम MITHILESH CHOUHAN S/o MEHARBAN SINGH से जाना व पहचाना जाए।
पता : ग्राम चौराहेट, तहसील - बाबई, चौराहेट, होशंगाबाद (म.प्र.) - 461668

नाम परिवर्तन
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम SUSHIL KUMARI था। जो कि परिवर्तित होकर SUSHIL KHURANA W/o RAVINDER KHURANA हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम SUSHIL KHURANA W/o RAVINDER KHURANA से जाना व पहचाना जाए।
पता : म.नं. 29, डीएवी कालेज के पास, सेठ हकुमचंद कालोनी, जालंधर (पंजाब) - 144008



IAS IS A POWERFUL MEDIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WELFARE : CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Chouhan has said that the Indian Administrative Service provides an opportunity to the individuals for the development of the society, the country and the state and for public welfare.



unimaginable. Many officers handled the arrangements even after being affected by Covid and paved the way for freeing the state from Covid crisis with the culmination of innovation and hard work with public cooperation.

CM Chouhan said that the development journey of the state has been amazing. We were a Bimaru state, but now we have made unprecedented achievements in per capita income, GSDP, revenue col-

lection, expansion of irrigation potential, wheat production and solar energy. In the field of good governance, the state has emerged as the best state in the country.

and the Global Investors Summit recently held in the state have established the positive image of the state at the global level.

Mentioning about the innovative and sensitive works being done by the district collectors, Chief Minister Chouhan said that we should make continuous efforts to do better.

Kamal Nath demands caste based census; says 'we don't need any Scindia'

Former chief minister Kamal Nath has advocated to conduct caste based census for better upliftment of castes detached from the mainstream of development.

Team Absolute | Tikamgarh

He expressed his views while talking to the media in Tikamgarh, on Friday. The former CM discussed several issues, but he stressed on the caste based census and said that it should be done by the present government.



scenario has changed.

Later, he attacked Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, and said "We don't need any Scindia, if he was such a stalwart leader then, why did the BJP lose the Gwalior and Morena mayoral seats".

He claimed that if the Congress forms government in the state, the party will implement the old pension

scheme (OPS). He alleged that the BJP is conspiring and publishing articles which discourage the implementation of the old pension scheme.

"What did I say wrong in it": Mahendra Singh Sisodia on bulldozer threat

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia on Friday stood by his earlier controversial bulldozer threat remark and said there was nothing wrong about what he had said.



Sisodia said, "What did I say wrong in it? What is wrong if we ask any other party member to join my party?"

When asked about his threat, Sisodia said, "I have not threatened anyone. One should listen to the video in which I said. K K Meena had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and I have said it in that context."

"There is nothing left in Congress, they (Congressmen) should come (join BJP) now. Bulldozer action will be taken against those Congressmen who are doing illegal work," Sisodia added. Sisodia also said, "I had said that to those who are involved in illegal work and they are present everywhere. Bulldozers were in action even during the time of the Congress-led Kamal Nath government. Those

who are guilty, they are hurting." Sisodia was quoted as saying, "Congressmen should slowly join BJP. In the 2023 assembly elections, BJP is going to form a government again in Madhya Pradesh and Mama's (MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan) bulldozer is ready." He made the remark on Wednesday while canvassing for the Raghogarh Nagar civic polls, which is being held today. He was canvassing in Ruthiyai town in Guna district then. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

Attacked by stone mafia, forest team seizes trolley full of illegal stones

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A forest team in Gwalior was attacked by the stone mafia while the officials were trying to seize a tractor trolley full of illegal stones on Friday. A video of the forest officials later chasing the vehicle and seizing it has also surfaced on social media.



documents, the Forest team seized the tractor trolley and started taking it away. Chase on, even after getting attacked

At the same time, about a dozen people armed with weapons and sticks reached there and pelted

stones at the forest personnel, followed by firing in the air. They took away the tractor trolley. But the forest team continued to chase the stone mafia and as soon as it came on the highway, suddenly the trolley overturned and the stone mafia along

with the driver fled from the spot leaving the trolley behind.

After the incident, the deputy ranger informed the District Forest Officer (DFO) and the Antri police about the whole incident. It is being said that the glasses of the forest department's vehicle were also broken in the incident.

DFO Brijendra Srivastava said, "After getting information about the mafia, the forest department team had reached the spot to take action against the stone mafia. In the meantime, the mafia pelted stones at our team and came with sticks and rods to attack the forest personnel. In this incident, some forest officers have sustained injuries. A case has also been registered against the mafia in the matter".

Woman, 4-year-old kid mowed down by bus in Kareli

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A heart-wrenching video of an accident has come to the fore from Madhya Pradesh's Kareli area. In the video, a woman and her 4-year-old nephew were mowed down by a bus while it was moving on the road leading to Kareli overbridge.

The bus ran over the woman and her nephew while it was going from Narsinghpur to Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. The 4-year-old child died on the spot, while the aunt died during her treatment at a hospital. In the video, the woman is seen holding her nephew's hand when suddenly the bus coming from behind ran over them. Another video from the hospital showed police taking pictures of the body of the woman that would help them investigate the accident case. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin

Gadkari on January 18 said efforts are needed by all the sections of the society to reduce road accidents by 50 per cent before the end of 2025. The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways observed the Road Safety Week from January 11-17, 2023 under "Swachhata Pakhwada", to propagate the cause of safer roads. The Ministry organised nakkad natak, and sensitization campaigns in Delhi to create awareness among general public in regards to road safety. "During FY 2021-22, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) undertook safety audit of 16,500 km of National Highways through safety auditors specialised in safe roads engineering studies and safety audit of 19,300 km has been completed during this financial year till December 2022," Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said.

Village crowd funds to secure release of kidnapped men

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Villagers in this Madhya Pradesh hamlet are running a crowd funding campaign to secure funds for the release of three of its men who have been kidnapped by a gang of criminals operating from neighbouring Rajasthan.

The men - Ram Swarup Yadav, Bhattu Baghel and Gudda Baghel - from Sheopur district have been missing since the last four days. "We don't have land or money, what can we do... we will try and donate 100-200-2000 so that we can pay the ransom and secure our boys," said local villager Ramji Baghel.

"Our village houses are very poor families, most of whom are livestock farmers. One of those kidnapped farmers is so poor that his house doesn't even have a proper roof, then how are these families going to pay Rs 15 lakh ransom for the release, so we will try and pool in the money," said for-



mer sarpanch Siyaram Baghel.

The former state minister and senior Congress leader Ramnivas Rawat visited the village and met with families of the three kidnapped farmers. Rawat claimed that many other farmers are selling their livestock, including goats, to escape being targeted by dacoits. "First Rs 10,000 bounty was declared by my office for getting information about the captors, it has now been raised to Rs 30,000 by the ADG-Chambal Range," said Sheopur SP Alok Kumar Singh. According to sources the Sheopur police are work-

ing with Rajasthan police, but is yet to track the kidnapped farmers. Gangs, particularly dacoits operating from Rajasthan, have often been active in bordering districts of MP's Gwalior-Chambal region, particularly Sheopur district. Some months back, a farmer from Sheopur district was kidnapped and released after payment of ransom.

One of the most active inter-state gang's active in the region is led by Keshav Gurjar, who carries a bounty of Rs 1.25 lakh on head and is active in Rajasthan, adjoining MP and also neighbouring UP.

GANG OF THREE ROBS TWO IN BAG SEWANIYA

Bhopal: A gang comprising three men robbed two people of their money near Habibganj Naka, located in the Bagsewaniya area of the city on Thursday evening, the police said on Friday. Bagsewaniya police station in-charge, Sanjeev Kumar Chouksey said that an ITI student and a daily wage labourer were the ones who were robbed of their money. He further said that the ITI student, identified as Ajay Sharma (20), approached them on Friday evening. He stated in his complaint to the police that he was coming from Board office square and was crossing the Habibganj railway tracks, when three unidentified men approached him and threatened to hand over his money and other valuables to him. When Sharma protested, the trio assaulted him physically and took Rs one thousand lying in his pocket to flee the spot. Sometime after this, the accused trio also targeted a daily wage labourer, identified as Santosh Lodhi (38), using the same modus operandi, in which they made off with Lodhi's mobile phone and Rs 500 in cash.

Actress Sambhavna Seth, BJP leader Usha Kol join AAP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Actress Sambhavna Seth and Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Usha Kol joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) here on Friday. They joined the AAP at its headquarters in Delhi in the presence of party senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and party national general secretary (Organisation) and Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak. Impressed by the policies of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, actress Seth and BJP leader Kol have joined the Aam Aadmi Party, Singh

Pathak said with the party expanding in all the states, it will gain strength across the country with the arrival of Seth and Kol. Seth, who is a known face in Bhojpur films, "The AAP government is doing very good work in Delhi. I joined it to do something good for the people."

Kol, who was the vice-president of Madhya Pradesh BJP's women unit, said, "The people of our area are deprived of health and education, I want to work in the field of education and health with the Aam Aadmi Party."

Law graduates can apply to Indian Navy & Indian Army by January 28

Team Absolute | Indore

It's a dream come true to wear a sparkling white uniform for law graduates instead of the black coat. Girls and boys in final semester or completed LLB can apply online on www.joinindiannavy.gov.in. The last date for applications is January 28.



Candidates must be born between 02 July 1996 - 02 July 2001 and their college / university must be recognized by the Bar council of India. This opportunity in the Navy is published once in two years, so the next will

be in January 2025. SSB trainer Colonel (Retd) Nikhil Diwanji said, "After selection in five days services selection board interview and coming in final merit the

candidates will undergo five months of Naval Orientation Course commencing in June 2023 in Indian Naval Academy in Kerala after which they will get commis-

sioned as class one gazetted officer in Navy, and will be handling legal aspects of Navy." He added that short-listed candidates will be called for SSB between February to April 2023.

Similar online application for Army law cadre is now available on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in but Army requires current CLAT (PG) score card.

The Army training will start in October 2023 in Officers Training Academy at Chennai. In the Navy the rank is Sub Lieutenant and its equivalent rank in Army is Lieutenant.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL and ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement with demand notice details.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Faction war in TN Congress

Ahead of the by-elections to the East Erode Assembly seat on February 27, a faction war has broken out in Congress over the seat. While the seat fell vacant following the sudden demise of the sitting legislator of the Congress party, E. Thirumahan Everaa, there is stiff opposition to the candidature of the family members of the deceased MLA. The father of the late legislator, E.V.K.S. Elangovan was a former Union Minister and a former state president of the Tamil Nadu Congress. The family is keen that either Elangovan himself or the brother of the deceased legislator, Sanjay Sampath contest the seat which has been a family bastion. It is to be noted that Elangovan is closely related to the late Dravidian ideologue, EV Ramasamy Periyar or Thanthai Periyar. A section of the state Congress leaders, including the party state president, K.S. Alagiri is, however, favouring the candidature of a local leader from Erode. This section argues that while the untimely death of Thirumahan Evera was tragic and sad, the party must consider the candidature of local party leaders who have been the grassroots strength of the Congress. Makkal Rajan is a grassroots leader and has always been at the forefront of all the struggles that Congress had undertaken in the constituency. While Elangovan is a heavy-weight leader of the Congress party, the opposite faction is pointing out his loss in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to O.P. Raveendranath, son of O. Panneerselvam at Theni Lok Sabha seat. Another factor that is working against Elangovan is the fact that the TNCC president, K.S. Alagiri is totally opposed to him. Alagiri believes that Elangovan and his supporters were behind the recent attack on Congress state headquarters, Satyamoorthi Bhavan following a dispute over party postings in Thoothukudi district block committees.

WOMEN'S CRICKET - A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET

Yajurvindra Singh

The famous line by Juliet: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet", from the play Romeo and Juliet written by William Shakespeare, seems quite appropriate for cricket in India.

The recent success, as regards the selling of the Rights of Women's IPL cricket tournament, truly reflects the progress that has been made by both the BCCI and cricket as a sport, in India. The game of cricket is the true benefactor, as it smells as sweet when played by either men or women.

The reason why India's marketing gurus find the property enticing is that Indian Women's cricketers bring in a feel of amateurism in the way that they play the game. They instil a breath of fresh air, a different look to the sport. It enables one watching it to enjoy cricket at a pace that is easier to follow.

Men's cricket, on the other hand, has become a contest, wherein, it has become professional with a serious outlook. The game of cricket and cricketers are thoroughly scrutinized. Whereas, in women's cricket one accepts errors and blunders and enjoys the naivety that it brings about. There is joy in watching women play the game in the way one enjoyed men playing it many years ago.

Love for cricket was the only factor that kept men's cricketers engrossed in the sport in the past. Although the reason to play is no different now, the game has taken a turn into becoming a serious one to pursue. The fun element and laughter that once prevailed in playing the game of cricket by boys and men at all levels of the sport, seems to have lost its charm. Cricket now seems to be a business in which winning has become the most important factor.

Women's cricket, on the other hand, has still the aura of being in the embryo stage. Although it has



gone through many years of difficulty and hardships in the past, the IPL in April this year should catapult it into a huge leap for the better in the future.

I can still recall my conversation a decade ago, when I met the present Indian captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, at the MCA indoor nets. She was a girl from Haryana who had left the comfort of her home. She was nestled into accommodation in Mumbai, struggling to make two ends meet. She desired to continue playing cricket for India and to bring laurels to the country. The lack of facilities is what brought her to Mumbai, the Mecca of Indian cricket, along with several others from around the country.

Harmanpreet along with the likes of Mithali Raj, Jhulan Goswami and Smriti Mandhana are household names now. Their success should catapult women's cricket in India to another level.

The platform is set for women's

cricket to flourish; however, the challenge would be for the BCCI to structure facilities for them to excel. Girls aspiring to play the sport should be taken care of in every manner possible by providing them with the security and needs that are necessary in all respects.

At the other end of the spectrum is India's domestic cricket. With the season in full flow, one is astounded by the runs scored by batters in the Ranji Trophy tournament. There have been one triple and 18 scores of double centuries, over 40 scores of 150 plus runs and close to a century of centuries. These are phenomenal numbers and truly reflect the focus, fitness and mindset of the new breed of Indian batters.

One name that shines out like the North star, having had 3 years full of buckets of runs, is Sarfaraz Khan from Mumbai. He unfortunately has had, as one lightly conjectures, a piece of bad luck. This has been the case for many consistent perform-

ers playing in the domestic circuit. Jaydev Unadkat, the fiery left-arm fast bowler from Saurashtra, was another case in time. Fortunately, after 10 years of being in oblivion, he managed to get selected and has performed well enough to retain his place in the immediate future.

The irony of the domestic Indian cricket circuit is that established and BCCI-contracted players rarely play in any of the tournaments. The annual Indian International cricket calendar makes it difficult for them to do so. This makes the contracted players exclusive and comfortably secured. The problem that surfaces is that the domestic performers do not get a window in which to stake their claim for an India cap.

Furthermore, without the top 35 Indian cricketers in the fray, there always is an element of doubt about the quality of domestic performances. The

Indian A team tour was a good initiative as an incentive for an aspiring player. However, most other countries do not have the quality or quantity of players in their fold. In India in the earlier times, the Duleep and Irani Trophy matches were the selection trials for an Indian side playing in India or touring abroad. Both these tournaments have lost their lustre and therefore the domestic performers are now hoping to get recognized via the IPL route.

Indian cricket needs to find a solution or else the likes of Sarfaraz Khan and many more will remain in the wilderness waiting for the elite lot to get injured or come in as replacements when they are on a rest and recreation break. They end up with a short stint as drink boys for their efforts.

international

RUSSIA RAMPS UP MOSCOW'S AIR DEFENCES WITH MISSILE LAUNCHERS PLACED ON ROOFS

London | Agencies

Russia is urgently ramping up its air defences in Moscow amid evident fears of a full-scale attack on the capital city from Ukraine, with an anti-air system also being installed near President Vladimir Putin's official residence outside the capital, local media reported. A Pantsir-S1 defence system has appeared on the roof of the Russian defence ministry's National Defence Management Centre (NTsUO) on Frunzenskaya Embankment, the command centre of Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Daily Mail reported.

A video showed the same powerful system being lifted onto a rooftop in Teterinsky Lane, Taganka district, one-and-a-half miles from the Kremlin. And in another clip, the installation of another Pantsir-S1 complex emerged close to the Russian president's country retreat in



Novo-Ogarevo, evidently to protect him from Ukrainian drones or missiles, Daily Mail reported.

Pro-Russian Telegram channel Military Informant acknowledged this was an admission that Moscow, with

a 12 million population, is now vulnerable, with the deployment underscoring that the "the military are afraid of a possible strike".

On Wednesday, photographs appeared of the modern S-400 missile

defence system in two locations, one in fields belonging to the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy in the north-west of the city, another Losiny island in a national park to the northeast where trees were felled for the installation.

There are reports of such deployments at half a dozen sites in Moscow, as Putin daily increases his defences in the capital city, Daily Mail reported. One deployment is said to be at Zarechye village, close to his country retreat Novo-Ogarevo, said Sirena Telegram channel.

A video purportedly showed the deployment.

There are rumours that Putin and his young family with former Olympic gymnast Alina Kabaeva are now usually based in one of several secret bunker complexes, Daily Mail reported. The children have not been introduced to the Russian people, and secretive Putin has never confirmed his relationship with Kabaeva.

INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY COMES AT CRUCIAL TIME, MODI'S LEADERSHIP CRITICAL: WEF'S KLAUS SCHWAB

Davos | Agencies

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, said that India's G20 Presidency has come at a crucial time and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "leadership is critical in this fractured world".

"I had the pleasure of meeting the Indian ministerial delegation and many of its top business leaders," Schwab was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the WEF amid the ongoing Davos Forum.

"I commend the country's decisive action on the climate case for renewables, its contribution to the global healthcare ecosystem, the focus on an economic model for women-led development, and its leadership on digital public infrastructure.

"India remains a bright spot amid global geoeconomics and geopolitical crises," he added. This year's Forum, which is bringing together leaders from all over the globe, is convening under the theme, 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'.

"The WEF shares a 38-year history with India and looks forward to continued partnership with the country during its G20 presiden-



cy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," says the statement.

Schwab further says that "India is promoting a just and equitable growth for all in the world during its G20 presidency".

"India's G20 presidency comes at a crucial time, Prime Minister Modi's leadership is critical in this fractured world," he added.

OLD CHURCH IN CANADA TRANSFORMED INTO SIKH TEMPLE

Toronto: An old church has been transformed into a Sikh place of worship -- the first in Canada's Red Deer city after requests from the local Sikh community since 2005.

The Cornerstone Gospel Chapel at 5911 63rd Street is now Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, and will open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

It will serve around 150 families, 250 international students and temporary foreign workers from India, CBC News reported.

"The community is growing every day. So many people are moving here from B.C., Calgary and Ontario," Nishan Singh Sandhu, the gurdwara's president, told CBC News.

"It's very important, otherwise we don't have a place to get together. We struggled for the last 20 years to build a gurdwara," said Sandhu.

The community received donations from neighbouring Sikh communities in Calgary, Edmonton and Surrey, British Columbia, along with private donations to the tune of \$450,000, which allowed them to buy the building with no mortgage.

The gurdwara, which opened last month, includes a main floor with a large basement area and kitchen. The centre's kitchen provides free vegetarian meals ('langar') to visitors and anyone who needs it.



Sweden to send Archer artillery system to Ukraine

Stockholm | Agencies

Sweden will provide Ukraine with the Archer artillery system, its tenth and the largest military aid package so far, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said.

The package is worth around 4.3 billion Swedish kronor (\$415 million) and also includes around 50 CV-90 armoured vehicles with ammunition, NLAW anti-tank missiles, disposable anti-tank weapons, and mine clearing equipment, the government said at a press conference here on Thursday.

Ukraine has repeatedly requested that Sweden provides them with Archer, a vehicle-mounted howitzer with a range of up to 50 km, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Swedish government



has tasked the Swedish Armed Forces with preparing for deliveries of the system, including ammunition.

Sweden will also assist Ukraine with their own arms procurement through cooperation and co-purchases with the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV), the government said, adding that it would speed up arms deliveries to Ukraine.

Before Thursday's announcement, Sweden had already pledged to provide Ukraine with military equipment worth nearly five billion kronor in total, Swedish Television (SVT) reported.

Russia has said that the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine does not help resolve the conflict but prolongs the suffering of the Ukrainian people, and that Western arms convoys to Ukraine would be considered "legitimate targets" for the Russian armed forces. (1 Swedish krona = 0.097 US dollar)

Burglars break into Texas Hindu temple, steal donation box: Report

New York | Agencies

The Indian community was left in a state of shock after burglars broke into a Hindu temple in the US state of Texas and stole its donation box, the media reported.

The Brazos County Sheriff's Office said they are investigating the burglary at Shri Omkarnath Temple located in Brazos Valley, Texas, which took place on January 11.

"There was a break-in. They (burglars) broke in through the side window and what was immediately...missing was our donation box and a safe in which we kept our valuables," Srinivasa Sunkari, a board member of the Shri Omkarnath Temple, told KBTX news channel.

According to the report, a video captured by security cameras inside the temple showed a person walking straight to the donation box. He then used the temple's cart to wheel the box out the door.



"There was a sense of invasion, that sense of loss of privacy when something like this happened to us," Sunkari, told the news channel.

He said the priest and his family, who live in an apartment right behind the temple, are safe, adding that the community members were notified about the incident at a gathering. "We will rebound, we will take extra precautions to make sure our priest is safe and this family is safe and our place of worship is safe. And we hope that something like this doesn't happen to anybody in the future," a shocked Sunkari said. Condemning the incident, the HinduPact, an advocacy collective in the US, has asked the FBI for a thorough probe into the incident.



LEGISLATURE TO UNVEIL PORTRAIT OF THACKERAY ON HIS 97TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ten years after his passing away, a portrait of the late Shiv Sena founder and Hindutva icon, Balasaheb Keshav Thackeray, shall be unveiled in the central hall of Maharashtra Legislature on January 23, marking his 97th birth anniversary.



Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray, another grandson Nihar Bindumadhav Thackeray, etc.

The Sena (UBT) has termed the event as 'politically-motivated' after a faction led by Eknath Shinde quit the party in June 2022 and he was later anointed as the Chief Minister. Uddhav Thackeray, his son Aditya Thackeray, several other

party leaders like Sanjay Raut and Kishore Tiwari have accused the Shinde group of being a 'gang of father-thieves' on several occasions in the past. Chief Minister Shinde, along with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis shall unveil the portrait which will be attended by Deputy Chairperson of Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe, Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar,

Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, state ministers, Central ministers from Maharashtra, MPs, MLAs and MLCs, besides film, sports and cultural personalities and other prominent dignitaries.

Narwekar last week said that it's a non-political event where all will gather to pay tributes to Balasaheb Thackeray, his services to the state and nation.

Ironically, the programme comes on a day when his son and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's five-year tenure as the party president comes to end. Though it is not presently clear if he will attend the event on Monday, the Sena (UBT) has sought the Election Commission of India's permission to hold the party chief and other internal elections. However, amid the ongoing battle for Thackeray's legacy, Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar has invited the entire Thackeray clan - Uddhav and his family, estranged cousin

MNS PROTESTS OUTSIDE VVMC AFTER CIVIC STAFF REMOVE PARTY FLAGS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena on Thursday held a protest outside the Vasai Virar civic headquarters claiming its party flags were removed, while illegal banners and hoardings were left untouched.



Workers led by MNS Thane-Palghar chief Avinash Jadhav accused an assistant commissioner of ordering the removal of party flags in Vasai.

The official was on Thursday evening transferred from the particular ward to the civic headquarters, though the order issued by VVMC additional commissioner said the move was "due to an administrative emergency".

"Mass out of control now": Anurag Kashyap on PM's opinion at BJP meet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap on Thursday responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent advice to BJP workers to refrain from commenting on films, saying that the Prime Minister's words come too late as the "mob is out of control now." According to party sources, PM Modi made the suggestion during an address at the BJP national executive on Monday.



Kashyap, speaking at the launch of the trailer for his upcoming film "Almost Pyaar with DJ Mohabbat", stated that PM Modi's advice would have made a difference if it had been given four years ago. "If he had said this four years ago, it'd have made a difference. Now, I don't think it'll make a difference. It was about controlling their own people. Things have gone out of hand now. I don't think anybody will listen to anyone," the director said.

The Hindi film industry has been at the centre of several controversies in recent years, including nepotistic practices, celebrity culture, and the content of films and shows. Most recently, the song "Besharam Rang" from the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Pathaan" sparked backlash from right-wing politicians who claimed it hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community. Producer Shariq Patel of "Almost Pyaar with DJ Mohabbat" welcomed PM Modi's advice to party workers, stating, "It's very good that he (PM Modi) said that, and I hope it'll lead to something good and end whatever negativity is there against the industry." Kashyap responded, "Even I hope I'm wrong about this, I'll be very happy if I'm proved wrong."

The Hindi film industry has been at

TEENAGE GIRL REPEATEDLY RAPE BY NEIGHBOR BOOKED

Team Absolute | Thane

A 17-year-old girl was allegedly repeatedly raped by her neighbor in Thane city of Maharashtra over a period of one month after he was given the keys of her house by her mother who used to lock the minor daily at home for safety before stepping out for work, police said on Friday. The victim's mother had started locking her at home before going to work ever since the minor's father sexually assaulted her three months back, they said.

The victim as well as the accused lives in Daighar area in the city, and the offence was committed mid-December onwards, a police official said.

The girl lodged a complaint on Thursday night, based on which the police registered a first information report (FIR) against the accused in the early hours of Friday.

"As per the complaint, the victim's mother works as a cook at a local madrasa. She also works elsewhere in the evenings. The victim's father had raped her three months ago and a complaint in that regard was lodged. However, after the incident, the girl's mother started locking her at home before stepping out for work in the evening. She used to hand over the keys to the tailor who resided oppo-

site their house," the official of Shil-Daighar police station said.

Last month, the accused first sexually assaulted the victim when she went to him for alteration of her clothes. He even threatened to kill her if she revealed it to anyone, he said.

After that, whenever the victim's mother went out for work after handing over the keys to the tailor, he used to forcibly take the girl to his house and rape her. Since the girl was terrified, she did not reveal her ordeal to anyone, the complaint said, adding that on January 14, the victim managed to video-record the offence on her mobile phone without the knowledge of the accused.

On January 19, when the tailor was dragging the victim to his house, a female acquaintance of the girl came there and strongly objected to his act. The minor mustered courage and told about her ordeal to the woman and also showed the video.

Thereafter, the victim approached the police and lodged the complaint. Police have registered a case against the accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 376(2)(n) (repeatedly raping the same woman), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the police said.

Police, Navy conduct search operation to trace MBBS student body

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police along with the Indian Navy on Friday conducted a search operation at the Bandra Bandstand shore in the city to locate the remains of MBBS student Sadichha Sane after the accused revealed that he had killed her and thrown her body into the Arabian sea, an official said. The search operation, which also involved personnel from private agencies, covered an area spread across 100 metres from the Bandra Bandstand shore in suburban Mumbai and lasted from 9 am to 2 pm, but did not yield any result, he said.

Sane, a third year MBBS student, had gone missing from Bandra Bandstand in November 2021. The Mumbai crime branch, which is investigating the case, had recently

Bombay High Court

63 moons, others win AT1 bonds case against Yes Bank in Bombay HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In significant relief to 63 moons and others, the Bombay High Court on Friday set aside the order of Yes Bank Administrator which had written down AT1 bonds of more than Rs 8,300 crore overnight, leaving investors high and dry.

This will benefit all bondholders, including 63 moons technologies, which held bonds worth Rs 300 crore, the Mumbai-based fin-tech company said.

The Bombay High Court set aside an order from the administrator of Yes Bank and a letter by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to write off additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds sold by Yes Bank to ineligible investors. The order was passed in a batch of petitions filed by bond-holders, including financial institutions as well as individual retail investors.

63 moons technologies, which has an exposure of Rs 300 crore to the written-off additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds of Yes Bank, had launched a lawsuit against the private sector lender and the RBI. 63 moons had filed a petition in the High Court against the bank's decision to write off the AT1 bonds as part of a rescue plan. The company had invested in 3,000 bond holdings of Yes Bank's written-down AT1 bonds and has been holding these papers since March 2018.

The company filed the petition on June 1, 2020, against Yes Bank, the RBI, and the administrator appointed by the RBI. The petition claimed that the company's Rs 300-crore investment in AT1 debenture bonds has been completely misused by the promise of good returns. In March 2020, Yes Bank forced a government-led rescue after it collapsed under the weight of alleged financial irregularities. The RBI, which took over the bank, wrote down the so-called AT1 bonds of Yes Bank worth Rs 8,415 crore as part of a revival plan.

63 moons petition argued that a write-off of bond holders' claim - under Basel-III norms as well as international best practices - can only take place when the equity capital has virtually lost all value and must be written off.

CUSTODIAL DEATH ONE OF THE WORST CRIMES IN CIVILISED SOCIETY, SAYS HC;

Mumbai: Custodial death is one of the worst crimes in a civilised society and the police cannot torture citizens in an inhuman manner under the guise of power, the Bombay High Court observed while asking the state government to pay Rs 15 lakh as compensation to the mother of a man allegedly killed in police custody. The Aurangabad bench, comprising Justices Vibha Kankanwadi and Abhay Waghvase, passed its judgment on a petition filed by one Sunita Kute who alleged that her 23-year-old son Pradip had died after being tortured and assaulted by two policemen attached to the Solapur police.

Kute sought a compensation of Rs 40 lakh from the police and disciplinary action against the errant policemen. Custodial death is perhaps one of the worst crimes in a civilised society governed by the rule of law, the bench said. Though the police have the power to control the actions of people and the crime, it was not unfettered, it said. Under the guise of exercise of the said power they cannot torture or deal with a citizen in an inhuman manner, the judgment said. The state is the protector of the life of its citizens and if its employee undertakes torturous acts under the guise of power, then it has to compensate such a citizen, the court said. The bench noted that in the present case, the victim was a 23-year-old man who had married just four months before his death. The bench directed the Maharashtra government to pay a compensation of Rs 15,29,600 to the victim's mother.

It will be open to the state to recover the amount from respondent 4 and 5 (the two errant policemen), as they have been revealed to be the persons responsible for the death of Pradip, the court said.

As per the plea, the petitioner's son Pradip, who was a sugarcane harvester, was stopped by the police when he was driving a tractor in November 2018. The policemen started assaulting Pradip and others in the tractor for playing music, the petitioner claimed, adding that while the others managed to flee, Pradip died on the spot. A FIR was then lodged by the petitioner against the policemen who had assaulted Pradip. The errant police officials, however, refuted the allegations and claimed that they did not have any motive to kill the victim, who suffered from a brain disease and was feeling dizzy. He was taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead. We would like to say that there was no reason for the police to intercept the tractor driven by Pradip, even if they were having some objection regarding the sound, they could have told the same to Pradip in a dignified manner, the court said in its judgment. There was a violation of the fundamental rights of the deceased, as there was no reason for interception and hence no reason to mete out atrocity on the victim, the bench observed.

INTERIM BAIL GRANTED TO VIDEOCON'S VENUGOPAL DHOOT

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday granted interim bail to Videocon Group Chairman Venugopal Dhoot, who was arrested in connection with the ICICI Bank-Videocon scam case by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj K. Chavan also refused the CBI's plea to stay the order to enable them appeal in the Supreme Court.

The court has granted Dhoot, who was arrested on December 26, 2022, a cash bail of Rs 1,00,000 and furnish the surety amount in a couple of weeks.

In his bail plea, Dhoot's lawyers termed the CBI arrest as "illegal, arbitrary", done without following due procedures and grossly violative of CrPC Sec. 41(A) mandating the issue of a notice to an accused to join the probe and to arrest only if absolutely necessary.

The other co-accused in the same case, former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her business-messman husband Deepak Kochhar were granted bail on January 9.

Govt to introduce incentive scheme to boost R&D by pharma industry: DCGI Soman

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Centre is all set to introduce a research linked incentive program shaped on the lines of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to boost research and development of biotech products in the country, said Drugs Controller General of India Dr V G Soman on Friday.

PLI scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

Soman was speaking on the first day of the 72nd Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Nagpur. The three-day event will cover various issues related to the pharmaceutical industry, academia and community pharmacy and will be attended by delegates from India and abroad.

The accomplishments of the Indian pharmaceutical sector during the COVID years were a huge boon for society, said Soman, who heads India's apex drug regulatory agency Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

Firstly, the urgency to identify the virus (coronavirus) and secondly to develop vaccine, medi-



cines and diagnostics for COVID-19 was not an ordinary challenge. But, with the encouragement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian pharmaceutical industry accepted this challenge

and successfully developed the vaccine that not only saved millions of lives in India but also in several other parts of the globe, said Soman.

Underscoring the importance of policy reforms, innovation, and research and development, he said the government has taken several initiatives to aid innovative research and establish appropriate ecosystems. To enhance the capabilities of the domestic pharma industry and help it establish itself in the global market, Soman said, the Centre is all set to introduce a research linked incentive (RLI) scheme shaped on the lines of the PLI programme to cover R&D costs for biotech products.

Soman said the pharma industry has experienced numerous regulatory developments and several pharmaceutical companies are rethinking their regulatory approval and drug development strategies.

Introduction of new Indian Pharmacopoeia 2022 and several amendments in rules for drugs and medical devices have been done to establish a dynamic pathway for ensuring patient safety while encouraging the growth of the sector, he said.



arrested Mithu Singh, a lifeguard, in this connection.

"During his interrogation, the accused told the police that he had killed Sane and dumped her body near the Bandstand," the official said.

After this revelation, the Mumbai crime branch team and Indian Navy

divers on Friday conducted a search operation in the Bandstand area for several hours to locate Sadichha Sane's remains, he said. "The search operation started in the morning," the official said, adding the investigators were also using other mechanisms to trace Sane's body.

Sane, a resident of Boisar, had left her house on November 29 morning to appear for her third MBBS prelims at Grant Government Medical College. Police said she boarded the 9.58 am local from Virar station and got off at Andheri station to board a fast train. She had called her brother Sanskar and said she would call again at 5.30 pm and until then her phone would be switched off. However,

when she did not return home till late in the night, her family got worried and started looking for her. They, then, filed a missing person report at the Boisar police station. According to the crime branch unit 9 officers, Sane got off a fast train at Bandra station and took a taxi to Bandstand. The police checked the CCTV footage of all roads leading to Bandstand. While there is evidence that she went to Bandstand, nothing has been found related to her return.

Two members of 'Fatka Gang' nabbed after targeting local train commuter in Dahisar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Borivli Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested two members of the 'Fatka Gang' who allegedly snatched mobile phones and valuables of passengers of local trains in the city. The duo used to target commuters of the running trains using a bamboo stick, the police sources said. According to the GRP sources said, the complainant was traveling by a Virar fast local train and when the train arrived at Dahisar railway station, the victim, who was standing at the door of the train with his mobile phone, was hit with a bamboo stick when the train left the station.

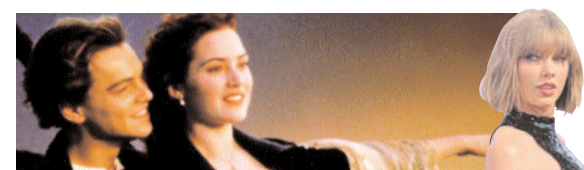
"His phone dropped on the tracks and he noticed that the accused fled away after picking up the phone. He reached out to the police to report the matter," an official said.

He filed a complaint with the police and after registering a case, the police obtained CCTV footage of the crime spot. The officials activated their informer's network on Thursday and upon receiving credible information from them, they detained the duo after laying a trap in Kopri, Virar, an officer said. After sustained interrogations, the duo was placed under arrest. They have been



identified as Sunil Sanjay Khawde, 27 and Chandrasekhar Krishna Shetty, 19. The officials also recovered the stolen phone which is worth about Rs 42,000, sources said.

It was with the hard effort of API Dipali Kharat and his team of constables More, Jadhav, Ingle, Shaikh, Wadkar and Awale that the suspects were identified and caught. They have been booked under section 382, 34 IPC of IPC. The arrested accused were produced before the court and were remanded to police custody. We are further investigating their previous crimes," said a senior police official from Borivli GRP.



'I LIKE BEING ALONE TOO MUCH'



Selena Gomez says 'I am single' after being spotted with Andrew Taggart

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Only Murders in the Building' star Selena Gomez and 'The Chainsmokers' star Andrew Taggart may be hanging out together, but it seems that Gomez isn't actually looking for anything serious at the moment.

In photos obtained by the New York Post's Page Six, the 'Same Old Love' singer and 'The Chainsmokers' member were spotted bowling together at New York City's 'The Gutter', reports 'People' magazine.

A source revealed that Gomez and Taggart -- who were dressed in casual attire -- were amongst 'a group.' The 'Only Murders in the Building' star was seen holding an orange bowling ball with Taggart nearby.

However, Gomez appeared to respond to the rumours that the two are linked by posting a black-and-white image on Thursday (Pacific Standard Time) in a since-deleted Instagram Story (captured by Pop Base) with the caption, "I like being alone too much." She also added the hashtag "iamsingle" at the bottom.

Taggart was previously linked to Steve Jobs' daughter, Eve, according to US Weekly.

As per 'People', before that, Taggart was in a year-long relationship with the model and DJ Chantel Jeffries. His representatives confirmed the breakup to 'People' in April 2021, explaining that the pair "broke up a month ago amicably and remain friends."

Dakota Johnson leaves audience gasping with her joke

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Fifty Shades' star Dakota Johnson started off the 2023 Sundance Film Festival with a laugh in her role as a presenter at the inaugural 'A Taste of Sundance' dinner.

The actress joked that she was offered the role of the peach in Luca Guadagnino's Oscar-winning indie 'Call Me by Your Name', but she had to turn it down due to scheduling conflicts, reports 'Variety'.

"Thank god, though," she said. "I would have been another woman that Armie Hammer would have tried to eat."

Johnson praised Guadagnino as a lover of cinema (and Prada) as she presented him with the international icon award. She starred in his remake of 'Suspiria', but her joke about Hammer made the room gasp and giggle.

As per 'Variety',

Hammer, who starred alongside Timothee Chalamet in 'Call Me by Your Name', has been accused of having cannibalistic fetishes, sexual assault and abusive behaviour by extramarital partners. Hammer has denied the claims.

In the film, Hammer plays the love interest of Chalamet, whose character Elio performs a sexual act on a piece of fruit, which Hammer eventually discovers. "It's been five years since that film premiered here, and Luca hasn't stopped taking us to exciting places," Johnson said, quoted by 'Variety' referring to Guadagnino's 2022 film 'Bones and All', a cannibalism romance drama also starring Chalamet.

"Who knew cannibalism was so popular?" she joked.



Britney Spears clears air on new tattoo rumoured to be on ex Justin Timberlake

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Britney Spears took to Instagram to shut down claims that her new ink was for former flame Justin Timberlake.

The pop sensation revealed she'd had a new tattoo at a



similar time to she posted about the former N*Sync man - an upload she has since deleted, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. But now, she's confirmed it was purely a coincidence and the two snaps were in no way linked. Sharing a short message on her Instagram Stories, the hit maker wrote: "Just to clarify... my tattoo had nothing to do with an ex in the past!!! She further wrote, quoted by 'Mirror.co.uk', "I simply did it because I wanted to!!! The pic with my ex is a time where there was less confusion on what it meant to be together ... it is what it is".

The singer uploaded a number of throwback snaps of her and Justin, who she dated between 1999 and 2002, playing basketball. The pair was seen in matching jerseys from a charity game in 2001. She began her now-deleted caption: "When we used to shoot hoops TOGETHER - that's when miracles happened." And she went on to add a cryptic message about being "cast out," saying: "I came out of my mom's stomach just like we all did!!! Psss a why always cast me out??? I'm equal as all!!!"

Shortly after, she shared a clip of her getting a tattoo while on holiday in Hawaii - something she now regrets. The 'Baby One More Time' singer was seen in her hotel room and she was joined by a tattoo artist. In the clip, she danced around her room before the artist started tattooing her arm.

'You come home to heaven'

A\$AP ROCKY SHARES THE JOYS OF FATHERHOOD

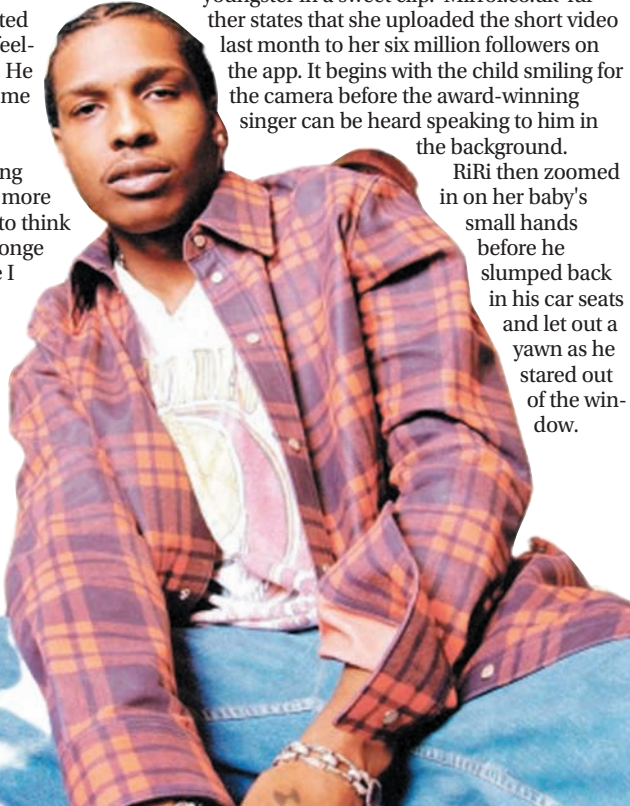
Los Angeles | Agencies

A\$AP Rocky is clearly loving life in the "dad club" as he opened up about his pride of fathering Rihanna's child. The rapper and 'Umbrella' songstress welcomed their first child in May last year and he gushed how fatherhood has given him a "whole new perspective" on his life and career, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

In an interview, he admitted he "can't even explain" the feelings he has towards his son. He told the host: "You come home to heaven every day. I'm so thankful. God is good, man."

"Being outside and working and being creative, it drives more energy for you to obviously to think and soak things up like a sponge now that I'm a dad, because I have a whole another perspective. But it honestly helps you get home to your family and get home to your baby."

His words follow sources saying Rihanna is "obsessed" with her baby. An insider told 'People' magazine, "Rihanna loves being a mom. She is obsessed with her baby boy".



They added that her partner ASAP Rocky is "very involved as well and (is) a great dad."

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', the couples are understood to have been dating since 2020. They have been keen to keep their tot out of the limelight for the majority of the time and are yet to publicly reveal his name.

However, Rihanna did take to TikTok recently to share an adorable first look at the youngster in a sweet clip. 'Mirror.co.uk' further states that she uploaded the short video last month to her six million followers on the app. It begins with the child smiling for the camera before the award-winning singer can be heard speaking to him in the background.

RiRi then zoomed in on her baby's small hands before he slumped back in his car seats and let out a yawn as he stared out of the window.



VERONICA FUSARO'S DEBUT ALBUM IS ALL ABOUT INFORMATION OVERLOAD

Mumbai | Agencies

Swiss Singer-Songwriter Veronica Fusaro, who is known for her Extended Plays 'Lost In Thought', 'Ice Cold' and 'Sunkissed', has released her debut album 'All the Colors of the Sky'. In the album, she combines different influences, rhythms and harmonies. Talking about the album, Veronica said, "This record is about life in this modern world of ours, about streaming tears, flaming anger and apathy in the middle of a storm - but also about the bluest of skies that follow the turmoil, the relief of acceptance, healing and falling in love". Veronica wrote most of

her first album in her basement studio. The lyrics talk about the challenges in the modern world such as information overload, pressure to succeed and ideals.

"The title of this album is inspired by the sunset at my grandma's place in Italy. I was so amazed at what spectrum of colours our eyes are able to perceive, and how beautiful and bittersweet this moment was between the fading of the day and the falling of the night. Ever since then the title stuck with me, and while I was putting together all the songs for the album, 'All the Colors of the Sky' just felt right as the title, as I'm singing about a whole spectrum of emotions," she added.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Abbey Clancy



WOMEN'S T20 TRI-SERIES

All-round Deepti, debutant Amanjot help India beat South Africa by 27 runs

East London | Agencies

A superb all-round performance from the experienced Deepti Sharma (33 runs & 3/30) and an unbeaten 30-ball 41 on debut by Amanjot Kaur helped India beat South Africa by 27 runs and make a winning start in the opening match of the South Africa Women's T20I Tri-Series.

India were in deep trouble at 69/5 in the 12th over when Deepti Sharma and Amanjot came together for a quick-fire partnership of 76 runs for the sixth wicket that helped India post a competitive total of 147/6 in their 20 overs after South Africa Women won the toss and elected to field first. Skipper

Deepti blazed to 33 off 23 balls, hitting one four and one six while Amanjot hammered seven fours in her 41 not out after opener Yastika Bhatia scored 35 off 34 deliveries to help India Women after South Africa bowlers Nonkululeko Mlaba (2-15, Marizanne Kapp (1-30) and Ayabonga Khaka caused early trouble.

Deepti came to the fore once again during South Africa's reply as she claimed three wickets for 30 runs as South Africa were soon reduced to 64/5 in the 12th over.



They recovered a bit but could manage only 120/9 in 20 overs as they lost the tri-series opener by 27 runs.

The day belonged to Deepti and Amanjot as they came together to rescue India. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was unwell and forced to sit out of the match and Smriti Mandhana, leading the side in her absence, fell cheaply for seven runs.

Though Yastika help one end going with watchful innings, Harleen Deol (8), Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and Devika Vaidya (9) were soon back in the pavilion as India slipped to 69/5.

Deepti and Amanjot provided the innings with the impetus that it needed badly as they raised 76 runs for the sixth wicket and set India on course for a defendable total. The

spinners then got into the act and propelled India Women to victory.

Brief scores - India Women 147/6 in 20 overs (Yastika Bhatia 35, Deepti Sharma 33, Amanjot Kaur 41 not out; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-15) beat South Africa Women 120/9 in 20 overs (Sune Luus 29; Deepti Sharma 3-30, Devika Vaidya 2-19) by 27 runs.

IND vs NZ 2nd ODI

INDIA AIM TO WIN CONSECUTIVE 50-OVER MATCH SERIES AT HOME

Raipur | Agencies

After surviving a mighty scare from all-rounder Michael Bracewell in a successful defence of 349 in the first match, India will be aiming to overcome New Zealand challenge in the second ODI and clinch back to back 50-over match series at home here, which will be Raipur's debut as an international cricket venue.

First is, allowing the opposition to claw back in the match with the bat. In their last six ODIs, India have allowed batters like Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Dasun Shanaka and more recently, Bracewell to hit centuries.

Also, after reducing the opposition to tatters, they haven't been able to close out matches with the bowlers looking flat, clueless and under immense pressure. India would be hoping that this chink in their armour gets a solution in Raipur.

With the bat, Shubman Gill was excellent in his maiden ODI double century at Hyderabad. Apart from other batters, who have shown to be in form, eyes will be on



whether Rohit Sharma can convert a good start into a big total.

Rohit has looked good every time in ODIs this year, before squandering the good start. Once known for his big-daddy centuries in the format, a three-figure mark has continued to elude Rohit since slamming 119 against

Australia at Bengaluru in January 2020.

On the other hand, New Zealand would want for their inexperienced bowling attack to come good in the absence of Tim Southee and Trent Boult. Henry Shipley, Blair Ticker and Lockie Ferguson were expensive in Hyderabad.

BUNDESLIGA: BAYERN SIGN GOAL KEEPER YANN SOMMER FROM BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

Berlin (Germany) | Agencies

Yann Sommer will fill the gap of injured goalie Manuel Neuer after putting pen to paper on a deal with the Bavarians until June 2025, the German giants confirmed in an official statement.

After a long back and forth, Bayern Munich eventually signed Monchengladbach's custodian Sommer, who replaces Neuer with immediate effect for the time being. Neuer suffered a leg fracture during a skiing trip back in December and will be ruled out for the remainder of the season.

"I'm really looking forward to my new role at FC Bayern. It's a big club with power; we've often played against each other. I know about the enormous quality and appeal of this club. I'm proud to be



part of FC Bayern now. We have big tasks ahead of us," Sommer told the club's official homepage.

The goalkeeper is part of Switzerland's national team, the "Nati", and showed his skills several times at the 2022 World Cup. Sommer joined Monchengladbach from FC Basel in 2014 and made overall 272 Bundesliga appearances, reports Xinhua.

Bayern's new arrival received jersey No. 27 and will encounter Leipzig at the curtain raiser of Bundesliga's second half of the season.

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Australia clinch quarters berth with 9-2 win over South Africa, France hold Argentina 5-5

Rourkela | Agencies

Rio Olympic gold medalist Argentina came back from a goal deficit thrice to hold lower-rated France to a 5-5 in a highly-entertaining clash even as Australia thrashed South Africa 9-2 to finish on top in Pool A and clinched a direct berth into the quarterfinals at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023.

Australia, who started the proceedings at the Birsas Munda Hockey Stadium here on Friday as the World No. 1, rode on four goals, including a hat-trick, by seasoned Blake Govers to finish their league proceedings unbeaten with two wins and a draw.

With Australia enjoying a



huge goal-difference advantage, Argentina needed to beat France by at least a 15-goal margin to overtake the Kookaburras, finish on top of the table and bag the quarter-final berth.

Govers completed his hat-trick in the 19th minute when he scored a field goal to make it 5-1 for the Kookaburras. Jake Harvie and Daniel Beale

scored in the 21st and 27th minute respectively as Australia surged to 7-1 at half-time.

France held the upper hand in the fourth quarter as they earned three penalty corners but could score only one consolation goal in the 5th minute when Tevin Kok scored a fine field goal as the match ended 9-2 in favour of

the World No.1 team.

Meanwhile, the Argentineans, who needed a big win, started the match with an early goal when Nicolas Keenan scored a field goal in the 2nd minute. But France levelled the scores within five minutes when Etienne Tyneves responded with a field goal of his own.

France are ranked 11th while Argentina are seventh.

Charlet was at it once again when he converted a penalty stroke in the 59th minute and just when it looked like they had sealed a famous victory but Argentina launched a wave of attacks to force three successive penalty corners and off the third, Della-Torre scored to salvage a point for Argentina.

India Open 2023: Vitidsarn upsets Loh Kean Yew to reach semis; Yamaguchi, An Se-Young also advance

New Delhi | Agencies

Former world junior champion Kunlavat Vitidsarn upset third seed and last edition's finalist Loh Kean Yew of Singapore to reach the semi-final while sixth seed Indonesian Anthony Ginting was forced to dig deep by Li Shi Feng of China in the men's singles quarter-finals of the India Open 2023 at the Indra Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Vitidsarn adopted a slow and steady game plan to defeat Loh 21-12, 21-17 while Ginting fought back from a 6-10 deficit in the decider to beat Li 21-11, 17-21, 21-18. Top seed Viktor Axelsen of



Denmark also advanced to the semi-finals after his opponent Rasmus Gemke had to be taken off the court on a wheelchair following a fall.

Semi-finals of the prestigious BWF World Tour Super 750 event, which is organised by the Badminton Association of India, will be played on Saturday while finals take place on Sunday.

In women's singles, top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan got the better of Spaniard Carolina Marin 21-17, 14-21, 21-9 and will now face Thailand's Supanida Katethong, who got a walkover from third seed Chen Yu Fei citing illness. The other women's singles semi-final will see second seed An Se Young of South Korea face China's He Bingjiao.

The women's singles quarter-final between Yamaguchi and Marin looked like it was heading to a humdinger with both players locked at 5-5 in the decider. But the Japanese then simply raised the bar and raced to victory in an hour and four minutes.

SA20

Sunrisers Eastern Cape beat Paarl Royals, soar into second place

Paarl (South Africa) | Agencies

The Sunrisers Eastern Cape banked on their spin bowlers to become the first team in the SA20 to achieve a hat-trick of wins when they overcame the Paarl Royals by five wickets at Boland Park.

After a slow start to the competition, the Eastern Cape side has gathered momentum to move into second position on the table. The Royals may pride themselves on their spin bowling prowess, but it was the visitors that out-spin the home side. Captain Aiden Markram (2-21), Roelof van der Merwe (2-21) and Brydon Carse (2-29) combined to claim 6-71 in their cumulative 12 overs to restrict the Royals to 127/7. The Royals were in trouble from the outset after Sisanda Magala, who was



recently called up to the Proteas ODI squad for the upcoming series against England, had dangerous Jos Buttler brilliantly caught by a diving Carse at mid-on. From there on the Sunrisers spinners dominated proceedings with only Wihan Lubbe (28) and Corbin Bosch (20) managing to make an impact

on the scoreboard.

The Sunrisers' reply started on a positive note thanks to Adam Rossington and Jordan Hermann. The latter was making his SA20 debut and made an impact with 43 off 39 balls, while Rossington compiled a rapid 20 off just 12 balls.

Fortuin was excellent again on the night on his home ground to finish with 3-20, but he could not prevent Tristan Stubbs (18 not out) and Marco Jansen (21 not out) from taking the Sunrisers home.

Brief scores: Paarl Royals 127/7 in 20 overs (Wihan Lubbe 28; Aiden Markram 2-21, Roelof van der Merwe 2-21) lost to Sunrisers Eastern Cape 131/5 in 18.2 overs (Jordan Hermann 43; Bjorn Fortuin 3-20, Lungi Ngidi 2-31) by 5 wickets.

La Liga: Memphis trains with Atletico Madrid ahead of confirmation of Barca move

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

Dutch international striker Memphis Depay on Thursday trained with Atletico Madrid ahead of the confirmation of his signing from FC Barcelona.

Depay will help cover for Joao Felix, who left to join Chelsea on loan a week ago. The Dutch striker leaves Barcelona after scoring 14 goals in 42 appearances since joining on a free transfer from Olympique Lyon in the summer of 2021 at the petition of former coach Ronald Koeman.

The signing of Robert Lewandowski has seen Memphis drop down the pecking order at Camp Nou and that, along with an injury earlier in the season, means he has started just two league matches this campaign, reports news agency Xinhua.

Atletico are thought to have paid Barca around three million euros to buy Depay,



which represents a decent return for Barca, given that they signed him for nothing. The striker's departure will also lower Barca's hefty wage bill, making it easier to meet financial fair play requirements in the future.

Memphis will be available to make his debut when Atletico entertain Valladolid this weekend.

Australian Open

Tsitsipas sets fourth round clash with Jannik Sinner

Melbourne | Agencies

Greek player Stefanos Tsitsipas and Italy's Jannik Sinner will cross swords in the fourth round of the Australian Open, in what will be a rematch of last year's quarterfinal, after registering contrasting victories in their third-round matches.

The third seed Tsitsipas extended his perfect set record at the 2023 Australian Open to 9-0, beating Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 7-6(5), 6-3. The Greek saved a set point late in the second set before powering through the finish at the Rod Laver Arena.

Already up one place to No. 3 in the ATP Live Rankings this week, Tsitsipas will leave Melbourne as World No. 1 if



he wins his first Grand Slam title.

Tsitsipas will take a 4-1 ATP head-to-head advantage against Sinner into their fourth-round meeting,

including a streak of nine consecutive sets won. Their most recent meeting came last year in Rome, after the Greek's 6-3, 6-4, and 6-2 wins in Melbourne.

MURRAY STAGES STUNNING COMEBACK TO BEAT KOKKINAKIS IN A FIVE-SET THRILLER

Melbourne: The former World No. 1 Andy Murray rallied past home favourite Thanasi Kokkinakis 4-6, 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-5 in a highly-anticipated second-round match at the Australian Open, advancing after five hours and 45 minutes in the longest match of his career.

It is the first time Murray has reached the third round at the first major of the season since 2017. He will next play Roberto Bautista Agut, the Spaniard who also rallied from two sets down to defeat American wild card Brandon Holt 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The three-time Grand Slam champion Murray demonstrated his mental and physical strength for the second time this week, having edged Matteo Berrettini in a four-hour and 52-minute five-set thriller in the first round.

The world No. 66 has produced some of his best tennis at the hard-court major, reaching the final five times. Scot, who now holds a 51-14 record in Melbourne, has not advanced to the fourth round at a major since 2017 when he reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.



The entire world wants to see SRK on screen: John Abraham

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor John Abraham, who will be soon seen as an antagonist in the upcoming spy-thriller film 'Pathaan', has shared that the whole world is waiting for Shah Rukh Khan's return to the silver screen. The film is SRK's first in four years with his last release being the ambitious Aanand L. Rai directorial, 'Zero'.

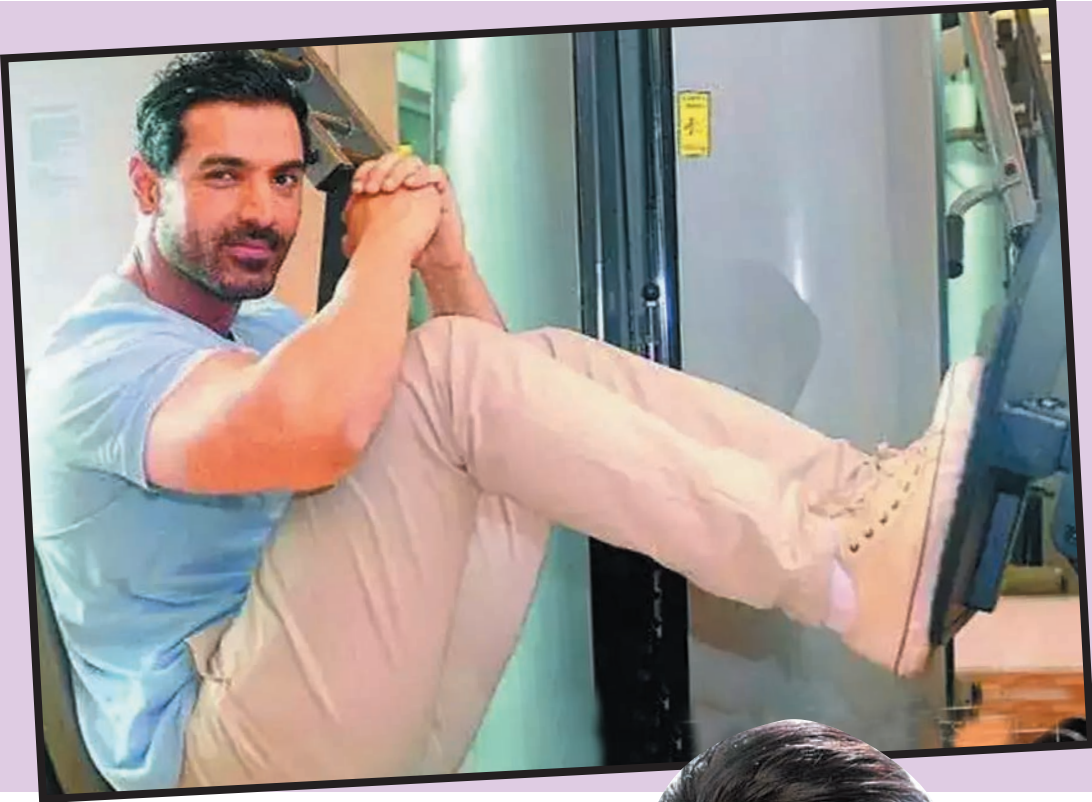
In a video released by the makers of

'Pathaan', John said, "I don't think just the entire nation, I think the entire world wants to see Shah Rukh Khan on screen, including myself, and I think he more than delivered the goods because he's fantastic in this film."

John plays the arch-enemy of SRK in the movie and he is relishing that this film is bringing back the old John Abraham from 'Dhoom', a film that made him achieve cult status among audiences with his bad boy on bike image.

Talking about his character in the film, John shared, "Jim is cool. Jim is dangerous and Jim brings back the old John Abraham from Dhoom! I totally love the action sequences of 'Pathaan' because most of them are mobile."

He added, "One sequence was of course on motorcycles in the snow, one was on a truck so again we were moving, the third is in the air which is wow, fantastic. So, each one was in movement and they were fantastic."



ADAA KHAN SHARES HOW SHESHA GETS A DIFFERENT LOOK IN EACH SEASON OF SHOW

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Adaa Khan, who has been playing the role of Shesha in 'Naagin' series and reprised her role in the 6th season, also, said that every year, her look as Shesha changes and she loves being part of the show. She shared: "Every season, they (the makers) change the look. It's not the same. It's always a different outfit, different makeup, different hair, everything is different and all the fans wait that if Shesha comes, what will be her look this time? And they observe everything, from the jewellery to the clothes, to Makeup and everything else. So everyone is really happy that this time Shesha has come back as positive. People are very happy to see our chemistry and are also comparing it with Mouni Roy".

She added further: "I am always happy when they call me for any season. It feels like you are back home because this is your own baby, at the end of the day. I was part of season one and it started with me. So, when I come in another season, I enjoy it. I enjoy playing Shesha and I am sure the audience will also love watching Shesha."

Her look is something that she is always very excited about, says Adaa, adding: "Before I could enter, we just chose an outfit and spoke about how it would be different. What will the jewellery be like? So of course, there are inputs. The creative, the stylists, we all discuss and that's how the look comes together."



Aditi talked about the trauma her on-screen character is going through

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Katha Ankahee' actress Aditi Dev Sharma talked about the trauma and shock her on-screen character Katha is going through in the show. She further added how Katha is trying to come out of the shock and pain she underwent in the past but again she has to face a similar situation in her life.

Talking about the shock Katha's character is going through in the current track, actor Aditi shared: "Kathaa is already trying to come out of the trauma of the darkest night of her life where she had to let go of her self-respect in order to arrange money for her son. She is trying hard to forget whatever happened and focus on her job and Aarav but Viaan needs to understand her and know that his intention is not helping out at all and deepening the wound even more."

"While Katha thinks that Viaan took advantage of her vulnerability, Viaan on the other hand thinks that Katha is a gold digger, but Katha's behaviour and few incidents in the day to day life start changing Viaan's perception. This will lead to Viaan trying to buy her time with 2 crore rupees which will be mistaken by Katha as a token of money to again sleep with him which will leave her furiously angry," she added. Adding further, Aditi said:

"Each day when I play Kathaa, I feel like I am unraveling a new layer of the character. The emotional turmoil that she is going through is very challenging to portray. On one hand, she is somewhere happy that she could save her child but on the other hand, the dark night still haunts her." "Forgiveness is not even on her mind when Viaan worsens the situation by putting forward another indecent proposal. The viewers will go on an emotional roller coaster ride with Katha from here onwards, I can guarantee that," she concluded.



'I NEVER WANTED TO GET MARRIED'

Neeru Bajwa never wanted to get married, thought she would stay single forever

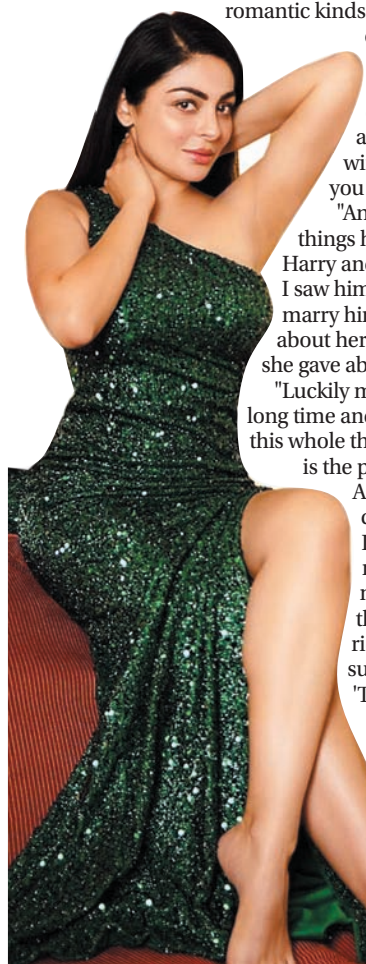
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neeru Bajwa recently spilled the beans on her decision to never get married and how later she fell in love with Harry Jawandha and got married to him. She shared: "I never wanted to get married, and I always thought that I would be single forever because I am not those romantic kinds rather I am very practical. But you know they say when the love of your life walks in everything seems surreal, bells start ringing, the wind starts blowing and you get this strange feeling."

"And honestly, all these things happened when I saw Harry and for a fact, the first time I saw him I knew I was going to marry him." Neeru further talked about her sister and the advice she gave about Harry to her.

"Luckily my sister knew him for a long time and she kind of arranged this whole thing. She told me that he is the perfect match for me."

And I must admit he is quite hot. So, that's how I fell in love and got married to him. He is my best friend and I feel that ever since I got married, I have become more successful." She graced 'The Kapil Sharma Show' along with her co-star Satinder Sartaaaj and director Vijay Kumar Arora to promote their upcoming film 'Kali Jotta'.



Mission Majnu - A patriotic goosebumps, but in parts



FILM REVIEW

AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by: Shantanu Bagchi

Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Rashmika Mandanna, Kumud Mishra, Sharib Hashmi, Parmeet Sethi

Duration: - 129 minutes

Ratings: 3/5

Story: Directed by Shantanu Bagchi, Mission Majnu is based on true events from the 1970s examining one of India's most noteworthy historical missions. It revolves around an undercover Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) agent Amandeep Singh who enters Pakistan to snoop confidential information about the neighbouring country's nuclear capability and whether they are planning a bomb with India as its target. In pursuit of this mission, he falls head over heels in love with a blind girl Nasreen. Well, does Amandeep Singh succeeds in his mission and is able to stop the destruction while saving his own life? The answer lies in the film.

Review: Mission Majnu marks the Bollywood directorial debut of Shantanu Bagchi and it's quite evident that he tries to bring to the table a story who probably are oblivious of. There is no denying in the fact that a patriotic film with a tint of romance has always carried a certain success ratio.

The same formula is used by director Shantanu Bagchi for Mission Majnu. It is because the issue with the film is that it is walking a tightrope between being a romantic film and a patriotic representation of an unsung war hero.

It begins with giving his a gist about World War 1 and 2. It proceeds with introducing us to Sidharth Malhotra's character Amandeep Singh who is in Pakistan where he falls in love with a



blind girl Nasreen and is on the cusp of embracing fatherhood while also carrying out the mission despite being billed as the son of a traitor.

Director Santanu invests prominent time in establishing their love story which takes a major part of the film. Few scenes are extremely predictable and at times sitting through them does become a task.

As mentioned above, the direction of the film is formulaic but there are some gripping moments that do get us at the edge of the seats with a few surprising elements and well executed action sequences. Barring climax, even the emotional moments in the film falls short of striking the right chord.

The dialogues are conversational but at the same time also have the required punch and drama.

Talking of other technical aspects, the cinematography is fine whereas the editing could have been a bit taut.

The BGM and songs with moving lyrics add gravitas to the plot.

When it comes to performances, after Shershaah the expectations are certainly high with Sidharth Malhotra and he even puts forward his best foot.

Rashmika Mandanna's accent appears and disappears as per convenience, just like her role in the film. The actress barely gets a chance to shine in her limited screen space.

The rest of cast including Kumud Mishra, Sharib Hashmi, Parmeet Sethi deliver from what's offered to them.

Conclusion: Overall, the story line of Mission Majnu is gripping and riveting, but only in fragments, making for a passable experience.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Elnaaz Norouzi