

NATION > 02

Allahabad High Court stays construction of cow shelter ...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Zendaya stunned everyone with unforgettable looks at the NAACP...



SPORTS > 07

Australia beat South Africa Africa by 19 runs, win 6th.....



Kashmir's Latest Target Killing

TERRORISTS GUN DOWN HINDU MAN IN PULWAMA

Srinagar | Agencies

Terrorists have shot dead a Hindu civilian in a targeted attack in the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Sanjay Sharma, a Kashmiri Hindu resident of Achan, who was critically injured after terrorists fired at him while he was on his way to the local market.

He was shifted to the nearby government hospital where doctors declared him dead. Sharma reportedly worked as a security guard at a bank.

"Terrorists fired upon one civilian from minority namely Sanjay Sharma S/O Kashinath Sharma R/O Achan Pulwama while on way to local market," the Kashmiri Zone police said in a tweet.

Police say an armed guard has been deployed in the village for the protection of the minority community and an



investigation in the matter is ongoing.

After the shooting, Sharma's Muslim neighbours protested against the terrorist attack. "This is a blot on the shared Kashmiriyat between the Hindu and Muslim people here," one of the neighbours said. This is the first attack on a Hindu civilian in last four months and the second targeted attack on a Kashmiri local in two days. A terrorist shot at and injured Asif Ali Ganai in Anantnag whose father, a police head

constable, was killed in a terrorist attack last year.

There were a series of targeted killings in Kashmir last year. Many of the victims were migrant workers or Kashmiri Pandits.

The killings triggered a wave of protests by the minority community. Kashmiri Pandits held demonstrations during which they raised slogans under the central government and questioned if they brought them back to the Valley to get killed.

CANDLELIGHT PROTESTS HELD AGAINST KASHMIRI PANDIT'S KILLING IN KASHMIR

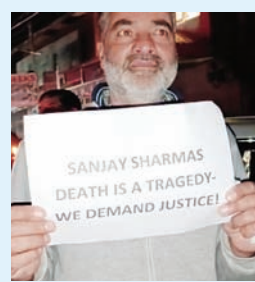
Srinagar: BJP workers on Sunday took out a silent candlelight protest in J&K's Ganderbal district and other places against the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit by terrorists earlier in the day. BJP District President Mohammed Amin Shah led the protest at the clock tower in Ganderbal town against the killing of Pandit security guard at Pulwama this morning.

Termining the killing unfortunate and dark chapter in Kashmir, he told reporters that such incidents create sadness and distress among people of Kashmir.

"People want to leave violence and live peacefully with their families. Such incidents should not take place. Human life is precious and should not be wasted like this," Shah said. Many locals joined the protest. Similar protests were held at some other places in the Valley.

Political leaders across the board including former Chief Ministers Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Ghulam Nabi Azad have condemned the killing.

Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari has also condemned the killing asserting that those responsible for such innocent killings are enemies of the people of J&K.



Manish Sisodia arrested by CBI in excise policy scam after day of drama

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was on Sunday arrested by the CBI in the excise policy scam after a day of political drama.

Sisodia, who reached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) headquarters at Lodhi Road in south Delhi at around 11.10 a.m. after visiting the Rajghat for prayers, was questioned for over eight hours before being arrested.

A CBI source said the agency will present Sisodia at the Rouse Avenue Courts on Monday and seek two weeks' custodial remand as it needs to confront him with the co-accused, as well as documentary and digital evidence. Sources claimed that Sisodia was questioned about the documentary, electronic and digital evidence which the CBI have gathered during the probe in the scam.

"He has been accused of destroying evidence and being the mastermind of the excise policy scam," a source said. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed his deputy's arrest "dirty politics". "Manish is innocent. There is a lot of anger among the people due to the arrest of Manish. Everyone is watching," he said in a tweet.

In the same tweet, he said that people understand everything. "People will respond to this. This will boost our spirits further. Our struggle will get stronger," Kejriwal said.



The arrest of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, who has alleged that the BJP wants to get him arrested to stop the development of Delhi, came after a day of political drama.

Ahead of his questioning, his AAP leaders on Sunday alleged that its leaders were being put under "house arrest". The RAF was also deployed at the CBI office on Sunday evening in wake of Sisodia's arrest.

Ahead of leaving for the CBI office on Sunday morning, Sisodia had tweeted that he was going to join the probe of the CBI once again, and will fully cooperate with the agency.

"If I will spend a few months in jail, I don't care. We are followers of Bhagat Singh. He (Bhagat Singh) even chose to be hanged," he posted.

In response, Kejriwal said that the whole party will welcome Sisodia when he comes out of jail.

"I pray to God that you come out of jail soon, we will be eagerly waiting for you. We the parents, children and Delhiites.

"God is with you Manish. The wishes of lakhs of children and parents are with you. If you are going to jail for society and country, it will be a proud moment.

'WE HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST BY DELHI POLICE', CLAIM AAP LEADERS



New Delhi: Ahead of the questioning of Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the excise policy scam by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday alleged that its leaders were being put under "house arrest".

The Delhi Police have made elaborate security arrangements to stop all untoward incidents.

The AAP leaders, however, alleged that they "have been kept under house arrest by the police".

The Delhi Police have put barricades at Lodhi Colony roads which lead to the CBI headquarters and no one is being allowed to go that side. Apart from this, the police have also put barricades outside Sisodia's house and office and have deployed extra force to stop people going on that side.

At Lodhi Colony even the media was stopped by the police personnel posted over there. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has called it a tactic of the agencies to arrest Sisodia.

Sanjay Singh, the Rajya Sabha MP of AAP, has alleged that at the instructions of the Centre, agencies want to arrest Sisodia.

AAP MLA Atishi said that the BJP was trying to stop them, and that the allegations levelled on Sisodia were vague.

"Our leaders have been stopped at their house by the Delhi Police. Our leaders are in house arrest. We can't come out of our houses. Delhi police are being misused by the Centre," said Atishi.

Delhi Man Kills Wife, 2 Sons, Attempts Suicide

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 38-year-old man tried to end his life after killing his wife and two sons, including a four-month-old infant, over financial issues in west Delhi's Mohan Garden area on Sunday, police said.

They said the incident was reported from Vipin Garden. The man, identified as Rajesh (38), allegedly killed his 35-year-old wife and two sons aged five years and four months.

After killing his wife and sons, Rajesh inflicted a deep injury on his wrist, police said,



adding that he is under treatment in a hospital. The accused had sent messages to his friends in the early hours of Sunday about his financial problems. His friends alerted his brother, who informed the police around 6 am, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) M Harsha Vardhan said.

In UP truck drag horror

6-year-old, and grandfather on scooty die after crash

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In another hit-and-drag case, a six-year-old child was killed after being dragged under a truck for over two kilometres in Uttar Pradesh's Mahoba. Another person, Satvik's grandfather, was also killed in the accident.

Police said that Udit Narayan Chansoria, 67, and his grandson Satvik were on their way to the market when their scooter was hit by a speeding dumper truck. While Udit died on the spot, Satvik and the two-wheeler were dragged for over two kilometres. The incident occurred on the Kanpur-Sagar Highway NH86.

A video of the incident has gone viral on



social media. In the video, several bikes near the truck can be seen trying to alert the driver. The truck finally stopped after bystanders put stones and boulders on the road.

The truck driver was beaten by the locals. Police have seized the truck and taken the driver into custody.

FORCED TO ARREST SISODIA AS HE WAS EVASIVE, DIDN'T CO-OPERATE: CBI

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday said that they arrested Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of the excise policy as he gave "evasive replies" and "did not co-operate in the investigation".

It said that the present case was registered against the Deputy Chief Minister & In charge Excise Minister, and 14 others for investigation into the matter of alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of Excise Policy for 2021-22 and extending post tender benefits to private persons. A charge sheet was filed on December 25, 2022 against then CEO of a Mumbai-based private company and six others. Sisodia was issued a notice under Section 41A of the Cr.P.C for attending the investigation on February 19.

IAF to participate in multi-national exercise 'Cobra Warrior' in UK



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in multilateral air exercise 'Exercise Cobra Warrior' at the RAF's Waddington Air Force Base in the UK from March 6 to 24, an official statement said.

This year, the IAF is participating in the exercise with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globemaster III and an IL-78 mid air refueller aircraft. The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces, the IAF said.

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors departed from the Air Force Station in Jamnagar on Sunday for the UK to par-

ticipate in the exercise, where the RAF and the IAF will be joined by contingents from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, the US, and Singapore.

On February 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with his UK counterpart Ben Wallace, where he called on UK companies to become part of India's growth story and participate in co-development and co-production in the country.

Both Ministers discussed a wide range of defence and security issues, including regional developments and the Indo-Pacific, as well as reviewing their ongoing defence cooperation and expressing satisfaction at their bilateral military-to-military engagements.

Western Disturbances likely to cause scattered snow/rainfall in hills, plains: IMD

'Western Disturbances' are expected to cause light to scattered snow/rainfall over the Himalayan regions on February 26 and 27, and then, the same area as well as adjoining plains of northern India from February 28 to March 2, the IMD said on Sunday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department said that a prevailing "Western Disturbance as a trough in middle tropospheric westerlies runs roughly along Longitude 65 degrees East to the north of Latitude 32 degrees North" and is "very likely to cause light/moderate isolated to scattered rainfall/snowfall very likely over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan & Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand" on February 26-27.

In quick succession, a fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect the Western Himalayan Region & adjoining plains of northwest India from February 28, the IMD said.

Under its influence, light to moderate scattered to widespread rainfall/snowfall with thunder and lightning is likely over the Western Himalayan Region from February 28 to March 2.

Light isolated to scattered



rainfall is also likely over Punjab during February 28 to March 2 and over Haryana and Chandigarh on March 1 and 2.

Isolated heavy falls is also likely over Kashmir Valley and Himachal Pradesh on March 1, thunderstorm with lightning at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir on March 1 and 2, over Himachal Pradesh on

February 28 and March 1, with lightning and hail over Uttarakhand on March 1 and 2 and with lightning and gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) over Punjab on February 28 and March 1, the IMD said.

It also said that light isolated to scattered rainfall is also likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, sub-Himalayan West Bengal,

Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh during next five days.

"No significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest of the country during next five days. The maximum temperatures very likely continue to remain above normal by 3-5 degrees Celsius over most parts of the northwest during next two days," the IMD said.

In a first, Kerala temple inducts mechanical elephant for ritual duties

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Following up on its pledge to never keep or hire live elephants or any other animals, the Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala's Thrissur district has become the first in the country to use a mechanical, lifelike elephant for temple rituals.

On Sunday, the temple priests performed 'Nadayiruthal' or ceremonial offering to the deity, of Irinjadappilly Raman, a magnificent, lifelike mechanical or "robotic" elephant.

Irinjadappilly Raman has been gifted to the temple by animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India with the support of award-winning Indian film actor Parvathy Thiruvothu.

"Irinjadappilly Raman" will help conduct ceremonies at the temple in a safe and cruelty-free manner and thereby support real elephants' rehabilitation and life in forests, ending the horror of captivity for them, PETA India stated.

The inaugural ceremony held on Sunday was followed by a performance by the percussion ensemble led by Peruvanam Saatheesan Marar. Subjecting live elephants to the extreme loudness of the timpani is cruel, as it is damaging and distressing for live elephants.



Head priest of the temple Rajkumar Namboothiri said: "We are extremely happy and grateful to receive this mechanical elephant which will help us to conduct our rituals and festivals in a cruelty-free way, and we hope that other temples will also think about replacing live elephants for rituals."

Most elephants in captivity in the country, including in Kerala, are being held illegally or have been transported to a different state without permission. Because elephants are wild animals who would not willingly obey human commands, when used for rides, ceremonies, tricks, and other purposes, they are trained and controlled through severe punishments, beatings, and the use of weapons with a metal-tipped hook. Many have extremely painful foot ailments and leg wounds from being chained to concrete for hours on end, and most do not get adequate food, water, or veterinary care, let alone any semblance of a natural life.



ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT STAYS CONSTRUCTION OF COW SHELTER

Prayagraj | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court has stayed the construction of a cow sanctuary in Muzaffarnagar. Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan had proposed to build the cow shelter at a cost of Rs 70 crore to tackle the growing menace of stray cattle. The Muzaffarnagar MP, who was working on the project's blueprint, had termed it the 'biggest in UP'. The stay order was issued following a petition filed by an agri-based firm, DS Agro Developers Private Ltd, which claimed some of the land within the 52-hectare area earmarked for the sanctuary in Megha Chandan village of Purkaji block in Muzaffarnagar, belongs to the company. The project budget was approved by the state government, and following the court's stay order, the district administration in Muzaffarnagar is preparing to file a counter affidavit. Balyan said, "We will fight this mat-



ter in court. If anyone is claiming ownership of some portion of the land, it will be investigated. Farmers of Muzaffarnagar are with the govern-

ment and want to build a cow sanctuary. In the coming days, you will see the construction work of the cow sanctuary." Sub divisional magistrate (SDM), Sadar, Parmanand Jha, said, "The DS group had bought the land from some so-called owners who had been giving away some government land on lease. The HC bench of Justice Kshitij Shalendra has issued the stay order and the next date of hearing will be on March 15. We will file a counter affidavit." Balyan had announced the cow sanctuary project in the district and had said that once built it would accommodate over 5,000 stray animals. The sanctuary, he said, will have a modern cremation ground for animals, a biogas plant and a store-house facility for collecting fodder. Local farmers had objected and said they were not too keen on handing over their farm land. Refuting the farmers' claims, the SDM said, "The entire land belongs to the government. Several bighas of land were given to farmers on lease. And the lease period ended years ago."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls e-sanjeevani a life saving app

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed the e-sanjeevani as a "lifesaving app" for the common man. In his monthly radio broadcast "Mann Ki Baat", Modi said, "E-Sanjeevani is becoming a life-saving app for the common man of the country, for the middle class, for the people living in hilly areas. This is the power of India's digital revolution. And today we are seeing its effect in every field. You also know the power of India's UPI. Many countries of the world are drawn towards it." Referring to the launch of UPI-Pay Now link, which took place last week between India's UPI and Singapore's Pay Now, Modi said: "Now, people of Singapore and India are transferring money from their mobile phones in the same way as they do within their respective coun-



tries. I am glad that people have started taking advantage of it". Be it India's E-Sanjeevani App or UPI, these have proved to be very helpful in raising the Ease of Living, he said. "There is one such App, E-Sanjeevani. Through this App Tele-consultation, that is, while sitting far away, through video conference, you can consult a doctor about your illness. Till now, the number of tele-consultants using this app has crossed the figure of 10 crores. You can imagine!... 10 crore Consultations through video conference... An amazing bond between patient and doctor - this is a big achievement," the prime minister added.

Cong next yatra could be from Pasighat to Porbandar

Raipur | Agencies

Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the party president should make another programme like the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and that he and the workers were ready to do the 'tapasya (penance)'. He said this while addressing the 85th plenary session of the Congress in Raipur. Following this, the party is now considering a yatra from Arunachal Pradesh's Pasighat to Porbandar in Gujarat which is the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi. Party General Secretary Jairam Ramesh, said another yatra is now under consideration. The contours of the yatra have to be prepared and could coincide with the General Elections, he said.



Rahul said, "Bharat Jodo Yatra invoked the true emotion of patriotism. It's not done by him alone but by the Congress workers. "You saw that we did 'tapasya' for four months and how energised the party workers got, tapasya should not stop," Rahul Gandhi said. "We instilled love for Tricolour in the youth of

CONGRESS LEADER, 35, SHOT DEAD IN JHARKHAND 2 DAYS AHEAD OF KEY BYPOLL: COPS

Ramgarh: A 35-year-old Congress leader was shot dead by criminals in Jharkhand's Ramgarh, two days ahead of a bypoll in the district, police said. The incident took place around 8 pm on Saturday near an old petrol pump on the Bhurkunda-Patratu road in Saunda area, around 50 km away from the state capital Ranchi, a senior officer said. The Congress leader was identified as Raj Kishore Bauri alias Bitka Bauri, who was Patratu block representative of Congress' MLA from Barkagaon, Amba Prasad. Bauri was taken to CCL hospital in Bhurkunda where doctors declared him brought dead, the officer said. "We have initiated a probe into the murder and a search operation has also been started to find out the persons involved in the crime," Bhurkunda Police Station in-charge Amit Kumar said. Three criminals on a bike came near the petrol pump and opened fire at Bauri, who was sitting there, the officer said. MLA Amba Prasad and former minister Yogendra Saw went to the hospital. Notably, an AJSU party leader was shot dead on February 16 by unidentified gunmen in the bypoll-bound Ramgarh. The bypoll to the Ramgarh assembly constituency will be held on February 27 and the counting of votes will take place on March 2.

MCD RUCKUS: DELHI POLICE FILES FIR



New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Sunday said that they have lodged a case in connection with the ruckus created by the AAP and the BJP councillors in the MCD House. On Friday, Mayor Shelly Oberoi had 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). Soon after this, the AAP and the BJP councillors started fighting with each other. 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. Complaints were made to the Delhi Police by both the parties. Now after taking legal opinions, the Delhi Police has lodged an FIR under section 160 (Affray) of Indian Penal Code in the matter.

Two Moosewala murder accused in killed in Punjab jail clash

Chandigarh | Agencies

Two gangsters, involved in the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, succumbed to injuries following in a major clash of gangsters in Goindwal jail in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Sunday, officials said. The deceased were identified as Mandeep Singh, alias Toofan, and Mohan Singh, alias Manmohan Singh. A third jail inmate, Keshav, was also critically wounded in the clash. He was admitted to Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar. All three of them have been accused in the Moosewala murder killing. Toofan was arrested by the anti-gangster task force in September last year. He was also wanted in the killing of another notorious gangster, Ranbir Singh, in a hospital in



Amritsar. Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, 2022. The clash in jail comes two days after self-styled globe-trotting Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, who just

DECOMPOSED BODIES OF COUPLE, DAUGHTER FOUND HANGING IN KOLKATA APARTMENT

Kolkata: Decomposed bodies of a couple and their daughter were found hanging in their accommodation in south Kolkata on Sunday, police said. The couple's neighbours at Regent Park housing society had been complaining of a foul smell emitting from the residence locked from inside for the last couple of days. On Sunday morning, when the foul smell went beyond limits of toleration, the neighbours informed the local police. A police team arrived, broke open the door of the residence and discovered the three hanging bodies from the ceiling of their drawing room. No suicide note has been recovered. From their Aadhaar cards, the three deceased persons have been identified as Dilip Kumar Chatterjee, 51, Ranu Chatterjee, 46, and Oindrila Chatterjee, 21. It is learnt that they had been staying at this rented accommodation for the last six months. As per the Aadhaar cards recovered by the police, their residence has been mentioned as Garden Reach in the southern Kolkata.

J&K govt sacks 23 teachers engaged on unrecognised qualification certificates

Jammu | Agencies

The J&K School Education Department on Sunday terminated the services of 23 teachers in Jammu division for getting jobs on qualification certificates obtained from unrecognised boards. An Education Department official said that a committee was constituted to review the pending regularisation cases of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers. "The committee members, in a meeting held on February 7, observed that 23 RETs of different districts of Jammu division have acquired their qualification from the Boards which have not been granted equivalence by the J&K Board of School Education, Jammu as these boards have not been recognised by the Council of



Boards of School Education (COBSE) in India. "The committee has recommended the termination of services 23 RETs immediately as they do not possess the requisite qualification certificates," the official said, adding that in view of the recommendations of the committee, the Chief Education Officers concerned are directed to disengage the services of those 23 RETs immediately. RETs were employed through a special scheme to provide teachers in far-flung areas and villages where schools remained understaffed in J&K. The scheme envisaged that local youth possessing required qualifications be engaged to teach in local schools in the rural areas.

TRIPLE MURDER IN GORAKHPUR, WOMAN ARRESTED

Gorakhpur: A woman killed her husband and two step-sons by slitting their throat in her house in Sahabganj in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district on Sunday. The accused woman has been arrested and the knife used in the crime has also been seized. According to reports, Avadhesh Gupta, 40, had remarried after the death of his first wife from whom he had two sons Aryan and Pihu. His second wife Neelam hails from Sant Kabir Nagar and has a daughter from her first marriage. According to sources, Neelam had relations with another man and wanted to get rid of her husband and step-sons. After committing the crime, Neelam informed the police that some people were attacking her husband and step-sons. The police reached her house and saw Avadhesh and the two sons lying in a pool of blood. The police rushed the three to the hospital where the doctors declared Avadhesh dead. The two children died during treatment. SP north, Manoj Awasthi said that they have registered a case on the complaint of Avadhesh's mother and Neelam has been arrested.

B'loru: Threatening to call cops for smoking in car, man extorts Rs 95k, gold chains



Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka police have launched a hunt for the man who robbed Rs 95,000 and gold chains weighing 30 grams from a car driver on the pretext of lodging a complaint for smoking in the vehicle, police said on Sunday. The incident had taken place in the limits of Rammurthy nagar police station in Bengaluru. According to police, the

robber, who came on two wheeler objected to him and stopped his vehicle after chase and threatened that he would get him arrested for smoking while driving the car. The robber also threatened him that he knows police officers and can get him arrested. He also claimed to carry weapons with him and warned that he should follow his instructions. The victim was later taken to an ATM centre and made to withdraw Rs 95,000 from his debit and credit cards. The robber had also taken his wallet and cell phone and disappeared. The incident had taken place on Wednesday. Dhananjay after being advised by his friends lodged a police complaint had approached police lately. The police have booked a case under IPC section 384. The police sources explain that they are taken by surprise as the accused has taken care that his face is not registered on the CCTV camera. The police suspect that he is habitual offender and launched hunt for him.

ED questions producer Karim Morani in Sukesh Chandrashekar case



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday questioned Bollywood producer Karim Morani in connection with the Rs 200 crore money laundering case related to incarcerated conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. Karim Morani is known for films like 'Ra.One' and 'Chennai Express'. There were allegations that Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez was gifted a home by Sukesh Chandrashekar, in which Morani's role was being probed. The Enforcement Directorate has recently filed its second supplementary chargesheet in which she had been named as an accused. Jacqueline, and another Bollywood actress, Nora Fatehi, had recorded their statements as witnesses in the case. Earlier, fixed deposits worth Rs 7.2 crore belonging to Fernandez were attached by the ED.



NO NEED TO MAKE MUMBAI LIKE SHANGHAI: CHIEF MINISTER SHINDE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said there is no need to dream of making Mumbai like Shanghai, but the need is to focus on making the metropolis a city of international standard.

Shinde also said they need to win the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation polls, to remove the "clout of certain contractors" and provide better roads and services to the people.



Shinde further said he will not respond to criticism as he prefers to work rather than talk. "If you level one allegation against me, I will carry out 10 good works in Mumbai city in

response," he said. The chief minister also took a dig at Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut's daily morning media interaction, compar-

ing it to a "mill siren". "Earlier, Mumbai used to have mill sirens to which everyone used to pay attention. Now, there is only one siren and nobody needs to pay any attention to it," he quipped without taking Raut's name.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said as they were starting works on a number of works in one go, Mumbaiers will face inconvenience and traffic congestion for next months.

"But once all the roads are properly constructed, there will be no traffic jams and pollution will be under control," he said.

"Whatever work we try to start in Mumbai, some people immediately react and claim the same work was started by them. This is a very wrong and unhealthy habit," Fadnis said, apparently targeting the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led state government.

Maharashtra Assembly bypolls

41.1 pc voter turnout in Chinchwad, 45.25 pc in Kasba till 5pm

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A voter turnout of 41.1 per cent was recorded till 5 pm on Sunday in Chinchwad Assembly seat and 45.25 per cent in Kasba Assembly seat in Maharashtra, with several of those standing in the voting queue speaking about better roads, proper waste management and adequate water supply being the issues they want addressed. According to political analysts, the results of these bypolls, which saw a high-voltage campaign by senior leaders from various parties, will set the tone for the forthcoming elections in the state, including of the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and other civic bodies.

The bypolls in Kasba and Chinchwad were necessitated due to the death of their respective Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs Mukta Tilak and Laxman Jagtap.

In the Kasba Assembly seat in Pune city, there is a contest between BJP's Hemant Rasane and Congress's Ravindra Dhangekar, who is supported by the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance of the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray).

In Chinchwad, an industrial township near Pune city, the contest is between Ashwini Jagtap of the BJP



and Nana Kate of the NCP. Rival candidates in both the seats have expressed confidence of emerging victor-ious.

As voting began at 7 am on Sunday, district election authorities in Chinchwad welcomed early voters by laying 'rangoli' (colourful patterns) and offering roses.

In the Kasba constituency also voters were seen queuing up to exercise their franchise.

Adequate security arrangements were made in both the constituencies in view of the polling, authori-ties said.

"Necessary arrange-ments have been made at all the polling stations and I appeal to all the voters to come out and exercise their franchise without any fear," said Sachin Dhole, the elec-tion officer for Chinchwad

constituency. There are 510 polling centres and 5,68,954 registered voters in Chinchwad and 215 polling centres and 2,75,428 registered voters in Kasba constituency. There was a "minor clash" between supporters of Shiv Sena (UBT) rebel candidate Rahul Kalate and the BJP outside a polling station in Chinchwad and police intervened to bring the situation under control, Pimpri Chinchwad's Deputy Commissioner of Police Kakasaheb Dole said.

Senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar, state Congress president Nana Patole and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray were among those who campaigned for the Kasba and Chinchwad Assembly bypolls. Counting will take place on March 2.

MAN DIES IN POLICE STATION, SON ALLEGES BRUTALITY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The mysterious death of a 64-year-old inside a police station has put the Kalyan police in the dock. Deepak Bhangardiwe, a Kalyan East resident, had gone to Kalsewadi police station to check on his son, who was detained by the police during an "All-Out Operation". According to the police, Bhangardiwe suffered an epilepsy attack and passed away. But the deceased's son has claimed that he had been beaten up inside the lock up, which resulted in his death. The Thane police had carried out an operation on Friday, rounding up criminals, absconders and drug peddlers. As part of the operation,

Kalsewadi police station (Kalyan) detained Prashik Bhangardiwe at around 9 pm. According to the police, he was rounded up as he was found drinking at a public place. "When we got information that Prashik had been detained, my father and I rushed to the police station.

We reached and found Prashik sitting in the detection room," said Gaurav, the younger brother of Prashik. "While we were waiting outside the detection room, my father's phone accidentally got switched on. It was spotted by a police officer in civil dress," he added. According to Gaurav, the policeman snatched his father's cellphone, slapped him and dragged him to the lock up; when he tried to follow them, he was

told to stay away. Fifteen minutes later, the police called Gaurav and told him that his father had suffered an epilepsy attack and was non-responsive. He was taken to Amey Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival by doctors. According to DCP (Zone 3), Sachin Gunjal, "the deceased was recording [on his phone] inside the police station and was arguing with the police. He was taken near the station house, where he suffered an epilepsy attack." When asked about the allegations, he said, "The whole incident has been recorded on CCTV cameras and the recording will be handed over to CID. An inquiry will also be conducted," he added. The statement of Gaurav has been recorded by Kalsewadi police.

Thane authorities directed to inspect closed chemical firms

TAKE ACTION AGAINST GANJA CULTIVATION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Anti-Narcotics Committee in Maharashtra's Thane district has directed authorities to conduct an inspection of closed chemical companies and take action against the cultivation of ganja and poppy seeds, officials said on Sunday. Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ashok Morale held a meeting with senior officials of various departments on Friday to discuss steps to check the cultivation of narcotics and drug trafficking in the district, an official release said.



He directed the authorities to conduct an inspection of closed chemical companies. Morale also directed the district agriculture officer to coordinate with the anti-narcotics cell and local police to take action against the cultivation of ganja and 'khus

khus' (poppy seeds), the release said.

The official also directed the authorities to hold training sessions on various aspects of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS).

He also directed postal department officials and

courier companies to report to local police about any suspicious parcels and initiate action in coordination with the police.

The official also directed the police to initiate action against those facing two or more cases under the NDPS Act, the release said.

Light and Sound show to be organised at Gateway of India on Feb 28

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Tourism Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha on Sunday said that a "Light and Sound" show will be organised at the Gateway of India on Tuesday February 28, at 8 pm to commemorate Amrit Mahotsav of India's independence and completion of 75 years of withdrawal of the British army from India. This show is jointly organized by the Tourism department of the state government, Union ministry for Petroleum and Natural gas (MoPNG) and Indian Oil Corporation limited (IOC).

The program will be inaugurated by the Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde, Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis, Lodha said.

He said that on the completion of 75 years of independence of India various programs are being organized and the 'Light and Sound' show is part of it. He said that during the first week, the show will be twice a week on Saturday and Sunday. "This



show is based on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and the concept of progressive India." He said during the show, light will be also thrown on the contribution of Maharashtra in the Independence movement of India.

Speaker of the state legislative assembly Rahul Narvekar, minister

for school education Deepak Kesarkar, member of Parliament Arvind Sawant, principal secretary of the tourism department Saurabh Vijay, chairman of Indian Oil Srikant Madhav Vaidya Director (Marketing) of Indian Oil V Satish Kumar will be among the prominent

attendees. The tourism minister also said that various ventures have been undertaken on the completion of 75 years and celebration of Amrit Mahotsav. Director of tourism directorate Dr B N Patil has appealed the people to be present during the program.

MURDER CHARGE AGAINST LANDLORD, WIFE FOR 75-YEAR-OLD TENANT'S DEATH: COPS

Thane: Nine months after a 75-year-old woman was found dead in her house in Maharashtra's Thane district, the police have registered a case of murder and destruction of evidence against her landlord, the latter's wife and son, an official said on Sunday.

The woman, Waheedabi Noormohammad Shaikh, was a widow and lived alone in the house in Kalyan town since 1990. Her landlord had been forcing her to vacate the house as he wanted to develop the property. The woman, however, had refused to vacate the house, the official from Bazarpeh police station said quoting a complaint filed by a relative of the woman. The complainant also claimed the victim, who was his aunt, had on several occasions complained to him about the landlord troubling her, the official said. The complainant visited the aunt's house on May 13, 2022 and she was fine. However, after a few days he received a message that she died in the house on May 16. When he went there, the complainant found the body had turned black and there were blood stains around. Following his request, the police sent the body for postmortem, the official said. After the woman's death, the landlord took away the house keys from the complainant. As the complainant suspected foul play in his aunt's death, he approached a court which in January this year directed the police to register an offence against the landlord and his two family members and initiate a probe into the case. The Bazarpeh police on Saturday registered a case against the three persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (common intention), the official said, adding no arrest has been made so far.

Three IIT Bombay alumni develop health test kit that gives results in 30 seconds

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three alumni of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay have developed a smartphone-based health test kit using urine sample and claim that it gives results in 30 seconds. Some public health centres (PHCs) in Maharashtra's Nashik district have been using these kits for health tests, a Zilla Parishad official said. As part of the test, a person has to dip a card (supplied in the test kit) in urine for a second, click a photo of it on his/her phone using the 'NeoDocs' app.

"The photo gets uploaded on our cloud server, where an algorithm uses computer vision to scan the card and gives results within 30 seconds," claimed Manasvi Shah, the strategic partnerships manager of 'NeoDocs', the startup founded by former IITians Anurag Meena, Nikunj Malpani and Pratik Lodha.

'NeoDocs' presented the 'urine test kit' during an exhibition at the recently held Indian Science Congress in Nagpur.

Malpani said it was during the COVID-19 lockdown time that they realised the importance of the quantification of health and



the value of diagnostics. These test kits will help bring healthcare to every doorstep and reduce the overall cost for testing significantly, no matter the socio-economic background, Meena said.

According to Lodha, they are further working on researching and developing instant test kits for various human bio-fluids (blood, vaginal discharge, semen, etc). They began their venture with five basic instant urine test kits catering to their customers in a personalised

manner, Nikunj said. Apart from the wellness kit, the company is also manufacturing chronic kidney disease and elderly test kits. There is also a maternity care kit for women to be used throughout pregnancy, he said.

Regular screening allows one to dodge even the slightest chance of suffering from the risk factors associated with pregnancy, he claimed. Malpani said after winning the Maharashtra Startup Week Award in October 2022, they are collaborating with

the Nashik Zilla Parishad by introducing smartphone-based tests at the PHCs in Trimbak. Nashik Zilla Parishad health officer Dr Harshal Nehete said that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NeoDocs for using these instant test kits at their PHCs in Trimbak taluka. "We have been using these instant tests at seven of our PHCs for antenatal care of mothers. We are also using their UTI (urinary tract infection) test kits and wellness kits," he said.

Woman security guard, her aide pose as Sales Tax officers, flees with Rs 32 lakh; held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two private security guards, including a woman, have been arrested over the allegations of conniving a man in south Mumbai of over Rs 32 lakhs by posing as Sales Tax officers. The complainant, a 28-year-old man who works for an Angadia in Kalbadevi told officials of Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station that while he was on his way to deliver Rs 32 lakh to a businessman, he was approached by two people, a woman and a man on a bike. "They introduced themselves as Sales Tax officers and took away the money," the complainant told police. The duo even took away his mobile phone, the complainant said.

An official said that the complainant told police that the money was given to him by his employer to deliver it to a businessman in south Mumbai. "On his complaint an FIR was registered at the Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station and a team was formed to investigate the case."

A team of police officials checked the CCTV footage of the entire area, police said, "after checking multiple



CCTV camera footages, 'the suspects' were spotted in one of the cameras."

The police also found more technical clues and identified the suspects to be security guards working at Mangaldas Market.

The suspects were identified as Sanjaysingh Karcholi, 33, a native of Madhya Pradesh and Razia Shaikh, 36, a resident of Ghatkopar. After being detained, the duo was interrogated, police said.

After establishing "sufficient evidence" against the accused, police arrested the duo and produced them before a court. The court has remanded them to police custody till March 1.

"The team of officials are now under process to make the recovery of the money and the mobile phone of the complainant that had been taken away by the accused. The entire case was solved by the police within seven hours of the crime," the official added.



EDITOR'S SPECS

IVF PREGNANCIES LIKELY TO RAISE PREECLAMPSIA RISK

People who became pregnant using assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF), intrauterine insemination and other techniques were found to be over twice as likely to develop preeclampsia -- a dangerous pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure -- than those with traditional pregnancies, claimed a study.

Preeclampsia is a pregnancy-related complication involving new onset high blood pressure and possible organ damage that poses a serious risk to the pregnant person and the baby.

Although the study did not examine the mechanisms behind the association, researchers said that the placenta may develop differently in some pregnancies involving assisted reproductive technologies than in traditional pregnancies, increasing the likelihood of preeclampsia.

"Having twice the risk of preeclampsia compared to traditional pregnancy should not discourage people from considering assisted reproductive technologies. However, it is important to follow up with a cardio-obstetrician or maternal foetal medicine specialist for appropriate care and timely management if cardiovascular issues arise," said lead author Ahmad Mustafa, cardiology fellow at Staten Island University Hospital in New York.

"Dedicated cardiovascular care needs to be incorporated into the routine follow-up of patients conceived through assisted reproductive technologies," Mustafa added.

Preeclampsia causes a variety of symptoms and complications and can lead to eclampsia, a life-threatening condition characterised by seizures and/or coma in the pregnant person, for which the curative treatment is delivering the baby.

HEADLESS UNIVERSITIES: ABSENCE OF VCS A CHRONIC PROBLEM IN BENGAL

SUMANTA RAY CHAUDHURI

As many as nine state universities in West Bengal including the prestigious Calcutta University are currently operating without a permanent vice-chancellor. The state education department has recently sought detailed reports from these universities about the problems faced by them in the absence of permanent vice-chancellors.

Academic circles feel that seeking a report is superfluous. They say that it is a matter of common sense on what kind of academic and administrative difficulties a university can come across if it does not have a permanent vice-chancellor.

They say that instead of wasting time on such fruitless exercises, the state government should take steps to immediately fill up these vacant posts of permanent vice-chancellors through search committees constituted as per the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

As per the UGC norms, the search committee to appoint the vice-chancellor of any state university should have three members out of which the first will be from the UGC, the second from the state university concerned and the third will be a member nominated by the governor.

This UGC-notified practice was practiced in West Bengal during the previous Left Front regime, as well as the first three years of the current Trinamool government from 2011 to 2014, when minister Bratya Basu was in charge of the education department.

However, after Partha Chatterjee, who is currently in judicial custody because of his alleged involvement in the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam in the state, became the education minister in 2014 replacing Basu, the state government brought some amendments in the legal provisions in the constitution of the search committee where the chair of the UGC-nominated representative was replaced by a state education department nominated representative.

There started a legal battle since the appointment of any vice-chancellor without a representative from the UGC was challenged in court. Even the Supreme Court had observed that the process of appointing a



vice-chancellor by a search committee without any UGC representative was not legally tenable. In the recent past the newly appointed West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose made it clear that in his view a search committee without a UGC representative is not good in law.

Explaining the legal nitty gritty on this point senior counsel Gupta pointed out that although earlier education was a subject in the state list, but following the 42nd amend-

ment in the Indian constitution in 1976 education was shifted to the concurrent list.

"This in plain words means that education is a subject which can be legislated both by the Parliament as well as the state assembly. However, in case of a particular matter if the state act goes against the central act, the central act will prevail. That is the legal issue where the state government's decision to replace the UGC-nominated candidate with the

state education department-nominated candidate is facing legal hurdles," Gupta explained.

However, the state education department is working on a strategy to change the constitutional pattern of the search committees that will enable the entry of a UGC-nominated representative while keeping the numerical supremacy of the state government intact there. As per plans the number of representatives in the search committee will be increased from three to five, where there will be one nominated by the state university, one by the governor, one by the UGC and two by the education department.

Academicians say that while this strategy might be as per the provision of having a UGC-nominated representative in the search committee, the question mark over the state government's intention of pushing a candidate close to the ruling party as the vice-chancellor by virtue of its numerical supremacy in the search committee will continue.

Sources in the education department said that the absence of a permanent vice-chancellor often delays the declaration of the results of different examinations. "Apart from the problems faced on the academic side, in many cases the university authorities face problems in completing the necessary paperwork for timely disbursement of the retirement benefits of the retiring staff. In that case the pressure on the pro-vice chancellors, finance officers and the registrars of the universities increases manifold. Ultimately, academics takes a backseat in the entire process," an education department official said.

According to educationist PK Mukhopadhyay in the last ten years several new state universities have come up in different districts of the state. "While the idea of opening new universities is definitely welcome, what purpose will these universities serve if they start operating before their full infrastructure is in place. The absence of a permanent vice-chancellor is a most unfortunate affair for any university. Hence the first focus should be on trying to solve this problem," he said.

international

Tough love: Pak has gone to IMF for bailouts 23 times in 75 years

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Pakistan keeps going to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) again and again. A whopping number of 23 programmes clearly suggest that Pakistan is addicted to the Fund's tough love.

"In fact, we are the IMF's most loyal customer," said Murtaza Syed, former Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. Argentina, with 21 programmes, comes second.

"In contrast, our midnight twin India has only been to the IMF seven times and never since the landmark Manmohan Rao reforms of 1991," Syed said, Geo News reported.

Running to the global emergency ward 23 times in 75 years is no way to run a country, he added.

"Pakistan has less than \$3 billion in foreign exchange reserves today. Our reserves have never exceeded \$21 billion in our history. Bangladesh has around \$35 billion, India has around \$600 billion and China has around \$4 trillion. Since the early 1990s, Pakistan has had 11 IMF programmes. Bangladesh has had three. India and China have had none," Syed said.

Pakistan's economy has been in crisis for months, predating the summer's catastrophic floods. Inflation is backbreaking, the rupee's value has fallen sharply, and its foreign reserves



have now dropped raising the possibility of default, economist Madiha Afzal wrote for Brookings.

An economic crisis comes around every few years in Pakistan, borne out of an economy that doesn't produce enough and spends too much, and is thus reliant on external debt. Every successive crisis is worse as the debt bill gets larger and payments become due. This year, internal political instability and the flooding catastrophe have worsened it. There is a significant external element to the crisis as well, with rising

global food and fuel prices in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine. The combination of all these factors has spelled perhaps the greatest economic challenge Pakistan has ever seen, Afzal said. Pakistan must repay \$73 billion by 2025, according to Topline Securities, a Pakistani stockbroker, as per a report in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

Experts say it can't meet that obligation, meaning that even if it gets back in the IMF programme, it will still need to negotiate a debt restructuring further down the line. Such a process is a default of sorts, as it involves negotiating debt forgiveness and rescheduling of repayments, WSJ reported.

Elections have to be held by October, according to Pakistan's constitution, so any debt restructuring would be likely to be undertaken by the next government. Unlike Sri Lanka, relatively little of the country's debt is owed to foreign bondholders, making a restructuring simpler. Around one-third of the external debt is owed to close ally China, WSJ reported.

Charles Robertson, global chief economist at Renaissance Capital, an emerging markets investment bank, said that Pakistan's debt servicing burden put it in the same category as some developing countries which have already defaulted, such as Sri Lanka, and others vulnerable to default, like Egypt, WSJ reported.

4 killed in a blast in Pak's Balochistan province

Islamabad | Agencies

At least four people were killed and 14 wounded in an explosion inside the Rakhni market in Barkhan province on Sunday morning, police and health officials said, local media reported.

Barkhan District Health Officer Dr Abdul Hameed confirmed the death toll adding that the injured persons were rushed to the Rakhni Hospital, Dawn reported. According to Barkhan Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khoso, the blast occurred when an improvised explosive device (IED), planted on a motorcycle, exploded, Dawn reported.

Khoso said the police have arrived at the site and cordoned it off. "Teams have begun collecting evidence from the site," he added. Unverified videos making the rounds on social media show

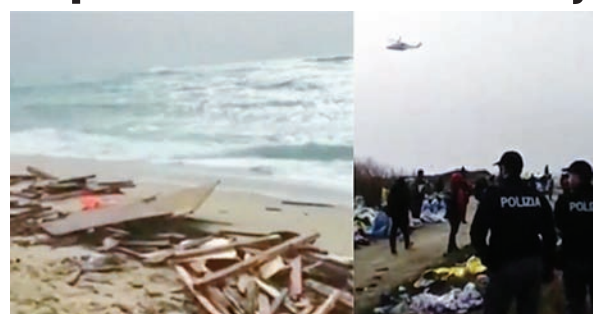


volunteers carrying bloodied victims away as a crowd gathers at the purported site of the blast. Mangled motorcycles and charred vegetables can be seen strewn about on the road, Dawn reported.

There was no claim of responsibility as yet.

The blast comes on the heels of attacks in KP and areas bordering Afghanistan. Since the talks with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) broke down in November last year, the militant group has intensified its attacks while insurgents in Balochistan have also stepped up their violent activities and formalised a nexus with it, Dawn reported.

Over 40 migrants killed after ship crashes into rock in Italy



Rome | Agencies

More than 40 migrants have died while 80 were rescued after their overloaded boat sank in rough seas in Italy's Calabria region on Sunday, media reported.

The vessel sank after it rammed against rocks during rough weather, the Adnkronos news agency said.

The accident occurred when the vessel was trying to land with more than 100 peo-

ple aboard near the coastal town of Crotona, BBC reported.

"Forty-three bodies have been found along the coastline," the Coastguard said in a statement.

The ill-fated vessel had passengers onboard from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia, local news agencies reported.

The Italian authorities have launched a large search and rescue operation on land and at sea.

2 BICYCLISTS KILLED, 11 SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER PICKUP TRUCK CRASH IN US



Los Angeles: Two bicyclists were killed and 11 others seriously injured after they were hit by a pickup truck in the southwestern US state of Arizona, local media reported, citing police.

The accident occurred just before 8 a.m. local time (1600 GMT) on Saturday on the Cotton Lane Bridge in Goodyear, a suburb of Phoenix, the capital city of Arizona, according to azzentral.com, the digital home of The Arizona Republic newspaper.

The truck driver stayed at the scene after the fatal accident, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting the Goodyear Police Department.

Zelensky says S.Korea's military support will be positive for Ukraine

Seoul | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said South Korea's military support will be a positive for his country in the war against Russia, expressing hope that Korea finds a way to provide the assistance.

Zelensky made the remarks during a speech in Kiev marking the first anniversary of Russia's invasion into Ukraine, in response to North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's call for South Korea to provide military aid to the war-torn country, according to a news report on Friday by Ukrinform, its state news agency.

"We look positively if weapons are supplied to us," Zelensky was quoted by the outlet as saying. "I hope that it will find an opportunity to help Ukraine." Zelensky said "details are being discussed" with other countries about South Korea in



this vein, without elaborating further, Yonhap News Agency reported quoting Ukrinform.

He also stressed the bilateral relations with South Korea are "very important" and should further develop.

Stoltenberg told a forum in Seoul during his visit in late

January that South Korea should "step up on the specific issue of military support."

South Korea has only provided humanitarian aid and other non-military support to Ukraine, citing its position not to supply arms to countries engaged in conflict.

AMID PROTESTS BY LOCAL PRODUCERS, SL TO IMPORT 2 MILLION EGGS FROM INDIA

Colombo: Despite protests by local egg producers and concerns over bird flu raised by health officials, Sri Lanka is to import 2 million eggs from India this week.

Procured by Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation, all imported eggs are to be issued for bakery industry at a control price of Rs 40.

State Trading Corporation (STC) General Manager Chamila Iddamalagoda told media that the imported eggs would be sold lower than the existing market price and said in line with a decision taken by the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), the eggs would not be issued for ordinary day to day consumption. Earlier, the DAPH has objected importing eggs from India and other countries fearing bird flu spread in the island nation.

However All Ceylon Egg Producers Association has protested the Cabinet decision to import eggs claiming that it would affect the domestic eggs industry. The egg producers had claimed that the import should have done several months ago but right now the country is almost self-sufficient with the locally produced eggs.

In January Trade Minister Nalin Fernando announced that the Cabinet has given green light to import eggs from India. The government also has reduced the special commodity levy imposed on imported eggs Rs 50 to Rs 1 for a period of three months.



MP CONG, BJP LEADERS TURN UP HEAT ON EACH OTHER WITH TOUGH QUESTIONS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the Assembly elections are nearing, the political parties in Madhya Pradesh are going all out against each other, and these days the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress are locked in a war of questions.

Both parties are engaged in preparing strategies to win and in strengthening their organisations at the grassroots level as they are expecting a tough contest.

The reason for the possibility of a tough competition in the state Assembly elections is because both the political parties did not achieve absolute majority in the last 2018 Assembly polls.

However, out of 230 Assembly seats, the Congress won 114 whereas the BJP stood behind with 109 seats. The Congress had formed the government in the state, which was dissolved later due to the defection of 22 MLAs under the leadership of Jyotiraditya Scindia, after which the BJP again formed the government.

In view of the upcoming polls, leaders of both the parties have been engaged in holding meetings, dialogues and discussions.

Mainly, the command of the Congress is being handled completely by state President Kamal



Nath, while the head of the state government, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is busy counting the wins of his government.

Since the past month, while Chouhan is reminding people of the Congress' promises made before its 15-month rule and raising questions on the allegations of breaking promises made to the unemployed citizens, farmers, etc.,

Kamal Nath has been speaking about his government's performance and achievements along with reminding people of the promises made by the BJP in 15 years of rule in the state.

The politicians have been questioning each others' parties and have been seen answering through a question itself. Political analysts believe that

Nath and Chouhan are keeping themselves away from the core issues and involving themselves in an array of questions so that an aggressive approach on those core issues can be taken when the election date is nearing.

Analysts also believe that both the leaders have been trying to portray each other as weak and unsuccessful.

Biggest reshuffle in the cabinet, 12 new faces can get a place in the cabinet

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, the exercise has once again intensified regarding the reshuffle of the cabinet. It is believed that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan can make a final reshuffle in the cabinet to remove anti-incumbency. Keeping this in mind, a day ago Shivraj Singh Chouhan was suddenly summoned to Delhi, where he along with BJP President JP Nadda and Organization Minister BL Santosh Had met for more than one and a half hours. If sources are to be believed, there could be the biggest reshuffle in the Madhya Pradesh government so far. In which many new faces can be included in the government, while many well-known faces included in the government can be linked to the organization or election programs. At present, the final decision has to be taken by BJP President JP Nadda. Preparing for the biggest reshuffle ever

Let us tell you that in the month of October this year, assembly elections (Assembly Election 2023) are to be held in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh along with Madhya Pradesh. In such a



situation, Madhya Pradesh is considered to be very important from the political point of view for the Bharatiya Janata Party. At present, the Bharatiya Janata Party has 122 MLAs in Madhya Pradesh with 230 assembly seats, while Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has 30 ministers. At present, 4 posts are vacant in the Council of Ministers. That is, the number of the cabinet can be increased to a maximum of 35. If we look at the present cabinet, an attempt has been made to create social equa-

tion in the government. But due to the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Madhya Pradesh for a long time, the possibility of anti-incumben-

cy cannot be ruled out. This is the reason that the Bharatiya Janata Party is preparing for a major cabinet reshuffle in March.

It is believed that about 6 to 8 faces from the current cabinet can be sent to the organization. While 10 to 12 new faces can be included in the cabinet. At present, according to the social equation, 10 Rajputs, 8 OBCs, 4 STs, 3 SCs and two Brahmin faces have been included in the cabinet. Preparations are underway to further settle this equation. At present the final decision has not been taken. For this, one more round of meeting can be held, only after which the cabinet expansion will be decided.

2 women crushed to death by speeding truck in Seoni; 3 injured

Team Absolute | Seoni

Two women were crushed to death and three others including a five-year-old was injured by a speeding truck in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, police said on Sunday. The accident took place at around 9 pm on Saturday near Kurai on Jabalpur-Nagpur highway, 35 km from the district headquarters, they said.



The truck crushed to death a 70-year-old pedestrian woman and a 32-year-old woman riding a motorbike, Kurai police station in-charge Madanlal Maravi said. In the CCTV footage of the incident, the elderly couple can be seen trying to cross

the road when a speeding truck came from behind. In an attempt to save the elderly couple, the truck driver hit a bike standing near the divider, thus killing the woman riding pillion on the motorbike. The 72-year-old husband of the pedestrian woman was injured in the accident. The husband and five-year-old daughter of the woman travelling on the motorbike were also injured and referred to Nagpur in neighbouring Maharashtra for further treatment, the official said. The truck driver was detained and the vehicle was seized, he added.

"Laadli Bahna" Yojana started from MP will bring social revolution: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Ladli Bahna Yojana is a social revolution which started from Madhya Pradesh. This scheme is also a campaign to change the lives of sisters. The scheme will complete the tapasya performed by me for the empowerment of poor women. Chief Minister Chouhan participated in the concluding programme of Vikas Yatra at Baktra border of Sehore and Raisen districts on Sunday.

CM Chouhan said that this is a mahayagya to change the lives of daughters and sisters, which has emerged from the movements of his youth and the thinking of considering sons and daughters as equal. He said that several schemes like Kanya Vivah/Nikah and Ladli Laxmi were implemented in the state to increase respect for women and to empower them. He said that this is the miracle of these schemes that today a lakhpati daughter is



born in the house of the poor and now the daughter is recognised as a boon.

Chief Minister Chouhan described the participation of thousands of women in the programme as a revolution and expressed gratitude to thousands of sisters for the rakhis given to him. He said that their brother Shivraj will send Rs. 1000 every month to his sisters through Ladli Bahna Yojana. This will boost the respect of women at home and in the society.

Chief Minister Chouhan announced to open CM Rise School in Baktra. He said that today there is no field without irrigation and no village without road in Budhni assembly constituency. He also performed bhoomi-pujan of several roads connecting several villages of Baktra. The Chief Minister said that Budhni was backward in every field 20 years ago. The previous government of 15 months had done a disservice to the common people by stopping the schemes of the villages, the poor and the deprived. The Chief Minister said that his government is determined for the welfare of every section.

Bhopal gets state's first women and child-friendly police station

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's first women and child-friendly police station is being set up in Jahangirabad, Bhopal, officials said on Sunday. The newly designed police station has all the basic requirements.



This police station building has been re-designed, with arrangements like a waiting room, reception window, feeding room and place for children to play have been made in the garden for visitors, officials said.

According to officials of the state police department, the police station building has been re-designed from the victims and the visitors' convenience point of view. The police station will be ready and

inaugurated in the next few days, said officials. It consists of separate toilets that have been prepared for female and male visitors in the police station premises itself and the garden has been developed by putting a shed in it, benches, and a plat-

form. Toilets and lunch rooms have been made for the staff, as well as an anti-human trafficking room, special care has been taken for parking on the police station premises.

Visitors or Victims waiting in the waiting room will have to take a token or help from the reception or help desk counter to enter the police station, only after that, they will be allowed inside the police station. Victims and their accompanying relatives in the waiting room inside the police station will be able to sit on the ground floor itself and rooms have been prepared for the deliberation officers.

This will be the first women and child-friendly police station in that state that will provide all the facilities to a mother and her child.

VEHICLES PARKED AT VIJAY NAGAR POLICE STATION CATCH FIRE, 20 VEHICLES BURN TO ASHES

Indore: Around 20 vehicles parked at Vijay Nagar police station in Indore caught fire suddenly and burned to ashes on Sunday afternoon. Reason behind the fire is not yet known. The vehicles were seized by the police during different incidents. Fire brigade was called at the spot and is still trying to douse the flames. More details in the matter are awaited.

CM Chouhan pays tribute to Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid floral tributes by garlanding the portrait of Swatantra Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary at the residence office auditorium.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was a great revolutionary, freedom fighter, historian, nationalist leader and thinker. He was born on 28 May 1883 in Bhagur village near Nashik in Maharashtra. Vinayak Savarkar's desire for higher education was fulfilled despite the economic crisis. He established a revolution-



ary organisation called Abhinav Bharat Society. Veer Savarkar was elected the National President of All India Hindu Mahasabha 6 times. He was sentenced to

Kalapani in the Nashik case and sent to the Cellular Jail. Savarkar suffered torture for a long period of 10 years in jail. He passed away on 26 February 1966 in Mumbai.

DRIVER OF TRUCK THAT HIT THREE BUSES IN SIDHI, ARRESTED

Sidhi: The driver of the truck that allegedly caused an accident involving multiple buses in Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh, killing 14 persons and injuring 60, a couple of days ago was arrested on Sunday, a police official said. The cement-laden truck had hit three buses parked by the road close to a tunnel near Barkhada village on the Rewa-Satna border near on Friday night. Superintendent of Police Mukesh Shrivastava said truck driver Shyamal Rawat (25), a resident of neighbouring Singrauli district, was arrested on Sunday. The passengers in the buses were returning from the Kol Mahakumbh gathering addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday evening in Satna on the occasion of Shabri Mata Jayanti. Three persons with serious injuries were flown to Delhi on Saturday for further treatment, the official said.

3-year-old girl falls into borewell, rescue underway



Team Absolute | Chhatarpur

A three-year-old girl fell into an open borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district on Sunday and a rescue operation is currently underway, officials said. The incident took place around 5 pm at Lalguan Pali village under Bijawar police station limits, some 40 kms from the district headquarters, they said. "A three-year-old girl named Rina slipped into a borewell when she was playing," Bijawar's Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Rahul Siladia said.

Rescue teams and officials from the administration reached the spot on getting the information, he said, adding that as per the initial information, the girl is apparently stuck at around 30-feet deep in the borewell.

Meanwhile, an earth-moving machine has also reached the spot for the rescue operation, he said. Further details are awaited. In June last year, a five-year-old boy had fallen into a borewell in his family's agricultural field in Chhatarpur district's Nayanpura Patharpur village. He was later rescued after an eight-hour-long operation.

43 people fall sick after eating fruit custard at wedding

Team Absolute | Khargone

Forty three people fell ill after having food at a marriage function in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, an official said on Sunday.

The wedding function was held in Khargone's New Housing

Board Colony on Saturday night.

After having fruit custard there, 43 people suffered from vomiting due to food poisoning, district hospital's Dr B M Chouhan said.

The patients were given medication at the district hospital, he said, adding that all of them were

out of danger. Most of them were discharged after initial treatment, he said. Mohanlal Patidar, a patient's relative, said after consuming custard, the people started vomiting and were taken to the district hospital where they got relief after being given medi-



AGAR MAN KILLS WIFE AND BURNS BODY IN FIELD

Agar: A heart-wrenching incident occurred in the Agar Malwa district, in which a husband brutally murdered his wife and burned the body. On Saturday evening, the incident was reported in the district's Dharola village. The accused husband was arrested, and an investigation was launched.

According to police, Seema, 36, was brutally beaten to death by her husband. To conceal the evidence, the husband burned the body in a field near the house after death.

When the villagers learned of the incident late in the evening, they called the police.

Following that, Nalkheda SDOP Pallavi Shukla arrived with the police team and recovered the body from the farm before it was reduced to ashes.

The police collected the remains from the scene. In addition, accused Mohan Bilal is being arrested and questioned.

SP Rakesh Sagar stated that a scientific investigation, including DNA analysis of the seized remains, will be carried out. According to the SP, preliminary investigation revealed that the couple used to have frequent disagreements. On Saturday, the two had another argument in the field, during which Mohan assaulted his wife. Following her death, the accused dragged her body to a field with a large amount of wood and burned it to conceal the evidence.

Zendaya stunned everyone with unforgettable looks at the NAACP Image Awards

Los Angeles | Agencies

Zendaya sizzles in vintage Versace before switching into a flesh-flashing white co-ord at the 2023 NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles. The megastar was dressed by her longtime stylist Law Roach as she attended as a presenter for Outstanding Motion Picture. The Oakland, California native was breathtaking in a plunging lime green and black strapless vintage Versace gown. Then, as she took the stage later in the evening, she changed into a vintage white Prada SS1993 look.

The former child star later took to Instagram to share outtakes from the annual ceremony. Zendaya - full name Zendaya Maree Stoermer Coleman - commanded attention in her gown, which boasted a short train. The designer dress had a thigh-high slit at the center and bared the Euphoria sensation's pert cleavage and toned arms.

The longtime entertainer put on a statuesque display as she posed confidently on the step-and-repeat. The Emmy-winning actress, whose boyfriend is Tom Holland, showed off her on-trend chunky bob haircut. Her lustrous honey-highlighted locks were styled in an undefined side part as one portion was swept over.

Zendaya wore a glinting diamond bracelet on one wrist and a large diamond ring on one of her glossy black manicured fingers.

Her makeup was without a flaw as she used a neutral-toned palette to highlight her remarkable features.

She drew attention to her brown eyes with fluttery eyelashes and she accentuated her pout with brown liner and a matte nude-hued lipstick.

The bombshell's second ensemble was equally memorable, featuring a bralette with star cutouts and a matching full-length skirt.

The presentation also flaunted the model's toned tummy as it bared the flesh of her midsection.



Amanda Seyfried's show 'The Dropout' wins Outstanding Producer Award

Los Angeles | Agencies

Amanda Seyfried looked effortlessly chic in a black and white strapless dress while posing on the red carpet of the 34th Annual Producers Guild Awards.

The actress wore a midi dress with horizontal stripes paired with a bold red lip while she posed ahead of her latest project receiving an accolade in the limited series category.

The Dropout star - who was praised for her portrayal of Elizabeth Holmes in the Hulu anthology show - donned a pair of pointed-toe black pumps.

Her dress featured an A-lined skirt with classic black-and-white horizontal stripes and vertical darts.

Later at the award ceremony, The Dropout received the David L. Wolper Award for Outstanding Producer of Limited or Anthology Series Television.

The Mamma Mia! Star pulled her blonde tresses back into a sleek and straight ponytail.

For makeup, the mother-of-one sported a bold red lip and looked radiant in a rosy pink blush.

She rocked a shimmering taupe eyeshadow look that highlighted her bright blue eyes and showed off her natural beauty.

The Pennsylvania native opted for minimal accessories to let her dress take the center of attention.

She wore a pair of statement stud earrings with a diamond and pearl flower as well as a glittering, large ring.

Her critically-acclaimed performance as former biotechnology entrepreneur Elizabeth Holmes won her a Golden Globe as well as an Emmy award.

Harry Styles 'in early days of romance with mystery woman'

Los Angeles: Harry Styles is reportedly dating a mystery girl after his split from Olivia Wilde.

It emerged singer Harry and actress Olivia had gone their separate ways in November last year after they found they had 'different priorities that are keeping them apart'. While it's claimed the pair is still 'good friends', Harry has left the romance firmly in the past as the One Direction star is said to have moved on with someone else. A source told the Mirror: 'Harry is seeing someone. He's going to great lengths to keep her identity quiet after the circus surrounding his relationship with Olivia. But his close circles all know about the romance. Though it's early days, things seem to be going well.' MailOnline has contacted a representative for Harry for comment. It emerged in November last year that Harry and Olivia had split after two years together. People Magazine claimed the pop star and US film actress were 'taking a break' from their romance due to having 'different priorities that are keeping them apart'. A source said: 'He's still touring and is now going abroad. She is focusing on her kids and her work in LA. It's a very amicable decision. They're still very close friends.' A friend added to the publication: 'Right now, they have different priorities that are keeping them apart. The public pressure on them has been difficult. They've had ups and downs throughout the relationship.' Despite their split, the two have 'no bad blood between them' according to Page Six.



'I'm a thin glutton'

Keira Knightley confesses decadent eating habits & says she will deserve 'every gouty toe'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Keira Knightley has claimed she is a 'thin glutton' as she described her decadent eating habits - including hiring her very own caviar dealer.

The Pirates of the Caribbean star said she is a 'the kind of glutton that has no business being a glutton,' adding she will deserve 'every broken vein and gouty toe' that comes her way.

Penning an article for Noble Rot magazine, Knightley said gluttons 'should look like Hogarth etchings' - a reference to the work of 18th century artist William Hogarth. 'But this glutton has managed to make a living off her face and fit in to very small couture clothing,' the mother-of-two said.

'Time will catch up. The Hogarth blot and red nose will get me at some point and when it does, I will know that I deserve every broken vein and gouty toe.'

Gout is a type of arthritis that causes sudden, severe joint pain. The NHS lists the main causes as obesity, high blood pressure, kidney problems and eating red meat. Knightley said she has spent a 'large part of my time and money stuffing myself in the most disgusting, luxurious and outrageous ways'.

She added this has made it difficult to choose her 'favourite moment of sublime eating.' But the actress gives it a go, listing a number of fine dining experiences she has had in the past.

'I've had caviar dealers, truffle dealers, sucked the heads of carabinieri in Pantelleria, and enjoyed private dinners by Santiago Lastra,' Knightley said.

Later in the article, the Love Actually actress said she almost got divorced after adopting a puppy - that her youngest daughter, three-year-old Deilah, was 'mortally afraid of'.



TOM CRUISE HONORED WITH THE DAVID O. SELZNICK ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tom Cruise was honored with the 2023 David O. Selznick Achievement Award at the Producers Guild of America Awards in Los Angeles.

The award is the PGA's highest honor in film, acknowledging a producer or team for exceptional filmography.

The superstar joins an illustrious pantheon of previous honorees that includes Steven Spielberg, Mary Parent, Barbara Broccoli, David Heyman, Brian Grazer, and Kevin Feige.

The box office titan earned his highest-grossing film ever with Top Gun: Maverick, which by December had raked in nearly \$1.5 billion at the box office against a budget of just \$170 million, according to The Numbers.

Cruise was a striking presence in his classic black tuxedo at the star-studded 2023 Producers Guild Awards, where a gorgeous Mindy Kaling, 43, was on hand to accept the prestigious Norman Lear Award.

'Tom Cruise showed us that moviegoing was back,' declared Sherry Lansing, giving Cruise a glowing introduction. 'You're an exceptional person, and you've had a tremendous impact on my career.'

Commanding the podium, Cruise began his speech by talking about his love of movies growing up: 'Whenever I didn't have the money, I'd figure out a way to sneak in.'

He went on to add: 'I like to see people do well. I know that things don't just happen. I know it's not just luck.'

'You have to create that luck. You have to will it into existence. I want you to know that I'm always rooting for you. I'm rooting for all of you.'

The megastar went on to speak about his close relationship with Stephen Spielberg, telling an anecdote about meeting famed director Brian De Palma through Spielberg.



Monica Barbaro



Women's T20 World Cup Final

AUSTRALIA BEAT SOUTH AFRICA AFRICA BY 19 RUNS, WIN 6TH TITLE

Cape Town | Agencies

Australia defeated South Africa by 19 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 final, at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town on Sunday. Chasing a target of 157 runs, South Africa reached 137/6 in 20 overs, with Laura Wolvaardt's half-century going in vain.

Australian bowlers were in good form, with Megan Schutt, Ashleigh Gardner, Darcie Brown and Jess Jonassen taking a wicket each. Earlier, Beth Mooney smacked an unbeaten knock of 74 runs off 53 balls, packed with nine fours and a six, as Australia posted 156/6 in 20 overs.

Meanwhile, Shabnim Ismail and Marizanne Kapp were in brilliant form and bagged two wickets each. The win also helped Australia win their third consecutive T20 World



Cup title, their sixth overall. Player of The Match goes to Mooney, who said, "Very special win."

Incredible to be here in South Africa and win this. The crowd was very impressive. It was a really tough wick-

et and I was a little too harsh on myself in the middle. Really disappointed with my outings in the first couple of games. But the team always believed in me to turn it around. The whole squad, support staff has been amazing." Player of the Tournament, Ashleigh Gardner said. "We have been longing for this moment since the last World Cup. We weren't in winning positions in parts, but we scrapped and got through. Probably the semifinal performance was the best of this tournament for me. We have won this tournament. We spoke about wanting to do this, so we were really proud. Confidence in my bowling. I have bowled quite a bit even in the Big Bash. Thankfully it (form) has come into international cricket as well. Proud to be probably as understatement for the impact we have had globally as a team."

Spanish Para-Badminton

Pramod, Sukant win gold in men's doubles

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ace shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam clinched gold in the men's doubles at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2023 Level 2 tournament.

In the men's doubles SL3-SL4 category, Pramod and Sukant defeated the Indian pair of Tarun and Nitesh in a tightly contested 3 sets, 22-20, 12-21 and 21-9.

Whereas, the ace shuttlers had to settle for silver in their singles category.

Pramod went down fighting to England's Daniel Bethell in straight sets. The match lasted 46 mins and the final score read 18-21 and 8-



21 and had to settle for a silver medal in the SL 3 category. Sukant went down fighting to India's Tarun in a tightly

contested 3 sets. The final score read 21-12, 8-21 and 13-21 to settle for a silver medal.

Hockey India Senior Women National

Madhya Pradesh beat Maharashtra to win title

Kakinada | Agencies

Hockey Madhya Pradesh was crowned champions of the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2023 after defeating Hockey Maharashtra 5-1 in the final, here on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Hockey Jharkhand took third place after defeating Hockey Haryana in the third-place match. Hockey Madhya Pradesh relied on penalty corners to overcome Hockey Maharashtra in today's Final with Diksha Tiwari (2', 4') converting two early in the game. With just enough time left, Lalrindiki (25') scored to give Hockey Maharashtra some hope,



but Manmeet Kaur (38'), Preeti Dubey (42'), and Aishwarya Chavan (42') scored for Hockey Madhya Pradesh to clinch the title. Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Haryana 2-1 in the third-place match. Roshni Dungdung (25') scored to give her team a

slender lead, Reshma Soreng (59') doubled the lead at the very end, but Hockey Haryana's Devika Sen (60') pulled one back to give her team a sliver of hope, but they failed to capitalise on this opportunity, and the match ended in Hockey Jharkhand's favour.

New Delhi Marathon

THREE INDIAN MARATHONERS QUALIFY FOR ASIAN GAMES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's elite runners Man Singh, Belliappa A.B. and Karthik Kumar clinched the podium positions in the New Delhi National Marathon here on Sunday and also qualified for the 2023 Asian Games in September.

All three went under the qualifying mark of 2 hours and 15 minutes in an exciting run that went down to the wire much to the delight of cheering fans all along the picturesque route in the heart of the Indian Capital.

Man Singh, who recorded his personal best of 2:16:58 just last month, clocked an impressive 2:14.13 to win the coveted gold medal as well as the cash prize of Rs 1, 50,000.

Belliappa (2:14.15), who was breathing down his neck in the final leg, finished just two seconds behind to improve upon his own best by over 2 minutes. He pocketed the silver medal in the process.

Karthik Kumar (2:14.19) crossed the line four seconds behind to take the bronze.



Evergreen Jyoti Gawate took home the gold medal among elite women but could not book her ticket to Hangzhou in China. She, however, managed 2:53:04 while the target for

the women was 2:47 minutes. Ashvini Jadhav (2:53:06) and Jigmet Dolma (2:56:41) took the other two positions on the podium. Over 16,000 runners took part in the four categories, mak-

ing it one of the biggest turnouts in the country. The Elite Marathoners set off on their mission at 5 in the morning, with David Rudisha flagging them off along with other dignitaries.

Premier League

Arsenal, Man City both wins; West Ham, Leeds takes vital triumphs at the bottom

London | Agencies

Gabriel Martinelli's goal at the start of the second half gave Arsenal a 1-0 win away to Leicester City, which was probably easier than the final score suggests.

Once Arsenal got ahead, they were able to control the play and held into their lead with few problems.

Manchester City remains two points behind in the second after an easy 4-1 win away to Bournemouth. Julian Alvarez on 15 minutes, Erling Haaland on 29 minutes and Phil Foden on the stroke of halftime put Pep Guardiola's side 3-0 up at the break, with Alvarez and Foden both answering doubts over why they haven't started recently.

An own goal made it 4-0 early in the second half



before Jefferson Lerma netted a consolation goal for Bournemouth with just seven minutes left to play.

The rest of the day's games saw some important results in the battle to avoid relegation, with Leeds

United and West Ham climbing out of the bottom three with vital home wins.

Javi Garcia's debut at Leeds ended 1-0 to bottom-of-the-table, Southampton, thanks to Junior Firpo's 77th-minute goal, which went under the body of Southampton keeper, Gavin Bazunu.

Danny Ings scored in the 70th and 73rd minute as four goals in 15 minutes gave West Ham a 4-0 win at home to Nottingham Forest to ease the pressure on David Moyes.

Everton were the big loser of the day as they suffered a 2-0 defeat at home to Aston Villa. Ollie Watkins' second-half penalty saw him score for a fifth consecutive match and Emi Buendia's late goal ended Villa's run of three consecutive defeats while inflicting Sean Dyche's first home defeat as Everton coach.

Indian junior women's hockey team records 4-0 win against South Africa 'A'

Johannesburg | Agencies

The Indian junior women's hockey team won 4-0 against South Africa's 'A' team in its final game of the tour, finishing the tour unbeaten.

The Indian team defeated the South African U-21 team in all three games. They were held to a 4-4 draw by South Africa's 'A' team in their last match late on Monday night.

Deepika Sr. broke the deadlock in the 13th minute by converting from the spot after South Africa conceded a penalty stroke.

A few minutes later, Neelam (15') doubled India's lead by converting a penalty corner. Annu (35') and Sunlita Toppo (50') scored in the second half to seal the victory.

The ongoing South Africa Tour is part of the team's preparations for the crucial Asia Cup U21, which serves as a qualifier for the upcoming FIH Women's Hockey Junior World Cup.

Earlier in the first match on Friday, South



Africa began taking an early lead against the Indians with Quanita Bobbs (1', 31') and Biamca Wood (6') scoring in quick succession.

However, quick responses from Neelam (7') and Deepika Sr. (8', 30'+) restored parity before Taranpreet Kaur (25') and Deepika scored to put the Indian junior women's hockey team in a commanding position. The lead was squandered in the second half with South Africa scoring through Quanita Bobbs and Tarryn Lombard (47'), and the game ended in a draw.

ENG vs NZ 2nd Test

New Zealand defiant on follow-on as England pushes for victory

Wellington | Agencies

Forced to follow on after a disastrous first innings, New Zealand rode on a century opening partnership between Tom Latham (83) and Devon Conway (61) to put up a defiant fightback in their second innings against England in the second and final Test.

In response to England's first innings score of 435/8 declared, New Zealand were bundled out for 209 in their first innings with pacer Stuart Broad wiping off their tail with a three-wicket burst on the third morning at the Basin Reserve here.

Trailing by 226 runs, New Zealand came up with a defiant effort in their second innings to reach 202 for 3 in 83 overs, still trailing England by 26 runs. With seven-second innings wickets in hand, New Zealand, who won the toss and elected to field, will be hoping to gain a substantial lead to force England on



the back foot.

It will now be up to former captain Kane Williamson (batting on 25), who is three runs shy of Ross Taylor's all-time Test runs (7683) record for New Zealand. Henry Nicholls (batting on 18), who is keeping Williamson company to continue what's been a gutsy fight.

However, it's still advantage England as the visitors are in a great position to push for victory in the second Test and a clean sweep of the series. They would be hoping

to get New Zealand out as early as possible and chase down the target in their second innings for a big win.

Brief scores

England 435/8d lead New Zealand 209 in 53.2 overs (Tim Southee 73, Tom Blundell 38, Stuart Broad 4-61, James Anderson 3-37, Jack Leach 3-80) & 202/3 in 83 overs (Tom Latham 83, Devon Conway 61; Leach 2-58) by 24 runs.

REAL AND ATLETICO MADRID DRAW 1-1 AS CADIZ

Madrid (Spain) | FC Barcelona can go 10 points clear at the top of La Liga on Sunday if they win away to Almeria after Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Atletico Madrid.

After a dull first half, where the main incident was a cruciate ligament injury suffered by Atletico left back Reinildo Mandava (who will miss the rest of the season), Atletico were reduced to 10 men in the 64th minute after Angel Correa was sent off for an apparent elbow in the chest of Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger.

Despite being down to 10 men, Atletico took the lead in the 78th minute through Jose Gimenez's header from a set piece.

Third-place Real Sociedad slipped to defeat in a tense 1-0 game away to Valencia, who had kicked off second from the bottom of the table. Igor Zubeldia's 40th-minute own goal after sliding a cross into his own net decided the match and lifted Valencia to fourth from bottom, after a disappointing display from the visitors.

Cadiz also climbed out of the relegation zone and kept their impressive home form going, as they won 1-0 at home to Rayo Vallecano. Sergi Guardiola's 73rd-minute goal against his former club gave Cadiz the points, and Rayo's afternoon was made worse with an injury to the key midfielder, Santi Comesaña and a late red card for Alejandro Catena. Two goals from Martin Braithwaite gave Espanyol an important 2-1 win at home to Mallorca to lift them further clear of the relegation zone. Braithwaite put Espanyol up in the 21st minute, and although Vedat Muriqi levelled in the 40th minute, the Danish striker's second goal in the 50th minute assured a vital win.



Rio Open

Comeback win helps Alcaraz set up final rematch with Norrie

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) | Agencies

Spanish former World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz twice came back from the brink of defeat and also braved a niggle to his upper left leg to overcome qualifier Nicolas Jarry of Chile in three sets in the semifinals of the Rio Open ATP Tour event here. He will next face Briton Cameron Norrie in the final.

Alcaraz, who is on a perfect run following his return from injury that kept him out of the Australian Open, was facing a really tough time against Jarry, who was giving the Spaniard all he could handle in Rio Open semifinals.

The Chilean was twice within two games of victory at 4-4 and 5-5 in the second set, with Alcaraz receiving treatment on his upper left leg after holding on both of those occa-



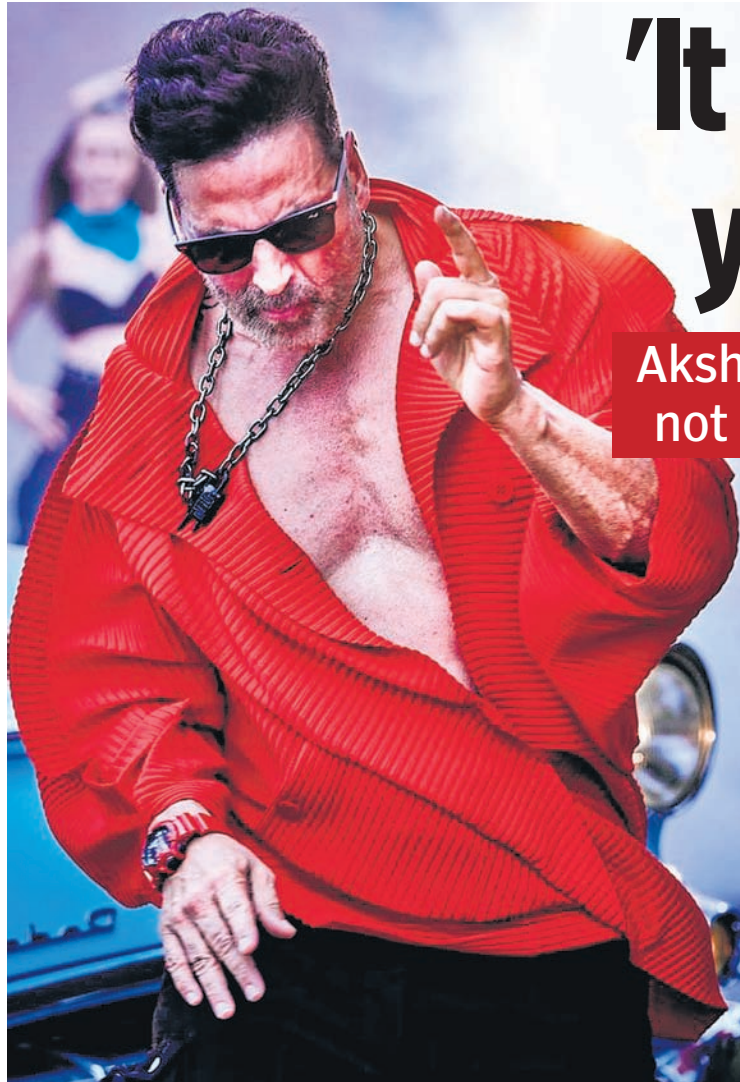
sions. But just when he seemed at his most vulnerable, not having seen a break point since he stopped Jarry from serving out the opening set at 5-3, the 19-year-old reeled off eight straight games in devastating fashion for a 6-7(2), 7-5, 6-0 victory.

Both men entered the match on winning streaks, and their play on Court Guga Kuerten showed why. By improving to 8-0 on the season, Alcaraz ended the five-match Rio run of Jarry,

who did not drop a set across two qualifying rounds and three main-draw victories.

For the second straight week on South American clay, Alcaraz and Cameron Norrie will meet in an ATP Tour final as the top two seeds. Alcaraz earned a 6-3, 7-5 win against the Briton last week in Buenos Aires to improve to 4-1 in their ATP Head2Head series.

Norrie advanced to the final with a three-set win of his own, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(3) against Bernabe Zapata Miralles.



'It happens due to your own fault'

Akshay Kumar takes onus of his films not working, says it's 100% his fault

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, who had a string of flops with his recent film 'Selfiee' being another addition, said that the films not working at the box-office are solely his fault and one must not blame the audience for not liking a particular film.

As per media reports, the actor said that he has faced the similar issue early during his career when his 16 films tanked at the box-office in a row.

He said: "This is not happening to me for the first time. In my career, I have had 16 consecutive flops at a time. There was a time when I had eight films in a row that did not work. Now, I have had three-four films in a row that did not work. The thing is that it happens due to your own fault, film ka na chalna (a film not working). The audience has changed, you

need to change, you need to dismantle yourself. You have to start again because the audience requires you to see something else."

Akshay said: "It is a great alarm, aapki film nahi chal rahi to galti aapki hai (If your films are not working, it is your fault). When your films flop in a row, it is an alarm for you that it is time for you to change. Main koshish kar raha hun, wahi kar sakta hoon (I am trying to change, that is all I can do)."

He also said that he'd like to tell everyone that when films don't work, the audience must not be blamed.

"Do not blame the audience or anyone else. It is my fault, 100 per cent. Aapki film na chalna is not because of the audience (a film not working is your fault only). It is because of what you selected. Maybe you have not given the right ingredients in the film," he added.

SRK REMEMBERS 'KABHI HAAN KABHI NAA', SAYS HE MISSES DIRECTOR KUNDAN SHAH EVERYDAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan may be winning at everything right from the box-office to audience appreciation but, he says that sometimes losing in the moment is not that bad.

On Sunday, the actor, whose recent Hindi film "Pathaan" is smashing box-office records, took to his Instagram as he walked down the memory lane for his film "Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa" which recently clocked 29 years of its release.

The actor shared a picture of his character of Sunil from the film, captioning it: "At that stage... in that age... raw... uncontrolled... craft still undefined... surrounded by the best cast and crew in India and a director who I miss every day! Taught me that sometimes u lose the moment... but win everything else... I am sure somewhere, some world Sunil did too!"

In the film, SRK played the role of a musician, who would go to any lengths to win the love of a girl only to see her getting married to the love of her life.



Sacchin Shroff gets remarried at 43, shares pictures on social media

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sacchin Shroff is a well-known actor in the entertainment business who has been in a

number of serials throughout the years. The actor's personal life has been in the news for many days. Sacchin Shroff, for the uninitiated, remarried at the age of 43. On February 25, the actor married a family friend in Mumbai. It is an arranged marriage, and Chandni is a part-time event organiser and interior designer who is not from the business.

Sacchin Shroff took to his social media profile on February 25 and revealed various pictures of his wedding on his Instagram story. Sacchin and Chandni looked stunning in traditional clothes for the wedding and western attire for the post-wedding reception. The wedding was a beautiful occasion, as various celebrities graced Sacchin's wedding and wished the newlywed couple well.

Sacchin Shroff previously married actress Juhi Parmar in 2009. Nevertheless, after nine years together, the pair divorced in 2018. The couple has a 10-year-old daughter, Samaira.



KAREENA'S LOOK TEST FOR '3 IDIOTS' REVEALED AFTER A DECADE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan's look test pictures from the film '3 Idiots', which was released in 2009, has been unveiled. Kareena played a medical student named Pia Sahasrabudhi in Rajkumar Hirani's directorial. The film also stars Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan and Sharman Joshi. It's been 14 years since the film was released and Vidhu Vinod Chopra films released a slew of photos on their Instagram page.

The pictures were captioned: "kareena Kapoor Khan's look test for Pia in 3 Idiots, behind the scenes, Kareena Kapoor, 3idiots, look test, vidhuvinodchopra vvc," they wrote with the post.

In the first image, Kareena is seen dressed in a green kurta and with her hair tied in a ponytail and a nose-pin. The second picture has her dressed in a purple saree with some jewellery and a red blouse and thin spectacles.

The third photo shows Kareena as a college student. The last one is the iconic look of Kareena as Pia, in an orange top, wearing a red helmet.

'3 Idiots' is loosely adapted from Chetan Bhagat's novel Five Point Someone. Narrated through two parallel dramas, one in the present and the other set ten years in the past, the story follows the friendship of three students at an Indian engineering college and is a satire about the social pressures under the Indian education system.

Kareena will be seen next in 'The Birmingham Murders', 'The Devotion of Suspect X' and 'The Crew'.

I GENUINELY FEEL MARTIAL ARTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN SCHOOL SYLLABUS: ANUSHKA KAUSHIK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After being part of projects like 'Ghar Waapasi' and 'Thar', actress Anushka Kaushik is all set to entertain the audience with her work in Tigmanshu Dhulia's 'Garmi' and Arbaaz Khan Production 'Patna Shukla'.

She recently wrapped up the shooting of the latter and now she is utilising her break with Wing Chun classes, a concept-based combat art form of Southern China. This technique is basically for women's self-defence and Anushka emphasised that more women in the country should learn this martial art form.

Anushka said: "I genuinely feel that like craft and other curriculum activities, martial arts should also be included in school syllabus and made compulsory. It's not only important for girls but also boys. The government and school authorities should bring the topic up because when we talk about issues like crime and how we are not being able to put an end to it, in such cases, we need to empow-



er our kids, so that while facing any sort of sexual or physical harassment, they are able to fight it."

Wing Chun art form focuses more on technique than strength and Anushka is learning how to use her body in times of need through it.

"When we are fighting, the person who has got more strength has more chances to win it but when you know the techniques properly, there are chances of you winning. If you know the technique, then even if you are thinner or a person who doesn't have that much strength or even if you are 50-60 years old, then you can win the fight with the right knowledge." However, Anushka is sad that not many women are learning such defence techniques.

She said: "Sadly, in my class, there is only one woman learning the martial art form and training, and that's me. Parents in our country need to empower their daughters and sons to get such physical training. Learning it myself has helped me realise it."

Overall it's a family film and we have put our best into it: Debattama Saha on movie's box office

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

After leaving netizens spellbound with her amazing performance in TV shows like Shaurya aur Anokhi ki Kahani and Mithai, Debattama marked her Bollywood debut with Kartik Aaryan starrer Shehzada. The actress is receiving a positive response for her performance.

The actress indulged in an exclusive chat with Absolute India News.

When asked by Debattama about how she came on board for this project, the actress said, "After sending an audition tape to a casting agency, they said that Rohit Dhawan wants to meet me. Post that, things turned in my favour and I was on board."

The actress garnered immense love for her stint in Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani. Talking about the show being a turning point for her, the actress shared, "It's a big YES. There comes a show in every actor's life that proves to be a game changer, and this show was that. Although it didn't work for a long time due to certain issues, I am grateful for the love that still comes my way."

Unfortunately, Shehzada didn't have a successful run at the box office. Talking about the conversation around it, the actress shares, "Overall, it's a family film, and we have put our best into it. So many people, even before the film was released, had the notion that it was a remake. But it shouldn't be that way. People even make judgments based on the reviews they read. I believe one should judge after watching the film with their own eyes rather than listening to someone else."

The actress is rumoured to be a major part of the show Kundali Bhagya. When prodded about it, she reacted, "People are talking, but I really don't know anything about it. Things happen suddenly in my life. So let's see what happens."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sanya Malhotra