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NATION

Remove Sukhbir Badal from Akali Dal to save party: Bibi Jagir Kaur ...



HOLLYWOOD

absoluteinc

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Blake Lively almost lost her iconic 'Mean Girls' role: Amanda Seyfried ...



SPORTS

South Africa beat England by six



SC on a plea for postponing NEET-PG exam

WILL BE MENTAL TORTURE FOR STUDENTS WAITING FOR THE EXAM'

Team Absolute New Delhi

he National Board of Examinations (NBE) on Friday told the Supreme Court that around 2.09 lakh candidates have registered for NEET-PG exam 2023, scheduled on March 5, and if the exam were to be postponed, then no alternative date may be available in the near future.

A bench comprising Justices S R Bhat and Dipankar Datta orally observed that postponing the exam would be a mental torture for those who are waiting for the exam, and added that it will not pass any order either way.

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the NBE, to bring a solution on the issue raised by the petitioners in connection with National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG exam.

The bench noted: "When we postpone a judicial exam, there is agony for the candidates who are preparing for it. The whole dynamics change.

The top court was hearing two petitions seeking postponement of the NEET-PG exam saying that counselling has to be conducted after August 11 since the cut-off date for internship has been extended to that

Sharing the information in connection with the exam, Bhati said around



2.09 lakh candidates have registered for the exam and all preparations have been made to conduct the test, which involved engaging a technology partner to conduct the test.

Opposing the postponement of the exam, she contended that no alternate test date may be available in the near future as the technology partner may not be available and authorities are trying to follow the schedule affirmed by the top court earlier.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, told the bench that

though 13 petitioners have come before the court, the issue raised by them affects nearly 45,000 candidates. He added that when one would go to the counselling, the person would need to carry the internship certificate and since the date has been extended to August 11, therefore the counselling should happen after this date. Sankaranarayanan contended that internship is for 12 hours a day and for these students there is not

much time to prepare for the examination The bench noted that students

preparing for months would have to wait.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who also appeared for the petitioners, submitted that different states have different schedules for internship and the issue has arisen due to this.

After hearing arguments, the bench told Bhati: "We are not indicating that it will be postponed... we are not passing any order either way. We are keeping it open. You come with the figures". The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on

Bullet train is national project', SC declines to entertain Godrej's plea for higher compensation

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea by Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd for higher compensation for its 9.69 acres of land for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train project. The apex court said the project is of national importance.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd, that the court is not willing to entertain the peti-

The bench said, "Much water has flown, possession has been taken over of the land...and the construction

has already commenced." Rohatgi repeatedly questioned the validity of the order. The bench replied that it will not entertain the company's petition.

The Chief Justice told Rohatgi, "Your compensation should not be Rs 264 crore, it should be Rs 572 crore...you have all the remedies now", and it would be like putting a gun to pay the compensation.

The bench further told Rohatgi, "it is only a question of money. It is a nationcrore was offered and filed the writ petition, also chal-

within six weeks. The top court also granted liberty to the company to seek legal recourse for enhancement of the compensation.

After hearing arguments,

the top court said if any

application for enhance-

ment of compensation is

filed, it should be decided

The company's plea challenged validity of the Bombay High Court judgment passed earlier this month, dismissing a petition filed by the Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd challenging the Maharashtra government's grant of Rs 264 crore in compensation for the land.

The Godrej Group had challenged the award and compensation of Rs 264 crore by the Deputy Collector on September 15, 2022, for acquiring 39,252 sq m (9.69 acres). The company said initially Rs 572

lenging the provisions of the

However, the high court, in decision on February 9, described the bullet train project as "of national importance and public interest" and dismissed the petition. The high court said it did not find any illegality in the award or in the "decision taken by the appropriate government in granting extension to make an award by exercising powers under first proviso to Section 25 of the Fair Compensation Act.'

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) is the pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the project, which passes through Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Maharashtra, is being executed by the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd

Ahead of Holi festival, Artist dressed up as Lord Krishna smeared in color at Ramanreti in Mathura on Friday

Buffalo milk price to shoot up by Rs 5/litre from March 1

Team Absolute | Mumbai

itting the consumers hard, the Mumbai Milk Producers Association steep price hike of Rs 5/litre of buffalo milk in the city from March 1, an official said on

MMPA President C.K. Singh said that the price of buffalo milk which is sold by over 3,000 retailers in the city - will be increased from Rs 80 per litre to Rs 85 per litre, and will remain in force till August 31.



This is the second steep hike coming after September 2022, when buffalo milk price was hiked from Rs 75 a litre to Rs 80 per litre, making the domestic budget of the poor and middleclass families go haywire. Singh said that the unanimous decision was taken at the MMPA general body meeting late on Thursday. All the members felt

that since the price of milch animals as well their food items like dana, tuvar, chuni, chana-chuni etc. have gone up by 15-25 per cent, besides hay, pinda etc., the rate of milk should also be increased. Mumbai consumes over 50 lakh litres of buffalo milk daily, of which more than seven lakh is supplied by the MMPA through its chain of dairies and neighbourhood retailers, through their farms spread in and around the country's commercial capital.

Civilian injured by militants in J&K's Bijbehara

(NHSRCL).



Srinagar Agencies

ilitants fired at and injured a civilian in Bijbehara town of J&K's Anantnag district on Friday, police said. Police said militants fired

at a civilian identified as Asif Ali Ganai in Hassanpora area of Bijbehara.

"He was shifted to hospital in Bijbehara town for treatment. The area has been surrounded for searches," police

Traffic Cop Saves Man Who Suffered Heart Attack, Collapsed On Road



Hyderabad Agencies

traffic police officer's swift action saved the life of a man after he collapsed on the road due to a heart attack in Telangana's Hyderabad.

A video of the police officer, Rajasekhar, performing a CPR has been shared widely on social media.

CPR, short for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is a lifesaving technique useful in emergencies such as a heart attack or near drowning.

In the video, which was also tweeted by Telangana Health Minister Harish Rao Thanneeru, the police officer presses on the man's chest with some force till he responds to the intervention.

The Cyberabad Police said the man was taken to a hospital. The Health Minister, thanking the police officer for saving the man's life, said the state government will

train frontline health employees and workers in CPR as such cases have been

"Highly appreciate traffic police Rajashekhar of Rajendranagar PS (police station) for doing a commendable job in saving precious life by immediately doing CPR. Telangana government will conduct CPR training to all frontline employees and workers next week in view of increasing reports of such incidents, Mr Thanneeru tweeted. In the social media age, videos of people collapsing due to heart attacks in public places like gyms and at events have

surfaced often. This has led to debates among medical professionals and speculation on public forums whether heart attacks are increasingly becoming common even among young adults.

Over 3.4mn lives saved by India's Covid vax strategy: Mandaviya

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Covid-19 vaccine strategy adopted by India during the deadly pandemic saved more than 3.4 million lives as well as had a positive impact on the country's economy, said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on

In a virtual address of the 'The India Dialog' session on the Economic Impact of Vaccination & Related Matters, he said that for the effective management of Covid-19, the country "adopted a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach in a proactive, preemptive and graded manner thus adopting a holistic response strate-

He also released a working paper by Stanford University and Institute for Competitiveness titled "Healing the Economy: Estimating the Economic Impact on India's vaccination and related issues"

The paper highlighted that India was able to save more than 3.4 million lives by undertaking the nationwide Covid vaccination campaign at an unprecedented scale. The campaign also yielded a positive economic impact by preventing loss of \$18.3 billion to India's economy. A net benefit of \$15.42 billion occurred for the nation after taking into consideration the cost of the vaccination campaign.



The paper discussed the role of containment as a measure to prevent the spread of the virus. A strict lockdown in the initial period was announced, after which three more lockdown phases followed in succession. A containment strategy followed this in the unlock phases which was decentralised gradually, with specific regions gaining more

control over its implementation. The Stanford report noted that robust measures at the ground level, like contact tracing, mass test-

ing, home quarantine, distribution of essential medical equipment, revamping healthcare infrastructure, and constant coordination among stakeholders at the centre, state, and district levels, not only helped contain the spread of the virus but also in augmenting the health infrastructure.

It elaborates that three measures -- containment, relief package, and vaccine administration -- were critical in saving lives and ensuring economic activity by containing the

spread of the Covid, sustaining livelihoods, and developing immunity against the virus.

Mandaviya also credited a large part of the success to the citizens who cooperated with the government and other stakeholders in the fight against Covid.

Healing the relief packages for citizens, Mandaviya said it "not only helped mitigate the adverse effects of Covid-19 but also provided an impetus to the economic activities."

The relief package by the government catered to the welfare needs of the vulnerable groups, old age population, farmers, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs amongst others and also ensuring support for their livelihoods.

The paper also highlighted the food security programmes during pandemic like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY). The programmes ensured free food grains were distributed to 800 million people which resulted in an economic impact of approximately \$26.24 billion. In addition, the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan helped in providing immediate employment and livelihood opportunities to migrant workers. Through the scheme 4 million beneficiaries were provided employment which resulted in an overall economic impact of \$4.81 billion.

BLAST IN MEERUT LEAVES SEVERAL **TRAPPED**

Meerut (UP): An explosion in the compressor of a cold storage in UP's Meerut city on Friday, has left several injured after a shaft collapsed, officials said.

While some reports said that five labourers had died, there was no confirmation. The incident took place in Daurala police circle and officials have reached the

Several workers are suspected to be trapped under the shaft of the unit which plunged due to the jolt of the explosion and the pressure of the burst. Visuals show workers being taken out of the rubble and debris all around the cold storage unit. Locals assisted the labourers on site.

WITNESS IN RAJU PAL MURDER CASE SHOT AT IN UP

Prayagraj (UP): Umesh Pal, the main witness in the murder of then BSP MLA, Raju Pal, was shot at while entering his house on

Friday evening. The assailants fired several rounds at him and then fled. Two gunners engaged in the security of Umesh Pal are also said to be seriously injured in the firing.

Raju Pal was shot dead in Prayagraj in January 2005 and the prime accused in the case was Ashraf Ahmad, brother of Ateeq Ahmad. Raju Pal's widow Puja Pal is now Samajwadi Party MLA.

Bhopal Saturday, February 25, 2023

KERALA HIGH COURT STRESSES ON VALUE-BASED EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

he Kerala High Court has held that schools should provide value-based education so that children learn to become responsible and safe.

The court made the observation on Thursday while considering a petition filed in 2022 regarding discriminative hostel curfew timing for boys and girls.

In that plea, the Court had passed a judgment directing all principals and other concerned authorities of medical colleges to act in terms of the Government Order dated December 6, 2022, which stipulates that the closing time of gates for both girls and boys be 9.30 p.m.

The court had kept this case open to have an open discussion on this matter and to hear various opinions.

After taking up this case, the court said that it doesn't want the girls and boys to be locked in but the incidents that are happening are



It was linking that case with a recent news report which said a class 9 student was found to be a carrier of drugs for people whom she had met on social media.

"Drugs are no life. Children should understand that. Value-based education should start. This generation should guard themselves...,' said Justice Devan Ramachandran.

Incidentally, this school girl was allegedly involved in a drug gang for three years and had been using drugs since class 7, according to the

media report. The incident surfaced when the girl's mother noticed cut marks on her hands and subsequently noticed her talking to strangers while going to school.

She informed the school management and later on lodged a complaint with the Childline and the Assistant Commissioner of Police at the Kozhikode City Medical College Police Station.

A special investigation force is currently looking into this matter.

The judge then said that he doesn't want the girls and boys to be locked in but the incidents that are happening are undoubtedly concerning.

"I am not saying women and men should be locked in. I am not in favour of control but seeing the things that are happening. We are concerned. What I am saying is that children might not like it. Freedom is not that you can do whatever you want but it is what you ought to do.' the Court said and posted the case to

Foreign candidates, NRIs can also apply for CUET-UG 2023

oreign candidates, NRI and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) candidates can also apply for Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) 2023, UGC Chairman Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar said.

However, all Central universities in India will allow UG admission only through the

In the online application form of CUET-UG 2023, candidates need to select nationality in the dropdown, either Indian, OCI, NRI or Foreign. Moreover, to facilitate the Foreign, OCI and NRI candidates, CUET-UG 2023 will also be conducted in 24 cities outside India as per details given on CUET website.

Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, said, "Foreign candidates, NRI, OCI candidates can also apply for CUET-UG 2023 and they can appear in any of the above-mentioned cities outside India. However, all foreign candidates, NRI, OCI candidates are advised to visit website of the university, institution or organisation where admission is sought and go through their relevant guidelines in this regard and be guided accordingly.'

According to Professor Kumar, the university, organisation, institution may have different



and OCI candidates. "These candidates are required to check the policies regarding quota, category, relaxation, reservations, qualification, subject combinations, preferences etc of the respective institution website," Kumar added.

UGC has also informed all the universities through 'Guidelines for Admission and Supernumerary seats of International Students in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in India' dated September 30, 2022 that HEIs may adopt a transparent admission process for admitting the international students. No need to use CUET score. There are 25 per cent supernumerary seats for foreign nationals in UG and PG programmes. In PhD programme, each faculty member can take two additional students over and above

MCD Ruckus: Mayor stops recounting, councillors trade blows in House

Team Absolute New Delhi

ll hell broke loose after MCD Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Friday stalled the recounting of votes for electing the members of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) following objections raised by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

It was free for all in the MCD House with BJP and AAP councillors trading blows at each other, showing scant disregard for the sanctity of the House.

Protesting against the Mayor's decision to stall the recounting process, BJP councillors started breaking mikes, tearing ballot papers and even damaged the polling booths amid sloganeering.

Oberoi said that one party is ready for recounting, while the other is not.

"So I am stopping the recounting process," Oberoi said. Earlier, after polling was held for the all-powerful Standing Committee, the tussle between the Councilors started over a single vote. After the polls, the Mayor declared one vote as invalid.

Meanwhile, AAP councillor Ashok Kumar Maanu collapsed as clashes broke out



between the BJP and AAP councillors.

"They are so shameless that they attacked even women and the Mayor. The BJP goons did this," Maanu claimed.

The party claimed that Oberoi was also attacked by the 'BJP goons'. Women security guards escorted her by risking their own lives,

Another Kota coaching student commits suicide, says 'Sorry mom' in suicide note

Jaipur | Agencies

nother coaching student in Rajasthan's Kota committed suicide by hanging himself, police said on Friday

The incident took place in Kunhadi area of the city, which is a hub for students preparing for various competitive examinations, on Wednesday

Abhishek, 17, a resident of UP's Badaun, UP, was living in a Kota hostel for the last two years and was preparing for the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test (NEET). He was not going to coaching for some time but was taking online classes from the hostel itself. Police officials said that it was reported at 9 p.m. on Thursday that a student was not opening a room in Datar Residency for nearly 24

"We went to the spot and broke the door of the room. The student was



found hanging from a noose. A suicide note has been found from the

In the suicide note, Abhishek wrote: "I am apologising to you. I came to Kota on my own free will. No one pressurized me. Sorry Didi, Mummy Sorry Bhai, Sorry friends, Forgive me, I have lost. That's why I

On receiving information about Abhishek's suicide, father Aram Singh reached Kota on Friday morning. He said parents know how they raise children and teach them, but the coaching institutes "discriminate".

"That's why children are committing suicide. Why is such a situation arising? What is the atmosphere that children are committing suicide," he questioned.

Aram Singh said that there is pressure from coaching institutes but there is no pressure from parents. "My son never told that he was upset. He used to keep stress to himself.

"Had I known that he will commit suicide, I would have taken it from here before. I say that the government should pay attention. The government should formulate a policy, so that the incident of suicide in our society is stopped."

Five suicide cases have come to fore in just last two months in Kota

Remove Sukhbir Badal from Akali Dal to save party: Bibi Jagir Kaur

eaders expelled from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have raised a tirade against party chief Sukhbir Badal and his close aides by saying they should be removed from the party to 'save' it from extinction.

Leading the rebels, former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur said the SAD under the Badals' rule had propagated mafia culture and corruption in the state.

Besides Bibi Jagir Kaur, the prominent rebel leaders comprise former minister Sarwan Singh Phillaur who held a meeting in Kapurthala's Begowal on Thursday.

Bibi Jagir Kaur announced they are going to travel state-wide to mobilise workers to save the Akali Dal. "The Akali Dal can be saved only if Badals and their associates



are shunted out of the party. From 2007 to 2017, the SAD under the Badals' rule had propagated mafia culture and corruption in the state,

After parting ways from SAD, Kaur lost the SGPC elections to SAD candidate and incumbent president Harjinder Singh Dhami.

SAD in November last year expelled Bibi Jagir Kaur from the party for indulging in anti-party activities, including becoming party to a conspiracy to break the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

AURANGABAD IS NOW 'CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR', OSMANABAD WILL BE 'DHARASHIV'

Mumbai: The Centre on Friday notified the change of names for Aurangabad and Osmanabad cities in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Accordingly, Aurangahad will now be known as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar'

and Osmanabad shall be called 'Dharashiv', as per a Central notification. This comes after the Maharashtra government wrote to the Centre on October 20, 2022, seeking the change of names

While Osmanabad reverts to its ancient name of 'Dharashiv' after a group of caves near the town, Aurangabad will honour the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's son and successor -Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj - who ruled after his father for 8 years (1681-1689), till his death at the age of 31 in March 1689.

that were cleared by the state cabinet.

Soon after the Centre's communication, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for making this possible.

Arunachal paper leak: Suspended official found dead

Itanagar | Agencies

n Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) official, who was suspended from service after the alleged leak of question paper in August last year, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on the state capital's outskirts on Friday, police said.

The body of APPSC Under Secretary Tumi Gangkak, who served the Commission as the Assistant Controller of Examinations, was found hanging from a tree near the Itanagar Zoo road tri-junction. Police recovered the body of the official and launched a probe. The Central Bureau of Investigation is investigating

A team of 11 people, including 5 doctors,



the case after the APPSC conducted Assistant Engineer (Civil) examination question paper was leaked in August last year.So far, 41 government employees, including 20 regular employees, 20 employees

under probation and one contractual staff, have been arrested in connection with the paper leak scam. All these 20 regular employees have been suspended and departmental enquiry started

Former Vijayan aide Sivasankar sent back to jail as ED does not seek custody

Kochi | Agencies

ormer IAS officer M. Sivasankar, who was a top aide to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during 2016-21, was on Friday sent back to jail after the Enforcement Directorate, who had his custody for the past nine days, did not seek any extension.

Sivasankar was produced before a court here and since the ED did not seek further custody, the court sent him back to the jail.

He superannuated from service on January 31 and few days later he appeared before the ED probing into the bribery case in the Vijayan government's pet "Life Mission" project intended to provide homes to the poor who lost their houses in the devastating floods of

And after three days of



questioning, Sivasankar was arrested by the ED and the court first gave sent him into its custody for five days. On Monday, the agency requested the court for another four more days and it ended on

With the ED on Friday not seeking further custodial

interrogation, counsel for Sivasankar moved his bail petition.

On Tursday, the ED served a notice to C.M. Ravindran, the assistant private secretary to Vijayan and considered the Chief Minister's closest aide, to appear before them at their office here on

got success in an eight-hour operation Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

uring a complex surgery at Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Center, a functional penis was reconstructed by removing the cancerous penis and creating a new penis through the skin, blood vessels and nerves of the patient's hand. For the first time in the state, a case has been made of making a penis on the hand and transplanting it in place.

A team of 11 people including five doctors got success in this surgery which lasted for about eight hours.

BMCHRC cancer surgeon Dr. Prashant Sharma said that 72-yearold Gujar Singh (name changed), a resident of Bundi, had earlier refused for treatment after knowing that the penis would be removed during the treatment. After removal of the penis, the patient has difficulty in urinating and they have to urinate while sitting.

Such changes in routine have a negative effect on the mental state of the patient. In this surgery, Dr. Prashant Sharma's team first



Media Briefing on



removed the cancerous penis. After this, the team of plastic and reconstructive surgeons Dr. Umesh Bansal and Dr. Saurabh Rawat did the process of reconstruction of the

During the surgery, first the penis was constructed by taking the skin, blood vessels and nerves of the left

hand of the patient. After that, with the help of microscopic technique, the newly created penis was implanted in place and blood flow was started in it. Micro surgical techniques were used in this surgery. The purpose of penis reconstruction is to create the correct shape, length and urethra, as well as to restore sensation in

the penis. Also, there is no change in the working capacity and size of the hand on which the linga was constructed. In this case, the patient can lead a completely normal life with the reconstructed penis.

Problems in about four percent of cancer patients Dr. Prashant Sharma told that about four percent of cancer patients are of male genital organ cancer. About 50 percent of these patients have to remove the penis as a treatment. Plastic surgeon Dr. Saurabh Rawat said that the state's first gender reconstruction surgery was done in 2017 at BMCHRC itself. So far 10 penis reconstructions have been done in the hospital. All these surgeries were not only successful but the new penis was made exactly like natural. Reconstruction allows the person to walk normally and do other daily activities easily within two weeks. Dr. Rawat said that gender reconstruction is possible if a person's penis has been removed due to injury, cancer or any other reason or does not have a congenital penis.



madhya pradesh

SHAH SEEKS KOL COMMUNITY'S **SUPPORT IN MP ASSEMBLY POLLS**



Team Absolute Bhopal

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reached Satna in Madhya Pradesh on a twoday visit and laid the foundation stones for development works worth Rs 50699 lakh and dedicated to the public, other works worth Rs 2556 lakh virtually.

He addressed 'Kol Mahakumbh' (Kol tribal convention) organised by Madhya Pradesh government in Satna district. The mega event was organised to observe the birth anniversary of the Kol tribal community icon, Sabri Mata.

While addressing the gathering of

over one lakh people of Kol tribal community from different district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh, the Shah praised Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government for implementing various beneficiary schemes for tribal com-

"This double-engine sarkar (government), PM Modi in Centre and CM Shivraj here in Madhya Pradesh have introduced several schemes for tribal people. Modi after becoming Prime Minister first time in 2014 had said that his government is for tribals, poor and downtrodden people and we all are working in that vision only," Shah said.

He further reminded that during his visit to Jabalpur last year, MP government had announced over a dozen tribal-centric schemes, and most of them have been implemented now. The Union Home Minister counted PM Modi's flagships, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ayushman Bharat

"The Congress government used to spend Rs 24,000 crore for the development of tribal communities. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this figure has gone up to Rs 89,000 crore," he said.

Yojana, Ujjwala scheme and many

Mounting an attack on the oppo-

sition Congress, Shah said that Congress government has never nominated any Tribal member for President Position. Whereas, BJP government is for all Tribals, Dalits and backward classes. We gave India the first Tribal Presdient-- Droupadi

Meanwhile, he appealed to people of Kol communities of Madhya Pradesh to support the BJP in coming assembly elections later this year. During his visit in Satna district, Shah attended various other events and laid the foundation stones of several projects worth Rs 503 crore. A medical college was also inaugurated in Satna.

Youth should understand the changes taking place in the country and take inspiration from them: Governor

Team Absolute Bhopal

overnor Patel has said Tthat Bharat Darshan is an opportunity to know the country and make friends. He said that to interact with the people whom they may meet during the journey. Exchange mobile numbers with them. Maintain communication with them after the journey. Bharat Darshan is a golden opportunity to get acquainted

with the glorious form of unity in diversity and glorious traditions of community life and mutual brotherhood of our country. It is necessary that all of you, along with being familiar with various aspects of contemporary culture and civilization, understand the pleasant changes taking place in the country and take inspiration from them.

Governor Patel said this in a discussion with the Kashmiri youths who had come on Bharat Darshan in the "Know Your Country" initiative of the 14th Corps of the Sashastra Seema Bal at Raj Bhavan today. Principal Secretary to the Governor

D.P. Ahuja was also present. Governor Mangubhai Patel said that on returning from the tour, tell people in the family, society and region

said that our life-philosophy, the wonderful unity of moral life values, cultural traditions

about the heritage of the country's rich culture, customs and traditions, and the unity created in diversity. Share the information about the development and progress happening in the country with the youth and children. Inspire them to be partners in inclusive culture of diversity and strengthening of national unity. Strengthen positive thinking and constructive global view in society about the country and the future. He said that youths are the future of the country. The future of that country is bright, whose youths are healthy, educated and serve the nation considering the national interest as supreme. He called upon the youths to never forget their parents in life. Do not do any such work.

and emotional beliefs are integral and unbreakable, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. That's why it has been said that we are all sons of Mother India, where is the question of discrimination. The glorious form of unity in diversity like India is not found in any other corner of the world. He said that the role of youths is important in strengthening this wonderful identity of India and boosting India's pride in the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a lot of hopes and expectations from the youth. The Prime Minister has opened new opportunities for youth's active participation in building a new India, channelizing the energy of the

Insurance Corp employee caught red-handed for taking bribe

Team Absolute Gwalion

n employee of Employees Insurance Corporation was caught red-handed While allegedly accepting Rs 5000 bribe on Friday. Lokayukta registered the case and started investigation under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Lokayukta Deputy Superintendent of Police Raghavendra Rishiswar on February 20, said that the compliant is posted as a contractual employee in Madhya Pradesh Electricity Distribution Company. She said that her Rs 50,000 for maternity leave were pending. She accused that Shubham Gupta, who works as an Upper division clerk (UDC) at State **Employees Insurance Corporation allegedly** demanded Rs 5000 in exchange of releasing her payment, told DSP Rishiswar.

Interestingly, Lokayukta police had taped



this conversation. Later, the police laid a trap to catch him red-hand. They gave the lady currency notes thinly-layered with a special chemical and sent her to the Shubham's office located in Falka Bazar. As the woman gave the chemical-laced note to the accused employee, his fingerprints were recorded and the Lokayukta team arrested him red-handed.

11 NEW MEASLES CASES FOUND IN FIVE NEW AREAS OF INDORE

Team Absolute Indore

here is no relief to the city from measles' outbreak. Eleven new patients were identified taking the tally of such cases to 31 in last two weeks. Moreover, the patients were found in three new areas. As samples are still pending, officials are apprehensive of a few of them returning

"As many as 11 new patients found positive are of between the age of nine months and 19 years. Out of these eleven patients, three are from Chandan Nagar, two each from Juna Risala and Madina Nagar, and one each from Bambai Bazaar, Janki Nagar, and Khajrana," District



Immunization Officer Dr Tarun

He said that most of these patients were recovering well and none of them was fully vaccinated. The team of the health department has intensified the door-to-door survey in these areas and the vaccination drive.

"We have surveyed more than 5,000 houses in the affected areas and found 400 children who hadn't taken the vaccine yet. Our team has vaccinated 375 of them so far and the rest will be vaccinated soon," Dr Gupta

The team has given Vitamin A tablets to over 800 children while a survey has been launched in areas

Drunk, man throws rocks at friend over non-payment of dues

drunk man allegedly started throwing rocks at his friend in Shivpuri, after he suddenly remembered that his friend owed him money. The video went viral on social media on Friday. The young man has been admitted to the hospital in critical condition. According to the reports, the viral video is said to be a few days old from Madha Ganeshkheda of Rannaud police station area. The accused Khalakh Singh (48) and the victim Dilip Lodhi (26) both are the residents of the same village.



After drinking together, Khalakh Singh remembered he had loaned some money to Dilip Lodhi. When he asked for the repayment, his friend refused and this sparked the fight. The duo got into the heated argument and started hurling abuses at each other.

MP to have paperless budget session; MLAs will be given tablets to view budget statement

Team Absolute Bhopal

fter years of preparing for the 'e-Vidhan Sabha', this year the Madhya Pradesh assembly may finally have a paperless budget session. This year, the budget copy will be given to the MLAs on tablets, said the officials, here on Friday.

The budget session will start from February 27 with governor's address to the assembly.

The speaker of the state assembly Girish Goutam has expressed in the month of September last year that from the budget session the concept of e-assembly may going to

The assembly principal secretary, AP Singh said that the preparations of the session have been reviewed with the officials on Thursday.

"The finance department had procured the tablets for the MLAs. On the day of budget, the tablets will be handed over to them. replacing printed copies, he said. Earlier the



printed copies are given. He also added that a technical team will be present in the assembly to help the MLAs in required. The finance department have given the responsibility of the tablet procurement to Laghu Udyog Nigam (LUN).

CM Chouhan plants saplings with 80 year old retired teacher

which will bring slur to the

country. Governor Patel has

Team Absolute Bhopa

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Kalavati Sharma, 80-year-old retired teacher of Tendukheda Narsinghpur, her grandsons 4 year old Achyut and 10 year old Chandresh planted Saptaparni, Peepal and Jamun saplings in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Sharma's sons Pankaj Sharma, Ritu Sharma and Akshay Sharma were also present. Along with CM Chouhan, Dilip Sahu planted saplings on his birthday. Nandkishore Sahu and Ashish Sharma were with him.

Seeing the enthusiasm of the boy Achyut in planting saplings, CM Chouhan showed his affection by saying "Thank you Achyut". In discussion with the media representatives, the Chief Minister praised the active participation of boys Achyut and Chandresh in planting



saplings, these children have wholeheartedly done the work of pouring soil and watering the saplings themselves. The campaign of tree plantation is becoming a mass movement in the state. The sensitivity developing in the children and the new generation to save the earth and protect the environment will have a positive impact on the state as well as the country and the world.

111 GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS OF THE **STATE GOT CERTIFICATION:** CM CHOUHAN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is continuously working for expansion of health facilities in the state. It is a matter of pleasure that Madhya Pradesh has made another achievement in the field of health. We are on top in the country in providing better treatment to pregnant women. Madhya Pradesh has got the top place in the country in the "Lakshya" campaign launched by the National Health Mission to improve the quality of delivery rooms. CM Chouhan was discussing with media representatives after planting saplings in the garden located in Shyamla Hills.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that under the Lakshya Abhiyan, 111 government health institutions of the state have got certification at the national level. On this basis, these institutions will get an annual grant ranging from Rs. one lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. This amount will be used for the upkeep and improvement of operation theaters and delivery rooms. The Chief Minister said that keeping in view the safe and quality maternity care in the "Lakshya" campaign, the arrangements available in the state's hospitals were checked by the central team.

Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated Dr. Rajeev Gupta, Dr. Lovely Kaushal and their entire team of Bhopal's Hamidia Hospital for successfully using new technology for the treatment of TB patients.

From poha to Indori khopra patties, Kamna Pathak relishes 56 native delicacies

'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan' actress Kamna Pathak recently visited her hometown Indore and enjoyed gorging on local delicacies in the city.

Team Absolute Indore

he actress visited her favourite food joint, tryed 56 different items, and clicked pictures with her fans.

The actress talked about her love for food and said: "I am from Indore, which is also called the food city. Recently, I travelled to Ujjain to seek blessings from the Mahakal Jyotirling Temple during Maha Shivratri. The moment I reached Indore, I could not resist visiting my favourite eatery, Chappan Dukan to satiate my taste buds. I received a warm welcome from my fans and clicked a lot of photos with them."

Kamna started her career as a theatre artist and did numerous plays like 'Chanakya', 'Aakhiri Shama', 'Moteram ka Satyagrah', 'Kabuliwala', 'The Beast in Beauty', among others. Later, she worked in the movie 'Mango Dreams' and is now seen playing the role of

She goes on to say how she was offered to try 56 food items and added: "I was offered the chance to taste fifty-six food items by the shop-

Rajesh in the sitcom 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan'.



keeper. Initially, I was sceptical about eating so much but then I could not resist. I feel it was the right decision as I got to gorge on some delectable cuisines. I started with a chilled coconut

"This was followed by sabudana khichdi, poha, jalebi, hot dog, kulhad pizza, berry ice cream, Indori khopra patties, aloo tikki, pani puri with eight flavours, rasgulla, to name a few. However, Tandoori Chai and Turkish Ice cream were something I enjoyed the most."

The actress also went down memory lane and revisited her childhood days: "My good old days flashed before me as I walked the streets and felt

nostalgic. We used to chip in and eat together. However, a lot has changed here; previously, there were only fifty-six stalls, which have now increased to

a hundred with some new food joints." "Even though my stomach was full, I didn't want to leave without trying more dishes. Visiting Indore and my home makes me happy every time," she concluded.

EDITOR'S SPECS

EAT BREAKFAST TO WARD OFF RISK OF CANCER, HEART DISEASE

pt eating the first meal of the day could make you inefficient in fighting off infections that can make you prone to a range of diseases from heart disease to cancer, according to a new animal study. The research, led by a team at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, showed that skipping meals triggers a response in the brain that negatively affects immune cells. It could also lead to a better understanding of how chronic fasting may affect the body long term. "There is a growing awareness that fasting is healthy, and there is indeed abundant evidence for the benefits of fasting. Our study provides a word of caution as it suggests that there may also be a cost to fasting that carries a health risk," said lead author Filip Swirski, Director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at Icahn. The study, published in the journal Immunity, analysed two groups of mice: one group ate breakfast right after waking up, and the other group had no breakfast. Researchers collected blood samples in both groups when mice woke up, then four hours later, and eight hours later. They found differences in monocytes -- white blood cells that are made in the bone marrow and travel through the body, where they play many critical roles, from fighting infections, to heart disease, to cancer. In fasting mice, researchers discovered the monocytes travelled back to the bone marrow to hibernate, affecting the *production of new cells in the bone marrow. Next, the researchers continued to fast mice* for up to 24 hours, and then reintroduced food. The cells hiding in the bone marrow surged back into the bloodstream within a few hours. This surge led to heightened levels of inflammation. Instead of protecting against infection, these altered monocytes were more inflammatory, making the body less resistant to fighting infection.

FARMERS SWITCH TO SOLAR **PUMPS FOR IRRIGATION**

SANAVVER SHAFI

taying awake the whole night to water his agricultural land is a thing of the past for Gangaram Vishvkarma of Aamkheda in Raisen district. Thanks to the installation of a 2 HP solar pump under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), he no longer has to rely on the erratic power supply to irrigate his three-acre

The ease of work was particularly evident in recent days when the mercury dipped to below 10 degree Celsius in Madhya Pradesh. While Gangaram could curl up with a warm quilt, the less fortunate like Ramesh Singh of Pachair in Rajgarh district stayed out in the

"Whether it is summer or winter, day or night, we have to irrigate our crops and look after them like our children. If the crop is good, the yield will also be good, and the family will be happy. If you fall ill, you can take medicines. But if the crop fails, nothing will be left of us," says Ramesh, who grows wheat on his 20 bighas where second irrigation is

Electricity is provided in shifts during the day and night, but Ramesh is constantly worried about disruptions in service. "Earlier, fertiliser shortage was keeping us on our toes. Now, irregular power supply gives us sleepless nights," he says.

Farmer Pratap Singh adds that the power supply in rural areas is quite nominal during the day. "As a result, when electricity is available at night, water is drawn incessantly from all the tubewells. The government makes many promises, but does not implement even

Madhya Pradesh government has promised 10 hours of electricity for irrigation, but farmers say they get supply only for three hours as per the schedule issued by the electricity department. In November, a group of farmers held protests against power disruptions, and had sought a change in the supply schedule.

Jawahar Singh of Khajuri Kala village in Bhopal district says erratic power supply and non-availability of manure/fertilisers are common problems they face every year. "We have held sit-in protests at the Collectorate



and blocked roads, but our problems remain the same. This is in our destiny," he laments.

Districts in the Bhopal division - Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore, Vidisha and Rajgarh - get electricity from the Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited.

Its Public Relations Officer Manoj Dwivedi tells 101Reporters that the government's intention is to provide 10-hour powersupply for irrigation, but the demand has increased from 444 MW to a maximum of 3,551 MW during the rabi season in 16 districts of the company's Bhopal, Gwalior, Narmadapuram and Chambal divisions. He adds that 8,642 temporary irrigation pump connections have been issued in view of the cropping cycle.

On the measures taken to ensure uninter rupted and quality power supply, he says a timetable has been issued, whereby electricity is provided in two batches. For example, in Bhopal division, the first group gets power from 11.30 pm to 3.30 am and from 3.30 pm to 9.30 pm, while the second group has a 3.30-7.30 am and 5.30-11.30 pm schedule.

Kuber Singh Rajput, who has wheat and gram on his 10 bighas of land, questions the rationale behind the supply schedule. "In this cold weather, the government should take steps to provide electricity the whole day. If cities can have 24-hour uninterrupted power supply, why not villages? Why is the government adopting a step-motherly attitude?" A ray of hope

Vinod Vishvkarma from Aamkheda is all praise for the solar pump installed under the PM-KUSUM. "Water is drawn from my tubewell the whole day. By going solar, I also got rid of the electricity bill (approx. Rs 2,600/month for a 5 HP pump). After deduct-

ing the central and state subsidies that come to 30 per cent each, we got the 2 HP pump costing Rs 1.44 lakh for around Rs 57,000," says Vinod, who has three acres of land under cultivation

Vidisha farmers Umesh Rajput and Dinesh Rajput are very happy about the solar pump installed for their 10 bighas of land. Similarly, Gonal Singh Yaday of Pachair says he never faced a problem in irrigating his fields for the last one-and-a-half years, after the installation of a 5 HP solar pump. Unlike in the past, the fear of crop loss does not worry him either.

Pointing to his solar pump, Suresh Yadav of Kolukhedi in Bhopal district says it has helped him save money and get sleep at night though it is time for critical watering of rabi wheat. "For wheat crop to yield 18 to 20 quintals per acre, watering in six stages is a must. The first one (20-25 days after sowing) is done at the time of taproot formation. If irrigation is improper at this stage, chances of crop damage are high," he says.

The second watering stage is during bud formation (40-45 days), third at 65-70 days, fourth at the time of flowering (90-95 days), fifth at the time of milking (105-110 days) and the last when the grain gets

hard (120-125 days). During every stage, water and electricity worth a total of Rs 1,000

Sitting at home, one can operate the irrigation pump installed in the field using a mobile app. However, the system is not foolproof. GPS is needed for its operation. The solar pump company's remote app is installed on my phone. In the pump, there is an option to install a mobile SIM, which should be recharged monthly. Though it is a good facility, I have noticed some glitches in its functioning. Many times, the pump starts almost 10 minutes after it is switched on using the mobile. Other times, it does not function as the server goes down," informs Vinod.

In some places, farmers are vexed by the late arrival of solar pumps even after getting the necessary approval. For instance, Khajuri Kala resident Bhagwan Singh had applied online for 5 HP-DC submersible solar pump online in 2019 by paying a fee of Rs 5,000 through the CM Solar Pump Scheme website.

"After a while, I also received communication from Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited regarding my pump's approval. But till date, I have not received it. However, every 15 to 20 days, I get a message on my mobile phone informing about the approval, and directing me to deposit the post-subsidy 40 per cent of the total cost. This has been happening for the last six months, but the option/link to make payment is not available," he complains

Farmers Jitendra Singh, Samat Singh, Bhujwal Singh, Laxman Singh and Jawahar Singh of Khajuri Kala face the same problem.

Shivkumar Sharma, a resident of Machhera Khurd village near Bankhedi in Hoshangabad district and president of Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh, says the demand for solar pumps is quite high due to the subsidy

"As farmers are applying in large numbers, MPUVNL is unable to process things faster, which leads to years of wait. Also, there is no system in place to prioritise applications based on the date they were received. As a result, an applicant from the year 2019 still waits for the pump, while another who did so in 2020 has already received it," he says.

international

China seeks to position itself as global peacemaker with latest charm offensive over Ukraine

New Delhi Agencies

launched an assertive charm offensive, kicking off with top diplomat Wang Yi's tour of Europe which culminated in a warm welcome by Vladimir Putin in Moscow, according to a media report.

Beijing has released not one but two position papers the first offering the Chinese solution to the war and the other outlining a plan for world peace, BBC reported.

These largely retread the talking points China has reiterated in the past year, calling for respect for sovereignty (for Ukraine) and the protection of national security interests (for Russia), while opposing the use of unilateral sanctions (by the US).

The West may come away



unimpressed - but convincing them was never likely the main goal for Beijing, BBC

reported. Firstly, it clearly seeks to position itself as a global peacemaker. An obvious clue about who it's really trying to charm lies in one of its papers where it mentions engaging South East Asia, Africa and South America the so-called Global South.

In preaching an alternative vision to a US-led world order, it is wooing the rest of the globe which is watching to see how the West handles the Ukraine crisis, BBC reported. But another goal is to send a clear message to the US. "There is an element of defiance," said Alexander Korolev, an expert in Sino-Russian ties with the

University of New South

things get ugly between us, I Russia is not alone, which means that I will not be alone when there is a confrontation don't get comfortable in bullying me'.

The timing, say observers, is a giveaway. Relations between the US and China have hit a new low, exacerbated by the spy balloon. Some have also questioned why China has made its big diplomatic push for Ukraine peace only now, BBC reported."China had ample opportunities to display leadership, it was invited early on to contribute to ending the war... If the goal was to truly display the image of a global leader, you don't have to sit on the fence for one year and try to perform a diplomatic dance," said Koroley.

Jordan sends aid convoy to quake-hit Syria

Amman: Jordan's Foreign Ministry said that the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) has dispatched a 14-truck convoy loaded ith medicines food blankets and drinking water to quake-hit Syria.

The Ministry said in a statement that the aid would be delivered to the devastated regions in Syria through the cross-border transport system, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Higher Relief Committee in Syria received seven trucks of aid from the JHCO, while the UN agen cies operating in Syria received another seven trucks to be distributed to the affected people, the statement added. Sinan Al-Majali, the Ministry's spokesperson, stressed that the kingdom continues to provide assistance and support for Syria to deal with the consequences of the recent earthquakes. Northern Syria was hit hard by the 7.7- and 7.6-magnitude earthquakes centred in southeastern . Trkiye on February 6, in which about 7,000 people in Syria's governmentand rebel-held areas were killed.

After temples, Khalistanis target Indian consulate in Brisbane

Melbourne Agencies

ollowing vandalisation of Hindu temples, Khalistani attached to the Indian consulate in Brisbane, just days after External Affairs Minister S.

the incident, said.

Jaishankar's visit to Australia. According to The Australia Today, Honorary Consul of India in Brisbane Archana Singh found the Khalistan flag

attached to the office on February 22. "Police are surveilling the area to keep us safe. We have strong faith in police authority," Singh, who had informed the Queensland police immediately about

The incident, which took place on February 21, comes just days after two Hindu temples received threatening calls from Khalistani supporters.

In one of the calls, the President and the Vice President of Gayatri Mandir in Brisbane were asked to raise 'Khalistan Zindabad' slogans and support the referendum.

Before this, the Kali Mata temple in

Melbourne received a threat call this week, asking it to cancel a religious event or face consequences.

Hindu temples in Australia and Canada have seen a spurt in vandal attacks by Khalistani elements defacing the walls with anti-

India slogans and graffiti. Between January 12 to 23, three prominent Hindu temples in Melbourne were targetted. 'The frequency and impunity with

which the vandals appear to be operating are alarming, as are the graffiti which include glorification of anti-Indian terrorists," the Indian High Commission in Australia said in a strongly-worded state-

Indians in Australia said they are "angry, scared and dismayed by the blatant display of religious hatred towards the peaceful Hindu community by Khalistan supporters".

According to census data, Hinduism is the fastest-growing religion in Australia.

In the 2021 Australian census, Hinduism grew by 55.3 per cent to 684,002 people. Powerful winter storm continues to slam much

New Zealand creates new recovery visa to support cyclone, flooding rebuilding

diately," Immigration

on Friday.

as saying

Minister Michael Wood said

In the short term, experts

such as insurance assessors,

infrastructure and utilities

engineers and technicians,

heavy machinery operators

and debris removal workers

are needed, Xinhua news

agency quoted the Minister

"The visa covers the mix of

workers needed for clean-up

and recovery, including con-

struction workers," he said,



Wellington | Agencies

Tew Zealand has created a new Recovery Visa category to help bring in the additional specialist workers needed to support rebuild efforts in the wake of cyclone Gabrielle and Auckland flooding, the country's worst natural disasters in decades.

"The Recovery Visa means overseas specialists needed to support the recovery efforts can come here immeadding applications opened on Friday and the visa will last for up to six months. The fee will be refunded

for successful applicants, making it free for those who come here.

Recovery Visa applications will be prioritized by Immigration New Zealand, with the aim of processing an application within a week of receiving it, he said.

Similar visa pathways were used for the responses to the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes, the Minister said, adding global workforce shortages mean the visa may not see as many applicants as in the past.

New Zealand declared state of national emergency on February 14, the third time in the country's history due to the devastating weather event which caused widespread power outages, flight cancellations and school closures in the North Island.

of US, while some parts experience record heat Washington Agencies massive winter storm with heavy snow, rain and powerful

winds has continued to hit much of the US, triggering major power outages, flight cancellations and road closures, while some regions in the south were experiencing record-high heat.

More than 995,000 people were without power in five states on Thursday, including more than 772,000 in Michigan, according to poweroutage.us.

More than 24 million people across more than two dozen states were under blizzard, winter storm, wind chill and freeze warnings Thursday, Xinhua news agency quoted the National Weather Service (NWS) as saying.

Another 49 million people faced winter weather, wind chill and frost

For the first time in 34 years, the NWS issued a blizzard warning for Southern California mountains



through Saturday.

Snow levels could descend to below 1,000 feet elevation as extreme anomalous cold at high altitudes whips up a serious elevation storm.

"An unusually cold and slow-moving winter storm to bring very heavy snowfall and strong winds to California and adjacent areas of the

West through Friday and into the start of the weekend," said the latest weather prediction of the NWS on Thursday

The prolonged winter storm yield-

ed significant impacts from the West through the Midwest and into the Great Lakes region. While heavy snow and strong

winds will tend to dominate the headlines for this winter storm, one other major concern will be the threat of heavy rainfall and flooding for some of the immediate coastal ranges of southern California below the snow level, according to the

Heavy rainfall and flooding will be possible for parts of southern California, according to weather

The powerful storm had promoted delay or cancellation of more than 7,600 flights at airports across the US on Wednesday.

Blizzards in the Dakotas Minnesota and Wisconsin have forced many schools and businesses to close.

While snow and ice continue to slam much of the country, southern regions are experiencing record-high

The heat on Wednesday in some cities in states as Kentucky and Tennessee shattered records stretching back more than a century.





Your agitation has been successful, now start preparing for MPSC exams: Sharad Pawar

eacting to the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC)'s decision to postpone the implementation of the new syllabus for exams to 2025, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar said that students' agitation has been successful and asked them to start preparing for the examination. "Your agitation has been successful and now start preparing (for examination) with new vigour and enthusiasm," the NCP chief said.

"All the best for your future endeavours," Pawar said while expressing confidence that the students will achieve great success in the examination. He further added that they will contribute substantially to the administrative services of the state in the

Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar also welcomed MPSC's decision of postponing the implementation of



the new syllabus for exams to 2025. "This decision to start the new syllabus in 2025 will give the candidates the necessary time to prepare for the examination based on the new syl-

labus. This new format of the course will provide quality officers in the service of the state government," the leader of the Opposition said.

On Thursday, the MPSC made an

postponing the implementation of the new syllabus for exams to 2025 instead of starting it from the current

In June last year, the MPSC said it would switch to descriptive pattern exams from the present objective type. This had led to protests from aspirants who claimed they would not get time to prepare as per the new syllabus if it is implemented from 2023.MPSC aspirants have been protesting across the state, mainly in Pune, seeking that the new syllabus be implemented from 2025.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said students have succeeded, adding the MPSC decision is important and shows his government belongs to the common man.

"We do not want politics on this issue. Now students have got enough time to study. We need to thank MPSC for this decision," Shinde

Prostitution racket busted in Thane, two arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police have arrested two persons for allegedly running the G trade from a massage parlour in Maharashtra's Thane district and rescued a woman and a minor girl from there, an official said on Friday. Following inputs about a prostitution racket, the police sent a decoy customer to the massage and spa centre at Naya Nagar area of Mira Road, on the outskirts of Mumbai, on Wednesday, said the official.

After being alerted by the decoy, a police team raided the premises and rescued a woman and a minor girl, said Sameer Ahirrao of Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar police in Maharashtra.

The cops also arrested the parlour manager Tousif Khan and a worker named Gopalkumar Mali who had struck a deal with the decoy, he said.

The woman and the girl have been sent to a rescue home, he said, adding that they are on the lookout for the massage parlor owner whose name was given as Heena Qureshi.

Meanwhile, in another case, the Mumbai Crime Branch on Thursday rescued a minor girl and two women from flesh trade. According to the police, the officials of the city crime branch had received a tip-off regarding an alleged prostitution racket being run in Vikhroli area. After receiving the information, a special team was formed that raided a place under the jurisdiction of Parksite Police in Vikhroli

The police said that the raid was conducted on February 21 and a 45-year-old woman was initially detained in the matter. The woman was suspected to be running the alleged racket and using minors for the illegal business for her monetary gains.

A case under relevant sections of the IPC, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and Juvenile Justice Act was registered with the Parksite Police in the matter and further legal action is

Ex-President Pratibha Patil's husband Dr Devisingh R. Shekhawat passes away

Team Absolute Pune

cademician and politician, Dr Devisingh Ransingh Shekhawat the husband of former President Pratibha Patil passed away here on Friday morning, official sources

He was 88 and breathed his last at the KEM Hospital. He is survived by his ex-President wife, a son Rajendra Singh Shekhawat, who is a Congress leader, and a daughter Jyoti Rathod.

According to the sources, Shekhawat had a fall while on a morning morning constitutional outside their house lawns in Pune on February 12.

He had undergone a surgery for it but later developed several other complications including high blood pressure, kidney failures, etc,



leading to his demise. As per available information, Shekhawat's funeral shall be performed this evening at the Vaikunthdham

Crematorium around 7 p.m. Sources revealed that his wife Pratibha, 89 - who was India's first woman President (2007-2012) - is in shock by the sudden loss of her hus-

band of 60 years (since 1962) - and is being consoled and cared for by her family members. An agriculturist and academician-turned-politician, Shekhawat hailed from Amravati - where he served as the first Mayor (1991-1992), and also as a Maharashtra MLA (1985-

MAN GETS 10 **YEARS IN JAIL FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING CHILD**

Thane: A special court in Thane has sentenced a 35year-old Navi Mumbai resident to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after holding him guilty of sexually abusing a child. In his order of Thursday, Special Judge A N Sirsikar also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the man, who was tried under the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Special Public Prosecutor Vijay Munde told the court that the child was three years old when the man sexually abused her in May 2018. Both were neighbours in the Turbhe area of Navi Mumbai. The prosecution examined 11 witnesses to prove the charges, said Munde.

CBI conducts raids in Mumbai, Pune; recovers cash, jewellery

Team Absolute New Delh

he Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches in connection with a case lodged under the Prevention of Corruption Act, following which cash of Rs 4 lakh and gold jewelleries among other articles were recovered, an official

The case was lodged against two former Punebased GST officials including then deputy director for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 1 crore from a Gurugram-based businessman for extending favours including closing a case lodged against him and his

The CBI said that the



three premises in Mumbai and Pune belonging to the accused.

A CBI official said that incriminating documents, digital devices and gadgets were recovered, while cash of Rs 4 lakh and gold jewellery were also recovered

from the premises of then Deputy Director, DGGI (Directorate General of GST Intelligence).

In April 2022, a complaint was received from one Gurugram-based Vishal Bansal who runs Future U India Ltd regarding demand

Kumar, and Vimlesh Kumar, Deputy Director, both from Director General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Pune Zonal Unit for not "further harassing them and closing the proceedings".

The allegations mentioned in the complaint were verified by the CBI. It was learnt that the accused officials repeatedly called the complainant and his colleague in connection with an enquiry pending.

During the verification, it emerged that the accused Rahul Kumar in conspiracy with Vimlesh Kumar demanded and agreed to accept part payment of Rs 25 lakh out of the total demand of Rs 1 crore from one Vishal Bansal to be delivered to his

Aaliya Siddiqui accuses Nawazuddin of rape, 'stealing' her kids; files complaint

Team Absolute | Mumbai

ctor Nawazuddin Siddiqui's estranged wife, Aaliya Siddiqui, has accused him of trying to use his power to take custody of her children. She also accused him of raping her and filed a police complaint against him at Versova police station in Mumbai.

She has shared a video and a post in which she talked about him and blamed him for not having any attachment with the kids. But, now he is interested in them and wants their custody.

Nawazuddin and Aaliya got married in 2009 and the couple has two kids: daughter Shora, and son Yaani.Sharing details about their relationship and pointing towards the Bollywood actor, she wrote: "A great actor who tried to be a great human being. His heartless mother who calls my innocent child illegitimate and this bad man remains silent. A rape complaint (with proof) has been filed against him at Versova police station yesterday itself. Whatever happens, I will not let my innocent children go in these heartless hands.

She also shared her pain saying: "He has claimed that he wants the custody of the kids. He has not experienced the joy of kids, he doesn't even know how to use a diaper or what is the cost of diaper and even has no idea about the size of their clothes; didn't realise when our kids grew up and today he wants to steal the kids from me and show that he is a good father. He is a coward father. He is stealing the kids from a mother by abusing his power. But he doesn't know that the Almighty has the biggest power."

"I have considered you as my husband and lived in the deception that you considered me your wife. I have given the most important years of my life to you. I am already facing financial loss and he has made me weak from all sides. The fame has gone to his head. My son doesn't even know the love of a father because he has always seen only one kid. But I have complete faith in the law and courts that the result will be in my favour," she added.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and his wife Aaliya Siddiqui are engaged in a legal battle over their

SHIV SENA DEMANDS SACKING OF **BIHAR MINISTER FOR SLUR ON ARMY**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he ruling Shiv Sena condemned and demanded the sacking of a Bihar Minister for his objectionable comments on the Centre's Agnipath scheme for the youth, here on Friday.

Shiv Sena Chief Spokesperson Krishna Hegde said that the Bihar Cooperative Minister Surendra Prasad Yadav had criticised the Agnipath scheme using a derogatory term while referring to the armed forces.

"We strongly condemn his remarks. Yadav must apologise for his utterances. We demand that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar should sack him from the cabinet and take appropriate action against him," said Hegde.

Targetting the Agnipath scheme on Thursday, Yaday had said that in eight-andhalf years from now, "the country will have an army of eunuchs after all the old people who are currently serving in the Indian Army will

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), to which Yadav belongs, has washed its hands off his remarks, while the Opposition Bharatiya



Janata Party slammed the Minister saying it shows his 'mental imbalance'

Yadav also slammed the short-term recruitment policy for Indian youth to join the armed forces saying that after their stint is over, nobody would marry their daughters to such unemployed persons, sparking a major political row

Ritu Phogat on her wrestling strategy: The game is about presence of mind

Mumbai: Famous wrestler Ritu Phogat, who won a gold medal at the 2016 Commonwealth Wrestling Championship, spoke about her wrestling experiences and the



one was scared of her because she was a wrestler. She said: "While all of us train really hard night and day for the game when you are in the ring, the entire game is about using your presence of mind; and that actually helps win."

Ritu is coming on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote the MMA reality series 'Kumite 1 Warrior Hunt' along with the host of the show, Suniel Shetty, and The Great Khali, Ali

Budhawani, Mahavir Phogat. During the conversation, Archana remarked that in the North, when boys tease girls, there are times the girls get aggressive and hit them back.Responding to this, Ritu said: "I haven't faced such a situation. During my school days, everyone used to be afraid of me as they knew I'm a wrestler. During any game, boys and girls equally wanted me on their team."



GreenLine Logistics deploys LNG trucks at Dalmia Cement

Team Absolute New Delhi

reenLine Logistics (Green Planet Logistics Pvt Ltd.), India's first and only LNG-fuelled heavy trucking logistics company, has deployed Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited's first fleet of LNG trucks at its Chandrapur plant in Maharashtra.

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL), a leading Indian cement manufacturer and a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited, has tied up with GreenLine Logistics for this significant initiative towards building a 'green' supply chain, with an initial order of 35 LNG trucks. These trucks will be deployed at DCBL's plants in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, in a phased manner. Under its green logistics strategy for the decarbonization of its transportation fleet, DCBL plans to transition 300 trucks to LNG by the end of FY24

GreenLine has deployed two types of LNG trucks -- trailers and bulkers, for inbound and outbound logistics of raw materials and finished product. GreenLine's LNG trucks reduce CO2



emissions by 28 per cent, translating to emission reduction of 24 ton CO2 per truck per annum, compared to conventional diesel trucks. Over the initial fleet of 35 LNG trucks, this adds up to a significant reduction of 840-ton CO2 per year. In addition, these LNG trucks significantly reduce other dangerous emissions -- SOx emissions by up to 100 per cent, NOx emissions by up to

59 per cent and Particulate Matter by up to 91 per cent.

Commenting on the association, Anand Mimani, CEO, GreenLine, said, "We are proud to be the chosen partner of Dalmia Cement in their journey to decarbonise their heavy trucking and will be investing Rs 250 crore to enable transition of 10 per cent of their fleet to LNG by March 2024. Given the

higher order of magnitude of a range of toxic emissions from heavy trucking, it is crucial for corporates to focus on reducing emissions from this aspect of their business operations. GreenLine is enabling corporates in this endeavour through its fleet of LNG-powered heavy duty trucks.' Commenting on this initiative,

Company Spokesperson, DBL said, 'We are delighted to partner with GreenLine Logistics for further reduction of our carbon footprint and GHG emissions under Scope 3 category. Dalmia Cement has been following the business philosophy of Clean & Green is Profitable and Sustainable. Our overall CO2 emissions have come down from 670 kg per tonne to 467 kg per tonne -- one of the lowest globally and we are focusing on realising our goal to be carbon negative by 2040. As part of this journey, we plan to transition 10 per cent of our current truck fleet to LNG by March 2024

The trucks were flagged off by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited leadership -- Saurabh Palsania, Executive Director, Procurement and Logistics,

Hakimuddin Ali, Executive Director and Business Head Maharashtra; Subbaraidu Ayyagari, Plant Head, Chandrapur, alongwith Anand Mimani, CEO GreenLine Logistics and other key officials.

GreenLine Logistics is on a mission to decarbonize heavy trucking in India and is paving the way for widespread adoption of LNG fuelled long haul trucks by showcasing its immense advantages for corporates. GreenLine has collaborated with multiple organisations to create India's first & only integrated green logistics ecosystem to make LNG trucking a reality in India.

Dalmia Cement is also the first triple joiner company of EP 100, EV 100 and RE 100 initiatives of the Climate Group. The company follows a three-pronged strategy to reduce emissions -- 1) by replacing conventional fuels and raw materials with alternative solutions, 2) expanding its overall renewable energy portfolio in Solar & WHRS journey towards EV100, 3) deployment of green vehicles in logistics. Dalmia Cement is committed to becoming carbon negative by 2040.

hollywood



Los Angeles | Agencies

debut as Satine in 'Moulin Rouge! The Musical'. She will take the stage on April 11 at Broadway's Al Hirschfeld Theatre for a 14-week limited engagement that runs through July

watched from the edge of my

"This show is a full-on feast for the senses and the opportunity to play Satine feels like the culmination of so many dreams. I cannot believe I get to join this phenomenal

name is Joanna Levesque, will star opposite Derek Klena as he returns to the production as Christian. Set in 1900s France, the story follows a charming young composer who goes to Paris and falls in love with a cabaret actor named Satine, who is the star of the Moulin

Tveit, who is currently reprising his Tony-winning role of Christian, and Ashley Loren, who is playing Satine, will be leaving the show on April 9.

er when her breakout hit 'Leave (Get Out)' made her the youngestever solo artist to have a debut No. 1 The singer put out her fourth stu-

Grammy for her song 'Say So' with PJ Morton.

edy "RV" opposite Robin Williams.

'Moulin Rouge! The Musical' is the 2001 film. It opened on Broadway in 2019, starring Tveit and Karen Olvio Timbers directed the jukebox musical, which features songs by Elton Iohn, Lady Gaga, Katy Po

Turner, Madonna and dozens

cast and company!!!! You guys blow me away!!! JoJo, whose full

Broadway favourite Aaron

JoJo became famous as a teenag-

and in the same year, she won a

On screen, she's appeared in

swept at the Tony Awards with 14 nominations and 10 wins. Alex

ninger JoJo is making her Broadway 16, reports 'Variety'. "When I first saw this musical I fell instantly head over heels in love. I

> word of every song," JoJo wrote on Twitter.

seat, hanging onto every

dio album 'Good to Know' in 2020

"Aquamarine" and the road-trip com-

stage version of Baz Luhrmann's in the lead roles, and eventually

AMANDA SEYFRIED Los Angeles | Agencies ctress Amanda Seyfried says Blake Lively almost lost playing the iconic character Karen Smith in 2004's 'Mean Girls'. During a video interview with Vanity Fair published Wednesday, Seyfried, 37, said that she believes she was cast in the role because she "played that person in high school in order to stay out of the drama" before recalling the specifics of her audition, reports people.com. "I'd first auditioned for Regina, and I'd flown out to L.A. for the first time with my mother. It was very exciting," Seyfried, who was 17 at the time, said of her first film role. "I met (Gretchen Wieners actress) Lacey Chabert for the first time, and Lindsay Lohan was in the room and Blake Lively was playing Karen, and then I was Regina." "I flew home, and they were like, 'You know what, let's - we think you're more correct for Karen,' so I was like, 'Oh, God, okay, sure,' " she added of the casting process. 'Mean Girls' casting director Marci Liroff once told Cosmopolitan UK that while the production initially wanted lively, who had not yet rose to fame for 2005's Sisterhood of the Traveling

Pants, to play Karen, producer Lorne Michaels ultimately suggested casting Seyfried in the role. "(Lively) came down to the final tests but, at some point, some of the filmmakers said to keep looking," Liroff said during a 2019 interview with the outlet. "Amanda Seyfried had read for Regina and we really liked her but then Lorne suggested, 'Why don't we make her Karen?'

PAUL MESCAL CALLS

A FAN 'CREEPY'

FOR GROPING

HIS BOTTOM

Los Angeles | Agencies

ctor Paul Mescal has blasted a "creepy" fan for groping his bottom when he agreed to take a picture with Later and said he confronted her over her actions. The 'Aftersun' actor has found most encounters with his admirers to be "really nice" but there have also been occasions where he's been left feeling uncomfortable, such as a recent experience when a woman asked for his photo outside the Almeida Theatre in London, where the 27-yearold star has been starring in a production of 'A Streetcar Named Desire', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He recalled to ES magazine: "As we posed for it, she put her hand on my a**. "I thought it was an accident, so I like (moved away) but the hand followed. I remember tensing up and feeling just, like, fury. "I turned to her and said, 'What're you doing? Take your hand off my a**.' "The last thing I want to do is call somebody out in front of the theatre - it's uncomfortable for everyone involved - but it was really not okay. It was so gross, creepy."97 per cent of (fame) is really nice - then three per cent is somebody, like, grabbing your a**." Mescal became a household name when he starred as Connell in the TV adaptation of Sally Rooney's novel 'Normal People'

in 2020 and he admitted he found the attention "a bit affronting" and was uncomfortable being seen as a heartthrob.

Warner Bros. Discovery sign "multiple" films based on 'The Lord of the Rings'

Los Angeles | Agencies

rarner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav announced that Luca and Pam Abdy have made a deal to make "multiple" films based on the J.R.R. Tolkien books 'Lord of the Rings'.

The projects will be developed through WB label New Line Cinema. The first 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy, helmed by Peter Jackson, grossed nearly \$3 billion worldwide; Jackson's followup trilogy based on Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' matched those grosses, reports

No filmmakers have been attached to the projects as yet, but in a statement to Variety, Jackson and his main 'Lord of the Rings' collaborators Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens said Warner Bros. and Embracer "have kept us in the loop every step of the way.'

"We look forward to speaking with them further to hear their vision for the



franchise moving forward," Jackson,

Walsh and Boyens said

Freemode, a division of Embracer Group, made the adaptive rights deal for books including 'The Lord of the Rings'

and 'The Hobbit'. The pact will be billed under the name Middle-earth Enterprises.

Notably, De Luca and Abdy left MGM last year to take the helm of Warner Bros. Their exit followed the acquisition of MGM by Amazon - the tech giant owns the TV rights to 'Lord of the Rings' and produced a single season of television at the gut-busting price of over \$450

Missing: A High-tech thriller mystery to blow your minds



FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Cast: Cast- Nia Long, Daniel Henney and Storm Reid

Director- Nicholas D. Johnson and Will Merrick

Ratings- 3.5/5

Synopsis: June's hunt for answers is hampered by international red tape when her mother goes missing while on vacation in Colombia with her new lover. June, who is hundreds of miles away in Los Angeles, uses all of the latest technology at her disposal to attempt to find her before it's too late. When she dives further, though, her digital investi-

gation raises more questions than answers. **Review:** The film is touted as a prequel to the 2018 film Searching and follows a similar theme. The entire film is shot in an unusual style, with the majority of the time spent on face time and showcasing the screen. The film opens with the introduction of a happy family consisting of June, Grace, and her husband. Grace takes her daughter to another



city after her husband's death, where she finds love again. Upset with her mother's decision, June distances herself from her mother, but when Grace goes missing, June begins searching for her, and each question adds suspense to the picture. Will June be able to locate her mother? What does the

mystery have in store for June? It is up to you to figure it out.

Nicholas D. Johnson and Will Merrick provide a brilliantly filmed, simple, and direct mystery that has the potential to blow your mind. The filmmaker has maintained the spirit of 'searching' in mind throughout the

filming process. The narrative is sharp, and the short timeframe keeps the viewer engaged throughout. You never feel like losing interest since each scene adds to the drama. A film with no amazing landscape or stunning scenery manages to offer you a "wow" moment; kudos to the editing team.

The lack of songs in the film perfectly meets the condition, since the background soundtrack is enough. When it comes to star performances, Storm Reid is the film's backbone. What a brilliant talent she is; her performance is so flawless that she gets to transmit the exact feeling only by using expres-

Moving on to Nia Long, the actress plays Grace in the film and performs wonderfully. Aside from these two characters, Tim Griffin, Rainn Wilson, and Megan Suri also have significant parts and have contributed significantly to the film's success.

Daniel Henney deserves special attention; the man is a charmer who does full justice to his role. To be honest, the film is a masterpiece, but my personal favourite is the climax. It has surprise, humour, and aww moments all at the same time. More films

like this need to be made. **Conclusion:** This film is a masterpiece that should be seen in a theatre. It is the kind of movie you do not want to miss watching.



SMITH TO LEAD AUSTRALIA IN THIRD TEST IN ABSENCE OF CUMMINS



Team Absolute New Delhi

easoned batter Steven Smith will lead Australia in the third Test of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India in Indore as regular skipper Pat Cummins will miss the game to remain home in Sydney due to a family illness.

Cummins flew home following Australia's defeat in the second-Test in Delhi last week, explaining in a statement that his mother "is ill and in palliative care".

With a nine-day break between Tests following the three-day finish in the second game, it had been hoped the 29year-old would return to India for the third Test beginning Wednesday.But Australia confirmed on Friday that Cummins would miss the Indore Test.

They are keeping the door open for him to return for the fourth Test in Ahmedabad, but Smith could end up captaining in both the remaining matches. "I have decided against returning to India at this time. I feel I am best being here with my family. I appreciate the overwhelming support I have received from Cricket Australia and my teammates. Thanks for your understanding," said a statement from Cummins. It will be the third time Smith has led the Test side since his reinstatement as vice-captain in late 2021 when Cummins took over from Tim Paine. Smith has filled in as skipper for two Tests -- in December, 2022 when Cummins had been ruled out due to injury and in the Ashes Test of 2021 when there were Covid-related con-

CAMERON GREEN SAYS HE *IS '100 PERCENT READY'* **FOR INDORE TEST**

New Delhi Australian allrounder Cameron Green has said that he is '100 percent



ing the first two games with a fractured finger. "I was so, so close last game but I

think probably having an extra week has helped a lot, so I'm 100 percent ready to go," Green stated.

"I reckon it's just a few instances in the nets where I'd maybe go for a sweep and just jarred (the injured finger) on my bat. I went for a sweep to a pretty new ball, just caught the very end of it and had a bit of pain at the back of my finger, but apart from that it's been really sweet the last two weeks, I've got a lot of confidence in it," he added. With Mitchell Starc also firming for a return in Indore and that pair could end up being the side's only two selected pacemen with Cummins ruled out for the third Test. "My bowling is actually going really well, I think we probably thought the ball on the back of the finger rolling off might be painful but that's been completely fine. I had my first hit probably four or five days ago against the pace bowlers and felt completely fine," he said.

Women's T20 World Cup

South Africa beat England by six runs

Cape Town | Agencies

Ingland were cruising in the chase until the last three overs of the innings in which South Africa roared back and made it through to the

England are known as good chasers and that status is going to be put to test as they have been presented with a 165run target to reach the final.

South Africa made a slow start in the powerplay but have since sped up and England are now dealing with a rather strong opening stand. It ended with Laura Wolvaardt scoring a half century and her opening stand with Tazmin Brits produced 96 runs. Brits then took over and scored her second consecutive half century and South Africa, who have not managed to reach 140 before in this tournament, looked primed to reach

Sophie Ecclestone then bowled a stunning 19th over in which she took two wickets but the 20th over then went for 18 to take South Africa to a total of 164/4. England and South Africa have met three times in World Cup tournaments - at the 2014 T20 World Cup and 2017 and 2022 fifty-over World Cup. All three times, England has emerged triumphant from a final four meeting against South Africa and there's no doubt they have the historical upper

The player of the match is Tazmin Brits, The woman with the velcro hands,



who played a clever and aggressive innings with the bat said, "As a cricketer you dream of showing up at such moments. Thank you to the crowd, without them it wouldn't have been possible. Nice to have backing from your country. We tried to accelerate at the

beginning but got a measure of it as the game went on. 140 was a minimum but we got 160. I wrote it down on paper.

"I still cannot believe {the catch]. I am impressed and happy with it. We need to praise and glory to God for giving us this opportunity.'

Bengaluru Open

India's Anirudh-Prashanth storm into doubles final

Bengaluru | Agencies

ndian pair of Anirudh Chandrasekhar and N. Vijay Sundar Prashanth extended their excellent form at the Bengaluru Open 2023 to enter the doubles final after beating the fourth-seeded Arjun Kadhe and Max Neuchrist 7-6(1), 4-6, 10-2 at the KSLTA Stadium.

Anirudh and Prashanth are the only Indians remaincountry's campaign ended in the singles with the exit of Sumit Nagal on Thursday. The duo registered a hard-



fought win in an exciting three-setter semi-final against the Indo-Austrian pair and will play the final on

In the singles quarterfinals, Hamad Medjedovic of Serbia toppled No. 1 seed Chun-Medjedovic employed his power-packed serve and ground shots to telling effect to carve a 6-1, 6-2 win over

his fancied opponent. The extent of Medjedovic's dominance was evident from the fact that he managed to effect five breaks in the match.

Medjedovic will face Max Purcell in the semi-finals on Saturday. Purcell, the defending doubles champion in Wimbledon, outperformed Luca Nardi of Italy 6-2, 6-0.

Earlier, second-seeded James Duckworth of Australia, who was once ranked No. 46 in the world also entered the Last-4 with a clinical 6-4, 6-1 win over Dimitar Kuzmanov of

ENG vs NZ 2nd Test Day 1

BROOK'S UNBEATEN 184 PUT ENGLAND IN CONTROL

Wellington | Agencies

magnificent 184 not out from the Harry Brook put England in control on day one of the second and final Test against New

Brook was well on course for his maiden double ton but showers in the final session brought an early end to the day with the 24-year-old unbeaten on 184 off just 169 balls including 24 fours and 5 sixes, driving England to 315-3 at stumps.

At the other end, he had Joe Root for company, who notched up b 29th Test hundred (101 not out). The pair added an undefeated stand worth 294 for the fourth wicket to snatch the momentum away from the



England were 21-3 after being asked to bat on a green pitch at the Basin Reserve with Zak Crawley, Ben

Duckett and Ollie Pope all falling

there, it was all downhill for the hosts as Brook and Root took over.

Brook, who has now scored four centuries in his past five Tests, batted with all the style, certainty and confidence. His 169-ball effort was laced with some sublime strokes and moved him to 807 Test runs in total, the most after nine innings for any player in history. On the other hand, Root, who sur-

vived a review for lbw from his first ball and then again on 31, was the perfect foil. The Root and Brook stand has left England in the perfect position to push for their seventh-successive Test win and a series triumph that would be New Zealand's first home defeat in six years.

England 315/3 (Harry Brook 184 not out, Joe Root 101 not out; Matt Henry 2-64) vs New Zealand

UNION BERLIN UPSET AJAX IN UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

nion Berlin advanced into the UEFA Europa League last-16 for the first time after clinching a 3-1 win over Ajax Amsterdam at the play-off second leg.

Both teams started highly motivated and staged a lively opening period. Clear-cut opportunities were at a premium, but that changed with 20 minutes gone as Ajax's Calvin Bassey conceded a handball penalty.

Robin Knoche stepped up and kept his cool from the spot after beating Ajax goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli with the assistance of the inside post, a Xinhua report said. Ajax had to wait until the 40th minute to create danger in front of



Kudus pulled wide from five meters with all time and space. The Dutch visitors could have opened their scoring three minutes later, but Kudus' equalizer was flagged offside.

At the other end of the pitch, Josip Juranovic's curl shot caught Rulli flatfooted, making it 2-0 just before the

break. Ajax came out with its guns blaz ing after the restart and halved the deficit early in the second half when Kudus latched onto Steven Bergwijn's cross in the 47th minute.

Union remained unimpressed, though and restored its two-goal lead three minutes later through Dutchman Danilho Doekhi, who hammered Juranovic's whipped corner to the back post into the roof of the net from close range. Ajax's resistance was broken, whereas Union's Sheraldo Becker left two presentable chances unused in the closing stages. Frustrated, Ajax had to complete the match with ten men as Edson Alvarez received his marching orders for unsportsmanlike conduct in the dying minutes of the game.

MURRAY SOARS INTO SEMIFINAL AFTER COMEBACK WIN OVER MULLER

Doha| Britain's Andy Murray, who has been labelled as 'The Marathon Man' due to his epic exploits of late, roared back from a set down to beat Alexandre Muller of France to sail into the semifinals of Qatar Open.

Murray produced a fine comeback to beat the Frenchman 4-6 6-1, 6-2 in a two hours and four minutes encounter at ATP 250 tournament on Thursday

Women's T20 World Cup

We were looking in good shape, but unfortunately, we didn't get the win: Harmanpreet

Cape Town | Agencies

dejected India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur took heart from her teams fight despite falling just short of beating Australia in the first semi-final of Womens T20 World Cup at Newlands Cricket Ground.

"We always back ourselves whenever we play against Australia because we know we have beaten them two times in the World Cup and then once in the home series. So, we know when we play



good cricket, we can beat any team and today we were looking in good shape, but unfortunately, we didn't get the win. The good thing is the match went to the last over, we didn't give up easily. That's what we discussed, that we will fight to the end and it was good to see that we

did that," Harmanpreet said in the post-match press conference. "It was a disappointment because the way I was batting, maybe that was the only way I could have got out. Otherwise, the way I was hitting the ball, I knew how to take this chase till the end. From the Australian team's body language, it looked like they had given up. But the moment I got out, the momentum shifted from India to Australia, I personally felt it was a turning point," the India captain said.

Aditi Ashok takes commanding lead in Race to Costa del Sol standings

Golf

London | Agencies

okyo Olympian Aditi Ashok has taken a commanding early lead in the 2023 Race to Costa del Sol standings with 1210 points after the first month of action.

Race to Costa del Sol is a season-long competition to crown the Ladies European Tour (LET) number one player at the end of the

The 24-year-old Indian made a magnificent start to the 2023 LET season after winning the Magical Kenya Ladies Open on an invite to secure her full LET card and collect 500.00 points. She then followed it up with stellar performances at the Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco and Aramco Saudi Ladies International in Saudi Arabia, finishing third and runner-up, respectively, to take her tally

Sitting in second is Maja Stark. After finishing runner-up in the 2022 Race to Costa del Sol, the Swede has continued where she left off last season by winning the Lalla Meryem Cup to collect 500 points. The Race to Costa



del Sol continues next week with the Joburg Ladies Open at Modderfontein Golf Club.

After the conclusion of the 2023 season, the top 10 in the Race to Costa del Sol will have the opportunity to go to the final stage of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Q-Series, which grants LPGA Tour status to the top players.

Reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain

survived a two-hour and 47-minute battle against Italy's Fabio Fognini to secure a spot in the quarterfinals of the ATP 500 Rio Open.

Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

n a rematch of their 2022 Rio de Janeiro semifinal, Alcaraz earned an entertaining 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-4 victory, improving to 6-0 on the season on Thursday night.

The world no. 2 will next face Dusan Lajovic after the Serbian defeated countryman Laslo Djere 6-2, 6-4 to reach his second quarterfinal of the season.

Top seed at the Rio Open, the 19-year-old is bidding to become the first repeat Rio champion in the tourna-

ment's history. Last year Alcaraz won the first of his five titles during the season at Jockey Club Brasileiro on his way to finishing as the youngest number one in the

history of the ATP rankings. Fognini, who won all five of his break points, was seeking his first win in his past 14 attempts against Top 10 opponents.

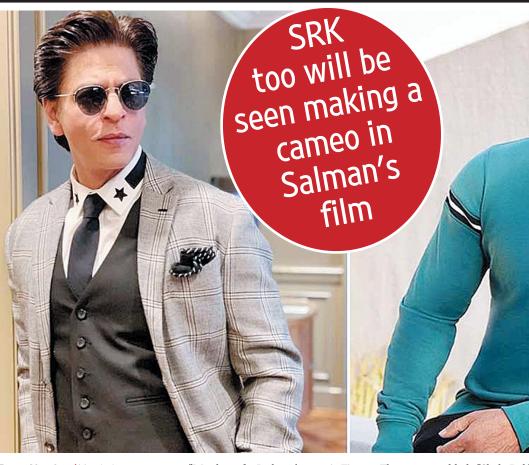
Alcaraz has an opportunity to tie World No. 1 Novak Djokovic by winning the Rio Open. However, the Spaniard cannot return to World No. 1



Bhopal Saturday, February 25, 2023

entertainment

Second Front Page



Team Absolute Mumbai

fter Tiger made a roaring appearance in 'Pathaan', Shah Rukh Khan too will be seen making a cameo in Salman Khan's upcoming 'Tiger 3' film. A source said:

"Watch out for Pathaan's entry in Tiger 3! As the super-spies start crossing over in each other's films, which are part of the blockbuster YRF Spy Universe, expect twists and surprises that deliver outstanding entertainThe source added: "Shah Rukh will shoot for Tiger 3 by April end and the shoot is expected to be in Mumbai. Details of this shoot are being kept completely under wraps but expect fireworks when the two super spies meet again in Tiger 3. "Salman told

SRK in Pathaan that he was going on an important mission so Pathaan will meet Tiger during this mission." 'Tiger 3' is directed by Maneesh Sharma. The film also stars Emraan Hashmi and Katrina Kaif. The film is a part of YRF's spy universe.

SHRUTI HAASAN

WRAPPED THE SHOOTING OF HER UPCOMING MOVIE

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

he Prabhas-starrer 'Salaar', which is being helmed by Prashant Neel of 'KGF' fame, is moving according to schedule. Giving an update on the progress of the movie, the makers, Hombale Films, have announced it's a wrap for Shruti Haasan's character Aadya. Senior actor Kamal Haasan's daughter Shruti Haasan has been busy down south. Her last two movies in Telugu, 'Veera Simha Reddy' and 'Waltair Veerayya', had a decent run at the box office. In these two films, Shruti had been paired with Tollywood top stars Balakrishna and Chiranjeevi, respectively.

Set to release on Septemb er 28 this year, 'Salaar' is one of the most anticipated films of 2023 coming from Hombale Films, the production house behind the 'KGF' series and 'Kantara'. It also marks collaboration between 'Baahubali' Prabhas and Prashanth Neel.

ment value to audiences in theatres!' **SOUNDARYA SHARMA CLEARS THE AIR OVER DATING SAJID KHAN** Team Absolute Mumbai igg Boss 16 might have ended the buzz around it just doesn't seem to die. While the winner MC Stan is creating a buzz across town, other contestants Further, she said, "These stories were

are also leaving no chance to grab attention. As per recent reports, Soundarya Sharma and Sajid Khan are speculated to be dating. While details of the relationship and how it was established have not been spilled. Reacting to such rumours, the actress has said, "I'm deeply hurt and disappointed by these false stories linking me with Sajid. I have always admired him as a friend, mentor, and elder brother. It's upsetting that even in this day and age, women are subject to link-up stories." "It's time that society stops looking at us through the narrow prism of who we are dating and focuses on what we are accomplishing," she added.

> spread by a few journalists because I could not accommodate their interview requests. These stories have affected me and my family, and I am contemplating legal action. I hope we see some responsible media reporting going forward." For those unaware, Soundarya came into limelight for her bind with Gautam Vig. On the work front,

ing role in Thank

MY ACTING CAREER STARTED WITH ADS AND ARCHANA: SUNIEL SHETTY

Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood actor Suniel Shetty spoke about how he began his career with an ad film and recalled working with Archana Puran Singh in his debut

The actor began his career in Bollywood in 1992 at the age of 31 with 'Balwaan' and later acted in movies such as 'Waqt Hamara Hai', 'Pehchaan', Dilwale', 'Anth', 'Mohra', 'Gopi Kishan', 'Hum Hain Bemisaal', 'Surakshaa', 'Raghuveer', 'Takkar', 'Krishna', 'Sapoot', 'Rakshak', 'Border', and many more.

Suniel revealed how his journey in films began through ads: "My acting career started with ads and it started with Archana. She was a rockstar, she still is a rockstar and it was an absolute pleasure working with her and knowing her.'

The actor also went on to say his iconic dialogue from the movie 'Dhadkan', replacing the name Anjali with Archana, and saying: "Archana mein tumhe bhul iaun, veh ho nahi sakta

Suniel is now seen hosting the MMA reality show 'Kumite 1 Warrior Hunt'. He is coming on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote this action reality show along with The Great Khali, Ali Budhawani, Mahavir Phogat, and Ritu Phogat.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Amy Aela

SELFIEE: AKSHAY'S SELFIEE NEEDS TO BE



SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Cast- Akshay Kumar, Diana Penty, Nushrratt Bharuccha and Emraan Hashmi Director- Raj Mehta Runtime- 143 min

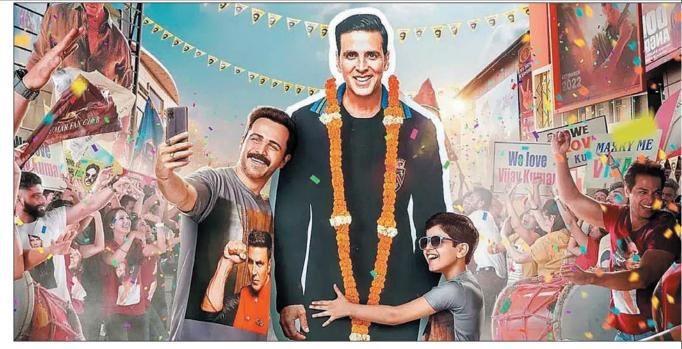
Rating- 2/5

Synopsis: Vijay Kumar, the Bollywood celebrity, has to get a fresh driver's license from an RTO official. Unfortunately, a misunderstanding causes a battle of words between the two, which finally escalates into a quarrel in front of the entire country.

Review: The film opens with the introduction of Akshay Kumar[']s character as a megastar. Later in the film, the audience is introduced to Omprakash (Emraan), an RTO officer and devoted fan of superstar Vijay. The film takes a terrible turn when a miscommunication between Vijay and Om leads to a sequence of occurrences that become national news.

The film opens with a lighter tone and contains several laugh-out-loud moments. The first half of the film is a pleasant watch and makes you feel like it was a good idea to see it in a theater, but the second half of the film makes you reconsider your decisions. The scriptwriter has turned the second half of the movie into an extraneous gyaan that no one wants.

The film has several unnecessary episodes that do not contribute to the plot. For exam-



ple, people imitating journalists on TV have grown tedious.

To my surprise, Akshay's persona is not rude; instead, he is a kind star who adores his followers. The strangeness of the scenario is entirely due to misunderstanding.

When it comes to character portrayals, Diana Penty brings glamour. She portrays Akshay's wife and has little to do with the plot. Her appearance on the screen is entirely

When it comes to Akshay Kumar, poor script choices are taking their toll. Another flick, another bad decision. Akshay appears to need to spend some time analyzing the script before working on it.

Emraan's character in the film is pretty well written, and seeing him on screen after such a long time is a welcome sight. Despite the slow pace of the plot, Emraan shines. Nushratt deserves special mention since she excels throughout the film. Her dialogue

delivery is spot-on, and it makes you chuckle. Abhimanyu Singh adds to the hilarity and makes the viewing experience enjoyable

When it comes to background music and songs, while they aren't very memorable, they are tolerable. In terms of technicality, the script needs tighter editing. The film's second half is just 'BAD.'

Conclusion : You better take a selfie with your phone and watch it instead of paying for movie tickets to see this film.

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