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Excise policy case: Destruction of evidence constant practice ...



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Gwyneth Paltrow to appear in court after alleged hit and run ski crash ...



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Yuvan Nandal wins at 38th Premier Sarawak Cup Tennis ...



'Not concerned who belongs to BJP or Congress': SC on pleas against ED Director's extension

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally observed that it is not concerned with the political affiliations of the petitioners, who have challenged the third extension given to ED Director S.K. Mishra and also the CVC Amendment Act 2021.

During the hearing, a bench of Justices B.R. Gawai and Vikram Nath orally observed: "We are not concerned with who belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party and who belongs to Congress."

The bench made this observation after the amicus curiae, senior advocate KV Viswanathan submitted that his submissions will be purely on the law and he is not concerned with the politics of the petitioners or the individual cases.

In the previous hearing in the matter on Monday, Viswanathan told the Supreme Court that the extension was illegal, citing the apex court's decisions in Vineet Narain & others v. Union of India and Common Cause v. Union of India to support his contention. He further added that the issue was not about the incumbent director at all, rather it was about the principle.

On Tuesday, the top court was informed that Solicitor



General Tushar Mehta was not available to argue the matter. The bench expressed its discontent with unavailability of Mehta and adjourned the hearing to Thursday, while noting it had clearly stated during the last hearing that this matter would start at the time specified.

The bench added that the SG had assured that the matter would not be adjourned and this is not fair to the court.

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that the PIL challenging the extension of tenure of the Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED) Sanjay Kumar Mishra has been filed with the intention of protecting Congress leaders who are facing money laundering charges.

Listing the petitioners - Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jaya Thakur (both Congress), Saket Gokhale and Mahua Moitra (both Trinamool Congress), the affidavit said the eminent leaders of these parties are under investigation of ED.

"It is respectfully submitted that certain leaders of the aforesaid political parties are under investigation of the Directorate. The investigation is strictly going on in accordance with law which is reflected from the fact that in most of the cases, either the competent courts have taken cognizance of the offence of constitutional courts have refused to grant any relief to such leaders of the above political parties," said the affidavit, filed by the Centre in the apex court.

ELECTORAL BONDS CASE NEEDS TO BE HEARD BY A CONSTITUTION BENCH!

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to take up the petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme on April 11 to examine whether the matter should be heard by a constitution bench.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, representing a petitioner, contended before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that the aspect in this matter deals with core of the finances of political parties and this issue requires an authoritative pronouncement. Pointing at the questions framed by him for the consideration of the court, Farasat said the court may consider this matter having been heard by a constitution bench. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, also representing one of the petitioners, said, "we will only benefit, if it is a constitution bench. It will not harm anybody. Yes, this issue goes to the core of our democratic existence. Rs 12,000 till now and the largest party gets more than two-third".

The bench, also comprising justice P.S. Narasimha, asked the Centre's counsel, whether she is ready to argue on the aspect of referring the matter to a constitution bench. The counsel replied that the Attorney General R. Venkataramani, who was not present in the courtroom during the hearing, would have to argue whether a reference should be made to the constitution bench or not. After hearing submissions, the top court scheduled the matter for hearing on April 11, to examine whether petitions should be referred to a constitution bench.



Women in traditional costumes take out a scooter rally on the eve of 'Gudi Padwa' in Nagpur on Tuesday, March 21, 2023

UNION MINISTER GADKARI GETS RS 10 CR EXTORTION CALLS FROM ALLEGED MAFIOSI

Nagpur | Agencies

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has been targeted for the second time in two months, with calls from alleged mafiosi demanding extortion money, police said here on Tuesday.

The Union Minister's office near the Orange City Hospital here received at least three calls from a person claiming to be Jayesh Poojari - two in the morning and one around noon and they informed the Nagpur police. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police



Rahul Madane, the caller made a demand for Rs 10 crore failing which the

Minister could face harm, and now the police have beefed up security around Gadkari's home and offices here.

The call was traced to a Mangaluru-based woman working for an event management company and now the police are trying to ascertain whether she made the call or Poojari.

On January 14, the same person had made a call to Gadkari's office, claiming he was henchman of the mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, and demanding Rs 1 billion payout.



नरेंद्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



निर्णय वेगवान #महायात्रा गतिमान



एकनाथ शिंदे
मुख्यमंत्री

गतिमानतेचे प्रमुख टप्पे -

भूमिहीन आणि घर नसलेल्या नागरिकांसाठी अमृत महाआवास योजनेतून ५ लाख घरांची उभारणी करणार.

ग्रामीण कुटुंबांसाठी 'सुविधा संपन्न कुटुंब' मिशन राबविणार.

ग्रामपंचायत निवडणूकांमध्ये सरपंचाची निवड थेट जनतेमधून होणार.

जिल्हा परिषद सदस्यांची संख्या कमीत कमी ५० व जास्तीत जास्त ७५ करण्यासाठी अधिनियमात सुधारणा.

'मोदी आवास' योजनेतर्गत इतर मागासवर्गीय लाभार्थींसाठी ३ वर्षात १० लाख घरे उभारणार. त्यापैकी सन २०२३-२४ मध्ये ३ लाख घरांची उभारणी करण्यासाठी रु. ३६०० कोटीची अर्थसंकल्पात तरतूद.

एकनाथ शिंदे
मुख्यमंत्री

देवेंद्र फडणवीस
उप मुख्यमंत्री

घर स्वतःचे आपल्या हक्काचे साकारले स्वप्न ग्रामविकासाचे!





SEPARATE STATE DEMAND: MHA PANEL TO HOLD TALK WITH NAGA BODY

Kohima | Agencies

The Union Home Ministry-appointed panel is likely to hold talks with the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), which has been demanding a separate 'Frontier Nagaland' state, on Wednesday.

Top officials said that both the state and Central governments would not agree to the separate state demand and instead, various financial and administrative autonomy measures are likely to be accorded.

ENPO sources said that the 3-member panel headed by MHA adviser, northeast A.K. Mishra would discuss the demand with the leaders of the ENPO in Kohima on Wednesday.

The ENPO and its associated organisations, in support of its separate state demand, earlier given a call to boycott the February 27 Nagaland assembly polls but subsequently withdrew the boycott call following the assurance from Union Home



Minister Amit Shah.

The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and BJP alliance was voted back to power. Shah, addressing election rallies in

Nagaland, had said that all the issues of ENPO have been discussed and an agreement would be signed after the polls. "Due to the model code of conduct of the assembly elections, agree-

ment could not be signed. After the February 27 assembly polls, an agreement would be signed by the Union Home Ministry ensuring the Naga people's rights and development," he had said. "I had a meeting with them and assured them that all their problems will be solved. Be it budgetary provisions, more power to council and equitable development of the state, we will discuss everything. The Government of India will solve the problem," Shah had said.

The ENPO, the apex tribal organisation of eastern Nagaland, to press its demand had boycotted the annual Hornbill festival last year.

Claiming that the six districts -- Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator -- have been neglected for years, the ENPO has been demanding a separate 'Frontier Nagaland' state since 2010.

Seven tribes of eastern Nagaland, Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Phom, Tikhir, Sangtam, and Yimkhung are spread across these six districts.

Right to Health Bill passed in R'sthan Assembly amid protests by doctors, Oppn

Jaipur | Agencies

The Right to Health Bill was passed in the Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday amidst a hue and cry by the opposition BJP. Rajasthan has become the first state in the country where the Right to Health Bill has been passed. Earlier, there was a fierce debate between the ruling Congress and the opposition regarding the passing of this bill.

State health minister Parsadi Lal Meena attacked the doctors and some big hospitals. He said if someone dies during treatment in a private hospital, the body is released only after the bill is paid in full. Sometimes the bill is of lakhs of rupees. From where will a poor man get lakhs of rupees? He asked. Meena said the public has elected us and sent us here. We should take care of the public. There are



many famous and big hospitals in Jaipur who cheat in the name of treatment. After this bill is passed, we will take action against them. The bill was sent to the Select Committee with everyone's consent. The committee has prepared the report with everyone's concurrence, he added. Responding to the debate

on the Bill, Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said doctors have forgotten their religion and was adamant on the withdrawal of the bill. We met the doctors. They were adamant that they would not accept anything less than withdrawing the bill. To what extent is this justified? This is an insult to the House.

Everyone has the right to be heard, Rahul cites article 14,21

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has sought Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's permission to speak in the House to clear the air around his "Democracy" remark in London.

In a letter written to the Speaker on March 18, he said Parliament like any other institution is bound by the rules of natural justice contained in Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

"They are a guarantee against administrative arbitrariness and ensure that every person has a right to be heard in a cause with which they are concerned. Surely, you would agree that Parliament of all institutions cannot abdicate the responsibility to respect this right when it doesn't suit the ruling regime," the letter read.

He also cited Ravi Shankar Prasad's case which invoked the rule to give an explanation regarding comments made by Jyotiraditya Scindia in relation to him in Parliament.

"There are several examples available on the Lok Sabha Digital Library which show that



this right isn't restricted to responding to statements made within Parliament but extends to allegations made in the public domain as well," he said. Rahul Gandhi has insisted on speaking in the Lok Sabha as he is a member of the House. However, the BJP is demanding an apology from him but Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said in Rajya Sabha that the question of apology does not arise.

Excise policy case: Destruction of evidence constant practice, CBI tells Delhi court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Tuesday listed, for March 25, former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bail matter in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Court asked the probe agency to file written submissions and relevant judgments.

During the hearing, one of Sisodia's counsel said that nothing exceptional has been stated by the CBI which would warrant continued custody.

"Nothing on record to show that Sisodia will be threatening the witnesses," counsel said, arguing Sisodia has cooperated with the CBI investigation and none of the searches have revealed any incriminating material against him.

"It goes without doubt that Manish Sisodia has deep roots in society. He has appeared every time he was called before the CBI. I am a public servant. There have been two public servants in this case, allegations far graver than mine. But they are sent without arrest," Sisodia's lawyer said. "There is no real substantial evidence of tamper-



ing with witness or threatening witnesses, etc. I request you to kindly grant me bail," counsel added. Appearing for CBI, Special Public Prosecutor D.P. Singh said: "It's not only the mobile

phones, files were also destroyed." "I am very serious that destruction of evidence was a constant practice," he added. The CBI opposed Sisodia's bail plea, saying that this will compromise and scuttle their investigation.

Sisodia on Tuesday also moved a bail plea in a court in the same case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The court while issuing notice to the central agency, listed the matter for the next hearing on March 25.

On March 17, the court had extended the AAP leader's ED custody in the same case till March 22. The court had, on Monday, sent Sisodia to judicial custody till April 3, in the same case by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

After the CBI arrested the AAP leader on February 26, the ED also arrested him in the same case on March 9. During the last hearing in the ED case, the court was apprised by the ED that important details have come up during Sisodia's custody and he had to confront with other accused persons.

The probe agency had informed the court that voluminous data from the former Deputy Chief Minister's email and mobile is also being forensically analysed.

Cattle scam: Anubrata to be lodged in Tihar jail, Trinamool says 'petty matter'

Kohima | Agencies

With the Rouse Avenue Courts in the national capital on Tuesday sending Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal, the prime accused in the multi-crore cattle smuggling scam in West Bengal, to judicial custody till April 3, the once "Tiger of Birbhum" seems to have become a 'petty matter' for his own party.

Speaking to mediapersons on the latest development, West Bengal minister Sashi Panja clearly said that the issue involving a district president of Trinamool is a "petty matter". Mondal is Trinamool's Birbhum district president.

Panja also referred to how the party had stripped former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee of all his ministerial and party posts within a week after his arrest by the ED in connection with the multi-crore teacher recruitment scam.

"Trinamool Congress had promptly taken action against a very important member of the state Cabinet after he was arrested. In comparison to



that, a district president is a petty matter. The party leadership never asked anyone to indulge in corrupt practices. Even after that if charges of corruption are levelled against any person, he will have to take the responsibility for that. The party will not take the responsibility of corrupt practices," Panja

said. However, she did not specify whether, like Chatterjee, Mondal will also be removed from the chair of district president and be suspended.

Her statements came as a study in contrast to the earlier developments where unlike Chatterjee, Mondal received the full backing of his party, including from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, since his arrest in August last year.

At a public meeting then, Banerjee had said that it is the responsibility of the party to ensure that Mondal is brought out from behind the bars with a hero's reputation.

State minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim had described Mondal as the 'Tiger of Birbhum' and said that "once the tiger is out of the prison, all the jackals will hide".

BJP's national vice-president and Lok Sabha member Dilip Ghosh said that it is the tradition of Trinamool to distance itself from anyone after utilising him. "Let this be an eye-opener for Mondal, who should reveal all the secrets to the central agency," Ghosh said.

Honour killing: Man strangles daughter to death

Kanpur (UP) | Agencies

In an apparent case of honour killing, a man strangled his minor daughter to death using a data cable in the presence of his son.

He had sent his wife to her maternal home before committing the crime. The son informed his mother about the incident and she, in turn, alerted the police. A forensic team reached the spot and launched an investigation. The police have arrested the girl's father for questioning.

Rawatpur police station in-charge Neeraj Ojha said, "Shyam Bahadur, a resident of Radha Puram, had come to know about the affair of his 16-year-old daughter Archana, and he had reprimanded her and even thrashed her on several occasions for this. He also used to quarrel with his wife Sangeeta over the issue. Due to frequent fights, Shyam Bahadur had sent Sangeeta to her maternal home a few days ago."

"On Monday evening, Shyam reached



home in an inebriated state and on seeing his daughter talking to someone on the phone, thrashed her severely. He got so angry that he strangled her with a data cable of her mobile phone in front of his son," said Ojha.

"The accused, who has confessed to his crime, has been arrested from the spot itself. Along with this, sufficient evidence of murder has been collected during the investigation from the spot. The forensic team has also recovered the data cable that was used to strangle the girl to death," he added.

NIA MAKES FIRST ARREST IN NGO TERROR-FUNDING CASE

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one Irfan Mehraj from Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) in connection with the NGO Terror funding case, an official said on Tuesday.

The arrest follows comprehensive investigations into the case registered in October 2020. "Irfan Mehraj was a close associate of Khurram Parvez and was working with his organisation, Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Societies (JKCCS). Investigation revealed that the JKCCS was funding terror activities in the valley and had also been in the propagation of a secessionist agenda in the Valley under the garb of protection of human rights," the official said.

Involvement of some Valley-based NGOs, Trusts and Societies in funding of terror-related activities were being probed in this case, the investigation agency said. Some NGOs, both registered as well as unregistered, were noticed collecting funds domestically and abroad under the cover of doing charity and various welfare activities -- including public health, education etc.

But some of these organisations have developed links with proscribed terrorist outfits, such as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LET), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) etc, the official said.

3-day-old girl found in garbage bin in Delhi's Nangloi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A three-day-old girl was found lying abandoned in a garbage bin in Outer Delhi's Nangloi area on Tuesday morning, an official said.

According to police, a PCR call was received on Tuesday around at 10:44 a.m. regarding an abandoned child lying in a garbage bin near Nangloi Surajmal Metro Station following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"On spot, the police team found one newly-born unknown baby girl about three days old. One tag was found on her hand wherein Afarin was written and the child had been born on March 19 at 3:15 p.m.," said Harendra K Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer).

The newly-born baby was immediately admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital through CAT ambulance.



"A case under relevant section of the IPC has been registered at Nangloi police station and investigation was taken up. Efforts are being made to nab the accused persons," said the DCP. Meanwhile, the Delhi

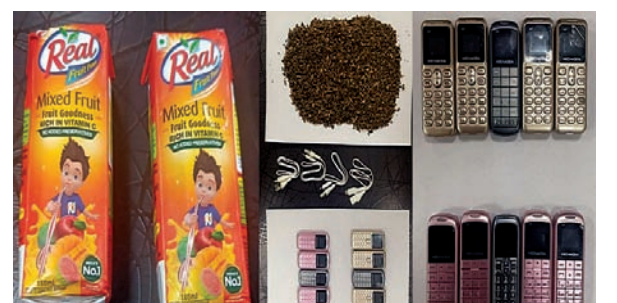
Commission for Women said that after receiving information on its 181 Women Helpline from a person regarding a child lying in a dump yard, the Commission immediately informed Delhi Police and helped in recovering

the child. DCW Chief Swati Maliwal has also issued a notice to Delhi Police and has sought an action taken report in the matter.

"The DCW has sought a copy of the FIR along with details of the accused arrested in the matter. The Commission has also sought details of the family of the child and a copy of the order passed by the Child Welfare Committee in the matter," a DCW official said.

"A three-day-old girl child has been found abandoned in a dump yard in Delhi. Fortunately, a man saw her lying there and immediately called our 181 helpline. We along with police rescued the girl and she is admitted in a hospital in Delhi. We are there with the child. The incident is extremely shocking. I have issued a notice to the police. FIR needs to be registered and the persons responsible for abandoning the girl child should be arrested," said Maliwal.

10 mobile phones recovered from two juice cartons flung into Rohini Jail



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi prison authorities have recovered 10 mobile phones and other contraband concealed in two juice cartons thrown from outside into Rohini Jail no 10, an official said on Tuesday.

According to a senior prison official, on Monday evening, the staff of the Rohini Central Jail no. 10 noticed that someone had thrown something inside the prison. "The suspicious objects

were tightly packed in two Real Juice packets. When the packets were opened, ten mobile phones, four data cables and loose tobacco (approximately 75 grams) were recovered," said the official.

On further investigation, it was revealed that the packets were thrown over the jail wall from outside.

"The matter has been reported to the police for further investigation and necessary action as per law," the official added.



MAHA LOSES TEXTILE COMMISSIONERATE, OPPN SLAMS SHIFT FROM MUMBAI TO DELHI

Veteran bureaucrat Praveen Pardeshi is new BNHS chief

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The Centre has decided to move the 80-year-old office of Textile Commissioner, along with other key officers from Mumbai to New Delhi, by April 5, as per an official order.

This is the second major department after the autonomous 'Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education & Development (DTNBWED)', which was shifted from Nagpur to New Delhi in 2021.

The latest measure has sparked a fresh furore among the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders who slammed the BJP government for the decision.

As per an order from Jayashree Sivakumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Textiles to Textile Commissioner Mumbai Roop Rashi, the move is part of measures to "restructure the office of Textile Commissioner and Textile Committee in order to enhance effectiveness and achieve optimal use of resources".

For this, the Textile Commissioner and few key officials would be relocated to the MoT to strengthen the technical arm of the ministry, deploy/depute officers/staff from the head office to the TC and field offices.

Besides the Textile Commissioner, a Joint Textile Commissioner, two Deputy Secretaries (Director rank) and two Deputy Director level officers would be going to New Delhi as part of the restructure/merger exercise.



While the Textile Commissioner will not be stationed in the MoT, the other officers shall be seated at the Noida regional office.

The Textile Commissioner is a critical appointee, functioning as the principal technical advisor to the MoT, conducts techno-economic surveys, advises the government on the overall status of the textiles sector, with regional offices in Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Indore, Amritsar, Coimbatore and Noida.

Managing Partner Purushottam Sarda of Vinayak Process, a textile unit in Sangli, the shift could jeopardise subsidies worth hundreds of crores of rupees are pending for past three years from the Centre to thousands of textile units handlooms,

powerlooms, auto-looms like Airjet, Waterjet, Sulzer, Rapier -- in the state.

"After the Textile Commissionerate shifts to New Delhi, we shall face huge problems of recovery, and will be forced to make multiple trips which will further add to losses," Sarda told Correspondent.

Slamming the move, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said this is part of the BJP's strategy to take away all offices from Mumbai/Maharashtra to Delhi or Gujarat, though this state is a major hub of the textile industry with units in Mumbai, Thane, and Ichalkaranji of Kolhapur. called the 'Manchester of the east'.

Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said that since "they cannot shift Mumbai to Gujarat, the BJP is destroying all important

offices/departments by taking them away from Maharashtra to either Delhi or Gujarat", which is detrimental to the people of this state.

Nationalist Congress Party national spokesperson Clyde Crasto said the decision is "hardly surprising" but warned that the people of Maharashtra are watching and they will remember it in the elections.

"The BJP at the Centre is hellbent on putting brakes on Maharashtra's progress. Ever since the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government took over, all major projects/institutions/departments are being taken away from Mumbai or the state," said Crasto.

Shiv Sena (UBT)'s national spokesperson Kishore Tiwari wondered why all the BJP union ministers from the state and the "ED government here are maintaining a deafening silence, as usual", and named Nitin Gadkari, Narayan Rane, Piyush Goyal, Raosaheb Patil-Danve, Bharati Pawar, Kapil Patil and Bhagwat Karad, besides Ramdas Athawale.

"Either they lack the courage to speak up for the Marathi people here or they are obviously hand-in-glove with the Centre to ensure the destruction of their own home-state," said Tiwari.

The Textile Commissionerate here was set up in 1943 at the height of World War II to satisfy the huge British demand for clothing of its armed forces and civilians, and the industry developed in a big way post-Independence.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior IAS officer and former BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi has been unanimously elected as the new President of the prestigious Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

"The election by the BNHS Governing Council took place last evening, and it has elected me as the new President," an excited Pardeshi told reporter. He said that "conservation and wildlife have always been his first passion" and he looked forward to his challenging new assignment.

BNHS is India's oldest and globally reputed organisation, 140-year-old, dedicated to wildlife and nature conservation and other related activities, said BNHS Governing Council member Rohan Bhatte.

The BNHS is reputed as one of India's premier scientific institutions with its own independent scientific views, excelling in the conservation of endangered species and habitats.

Pardeshi has long been known as a wildlife lover and has been a senior



Government officers deeply involved with the projects in and around the Tadoba Wildlife Sanctuary, among others.

He has studied in-depth the wildlife management in many countries of the world, and would put some of the goods point in practice here through BNHS, said his colleagues. "We have no doubt that the BNHS will attain a new peak in the field of nature conservation and research due to the appointment of Pardeshi," said BNHS Honorary Secretary Kishore Rithie.

Till now, Pardeshi is the BNHS Vice-president and the other GC members are:

Usha Lachungpa, Dr. Anish Andheria, Kedar Gore, Peter Lobo, Kulojyoti Lakhar, Dr. Raghunandan Chundawat, Dr. Asad Rahmani, Dr. Shubhalakshmi, Dr. Parvesh Pandya, Vice President Shloka Nath, Treasurer Kunjan Gandhi.

Pardeshi, an IAS officer of 1985 batch had a rich and varied experience at different levels in his administrative career.

Among these are serving as a Global Program Coordinator at the UN, and as BMC Commissioner when the global Covid-19 pandemic had just hit India and particularly sweeping across the country's commercial capital Mumbai.

KJo stopped by Mumbai airport security over documents

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood filmmaker-producer Karan Johar, who is busy with the post-production of his upcoming directorial 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', was recently stopped by security personnel for a routine check at the Mumbai International Airport better known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday.

KJo, who is known to be friendly with the paparazzi, posed for them and moved on to go beyond the security check when he was notified about the procedure by one of the security personnel.

The video of the episode was shared on Instagram by celebrity paparazzo Viral Bhayani.

In the video KJo can be seen dressed in baggy black joggers with a black T-shirt, and a white jacket. He was also seen carrying a big bag as he rounded off his look with a pair of black sunglasses. The 'My Name Is Khan'



director was asked by a security personnel to show his ID and travel-related documents.

Karan produced his documents and handed them to the airport security. When given the go ahead by the security personnel, Karan proceeded inside the airport.

It's unclear if Karan left the city for work or he went for a holiday.

NCP'S NATIONAL STATUS TO BE REVIEWED BY POLL BODY: SOURCES

The Election Commission has decided to review the "national party" status of Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress party. The Commission will hear a representation from the party today, which seeks a review of its decision. Sources said the NCP does not satisfy the requirements for national party status any more.

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

A political party is recognised as a "national party" if it is 'recognised' in four or more states or got at least 6 per cent votes in at least four states. Else, it should win at least 2 per cent seats in the Lok Sabha from three states or have at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls.

The national party status for any party comes with a host of advantages. They get a common party symbol across states, space for a party office in New Delhi, and free airtime during elections on public broadcasters.

The NCP, along with Mayawati's BSP and CPI, stood to lose their national party status after the 2014 parliamentary poll. But the Election Commission had agreed at the time to take a lenient view and decided to review their status after

two poll cycles.

The national party status of NCP again came up for review before the poll commission after the 2019 general election, along with that of CPI and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. But the commission again decided to retain status quo in view of a string of assembly elections that were coming up.

Under the Symbols Order 1968, a party, on losing the national status, does not have the right to contest elections using a common symbol across the country. In case NCP's representation is not accepted, the party will be able to use its election symbol only in states where it is recognised as a state party.

The Election Commission had revised the rules for review of "national party" status in 2016, under which a review comes up every 10 years instead of five.



AIR INDIA CONFIDENT ON FUNDING FOR WORLD'S BIGGEST AIRCRAFT DEAL: CEO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Air India Ltd. is in talks with banks to help fund its recently announced record aircraft order, benefiting from the support of new owner Tata Sons Ltd., the carrier's chief executive officer said.

"We have the backing of Tata Sons, so there is financing available for these aircraft," CEO Campbell Wilson said in an interview with Bloomberg News on the sidelines of the CAPA India Aviation Summit in New Delhi on Monday. "We have already made some downpayments for these aircraft from our internal funds."

Air India has placed an order of 470 aircraft from both Boeing Co. and Airbus SE, with deliveries due to start from the end of this year. Discounts are common for such large purchases.

The formerly state-run carrier will use cash, shareholder equity, and sale and leaseback of aircraft to help fund the order, Wilson said last month. With the fleet expansion, Air India is seeking to take on the likes of Emirates and Qatar Airways, which dominate lucrative routes from India to the US and



Europe through their hubs in Doha and Dubai.

Wilson didn't say which banks Air India is talking to. India has been quicker than most other nations to get back to pre-Covid levels of air traffic, aided by a strong local market and growing middle class. Domestic air traffic is expected to rise 20% to 160 million passengers in the year through March 2024, and the nation's carriers may operate a fleet of

1,400 jets by 2030, according to Sydney-based CAPA Centre for Aviation. India plans to spend about 980 billion rupees (\$12 billion) over the next two years on airports, including new terminals and the renovation of existing facilities to meet surging demand. A lot of that growth may come from smaller cities where air travel penetration is low.

"India over the last few decades has been punching below its weight," said Subhas Menon, director general of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines. "The government is doing what is natural, to build up potential as an aviation hub."

Air India is preparing to integrate Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines Ltd. and Tata Group, to form a single, full-service carrier. The airline is spending \$400 million to upgrade its wide-body planes, replacing all seats and in-flight entertainment systems with new products.

India's largest conglomerate Tata bought Air India for \$2.4 billion from the government in 2021. The high-profile privatization under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended decades of attempts to sell the money-losing, debt-laden carrier, which had been kept alive on years of taxpayer bailouts.

Police custody of man accused of blackmailing Amruta Devendra Fadnavis extended

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A court on Tuesday remanded alleged bookie Anil Jaisinghani in police custody till March 27 in a case related to alleged attempt to blackmail and bribe Amruta Fadnavis, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife.

The court also extended the police remand of Jaisinghani's daughter Aniksha Jaisinghani till March 24.

Anil Jaisinghani was arrested from Gujarat a day before. He was produced before additional sessions judge D D Almale on Tuesday.

Mumbai Police had on



March 16 arrested Aniksha Anil Jaisinghani, a designer, after Amruta Fadnavis accused her of offering a bribe for intervening in a criminal case in which Anil Jaisinghani was involved, and also threatening her. Aniksha was produced

before the court on Tuesday at the end of her initial remand. The court extended her custody as police said it was necessary for further probe. The father-daughter duo have been charged under Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy and extortion and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

At least 17 cases are pending against Anil Jaisinghani, police had said earlier. "He tried to kill me many times... this is not the first time he tried to kill me... The way he grabbed my neck, I blacked out. I was unable to breathe for 30 seconds... Thankfully I was able to defend myself by pulling his hair," the recording further played.

CASE FILED AGAINST MAN FOR SHARING OFFENSIVE POSTS AGAINST NITIN GADKARI

Nagpur: The Nagpur police on Monday said their cyber cell has registered a case against a person who allegedly posted offensive comments on social media which had references to Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

According to the police, the accused, Dattatray Joshi, made certain references to Gadkari in the posts which were circulated on WhatsApp.

On learning about this, Gadkari's office, through Twitter, urged the cyber police to register a case.

A senior BJP leader's office representative in Nagpur later filed a complaint with the police and demanded strict action against the person who made the posts viral.

Accordingly, a case was registered under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act against the accused, the police added.

MAHARASHTRA SEES 82 PER CENT INCREASE IN H3N2 CASES IN FIVE DAYS

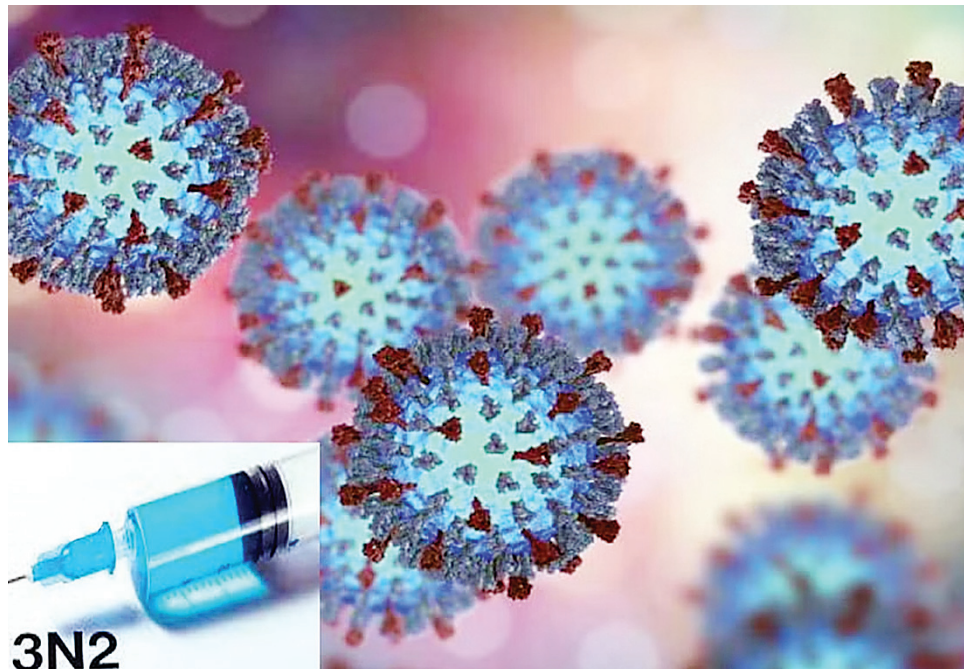
Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the last five days, Maharashtra recorded an 82 per cent rise in H3N2 cases in the state.

While from January 1 to March 15, the state reported 119 H3N2 cases, the public health department's data shows the number of cases increased to 217 by March 19.

On Monday, the state's public health department released data that stated that since January 1, Maharashtra reported over 200 cases of H3N2 on March 19 (the highest number of cases since the data was made public by the state). This year, the state reported one suspected death due to H3N2, the data further revealed.

According to the doctors, there has been a significant rise in the number of cases in a week. Speaking about the rise in H3N2 cases in Mumbai, Dr Abhishek Subhash, Consultant, Internal Medicine at Bhatia Hospital, "The increase in H3N2 cases is significant for a week, though it has been going on for a month. The contributing factors are fluctuating temperature which was unusually hot in February and rain in March. This causes the influenza virus to thrive more."



Out of 10 patients around six to seven of them have flu symptoms. This amounts to almost 60 per cent of the cases. In the past 2-3 weeks many pregnant women have been coming with flu symptoms, said Dr Subhash.

Talking about the precautionary measures, he added, "People who have the flu symptoms should wear a mask to avoid spreading it to others. People especially those who have autoimmune disorders, diabetes, heart problem, underlying lung problems especially asthmatic, COPD, chronic kidney disease and people undergoing chemotherapy, transplant patients, and pregnant women should wear masks. Elderly people and those with comorbid conditions should take the Influenza vaccination and keep their disease under control through regular checks with their physicians."

The data also revealed that 407 cases of H1N1 (swine flu) and three deaths were reported in the state this year till March 19. Interestingly, the National Centre for Communicable Disease (NCDC) data shows that Maharashtra reported 170 cases of H1N1 till February 28 and two deaths. The swine flu cases in Maharashtra increased in the month of March.



EDITOR'S SPECS

CO-INFECTION WITH 'SUPERBUG' SPIKES COVID VIRUS REPLICATION BY 15-FOLD

Researchers have identified a protein found in superbugs that enhances SARS-CoV-2 replication by 10- to 15-fold. Global data shows nearly 10 per cent of severe Covid-19 cases involve a secondary bacterial co-infection -- with Staphylococcus aureus, also known as staph A, being the most common organism responsible for co-existing infections with SARS-CoV-2. The study, published in the journal iScience, revealed that the addition of a "superbug" -- methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) -- into the mix could make the Covid-19 outcome even more deadly. While the mystery of how and why the combination of these two pathogens contributes to the severity of the disease remained unsolved, the researchers identified a protein -- IsdA -- found in all strains of staph A which boosts SARS-CoV-2 replication by 10- to 15-fold. The findings of this study are significant and could help inform the development of new therapeutic approaches for Covid-19 patients with bacterial co-infections. Interestingly, the study also showed that SARS-CoV-2 did not affect the bacteria's growth. This was contrary to what the researchers had initially expected. "We started with an assumption that SARS-CoV-2 and hospitalisation due to Covid-19 possibly caused patients to be more susceptible to bacterial infections which eventually resulted in worse outcomes," said Mariya Goncheva, Professor of biochemistry and microbiology at the University of Victoria. "Bacterial infections are one of the most significant complications of respiratory viral infections such as Covid-19 and Influenza A. Despite the use of antibiotics, 25 per cent of patients co-infected with SARS-CoV-2 and bacteria, die as a result. This is especially true for patients who are hospitalised, and even more so for those in intensive care units. We were interested in finding why this happens," said Goncheva, who conducted the study while at University of Western Ontario.

Efforts to Control Gun Culture in America

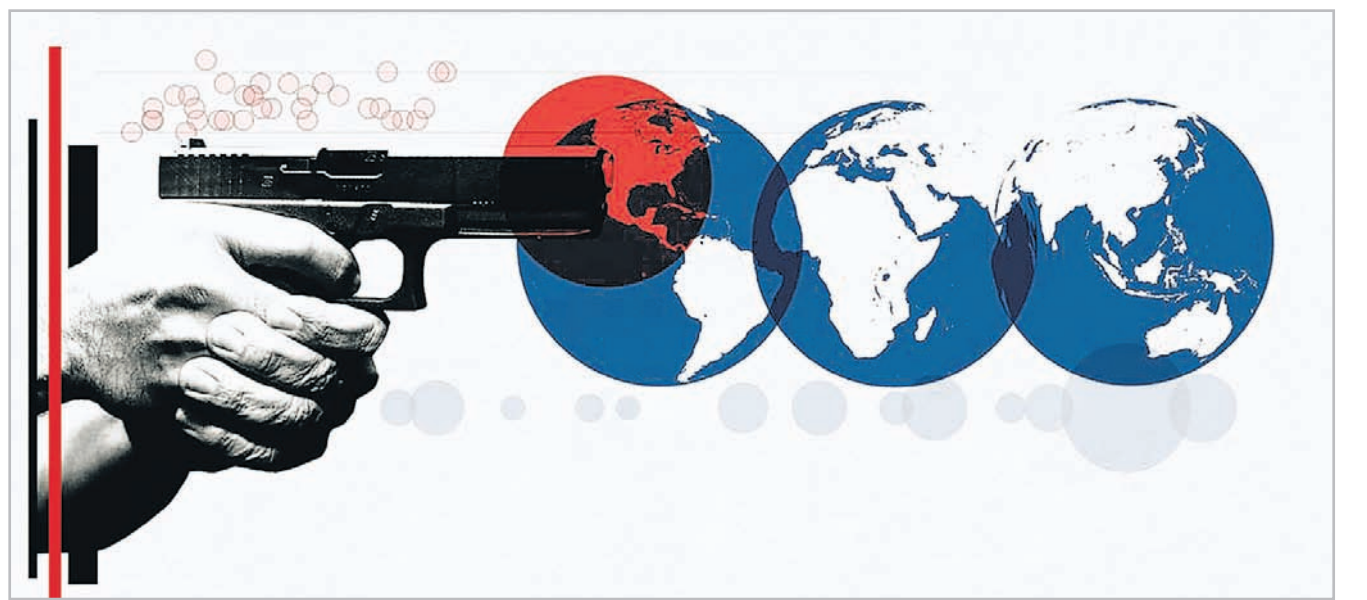
Lalit Garg

America, which speaks the language of violence, which supports violence, which brings a storm of weapons in the world, when it itself started becoming a victim of violence, then its time of self realization. The biggest difficulty of the modern civilization of America has been that violence has become so comfortable here that everything has been answered only in the language of violence. The environment of violence there has become so strong that the people there have become very insecure in their own homes due to the gun-culture there. After taking the brunt of the easy availability of guns for a long time, the people there have started opening a front against it at their level and President Joe Biden has been forced to sign an executive order related to curbing the misuse of weapons.

In June last year, a large number of people took to the streets demanding a change in the law related to the purchase and sale of guns. What is needed is that along with giving relief to the victims of this problem, strict laws should be brought on the buyers of guns as well as its manufacturers and sellers. Like in America, gun-culture flourishing in Punjab also needs to be controlled.

In America, such news kept coming every day that some madman started firing indiscriminately with his gun somewhere in the school or sometimes in the market and people were unnecessarily killed in it. One of the major reasons behind this is the easy availability of all kinds of guns to the common people there and the use of these guns for indiscriminate firing on trivial matters and hysterics, which continues to be a cause of deep concern. There is always a fear of some major untoward happening due to the whims of a crazy person in the life of the common people, their beliefs and loyalties have been so wounded that there is no protective shield like trust between man and man. It is difficult to say who hides such an ugly and insane mind within the clean faces. America's arms race and technological race is pushing the entire human race into a corner from which it has become difficult to return. Now, along with the world, America itself is a victim of these weapons and violent mentality.

The entire humanity is moaning and suffering because of the bad culture that America has spread in the world to establish supremacy over the world and to flourish its arms business. America has talked about the New World Order, it has talked about open-



ness, it seems that the "world man" is suffocating and wants to come out of the suffocation. See the irony that America is the most powerful and secure country in the world but its citizens are the most insecure and feared citizens. There are more prisoners in the jails there than in any other country in the world. There have been many such incidents that suddenly some madman started firing at a restaurant, hotel or gathering and a large number of people were killed. In 2014, guns were used in 68 per cent of the total 14,000 murder cases registered in the US. A study commissioned by the government itself revealed the fact that about 1300 children under the age of 17 are injured by guns in America every year. The US administration will have to curb not only the 'gun culture' but also the weapon culture, now it will have to change its mindset to make the world livable.

The United States has seen at close quarters the consequences of petty quarrels or unnecessary paranoia after carrying a deadly weapon, where it kills hundreds of people every year. Any sensitive society should see and understand this situation as a serious problem. It is not without reason that in America, where most families have had different types of guns; voices have started rising against this weapon culture. It was very important to raise this voice, according to the saying that sooner or later, America's eyes are open, and then a message of peace and non-violence will go to the world with America. Certainly, it was absolutely necessary to control this culture of violence in America.

Because America is today the biggest hub of crime in the world and today it is a victim of the culture of violence it spread in the world. It is obvious that the incidents of firing there have been taking the lives of hundreds of people, which were not incidents of Islamic terrorism, and then what was it? It is a question that exposes American civilization. Is this a product of America's materialistic and violent culture? Realizing the mental trauma and other difficulties of the victims, US President Joe Biden on Tuesday took a meaningful initiative towards curbing gun abuse. Under this, the 'background check' done during the sale of guns will be improved. Through this, Biden has directed the cabinet to create a better government system to support communities struggling with gun violence. It is not hidden that the kind of mental trauma and other difficulties that those who lose a loved one in unprovoked firing have to deal with.

The mentality of 'do what you want' thrives where the values of human relationships have ended, where children grow up independent in an individualistic system. In the situation of 'not in a good mood', an event is just an event, it neither gives happiness nor sorrow. In such a situation man dwarfs his infinite powers. This is a stereotypical way of expressing inner turmoil. Such people do not have a decent and non-violent way of living right. There is no recognition of time. In such people, there is no special concern for dignity, etiquette, intimacy of relations, peaceful co-existence

etc. Material comforts become the ultimate goal of life. Such isolation among American citizens is fueling deep frustration, intense resentment, and venomous vindictiveness. They become mentally ill and commit murder using dangerous and deadly guns available with them. Actually, the psychology associated with having a weapon in hand works behind firing a gun in a fit of rage on trivial matters.

Even so, much of the distortion and brutality in the nature of violence depends on the availability of weapons. Such incidents of murder usually happen because a man in a frenzy who could not control his anger or frustrations had a gun available when he was angry. Such cases are common, in which even after reaching the peak of anger and excitement in a mutual debate, two people or parties are reconciled, because they did not have weapons at the time of the dispute.

America is becoming a cultureless country - this nation is riding on physical development and weapon culture. The citizens there can keep as many arms as they want. In some places even a license for arms is not required. There are very few homes in America that do not have a gun or pistol. This weapon culture of America is connected with its birth. It has become prosperous on this weapon culture and has ruled the world. Today the same violent weapon culture is taking a heavy toll on its own.

international

RUSSIA OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION: PUTIN TELLS XI ON UKRAINE PEACE PLAN

Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the Kremlin, has said his country is "always open for a negotiation process". Putin made the remarks on Monday in response to China's "plan settle ongoing Ukraine crisis".

The plan aimed to "end the Russia-Ukraine war" was released by China in February. However, the US has warned it could be a "stalling tactic", the BBC reported.

"The world should not be fooled by any tactical move by Russia, supported by China or any other country, to freeze the war on its own terms," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was quoted as saying by the British broadcaster.

"Calling for a ceasefire that does not include the removal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory would effectively be supporting the ratification of Russian conquest," Blinken added.

Talks between the two leaders lasted



four and a half hours on Monday, according to Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. Further formal meetings are expected to follow on Tuesday. Xi, who called Putin his "dear friend," praised his Russian counterpart, saying the country's development had "signifi-

cantly improved", CNN reported. "Both sides exchanged in-depth views on the Ukraine issue," reported Xinhua news agency, describing the leaders' meeting as "in-depth and candid."

OMICRON SUBVARIANT XBB.1.5 ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 90% NEW COVID CASES IN US

Los Angeles: The highly transmissible Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 now accounts for over 90 per cent of new Covid-19 cases reported in the US, according to the latest estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

XBB.1.5 was estimated to account for 90.2 per cent of all Covid-19 cases in the country in the latest week ending March 18, Xinhua news agency reported.

It was up from 88.8 per cent a week before and 86.3 per cent two weeks prior, CDC data showed. The prevalence of XBB.1.5 has kept increasing since late 2022.

The second most prevalent strain BQ.1.1 only accounted for 3.5 per cent in the latest week.

The CDC first started tracking XBB.1.5 in November 2022, when it accounted for less than 1 per cent of cases nationwide. Since then, the strain is spreading quickly in the US.

While XBB.1.5 is spreading easier, scientists said it does not seem to cause more severe disease.

PTI leader, 9 others killed in attack on vehicle

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and nine others were killed when the vehicle they were travelling came under attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Abbottabad district, according to authorities.

Confirming the incident which took place on Monday, Abbottabad District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Tufail told Dawn news that a rival group had opened fire on the vehicle near Havelian's Langra village which caused the fuel tank to explode.

He said that the vehicle caught fire and was completely destroyed, adding that 10 people, including PTI leader Atif Munsif



Khan, died on the spot. The DPO told Dawn news that a heavy police contingent reached the spot and initiated a search operation for the perpetrators but an FIR was yet to be registered.

Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Mahmood Khan strongly condemned the "attack" on Atif and said such an assault on a political leader was "very tragic".

Low birth rates problematic for ageing EU population: Expert

Barcelona | Agencies

The average age of the European population has gone up by 2.5 years in the past decade, according to Eurostat data published recently.

In Spain, the average age has climbed by 4.3 years, the highest rise in the EU behind Portugal (4.7 years).

However, a Spanish expert told Xinhua news agency on Monday that although half of Europeans are now over 44.4 years old, the main concern is the lack of children being born.

"We are one of the places in the world where people live longest, and this fact that we die later makes the average age go up," said Albert Esteve, director of the Center for Demographic Studies (CED) in Barcelona.

Half the population in Spain is over 45 years old (46.2 for women), according to Eurostat, but the average age is highest in Italy (48 years), followed by



Germany (45.8), Portugal (46.8), Greece (46.1) and Croatia (45.5).

"Where we're starting to see the effects is in schools with fewer pupils, and in communities where much fewer children will be born, which means many of the major effects will be noted at the bottom rather than the top of the population pyramid," Esteve said. The low birth rates driving the rise in the average age of the European population are widespread, but particularly pronounced in Southern countries such as Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Biden okays bill to declassify intelligence info on Covid origins

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has signed a bill to declassify intelligence information on the origins of the Covid pandemic, which has so far claimed more than seven million lives globally.

"Today, I am pleased to sign into law, the 'Covid-19 Origin Act of 2023'," Biden said in a statement on Monday.

"We need to get to the bottom of Covid-19's origins to help ensure we can better prevent future pandemics. In implementing this legislation, my administration will declassify and share as much of that information as possible, consistent with my constitutional authority to protect against the disclosure of information that would harm national security," he said.

Under the new legislation, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines has 90 days to declassify all information on possible links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of Covid.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been a major centre of coronavirus



research, CNBC.com reported.

The push to make public classified information on the origins of the pandemic comes after the US Energy Department, last month, concluded with "low confidence" that the Covid-19 virus leaked out of a laboratory in China.

In 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also agreed to the lab leak claim with "moderate confidence".

Earlier this month, FBI director Christopher Wray told Fox News that the pandemic likely began with a lab inci-

dent in Wuhan, China.

"The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan," Wray was quoted as saying. "Here you are talking about a potential leak from a Chinese government-controlled lab."

In 2021, Biden had directed the Intelligence Community to use every tool at its disposal to investigate the origin of Covid-19 in 90 days.

In the report, the intel agencies concluded that the coronavirus had not been developed as a biological weapon, but could not determine if it had infected humans as a result of contact with animals or from a laboratory accident.

It added that, without new information, intelligence agencies would not be able to offer a better judgement on whether the virus emerged via animal-to-human transmission or a lab leak.

Biden in his statement said that the "work is ongoing".

"My administration will continue to review all classified information relating to Covid-19's origins, including potential links to the Wuhan Institute of Virology,"

he added.

More than two years after the pandemic, the origins of Covid-19 remain unclear.

It has been a political and scientific debate with scientists and politicians globally contending that the coronavirus jumped into people from bats, or have been leaked from a laboratory.

A recent analysis conducted by international scientists found the deadly pandemic may have originated in raccoon dogs from the Wuhan market in China. They found genetic material from raccoon dogs in samples from the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market that tested positive for Covid.

While the analysis didn't prove the raccoon dogs were infected with the virus, it provides some additional data that is consistent with a possible virus spillover from animals to people.

The study was based on samples from GISAID -- an international database, however, soon after the samples disappeared from that database.

The World Health Organization has called on Beijing to release those samples.



EXPERIENCE THE DIVINE AURA OF LORD RAM AT ORCHHA'S INTERNATIONAL RAM MAHOTASAV -23

- ▶ PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI SENT A GREETING MESSAGE
- ▶ THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF THE RAMAYANA TV SHOW WILL GATHER
- ▶ AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATION OF SPIRITUAL AND INFLUENTIAL FIGURES FROM APRIL 5 - 9 IS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF RAM.
- ▶ NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS WILL BE SEEN SINGING RAM STUTI WITH BUNDELI ARTISTS



Orchha gears up to host the International Ram Mahotasav -23 with grand celebrations and fanfare

held at Rudrani Kalagram and Research Institute in Orchha from April 5th to 9th. Many national and international artists, including dozens of Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh leaders and ministers, will participate in the program. As part of the ceremony, there will be a village-to-village tour of Ghumantu Cinema. In this, a film based on Ram Katha will be shown and efforts will be taken to spread the public welfare scheme of the state and the centre to the masses. In the cultural evening, the world-famous Ramleela will be staged. Whereas in the morning, Shri Ram Yajna and meditation will be

arranged. During this, competitions on Ram Bhajan, photography, painting, etc. will be organized. Apart from these, competitions on folk cuisine, folk instruments, folk songs, dance, etc. will also be organized. Actor Raja Bundela, the founder and director of the program, has also sent invitations to Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh. Many Union ministers and foreign artists, stage performers have also been invited to the festival. The latest updates related to the program can be seen on online media associate Troopel Bundelkhand channel.

In this regard, film actor Raja Bundela, Director of Rudrani Kalagram Sansthan and organizer of the event, said, "The International Ram Festival is just an attempt to take the ideal personality of Shri Ram connected with the consciousness of all of us to the masses. We are expecting a large number of Ram devotees to reach this event with their families. Everyone is cordially invited."

In Ram Mahotsav-23, the entire Ramleela will be performed by the school children and Gurukul children on April 9 under the leadership of Dr. Tandon, President of the International Ramleela Festival Committee. In the ceremony, international-level scholars, folk artists, social workers, and people's representatives from different districts of Bundelkhand will be present. Bhandara will be arranged daily for the visitors by the grace of Raja Ram.

The festival will be a special occasion to commemorate Ramcharit Manas. Along with this, a short film based on Rajapur, the birthplace of Goswami Tulsidas, will also be screened. One of the main attractions of this event will be the main characters of Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana.

Chief Minister announces relief for farmers for crop damage due to rain

Team Absolute | Vidisha

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today announced that farmers would be given a relief amount of Rs 32,000 a hectare for crops loss of over 50 percent due to hailstorm and untimely rains in the state.

CM Chouhan further said that the amount of crop insurance scheme would be given separately to the farmers. He also instructed the officials to include horticulture crops in the survey as well. The Chief Minister made the remark after talking to the farmers during his visit to take stock of the crops damaged due to hailstorm in Patwari Khedi, Ghurda Madi village of Vidisha district on Tuesday.

He said, "The farmer should not have to worry. I am the Chief Minister for worrying and I will take the farmer out of all kinds of trouble."

He added that the farmers should not worry, the survey of each affected farm would be done with humane approach and generosity so that full relief could be given to the farmers. The survey work was going on in the hailstorm-affected districts across the state.

The CM instructed the officers to survey the damage in a transparent manner. The survey list would be displayed at the Panchayat Bhawan and if there were any objections, it would also be resolved, he added.

CM Chouhan told the farmers that compensation amount of Rs 32,000 a hectare for the crop loss of over 50 percent, Rs 37,000 on the loss of cow-buffalo, Rs 4,000 on the loss of sheep and goat, Rs 2000 for calf-heifer and Rs



100 for the loss of each chicken-hen would be given. Assistance would also be given on damage to houses.

The farmer should not worry at all, the date of recovery of the loan of the victim farmers will be extended, the interest will also be paid by the government. Loans will be provided to farmers at zero percent interest for the next crop as well, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that the date for purchase on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) would also be extended. The daughter of such families would also get married under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana by providing an amount of Rs 56,000.

The team of Revenue, Agriculture and Panchayat department are surveying. It is the responsibility of the Collector and Commissioner to complete the proceedings on time so that the farmers can be given a quick relief amount, Chouhan added.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Preparations are at their peak for the 5-day International Ram Festival to be held in Orchha, the city of King Ram. Films based on Lord Ram, paintings, folk dances, yajna, Ramleela, etc., will be organized in this grand ceremony to be

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FEDERATION ALONG WITH CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTED SAPPLINGS



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with the delegation of International Shooting Sports Federation planted saplings. Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of mango, amla, gulmohar, gular, jamun and kadamba in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Finance Minister Jagdish Deora and Sports and Youth

Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia were also with him. Chief Minister Chouhan along with International Shooting Sports Federation President Luciano Rossi, President of National Rifle Association of India Raninder Singh, General Secretary of National Rifle Association of India K.K. Sultan Singh and Chief Coach Manjher Singh also planted saplings.

Home Minister slams Cong over 'no confidence' motion against Assembly Speaker

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Tuesday lashed out at Congress over a 'no confidence' motion against Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam.

Even after the Speaker agreed to allow discussion on 'no confidence' motion brought by the Congress, Mishra, who is also parliamentary affairs minister of the state assembly, opposed the decision arguing that "if it will set up a wrong precedence."

The Congress had brought 'no confidence' motion against Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam for his decision to suspend former minister and Congress MLA Jitu Patwari from the House for entire budget session for allegedly sharing false information.

Accusing the Speaker of being 'biased' and 'acting at behest of



the ruling BJP', the Congress had then brought a 'no confidence' motion against him in the first week of this month.

On Tuesday, the opposition asked the Speaker to allow for discussion over 'no confidence'

motion against him. Speaker Girish Gautam agreed with the Congress legislatures demand and fixed the March 27 for discussion on the matter.

However, Narottam Mishra opposed the decision saying -

"No confidence motion can not be brought against the Speaker."

"If the opposition has any doubt on Speaker's role, they should bring a 'sankalp patra' resolution letter. If today this no confidence motion was accepted, it would set up a wrong precedence in history of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. It has never happened before it, but the Congress wants to set a wrong precedent, which is totally unacceptable," Mishra argued. Mishra further said he has been asserting the same things since the day 'no confidence' against the Assembly Speaker was brought in the House, however, the Congress was in 'sleeping mode' and now 'when just one day is left for the budget session, they (Congress leaders) have got up.' Meanwhile, he also alleged that the Congress legislatures did not support their leader in the House.

IN LAST 12 YRS, 190 COPS BOOKED IN RAPE CASES

Bhopal: At least 190 police personnel in Madhya Pradesh were facing charges of rape, state home minister Narottam Mishra told the House on Tuesday.

The minister informed that most rape charges were reported in Gwalior-Chambal region.

Mishra further told the House that Gwalior district was on top of the list as at least 64 police personnel were booked for alleged rape charges, while 28 cops were facing alleged rape charges in Morena district.

In state capital Bhopal, as many as 15 cops were booked on rape charges and six in Jabalpur district. The minister also clarified that these cases were reported in the last 12 years, and in many cases, cops were acquitted as the charges imposed against them were found fake.

ELECTRICAL COMPLAINTS WILL BE RESOLVED IN SEHORE ON MARCH 24

Bhopal: The public hearing of the Electricity Consumers Grievance Redressal Forum will be held on March 24 by the Central Region Power Distribution Company in the Sehore circle of the company's work area for quick redressal of the complaints related to electricity of electricity consumers. The public hearing will be held at Sehore Circle Office, Dussehra Wala Bagh, Indore Naka near Mantri Petrol Pump from 11 am to 1:30 pm. The company has appealed to the electricity consumers that through this public hearing, the electricity consumers should make sure to register themselves in the circle office Sehore before 11 am to get their complaints resolved.

Lawyers to protest on Mar 25 against CJ's order to dispose of cases pending for yrs

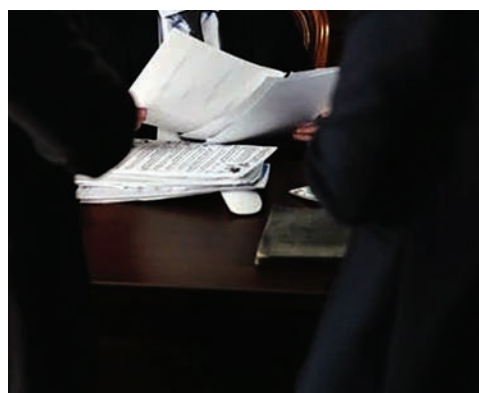
Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Lawyers practising in all district courts of Madhya Pradesh will stage a protest in Bhopal on March 25 demanding to withdraw the High Court order that mandatorily asks judges to dispose of at least 25 pending cases (cases that were pending for years), in three months, senior advocate and president of district bar association, Bhopal, P.C Kothari informed.

It came to light on Monday that a judge in Bhopal district court stepped out of the courtroom to ensure that the order issued by his court in connection with a case should be implemented without any delay.

The judge was forced to step out because a group of lawyers were stopping their other colleagues to abstain from work. However, protesting lawyers left the place soon after the judge came out of his courtroom and asked them - 'not to do it in his court'. Meanwhile, the judge was also heard saying that - 'comply with his order'.

Such things started happening (particularly in Bhopal district court) from February 22 as the lawyers have been protesting against the order



issued by the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court mandating judges to dispose of at least 25 pending cases (cases that were pending for years), in three months.

While talking to reporter, P.C Kothari claimed mandating for disposal of year-old pending cases has affected their clients a lot and therefore were protesting against this order since February 22. "This an administrative order issued by the reg-

istrar of MP HC on the direction of the Chief Justice. If it was an executive order, we could have appealed before the Supreme Court. Since this order was issued, we have made several appeals to HC to take its decision back. Now, we are left with no option but to abstain from work and not attend hearings in the courts. We have decided to hold a major protest in Bhopal on March 25, wherein advocates practising in all district courts of Madhya Pradesh will join us."

On the other hand, some court employees in Bhopal claimed the step taken by Chief Justice R.V. Malimath needs to be welcomed as it helps to reduce the burden of pending cases.

"It is an experimental step taken by Chief Justice R.V. Malimath. The same step was taken by Justice Malimath when he was serving as acting Chief Justice in Himachal Pradesh and the results were positive. Therefore, lawyers should work to reduce the burden of the courts. Suppose, if 1000 cases are pending before one particular court and 350 of them are disposed of in three months, then why not work on it," a court employee who supports the move said on the condition of anonymity.

Text material of different languages will be included in the new education policy: Higher Education Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav participated as chief guest in the cultural evening and state level award ceremony organized by Madhya Pradesh Sindhi Sahitya Akademi, Culture Department in Ujjain on Sunday evening in collaboration with Sindhu Jagrut Samaj Ujjain on Chetichand. He also awarded the talents selected by Sindhi Sahitya Akademi for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the field of writing, singing and dramatic acting.

Minister Dr. Yadav said that the suggestions received regarding the preparation of study material on the personalities of Sindhi society who contributed in the freedom struggle and in the spiritual

field will be implemented. Mother languages are being given importance in the new education policy. The textual material related to Sindhi language will also be given place in the policy. Dr. Yadav said that Sindhi is also included in the Indian languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, the state government will take necessary decisions on the suggestions received in this regard.

Initially, Higher Education Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp on the statue of Lord Jhulelal. Senior officials and citizens of Ujjain Sindhi Samaj were present in large numbers. M.P. Mr. Rajesh Wadhvani, Director, Sindhi Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests.

1-year-old leopard falls into well in village in Dhar, rescued

Team Absolute | Dhar

A one-year-old leopard fell into a well situated at the agricultural field in Basai village of Manawar tehsil under Dhar district on Tuesday. On being informed, forest officials rescued the leopard from a well. A farmer named Phool Singh heard a sound coming from a well. After checking the well, he found that a leopard was inside the well. He immediately informed other villagers.



the well with the help of a cage.

Patel said that a 1-year-old male leopard was rescued from a well. The health condition is being checked. It will be shifted into its forest

habitat at Manpur forest, after the checkup.

It might be possible that the big cat slipped into the well while searching for prey during the night hours, Patel added.

Kailash Vijayvargiya extends support to Dhirendra Shastri's 'Hindu-Rashtra' statement

Team Absolute | Indore

BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya supported 'Hindu-Rashtra' remarks of Bageshwar Dham's Dhirendra Shastri on Tuesday. He said that "Religion was the basis of India-Pakistan partition in 1947. Since partition, India has been a Hindu nation." Earlier in January too, Vijayvargiya extended his support to Shastri after a Nagpur-based anti-superstition organisation challenged his so-called 'miraculous power'.

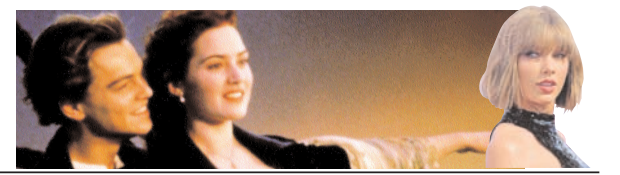
Vijayvargiya had said no one questions when people suffering from medical problems roll at Ratlam's Hussain Tekri in a belief that doing so will speed up their recovery. Then why dhams is being questioned, he



added. "I think this is happening because of people's mistrust towards Sanatana Dharma."

Notably, on Monday Dhirendra Shastri performed Bhoomi Pujan of Baba Bageshwar temple in Thane, Maharashtra.

On March 18-19, Shastri held a religious event at Mumbai's Mira Road where he raised the demand for a Hindu nation. Shastri claimed that India will definitely become a "Hindu nation" soon. On Shastri's 'Hindu-Rashtra' demand, senior Congress leader and former MP CM Digvijaya Singh also said that "Our Indian Constitution does not have any provisions for Hindu-Rashtra. It seems Shastri does not follow our Constitution."



'She's after an olympic medal now!'

TAYLOR LEAVES FANS IN AWE AS SHE DIVES INTO THE STAGE AND 'SWIMS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

I wasn't just Taylor Swift's lengthy 44-song set that had fans talking, as the star certainly brought the theatrics to the show. The Anti-Hero singer, 33, takes a pool-like dive head-first off of the stage during one performance, exiting through a gap in the floor. Disappearing in the most extravagant way, Taylor left fans in the audience in awe as they watched the stunt unfold - with many taking to social media to share their shock.

One fan even joked that the multi award-winning star was now hoping for an 'olympic medal' as she tweeted about the moment. Donning a flowing dress, the country-turned-pop star can be seen

walking towards a rectangular gap that opened up in the stage. She then raises her hands in the air and gets into a proper diving form, before making the structured jump through the stage.

As she makes the dive, a splash sound effect comes over the stadium while a graphic of her swimming underneath the stage then projects onto the ground, before she reappears back to sing songs from her *Midnights* album.

Taking to Twitter to debrief the unexpected moment, one shocked fan wrote: 'EXCUSE ME TAYLOR SWIFT JUST DID A DIVE HEAD FIRST INTO THE STAGE WHAT'.

While another joked: 'Aside from being a 12-time Grammy winner, a doctor, a director, one of

the most acclaimed songwriters of the music industry, and having a record breaking career in the arts, Taylor Swift is now searching for that swimming Olympic medal, look at that dive!'. 'The dive was the craziest thing I've ever seen, I was so caught off guard LMAO,' shared another.

Taylor's much-anticipated tour hasn't yet released the international dates, but will wrap up the US on August 9 in Los Angeles. She's certainly making it worth fans' while too as she has been performing a whopping 44 songs during each night, resulting to over three hours of singing.

AFTER FILM TANKS, 'SHAZAM 2' DIRECTOR SAYS HE'S 'DONE WITH SUPERHEROES FOR NOW'

Los Angeles | Agencies

After a slow opening weekend, 'Shazam: Fury of the Gods' director David F. Sandberg tweeted a thread about his experience making the film and his future projects.

"On Rotten Tomatoes I just got my lowest critic score and my highest audience score on the same film I wasn't expecting a repeat of the first movie critically but I was still a little surprised because I think it's a good film," he wrote, reported Variety.

"Oh well. As I've been saying for a while now I'm very eager to go back to horror (as well as trying some new things). After six years of Shazam I'm definitely done with superheroes for now."

"Just to be clear, I don't regret even for a second making the

Shazam movies," he continued.

"I've learned so much and gotten to work with some truly amazing people. Will forever be grateful that I got to direct two of these! They've been very challenging but valuable experiences. One thing I've really been looking forward to is disconnecting from the superhero discourse online. A lot of that stresses me out so much and it will be nice not having to think about that anymore."

The 'Shazam' sequel made a lower-than-estimated \$30.5 million during its opening weekend. Given that the film cost \$110 million to make and another \$100 million to market, it seems unlikely to be a win for Warner Bros. and DC Comics.

Before directing 2019's 'Shazam', Sandberg helmed two well-received horror hits: 2016's 'Lights Out' and 2017's 'Annabelle: Creation'.



Gwyneth Paltrow to appear in court after alleged hit and run ski crash

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who is known for her work in the 'Iron Man' franchise, 'The Avengers', 'Contagion' and 'Spider-Man: Homecoming', is set to appear in a US court after "hit and run" ski crash allegations. The actress has been accused of seriously injuring a man in a crash at a ski resort in 2016, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The mother of two is being sued by retired optometrist Terry Sanderson, who alleged that Paltrow skied "out of control" and hit him at Deer Valley Resort in Park City, in Utah. Sanderson claimed that Paltrow collided with him "knocking him down hard, knocking him out, and caus-

ing a brain injury, four broken ribs and other serious injuries".

Proceedings are scheduled to last eight days, with opening statements in the jury trial due on Tuesday.

'Mirror.co.uk' states that Sanderson is seeking damages of \$300,000, having had his previous claim for \$3.1 million dropped.

The original claim, filed in 2019 stated, "This case involves a hit-and-run ski crash at Deer Valley, Utah, where defendant Gwyneth Paltrow skied out of control and hit the back of Terry Sanderson, another skier, who was downhill, knocking him down hard, knocking him out, and causing a brain injury, four broken ribs and other serious injuries".

Los Angeles | Agencies

Priyanka Chopra's former-stylist Law Roach said that he has nothing to do with the Indian actress' body-shaming incident.

More than a week after the 'Baywatch' actress publicly claimed that someone told her she "wasn't sample-sized," the 'Legendary' judge made it clear that he has nothing to do with the hurtful remarks, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In an interview with The Cut published on Friday, March 17, the celebrity stylist was asked about how he felt reading the actress' story.

In response, he clarified: "It was a little bit hurtful in a way that it ended up in the press, you know? Because that wasn't the real conversation. I've never had that conversation with her, ever."

Law, who styled Priyanka for her appearance at the SXSW Film Festival panel, went on to share his thoughts on whom to blame.

"So again, it is her gatekeepers, how they presented what I said to her to make her feel that way," he pointed out.

"And if that made her feel bad, that wasn't - it was taken out of context."

"But I'm sure it was taken outta context to get her to be like, 'Oh, okay, I'm not working with him no more. He's insensitive to my body,'" the longtime stylist of Zendaya Coleman continued.

"Which I'm like, 'How is that possible? I've been dressing you for literally pre-pandemic, and it's been nothing but great things.'" Law further shared his candid thoughts on



Priyanka's agents.

"I think sometimes what it is with them is that they have an agenda and I need to be the bad guy because I'm the one who's dealing with the clothes and the body," he stated. "Like, I need to be the one who says, you know, and I'm not talking about her."

"I'm just talking about in general, like, I need to be the one to say, 'Oh, you know, be careful because, you know, the pictures aren't as beautiful because you coming across, you know, a little thicker than you used to be,'" Law went on elaborating.

Despite what happened, the former "America's Next Top Model" judge had no hard feelings towards Priyanka. "But I was really surprised that - I love Priyanka. When you are around her, there are only so many women in this industry that have that thing," he declared.

ZENDAYA

HAS TOM HOLLAND'S INITIALS ENGRAVED ON HER GOLD RING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Zendaya Coleman appears to give a nod to her boyfriend Tom Holland with one of her accessories, a gold ring.

In footage posted by manicurist Marina Dobric, the 26-year-old singer-actress shows off her freshly painted pale pink nails. However, what gains the most attention is the bauble on her middle finger, reports aceshowbiz.com.

She wears a gold signet adorned with the initials of her boyfriend Tom in an elegant cursive font. Although the script initials appear to be "TH" for the 'Uncharted' star's name, some social media users argued it looks like "ZH", a combination of her first and his last initial.

Zendaya appears to have been wearing the ring for some time now as the same gold band can be seen in another video shared by Marina two days ago. In it, the actress sports navy blue nails.

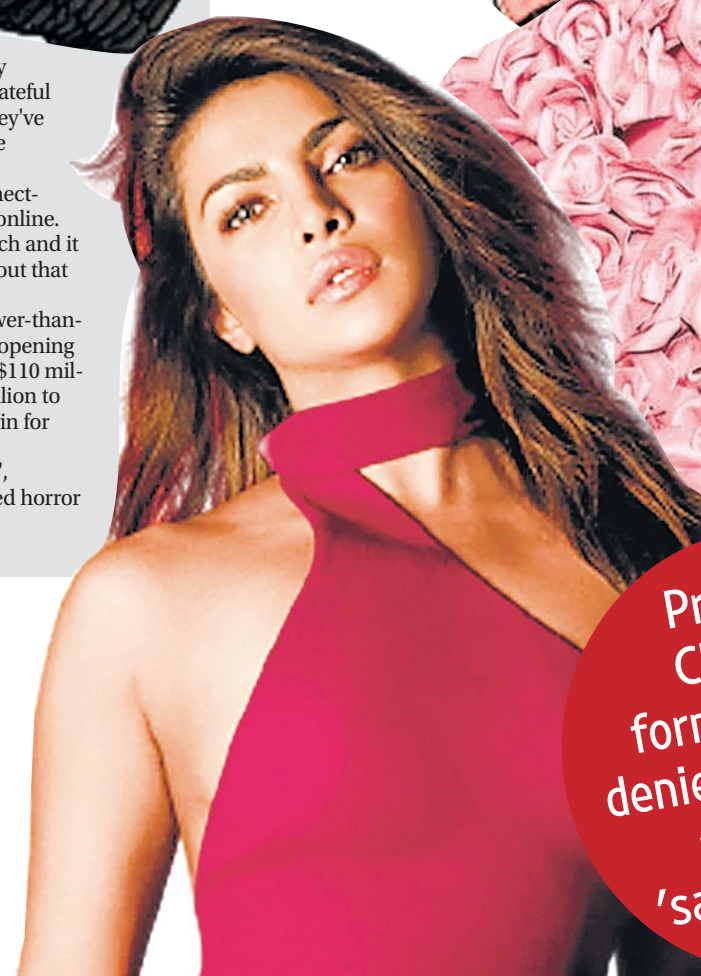
Upon seeing Zendaya's nod to Tom, fans of the couple are excited. "Omg they're definitely getting married," tweeted one fan.

Another joked, "Damn, it's really over. Zendaya and I are not gonna happen." "They are too cute," a third chimed in.

Zendaya and Tom have been working together as co-stars since 2017's 'Spider-Man: Homecoming'.

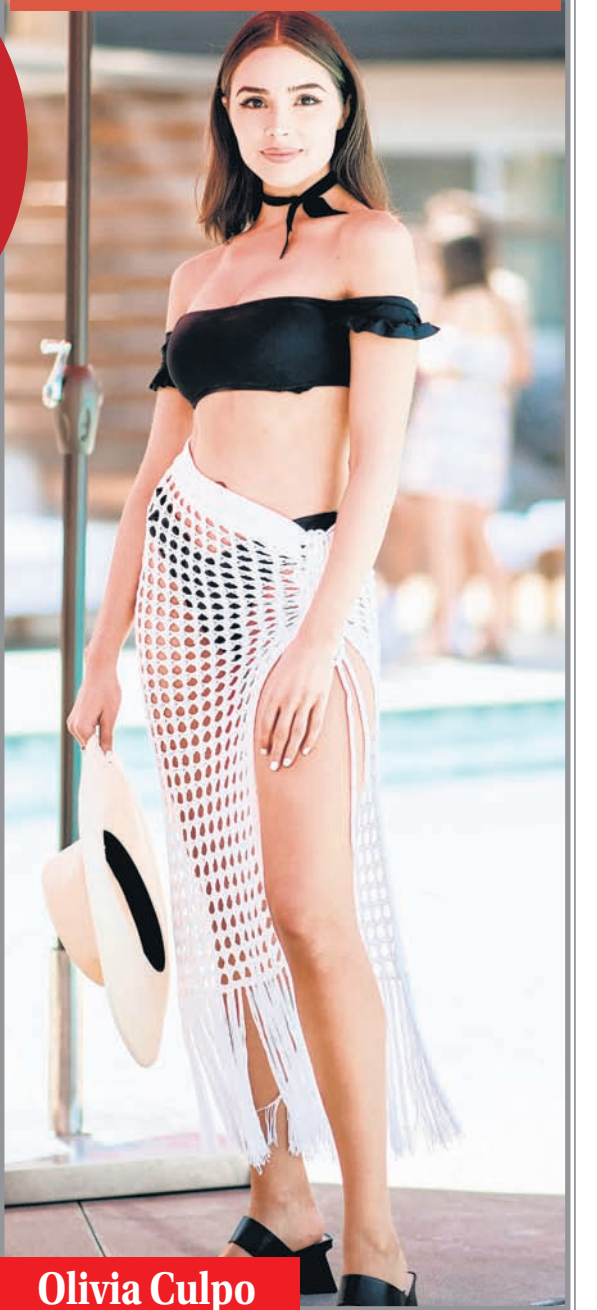
However, their romantic relationship was only confirmed in November 2021, when they were spotted kissing in a car.

Most recently, the two were spotted grocery shopping during their visit to his hometown in the UK. 'The Greatest Showman' actress was seen helping her beau navigate a shopping cart of food as he pushed the cart.



Priyanka Chopra's former stylist denies telling her she's not 'sample-sized'

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Olivia Culpo



WPL 2023: CAPSEY'S ALL-ROUND SHOW HELPS DELHI CAPITALS BEAT UP WARRIORZ, REACH FINAL

Navi Mumbai | Agencies

Brilliant all-rounder performance by Alice Capsey helped Delhi Capitals beat UP Warriorz by five wickets with 13 balls to spare as they topped the table on net run rate over Mumbai Indians and powered their way into the final in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 here on Tuesday.

Capsey claimed 3-26 off her four overs as Delhi Capitals restricted UP Warriorz to 138/6 in their 20 overs -- a blazing 32-ball 58 not out from Tahlia McGrath taking UP to where they eventually finished. Capsey came back to contribute with the bat too as she scored 34 off 31 balls after skipper Meg Lanning (39) and Shafali Verma (21) had raised 56 runs for the first wicket in the Power-play.

Delhi suffered a slight wobble as they lost Shafali, Jemimah Rodrigues (3) and Lanning in quick succession as they slumped to 70/3. Capsey and Marizanne Kapp (34 not out) raised 60 runs for the fourth wicket partnership that put them firmly on road to victory.

Kapp struck a four as Delhi Capitals reached 142/5 in 17.5 overs and thus took



their points tally to 12 points from six wins from eight matches. They tied with Mumbai Indians but finished ahead because of a better net run rate of +1.856 as compared to the +1.771 of Mumbai. Mumbai had to win the match in 11 overs but could not. Delhi thus finished on top of the table and secured a place in the final and now await the winner of the Eliminator to be played between Mumbai Indians and UP Warriorz to be played on March 24.

Earlier, Tahlia McGrath struck a 32-ball 58 as UP Warriorz posted 138/6 after Delhi Capitals won the toss and elected to field. McGrath struck eight

boundaries and two sixes during her 32-ball knock that helped UP set up a decent total as their middle-order batters failed to fire.

Both UP Warriors and Delhi Capitals along with Mumbai Indians have made it to the playoffs and Tuesday's last two matches in the first round will decide the final positions in the table.

UP started off well in that pursuit as openers Alyssa Healy and Shweta Sehrawat raised 30 runs before the latter was out, caught by Jess Jonassen off Radha Yadav as she attempted a big heave by got beaten by the turn and ended up producing an easy skier.

Healy, who started by hitting Marizanne Kapp for a four off the first delivery, also despatched a knee-high full toss from Radha Yadav to the boundary and also struck the spinner for a brilliant six in the eighth over, muscling away a full delivery that landed wide.

Brief scores

UP Warriorz 138/6 in 20 overs (Tahlia McGrath 58 not out, Alyssa Healy 36; Alice Capsey 3-26, Radha Yadav 2-28) lost to Delhi Capitals 142/5 in 17.5 overs (Meg Lanning 39, Marizanne Kapp 34 not out, Alice Capsey 34; Shabnim Ismail 2-29) by five wickets.

Women's World Boxing C'ships

Nikhat, Nitu Ghanghas and Manisha enter quarters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen, Nitu Ghanghas and Manisha Moun continued with their dazzling show at the Mahindra IBA Women's World Boxing Championships as they progressed into the quarterfinals with dominating victories here on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, it was heartbreak for Shashi Chopra (63kg) who gave it her all but went down fighting 0-4 to Japan's Mai Kito.

Nikhat, the defending champion, out-punched Mexican pugilist Fatima Herrera comfortably and won by unanimous decision in the 50kg pre-quarterfinals bout at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here.

The Indian pugilist was in aggressive mode from the word go and made an impressive start, exhibiting quick movement. Herrera tried her best to shift the momentum in her favour but Nikhat's relentless attacks were too strong.

Nikhat will be up against the Thai boxer Chuthamat Rakshat in the quarterfinals. Nikhat's win came after Nitu (48kg) and Manisha provided the hosts with a perfect start as they recorded commanding Referee Stops Contest (RSC) wins in their respective matches.

While the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion Nitu made a cautious start but took less than six minutes to force the referees to end the bout with Tajikistan's Sumaiya Qosimova,



Manisha and Turkey's Nur Turhan exchanged heavy punches during an intense 57kg match.

However, Manisha, who won bronze in the last edition, quickly shifted gears to take the charge before completing a convincing victory in the end. She will next take on French pugilist Amina Zidani in the quarterfinals whereas Nitu will face Madoka Wada of Japan.

Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Sakshi Choudhary (52kg), Nupur Sheoran (+81kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) are the other Indian boxers who have already secured their places in the quarter-finals.

The quarterfinals will be played on Wednesday at the prestigious event, which is witnessing the participation of

324 boxers, including several Olympic medallists, from 65 countries fighting for the titles in the 12 weight categories.

Two more Indian pugilists-Jaismine (60kg) and Manju Bamboriya (66kg) will also be seen in action in the pre-quarterfinals later tonight.

In a major upset of the day, Venezuela's Omailyn Alcalá stunned the former world champion and Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Nesthy Petecio of the Philippines with a thrilling 4-3 victory in the hard-fought 57kg contest.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Irma Testa (57kg), on the other hand, had an easy outing as she continued her winning momentum with a comfortable 5-0 victory against Vietnam's Hao Nguyen Thi in the 57kg Last-16 match.

Jr Women's Zonal Hockey C'ships

HOCKEY MADHYA PRADESH WIN IN WEST ZONE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Skipper Bhumiksha Sahu struck four goals as Hockey Madhya Pradesh thrashed Chhattisgarh Hockey 11-0 on Day 3 of the 1st Hockey India Junior Women Zonal Championships 2023, which witnessed one match in West Zone.

The West Zone Championship in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Chhattisgarh Hockey in a Pool A match.

Madhya Pradesh's captain Bhumiksha Sahu led the team with four goals (3', 7', 27', 50') while Khushi Kataria (2', 32', 49') scored a hat-trick. Swati (6', 41') struck a brace while Soniya Kumre (15') and Priyanka Yadav (35') scored one goal each to help their team to an 11-0 win. Hockey Madhya Pradesh's Khushi Kataria was named 'Player of the Match' for her brilliant performance. The win helped



Hockey Madhya Pradesh consolidate their position at top of the Pool Standings. Hockey Madhya Pradesh have won both their matches so far and six points in their kitty.

Tuesday was a rest day for North, South, and East Zone competitions of the 1st Hockey India Junior Women Zonal Championships. Matches will resume in the aforementioned Zones will once again on Wednesday.

INDIA BEGIN SAFF U-17 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP WITH EMPHATIC VICTORY OVER NEPAL

Dhaka | Agencies

India's U-17 team laid down the marker with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Nepal in the opening game of the 2023 SAFF U-17 Women's Championship campaign at the BSSS Mostafa Kamal Stadium, here.

The stadium had served up forgettable memories for the India U-20 team, against the same opposition earlier in the year as they suffered a defeat and if there were any fears that this would prove to be a tricky tie, they were banished almost immediately. Within forty seconds of the start India had already launched up an attempt on goal, and after 20 minutes had already put the ball in the net thrice - albeit twice they were ruled out for offside.

PV Priya's wards were aware of the threat Nepal possessed, and never let their foot off the pedal, constantly pressing high and hassling the Nepal midfield off the ball. In the 10th minute, Shilji Shaji got the breakthrough, running on to goalkeeper Khushi's long cleared ball past a napping Nepal



defence and slotting it into the far corner. It was the simplest of plays executed perfectly.

Pooja and Sibani playing on either side of Shilji - and switching flanks periodically - were a constant thorn in the flesh for the Nepal full backs, and the former had two goals chalked off for offside in the

opening half hour of the game. Her pace and ability to drop precise crosses never allowed the rivals to settle. Just when it seemed that Nepal would escape the half without conceding more, India hit them with a double blow. First Shilji scored in the 40th minute, her second goal a carbon copy of the first, the only change in the provider of the long ball - Khushi replaced by Thoibisana. And then, barely a minute later, Pooja had made it three, Shilji this time the provider for the winger to tap in. Nepal went into the break not knowing what had hit them.

India's ability to affect the important periods of the game and keep Nepal at an arm's distance was essentially the difference between the two sides. Every time Nepal looked threatening, India would wrest back control. Barsha Oli scored off a well taken volley in the 54th minute to reduce the deficit, but rarely did India look like losing the plot. Shilji rounded off a brilliant performance with a well taken third, robbing the Nepal midfield from a throw-in and then running through on her own to finish. It was the icing on a brilliant performance.

Chennai Turbos beat Jaipur Giants to win finals at Pre-Season of Elite Pro Basketball League

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chennai Turbos piped Jaipur Giants to win the finals at the Pre-Season of Elite Pro Basketball League. The match was a great final and both teams gave everything they had. The final score read 100 - 82 in favour of Chennai Turbos.

According to information received here, the winners Chennai Turbos received a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and Jaipur Giants received Rs 2 lakh as they finished runners-up. Aravind Annadurai from Chennai Turbos won the MVP and received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. Agu Stanley of Chandigarh Conquerors won the dunk competition and Mandeep Singh of Hyderabad Hoops won the 3 point shootout.

Chennai Turbos started as a favourites as they took a quick lead



in the first quarter of 25 points and maintained their lead throughout the match. The Chennai Turbos

have been undefeated in the tournament. The Chennai Turbos dominated not only the scoring but also

the rebounds, assists and blocks. Chennai Turbos never lost the lead to Jaipur Giants from the first whistle to the last. They led Jaipur Giants as much as 32 points in the 3rd quarter.

Arvind Annadurai who is their star player finished the game with 31 points and 14 rebounds. He has been their pillar throughout the Pre Season and stepped up again in the finals. He also received all-round support from his teammates with Anto scoring 19, Vijay scoring 16 and Lokesh scoring 14.

Joginder Singh of Jaipur Giants top scored with 44 points but none of their shooters managed to up their game in the crucial game with only Mahipal Singh and Satyajeet managing to reach 11 points.

The finals was also followed by a performance by Rapper Karma who set the stage on fire.

SKY needs to be sharper in first couple of balls: Aaron Finch

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav needs to be more attentive in the first few balls of his innings, said former captain Aaron Finch while analysing his two dismissals in the ongoing ODI series against Australia.

SKY has had a tough time against Australia in the ODI series. He was dismissed twice by seamer Mitchell Starc in the first ball of his innings, resulting in two golden ducks in two matches.

"Suryakumar got two beauties from Mitchell Starc. But he knows where he would have been bowling, he's got to be sharper than that in the first couple of balls," Finch told Star Sports.

Finch further said that India opener Shubman Gill will be disappointed in himself that he was not able to translate his brilliant form in the ongoing ODI series.

"I think Shubman Gill played a couple of loose shots, which would disappoint him especially after being in such good form. He was caught at backward point to not great deliveries. If you get knocked over as an open-



ing batter by a genuine delivery, you can accept that. But when you get out when you are in such good form, you get so disappointed," said the T20 World Cup-winning captain. Team India will be playing their final ODI match against Australia in Chennai on Wednesday.

Gaurika, Rhea share lead after first round in seventh leg of WPGT

Gurugram | Agencies

Gaurika Bishnoi, looking for back-to-back wins and Rhea Jha, looking for a maiden win on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, were tied for the lead after the first round of the seventh leg of the 2023 season at the DLF Golf & Country Club here on Tuesday.

Gaurika, 24, and Rhea, 20, shot 1-under 71 each and were the only ones to shoot under par for the day. The experienced Vani Kapoor, playing on her home course, carded even par 72.

Ridhima Dilawari, coming back after a fruitful season on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South Africa, and amateur Vidhatri Urs, who is part of



the Indian national amateur team, were tied for fourth place with 73 each, while Tvesa Malik and Amandeep Drall, both of whom have a lot of experience and wins on the Hero WPGT, were tied for sixth place with rounds of 74 each. The challenging Gary Player-design layout saw every player in the Top 10 barring amateur Vidhatri, drop at least one double bogey or worse in the round. Vidhatri had three birdies and four

bogeys. Rhea, who plays most of her golf in Gurugram and trains under Deepinder Khullar at the DLF Golf and Country Club, seemed at home as she carded two birdies in the first four holes. A double bogey on the demanding ninth hole meant she was back to even par. On the back nine, she birdied 10th and 13th but dropped a shot on 12th for a day's work of 71. Gaurika opened with two birdie but then slipped with a bogey on the par-4 sixth and a double bogey on the par-5 eighth. She turned in one-over 37. On the back nine, she displayed good form again with three birdies - on the 11th, 12th and 15th, but a late bogey on Par-4 17th saw her end the day at 71.

Yuwan Nandal wins at 38th Premier Sarawak Cup Tennis tournament

Mohali | Agencies

RoundGlass Tennis Academy (RGTA) athlete Yuwan Nandal has clinched the boys singles title at the 38th Premier Sarawak Cup (Grade 1) in Malaysia.

The tournament was held from March 13-19 and featured some of the best junior players from around the world.

Yuwan Nandal, a promising star of Indian tennis, defeated third seeded Aryan Shah 6-3, 6-4 in straight sets in the final to lift the trophy. On his road to the final, he defeated Korean Donghyun Hwang, Japan's Reiya Hattori, Australia's Charlie Camus and Pavle Marinkov.

With this win, Yuwan has added another prestigious title to his growing list of accomplishments.

Renowned coach and Technical Director of RoundGlass Tennis Academy, Aditya Sachdeva and team have been training Yuwan at the Academy and have helped him hone his skills and improve his game.

Speaking about his win coach Sachdeva said, "Everyone at the RoundGlass Tennis Academy is very happy with Yuwan's triumph and this victory comes in sync with our vision of Long-Term Athlete Development wherein we emphasize the importance of nurturing the young players for the ATP tour. At RGTA, we prioritize the holistic growth of our athletes, both on and off the court. Our guiding principle is to consider the psychological well-being and happiness of the athletes as integral to our plans, alongside their performance on the court."





I WON'T BE DANCING TO 'SAAMI SAAMI' ANYMORE:

RASHMIKA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has said that she will not be dancing to the popular number 'Saami Saami' from 'Pushpa: The Rise' anymore.

Rashmika interacted with her fans in a question and answer session.

When a fan told her that he wants to groove with her to her famous Saami Saami song, Rashmika said she's danced too many times to the song.

She wrote back: "I've done saami saami step toooooo many times.. That now I feel like I'll have issues with my back when I get older.. why you do this to me re.. ?? let's do something else when we meet."

She was also asked if she would be working with Thalapaty Vijay, to which Rashmika replied that she is manifesting that.

One even asked her if she likes Malayalam cinema, to which Rashmika replied: "Are you kidding.. loveeeee Malayalam cinema.. Malayalam films are just so pure and people are fullllll love."

The actress also told a fan, who enquired about her performing Lavani at an award event, that she will speak Marathi "little little".

"It was surreal. Learnt some new Marathi phrases well.. soon I'll manage to speak like little little.. ?? hopefully!" Rashmika said. Rashmika is now looking forward to the release of 'Pushpa: The rule' starring Allu Arjun.



Virat was nervous, made unamusing joke during first meeting with Anushka

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It's been over five years that Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma tied the nuptial knot with Indian cricketer Virat Kohli. But, their fans have always been curious over how the love took its course and most importantly how the two met given that they come from different sectors and industries.

Recently, Virat shed light on his first interaction with his wife in a casual chat with his former Royal Challengers Bangalore team-mate and close friend AB de Villiers on his 'The 360 Show'.

Kohli revealed that he was nervous meeting Anushka for the first time and was shaking ahead of an advertisement shoot.

Kohli said on the podcast, "I remember this was 2013, I was just named captain for the Zimbabwe tour. My manager came to me and told me that I was going to shoot with Anushka Sharma. As soon as I heard this, I was so nervous. Like how the hell am I gonna do this. I was really nervous".

The Indian batsman also remembered cracking an unamusing joke about her heels when they met for the shoot but eventually hit it off after a few get-togethers.

"Out of nervousness, I didn't realise how tall she was. So the first thing I told her when I saw her heels was, 'Didn't you get anything higher to wear?' and she was like 'Excuse me?' It was so bad, I was so nervous. But then I figured out that she was a normal person and when we got talking, I realised our background was so similar. From there on, we became friends and then gradually we started dating, it didn't happen instantly," he added.



Mouni Roy teams up with Jubin Nautiyal, for a Bengali track

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni Roy teams up with playback singer Jubin Nautiyal and music composer Payal Dev for the song 'Dotara' which hit the airwaves on Tuesday.

The track is sprinkled with Bengali flavour and presents the electrifying chemistry between Jubin and Mouni, who don interesting avatars, while indulging them in a yester-year narrative.

Talking about the song, Mouni said: "'Dotara' takes you on a ride back in time and into a different era. I felt like a princess with these regal looks and the vibe on the set was something else. It's a fun and beautiful music video."

The music video for the song has been directed by B.L.M Studios with its music composed by Payal Dev.

The lyrics have been penned by Vayu, and have a contemporary feel.

Jubin said: "It's a pleasure working with Payal Dev and our collaborations have always been well received. I had a fun time donning a new getup and role playing in the music video alongside Mouni Roy. We had a blast on sets and I can't wait for the audience's reaction."

Payal said: "Jubin Nautiyal and I always enjoy teaming up and 'Dotara' was another such great collaboration. We also brought in a Bengali essence with some lyrics in Bengali that makes this track really distinct and standout."

'Dotara' presented by T-Series is sung by Jubin and Payal. The track is out on T-Series' YouTube channel.



HITEN TEJWANI IS MY FAVOURITE OFF-SCREEN PERSON: NITI TAYLOR

Mumbai: 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' actress Niti Taylor talked about her co-actor Hiten Tejwani and said that although in the show he is a father-like figure onscreen but offscreen, he is her best friend.

She said: "Although Hiten sir is my father figure onscreen, off-screen he is my favourite person on set. We enjoy each other's company a lot, there's so much to learn from him and it honestly helps me a lot when I perform. Typically, we have a lot of emotional scenes where Prachi (Niti) tries to be a perfect daughter and never disappoints him, but behind the cameras, we keep humming songs and enjoy dancing to songs that he plays from his collection."

Niti, who is known for working in 'Ghulam', 'Ishqbaaz', 'Laal Ishq' and also for participating in the dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10' and for appearing as a guest on 'Bigg Boss 16', called him a great friend who always gives good advice when needed and listens to all her problems.

Niti added: "He listens to my problems and gets back to me with some solid advice. He's genuinely a great co-star, and an equally amazing human being to have as a friend. Our whole cast and crew have become a tight-knit family which makes work feel like play."

'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shakti Mohan

Talent and hard work matter, not followers: Himanshi Khurana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant Himanshi Khurana said that having a number of followers on social media can never assure good work and for getting opportunities, what matters is talent and hard work.

She said: "When I started my career in the industry, I didn't have the same number of followers as I do today but getting work was never an issue and, I don't think followers are more important, the talent and hard work get you good projects."

Himanshi is known for her work in Punjabi films like 'Sadda Haq' and she also entered the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss



13' as a wild card contestant. Apart from Punjabi films, she has also done several music videos.

While discussing the importance of social media followers in the industry, she shared: "Having a good amount of followers and a huge fan base can be fruitful sometimes but otherwise it depends on how good you are at the job." Talking about the importance of real talent in the industry, she added: "There are several people who have been working in the industry for years who might not have a good number of followers. But their talent on screen speaks louder. So, these artists have a special place in the audience's heart just because of the talent they showcase on the screen and not because of their social media presence."

Meanwhile, Himanshi is wrapping up her shoots for her upcoming film, 'Fatto De Yaar Bade Ne' whose release date has still not been announced.