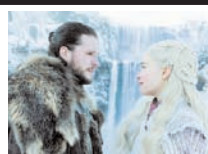




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'Different India' now capable of meeting security challenges ...



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Neeraj Chopra to begin Diamond League defence in Doha ...

Temperatures to rise soon: IMD's latest heat wave warning

▶ THE WEATHER OFFICE HAS ALSO PREDICTED LIGHT RAINFALL WITH THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING OVER GOA, MADHYA PRADESH, AND MAHARASHTRA OVER THE NEXT FIVE DAYS.

▶ SEVERAL PARTS OF INDIA ARE FORECAST TO WITNESS HOTTER-THAN-USUAL WEATHER THROUGH JUNE, RAISING THE RISK OF MORE STRAIN ON THE POWER NETWORK AS PEOPLE TURN TO AIR CONDITIONERS TO FIND REPRIEVE FROM HEAT WAVES.



“Maximum temperatures are very likely to be above normal by 3-5 degrees Celsius over Northeast India, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during the next 4-5 days.”

IMD said in a statement

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Some parts of the country will witness a rise in temperature by 3-5 degrees Celsius over the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said today.

"Heat wave conditions very likely in isolated pockets over Gangetic West Bengal during 13th-17th; over north coastal Andhra Pradesh & Odisha during 13th-15th April and over Bihar during 15th-17th April 2023," the IMD statement read.

India logged its hottest February this year since record-keeping began in 1901, according to the IMD. However, above-normal rainfall due to seven western disturbances, including five strong ones, kept temperatures in check in March.

In the wake of the heat wave predictions in the national capital, the Delhi government today issued guidelines on school preparedness. The new guidelines direct all the schools recognized under the directorate of education to ensure that there is no student assembly in the schools in the afternoons.

Earlier, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik directed all anganwadi centres and schools to remain closed from April 12 till April 16 in view of rising temperatures across the coastal state.

Most parts of India are forecast to experience hotter-than-usual weather this year. Most areas of central, eastern and northwestern states are likely to experience heat waves during the three-month summer season, the weather office has said.

INDIA DEPLOYS SHATRUJEET BRIGADE CLOSE TO LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL

CONQUERORS ON THE GROUND

50th Independent Para Brigade also known as Shatrueet Brigade is a formation of the Indian Army. The Parachute Regiment, colloquially known as the Paras, is an airborne infantry regiment of the Indian Army. The Brigade consists of Airborne Battalions, Artillery Batteries, Para field hospital, Signal and Engineers section. These Paratroopers are trained to conduct a variety of missions, from prevention and pre-emption tasks to multifaceted, high-intensity combat fighting. These soldiers epitomize professionalism, resilience, discipline, adaptability, bravery and self-sufficiency.

- Ex Vayu Prahar was a 96-hour multi-domain air-land exercise conducted during the second week of March. It involved insertion and extraction of the Army's Special Forces at a designated Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) by C-130J Super Hercules and C-17 Globemasters of the IAF.
- The latest exercise involved both tactical fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft of the IAF to land/drop Special Forces in designated areas for 'undertaking kinetic actions to provide surge to ongoing operations by regular land forces', the Army's Eastern Command revealed on Thursday.
- This exercise is important, keeping in mind the continuing standoff between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Doklam -- a trijunction between India, Bhutan and Tibet Autonomous Region close to the Chicken Neck Corridor of North Bengal -- and China's aggressive stance along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.



Team Absolute | Kolkata

In less than a month after Ex Vayu Prahar close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Theatre, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted yet another tactical drill in the first week of April to validate multi-mode insertion of strategic forces along the Frontier.

China has not only created military infrastructure on its territory close to the LAC but has also renamed certain parts of Arunachal Pradesh which it claims as southern Tibet. India has diplomatically rubbished this attempt by China to rename locations in Arunachal but the mili-

tary threat from across the LAC continues. Army chief Gen Manoj Pande and other top officers have maintained that the situation along the LAC continues to be tense. Both the Indian Army and the IAF is now at a state of full preparedness to meet any challenge from across the LAC.

This involves regular forces of the Army and specialised units from the Brahmastra or XVII Corps under the Eastern Command.

China is certainly watching. While India does not want a military confrontation with her northern neighbour, she certainly wants to push a subtle message through. The message is that

“Such Special Operations Exercises are a mix of conventional/unconventional military actions that are undertaken by specially designated, selected, trained and equipped units. C-17 Globemasters, Chinooks and Mi-17 V5s of the IAF undertook multi-mode insertion into greenfield landing zones with surgical precision. Paratroopers of the Shatrueet Brigade conducted special helicopter operations with the aim to validate their ability to rapidly deploy into hostile environment using Chinook and Mi-17 V5 helicopters to augment the capability of regular ground forces,” a highly placed source in the Eastern Command said.

India has certain aces up her sleeves and won't take any aggressive stance from across the LAC lying down.

RaGa defamation case: Surat court to pronounce order on April 20

Team Absolute | Surat

Surat Sessions Court hearing an appeal seeking stay on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a criminal defamation case has reserved its verdict, which will now be pronounced on April 20, 'Bar and Bench' reported.

Rahul Gandhi's counsel argued in the court that his disqualification from the Lok Sabha following his conviction in a criminal defamation case over the Modi surname would cause him "irreparable loss and irreversible injury". Senior advocate R.S. Cheema, who represented Rahul Gandhi, claimed that the conviction based on an 'imagined' defamation was unfair since only an aggrieved person could file a complaint.



Cheema argued that Rahul Gandhi's speech wasn't defamatory unless taken out of context and magnified. He also pointed to the geographical jurisdiction of the complainant, Surat West BJP MLA Purnesh Modi, stating that the speech was made in Kolar (Karnataka), and the complainant received a message on his WhatsApp in Surat.

The senior advocate claimed that the trial court was misled, leading to Rahul Gandhi's conviction and a two-year sentence, which has been suspended until his appeal is decided by the courts.

Purnesh Modi, meanwhile, responded to Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction, calling it a "dirty display of childish arrogance".

He claimed that Rahul Gandhi was a repeat offender and that his appearance in court with a battery of Congress leaders was a "very dirty display of childish arrogance and an immature act of bringing pressure upon the court".

After hearing the arguments, judge Robin Moger reserved the verdict in the matter. The order will now be pronounced on April 20.

ATIQA AHMAD'S SON KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN JHANSI

Jhansi (UP) | Agencies

Mohd Asad, son of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, along with shooter Ghulam, has been shot dead in an encounter by a team of Special Task Force (STF) in Jhansi.

Both carried a reward of Rs five lakh on their heads.

The STF team led by Deputy SP Navendu and Deputy SP Vimal carried out the encounter at Jhansi. Sophisticated foreign-made weapons have been recovered from the two deceased.

Asad had been caught on camera opening fire at Umesh Pal in Dhoomanganj in

Prayagraj on February 24.

The encounter took place on a day when Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf are being produced in court in Prayagraj.

ADG STF Amitabh Yash said that the STF had asked the two to surrender but they opened fire after which the team had to retaliate.

Meanwhile, Atiq Ahmad broke down in court during hearing when informed of his son's encounter.



'NITISH'S FORMULA OF OPPOSITION UNITY IS ONE SEAT, ONE CANDIDATE'

Patna/New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, as well as his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and other opposition leaders is working with the plan to unite the opposition to challenge the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, his JD-U said. "The Nitish formula for 2024 for opposition unity is One Seat One Candidate (OSOC). It has come into effect in the country. The discussions with all opposition parties are completed now and its result will be visible soon," senior JD-U leader K.C. Tyagi said on Thursday.

"Some issues coming into the media about what happened to Mamata Benerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and K Chandrashekar Rao, and these will be addressed soon. Arvind Kejriwal has already given full support to the initiative of Nitish Kumar," he added.

The BJP, over the years, is ruling in the country only with 37 per cent of votes, due to division of votes as opposition parties are contesting against each other. Now the one seat, one candidate formula, if implemented, could reduce the division of anti-BJP votes in the country.

India sees surge in Covid cases; virus moving towards endemic stage: officials

Team Absolute | New Delhi

- ▶ SINCE ITS DETECTION IN 2021, OMICRON HAS SPAWNED MORE THAN 1,000 SUB-LINEAGES, INCLUDING XBB. 1. 16 AND XBB. 1. 5. ACCORDING TO DR N.K ARORA, CO-CHAIR OF THE INDIAN SARS-COV-2 GENOMICS CONSORTIUM (INSACOG).
- ▶ WHILE XBB. 1. 16 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE CAUSE OF A SURGE IN CASES, DR ARORA STATED THAT HOSPITALISATIONS HAVEN'T INCREASED, AND MOST DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO THE DISEASE ARE AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS COMORBIDITIES. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE BIOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF THE VIRUS CANNOT BE PREDICTED AND THAT CONTINUED SURVEILLANCE OF HOSPITALISATIONS DUE TO SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION (SARI) IS NECESSARY.



India is witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases with 7,830 new infections recorded on Wednesday, the highest in over seven months, as per the Union Ministry of Health and Family Affairs data. However, top officials in the health ministry say that the virus is moving towards an endemic stage, which means that it will be consistently present but limited to a particular region, making it more predictable and manageable.

Officials have noted that while cases may continue to rise over the next 10-12 days, hospitalisations remain low. The virus becoming endemic is likely to generate a large number of variants, according to them. India is ramping up its vaccination drive and promoting adherence to Covid-19 protocols such as wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands frequently. With the emergence of new sub-lineages of Omicron, officials are urging the

public to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

INDIA LOGS 10,158 NEW COVID CASES, HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE SINCE SEP 2022

New Delhi: In the last 24 hours, India reported 10,158 new Covid-19 cases, marking the highest single-day spike since September 2022, according to the latest Union Health Ministry data released on Thursday.

The new figures have pushed the active caseload to 44,998. The active cases stand at 0.10 per cent.

The data revealed that the daily and weekly positivity rates currently stood at 4.42 per cent and 4.02 per cent, respectively. Also in the last 24 hours, 327 doses were administered. The country has so far administered 220.66 crore vaccine doses.

References to Maulana Azad removed from NCERT's Textbook

New Delhi: References to freedom fighter and India's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad have been removed from the new class 11 political science textbook by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

As part of its 'syllabus rationalisation' exercise last year, the NCERT, citing "overlapping" and "irrelevant" as reasons, dropped certain portions from the course including lessons on Gujarat riots, Mughal courts, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement, among others from its textbooks. The rationalisation note had no mention of any changes in class 11 political science textbook. The NCERT has, however, claimed that no curriculum trimming has taken place this year and the syllabus was rationalised in June, last year. In the class 11 political science textbook's first chapter, titled 'Constitution - Why and How', a line has been revised to omit Maulana Azad's name from the constituent assembly committee meetings.

The revised line now reads, "Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees." In the tenth chapter of the same textbook, titled "The Philosophy of the Constitution", the reference to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession has also been deleted.



NCP alleges BJP 'erasing' Maulana Azad's name from history as he was a Muslim

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Thursday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to 'erase' the name of India's first Education Minister and Bharat Ratna, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, from history because he was a Muslim.



Sardar Patel or B.R. Ambedkar chaired these committees. This is truly unfortunate," Crasto said.

six notified minorities for a period of five years. The NCERT comes under the Government of India which is currently led by the BJP, and therefore the question that comes to the mind is whether they are seeking to obliterate the name of India's first Education Minister because of his religion, Crasto said.

'EKNATH SHINDE CRIED, FEARED ARREST IF HE DIDN'T JOIN BJP', CLAIMS ADITYA THACKERAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Dropping a new political bomb, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA and ex-minister Aditya Thackeray has claimed that before his revolt in June 2022, current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had reportedly 'cried and apprehended arrest by central probe agencies'.



than half the legislators were under the pressures of action by CBI, ED or ITD, compelling them to rebel, and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government was toppled in nine months.

is being made with the Party MLAs to break them," said Raut. The Sena (UBT) MP's reference was ostensibly to certain speculation that NCP's Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar was allegedly "on way to BJP", but Pawar himself rubbished the contentions.

Thackeray, while Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare said its clear that CBI-ED-ITD were misused to bring down the MVA government. Union Minister Narayan Rane dismissed Aditya Thackeray's comments as "childish" and declined to comment on his contentions, questioning Thackeray Jr's locus standi.

Uddhav Thackeray "Resigned On His Own", Can't Be Reinstated: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray had resigned as Chief Minister of Maharashtra on his own in June last year without facing a floor test, so how can his government be reinstated by the Supreme Court, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday.

Delhi Metro to operate Mumbai Metro line 3? emerges as lowest bidder

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has emerged as the "lowest bidder" to operate and maintain the 33.5-km Line 3 of the Mumbai Metro, officials said on Thursday.



metro rail operation and safety management, it said. Revenue collection will include management of ticket sales, maintenance of metro assets, minor civil repairs of stations and buildings, hiring, training and timely organising competency of all staff, marketing and sales assistance.

Savarkar's grandson files defamation complaint against Rahul Gandhi

Pune | Agencies

Late Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar's grandson on Wednesday approached a court here in Maharashtra with a criminal defamation complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accusing him of making false allegations against Savarkar during his address in London.



ing that VD Savarkar had written a book in which the latter stated that he and his five to six friends were beating a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy.

2 foreigners swap boarding passes in Mumbai, fly to different countries

Mumbai | Agencies

Mumbai: Mumbai Police arrested a Sri Lankan native and a German citizen after they allegedly exchanged their boarding passes at the airport in Mumbai to travel to London and Kathmandu respectively, an official said today.

RASHMI THACKERAY TO ADDRESS SHIV SENA (UBT) WOMEN ACTIVISTS' IN NASHIK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rashmi Thackeray, the wife of Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, is likely to address party's women workers in Nashik later this month, party sources indicated here on Thursday.



President Chandrashekar Bawankule reacted sharply to the development saying that since the party (Sena-UBT) is being decimated, it has to rely on other family members to keep it going.

while Andhare said "nobody takes the BJP chief seriously". Nashik is considered a 'weak-link' in the Sena (UBT)'s scheme of things with the rival BJP, and even Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) going all out to woo the people there ahead of the upcoming civic elections.

GOLD-DIGGERS STEAL ASHES FROM PANDHARPUR CREMATORIUM

Solapur (Maharashtra) | Agencies

In a bizarre case, unknown thieves stole the ashes of a deceased woman a day after her cremation, ostensibly to retrieve the gold jewellery she was adorned with during the funeral rites, officials said on Thursday.

her last rites were performed. As is the custom in some communities, her body was decked with certain items of gold jewelry during her cremation, usually comprising a gold guinea in the mouth, or a gold mangalsutra, or earrings, or nose-rings, or finger-rings, etc.



complaint with the Pandharpur police which is probing the matter. Local Marathi media person Sunil Umbre said that such thefts are regularly taking place here, but most grieving relatives don't bother to highlight such

plaint. Moreover, given their affluent background, they had decked the woman's body with a considerable quantity of gold jewelry," said Umbre.

"BAL THACKERAY CAN'T BE SEPARATED FROM AYODHYA MOVEMENT": EKNATH SHINDE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday said the name of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray cannot be separated from the Ayodhya movement, a remark that came in the wake of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Chandrakant Patil questioning the role of Sena workers in the Babri mosque demolition.

Babri mosque in Ayodhya was demolished in 1992 has put the BJP in a spot, as it is a partner in the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in the Maharashtra government.



FANS STUNNED AFTER DWAYNE JOHNSON SHARES 'POST-WORKOUT CHEAT MEAL'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Rock Dwayne Johnson moves mountains when it comes to workouts so, a little indulgence doesn't harm when it comes to food.

The 'Baywatch' actor took his fans on an epic food journey as he posted his mammoth cheat meal recently. The wrestler-turned-actor had so much food he had to make two Instagram posts to share his feast - but some fans simply weren't impressed at his choice, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The star went to town on the meal, sharing his huge portion on plate number one - a dozen eggs, two english muffins, one homemade biscuit and

"super crispy" turkey bacon.

He joked "beat up dinosaur hands made his muffins look kid size, while he gushed to his followers: "Don't cheat yourself, treat yourself."

He followed up the post with meal number two, which consisted of coconut banana pancakes which he labelled "so damn good."

Mirror.co.uk further states that despite his claims, some fans didn't feel the cheat meal was indeed a cheat despite its size.

One user joked: "Your cheat meals are my 'healthy meals..." while another agreed, saying: "Mans cheat day still manages to be healthy."



I didn't want to be the sexy young thing: Katie Holmes

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Katie Holmes "didn't want to be sexy" as a young star.

Shooting to fame in her late teens when she played Joey Potter on "Dawson's Creek", the actress admitted that during her time on the drama series, she would have someone make sure that she wasn't too sexualised in publicity shoots because she "just wanted to be an actor," reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I didn't want to be the sexy young thing. I am not sexy," She told Glamour.

"I used to have a friend of mine come to all my photo shoots to make sure that they didn't try to make me that way! I guess I just wanted to be an actor."

Meanwhile, Holmes went on to reveal that she isn't a frequent user of social media and suggested that is perhaps because she became famous at a time when television shows aired weekly and mass online reactions through the likes of Instagram and Twitter did not exist.

"In my life now, I don't go on social media that much," she confessed. "I don't scroll that much because I don't want all that information. And maybe because I did come up where there was a time and place for things, even with our show - it started airing on Tuesday nights and you had to wait a week. So you got to think about that one episode."

"The work was limited to that. We also were protected," she continued recalling. "We were in North Carolina, we were working

14 hours a day, and we were really contained and not really distracted by the outside world, which was to our benefit and to the benefit of the show, so we could do what we had to do."

'GAME OF THRONES' GETS ANOTHER PREQUEL SERIES



Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Game of Thrones' prequel based on George R.R. Martin's 'Dunk and Egg' books is officially moving. The announcement was made during Warner Bros.

Discovery presentation to press and investors on April 12, in which it was announced that the combined HBO Max and Discovery+ streaming service will be known simply as Max, reports 'Variety'.

It also comes a little over two years after 'Variety' exclusively reported that the series was in development.

The show is based on the series of fantasy novellas by Martin, which follow the adventures of Ser Duncan the Tall (Dunk) and a young Aegon V Targaryen (Egg) 90 years prior to the events of 'A Song of Ice and Fire'. The series is currently titled 'A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms: The Hedge Knight'. Martin will serve as writer and executive producer, as will Ira Parker, who was a co-executive producer on Season 1 of 'House of the Dragon'. 'Game of Thrones' and 'House of the Dragon' vets Ryan Condal and Vince Gerardis will serve as executive producers.

NEW 'BIG BANG THEORY' SPINOFF IN DEVELOPMENT



Los Angeles | Agencies

Chuck Lorre, who co-created 'The Big Bang Theory' as well as its spinoff 'Young Sheldon', is in the early stages of developing another comedy series derived from that via his overall deal at Warner Bros. Television.

The news came out of Warner Bros. Discovery's press day announcing its new streaming service. If ordered to series, the new 'Big Bang' project would stream on Max, the company's rebranded platform combining HBO Max and Discovery+, reports 'Variety'.

No plot details were revealed during the WBD presentation. And though nothing is set in stone, it is believed to be an hour-long series featuring a mostly new cast with potential for known 'Big Bang' stars to appear in guest spots.

'The Big Bang Theory' aired for 12 seasons from 2007 to 2019 and brought the network major ratings successes by the end of its run, garnering just under 18 million viewers for its series finale. 'Young Sheldon' premiered in 2017 and is currently on its sixth season, with a seventh season already greenlit.

The spinoff, starring Iain Armitage as the nine-year-old version of Jim Parsons' character from the original series, with Parsons making appearances in retrospective voice-over, is consistently the most viewed comedy on the air.



"HARRY POTTER" TV SERIES ANNOUNCED, WILL FEATURE ENTIRELY NEW CAST

Los Angeles | Agencies

A 'Harry Potter' TV series is officially moving forward at HBO Max. The announcement was made during Warner Bros. Discovery's presentation to press and investors on April 12, during which it was announced that HBO Max and Discovery+ are officially being combined into a new service dubbed simply Max, reports 'Variety'.

News of a show based on the megahit J.K. Rowling's book series first leaked on April 3, but details have now been confirmed. Each season of the show will be based on one of the books in the franchise, with Warner Bros. Discovery describing the show as a "decade-long series." It will feature an entirely new cast from the films. "We are delighted to give audiences the opportunity to discover Hogwarts in a whole new way," said Casey Bloys, chairman and CEO of HBO & Max Content.

"Harry Potter is a cultural phenomenon and it is clear there is such an enduring love and thirst for the Wizarding World. In partnership with Warner Bros. Television and J.K. Rowling, this new Max Original series will dive deep into each of the iconic books that fans have continued to enjoy for all of these years." Max will produce in association with Bronte Film and TV, and Warner Bros. Television. Rowling will executive produce along with Neil Blair and Ruth Kenley-Letts. David Heyman is currently in talks to executive produce. "Max's commitment to preserving the integrity of my books is important to me, and I'm looking forward to being part of this new adaptation which will allow for a degree of depth and detail only afforded by a long form television series," said Rowling. The announcement brings an end to years of speculation on whether or not the Wizarding World of Harry Potter would make the transition to TV. Variety reported in 2021 that the company was looking to develop a "Harry Potter" show.

Mia Goth joins Mahershala Ali in Marvel Studios' 'Blade'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'X' and 'Pearl' actress Mia Goth have bagged a role in the Marvel Cinematic Universe to her resume, joining Marvel's 'Blade'. The Marvel Studios film stars Oscar winner Mahershala Ali as the title vampire slayer, directed by Yann Demange from a script by Emmy nominee Michael Stabbury, which is said to be "darker than most MCU movies."

Goth joins a star-studded cast that also includes Aaron Pierre and Delroy Lindo, but details of her role are being kept under wraps, reports 'Variety'.

The 'Blade' reboot was first announced at the 2019 Comic-Con, where Marvel Studio chief Kevin Feige surprised Hall H by announcing Ali would take up the mantle of the infamous day-walker after Wesley Snipes played the Marvel Comics character in three films between 1998 and 2006.

'Blade' is currently slated to hit theatres on September 6, 2024 as the final film in Phase Five of the MCU.

Since making her big screen debut in Lars von Trier's 'Nymphomaniac', Goth has been a standout player in films like Luca Guadagnino's 'Suspiria', Claire Denis' 'High Life', Autumn de Wilde's 'Emma' and Brandon Cronenberg's 'Infinity Pool', which made its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year.

Goth is next set to close out her work in Ti West's horror trilogy with the release of 'MaXXXine'.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lottie Moss

SUNNY LEONE STARRER SELECTED FOR CANNES

Film Festival

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who is known for creating the modern day classic 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Ugly', 'Gulaal' and 'No Smoking', is once again set to visit the French Riviera as his next film 'Kennedy' starring Sunny Leone has been selected for the Cannes Film Festival.

The festival's Twitter handle made the announcement on Thursday afternoon. They tweeted: "KENNEDY by Anurag KASHYAP #SeanceDeMinuit / #MidnightScreenings #Cannes2023." The film will be a part of the midnight screening section. Kashyap has been a regular at Cannes.

While his magnum opus 'Gangs of Wasseypur' was screened at the 2012 Cannes Directors' Fortnight, an independent selection of the Cannes Film Festival, the anthology film 'Bombay Talkies', on which he served as one of the directors, premiered under Special Screenings at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. 'Ugly' released a year after 'GoW' and was screened in the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival where it also received a standing ovation. His 'Raman Raghav 2.0' also premiered in the Director's Fortnight section at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Talking about the film festival, which is set to be held from May 16, it will showcase films by Wes Anderson, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Wim Wenders, Ken Loach, Todd Haynes and Steve McQueen. Maiwenn's Jeanne du Barry, starring the director opposite Johnny Depp, will open the festival on May 16.

The Cannes Film Festival is considered to be one of the most prestigious film festivals across the world and is part of the Big 3 European film festivals besides Venice Film Festival and the Berlinale.

'We all have the right to like or dislike something'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Pooja Hegde, who is set to share the screen with Bollywood superstar Salman Khan in the upcoming theatrical movie 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', has reacted to a section of Internet users trolling the film's trailer for its over the top action and hard to digest sequences. Soon after the film's trailer released, some people started brutally trolling the trailer as they felt that it was "cringe," "far from reality" and had "loose editing." Pooja in an interview said: "It's okay if some people don't like the trailer. It's not possible to keep everyone happy. Films are very subjective, if some people like it, a section of the audience may not like it as well and rightly so. We all have the right to like or dislike something."

But, she mentioned that she would like people to give the film a chance and assured that it will entertain them.

"However, I hope that their perception changes once they see the film. I can promise that you will have a good time in theatres watching the film," she added. 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', produced by Salman Khan Films, stars an ensemble cast of Venkatesh Daggubati, Palak Tiwari, Siddharth Nigam and Shehnaaz Gill.

IT'S BEEN A LONG WAITING GAME: RHEA ON RETURNING ON SETS

POOJA HEGDE REPLIES TO PEOPLE'S TROLLS ON HER UPCOMING FILM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As she makes a comeback on the sets almost after three years, actress Rhea Chakraborty said that "times have been hard" and that "it has been a long waiting game" as she shared a video.

Rhea, who is accused in the death of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, was announced as one of the gang leaders for MTV Roadies season 19.

She shared a clip, where Rhea is seen getting her makeup done and is asked about how does it feel to be back on the set.

She is heard saying: "I haven't shot in three years and I am back on set. Vanity van is feeling all new, hair and makeup hasn't happened in a while."

"Strangely enough when I shot three years ago, it was on this very set, in this vanity van for Chehre. I am back here after three years... Overwhelming and excited, welcome back to me."

Posting a video from her vanity, the actress wrote on Instagram: "It's been a long waiting game. Being back on set, back to work is a joy I can't describe. Heart full of gratitude, raring to go. Thank you to all of you for your love and support. Times have been hard, but your love has been real. BRB - crying happy tears."

Sushant Singh Rajput died in 2020 in mysterious circumstances which created a nationwide uproar. He was found hanging in his flat in Juhu. Days after his death, the actor's father filed a case against Rhea, the actor's then girlfriend, accusing her of abetment to suicide and money laundering.



ALL-INDIA FASHION WEEK CUM BEAUTY PAGEANT BEGINS IN JAIPUR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

All set to spread glitter and glamour around, the three days long Ms VogueStar India and Mrs VogueStar India 2023 event began at Le Meridian Hotel, Jaipur. VogueStar, an inclusive platform of the women and by the women supporting them create their distinctive identities, is organizing the all-India fashion week cum beauty pageant. The extravaganza of fashion and beauty is witnessing XY state level winners competing and adorning designer masterpieces created by emerging designers from across India.

Divided into two categories, the pageant will crown three national winners under Miss VogueStar India and Mrs VogueStar India on 16th April. The Mrs VogueStar India is further categorized into two groups

where in the group one married women of 18-35 age group are working hard to win the title while group 2 represents the women belong to 36-60 age group. The idea behind this categorization is to ensure fair competition and inclusion of women across the age groups and relationship status to perform with best of their real abilities.

The contestants of the upcoming extravaganza of fashion and beauty will don designing masterpieces created by 20 emerging fashion designers and will be groomed by 10 make-up artists from across the country.

The event which will be hosted at Le Meridian Hotel on 14th to 16th April 2023 is set to spread a message around unity in diversity. The make-up artists have been handpicked by the organizers after a prolonged

screening process. Megha Thakur, Zahida Khatoon and Dyuti Toor Dutta from Delhi, Tisha Morwani from Rajasthan, Shivangi Upadhyay and Kartiki Joshi from Gujarat, Prthika Kumaran from Karnataka, Kiran Swarnkar from Uttar Pradesh, Sonali Jaiswal from Jharkhand and Shiwani Dawar from Punjab were selected to enhance the beauty of the contestants.

The grand finale of Miss and Mrs VogueStar India 2023 and VogueStar Fashion Week is witnessing the participation of 700 participants from across the states that have extensively been trained for six months by a team of experts. Under the choreography of Alison Woodham, the grand finale and fashion show is displaying the talented designers' experimentation, both in fabric and silhouette for three days.

Vidyut Jammwal flaunts 'new calisthenics tricks'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood action stars Vidyut Jammwal redefined fitness goals as he flaunted calisthenics in a video on social media, leaving many stunned.

Vidyut, who is currently busy shooting for his next 'Crakk - Jeethegaa Toh Jiyegaa' took to Instagram, where he shared a video performing calisthenics, an exercises that doesn't rely on anything but body weight.

In the clip, the actor is seen in grey loose pants and is shirtless as he showcases his perfectly chiselled body and washboard abs. He then, with the help of metal poles, performed the stunt.

"My newest stunt double," he captioned the video, which in just hours of posting received over 616,000 views. Fans could not stop gushing at the picture.

On the work front, Vidyut will next be seen in 'IB71', which revolves around a two-front war between Indian intelligence agencies and the Pakistani establishment. The film is directed by Sankalp Reddy.

He will also be seen in 'Crakk - Jeethegaa Toh Jiyegaa' directed by Aditya Datt. The film follows the journey of a man from the slums of Mumbai to the world of underground extreme sports.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Palak Tiwari