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DESPITE RISING INCIDENTS OF CYBER FRAUD, AWARENESS CONTINUES TO BE LOW

Emerging technologies are being extensively misused for criminal purposes like Artificial Intelligence (AI). Now, there is darknet (where people anonymously communicate and share files with each other) and find various websites advertising. Their cyber crime is a service powered by AI. People have started using ChatGPT -- a chatbot developed by OpenAI -- by appropriate prompt command engineering in such a manner that they are forcing the software to come up with new innovative approaches on how to commit criminal activities. With these kinds of options coming in, we are now finding a scenario where the country needs to address the issues of cyber crime and emerging technologies.



by the bank and retrieving OTP by convincing them. In the age of the internet, we now have different kinds of uglier frauds happening online under the pretext of offering jobs, payment of electricity bills, cryptocurrency investment, insurance fraud, sextortion and more. Swindlers reach out to people via SMS, call, email, or other ways to get personal information. They often use malicious links directing an individual to an app or website to hack into the computer, mobile device, or network to get sensitive information, such as bank account numbers, credit card details, and social security numbers. Everybody is a potential target today, from digital stakeholders to users. It is a threat to individuals, corporations, nations and to the enjoyment of individual digital rights, but if we start inculcating cyber security as a way of life in our lives, it could be a good starting point. Post-pandemic, the internet has become an integral part of our lives and this rings an alarm for every stakeholder to be sensitised about the significance of cyber security and how to deal with it. We have started giving devices to children at a very young age, which is a very convenient way of putting them into deep waters without even telling them how to swim in these deep waters of the internet. The Chairman of International Commission on Cyber Security Law, Pavan Duggal, told IANS that he has

been educating and advising the government, including the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), that we now need to incorporate cyber crime and cyber law education as a part of the school curriculum from the first standard onwards. Talking about sensitising people about cyber security, Duggal said there should be first a proper allocation of budget for cyber-crime. Secondly, the law enforcement agencies and police officers should be made aware of it. "People shudder to go to the police station because they fear potential harassment at the end of the police and most of the time the police officers are not very clued as to how to deal with electronic evidence," Duggal said. Looking at the country's size -- 1.4 billion people -- and comparing it with the number of sensitisation programmes, there's a huge gap. "The judges need to be sensitised as, ultimately, the judiciary is a relevant entity which will have to go ahead and interpret the provisions of law. Most of the time, the judge would know the facts of the case, but then the judge has no control on what kind of evidence the law and enforcement agency brings across to prove particular charges. So, across the ecosystem, stakeholders have to be more sensitised," Duggal added. City dwellers could still be well up on cyber frauds and securing themselves, but awareness about it in rural areas is still a big deal.

From new academic year, central universities students can join two courses together

From new academic year, students of the central universities can now pursue two courses together. After the central universities accepted this proposal, students studying in their facilities will be able to perform studies for other course simultaneously. Students will have an option that they can opt for a regular course and another via distance learning. The provision of two courses simultaneously from central universities has been provided under the National Education Policy. The University Grants Commission has made a new provision for it. According to UGC Chairman, Prof M Jagdish Kumar, from new session, internship will be mandatory for graduation students. On the basis of this internship, the students will develop their skills as per market expectations. Besides that, the students will have to work on community outreach after going to fields, and projects. Internship programme can be run by working with business houses. Students of

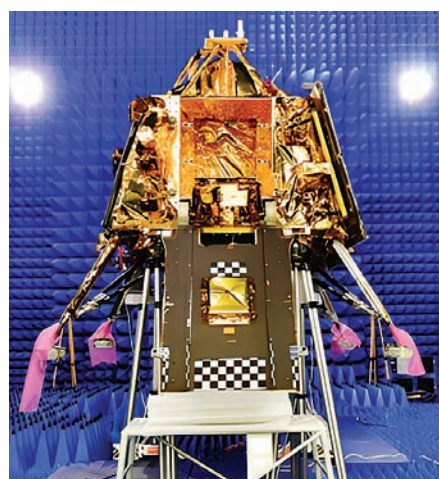


graduation and post graduation will have multiple choices of courses. More and more certificate courses and diploma courses have to be started so that students have more options. The Education Ministry has made it clear that admission for undergraduate courses in Central universities will be done based on merit list of Common University Entrance Test (CUET). It is believed that besides 45 central universities, over 60 state and private universities will also enrol students for undergraduate courses based on merit of CUET. As per Education ministry, central universities across the nation are trying to encourage Indian languages. These varieties have adopted the guidelines of the UGC to run two educational courses simultaneously. Central Universities have started appointing Professor of Practice in various domains. Professor of Practice will be those people whose first occupation is not teaching and they do not hold a PhD. Despite that, they can be appointed to teach students based on their professional experience. The UGC has written a letter to Higher Education Institutions in respect of appointment of Professor of Practice. In the letter to vice chancellors of varieties and Principals of colleges to make necessary changes in rules of their institutions for appointment of Professors of Practice. The UGC has also asked for sharing the progress of work done in this direction on its official portals. The directions for appointment of Professor of Practice has been published.

Chandrayaan-3: India's moon lander clears key tests successfully

Chennai | Agencies

The moon lander part of India's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3, successfully underwent the EMI-EMC (Electro-Magnetic Interference/ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility) test recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Sunday. According to ISRO, the Chandrayaan-3 lander successfully underwent EMI/EMC test during January 31-February 2 at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru. The EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure the functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels. This test is a major milestone in the realisation of the satellites. Chandrayaan-3 interplanetary mission has three major modules: the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover. The mission's complexity calls for establishing radio-frequency (RF) communication links between the modules, said ISRO. During the Chandrayaan-3 lander EMI/EMC



test, launcher compatibility, antenna polarisation of all RF systems, standalone auto compatibility tests for orbital and powered descent mission phases, and Lander and Rover compatibility tests for post landing mission phase were ensured. The performance of the systems was satisfactory, the Indian space agency added.

LANDSLIDES DAMAGE 5 HOUSES IN J&K'S RAMBAN

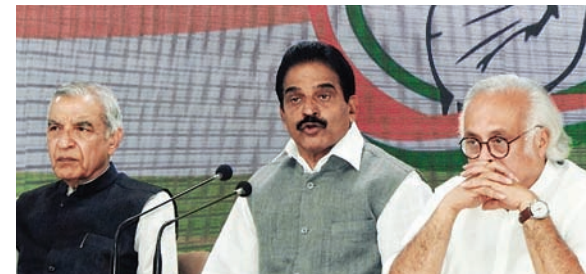


Jammu: Five houses were damaged by landslides in J&K's Ramban district on Sunday, officials said. Officials said landslides hit Daksar Dal village of Sangaldan area, 45 km from Ramban district headquarters. "The incident occurred nearly a fortnight after 19 residential houses, a mosque, and a girls religious school had developed cracks due to land sinking at Nai Basti village of Doda district. "The affected families have been shifted and provided tents, ration, utensils and blankets as an immediate relief," an official said.

Without Cong there could be no Oppn alliance: Jairam Ramesh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday said that any alliance without it will fail, and no alliance in the opposition can be successful without the Congress. The party's plenary will discuss the alliances in states as well as for the General Election in 2024. Addressing a press conference here, Jairam Ramesh said, "There could be no opposition alliance without Congress and any alliance without Congress will fail but in the plenary session the Congress will discuss both on the pre-poll alliance and post-poll alliance." He said that it is false propaganda that Congress is averse to the idea of alliance,



"We are in alliance in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar and in some states of northeast." He said that the Congress is trying to take the like-minded parties together and in the budget session opposition jointly demanded for the JPC in the Adani Hindenburg report, except a few. Jairam also welcomed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's statement on

Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar. Now I am waiting for the Congress to take a decision on the Opposition unity," the Chief Minister said. "If Congress leads the Opposition unity and takes my suggestions, BJP will get below 100 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. We are working for Opposition unity in Bihar," Kumar said. "When I came out of the NDA, every opposition party welcomed me. If every opposition party unites before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP will face a whitewash. I have no personal wish to lead the country. I just want change. Whatever is decided by the Opposition parties, I will accept it," Nitish Kumar said.

Govt to meet bank heads to discuss emergency credit line guarantee scheme

The government has called a meeting of public sector banks' heads as well as those of four private sector banks, namely HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, on February 22 to review the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS), official sources said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The meeting would discuss the possibilities of using the schemes to help businesses impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, the sources said. To ensure that the ECLGS is helpful for such businesses, the meeting is likely to discuss extending the scheme beyond March 31, 2023.



Banking Secretary Vivek Joshi will chair the meeting. ECLGS was announced as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package in May 2020 and was aimed at helping micro, small, and medium enterprises, as they were impacted by the nation-wide lockdown announced by the government in March that year. Under it, 100 per cent guarantee against any losses due to non-payment of loans, was also provided to banks. At that time, the ECLGS ceiling was Rs 3 lakh crore, which was later hiked to Rs 4.5 lakh crore. Earlier this month, in the Union Budget, the scheme was extended till March 31, 2023 and the guaranteed cover limit was extended to Rs 5 lakh crore.

Telangana is India's Afghanistan, says Sharmila

Hyderabad | Agencies

YSR Telangana Party President Y.S. Sharmila on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao, terming him "Taliban". "Telangana is Afghanistan of India and KCR is its Taliban," Sharmila told reporters in Hyderabad, hours after she was arrested by the police in Mahabubabad and her padyatra stopped. Sharmila, who was brought to Hyderabad by police after arresting her at Mahabubabad on allegations of making inappropriate remarks against a local MLA of ruling Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), also termed KCR a dictator and a tyrant. "There is no Indian constitution in Telangana. There is only the KCR Constitution," she alleged. Stating that KCR does not understand democratic language, she said they may have to approach the court again for a fresh permission for padyatra. Sharmila said it was BRS MLA Shankar Naik who had made objectionable comments against her and instead of taking action against him, the police arrested her. She alleged BRS leaders were using abusive words and resorting to physi-



cal attacks on YSRTP cadres and disrupting her padyatra. "I made an allegation that the MLA is grabbing thousands of acres. Unable to bear the questioning by a woman, he used objectionable language," she said. Sharmila, sister of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was arrested by the police from her night halt camp in Mahabubabad town and shifted to Hyderabad to prevent any law and order problems.

ALL LIQUOR DRINKING PREMISES WILL BE CLOSED IN MP

No drinking at the liquor shop. No shops will be operated within 100 meters from the school-college, religious place

Bhopal: The pressure of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Uma Bharti's campaign against liquor has shown its effect. Now, nobody will be permitted to drink liquor sitting at liquor shops in the state. There will be sale of liquor from the shops, but sitting there will not be allowed to drink. Along with this, all the courtyards (For drinking alcohol) in the state will also be closed. This decision was taken in the Shivraj cabinet meeting held on Sunday. The new liquor policy was also discussed in the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that now the proposal to reduce the distance of liquor shop from religious and educational institutions, girls school, girls college, hostel to 100 meters has been approved. Earlier this distance was 50 meters. After the meeting, Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra told that no new liquor shop has been opened in the state since 2010, rather liquor shops have been closed.

Virat Kohli breaks Sachin Tendulkar's all-time record Becomes quickest to score 25,000 runs in International Cricket



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India batter Virat Kohli scaled another historic milestone in his career, becoming the fastest batter to score 25,000 runs in international cricket. He did so, on Day 3 of the second Test against Australia in New Delhi. In the process, Kohli surpassed his idol and the Master Blaster, Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the landmark in 577 matches. Virat, on the other hand, did so in 549 matches. Following Virat and Sachin are the likes of Ricky Ponting (588), Jacques Kallis (594), Kumar Sangakkara (608) and Mahela Jayawardene (701). Kohli arrived on the crease after Indian opening batters KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma departed early. He hit a few glorious shots and made his intentions of wrapping up the run-chase quickly clear. But, just when Kohli was looking settled, Todd Murphy got the better of him, sending the former India skipper packing for 20 runs off 31 balls.



'I EAT BEEF AND I AM IN BJP, I SEE NO PROBLEM IN IT': MEGHALAYA BJP CHIEF

Tanuj Dhar | Guwahati

The political situation in poll-bound Meghalaya is both interesting and confusing. The Bharatiya Janata Party's top leaders are training their guns on their former coalition partner Conrad Sangma and his National People's Party (NPP), with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma leading the attack.

Meghalaya has become the number one corrupt state in the country under NPP rule, according to Shah, despite that BJP has been a partner of the government led by the NPP for the last five years



and still continuing in it. The BJP leaders have said that they do not have any alliance with Conrad Sangma's party, however,

NPP is a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The BJP state president, Ernest Mawrie, spoke to correspondent for an explainer

of what has been cooking in the hill state.

When asked, In a state like Meghalaya, where at least 90 per cent follow Christianity, do you believe that people are ready to accept the BJP's hardliner stands on the beef ban, CAA, and other issues?

Ernest Mawrie told correspondent that, "It has been nine years since the BJP came to power at the Centre, and we have not seen any Church under attack.

There is no restriction being put on consuming beef too. I eat beef and I am in BJP, there is absolutely no problem with this. I am assuring you that the people of Meghalaya are with the BJP this time. You will see that on March 2."

14-YR-OLD RAPED BY TANTRIK IN DELHI

New Delhi: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a tantrik here on the pretext of exorcism in West Delhi's Baba Haridas Nagar, said police.

According to information, the victim was ill and her mother took her to the accused for treatment.

A senior police official said that her mother came to know that her daughter was two-months pregnant after which she decided to approach the police.

The police said that after receiving a complaint from the victim's mother, a case under POCSO was lodged at Baba Haridas Nagar.

"The accused had raped the minor girl on multiple occasions and impregnated her. The accused is on the run. Our multiple teams are conducting raids to nab him," the official said.

Delhi's AQI remains 'very poor', improvement likely from Tuesday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's air quality index on Sunday remained into the "very poor" category for the second consecutive day.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the overall air quality index of the city was recorded at 312 this afternoon. However, the air quality is likely to improve from Tuesday onwards.

Both the major pollutants PM 2.5 and PM 10 were recorded at 312 ("very poor" category) and 199 ("moderate" category), respectively, in the city on Sunday. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and



200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

As per SAFAR data, the air quality index at Lodhi Road was reported 290 or "poor", Pusa reported 304 AQI or "very poor" and Mathura Road was most polluted at 358 or "very poor" category.

As per the India Meteorological Department

due to a change in wind direction to south-easterly, there has been an increase in moisture affecting air quality. The Met officials said that the wind speed suddenly slowed down from February 16. However, the air quality will remain in the 'very poor' category till Monday, but significant improvement is expected from Tuesday.

CBI accepts Sisodia's request, will send him a fresh summon



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a latest development in the Delhi excise policy scam, the Central Bureau

of Investigation (CBI) has accepted the request of Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia seeking more time to join the probe.

Earlier in the day, Sisodia wrote a letter to the CBI seeking seven days' time.

The CBI will now issue a fresh summon to Sisodia with a new date to join the investigation.

Sisodia has alleged that it is the BJP which is behind the scenes. He alleged that he was busy in giving the final touches to the Delhi budget when he was called to join the investigation.

"I am a finance minister too. I have to prepare the Delhi Budget. It will be sent to the Centre for approval. The BJP is using the CBI to stop us in doing development. I have sought time," said Sisodia.

Now as the CBI has accepted his request, he will be sent a fresh summon.

PRESIDENT MURMU TO ADDRESS ARUNACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY



New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Arunachal Pradesh from February 20 to 21, an official statement said.

On February 20, she will attend the 37th Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh and then a civic reception to be hosted in her honour by the state government at Itanagar, it said.

On February 21, the President will address the special session of the Assembly.

INDIA RECORDS OVER 15K ORGAN TRANSPLANTS IN 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Sunday said for the first time, India has achieved more than 15,000 transplants last year with an annual increase of 27 per cent in the number of organ transplants.

Speaking at the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) Scientific Dialogue 2023 organised by the Health Ministry here, Bhushan said: "There is a fast resurgence in the transplant activities post Covid and for the first time, India has achieved more than 15,000 transplants in a year (2022). Along with this, there was an annual increase of 27 per cent in transplant numbers."

The dialogue was organised to bring all the stakeholders under one roof to brainstorm ideas about interventions and best practices in the organ and tissue transplant field that can be taken up for saving lives.

He underlined three priority areas,



which include programmatic restructuring, communication strategy and skilling of professionals.

"India has a growing geriatric population and to ensure quality of life for them, it is critically important to update our communication and awareness strategy, so that potential

organ donors come forward," Bhushan said.

He further said that along with training programmes, wide publicity and awareness through not just print and electronic media, but engaging with local stakeholders and NGOs can be taken up.

"Despite having over 640 medical hospitals and colleges, transplants remain a specialised service limited to some hospitals only. There is a need to expand the number of institutions where surgeries and transplants are undertaken. Thus, to increase surgeries/transplants in the country, along with sensitisation and training for healthcare professionals, our physical infrastructure must be optimally utilised," Bhushan said.

The event was attended by Notto Director, Rajneesh Sehaj; Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. BL Sherwal, along with senior officials of the Ministry, experts from the medical fraternity, healthcare professionals and representatives from the industry.

NEW MILITANT GROUP DEMANDS SEPARATE KAMPTAPUR STATE

Guwahati: A new militant group has emerged in Assam demanding a separate Kamptapur state comprising some parts of Assam and West Bengal.

In a video shared by the newly formed group named as Greater Behar Liberation Organisation (GBLO), it has echoed the same tone of another banned outfit Kamptapur Liberation Army (KLO).

The statement issued by GBLO reiterated that their 'struggle' would continue until the government agrees to form a separate state curbing out of some portions from Assam and West Bengal. The organisation said that a separate state is much needed for the tribal population of that area.

The video showed that the members of the freshly formed group had arms in their hand donning the camouflage attire.

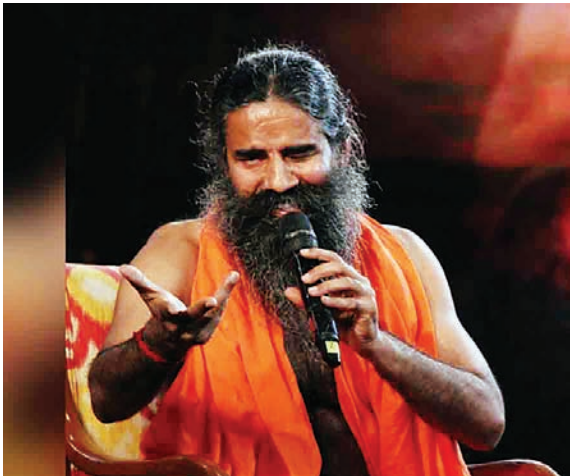
'Akbar, Babur or Aurangzeb are not our heroes', says Ramdev

Panaji | Agencies

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev on Sunday said that Akbar, Babur or Aurangzeb are not the heroes, but Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the super-hero.

He was speaking at a programme organised by the Goa government to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Ponda, South district of Goa.

"Mostly in state boards or NCERT books, we have been taught wrong history. (In these books) Mughals are glorified. This has to be changed. Akbar, Babur or Aurangzeb are not our heroes. Our superheroes are Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Rana Pratap, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and those who sacrificed their lives for the nation,"



Baba Ramdev said. He said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had a victorious life. "We should know this history," he said.

Ramdev said that Shivaji Maharaj never discriminated against any religion or class, but took everyone

together. Speaking about the crisis in Pakistan, he said that it will be divided into four parts.

"Pakistan is going through a financial crisis. Pakistan will be soon divided into four parts. It will remain a small nation," he said.

Raj youths burnt alive

Haryana Police to cancel arms licence of cow vigilante Monu Yadav

Gurugram | Agencies

Haryana Police have started a process to cancel the arms licence of Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar who is among the four wanted in the Nasir and Junaid murder case.

The police are also checking the record of other members of the cow protector group having arms licence and if involved in the heinous crime.

The deceased are residents of Ghatmeeka village in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan whose charred bodies were found inside a burnt Bolero car in Loharu in Bhiwani (Haryana) on Thursday morning.

The victim's family had named five men linked to the



Bajrang Dal in their complaint to the police. DCP Manesar Manbir Singh said as per the rules, an arms licence is cancelled if the licence holder is booked for a

serious crime.

"The process of cancellation of the arms licence of Monu Manesar has been started and it will be cancelled soon. Different police

teams including crime units of the Gurugram police are also searching him and he will be arrested soon," Singh said.

Apart from this, CCTV footage of Monu's house has surfaced on social media in which he can be seen around 9 a.m. on February 15.

Monu Yadav is one of the prime accused in the brutal killing and is on the run. Yadav is a Gurugram district president of Bajrang Dal who joined as a member of the district cow protection task force in 2011. Monu Yadav was earlier named in an attempt to murder case registered against him at Pataudi police station area on February 7. Yadav is usually known for chasing, confronting, and nabbing alleged cattle smugglers.

AI Express flight from Dubai makes emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram airport



Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

An Air India Express flight from Dubai to Thiruvananthapuram (Flt no IX540) made an emergency landing at the airport here on Sunday morning after the flight developed a technical snag in the nose wheel of the aircraft.

All 156 passengers on board the flight are safe. The Air India Aircraft made an emergency landing at 5.40 a.m. after the pilot contacted the air traffic control requesting for an

emergency landing. The airport immediately declared an 'emergency' at the airport and made all the arrangements at the airport.

The runway was cleared for emergency landing and the flight smoothly landed at the airport, sources in the airport told reporter.

The aircraft was later towed away after all the 156 passengers embarked from it.

The airport sources told IANS that no flights were diverted due to this incident. The Director General of Civil Aviation will conduct an investigation into the incident.

This UP minister owns 72 plots, will return them now

Fatehpur (UP) | Agencies

UP's MSME minister Rakesh Sachan is the proud owner of 72 plots.

Thirty-two plots have been allotted in Mini Industrial Estate Chakhta and 40 in Mini Industrial Estate Sudhwapur in the name of Innovative Service Institute -Rakesh Sachan.

Satyendra Singh, President of Laghu Udyog Bharti, Fatehpur, has sent a written complaint to the Director Industries in Kanpur.

The allotments were made in 2012-13 and the minimum 10 per cent security money to be paid against these allotments has also not been deposited so far. Nor was any industrial unit set up in the plots.

According to Anjneesh Pratap Singh, general manager of Industries Department in Fatehpur, the allotment amount has not been deposited.

A survey of industrial plots was carried out in the districts for setting up industries during the Investors Summit when this came to light.



Satyendra Singh, in a letter sent to the Commissioner and Director Industries, has alleged that there are eight industrial areas in Fatehpur.

There are total 36 plots in Chakhta Mini Industrial Area. Of these, 32 have been allotted to Sachan. All the 32 plots (number 1 to 17 and 22 to

36) are in the name of one person--Rakesh Sachan. The address is unknown.

Similarly, 40 out of 45 plots of Mini Industrial Estate, Sudhwapur have been allotted. All the 40 plots (number 1 to 40) are in the name of Rakesh Sachan and the address is unknown.

The name of the industry or purpose established in these plots has been described as Training and Social Service Institute.

Rakesh Sachan, now a minister in UP, was the Member of Parliament from Fatehpur between 2009 and 2014 on a Samajwadi Party ticket.

Rakesh Sachan is the chairman of Abhinav Seva Sansthan.

He said that in 2012, two of his organisations were allotted plots, but could not be developed.

"I am the minister of this department. It has been decided that the allotment of plots should be cancelled. There was no facility here at the time of allotment. Soon the plot will be allotted to another industrialist and facilities of road, electricity and water will be developed here," he said.



BOOST TO INDIA'S WILDLIFE DIVERSITY: PM ON CHEETAHS IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK

Team Absolute | Bhopal

India's wildlife diversity has received a boost with 12 cheetahs arriving in Madhya Pradesh from South Africa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said.



The 12 cheetahs arrived on Saturday and were released into quarantine enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district, five months after the first batch of eight of these fastest land animals were brought there from Namibia, another African nation.

Tagging a tweet by Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on the Cheetahs arriving in Madhya Pradesh, PM Modi said on Twitter, "India's wildlife diversity receives a boost with this development."

In his tweet, Yadav said Saturday, "Welcome, Project Cheetah, launched under PM @narendramodi ji's leadership, reached another

Two years, 2,200 saplings across India - Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan honours his green pledge

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan (63), who has set several milestones in his long political career and especially through his flagship 'Ladli Laxmi' scheme which earned him the title of 'mama (maternal uncle) of children', set yet another example of his commitment by completing two years of planting saplings on Sunday.



During a visit to Amarkantak on February 19, 2021, on the banks of the holy river Narmada, Chouhan had taken a vow to plant 'one sapling every day'.

Since then, this process has continued and Chouhan begins his day by planting a sapling in the morning. Generally when he is here in Bhopal, Chouhan would visit Central Park from his official residence located in Shyamla Hills area to plant a sapling. But, even when he is out of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, the process continues and he plants one sapling wherever he is on that particular day.

The journey of planting a sapling every day began on the occasion of Narmada Jayanti (February 19, 2021), which he is continuing even after two

years. Be it the change of weather like winter, summer, rain or his own health problems, or being busy with discharging the responsibilities of the Chief Minister and the complications of migrations in the state and outside the state, no situation deters him from his vow of planting saplings every day.

According to the department of public relations of the Madhya Pradesh government, Chouhan has so far planted around 2,200 saplings in the past two years. The activity of planting saplings expanded from many towns and cities of the state including Bhopal to 12 states of the country. Now, many social organisations and individuals have joined him in planting saplings.

Importantly, even when the world was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the plantation drive continued with precautions. More than 1600 people have so far planted saplings with him since January 2022. In this way, the personal vow of CM Chouhan became the vow of the society," a public relations officer said.

There are varied saplings that Chouhan plants to fulfil his vow like Gul Bakawali, Sal, Parijat, Saptaparni, Ashok, Kadamba, Harsingar, Bel, Maulshri, Sheesham, Munga, Karanj, Gulmohar, Kachnar, Harr, Madhukamani, Arjun, Neem, Amla, Vilayati Imli, Haldu, and many more.

There is a long list of cities in different states where Chouhan planted saplings during his visit there like Manan Ashram in Bharuch (Gujarat), Godadevi Temple (Tamil Nadu), Haridwar, Varanasi, Shirdi, Nashik, Chinnajay Swami Ashram (Hyderabad), Maa Tripura Sundar Mandir (Tripura), Kerala, Pudukcherry and Chennai among other places. On Sunday, the process of planting will complete two years. Chief Minister Chouhan is most likely to announce to continue his vow of planting saplings.

Cold nights again after 4 days in state, then warm weather

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Although there is slight heat in the day in the cities of Madhya Pradesh, but the coolness remains intact in the night. On Saturday, the morning of Mahashivaratri in Bhopal was the coldest after 9 years. The minimum temperature was recorded at 13.4 degrees. It was normal. There was no change in this in the last 24 hours.

Meteorologists said that earlier in 2014, the night temperature was recorded at 9 degrees on Mahashivaratri. After this, the lowest minimum temperature remained on Saturday itself. Due to the cold wind coming from the north, the temperature could not increase. Another Western Disturbance

is likely to reach North India. Due to this, there may be a slight drop in the night temperature after four to five days. Then there may be a trend of rising day and night temperatures. From February 26, the day temperature will start increasing. Due to this, the heat will knock and the heat will increase in the weather. It was bitterly cold in January this year. There was definitely relief in February, but mild cold is still intact. There is a feeling of cold in the morning and evening as well. On the other hand, the sun is burning in the day and the night temperature has also declined. Meteorologist HS Pandey told that another western disturbance has become active since Saturday.

TRACTOR-TROLLEY OVERTURNED IN SHEOPUR, FOUR KILLED, 20 INJURED

Gwalior: A tractor-trolley overturned in Sheopur district on Sunday afternoon. Four people, including a boy, died in the accident, while 20 people were injured.

The condition of seven of them is serious. The accident took place near Raghunathpur turn on Goras-Shyampur highway under Birpur police station area. All were returning from Dhoodhar village after eating Bhagwat Katha's Bhandara. All the victims of the accident are residents of Radi Raden village. Among those who died, Hakim's son Haret (32), Sanjeev (16) son Ramkhiladi, Rekha (30) wife Bunty Kewat resident Radi Raden died on the spot.

MP-HRC seeks report on chaos at Rudraksha Mahotsav in Sehore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Taking suo moto cognizance on 'chaos' and alleged stampede-like situation, which has resulted in three deaths at the venue of Rudraksha Mahotsav at Kubeshwar Dham in Sehore, the State Human Right Commission (MP-SHRC) has issued notice to the district administration.



In the notice, which was issued to Sehore district collector and the Superintendent of Police (SP) on Saturday, the humans right body has sought a detailed report on five points. The commission has asked the administration to furnish their reports in the next 15 days.

The commission has asked about the provisions for safety and security of the people gathered at the event. It has also sought a report on the vehicular parking facilities and what measures taken to address the health issues caused by influx of devotees on the first day itself.

Two deaths, including a middle-aged woman and a 3-year-old boy, which happened amid the uncontrollable crowd over the last 24 hours, had forced the organizers to put on

hold the free distribution of prized Rudraksh beads at the ongoing Rudraksh Mahotsava.

A woman from Maharashtra died on the very first day of Rudraksha Mahotsav on February February 16 after a stampede-like situation emerged at the venue, while two persons, including a child, were reported

dead on February 18, and several people had lodged complaints about missing family persons. The mobile network, Internet connection was disrupted for over 10 hours and over 20,000 vehicles were stuck on Bhopal-Indore highway due to heavy crowds for religious events. While, the organiser of the

Rudraksha Mahotsav - Pandit Pradeep Mishra, a self-styled godman has accused the local administration-police for chaos, the administration had earlier claimed that the situation got worse because of an unexpected large gathering of people. The ongoing Rudraksha Mahotsav will be concluded on February 22.

EARTHQUAKE TREMORS IN MADHYA PRADESH, INTENSITY 3.0

Bhopal: Earthquake tremors have been felt in many districts of Madhya Pradesh after 12 noon on Sunday. This has been confirmed by the Meteorological Department. According to the Meteorological Department, earthquake tremors were felt in Dhar, Barwani, Alirajpur at around 12:54 pm. Whose intensity has been recorded at 3.0. Its hypocenter was at a depth of 10 km. The affected districts include Barwani, Alirajpur, Dhar besides adjoining districts of Indore, Jhabua and Khargone.

AS MP THIRSTS FOR IRRIGATION WATER, ITS SHORTAGE EMERGES AS MAJOR POLL ISSUE

Sundeep Pouranik | Bhopal

Both the major national parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress have made the shortage of irrigation water in Madhya Pradesh a political issue as Assembly elections are to be held in the state this year.

Many areas in the state face a shortage of drinking water during summers along with the water for irrigation not being easily accessible to farmers.

The water crisis continues in the state despite the campaign to provide tap water in every household and several irrigation projects being underway.

About 43 lakh hectares area of the state has started getting irrigation water. Along with this, several pending projects can provide irrigation facility in another 20 lakh hectares in the next two years.

At present, an irrigation complex being built in Chhindwara Narmada, the Narmada-Malwa Gambhir Link Project, Panchnam Nagar irrigation Project of Damoh-Sagar, Bahoti Project of Rewa-Satna, Badnawar Narmada Micro Irrigation, Maa Ratangarh Multipurpose Project of Chambal area, the proposed Hanota Irrigation Project on Bina river, Rajgarh's Kundalia Irrigation Project and the Mohanpura Major Irrigation Project can ensure a major increase in the state's irrigated area upon implementation. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had called the increase in the irrigation sector as his major achievement and said that in 2003,



the total area under irrigation from government sources in Madhya Pradesh was seven lakh hectares, which has now crossed 43 lakh hectares. Along with this, the government has set a target to increase it to 63 lakh hectares in the next two years, said Chouhan.

On the other hand, the Congress has attacked the BJP government in the state many times regarding the crisis of irrigation water. Congress leaders, on several occasions have called Chouhan a "declaration hero," and have alleged that he does not work on the issues at the ground level.

Bundelkhand Congress leader Virendra Dave will start a Cycle Yatra to interact with the people and talk about issues related to health, education and water, among others. Dave said that the Panchnam Nagar irrigation project of Damoh district can bring a revolution in agriculture by providing water to the farmers and generating electricity. Under this project, water will reach the fields without electricity. Dave alleged that a commercial cement company in the area had not been cooperating and was creating hurdles in the project's completion. The Cycle Yatra will initially cover villages in Damoh parliamentary constituency before traversing the entire Bundelkhand region. The leaders might campaign in the entire state on the instructions of former Chief Minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath. Significantly, in the Assembly elections held in the state in 2018, there was a close contest between the BJP and the Congress. The Congress had won and formed the government in the state, which was dissolved later due to the defection of MLAs under the leadership of Jyotiraditya Scindia, after which the BJP rose to power again. A close fight is also expected in the Assembly polls to be held this year, where water will be a big poll issue.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

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16 Students from kerala injured after bus overturns in Panna

Team Absolute | Panna. Out of the total 32 students travelling in the vehicle, 16 were injured and they received primary treatment in Raipur's government hospital, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Shahnagar area, Rachna Sharma said. Two of the students, including one who received a head injury, were referred to Jabalpur for further treatment. The other one who received leg injury had requested to be shifted to Jabalpur, she said. The students had come to Sagar's Harisingh Gour University from Kerala and were going to Katni as part of a field visit programme, she said.

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EDITOR'S SPECS

This is how Covid virus impacts the heart

Scientists have found that Covid-19 infection can cause changes in calcium channels that can affect how the heart beats which can also trigger inflammation and oxidative stress in the heart. In heart tissue from patients who had Covid-19, the team from Columbia University observed increases in oxidative stress (harmful production of unstable molecules) and signals of inflammation, as well as changes in calcium. They also detected adverse changes to a protein called RyR2, which is responsible for regulating the heart's calcium ion levels. The heart muscle, like all muscle cells, needs calcium ions to contract. The heart's system for managing calcium ions is essential for the coordinated contractions of the atria and ventricles that pump blood throughout the body. When calcium in the heart becomes dysregulated, it can cause arrhythmias or heart failure. Andrew Marks, a cardiologist and biophysics professor at Columbia University, Steven Reiken, a research scientist in Marks' lab, and colleagues were set to present their work at the annual Biophysical Society Meeting in San Diego, California on February 20. To study changes to the heart further, they used a mouse model infected with Covid-19. They observed changes to the heart tissue including immune cell infiltration, collagen deposition (indicative of injury), death of heart cells, and blood clots. "The more awareness you build around particular aspects of a disease, the more likely you are to improve the care of patients. And doctors should be aware of heart changes related to Covid-19 infections and should be looking for them," Marks said. Ultimately, "we want to really figure out what's causing the heart disease and how to fix it," Marks added. Understanding changes at the molecular level may reveal drug targets that could improve cardiac symptoms related to Covid-19 and help healthcare professionals diagnose and treat these issues more effectively.

TAKE LIFE AS RARE GIFT FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL GOOD

D.C. Pathak

The Hindu spiritual thought resting on two fundamentals - theory of Karma and concept of Rebirth - calls for pursuit of righteous action with dedication without getting deterred by the fear of 'failure' in regard to its results and generally defines the mission of life in terms of devotion to duty towards all including the 'self', practice of honesty and remembrance of the supreme power of God. It is remarkable that it commends non-attachment towards 'material' things on one hand and treats the striving for 'legitimate' means of earning money at par with Dharma, on the other.

The idea of 'rebirth' or the 'cycle of births' may be in contrast to the interpretation of science that human beings were the culmination of a process of evolution propelled by 'natural selection' and that the body of all living beings was a machinery that one day 'stops' working, marking its end. It is also different from the prescription of many religions that the dead would wait for the Judgement Day and then would spend the last spell of their 'only life', in heaven or the hell, on a balance of their good and bad deeds.

Hindu philosophy provides some comfort on the unsettling mystery of what happened after death through an appealing idea of the individual redeeming oneself in another birth in case the given life turned out to be not totally flawless.

The spell of retribution or heavenly reward went with that particular birth as the 'soul' - the ultimate identity of the individual - moved towards the final goal of liberation from the trap of rebirth. All faiths gave primacy to a life lived with honesty and conscious abstinence from sins that also served the purpose of establishing a bench mark in socio-cultural conduct.

The underlying message of any religion is to emphasise the importance of 'the present life' gifted by nature in a limited timeframe, to be spent in 'happiness' and steered clear of socially mandated 'misdeeds' committed consciously - even the man-made code of punishment did not count something done unknowingly.

For both spiritual and temporal reasons the best one can do is to live an active and purposeful life without being pulled down by the saddening thought of having to 'leave everything behind'.

This great commonality of purpose of human existence across beliefs, communities and geographical boundaries should be the best guarantee for global peace but it so happens that religion is either pushed back to a degree where it became inconsequential in



determining the socio-cultural outlook of the person or is made, on the other hand, a symbol of national or political identity that only caused international and communal disputes.

Respect for all religions presumes that there will be no declared 'supremacist' element in a faith or promotion of a kind of 'exclusivism' that led to a 'rejectionist' attitude towards others.

If there is 'One God', then it also means 'the same God', whatever be the name given to 'Him' and the mode of worship adopted by the faithful. Conflict between communities can arise when this is not accepted and on a wider level between nations when they choose to be governed on an exclusivist religious identity.

Today, global security is threatened by faith-based terrorism that advanced a 'political cause' using religion as an instrument and advocating 'superiority' of a faith for driving the 'motivation' behind it. During the G20 at Bali an inter-faith conference led by Indonesia's largest Islamic organisation, Nadwatul Ulema, clearly disapproved of extremism and 'radicalisation' - this stand has to be carried forward for isolating those forces which were instigating violence in the name of Jihad.

This is a threat to the democratic world as a whole. Faith represents a personal relationship between man and his God and it need not come in the way of all citizens of a country upholding the 'national culture' and feeling proud about it. Entry of religious separatism in national and international politics is a great cause for concern as it negates all that religion was expected to do for human goodwill and world peace.

A wider meaning of religion as something

that provided the impetus for leading a life of personal and social morality needs to be restored everywhere for making the world a better place.

India's motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' for its G20 Presidency is ideally suited for this.

Regardless of spiritual theories on life after death, all religions give prime importance to the present life and call for an idealism about seeking the best outcome of it for the individual - and for the society at large.

The thought that this life is all that you had, is sure to add positivity to one's approach to the available span and left to himself man - at the apex of 'evolution of species' - is gifted with enough 'wisdom' to put him on the side of good deeds that took note of fellow human beings as well. The thought of its combined security should come to the democratic world even before the matter of economic cooperation was given its due attention.

India as a major power of global South - more so as the leader in South Asia - must consider both global security and international economic relations during the G20 Presidency and get the forums formed in that connection, particularly Think 20 and Civil 20, to deliberate on this challenge.

India is ideally placed to show light to the world - beyond the political and economic spheres - on how to improve the human life, promote brotherhood on a cultural - not religious - base and take to the path of renunciation of armed conflicts.

'Covert warfare' is a new phenomenon that represents a common challenge for the democratic order all over the world - its leading protagonists are Pakistan and China, working in cahoot to use Terrorism as a

weapon for furthering their interest. Countering this should be an important mission of G20 as the world could be getting pushed towards a religion-based 'war' precipitated by Pakistan with the Marxist dictatorship of China watching it as a spectator and looking out for its own gains in it.

In the Indian context, values of a nationhood shared by all citizens regardless of their faith and mode of worship, have to be promoted in various ways, among students, work force and those handling the tasks of governance.

Equality of opportunity and protection of the state, can be firmly established through elimination of corruption at all levels, public-service orientation of the police and an affirmation secured from all players in public life that national security will be kept above party politics. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' appropriately, is India's call to the world to unite for a higher human cause.

India should project the danger of faith-based militancy as a threat to human rights and to the democratic content of a state run on the principle of 'one man one vote'.

All democratic countries of the region and those beyond must cooperate in countering the new global terror that was disrupting economic development and growth required for improving the lot of the common people.

Apart from putting down terrorists behind the 'covert' violence through Intelligence-based operations of Army and the police, there should be an organised effort to spread public awareness against terrorism and closer exchange of information among the democratic countries affected by the same.

G20 should deal with this problem at the global and regional levels and expose the hidden hands of all those who were fomenting it themselves or conniving with the terror sponsors for their vested political interest.

India as the biggest victim of cross border terrorism has the right to lead this campaign during its G20 Presidency since this is as important as cooperation for economic development, climate security and technology.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that our leadership at the top is fully cognisant of the total world scene and is already setting off the process of deep examination of all relevant aspects of it through specially created bodies of experts, for taking the mission of G20 forward.

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

international

SKOREA, US HOLD JOINT AIR DRILLS AFTER NKOREA'S ICBM LAUNCH

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea and the US staged combined air drills, involving US B-1B strategic bombers, on Sunday, Seoul's military said, as North Korea launched a long-range ballistic missile the previous day.

During the drills, F-35A stealth fighters and F-15K jets from the South flew together with US F-16 fighters to escort the B-1B aircraft entering the South's air defense identification zone, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). It did not clarify the number of B-1B aircraft deployed here, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Earlier in the day, the North confirmed that it fired a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile in a "sudden" launching drill aimed at ensuring its nuclear deterrent.

"The training this time demonstrated the South Korea-US combined defence capabilities and posture featuring the alliance's overwhelming forces, through the timely and immediate deployment of the U.S.' extended deterrence assets to the Korean Peninsula," the JCS said in a press release.

It added that the air drills affirmed Washington's "ironclad" commitment to



the defence of the peninsula and its extended deterrence pledge.

Extended deterrence means the US' commitment to mobilising a full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear, to defend its allies.

In the combined drills, the two sides are said to have mobilized some 10 aircraft in total. They flew in a formation over the Yellow Sea, East Sea and then a southern region in the South. The B-1B bomber is a supersonic aircraft that can fly a maximum distance of 11,998 kilometers and carry up to 57 tons of weapons, according

to the JCS. It can be deployed to the peninsula within two hours if it is called upon to respond to a contingency.

Saturday's missile provocation came as Seoul and Washington plan to conduct a tabletop exercise against the North's nuclear threats this week and the spring-time Freedom Shield exercise next month.

In a statement earlier in the day, Kim Yo-jong, the younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, warned that the North will carry out a "very powerful and overwhelming" response to any "hostile" acts against Pyongyang.

AFGHAN GOVT TO TURN FORMER US MILITARY BASES INTO ECONOMIC ZONES

Kabul | Agencies

The Afghan caretaker administration has decided to change former US military bases into economic zones to bolster economic activities, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported on Sunday. The decision has been taken at a meeting of the Economic Commission with Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar on the chair, Bakhtar said in its report, adding that the pilot project would begin from Kabul and Balkh, and expand to other parts of the country.

The military bases, after turning into economic zones, would be gradually handed over to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting Bakhtar.

The US and its allies pulled out troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, leaving the military bases behind.

Can Nikki Haley be the Kamala Harris of the Republican Party

TN Ashok | Agencies

Washington: Republican Nikki Haley, a former ambassador of the US government to the UN, is trying to create history once again to become another Ms Kamala Harris - that is what she is to the democratic party Nikki wants to be for the GOP.

Despite a rabid call by a ultra right wing republican asking her to go back home to India, Nikki Haley has thrown the gauntlet for the republican nomination, like Kamala Harris, for the top post, in the 2024 presidential run to the White House, media reports say.

Media has taken the news in different perspectives. One is absolutely skeptical. She has no chance, whatever, so what is she really running for? Vice president? Yet another different take is however hopeful of her



chances -- Don't write off Nikki Haley just yet.

On paper, Nikki is a formidable candidate to contend with, given her experience and campaigner for an anti-abortion conservative woman of colour. She brings with her executive experience as the two-term governor of an early primary state, who held a Cabinet-level foreign policy position in the last republican administration.

Though she is relatively young, she is seasoned enough to be plausible, telegenic and eloquent without the rough edges that

doomed many a GOP candidate in the November midterm elections, says the Washington Examiner in a special dispatch analysing Haley's chances at the hustings.

Nikki Haley obviously lacks a clear path to the nomination as the race appears likely to unfold with strong arm candidates such as Florida Hero Governor Ron De Santis waiting in the shadows, though his popularity is shrinking within the GOP, Trump making a strong comeback bid with a huge personal campaign corpus at his disposal and former VP Mike Pence also likely to prove a spoilsport for all. A Quinnipiac poll found that she was the third choice of Republicans nationally - but at 5 per cent, with former President Donald Trump taking 42 per cent and Gov. Ron De Santis (R-FL) receiving 36 per cent, the examiner said.

Death toll in Turkey exceeds 40,000 after earthquakes

Ankara | Agencies

The death toll from two major earthquakes that struck southeastern Turkey on February 6 has risen to 40,642, the country's disaster agency said.

Search and rescue efforts will be largely completed as of Sunday evening, Xinhua news agency quoted Yunus Sezer, head of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), as saying.

The emergency work was concentrated in southern Hatay province, which was hit hardest in last week's quakes, he said, adding that the disaster agency had nearly 13,000 personnel working in the area.



A total of 430,000 people were evacuated from the earthquake area, Sezer said.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Turkey's southern province of Kahramanmaraş at 4:17 a.m. local time (0117 GMT), fol-

lowed by a magnitude 6.4 quake a few minutes later in the country's southern province of Gaziantep and a magnitude 7.6 earthquake at 1:24 p.m. local time (1024 GMT) in the Kahramanmaraş Province.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WREAK HAVOC ON SYDNEY

Sydney | Agencies

Severe thunderstorms rolled into Australia's most populated city Sydney, bringing about damaging lightning and gusts that disrupted the daily life of local residents.

From 11:00 a.m. local time on Saturday, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) began updating severe thunderstorm warnings roughly every 20 minutes, alerting people to the fast-moving storm cells that could cause damaging winds, large hail and heavy rainfall, Xinhua News Agency reported.

A 92 km/h wind gust was recorded at Sydney Airport at 06:41 p.m. local time, while in Moss Vale, about 142 km southwest of Sydney, the speed of wind gusts reached 106 km/h.

The thunderstorms also triggered warnings over possible fire incidents, as local authorities were concerned that lightning associated with these storms may start fires. The New South



Wales (NSW) Rural Fire Service reported that of more than 30 fires burning, only seven are yet to be contained.

After the thunderstorms started sweeping through Sydney, power lines and public transportation, including flights, were put under great pressure, with a world-level

sports event forced to face cancellation due to chaos generated by the extreme weather.

According to Ausgrid, a major electricity distributor on Australia's east coast, from 06:40 p.m. local time on Saturday to midnight, more than 70 unplanned power outages were reported across over 60 suburbs

across the city, with at least 14,000 people affected. Along with those in Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast, 30,000 customers in total had a Saturday night without power.

"Ausgrid crews are continuing to work to make extensive repairs after last night's storm to safely restore the power to those 5,000 properties still impacted," the company said on social media, also posting photos of trees downed by the storm and damaged power infrastructure.

Trees and fallen powerlines hit by howling winds also resulted in road closures and travel delays. In Sydney's Metropolitan area, numerous traffic lights either blacked out or flashed yellow due to local power failures.

The NorthConnex tunnel in both directions as well as all westbound lanes on Forest Road were closed due to power failures. As of Sunday morning, all lanes have reopened, with trees cleared and lines repaired.



MAHA SALUTES CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ ON HIS 393RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra celebrated the 393rd birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with pomp in a series of social, cultural, historical and political events organised, on Sunday.

Governor Ramesh Bais garlanded a bust of Chhatrapati, then went to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park and garlanded the equestrian statue of the Maratha warrior king, and joined the celebrations organised with patriotic songs rendered by the BMC's Sangeet Kala Academy.

For the first time, the State Song, 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' was played along with the National Anthem in the presence of top officials.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM participated in the state's official function held at the historic Shivneri Fort in Pune, where Shivaji was born on February 19, 1630, and years later was coronated as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on June 6, 1674 at the Raigad Fort.

Shinde said the Chhatrapati's life, ideals and teachings continue to inspire us till now, and urged all to follow in his footsteps.

The day started with women and men gently rocking the cradle depicting 'Bal Shivaji' birth, prayers, Maha Artis, and other rituals to mark the birth anniversary of the founder of the Maratha Empire.

On the occasion, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Rane - the direct descendant of the Chhatrapati - expressed his displeasure in public that many devotees were stopped from taking darshan at the Shivneri Fort in the morning. Taking serious note, Shinde and Fadnis said that this may have arisen due to shortcomings in the planning of the celebrations, and assured this would not be repeated from next year. Local Nationalist Congress Party MP Amol Kolhe boycotted Sunday's official state function on grounds that the government has ignored his suggestion to permanently erect a saffron flag at the Shivneri Fort, but said he would go and pay obeisance to the Chhatrapati later in the afternoon.

Earlier, Shinde paid floral tributes to the Chhatrapati's statue at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai.

The day was celebrated with pojas and artis, garlanding of the statues/busts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at various places associated with him like his capital, the imposing Raigad Fort, the Pratapgad Fort, Sindhudurg Fort and other places.

In Mumbai, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised celebrations at over 300 locations in the 227 BMC wards with a large number of people participating.



NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar garlanded the statue of the Chhatrapati in his home town Baramati, NCP state President Jayant Patil paid floral tributes in his native Islampur and other party leaders attended various functions in their respective regions.

Congress state President Nana Patole and other leaders paid homage and organised celebrations all over the state, while Congress MP Rahul Gandhi offered tributes to the Chhatrapati in New Delhi.

Top leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) including MLA and ex-minister Aditya Thackeray, MP Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai and others paid tributes and homage to Chhatrapati.

In Navi Mumbai, the Ghati Marathi Association organised a giant replica of the 'Wagh Nakh' (Tiger Claw) with which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had killed Afzal Khan.

The Patanjali Group and Yuva Bharat organised a 'surya namaskar' by 21,000 people at Indapur in Pune to mark the day.

In Nanded, Congress leader and ex-CM Ashok Chavan joined the celebrations with a new hydro-lift installed at the tall Chhatrapati statue and offered his floral tributes.

A large group of devotees who left from

Aurangabad to Agra to join the first-ever celebrations at the Agra Fort, marked the birth of Bal Shivaji at midnight in the special train, with prayers and distribution of sweets.

For the first time, the Chhatrapati's birth anniversary shall be celebrated in a big way at the 'Diwan-E-Aam' in Agra Fort with the participation of the R.R. Patil Foundation, Ajinkya

CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE OF AN IDEAL RULER: AMIT SHAH

Pune: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's life of valour, justice, concern for the poor, good administration, 'dharma', and love for the country still serve as an example of how an ideal ruler should be, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Sunday.

Inaugurating an upcoming Rs 438 crore memorial, "Shivrushti" here on the occasion of the Chhatrapati's 393rd birth anniversary, Shah paid glowing tributes to his memory and cited several instances from the Maratha warrior king's life who gave a lot to people in his 50 year lifespan. He recalled how when Prime Minister Narendra Modi - who is an ardent follower of the Maratha king - had staged shows of the iconic play, "Jaanta Raja", in 8 districts of Gujarat, thousands of people would watch and return, becoming devotees of the Chhatrapati.



AARAMBH 2023: Marathon for suicide prevention organised in the city

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The official social club of NMIMS University Mumbai is called Social Responsibility Forum (SRF). During the past 15 years, SRF has constantly worked to improve the lives of the less fortunate and raise awareness about important social concerns.

"Aarambh" has served as SRF's premier event for the past 14 years. In Mumbai's Bandra neighbourhood, a social marathon is being held. A crowd of about 2000 individuals attends the event, including participants from different professions, neighbourhoods, and cultural backgrounds, and each one makes a sincere attempt to contribute.

After a two-year hiatus, SRF is back with "Aarambh," which will take place in BKC, Bandra, Mumbai on February



26, 2023, starting at 5 a.m. It will happen in partnership with "Sisters Living Works," the social cause for this year is "An Effort towards Suicide Prevention." According to the NGO, suicide rates in the nation can be significantly reduced by fostering greater community involvement, education, advocacy, and awareness. All the proceeds from the fundraiser will be utilised towards helping with

the cause. The club's objective for this year is to increase public awareness of suicide prevention in order to inform people about the seriousness of ignoring mental health and suicide as well as to encourage a long and happy life. SRF's fundamental mission is to help individuals in need, and they prefer to take the initiative rather than make declarations.

NHAI prohibits slow moving vehicles including 2-wheelers on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai:

Keeping in view of the fact that the movement of high speed vehicles may pose risk to the safety of certain classes of comparatively slow moving vehicles, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has barred the entry of such vehicles on the recently launched section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Two-wheelers, including motorcycles and scooters, three-wheelers, non-motorised vehicles, and tractors with or without trailers have been barred from entry onto the newly launched phase 1 of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway.

NHAI has issued a gazette notification on this saying that the movement of high-speed vehicles may pose risk to the safety of certain classes of comparatively slow-moving vehicles.

"The movement of high speed vehicles may pose risk to the safety of certain classes of comparatively slow



moving vehicles e.g. two wheelers, three wheelers and other slow moving vehicles like non-motorised vehicles, agricultural tractors (with or without trailers) due to their vulnerability and associated speed differ-

entials and compromise the road safety aspects," it said.

The notification said that this expressway was developed as a high-speed corridor and the maximum speed limits for motor vehicles of var-

ious descriptions for the expressway have been notified, varying between 80 km/hour to 120 km/hour.

The notification also said that there have been and are alternative routes and roads available to the public for linking the places/accessing various destination points before the development of this expressway.

The 246 km Delhi - Dausa - Lalsot section of the Delhi Mumbai Expressway has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 12,150 crore.

The Delhi Mumbai Expressway will be India's longest expressway with a length of 1,386 km.

It will reduce travel distance between Delhi and Mumbai by 12 per cent from 1,424 km to 1,242 km and travel time will be reduced by 50 per cent from 24 hrs to 12 hrs. It will pass through the six states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and connect major cities like Kota, Indore, Jaipur, Bhopal, Vadodara and Surat.

MUMBAI'S BIGGEST STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Mumbai: This weekend, R CITY in Mumbai, will hold the first-ever "Fest-O-Berry" festival. On February 18 and 19, 2023, Things2Do will host the largest strawberry celebration the city has ever seen in the mall's courtyard.

So, all strawberry fans get to enjoy delicious strawberry dishes while savouring the sweetness of premium fresh berries. Make the most of the season by indulging in a variety of delectable strawberry-based jams, sweets, milkshakes, beverages, ice creams, and more.

The two-day mega festival claims to include workshops, Strawberry Land for children, loads of mouthwatering food and drink choices with over 25 unique dishes, workshops, some great musical performances to groove to, and many other exciting experiences.

POLICE ARRESTS TWO FOR INVESTMENT FRAUD, RECOVERS RS 19 CRORE

Team Absolute | Thane

The Navi Mumbai Police has arrested two persons for allegedly cheating people by promising lucrative returns on their investment plans and recovered nearly Rs 19 crore from them, an official said.

The accused were carrying Rs 9.99 crore cash in 10 suitcases in a cab when they were captured on Friday, while another sum of Rs 9 crore was recovered after freezing their bank account, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone II Panvel) Pankaj Dahane told reporters on Saturday that the police took suo motu action (on their own) against the accused and seized the money.

The police got information that the accused had sought investment worth crores from a number of people in a circulation scheme and promised them a return of 40 per cent within 50 days, but did not pay the money, he said.

However, none of the victims from Pirkon and Bondkal villages came forward to file a complaint.



The police held meetings in the villages to inform locals of such fake investments and asked them to file a complaint, but they were reluctant. The police then acted themselves and formed teams to nab the

accused, the official said. On Friday, the Uran police got a tip-off that one of the accused was to come to Koprol village in a car with the money taken from the investors, he said. Accordingly, the police laid

a trap, intercepted a cab and found in it 10 suitcases containing Rs 9.99 crore in cash, the official said.

The two cab passengers, Satish Vishnu Gavand (32) and Shashikant Anant Gavand (34), were arrested, he said.

The police also froze the bank account of the accused and recovered another Rs 9 crore, the official said. Later, the police registered a case on a complaint filed by a woman who ran a mess in Uran. She had allegedly invested Rs 1.65 lakh with the accused on January 19, 2023 and they promised her a return of Rs 2.5 lakh on February 17, but did not pay the money to her, he said.

The case was registered against the two accused under provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, and the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, the official said.

Considering the magnitude of the crime, a request will be made to the authorities to transfer the case to the Navi Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW), he added.

SC may not interfere in EC decision on Shiv Sena unless flaws: Majeed Memon

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Trinamool Congress leader and noted lawyer Majeed Memon on Sunday said that the Supreme Court may not interfere in the Election Commission's decision until there is some flaw, and Uddhav Thackeray should show his strength on the ground," he said.

"Generally SC does not interfere with EC orders unless there is an inherent flaw in its decision. Uddhav thus should not expect relief from SC. Instead he needs to show strength on the ground," he said.

The reaction comes after the former Chief Minister Thackeray claimed that in the past there were similar disputes in the Congress, Samajwadi Party and the AIADMK, but never was the original party name or symbol given to the breakaway faction, but this time, "the ECI gave our name and symbol to those thieves".



The Election Commission (EC) on Friday in an order said that the party name "Shiv Sena" and the symbol "Bow and Arrow" will be retained by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led faction.

The EC observed that the current constitution of the Shiv Sena on which former Maharashtra Thackeray was placing reliance is undemocratic. "While applying the 'Test of party Constitution', the Commission found that the party constitution on which the respondent (Uddhav Thackeray faction) was placing strong reliance is undemocratic," said the Commission in its 78-page order issued on Friday.

RS 2K-CR CHANGED HANDS FOR SHIV SENA NAME, SYMBOL, CLAIMS SANJAY RAUT

Mumbai: In a shocking claim, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said that financial deals worth over Rs 2,000 crore have been done so far for the original 'Shiv Sena' name and 'Bow-and-Arrow' symbol, here.

"I have got reliable information... I am confident... This is only the primary figure and it is 100 per cent correct," said Raut in a series of tweets.

"This is unprecedented in the country's history... Some more revelations will be made soon," promised Raut, in an allegation that is viewed as pointing fingers at the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson's sensational contentions came two days after the ECI allotted the 'Shiv Sena' name and 'Bow-and-Arrow' symbol to the breakaway faction Balasahebchansi Shiv Sena, headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Raut's stunning utterances happened a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday moved the Bombay High Court on Saturday seeking to cancel the 'perverse' bail granted to the MP, and others.

He was arrested on August 1 in an alleged corruption and money-laundering case pertaining to the Patrawala Chawl deal and was released on November 9.



"Don't Want To Get Involved": Sharad Pawar on row over Shiv Sena symbol

Pune | Agencies

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said he has clarified his stand on the Election Commission's decision to recognise Eknath Shinde-led faction as the real 'Shiv Sena' and allocation of the 'bow and arrow' poll symbol to it, and will not get involved in the controversy over it.

In its decision on Friday, the EC allowed the Uddhav Thackeray faction to retain the name Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the 'flaming torch' poll symbol, given to it in an interim order in October last year, till the conclusion of upcoming Assembly bypolls in the state.

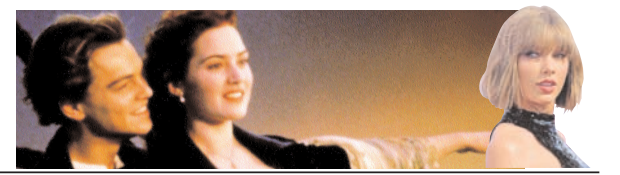
Uddhav Thackeray had said the EC's order was "dangerous for democracy" and he would challenge it in the Supreme Court. Maharashtra



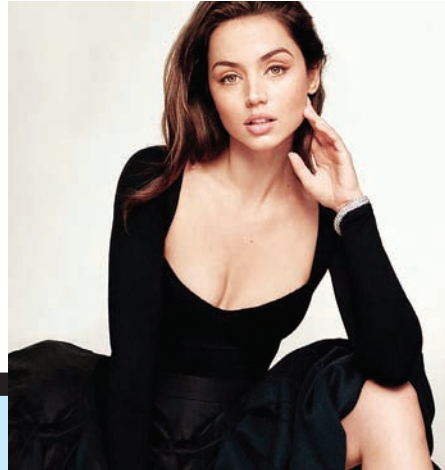
Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had described the EC's decision as the victory of truth and people.

Pawar on Friday said the loss of 'bow and arrow' will not make any difference to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction as people will accept its new poll symbol.

To a query from reporters over the issue on Sunday, the NCP chief, who was in Pune's Baramati town, said, "I do not want to get involved in the controversy regarding the name and symbol given to Eknath Shinde. I have already clarified my stand on the same two days back."



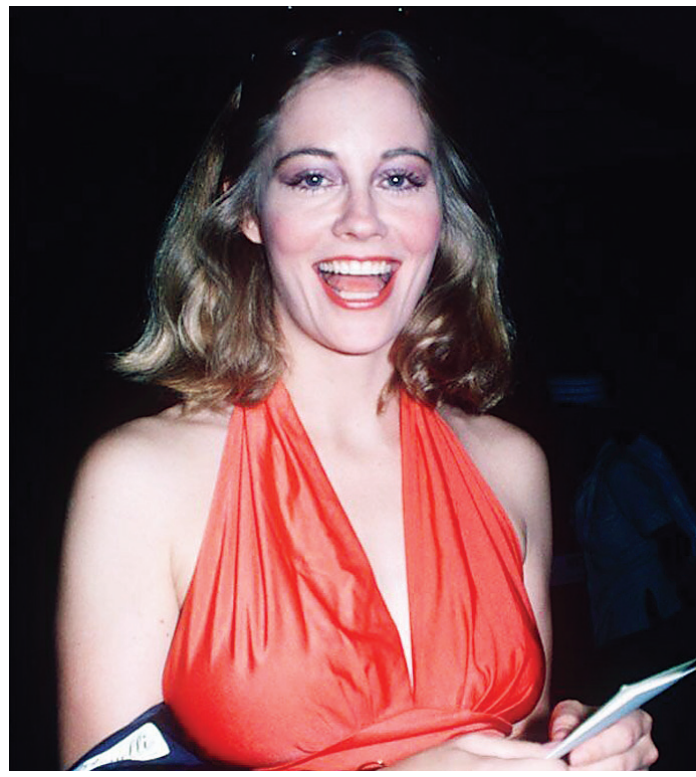
Ana de Armas tells why insecurity was key to her Marilyn Monroe success



Los Angeles | Agencies

BAFTA nominee Ana de Armas says leaning into her own insecurities helped her understand Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe for her role in the biopic 'Blonde'.

Ana De Armas plays the American star in the Netflix film which chronicles Marilyn Monroe's life from Norma Jeane Mortenson to international star, reports mirror.co.uk. While Marilyn was one of the most famous people in the world when she lived from 1926 until 1962, Ana has seen her own life thrown into the spotlight in recent years. But she says being under the international microscope helped her find an affinity for the Hollywood icon which she channelled while playing the role. She told the Backstage podcast: "Feeling nervous, feeling insecure, feeling at times I was not as good as I wanted to, feeling judged, all of those things that I was feeling worked, so I used them in the same way." "I don't think Norma ever felt that she could live up to Marilyn, she didn't even understand the way people could see Marilyn. In a way those were the things that were happening to me. I felt that is exactly like she felt her entire life, and I've been through that." Ana has been nominated in the Best Actress in a Leading Role category for her performance alongside acting titans Cate Blanchett, Viola Davis, Emma Thompson, and Michelle Yeoh. Fellow lesser known star Danielle Deadwyler is also nominated in the same category - with the winner set to be unveiled in a glitzy ceremony in London on Sunday night. Ana was thrust into the spotlight during the years of lockdown when she was in a high-profile romance with actor Ben Affleck. The pair drew attention with persistent public displays of affection as their romance burned bright from March 2020 to January 2021. However, the relationship burned out and Ben moved on to reignite his romance with former fiancée Jennifer Lopez - who he finally wed in July last year.



CYBILL SHEPHERD REVEALED THAT SHE TAUGHT ELVIS PRESLEY "ONE MAJOR THING" IN BED

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Cybill Shepherd revealed that she had taught King of Rock and Roll Elvis Presley "one major thing" in bed.

The actress met the legendary singer 50 years ago, but it seems she hasn't forgotten a thing about their time together, reports mirror.co.uk.

After becoming an instant star after her breakthrough roles in 1971's "The Last Picture Show" and then "The Heartbreak Kid" the following year, when Elvis heard Cybill was visiting Memphis, he wanted to meet her.

Despite just being 22 at the time, Cybill was already quite sure of herself. She has always been open about her romance with the singer, talking about their sex life multiple times.

The Express reported that she talked in an

interview about what she had taught him in bed.

In a chapter in her autobiography, "Cybill Disobedience", she had mentioned Elvis. Titled "White boys don't eat..." it mentioned how Elvis was reluctant to perform oral sex on Cybill.

She said: "I had to teach him how to do it. There are worse things to teach a man to do!" However, the romance between them was short lived, with Cybill saying they split due to Elvis' prescription drug habit.

She described him as the "most beautiful man I'd ever seen", but she had "never been interested in drugs at all".

Cybill recalled that he would sometimes come into the bedroom before passing out immediately or leaving drugs and emerald and diamond jewellery for her on the bedside table.



Megan Fox, MGK seek professional help to 'save their relationship'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Megan Fox and rapper Machine Gun Kelly are said to be doing everything they can to save their relationship after the actress sparked rumours they had split by deleting all traces of the rapper from her social.

The "Transformers" actress last week sparked break-up rumours when she erased all pictures of her rapper fiancée who she has been dating since 2020, from her Instagram feed and posted about being able to "taste the dishonesty" - but they are now said to be "working through their issues" and apparently have not split, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

A source told People: "Megan is still upset but is not giving up on their relationship. He feels the same way. They are getting profes-

sional help because they want things to work out."

She posted images of herself in a mirror taken by a man beside her and captioned them: "You can taste the dishonesty, it's all over your breath" - a quote from Beyonce's song 'Pray You Catch Me' about the singer's husband Jay-Z's infidelity.

Some fans speculated MGK had cheated on Megan with his band's guitarist, Sophie Lloyd but she has branded the accusations "disrespectful". Sophie's management told Page Six: "Sophie Lloyd is a professional, accomplished musician who has been needlessly dragged into the media based off of meritless accusations made by social media." Any suggestions that she has ever acted in an unprofessional manner or stepped out of her relationship are untrue. It's disrespectful to her as a female artist and poor journalism and social commentary to be reporting anything else."



'I'M SOMEWHAT DECENT AT ACTING'

Julia Garner refuses to give up acting as she's 'not good' at other things

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Julia Garner, who nearly gave up acting, eventually shot to stardom with Netflix drama series 'Ozark' and went on to achieve critical acclaim for her role as disgraced socialite Anna Delvey in 'Inventing Anna'.

She admitted that she had a "tough" few years in her early twenties when she was considered "too old" for the business.

"When I was 21, I had a pretty dry year. This was before I booked 'Ozark'. It wasn't a great year for me as an actor. I felt a little hopeless. I wasn't getting jobs for a few months. It was really hard. I remember thinking, if I'm still in the same place in five years, I don't want to do this," she said.

"It's a really hard business and there are other busi-

nesses out there other than acting. I was still young at the time, but it's tough because in the acting world, 21 are young, but it's not so young. You're not 16 or 17 anymore. You're not the bright, shiny new toy, and this business relies on shining. They love a shiny new toy. I booked 'Ozark' and I kept pushing because I felt like I still had a lot to do."

However, the 'Dirty John' actress went on to explain that she decided she "wasn't good" at many other things so found the impetus to continue with her career despite the setbacks.

She told Vanity Fair magazine: "So I'm going to be honest: I'm not good at a lot of things, so I was like, 'This acting thing better work out.' I'm somewhat decent at acting. And I just continued to have the stamina, worked really hard, and not have entitlement."



"Hellboy: The Crooked Man" production to start in March

Los Angeles | Agencies

A reboot feature of "Hellboy", titled "Hellboy: The Crooked Man", will begin production in March, Millennium Media announced.

Brian Taylor, who co-directed the "Crank" films and "Gamer" with Mark Neveldine and solo directed the 2017 horror comedy "Mom and Dad," will helm the picture. Mike Mignola, the creator of the "Hellboy" comics, co-wrote the script with Chris Golden, reports 'Variety'.

The story will follow Hellboy, the summoned demon turned reluctant hero, as he teams up with a rookie agent to uncover a secluded witch community in 1950s Appalachia. The script draws from the comic "Hellboy: The Crooked Man", which debuted in July 2008.

Millennium Media first acquired

the rights to the property in 2018. The banner had previously worked with Summit Entertainment to produce a 2019 feature adaptation of "Hellboy," starring David Harbour. Casting announcements for the upcoming reboot will be made in the coming weeks.

"The Crooked Man" is a departure from all previous 'Hellboy' films where Mike Mignola and the creator of the comics will finally shepherd an authentic version of his stories and characters in film form," Millennium Media President Jeffrey Greenstein said in a statement. "This is the first in the series of films that will captivate audiences in familiar (and new) ways. Brian Taylor is an expert across the board, and I couldn't think of a better person to bring this story to life to show our audience this different and original 'Hellboy' slate of films."



Maura Higgins



IND vs AUS 2nd Test Day 3

INDIA RETAIN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY AFTER JADEJA, ASHWIN DEMOLISH AUSTRALIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Riding on left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja's best bowling figures in an innings in Test cricket (7/42) along with Ravichandran Ashwin's spin masterclass, India defeated Australia by six wickets in the second Test within three days to take 2-0 lead in the four-match series and retain Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Ashwin set up the collapse to pick 3/59, before Jadeja ran through the Australian batting line-up as Australia crashed to 113 all out, after starting the day from 61/1 and being 86/2 at one stage, in their second innings. The Australian batting implosion gave India a target of 115, which they completed in 28.4 overs.

Rohit Sharma began the chase by driving wide of mid-on for a boundary off Matthew Kuhnemann in the opening over. But in the next over, he lost his opening partner KL Rahul in an unlucky fashion.

Rohit Sharma's exquisite timing in whipping an overpitched delivery off Kuhnemann between deep



mid-wicket and long-on. The Indian skipper danced down the pitch against Kuhnemann, slamming a six over the bowler's head

but he was run-out in a horrible mix-up and sacrificed himself to keep Pujara at the crease.

Kohli fell for 20 when he was beaten through the air and on the outside edge by Todd Murphy and was stumped from behind by Alex Carey.

In a bid to attack against Lyon, Iyer danced down the pitch again for an expansive slog, but holed out to deep mid-wicket. KS Bharat was gorgeous in driving twice through the extra cover against Lyon and Kuhnemann.

He would go on to drive through cover again off Kuhnemann for boundary and brought the crowd on its feet with a slog-sweep over deep mid-wicket for six off part-timer Travis Head. Pujara, playing in his 100th Test, finished off the chase by dancing down the pitch and flicking over mid-wicket to give India another victory in the series.

Brief scores

Australia 263 and 113 in 31.3 overs (Travis Head 43, Marnus Labuschagne 35; Ravindra Jadeja 7/42, Ravichandran Ashwin 3/59) lost to India 262 in 83.3 overs and 118/4 in 28.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 31, Cheteshwar Pujara 31 not out; Nathan Lyon 2/49, Todd Murphy 1/22) by six wickets.

ROHIT TO MISS FIRST ODI; PANDYA TO LEAD THE SIDE

New Delhi

India captain Rohit Sharma will miss the first One-day International against Australia to be played in his hometown Mumbai on March 17 because of some family commitments, BCCI honorary secretary Jay Shah informed.

Vice-captain Hardik Pandya, who led India in the last T20-I series against New Zealand, will lead the ODI side in Rohit's absence, Shah said.

Pacer Jaydev Unadkat made it back to the squad after a gap of nine years while pacer Jasprit Bumrah continues to remain absent.

The selectors also called up left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja after his brilliant bowling in the two Tests against Australia is back after recovering from his injury. Axar Patel and K.L. Rahul, who were rested for the New Zealand ODIs, were also brought back as K.S. Bharat and Shabbaz Ahmed were left out.

Unadkat will be part of the pace battery spearheaded by Mohammed Shami and including Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik along with Hardik Pandya, while Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel and Jadeja are the spinners in the side.

The in-form opener Shubman Gill, along with Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav has also found their place in the crucial series ahead of this year's ODI World Cup in India.

The second and third ODIs of the series will be played at Visakhapatnam (March 19) and Chennai (March 22).



DELHI WIN PUSHES INDIA CLOSER TO SPOT IN WTC FINAL

New Delhi | India's massive victory against Australia pushed them closer to a spot in the final and ended South Africa's hopes in the World Test Championships.

The race for the WTC Final is now down to three sides, with South Africa ruled out of reaching the final following India's triumph in Delhi.

With the top two teams in the ICC World Test Championship standings securing a place in June's Final, the result in Delhi still means that Australia and India control their own destiny as the race for the sports in the final gets into the home stretch, the ICC said.

Australia remain atop the standings despite their second successive defeat reducing their percentage tally to 66.67%, while India widen the gap between themselves and Sri Lanka in third place, who are at 53.33%.

The equation is now clearer -- India have to win the third Test against Australia, which starts in Indore on March 1 and secure their place at The Oval. Anything less, and Australia will become the first team to qualify for the World Test Championship Final.

In case India loses the third Test in Indore, Sri Lanka can move closer to the second spot by winning the first Test against New Zealand, which will be played at Christchurch from March 9-13.

ISSF World Cup

Varun Tomar wins bronze in 10m Air Pistol

Cairo | Agencies

Junior World championships gold medalist Varun Tomar bagged the bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup, beating the compatriot Sarabjot Singh in a bronze medal shoot-off.

In a bronze medal shoot-off, Sarabjot shot 10.1 while Varun hit 10.3, which proved to be enough for the latter to wrap up the bronze.

Varun and Sarabjot were placed third and fourth respectively in the 8-men ranking round with a tied score of 250.6 after five series of shooting. Italy's Paolo Monna (254.2) and Juraj Tuzinsky (252.8) topped the ranking match to



qualify for the gold medal match. In a medal match, Tuzinsky routed Monna 17-15 in the thrilling contest to clinch the gold while Monna had to settle for silver despite leading till the last series of shots. Earlier,

Tuzinsky topped the qualification round with 585 followed by Varun in second with 583. Monna and Sarbjot were placed third and fourth place respectively with an identical score of 581.

Ranji Trophy 2022-23

SAURASHTRA THRASH BENGAL BY 9 WICKETS TO CLINCH TITLE



Kolkata | Saurashtra produced a clinical performance to thrash Bengal by nine wickets in the final to win the Ranji Trophy 2022-23 title.

This is Saurashtra's second Ranji Trophy title in the last three seasons and they proved why they are a force to reckon with in the domestic circuit.

Bengal, who gave away a big first innings lead of 230, were overnight 169/4 in their second innings, got bowled out for 241 on Sunday, giving Saurashtra a mere 12 runs' target.

Chasing a paltry target, Saurashtra's Jay Gohil was out for a duck. However, Saurashtra went past the target in 2.4 overs to wrap up the match with one day and two full sessions to spare.

Brief scores

Bengal 174-all-out and 241-all-out (Manoj Tiwary 68, Anustup Majumdar 61; Jaydev Unadkat 6/85, Chetan Sakariya 3/76) lost to Saurashtra 404 all-out and 14-1 (Vishvaraj Jadeja 10 not out, Harvik Desai 4 not out; Akash Deep 1/5) by 9 nine wickets.

Premier League

Arsenal go back top after thriller at Villa, Man City held at City Ground

London | Agencies

Arsenal showed their fighting spirit to end a three-game winless run and go back to the top of the Premier League, when they came from behind to win a thrilling match 4-2 away to Aston Villa.

Villa twice led thanks to Ollie Watkins, but Arsenal twice hauled themselves level through Bukayo Saka and Oleksandr Zinchenko, who made it 2-2 just after the hour.

Martinez then went forward for a corner in the last minute of injury time, but Arsenal cleared, leading Gabriel Martinelli to run unopposed into the Villa half to finish the comeback with a fourth on the breakaway to assure the win.

Chris Wood's 84th minute goal cancelled out Bernardo Silva's opener for Manchester City, who drew 1-1



away to Nottingham Forest.

City was the better side in the first half, but Wood's goal capped a brave fightback from a side that has lost just one of their last seven Premier League matches.

Liverpool looked to be coming into

form just in time for their Champions League clash with Real Madrid after Jurgen Klopp's side won 2-0 in Newcastle to inflict just the second defeat of the season on the home side. Darwin Nunez opened the scoring in the 10th minute, and Cody

Gakpo doubled the lead seven minutes later (both goals after VAR checks). The game was effectively over in the 22nd minute when home keeper, Nick Pope lost his footing and handled outside of his area to deny Mohamed Salah.

There were also changes at the bottom, as Seamus Coleman's spectacular cross-shot ended up in the back of the net to give Everton a 1-0 home win over Leeds United.

Southampton remains bottom of the table, but tightened things up in the relegation battle as they stunned Chelsea 1-0 at Stamford Bridge. James Ward-Prowse's free kick on the verge of halftime gave the 'Saints' a win that increases the pressure on Chelsea boss Graham Potter, who made a lot of changes to the side that lost to Borussia Dortmund in midweek.

Women's T20 World Cup

MCGRATH FIRES AUSTRALIA TO SEMIS WITH WIN OVER SOUTH AFRICA

Gqeberha (South Africa) | Agencies

All-rounder Tahlia McGrath's blistering 57 completed a perfect run through the group stages of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 for Australia as they beat hosts, South Africa by six wickets to qualify for the semi-finals of the tournament.

Swiatek overcomes Pegula to clinch second straight title

Doha | Agencies

World No.1 Poland's Iga Swiatek successfully defended her title at the Qatar Open, with a dominant 6-3, 6-0 win over fourth-ranked American Jessica Pegula in the summit clash.

Swiatek had already lost to Pegula this year at United Cup, but the No.1 seed avenged that defeat in the 1-hour and 9-minute final to capture her first WTA Tour title of the year, and the 12th title of her career overall. She dropped only five games all week en route



to the title. "I'm really happy that I could kind of find more balance, compared to how I felt at the beginning of the season," Swiatek. "I think this tournament is going to give me a lot of confidence, but still, I want to take everything step by step. I'm just really happy that I could win this match today," she added.



to find out their semi-final opponent. South Africa, meanwhile, started both innings strongly in this one, only to fall away, and now face

a must-win clash with Bangladesh, while hoping New Zealand beat Sri Lanka and that they finish top of the three-way tie on net run-rate.

After being put in to bat, South Africa made a flying start as Tazmin Brits and Laura Wolvaardt combined to put on 54 runs at a run-a-ball for the opening wicket.

Brief scores

South Africa 124/6 in 20 overs (Tazmin Brits 45, Sune Luus 20; Georgia Wareham 2-18) lost to Australia 125/4 in 16.3 overs (Tahlia McGrath 57, Ashleigh Gardner 28 not out; Marizanne Kapp 2-21) by six wickets.

Indian junior women's hockey team registers 8-0 win over South Africa

South Africa | Agencies

The Indian junior women's hockey team registered a big 8-0 win against hosts South Africa in their second match of the tour.

Earlier, in the week, the Indian team had begun their campaign with a convincing 8-1 win. The South Africa Tour is part of the team's preparations for the all-important Asia Cup U21, which is a qualification tournament for the forthcoming FIH Women's Hockey

Junior World Cup.

The visitors got off to a good start in the first quarter with fine skill and disciplined structure in their attack. The team's first goal came in the very 1st minute of the match through Annu followed by a 9th minute goal by vice skipper Rujata Dadaso Pisal. The team extended their lead to 3-0 in the 26th minute when Jyoti Chhatrai scored a field goal. She struck another one in the following minute to take the team's lead to a formidable 4-0.

Before the second quarter ended, the Indian Junior women's side scored two more goals in the 29th and 30th minute via Deepika Soreng and Jyoti Chhatrai.

With a comfortable 6-0 lead on board, the visitors ended the fourth quarter with two more goals in the 54th and 59th minute scored by Annu and Deepika Sr. The team will next play on February 20 followed by two matches against South Africa 'A' team on February 24th and 25th.

ENG vs NZ 1st Test

ENGLAND REGISTERED 267-RUN WIN



Mount Maunganui | Agencies

England produced a clinical team performance to register an impressive 267-run victory over New Zealand in the first Test and take 1-0 lead in the two match series.

Evergreen duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad, who created history on Saturday when they overtook Australia greats Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath to become the teammates with the most wickets in Test history, were at it again to wrap up the Test triumph for England in style.

Anderson collected two wickets in as many balls to send Scott Kugelejin and Tim Southee packing early in the session, while the veteran finished the job when he

returned to the attack to dismiss Blair Tickner and end the match.

It was the first time England have won a Test on New Zealand soil for almost 15 years, with their most recent triumph coming from a seven-wicket haul in the first innings from Ryan Sidebottom led Michael Vaughan's side to victory at McLean Park in Napier in March 2008.

Brief scores

New Zealand 306 & 126 (Daryl Mitchell 57 not out; James Anderson 4-18, Stuart Broad 4-49) lost to England 325/9 decl. & 374 (Joe Root 57, Harry Brook 54, Ben Foakes 51, Ollie Pope 49; Blair Tickner 3-55) by 267 runs.



'SHIVAJI'S LIFE & LEGACY ALWAYS FASCINATED ME'

On Shivaji Jayanti, Sharad Kelkar recounts how Chhatrapati inspired him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sharad Kelkar said Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj played an important role in his life and career as he remembered Marataha warrior king's legacy and ideology on the occasion of Shivaji Jayanti. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been a source of inspiration for me since my childhood. His life and legacy have always fascinated me, and I have always felt a deep sense of pride in being associated with such a great historical figure. Playing the role of Shivaji Maharaj in 'Tanhaji' was a dream comes true for me, and it was an honour to bring his story to life on the big screen," he said.

Sharad is popular for his works in both films and TV. He did TV shows such as "Raat Hone Ko Hai", "Saat Phere: Saloni Ka Safar", "Pati Patni Aur Woh", "Bairi Piya", among others and he also worked in movies like "Hulchul", "1920: Evil Returns", "Housefull 4", "Tanhaji" in which he played the role of Shivaji Maharaj, among others. "Today, on Shivaji Jayanti, I feel a strong connection with Shivaji Maharaj and his ideals. I believe we can all learn a lot from his leadership, courage, and commitment to his people. As we celebrate Shivaji Jayanti, I want everyone to remember Shivaji Maharaj and strive to uphold his legacy in our lives," he added.

Parking challan for Kartik: Mumbai police share 'Punchnama' style post for him

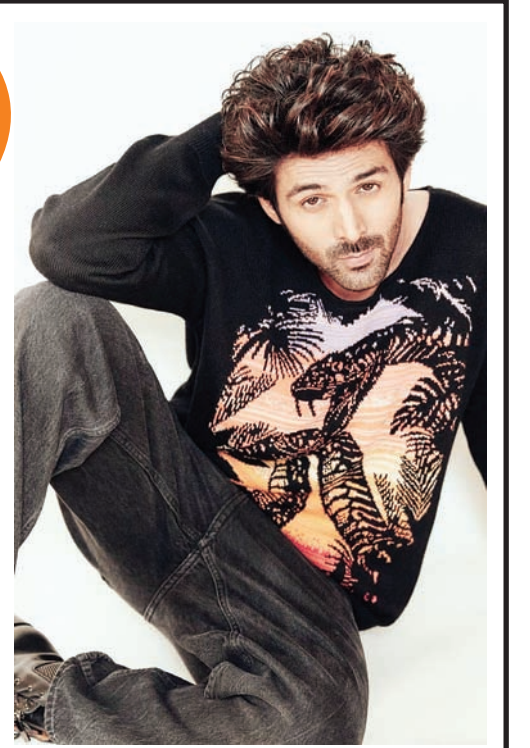
Team Absolute | Mumbai

As his film 'Shehzada' is all set to hit the screens, Bollywood's chocolate boy Kartik Aaryan paid a visit to the Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai to seek blessings for the movie. However, his car was towed away as he had left it in a no-parking zone.

The Mumbai Police Twitter handle shared a picture of his Lamborghini and captioned it with the popular monologue from Kartik's film 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama'.

The caption read: "Problem? Problem yeh thi ki the car was parked on the wrong side! Don't do the 'Bhool' of thinking that 'Shehzadaas' can flout traffic rules." The traffic police blurred the number of the actor's vehicle. The police did not share details about the challan.

Helmed by Rohit Dhawan, 'Shehzada' also stars Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal, Manisha Koirala and Ronit Roy. It is an official Hindi remake of the Telugu film 'Ala Vaikunthapurramlo'.



Zayn is my personal dietician, he motivates me: Khushi Dubey



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Naaginn' actress Khushi Dubey, who is currently seen playing the role of 'Chikki' in the third season of the web show 'Aashiqana' shares a friendly bond with his co-actor Zayn Ibad Khan, who keeps guiding her on health matters.

In fact, now he has turned into a dietician for her and she is following his entire diet plan.

Talking about her bond with Zayn, who will be reprising

his role of Yash, Khushi said: "I follow my diet strictly and am very conscious of it. I can't remember the last time I had a cheat meal."

"Zayn is my personal dietician, he helps me and motivates me to follow the plan and guides me about what to eat and what not to eat, we encourage each other, but he is extremely strict about his diet, so I end up following it too," added the actress, who is known for her works in 'Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai', 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby', 'Kasamh Se



'and 'Rakhi, Atoot Rishtey Ki Dor'.

DON'T HAVE MUCH REEL EXPERIENCE OF IT: SEHBAN AZIM ON DOING INTIMATE



Firstly, I am a little shy doing such scenes and also I don't have much reel experience of it."

Sehban shared that he was so reluctant that he said 'no' to the director before starting shooting for the intimate scene. However, later he was convinced by the creative team and he was told by them that it is the requirement of the story.

"So, initially, I said no to it until my director and the creative convinced me on the fact that whatever they will be shooting is the requirement of the story of the show and it's not just a random scene to catch eyeballs and also that they believe in shooting it aesthetically. They made sure everyone was comfortable doing the scene with minimal crew and experienced professionals and it was designed in a way that it was easy to shoot for us," he added.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sehban Azim is currently part of the web show 'Dear Ishq', which is all about a relationship between two opposite personalities, and is playing the character of Abhimanyu Razdan. The actor recalled his shooting experience and how he was hesitant about doing an intimate scene with his co-actor Preet Kour Nayak.

He said: "I was quite conscious doing a scene like that.



Ashi Singh, Shagun express gratitude as their show completes 500 episodes

Meet' actors Ashi Singh and Shagun Pandey, who are seen playing the lead roles, are on cloud nine as their show completes 500 episodes. Both actors are satisfied with the response the audience is giving to the story post the one-year leap.

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Ashi's character Meet Hooda has gone through a lot of ups and downs in the show. In terms of looks too, it has changed a lot. From playing a Haryana girl in the show, she is now seen as a Gujarati.

Talking about her journey in the show, Ashi said: "We've got overwhelming appreciation from the audience for our show. This milestone would not have been possible without their love and support. In fact, it seems like it was just yesterday when we started shooting for the show. I can't believe we have completed 500 episodes already. Our viewers have shown us, incredible love, especially towards our characters, and I hope

that they will continue to shower us with love for a long time."

On the other hand, Shagun's on-screen personality has also changed over time. He is enjoying playing Manmeet who is altogether different from the previous character of Meet Ahlawat.

As the actor said: "My new character Manmeet is very different from Meet Ahlawat, and even after the leap, fans have been sending in their love and support despite the character displaying shades of grey at the moment. I would like to express my gratitude to the makers of the show for giving me the privilege of working with such a talented team and I must add, this journey has been nothing short of incredible."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nora Fatehi

'Delhi is like a second home to us'



Team Absolute | New Delhi

No matter how many chartbuster songs are made, one thing that remains a constant for the last few decades is Lucky Ali's music. The musician, who has given soul-stirring songs such as 'O Sanam', 'Gori Teri Aankhein' and 'Na Tum Jaano Na Hum' and many others, spoke about what's keeping him away from doing Bollywood songs now.

Lucky talked about how he only does music that touches his heart; hence he'd choose songs from Bollywood accordingly.

Lucky's songs never fade away. Talking about the same, he said: "I just do my work the way I feel it. If I want to make a mistake in

Lucky Ali on not doing B'wood tracks now, his love for Delhi & bouts of self-doubt

it but it is something that agrees with my vibe I would go ahead and do that and then deal with it later on. Many of our songs, if you have noticed, have a very Indian feel and all of a sudden we are doing grooves that are very broad." "That's the music part but what you say is very important to me. I don't want to say something for the sake of saying it, it has to actually mean to me what I am trying to express. That's why I don't do Bollywood tracks and movies because I'm

not speaking the truth in them." "It's just God's blessing. I haven't done any great thing. My songs are simple. They are everybody's music."

Is simplicity the key to successful tracks? Pat came the reply: "I don't know what the truth is but just be true to yourself and you have to live with what you say. It's not like aaj aapne keh diya and then you don't follow what you say then you become a hypocrite. So, you live by the work that you do." The singer has a special place in his heart for New Delhi. Calling it a "second home", Lucky said: "Delhi is like a second home to us." For him it's been a go to place since childhood, as he would go through New Delhi to his school Convent of Jesus and Mary, Hampton Court in Mussoorie.

"Even during boarding school, we had to come through Delhi and Dehradun and then go off to Mussoorie. So, Delhi has always been our go to place and it's been an amazing growth in the city because we literally saw it change."