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IPL 2023: DAZZLING OPENING CEREMONY

As the IPL returns to the home-and-away format after four years, the Narendra Modi Stadium was jam-packed and for a moment, one would have been mistaken for the gathering to be the one from Chepauk in Chennai. During the broadcast, despite the blue of Gujarat Titans being largely visible, it was thoroughly outsmarted by the yellow of Chennai Super Kings, with the decibel level going high whenever MS Dhoni's picture appeared on the giant screen, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

▶ When the performers as well as dignitaries from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were called upon the stage to conclude the opening ceremony, Dhoni and Pandya arrived on grand chariots.

▶ Despite Pandya being the home captain, the cheers, the crowd, upwards of 1,00,000, erupted in joy with chants of 'Dhoni, Dhoni, Dhoni', something which will be heard more during Friday's match.

Ahmedabad | Agencies

A dazzling opening ceremony headlined by performances from singer Arijit Singh, actors Tamannaah Bhatia and Rashmika Mandanna set the stage for a tantalising IPL 2023 opener between defending champions Gujarat Titans and four-time winners Chennai Super Kings here on Friday.

As Mandira Bedi gave the opening address, just like she did at the WPL last month, the giant IPL logo was shining brightly in the middle. Around it were the logos of all ten

teams, giving it the resemblance of the solar system.

The stadium suddenly began to give the feel of a live music concert with Arijit taking centre stage and the vociferous crowd joining him to sing along to his sensational chartbusters. Arijit began with simple yet melodious vocals and then hit the high notes, followed by taking a round of the ground in a buggy.

Gujarat skipper Hardik Pandya was glued to Arijit's soulful performance while Chennai skipper MS Dhoni, who got the loudest cheers from the capacity crowd, was calmly seated in the dugout, listening to the trending

tracks. Tamannaah got their energy levels up through her graceful moves. But the Chennai fans, outnumbering Gujarat supporters, had another moment when Rashmika's "Vanakkam Chennai Super Kings" got louder cheers than "Kem cho Gujarat Titans", followed by her dancing to some popular songs, including the chartbuster Naatu Naatu from the movie RRR.

A drone show is expected to take place during mid-innings, featuring a choreographed dance of more than 1,500 drones decorating the sky above the stadium, to form 2D and 3D imagery.

Government hikes interest rate of small saving schemes, maximum in Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Government has effected significant hike in interest rates of small savings schemes, like senior citizen saving schemes, national saving certificate (NSC), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and monthly income scheme (MIS). The new rates will be effective from April 1, 2023 till June 30, 2023, i.e the first quarter of 2023-24.

However, savings deposit interest rates and PPF interest rates have been kept unchanged at 4 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

The interest rate of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana has been significantly hiked to 8 per cent from the existing 7.6 per cent, while interest rate of NSC has been hiked from the existing 7 per cent to 7.7 per cent.

For senior citizens saving scheme, the interest rate has been hiked from 8 per cent to 8.2 per cent, while for



INTEREST RATE

Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) it has been increased from 7.2 per cent to 7.5 per cent. However, the existing KVP interest rate is for a maturity period of 120 months, while the new rate is for KVP maturing in 115 months, a notification issued by the finance ministry said.

For MIS, the rate has been hiked from the existing 7.1 per cent 7.4 per cent and for five-year recurring deposit, the interest rate has been raised from the existing 5.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

For one-year time deposit,

the interest rate has been hiked from 6.6 per cent to 6.8 per cent, while for two-year time deposit, it has been raised from 6.8 per cent to 6.9 per cent.

Similarly, for three-year time deposit scheme, the interest rate has been increased from 6.9 per cent to 7 per cent and for five-year time deposit scheme, the interest rate has been hiked from 7 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The Government revises interest rates of small saving schemes after every quarter.

Gold set to touch Rs 68,000 in FY24, prices go up on Friday

Chennai | Agencies

Gold prices on Friday -- the last day of the week and FY23 -- went up with the investors booking profits. The yellow metal is expected to give a return on investment (ROI) of 10-15 per cent in FY24, experts said. Gold prices in last FY23 have jumped a massive Rs 8,000 in domestic markets from Rs 52,000 to Rs 60,000 which is a 15 per cent return, beating all other asset classes, said Jateen Trivedi, Vice President, Research Analyst, LKP Securities.

Meanwhile, on the increase in gold prices on Friday, Navneet Damani, Senior Vice President, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said gold and silver prices witnessed profit booking after gaining by more than 1 per cent, on

the back of a steady dollar.

Broader trend on COMEX could be in the range of \$1,970-1,995 (per troy ounce) and on domestic front prices could hover in the range of Rs 59,500-60,300 could be expected," he said.

According to the analyst, for this month, Comex gold is up more than 7 per cent bolstered by safe haven demand after the banking-industry turmoil and concerns that the US economy may tip into recession. He said gold prices could rally further if PCE price index data will come lower than or in line with market forecast.

Comex spot gold is having support at \$1,955 per ounce and resistance at \$2,010 per ounce. MCX Gold June future has support at Rs 59,480 per 10 gram and resistance at Rs 60,340 per 10 gram.

Excise policy scam: Sisodia's bail plea in CBI case dismissed

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Friday dismissed the bail plea by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

CBI Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Court had reserved his order on the matter on March 24.

The court had, on March 20, sent him to judicial custody till April 3.

During the pronouncement of order, Judge Nagpal said that Sisodia can, prima facie, be held to be the "architect of the criminal conspiracy".

He observed that the payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore was

meant for him and his other colleagues in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

"The payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore was meant for him and his other colleagues in the GNCTD and Rs 20-30 crore out of the above are found to have been routed through the co-accused Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally and approver Dinesh Arora and in turn, certain provisions of the excise policy were permitted to be tweaked and manipulated by the applicant to protect and preserve the interests of South liquor lobby and to ensure repayment of the kickbacks to the said lobby," the court held.

The court is not inclined to release Sisodia on bail at this stage of investigation as his release may adversely affect the ongoing investigation

and will also seriously hamper the progress, the order stated. It said that the evidence collected by the probe agency so far shows that the applicant through the co-accused Vijay Nair was in contact with the 'South lobby' and formulation of a favourable policy for them was being ensured at every cost and a cartel was permitted to be formed to achieve monopoly in sale of certain liquor brands of favoured manufacturers and it was permitted to be done against very objectives of the policy.

It held that the allegations made against Sisodia are "serious in nature" and he does not deserve to be released on bail as he was arrested in the CBI case only on February 26 and that the investigation qua his role has still not been completed.

Students from Class 1 to 8 to be promoted without exams in UP

Lucknow | The Uttar Pradesh government has directed that all students from Classes 1 to 8 studying in the schools under the Basic Education Council, will be promoted to the next class without examinations.

A notification in this regard has been issued by Pratap Singh Baghel, secretary, UP Basic Education Council. The notification is issued every year as there is a provision to promote children from Class one to eight to the next class under the Right to Education Act. They cannot fail under any circumstances. As per the order, the promotion of any student from Class 1 to 8 in the academic session 2022-23 will not be stopped in all council and recognised schools run under the council. Instructions have also been given to distribute report cards of students on the basis of annual examination.

India logs 3,095 fresh Covid cases; recovery rate 98.78 per cent

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Friday recorded 3,095 fresh Covid-19 cases in a span of 24 hours, taking the overall active caseload to 15,208, the Health Ministry said on Friday. The daily positivity rate stands at 2.61 per cent while the recovery rate is 98.78 per cent.

The Health Ministry data said that 1,390 recoveries have been reported in the last 24 hours. The weekly positivity rate is 1.91 per cent. Bengaluru reported 143 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, increasing Karnataka's overall caseload to 288, according to the latest figures released by the state health department.

The daily and weekly positivity rates stood at 2.23



per cent and 2.89 per cent, respectively. The overall active cases in the state has increased to 1,037, while the weekly fatality rate was recorded at 0.21 per cent.

With the Covid cases again showing an upward trend, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to make wearing masks mandatory in all government hospitals from April 1 onwards. Tamil Nadu government has decided to make wearing masks mandatory in all government hospitals from April 1 onwards.

Numbering over 11,300, these facilities include health sub-centres, primary health centres (PHCs), urban PHCs, taluk and non-taluk hospitals, apart from district headquarters hospitals and government medical college hospitals.

"All state and district-level health officers have been directed to ensure compliance of the mask rule in all government health facilities from Saturday," the minister told reporters on Friday.

Even though Covid norms are in place in the state, the decision to implement the mask rule in hospitals has been taken because infections usually begin multiplying at hospitals first, the minister said, explaining the rationale behind the move.

- The International Transgender Day of Visibility, and the TransFormation salon is expected to support enhanced career opportunities for the deprived transgender community.
- USAID has provided the entire funding of around Rs 3.20 million for infrastructure, salaries and other costs, excluding the rent for the premises in Kalyan.
- The TransFormation Salon was set up with support from the USAID and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in partnership with FHI 360 and the Humsafar Trust.

US Consulate, USAID fund beauty salon run by transgender



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The US Consulate in Mumbai and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a new salon, 'TransFormation', which is owned and operated by members of the transgender community at Kalyan town in Thane, an official said here on Friday. The salon was inaugurated by US Consul-General in Mumbai, Mike

Hankey, and USAID Deputy Mission Director, Karen Klimowski, and will offer its services in an inclusive and stigma-free ambience. Klimowski said that as per the USAID's guiding principle, 'Do nothing about them without them', the transgender community was directly involved in designing and establishing the salon. Neeta Kene, chairperson of the NGO 'Kinnar Asmita', which is running the

establishment, said that it sends out a strong message to the society that transgenders with the right kind of skilling and support can effectively mainstream themselves. This is the second salon of its kind in Maharashtra. The first one by the same name and funded by Deutsche Bank and Rotary Club of Mumbai was launched on March 25 at Prabhadevi in Mumbai, followed by Kalyan on Friday, Kene said.

"There are around six professionally-trained staff now and we will cater to all beauty requirements of transgenders and women customers. If we are successful, we plan to open more similar salons in the state by the year-end," Kene told reporter after the inauguration.

DATE FOR MANDATORY FITNESS TESTING THOUGH AUTOMATED STATIONS EXTENDED TO OCT 1, 2024

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In view of the current status of readiness of the Automated Testing Stations across the country, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided to extend the date for mandatory testing through those stations to October 1, 2024.

The date has been extended in respect of Heavy Goods Vehicles and Heavy Passenger Motor Vehicles, Medium Goods Vehicles, Medium Passenger Motor Vehicles and Light Motor vehicles (Transport) to October 1, 2024.

In this regard, a notification has been published in the Gazette of India. Earlier, the Ministry on April 5, 2022 notified that fitness shall be

done mandatorily, only through an Automated Testing Station registered in accordance with the rule 175 for recognition, regulation and control of automated testing stations.

It had said that for Heavy Goods Vehicles and Heavy Passenger Motor Vehicles, the fitness testing would be from April 1 onwards; and for Medium Goods Vehicles/ Medium Passenger Motor Vehicles and Light Motor vehicles (Transport) with effect from June 1, 2024 onwards.

An Automated Testing Station uses mechanical equipment to automate the various tests required to check the fitness of a vehicle.

KERALA OPPOSES RAISING OF MARRIAGE AGE FOR FEMALES



Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala has opposed raising the minimum marriageable age of females from 18 to 21 in its response to the National Commission for Women on the proposal. The state Women and Child Development Department held that when the voting age of females is 18, asking them to wait till 21 to get married is not right.



INDIAN STOCK MARKETS CLOSE FY23 ON A HIGH NOTE

Chennai | Agencies

The two Indian stock markets went up on Friday, the last day of FY23, with scrips in most of the sectors ending in green, said experts.

Globally too the markets rallied up with foreign institutional investors (FII) being the net buyers. However, volatility in the market will continue owing to the banking crisis in the US and Europe, they added.

"Indian markets witnessed a smart rally today, led by the large caps and supported by small and mid-caps. Indian markets played a catch-up rally with global markets, which had witnessed two consecutive days of the strong move, while Indian markets were closed yesterday (Thursday) due to a holiday," said Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer, Axis Securities.

"Though we have seen a decent rally in the markets this week, we believe that markets may remain volatile in the near term, as the banking crisis in US and Europe has not yet stabilised completely. This is against



the backdrop where bond yields in the US have also risen in the past week, which could further escalate banking issues there," he added.

According to Dr. Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management, the improving sentiments in the developed markets, especially the US, was reflected on the domestic equity markets. "The rising

expectations of a contained banking crisis without any contagion, coupled with higher jobless claims led to markets betting on Fed (US Federal Reserve) going slow on the rate hikes front. The markets seem to be discounting some of the positives, the market movement going ahead may be more data dependent and look at validation of the expectations," he

said. Domestic indices ended the last day of the month on optimistic note led by rally in global markets and FIIs turning net buyers, said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. "Nifty opened gap up and continuously strengthened throughout the session to close with handsome gains of 279 points (1.6 per cent) at 17,360 level. All sectors ended in green with Oil & Gas, IT and Realty being major gainers. Niche sectors like Sugar and Defence too were in limelight and we expect this momentum to continue," he added. In the near term, focus will now remain on the RBI's policy meeting next week, where 25-bps rate hike is expected in line with the hikes done by major global central banks. Apart from this, markets will also react to monthly auto sales number data that will be released over the weekend, Khemka said. The Sensex of the BSE opened at 58,273.86 points after closing at 57,960.09 on Thursday. It touched a high of 59,068.47, reached a low of 58,273.86 before closing at 58,991.52 points, gaining 1,031 points.

MVA gets permission for mega rally in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after a ruling Bharatiya Janata Party Minister dropped hints of axing the Maha Vikas Aghadi rally on April 2, the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Police issued permission to hold the event on Friday, officials said.

This will be the first combined rally of the MVA allies Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT) in this historic global tourist spot famed for the Ajanta-Ellora caves.

The rally will be held on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. at the Marathwada Sanskrit Mahamandal grounds for which the last minute preparations are currently underway even as BJP Minister Girish Mahajan dropped hints on Friday afternoon that the permission may not be granted. Top MVA leaders including former chief ministers Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, Uddhav Thackeray, Leaders of Opposition Ajit Pawar (Assembly) and Ambadas Danve (Council), state presidents Nana Patole (Congress) and Jayant Patil (NCP), senior leaders like Congress Legislature Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat, former Deputy CM Chhagan Bhujbal and Sanjay Raut, MP are likely to address.

A Congress leader said that "it will be a mammoth gathering of supporters of all the three parties from Marathwada and surroundings, with Danve supervising the arrangements for the event along with leaders of the other two allies".

Earlier, referring to Mahajan's veiled warnings of stopping the rally if it vitiated the disturbed atmosphere there, Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe dared the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP to



show guts and deny permission. "They are scared of defeat and are resorting to such antics... if they have guts, come out in the open and fight us," Londhe challenged.

Ahead of the event, the government and the MVA have been hurling barbs at each other on the clashes that erupted in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Jalgaon and Mumbai during the Ram Navami celebrations coinciding with the holy month of Ramzan in the past two days. Sena (UBT) MP Raut had pointed fingers at the government claiming that the riots were 'state-sponsored' and intended to derail the MVA's rally, while Pawar declined comments saying the rally preparations are on.

Mahajan told mediapersons that if the MVA rally could create further law-and-order problems, then the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP government may not allow the gathering.

He said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis are monitoring the situation closely in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and if the police report was negative, given the current situation, a suitable decision may be taken.

2 hybrid terrorists arrested from J&K's Shopian

Srinagar | Agencies

Two hybrid terrorists involved in a terror attack on a YouTuber journalist have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, police said.

As per a police official, an SIT was set up to probe the attack and during the course of investigation, on the basis of oral, circumstantial and technical evidences, a number of suspects were rounded up.

During questioning, two suspects identified as Suhail Reyzaz and Anayat Ullah Iqbal, both residents of Saidapora Payeen, admitted their involvement in the terror attack.

"It also came to fore that



duo were working as hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror outfit TRF. "On their disclosure, the weapon of offence, viz a pistol along with its magazine and five pistol rounds

besides an IED was recovered by a joint party of police and 44RR from the orchards of village Saidapora Payeen," the official said.

Further investigation is on.

Two BJP leaders booked for demanding Rs 15 lakh from businessman

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An extortion case has been filed against two BJP leaders in Delhi, Siyaram Shakya and Dheeraj Pradhan, for allegedly demanding Rs 15 lakh from a businessman to let him construct his house.

The FIR was lodged with the Dabri police station in Dwarka district on March 29. Pradhan is said to be the Mehrauli district vice-president of BJP, while Shakya is reportedly a local BJP leader.

The businessman, Chaman Prakash Saxena, a resident of East Kidwai Nagar, has alleged that he was asked to pay Rs 15 lakh by the accused to settle their score.

"I was lawfully constructing a property at Raja Puri in Uttam Nagar. But



Siyaram Shakya fabricated a civil case against me. When I tried to resolve the issue, Shakya asked me to come the office of Dheeraj Pradhan, where

they demanded Rs 15 lakh from me to settle the matter out of court. Pradhan is facing court trials and has held guilty in one of the cases,"

Saxena alleged in the FIR, which has been accessed by reporter.

The complainant alleged that he was in fear that the accused may harm his family members.

Saxena also said that on March 6, a civil judge in Dwarka had vacated a stay order and directed him to repair the property of Shakya.

"I didn't damage their property. I just wanted to resolve the matter. I had asked Shakya to show where his property was damaged so that I could get it repaired, but he threatened me," Saxena alleged.

He also said that on March 11, when he resumed construction work of his own property, he was again threatened by Shakya to pay Rs 15 lakh or face dire consequences.

According to sources, no arrests have been made in the case so far.

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU LIKELY TO BE RELEASED FROM JAIL TODAY

Chandigarh | Agencies

Former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is undergoing a year's rigorous imprisonment in a jail in his hometown Patiala in a 1988 road rage case, is likely to be released prematurely on Saturday, with a remission of 45 days in his prison term.

"This is to inform everyone that Sardar Navjot Singh Sidhu will be released from Patiala jail tomorrow. (As informed by the concerned authorities)," a tweet from Sidhu's handle said on Friday.

However, officials of the central jail have not confirmed his release prematurely.

Sidhu on May 20, 2022, surrendered before a court in Patiala in a 1988 road rage case that had led to the death of a 65-year-old man.

Jail officials told IANS that Sidhu would be prematurely released for his good conduct. His scheduled release from jail was May 16.

Earlier, Sidhu's early release along with other prisoners was under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in January, but the AAP government in the state denied his remission of sentence.

Sidhu has been lodged in an ordinary barrack as the government has decided to abandon the special



cells in jails for VIP prisoners.

At one point of time, Bikram Singh Majithia, one of the most powerful Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders, was in judicial custody in the same jail where Sidhu was lodged.

Both Sidhu and Majithia, who is facing charges in a drugs case, were once close friends and now political enemies. They were in fray from Amritsar (East) in the recently held Assembly polls and the seat witnessed a bitter battle. They faced defeat from AAP's greenhorn Jeevan Jyot Kaur.

The apex court, which reserved the judgment in March, overturned its 2018 judgment, which had reduced the punishment for Sidhu in the case, after a review petition was filed by the family of Gurnam

Singh, who had died in the incident.

On December 27, 1988, the cricketer-turned-politician and one of his friends, Rupinder Singh Sandhu, had on December 27, 1988, hit Gurnam Singh, 65, on his head near the Sheranwala Gate crossing in Patiala.

Police had said Sidhu fled from the scene after committing the crime. Gurnam Singh was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead.

Sidhu said Gurnam Singh died of a cardiac arrest and not because he was punched in the head.

Sidhu was acquitted of the murder charges by a trial court in September 1999. However, the Punjab High Court reversed the verdict and held Sidhu and his co-accused guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder in December 2006. It sentenced them to three years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each.

Both Sidhu and Sandhu filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, which stayed their conviction in 2007. In 2018, the Supreme Court acquitted him of culpable homicide and convicted him of causing hurt in a road rage case in which one person died. In February 2022, the apex court agreed to hear a plea seeking review of its May 15, 2018 verdict, where it let off Sidhu with a mere Rs 1,000 fine.

Himanta Biswa Sarma threatens to lodge defamation suit against Kejriwal

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma dared his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal to call him corrupt when the latter is on a Guwahati tour on Sunday.

Sarma, on Friday, also threatened to file a defamation case against the Delhi Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister asserted that there is no pending case against him, neither before any court in the country nor in any agency.

He asked, "Which case is there against me? I challenge Arvind Kejriwal to show a single case filed against me."

Earlier, when the Delhi Chief Minister called Himanta Biswa Sarma a corrupt man,



he wanted to file a defamation case, but as Kejriwal spoke inside the Delhi Assembly, according to Sarma, he could not file a case. "I wanted to file a defamation suit. But as Arvind Kejriwal is a coward, he spoke against me inside the Delhi Assembly. I challenge him to call me corrupt

on his scheduled Assam tour, the next day I will file a defamation suit against him, like Manish Sisodia," Sarma said. Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann are scheduled to visit Assam on Sunday to strengthen the Aam Aadmi Party's presence in the state.

Rajasthan: Medical services remain hit as govt-doctors deadlock enters day 12

Jaipur | Agencies

Deadlock between the doctors and the Rajasthan government over the Right to Health Bill entered the 12th day with no immediate end in sight, leaving the patients in the lurch.

On Friday, a doctors' delegation met PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra to discuss the issue. However, the meeting remained inconclusive and the doctors were advised to approach the senior officers. Doctors across the state have called strike demanding withdrawal of the bill. The office-bearers of the Private Hospital and Nursing Home Society held a meeting on Thursday and demanded the Chief Minister's intervention in the matter.

Soon after, the delegation also reached the Chief Minister's residence where on behalf of the doctors, Virendra Singh conveyed the demand of the doctors to the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot then authorised State Congress Committee President Govind Singh Dotasra to listen to their woes. The agitation against the bill is gaining strength by the day. Secretary of the Private Hospital and Nursing Homes Society, Dr Vijay Kapoor said that private hospitals across the state have given written consent to stop government schemes. From April 1, the process of mass de-empanel-



ment of government schemes will be completed in all private hospitals of Rajasthan. The agitating doctors said that the strike of the resident doctors is continuing. Some residents may have returned to work under pressure from the government, but the Jaipur Association of Resident Doctors has continued with its strike. Meanwhile, patients continue to move to neighbouring states for treatment. Senior doctor Virendra Singh told reporter, "We hope that this deadlock ends on the 12th day. Doctors are actually scared of penalties imposed in the bill. Imagine if any patient complains and the doctor's name goes to the grievance authority and they impose a penalty of 25,000, where will the doctor go," he questioned.

Promise to show trailer of chats in coming week: Sukesh Chandrashekhar to Kejriwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, who is presently lodged in the Mandoli Jail here in a money-laundering case, on Friday released a press statement promising to show "a trailer" of chats between him, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and jailed AAP leader Satyendar Jain in the coming week.

In his handwritten letter addressed to Kejriwal, he wrote: "... your dramas, kattar corrupt mindset, lies and manipulation will be in the open."

Chandrashekhar has said that he has a 700-page WhatsApp and Telegram chat with him and that he will reveal it, which is related to Rs 15 crore paid on Kejriwal's behalf at a "political office, party office of TRS" to one of the accused of the "liquor gate case ongoing".

He wrote: "You wanted me to drop this 15 kg Ghee @ 15 Crore



Rupees at Hyderabad, because you mentioned there were 5 cases of Ghee which is 15x5 Crore which was already at Hyderabad and it was being converted for you so you had suggested that 15 which was from my side to be delivered to

Hyderabad at TRS party office to the person 'AP' in a Range Rover 6060 parked inside the office."

Calling the above-mentioned details a teaser, Chandrashekhar wrote that Kejriwal will be ashamed of showing his face once

he releases the chats. "Now all the details mentioned above are only a teaser, but coming week when the chats will be released, you will have no face to show, Kejriwalji," he wrote.

He further said that this chat he is referring to is only one of the "700-page chats". "... now your countdown has begun, my brother, stop troubling my family. This is the last time I am telling you. I assure you I will make sure you will be shaken out from the chair of power. All your golmal and corruption will be in open, get ready," he said.

"One last advice Kejriwalji, don't try to put your fake brazen face, because its evident in your eyes, you know you will be joining, Tihar club and all games of yours are over. Karnataka Assembly AAP and you mainly Kejriwalji, you are going to be a big joke, as "AAP Aur Kejriwal ko bhagao" is the latest," he added.



BJP LEADER HINTS AT AXE ON MVA'S SUNDAY RALLY IN CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

Against the backdrop of the disturbances witnessed in different parts of Maharashtra during the Ram Navami celebrations, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party state Minister on Friday hinted that the axe may fall on the proposed Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi rally on Sunday in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Medical Education Minister Girish Mahajan said that if the MVA rally could create further law-and-order problems, then the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP government may not allow the gathering.

The Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT) has scheduled a combined rally in the historic town famed for Ajanta-Ellora cave temples on April 2 - barely four days after violent group clashes rocked Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Jalgaon and a Mumbai suburb in the past 36 hours.

Mahajan told mediapersons that the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis are monitoring the situation closely in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

"However, if the police report that holding the rally at this time could be inappropriate given the current situation, a suitable decision may be taken," the Minister said, hinting at



possible denial of permission for the MVA event. Earlier today, Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut pointed fingers at the ruling

alliance for what he labelled as 'state-sponsored' riots which were designed to derail the MVA mega show of strength in Chhatrapati

Sambhajnagar.

"Our information is that nobody from the two groups wanted any violence... But it was the government which wanted the unrest. It supported those who resorted to the violence by not acting against them. The city has witnessed 'state-sponsored' violence to prevent us from our rally on Sunday," claimed Raut.

However, state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule rubbished Raut's contentions and warned saying that if the situation again deteriorates, then the Sena (UBT) MP should be held responsible for making inflammatory statements.

Top leaders of the major political parties have appealed to all to exercise restraint and refrain from making any provocative statements that could aggravate the delicate situation.

Meanwhile, tight police security arrangements along with other forces like SRPF, CRPF and RAF have been deployed in the three cities to prevent any untoward incidents.

Gadkari: Come Jan, zip from Mumbai to Goa on new highway in just 275 mins

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Spelling glad tidings, the work on the 360-kms long Mumbai-Goa National Highway (NH-66) will be completed by the year-end and the thoroughfare will be opened for traffic in January 2024, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said.

Billed as a boon for the population on the entire coastal Konkan belt, people will be able to zoom in their vehicles on the new 4-lane highway from Mumbai to Goa in barely 4.5 hours (around 275 minutes) - compared with the existing 12 hours, via NH 48 (600-kms).

The new highway, now almost 90 per cent complete, will traverse through more than 66 important tourist destinations en route that would spur tourism to both states, said Gadkari after conducting an aerial survey of the project near Ratnagiri on Thursday.

He said that the highway has been sliced into 10 packages of which two (P9, P10) are 99 per cent completed in Sindhudurg, P4, P8 are 92 and 98 per cent ready respectively in Ratnagiri.

Gadkari said that work on two packages P6, P7 (Ratnagiri) was delayed but



has now resumed after new contractors were appointed. Of the three packages in Raigad, P3, P2 are 82 and 93 per cent completed and P1 is more than 50 per cent done and the remaining works are in progress, said the Union Minister.

He attributed delays plaguing the much-anticipated Mumbai-Goa NH-66 project owing to land acquisition and environmental clearances on the Panvel-Indapur phase.

"Now, all these hurdles are cleared and even the environmental issue sorted out by removing the planned flyover in the Karnala Bird Sanctuary area of Panvel in Raigad," Gadkari pointed out.

Similarly, the work within the Goa stretch of NH-66 has already been completed and now it would give a fillip to tourism in both the neighbouring coastal states.

In order to prevent accidents, a proposal to erect the bamboo crash barriers - on the lines of the world's first such sturdy bamboo crash barrier that came up on the Chandrapur-Yavatmal highway three weeks ago (March 9) - even along the NH-66, has been entrusted to the National Highway Authority of India.

There will be massive tree plantations, signages as per world standards and other facilities to make the travel faster, easier and safer on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway.

The present Mumbai-Goa Highway (NH-48) has proved to be ineffective to handle the large volume of traffic, it suffers huge damage during the monsoon leading to massive traffic snarls that often double the travel time, and become a harrowing experience for the tourists and commoners alike.

The coastal road stretch linking the two states is among the most picturesque in the country, especially during monsoon, and has figured in several Bollywood films like 'Bombay To Goa' (1972), 'Dil Chahta Hai' (2001), 'Dhamaal' and 'Journey Bombay To Goa' (2007), 'Go Goa Gone' (2013), among many others.

After 125 km Bollywood-style chase, Maha Police seize consignment of illicit liquor

Gadchiroli | Agencies

In a scene straight out of a Bollywood thriller, police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli chased a gang of smugglers for nearly 125 km through jungles and seized a consignment of illicit liquor worth Rs 18 lakh, an official said here on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off that a huge consignment of alcoholic products was likely to be smuggled from Chandrapur to Gadchiroli - both "dry" districts, a team of Gadchiroli police Crime Branch laid a trap and waited for the smugglers.

Late on Wednesday night, a van carrying the liquor stocks was sighted on Haranghat Road where the police had already deployed a roadblock with barricades, and they signalled it to stop for a search.

However, instead of stopping, the van driver suddenly speeded up, rammed through the barricades, and fled and the police team immediately started a chase in their vehicles.

Trying to escape the law-enforcers, the van driver left the main roads to avoid traffic and kept zooming through the forests, small villages, and hamlets in the Charmorshi and Ashti regions.

However, the police teams did not give up



and kept up the hot pursuit for nearly 125 km till the van driver and his accomplice stopped the vehicle near Sonapur village.

Taking cover of the darkness, they abandoned the van and fled into the thick forests, with the police still hounding them and soon catching up.

Finally, the police team managed to catch and pin down one suspect, Amit Barai, but van driver Rakesh Mashid gave them a slip in the darkness and a manhunt is on to track him down. Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Neelotpal said that a search of the van revealed a large booty of the illicit liquor - 139 crates of Indian and 5 crates of imported spirits - totally valued at nearly Rs 18 lakh. The Charmorshi police have arrested Barai and booked two other absconders - the van driver Mashid and Shankar Roy, and further investigations are on.

Clashes erupt in Aheri village of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, security tightened

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar | Agencies

In a suspected fallout of the major clashes, arson and stone-pelting that ravaged Kiradpura area of Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, two groups indulged in violent stone-throwing at each other in the Aheri village of the district on Friday.

A large police force, including a CRPF team, was rushed to Aheri to maintain peace, and the situation is described as 'under control' there, with top officers and political leaders keeping an eye on any potential trouble-makers.

The developments came barely 24 hours after historic Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar was rocked by clashes in which one person was killed and over 15 police personnel injured and around 20 police and private vehicles torched during Wednesday-Thursday night.



At least seven persons have been arrested and more than 400 known or unknown persons booked for the rioting that shocked the city on the eve of Ram Navami celebrations, and during the ongoing Ramzan fasting month.

During the festival on Thursday, group clashes also erupted in Jalgaon town where four miscreants have been arrested and many more booked, and the situation is now reported as peaceful. Late on

Thursday, groups indulged in stone pelting at each other in the minority-dominated Malvani area of Malad west suburb of Mumbai and around 25 persons were detained.

The situation there is stated to be normal and under control with police maintaining a tight vigil in view of the ongoing Ramzan month.

The local Congress MLA Aslam Shaikh called upon the police to scan the CCTV footage of the area and take action against those responsible for

the clashes Thursday-Friday night. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut has pointed fingers at the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party alliance for the 'state-sponsored' riots which are intended to derail the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi rally scheduled in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar city on Sunday (April 2).

"Our information is that nobody from the two groups wanted any violence... But it was the government which wanted the unrest. It supported those who resorted to the violence by not acting against them. The city has witnessed 'state-sponsored' violence to prevent us from taking out our rally on Sunday," claimed Raut.

State BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule hit back by rubbishing Raut's contentions and saying that if the situation again deteriorates, then the Sena (UBT) MP should be held responsible for making inflammatory statements.

Clashes erupt in Mumbai during Ram Navami procession, 25 detained

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Jalgaon and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, two groups clashed in the minority-dominated Malvani area of Malad west suburb during a Ram Navami procession, police said.

The row broke out late Thursday night when some locals objected to loud DJ music playing during the procession that had several hundred participants.

Apparently enraged, some of the participants allegedly indulged in pelting stones, sparking panic among the people there, said a local.

Not taking chances, the Malvani



police rushed security and additional personnel were summoned to disperse the crowds, and later around two dozen suspected miscreants were nabbed.

The situation there is stated to be normal and under control with police maintaining a tight vigil in view of the ongoing Ramzan month.

The local Congress MLA Aslam Shaikh called upon the police to scan the CCTV footage of the area and take action against those responsible for the clashes last night.

Local leaders of various parties have visited the Malvani region today and appealed to the people to maintain calm.

Raghav Chadha-Parineeti wedding bells: Harrdy congratulates his co-star

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra's meal outings with AAP minister Raghav Chadha have been grabbing eyeballs, of late. While both Parineeti and Raghav have been tight-lipped about their companionship, Parineeti's 'Code Name: Tiranga' co-star Harrdy Sandhu seems to have put a stamp of approval on the equation between the two.

Recently, Sandhu said that he is very "happy that it's finally happening" and that the 'Ishaqzaade' actress is finally taking the plunge. He wished her "all the luck".

The 'Bijlee Bijlee' hitmaker also revealed that they would discuss marriage when they were shooting for 'Code Name: Tiranga'. He told DNA, "When we were shooting for 'Code Name: Tiranga', we used to have discussions about marriage, and she used to say that 'I will get married, only after I feel that I have found the right guy'".

Sandhu also shared that he has already



spoken with the actress and has congratulated on the soon to happen union.

Earlier, Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjeev Arora took to his Twitter account and congratulated Raghav and Parineeti for their union on Tuesday. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to @raghav_chadha and @ParineetiChopra. May their union be blessed with an abundance of love, joy, and companionship. My best wishes!!!" he tweeted.

Large hair mass removed from stomach of Mumbai girl with rare condition

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Doctors at a Mumbai hospital have removed a 100-gram hair mass from the stomach of a girl who suffers from a rare hair-eating disorder. The two-hour surgery was conducted at a pediatric hospital.

The 10-year-old girl, a resident of Dadar, has trichopagia, a rare condition in which one pulls out and eats his/her own hair. The girl was having heavy bleeding followed by stomach pain for over a year.

The parents of the girl were unaware of her condition. They brought the girl to the hospital only after she encountered intermittent

abdominal pain. "My daughter encountered intermittent abdominal pain which worsened over time. We were worried as the pain didn't stop even after giving her medication. We consulted many medicos but they failed to treat her. We were in a rude shock after knowing about the presence of hair in her stomach," said the patient's mother Amita Bansal (name changed).

Apart from stomach pain, the girl didn't have any other signs or symptoms such as vomiting, loose motions, or weight loss, she said.

The girl was taken to Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children where a CT scan showed mass of hair in the stomach.

The girl was taken to Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children, where a CT scan showed a mass of hair in the stomach. Some part of the mass was going into the small intestine, doctors said. "Hair is not able to dissolve, so it remains in the digestive system then it turns into a ball or mass, which keeps on growing. This is rarely seen among children," Dr Parag Karkera, a pediatric surgeon at the hospital said.

"Not treating her at the right time could have led to complications such as intestinal obstruction or perforated intestines, meaning a hole in the wall of the stomach, and small intestine. The patient was doing well on follow-up," she added.

Transgender person becoming woman after surgery can seek relief under Domestic Violence Act: Bombay HC

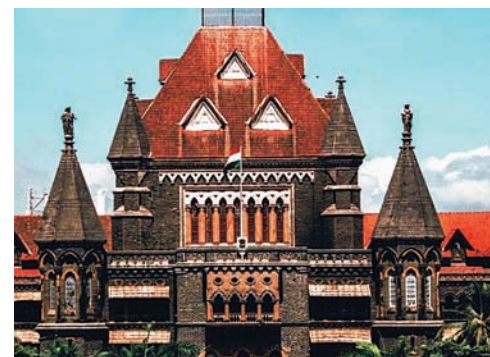
Team Absolute | Mumbai

A transgender person who chooses to be a woman by undergoing gender reassignment surgery can seek relief under the Domestic Violence Act, the Bombay High Court has ruled upholding a lower court order directing a man to pay maintenance to his estranged wife, who was initially a transgender person.

A single bench of Justice Amit Borkar in the order of March 16, a copy of which was available on Friday, said the word "woman" is no more limited to the binary of women and men and also includes transgender persons who have changed their sex in tune with how they identify themselves.

Justice Borkar noted that section 2(f) of the DV Act that defines a domestic relationship is gender neutral and hence includes persons irrespective of their sexual preferences.

There is no manner of doubt that a transgender person or either a male or female who has undergone a sex change operation is entitled to the gen-



der of their choice, the order said.

Also Read: Land to be allotted in suburban Bandra for new HC building, says Maharashtra government

"The object and purpose of the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act is to provide more effective protection of the rights of the women who are victims of violence of any kind that occurs within the

family," it said. The bench further noted that the need to pass such legislation was because the existing law was inadequate to address a woman who was subjected to cruelty by her husband and their family. It added that the word 'woman' is no more limited to the binary of women and men and also includes transgender persons who have changed their sex in tune with "their gender characteristics".

"Therefore, in my opinion, a transgender person who has undergone surgery to change their gender to female needs to be termed as an aggrieved person within the meaning of the Domestic Violence Act," the court said. The man in his plea had challenged an October 2021 order of a sessions court upholding a magistrate's court directive asking him to pay Rs 12,000 monthly maintenance to his estranged wife, who was initially a transgender person. The wife had filed proceedings against her estranged husband as a woman under the DV Act.

According to the estranged wife, she became a woman in 2016 from a transgender person after undergoing a gender reassignment surgery.



EDITOR'S SPECS

UP BJP to launch campaign for OBC voters

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is all set to launch a week-long drive -- 'Gaon Gaon chalo, Ghar Ghar chalo' -- from April 6 to reach out to Other Backward Class (OBC) voters. This is an attempt to reach out to OBCs ahead of the urban municipal polls in the state and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. According to Narendra Kashyap, state president of the party's Backward Classes Morcha, "We will launch the campaign on the foundation day of the party on April 6 and it will conclude on April 14, the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Party leaders and workers will make door-to-door visit in the villages to connect with the community." While BJP president J.P. Nadda and OBC Morcha president K. Laxman will launch the campaign in Haryana's Manesar district, other ministers and senior party leaders are expected to launch the drive in six areas of Uttar Pradesh, he said. BJP OBC Morcha office-bearers and workers will visit 15,000 villages, 741 nagar palika parishads and nagar panchayats, and 17 municipal corporations during the 'Gaon Gaon Chalo, Ghar Ghar Chalo' campaign. The party leaders will contact the members of the backward class and extremely backward class during the outreach programme. He said, "When parties like the SP, BSP, and Congress were in power, their governments and leaders cheated the backward communities. When in power, the opposition parties exploited the backward class and now that they are out of power, these politicians pretend to be their well-wishers. "The people have understood the casteist and communal appeasement politics of the SP, BSP, and Congress. The backward and extremely backward communities know that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are working for the welfare and development of all."

FROM PEOPLE'S SCHEME TO TECH QUAGMIRE: HOW DIGITAL 'SURGICAL STRIKE' HITS MGNREGA WORKERS

Suresh Kumar Mohapatra

In a post-budget statement by the Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) and NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM), activists and academics hit out against the low allocation for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) this year. "Instead of adequately funding the programme, the Union government has repeatedly resorted to needless technical tinkering. The National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) application for capturing workers' attendance, mandated in the current FY, is one such anti-worker intervention," they said. The latest digitisation efforts, ostensibly to weed out corruption and ensure fiscal transparency, have deviated from the primary objective of the scheme - to provide guaranteed 100 days of employment to adult members of rural households in every financial year. The procedure to get work under the MGNREGA itself is a bit complex. Those who want work should raise their demand with the gram panchayat, after which an acknowledgement form (C2) with details of the number of workers for a given work (from a pre-approved list of works) and the muster roll is generated.

The MGNREGA mate has to take this muster roll to the worksite and record attendance on the NMMS application. Once the work is done, a Bare Foot Technician (BFT) or junior engineer will measure the progress of the work. Subsequently, the bill for the muster roll is approved and sent for payment.

Work-snatcher NMMS app

After a brief pilot phase, and even before any independent evaluation of its efficacy had been carried out, the Ministry of Rural Development made the use of NMMS compulsory for capturing workers' attendance under the MGNREGA from January 1. During its pilot phase since May last year, individual works (in private lands of registered beneficiaries) like land development were excluded from digital attendance. Manual attendance was also allowed when the number of labourers was less than 20. All that has changed with the NMMS, in which two time-stamped and geotagged photographs of the workers should be uploaded on a given day. The first shows the worker during the 6 to 11 a.m. schedule and the second during the 2 to 6 p.m. schedule. "Due to technical issues, the attendance

taken in the morning does not get registered in the app. We are eligible for payment only if the attendance is captured in the app twice daily," Majhi Sabar, a jobseeker from Akhusingi gram panchayat in Padmapur block in Odisha's Rayagada district, told 101Reporters.

"When real-time attendance is missed once, we turn out to be absentees after applying for that work. Consequently, a day of work is cut from the 100 man-days allotted in that financial year."

"At the end of the day, the labourers seem to have wasted a day without work or pay. You know, they cannot instantly go looking for some other work when they are already at the MGNREGA site," said Kailash Majhi, a job seeker from Titiribandha village.

If the work is carried out under the individual beneficiary scheme, the beneficiary himself should take workers' attendance. However, there is no clarity on how this is possible as the NMMS app is only meant for mates.

Even mates have issues when it comes to accessing NMMS. Some of them do not have the money to purchase mobile phones. So they end up using the devices of relatives/acquaintances to get the work done. This also is a violation of the guidelines.

ABPS and non-linking

The ministry has also made Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) mandatory. In simple terms, it means linking both bank accounts and job cards with Aadhaar numbers, which is done at the block level.

However, the problem arises when the MGNREGA website uses an automated process to identify and reject job seekers based on the Aadhaar linkage. Sometimes, it rejects those whose bank accounts are already seeded with Aadhaar!

To make matters worse, the MGNREGA guidelines stipulate that any muster roll with even a single non-ABPS request is not eligible for payment. In fact, the system will not generate the wage list in such a circumstance.

In the Management Information System (MIS) of the MGNREGA website, there is no special provision to identify those without Aadhaar-linked accounts. So, if such a labourer is allotted work in a muster roll for a few days, that person is set to lapse all those man-days from his/her 100-day quota. Also, once it becomes clear that this person's bank account is not suitable for ABPS, no work will

henceforth be provided to him/her.

According to official sources, Aadhaar seeding was done a couple of years ago by organising mega Aadhaar camps. "The problem here is quite unique. The MGNREGA website itself identifies those with Aadhaar-linked accounts through an automated process. At times, it rejects even genuine cases." Social worker and former chairperson of Padmapur block Kailash Kraska told 101Reporters that guidelines and technical errors were depriving people of their right to seek work and get wages. "Sometimes, during wage list generation, an error shows up which results in zero muster roll attendance," he informed. Workers have no recourse in such cases and can't even approach the district's MGNREGA ombudsman who only looks at human-induced irregularities.

Setting limits on work

Existing guidelines do not allow more than 20 ongoing projects in a gram panchayat at any given time, whether they are community or individual beneficiary-related works. This has a direct effect on asset creation in gram panchayats in light of the technical glitches.

"If payment under any head is pending in connection with a work, it cannot be listed as complete in the MIS. When it stays in the system as a pending project, the prospect of adding new work gets affected due to the guideline related to the number of projects. It is a procedural pain to get a nod for more than 20 projects. The MGNREGA is no longer a people-oriented scheme, it is a technically suicidal programme. However, what people really need is work and on-time payment," Akhusingi's naib sarpanch Devasis Mohapatra told 101Reporters.

For preparing detailed project reports of MGNREGA works, a secure web-based application is used. "It takes over a month to get a project approved. Around 70 per cent of the projects submitted are rejected due to a mismatch in wage-material ratio and other technical procedures. As a result, the works approved by gram sabhas taking into account the demands raised by people are put on the back burner," said Chita Ranjan Sabar, a former samiti member of Gudia Bandha gram panchayat in Padmapur block.

"The MGNREGA has narrowed down into a set of guidelines and procedures, where the wages and right to work are sacrificed," he noted.

Delayed payments

Instead of learning from and building on the potential that MGNREGA demonstrated during the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the government is determined to slowly kill the programme, says Rajendran Narayanan, Assistant Professor at the Azim Premji University. "NMMS is an unnecessary and irrelevant intervention that is being used to discourage worker participation. It doesn't address the root causes of corruption in the scheme like the use of machines to co-opt work, lack of adequate junior engineers to verify work done in the field and the defunding of social audit infrastructure at the local level," he observes.

A situation that is bound to become worse with the reduced funding for the scheme. The budgeted allocation for MGNREGA has been reduced from Rs 73,000 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 60,000 crore in 2023-24 fiscal. In 2021-22 fiscal, the allocation was Rs 98,000 crore. Bidika Anusuya from Akhusingi Gram Panchayat worked under the MGNREGA for 14 days from December to February for a daily wage of Rs 221, but is yet to be paid due to lack of funds. Gudaria Sabar, a migrant labourer from Soura Ambakhola village in Padmapur block, said he also did not get wages for the last four months due to non-availability of Central funds.

"Life is difficult. I do not even have the money to pay off my debts to the shopkeeper," said Gudaria, who along with a few other labourers have decided to migrate to other states in search of work.

"There are guidelines regarding attendance and other things, but there are no provisions to penalise the Central government when lack of funds puts rural livelihoods in jeopardy," said Akhusingi-based Congress leader Parsuram Panigrahy.

All this ultimately is leading to lower demand and work days under MGNREGA. The MIS data for Padmapur block show the total expenditure during 2021-22 fiscal was Rs 9.56 crore, while the number of man-days was 4.44 lakh. In comparison, the expenditure for the current fiscal up to February 2023 was only Rs 4.67 crore against 2.10 lakh man-days, which is only around half of the previous year.

(Suresh Kumar Mohapatra is a Odisha-based journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters.)

international

TRUMP TO BE TRIED ON CHARGES RELATING TO HUSH MONEY TO ADULT FILM STAR

Arul Louis | New York

Impacting the 2024 US presidential elections, Donald Trump will become the first former American President to go on trial following his indictment on charges relating to a payoff to buy the silence of an adult film star who claimed to have had an affair with him in 2016.

Manhattan prosecutor Alvin Bragg's office confirmed the indictment by a grand jury on Thursday evening and said Trump's lawyer has been contacted "to coordinate his surrender", which would be an unprecedented event in the history of the US. While the indictment remained under seal, media reports quoting unnamed sources said that there were about 30 separate charges.

Complicating the scenario, Trump is a frontrunner for the 2024 elections, just 1 per cent behind President Joe Biden in polls, according to RealClear

Politics which aggregates survey results.

He is also ahead of his nearest rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, by 16.8 per cent for the Republican Party's nomination.

Under the US constitution, his indictment or even a conviction will not prevent him from running for President.

But were he to win in spite of an indictment or even a conviction, the US will be in uncharted territory.

Trump said the indictment "is political persecution and election interference at the highest level in history". Indian-American member of the House of Representatives member Raja Krishnamoorti said in an email to supporters that "in moments like these, we are reminded that no one is above the law, not even former Presidents".

"We know Trump will use his indictment to rile up his supporters



and raise millions for his next presidential bid," he added.

Trump is also facing two other probes -- one for his role in the January 6, 2016, riot by his supporters who stormed the Capitol that houses Congress, and the second for alleged attempts to interfere with the 2020 election results in Georgia.

According to one of his lawyers, Susan Necheles, Trump would turn himself in to authorities on April 4.

In what would be an unprecedented scene, as a former president, Trump is under Secret Service protection and the federal agency would be coordinating the arrest with New York officials and protecting him.

If the usual procedures are followed, he would be fingerprinted, photographed and handcuffed and produced before a judge who would decide whether to keep him in custody or release him.

Often in a ritual known as "perp walk", the accused "perpetrator" would be paraded in handcuffs before news cameras and Trump may want it to portray himself as a martyr and rile up his base.

According to media reports, Trump has discussed being handcuffed and considered if the sight would rally his supporters.

Forced faith conversions of 81 Hindu girls in Pakistan in 2022

Islamabad | Agencies

At least 124 incidents in 2022 were reported in Pakistan of forced faith conversions involving girls and women from minority communities which comprised 81 Hindu, 42 Christian, and one Sikh. A Human Rights Observer 2023 fact sheet revealed that 23 per cent of girls were below 14 years of age, 36 per cent of them were between the age of 14 and 18 years, and only 12 per cent of the victims were adults, while the age of 28 per cent of the victims was not reported, reports Dawn news.

Sixty-five per cent of cases of forced faith conversion were reported in Sindh in 2022, followed by 33 per cent in Punjab, and 0.8 per cent each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The fact sheet revealed that the religious content against minorities increased in curriculum and textbooks during the year 2022 and a number of perennial and new challenges emerged in the education system, Dawn reported.

A report by the Centre for Social Justice

(CSJ) covers five key issues impacting religious minorities including discrimination in the education system, prevalence of forced faith conversions, abuse of blasphemy laws, establishment of the National Commission for Minorities and jail remissions for minority prisoners.

The fact sheet showed that as many as 171 people were accused under the blasphemy laws, 65 per cent of cases surfaced in Punjab and 19 per cent in Sindh.

The highest occurrence was observed in the districts of Karachi, followed by Chiniot, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Dera Ghazi Khan, Nankana Sahib, Lahore and Sheikhpura.

The highest number of victims (88) was Muslims, followed by 75 Ahmadis, four Christians, and two Hindus, while the religious identity of the two accused could not be ascertained. Four accused were extrajudicially killed -- two in Punjab and one each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last year -- which brings the number of extra-judicial killings to 88 persons in total during the period from 1987 to 2022, Dawn reported.

SYRIAN AIR DEFENCES SHOOT DOWN ISRAELI MISSILES OVER DAMASCUS

Damascus | Agencies

Syrian air defences on Friday shot down most of the Israeli missile strike that targeted military sites in Damascus.

Local media said the forces shot down most of the missiles in the sky over Damascus and its vicinity, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Israeli forces carried out their attack from the Golan Heights, targeting military sites in the countryside of Damascus, the Syrian army said in a statement, adding that no casualty was reported.

Xinhua reporters heard several explosions in Damascus amid the attack and the air defence responses.

The attack is the second in 24 hours.

After midnight Thursday, Israel launched a missile strike, injuring two soldiers and leaving damage.

Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks against targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, including two missile strikes this month on Aleppo



International Airport.

This was the third attack by Israeli forces on the air transport facility in six months.

Israel claims the strikes are aimed at bases of Iran-allied armed groups such as Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Israel says such operations are aimed at preventing Iranian weapons from reaching armed groups in Syria that are backed by Iran.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria's civil war, and around half of the country's pre-war population has been forced from their homes.

N.Korea plans to send weapons, munitions to Russia in exchange for food: WH

Washington/Seoul | Agencies

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said that North Korea is working to send dozens of kinds of weapons and munitions to Russia to be used in Moscow's ongoing war against Ukraine in exchange for food supplies, the media reported on Friday.

Addressing a virtual press briefing on Thursday, Kirby said North Korea seeks to secure food supplies in exchange and that the potential arms deal is being arranged through a Slovakian arms dealer, identified as Ashot Mkrtcheyev, reports Yonhap News Agency.

"We remain concerned that North Korea will provide further support to Russia's military operations against Ukraine," he said, noting that North Korea delivered large quantities of munitions to Russia late last year.

"As part of this proposed deal, Russia would receive over two dozen kinds of weapons and munitions from Korea. We also understand that Russia is seeking to send a delegation to North Korea and



that Russia is offering North Korea food in exchange for munitions."

The US Department of Treasury said it has imposed sanctions on Mkrtcheyev for arranging the arms deal between North Korea and Russia.

"Between the end of 2022 and early 2023, Mkrtcheyev worked with DPRK officials to obtain over two dozen kinds of weapons and munitions for Russia in exchange for materials ranging from

commercial aircraft, raw materials, and commodities to be sent to the DPRK," the Department said in a statement.

DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

Kirby emphasised that any provision of weapons or munitions to Russia by North Korea would be in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions, which prohibit any shipments of weapons to

and from the North.

"Any arms deal between North Korea and Russia would directly violate a series of UN Security Council resolutions. We've taken note of North Korea's recent statements that they will not provide or sell arms to Russia and we are continuing to monitor this closely," he told the briefing. "We are going to continue to identify, expose and counter Russian attempts to acquire military equipment from North Korea or from any other state that is prepared to support its war in Ukraine."

North Korea is one of the poorest countries in the world and has experienced chronic food shortages for decades, including a devastating famine in the mid-to-late 1990s, the BBC reported. In February, experts warned the reclusive nation was facing a critical food crisis due to a significant drop in production -- worsened by poor weather, strict border controls and the effect of international sanctions.

Satellite imagery from South Korean authorities shows that the North produced 180,000 tonnes less food in 2022 than in 2021.



INDORE TEMPLE TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED HAD AUTHORITIES ACTED STERNLY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Rescue operation in Indore temple tragedy in which 35 lives were lost continued on Friday with some people still reported to be missing. Sources have said the tragedy could have been averted had the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) acted upon the illegal constructions (covering of old stepwell) in January this year.

Official sources in IMC told reporter that it had marked the walls cover for demolition as it was found dangerous during an earlier inspection.

As per the official reports, over one hundred residents from several nearby localities thronged the temple to offer their prayer on the occasion of Ram Navami on Thursday morning. While, were busy in chanting mantras as the 'havan' process at the temple was going on, around 11.30 a.m., a concrete area on which around 40-45 people were standing and were praying caved-in and they all fell into a deep step-well. The people were not aware that the place where they were standing was an actually a makeshift cover over the deep stepwell, which was illegally covered years back.

Sources told reporter that the Indore civic body had issued a couple of notices to the temple trust directing to remove the concrete slab from the stepwell, including a fresh notice issued in January this year, but no action was taken. The officer also claimed that a show cause notice to the temple trust



was also served earlier in April last year, directing that the slab put on top of the stepwell should be removed. Reporter also attempted to speak to the temple trustees on this matter, however, response is awaited.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan upon reaching the spot told the media that the Indore district police have registered a case and a magisterial inquiry has also been ordered.

"Whoever is found responsible, will be punished as per the law. As of now, our first priority is to complete the rescue operation, which is still continuing. One person is still missing. State government will bear the medical treatment expenses of all those who got injured. We are ensuring that all injured get the best medical treatment," Chouhan

added. While CM Chouhan was briefing the media in Indore on Friday, he was also joined by IMC mayor Pushymitra Bhargava, state Home minister Narottam Mishra and water resources minister Tulsi Silawat.

Later, Chief Minister Chouhan also visited Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital where injured persons were admitted for treatment. A total 14 people have been rescued from the stepwell. Out of these two died later during treatment. The condition of four-five rescued persons was reported to be critical.

The Chief Minister also said that the district administration has been directed to find wells and stepwells which are covered with slabs. He also mentioned that a survey of tubewells will also be conducted.

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 36, YOUNGEST VICTIM 2 YR-OLD BOY

Bhopal: The death toll in Indore's Sri Baleshwar Mahadev temple tragedy has risen to 36, with the body of the last missing person - a 53-year-old man - being retrieved from the deep stepwell on Friday afternoon.

With this, an over 24-hour-long rescue operation by around 140 personnel including 75 Indian Army men and SDFRF (State Disaster Emergency Response Force) was concluded.

Initiating action, Indore police have registered a case of culpable homicide against Sevaram Galani, who is said to be head of Sri Baleshwar Mahadev temple trust. Meanwhile, the Indore Municipal Corporation said it had suspended two officers (a building officer and a building engineer), who were in charge of Patel Nagar area where the temple is located.

Out of total 36 people who died in the heart wrenching incident, the youngest victim was a two-year-old boy, Hitansh, while the eldest one was an 80-year-old woman identified as Jayvanti Devi, according to police. Most of the victims were women.

At least 20 people, who were rescued safely in the first four hours of the incident, were admitted at Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital, popularly known as MY Hospital. Four to five of them were at a critical stage.

We cannot forget Sindh: Mohan Bhagwat at Sindhi Mahakumbh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat termed the partition of India in 1947 as "artificial" and said that we cannot forget "Sindhu" and "Sindh Pradesh". Bhagwat addressed a grand function here organized by the Bharatiya Sindhu Sabha, which was attended by men and women of the Sindhi community from different parts of the country.



In this function organized on the birth centenary year of Amar Shaheed Hemu Kalani, Bhagwat said that due to artificial division, the people of this (Sindhi) society left "India" and came to "Bharat". This pain is still in everyone's mind. They came leaving their land and everything. Everything is still there in the memories of the generation of that time, but it is the responsibility of the older generation to make the new generation of this society, which is born "here", aware of this fact. In the context of the partition of the country, Bhagwat said that the body is divided, but the body cannot remain divided for long. Now even the people of Pakistan say that a "mistake" was made. But we do not say here that India should attack, because our culture and identity is not as an aggressor. But India will become "Vishwa Guru". And "Akhand Bharat" will be made again. Bhagwat said that he did not know how all this would happen, but it would definitely happen. Bhagwat said that Sindhu is the only Hindu. We have to beware of all conspirators and conspiracies. And always be ready to get your "self". Mentioning the martyr Hemu Kalani and other revolutionaries, he said that they too had put their lives at stake to attain the self. All this undertaking was not only to remove the British from the country and get the power of the Indians. We have to work to establish a system according to our culture. On this occasion, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made several announcements regarding the demands of the Sindhi community. Bhagwat and Chauhan honored various personalities of Sindhi society at the function.

Young entrepreneur planted saplings with Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with young entrepreneurs planted saplings of Banyan, Maulshri and Kadamba in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Ashish Ahirwar, Kamal Thakur and Neeraj Thakur of Jabalpur participated in plantation. Young entrepreneur Ashish Ahirwar planted saplings in the joy of being sanctioned a loan of one crore rupees for setting up a mobile charging cable manufacturing unit. They are setting up their industrial unit in IT Park Jabalpur.



2 DEAD, MANY INJURED AFTER CAR HITS MOTORCYCLE IN INDORE

Indore: At least two persons died and some sustained injuries after a speedy car hit many people in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, a police official said.

The accident occurred at Tejaji Chowk Palda in the city on Thursday afternoon. The incident was captured in the CCTV camera installed near the spot. In the footage, the car was spotted hitting a two-wheeler head-on arriving from the front.

Bhavar Kuan Police station in-charge Shashikant Chaurasia said, "The accident occurred at Tejaji Chowk Palda in which at least two persons died and some persons were seriously injured, who were undergoing treatment. There were three people travelling in the car. The driver of the car, who was in an inebriated state, has been taken into custody."

"The car of the accused has also been confiscated and a case has been registered against the accused under IPC section 304 (Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and hit-and-run. Further proceeding into the matter is going on," Chaurasia said.

Congress reviews Assembly poll manifesto

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress on Friday reviewed its Assembly poll manifesto, comprising over a 100 promises, under the leadership of state party president Kamal Nath here.

In a meeting of 'Bacahapatra' (election manifesto) committee at Kamal Nath's residence, a detailed discussion was held on promises for the election due later this year.

Sources told IANS that the Congress will announce the promises in different intervals once the Assembly elections schedules are announced.

At least sub-committees of senior Congress leaders have been busy in preparing the list elections manifesto and their recommendations have been submitted to the head committee chaired by senior party leader Rajendra Singh.

During a discussion with reporter, Singh has informed that the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) is preparing two Vachan Patras, one for the women and second for the people of the state, including women.

Some of the big promises



have already been announced. For instance, Kamal Nath had last month announced a new scheme to provide Rs 1500 per month to each eligible woman.

This announcement was made to counter Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 'Ladli Behna' scheme, under which, women aged between 23 to 60 would be given Rs 1000 per month.

Two weeks back, Kamal Nath has made another big announcement that LPG cylinders will be provided at Rs 500, if the Congress comes back into power in Madhya Pradesh.

"Our vachan-patra will be the changing factor because all sections of society have been given priority in it. Importantly, we are going to only make those promises which can be fulfilled after

coming into power. More than 100 promises are included in vachan-patra, which will be announced one by one, after the election dates are announced," Rajendra Singh told reporter.

In 2018, the Congress had brought the 'Vachan Patra' in which it announced various schemes. Among them the Jai Kisan farmer loan waiver scheme up to Rs 2 lakh, Rs 100 for using upto 100 electricity units and many more were included.

The grand-old party under the leadership of Kamal Nath had managed to back in power after 15 years, however, crisis broke out within the party had resulted collapse of the Congress government within 15 months as Jyotiraditya Scindia along with 22 MLAs switched over to the BJP in March 2020.

FORMER BJP MP MAKAN SINGH SOLANKI JOINED CONGRESS

Bhopal: Former BJP MP Makan Singh Solanki has joined the Congress on Friday. Congress workers conference was organized on the arrival of former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh during the program organized at Silavd in Barwani district on Friday. In this, former MP Makan Singh Solanki, who has been angry with the BJP for many days, has left the BJP and joined the Congress. During this, MLA Honey Baghel, Manawar MLA Hiralal Alava, MLA Chandrabhaga Kirade, District President Virendra Darbar and former MLA Ramesh Patel were present.

Mumbai court grants transit remand of 'bookie' Anil Jaisinghani to MP police in bootlegging case

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A sessions court in Mumbai on Friday allowed Madhya Pradesh police's plea, seeking the transit remand of alleged bookie Anil Jaisinghani in a bootlegging case registered against him there.

Jaisinghani is currently in judicial custody following his arrest by the Mumbai police in a case related to demanding bribe and extortion from Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The MP police submitted that his transit remand was required in connection with the case registered

against him under sections of the Excise Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Meanwhile, additional sessions court is expected to pass an order on Jaisinghani's bail in the case filed by Amruta Fadnavis on Saturday. The alleged bookie's daughter, Aniksha Jaisinghani, who is also accused in the case, is currently out on bail.

Based on a complaint filed by the deputy chief minister's wife, police had registered a case against the father-daughter duo. They have been booked under IPC sections for conspiracy and extortion and provisions of the Prevention of

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The young generation should not forget the tradition of culture, dress and hard work: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Amar Shaheed Hemu Kalani sacrificed his life to make India independent. Wearing a noose around his neck, he had said that he will be born again and will make India independent. If we do not worship the martyrs today, no one will come forward to sacrifice their lives for the nation. The life of the martyrs is inspiring for the new generation. Along with brave fighters, Sindh has been the land of saints. The hymns of the Vedas were composed on the banks of the Indus river. The culture of Sindh is very ancient. This society has worked to give many social-reformers, successful entrepreneurs and other talents. Even after leaving the motherland for its religion, culture and civilization, the Sindhi society, which has re-established itself, has given a message of merit through intelligence and hard work in the field of business. To inculcate the qualities of hard work in the young generation of the society as well as its culture, Don't forget the costumes and food. Chief Minister



Shri Chouhan was addressing the birth centenary celebrations of Amar Baidani Hemu Kalani at BHEL Dussehra ground.

Major announcements Chief Minister Chouhan said that along with Bhopal's Manuabhan Tekri, the statue of immortal martyr Hemu Kalani will also be estab-

lished in Jabalpur and Indore of the state. Sindhi culture is the oldest culture. A museum showing its features will be built in the capital Bhopal. Norms have been laid down for providing leases to Sindhi migrants at low cost. According to this, the work of providing pattas to the eligible Sindhi displaced people

will be done at different places of the state. Eligible Sindhi displaced people will be given ownership rights of land by setting up special camps. This year, under the Mukhyamantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana, an amount of Rs 25,000 per passenger will be provided to take them to the Sindhu Darshan festival.

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क्रमांक / लोनिवि / ई टेंडर/2023/2219 सारणी दिनांक 28/03/2023

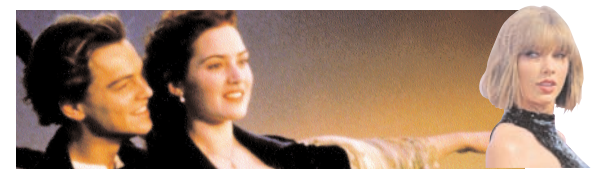
द्वितीय निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है.

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टीप :- निविदा के संबंध में किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाइन की वेबसाईट पर ही किया जायेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।

मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद सारनी



I DEFINITELY ABUSED MYSELF FOR 'MIDSOMMAR': FLORENCE PUGH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Florence Pugh said during a recent interview on the "Off Menu" podcast that she "most definitely" abused herself to get into character for "Midsommar." The Ari Aster-directed horror movie starred Pugh as Dani, a grieving American psychology student who psychologically breaks down when she joins her toxic boyfriend on a trip to Sweden's midsummer festival. "When I did it, I was

so wrapped up in her and I've never had this ever before with any of my characters," Pugh told podcast hosts James Acaster and Ed Gamble. "I'd never played someone that was in that much pain before, and I would put myself in really shitty situations that maybe other actors don't need to do but I would just be imagining the worst things." Pugh continued, "Each day the content would be getting more weird and harder to do. I was putting things in my head that were getting worse and more bleak. I think by the end I probably, most defi-

nately abused my own self in order to get that performance."

After "Midsommar" wrapped, Pugh traveled immediately to the Boston set of Greta Gerwig's "Little Women." The Oscar nominee was overcome with emotion during the switch between movies. "I remember looking [out the plane] and feeling immense guilt because I felt like I'd left [Dani] in that field in that [emotional] state," Pugh said. "It's so weird. I've never had that before... Obviously, that's probably a psychological thing where I felt immense guilt of what I'd put myself through but I defi-

nately felt like I'd left her there in that field to be abused... almost like I'd created this person and then I just left her there to go and do another movie." She added, "Once you laugh at one thing, he will try and make you laugh at all the other things. He'll keep going and everybody will be crying in fits of laughter."

"We were shooting in a very hot field with three different languages, so I wouldn't say that all of it was pleasurable," Pugh continued about making the movie. "Also, it shouldn't be. Why would making a movie like that be pleasurable?"



Los Angeles | Agencies

Emily Atack has scrapped her own ITV2 comedy show after three series, MailOnline can reveal. The former Inbetweeners star launched The Emily Atack Show in November 2020; nearly two years after finishing runner up in I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!, and it proved a hit with young audiences.

But the actress has decided to shelve the series in favour of her starring role in raunchy new Disney+ show Rivals, which is an adaption of Jilly Cooper's steamy 1988 novel. A TV insider told MailOnline: "The show means so much to Emily, but she felt it was the right time to move on, there are no plans to make another one. It takes a lot of work and dedication and other commitments this year meant it would be hard to give another series her all."

'She'll always be proud of it as not many female stars have been able to make their own stand-up comedy show.' The Emily Atack Show combines stand-up with various sketches, including impressions of stars including Holly Willoughby and Gemma Collins. Her stand-up routines regularly contained anecdotes from her dating and love life, including a time she claimed to be having a three-way relationship with a married couple.

Despite shelving plans to make a fourth series this year, Emily hasn't ruled out bringing the show back some time in the future. A spokesperson for Emily said: "The Emily Atack show has been a great success so far, and Emily is discussing future opportunities about the series, but because Emily is flat out filming for her new Disney+ show she hasn't had a moment to sit down and write new material or commit to any filming dates. 'She's hoping she will have time to revisit The Emily Atack show in 2024.' An ITV source added: "Whilst there are no plans for a new series in 2023, it was a great show and one that could appear on forthcoming schedules in the future." Emily's steamy new drama Rivals features a stellar cast, including former Doctor Who David Tennant, ex-EastEnders star Danny Dyer, Poldark hunk Aidan Turner, and Sex Education's Bella Maclean.

Emily Atack scrapped her ITV2 comedy show to focus on Disney+ projects

New 'Citadel' trailer zooms into memory loss of Madden, Priyanka's characters

Los Angeles | Agencies

A new trailer of the upcoming streaming series 'Citadel' further deep dives into the show's narrative of two former agents played by Richard Madden and Priyanka Chopra Jonas. Their memories get wiped out after one of their colleagues double-crosses them, leading to the titular spy agency's fall. As per the show's narrative,

the titular independent global spy agency was destroyed by operatives of Manticore, a powerful syndicate manipulating the world from the shadows.

Priyanka and Richard's character remain hidden under cover unaware of their part until one night, when Richard's character is tracked down by his former Citadel colleague, Bernard Orlick (Stanley Tucci), who desperately needs his help to prevent Manticore

from establishing a new world order.

Mason (Richard) seeks out his former partner, Nadia (Priyanka), and the two spies embark on a mission that takes them around the world in an effort to stop Manticore.

'Citadel' is being produced by Amazon Studios and the Russo Brothers' AGBO. It premieres on April 28 on Prime Video with new episodes released weekly every Friday all through to May 26.



CARDI B JOINED THE VOICE CAST OF 'BABY SHARK' ANIMATED MOVIE

Los Angeles | Agencies

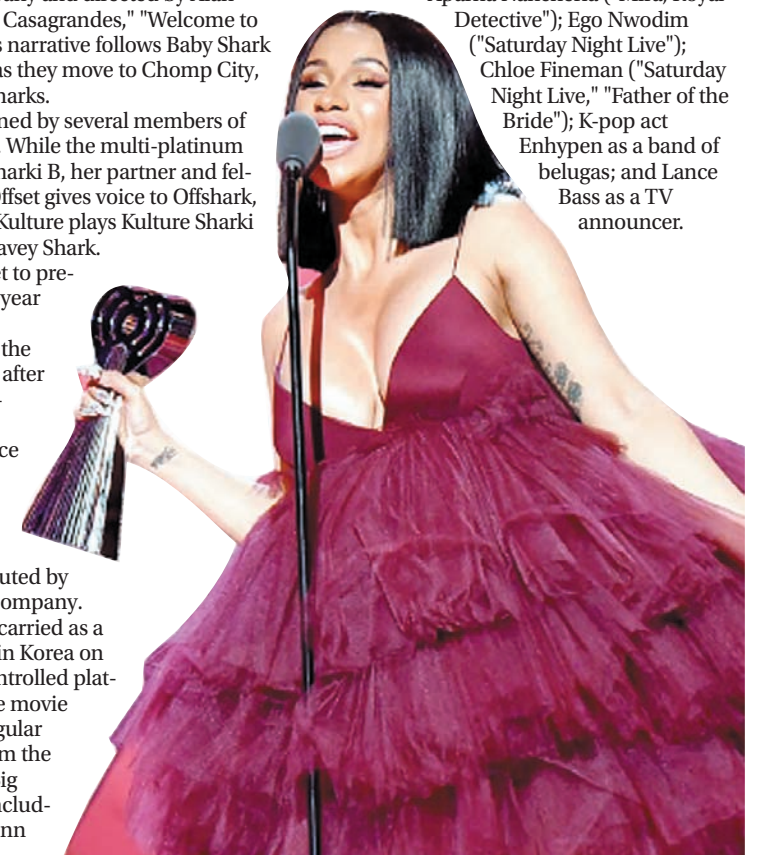
American rap musician Cardi B has joined the voice cast of upcoming animation film "Baby Shark's Big Movie!" The film is the first feature-length spin-off from "Baby Shark's Big Show!," a pre-school series which began in 2021 on Nickelodeon-branded channels and platforms and is now in its second season.

The show is co-produced by Nickelodeon Animation and Seoul, Korea-based The Pinkfong Company and directed by Alan Foreman ("The Casagrandes," "Welcome to the Wayne"). Its narrative follows Baby Shark and his family as they move to Chomp City, the big city of sharks.

Cardi B is joined by several members of her own family. While the multi-platinum icon portrays Sharki B, her partner and fellow musician Offset gives voice to Offshark, while children Culture plays Culture Sharki and Wave as Wavey Shark.

The film is set to premiere later this year exclusively on Paramount+ in the U.S and shortly after on Paramount+ internationally where the service is available. In Korea, Southeast Asia and China, the movie is distributed by The Pinkfong Company. Paramount+ is carried as a branded block in Korea on the CJ ENM-controlled platform Tving. The movie will also star regular voice actors from the "Baby Shark's Big Show" series, including: Kimiko Glenn

("Orange Is the New Black") as Baby Shark; Luke Youngblood ("Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone") as William; Natasha Rothwell ("Insecure") as Mommy Shark; Eric Edelstein ("We Bare Bears") as Daddy Shark; Debra Wilson ("MADtv") as Grandma Shark; and Patrick Warburton ("Seinfeld") as Grandpa Shark. In other, guest roles, the movie will be voiced by Ashley Tisdale ("High School Musical"), as Stariana, a sharp-witted and manipulative rising pop starfish who wants to take center stage with a splash hit; Aparna Nancherla ("Mira, Royal Detective"); Ego Nwodim ("Saturday Night Live"); Chloe Fineman ("Saturday Night Live," "Father of the Bride"); K-pop act Enhypen as a band of belugas; and Lance Bass as a TV announcer.



Ed Sheeran 'wouldn't mind' being part of a reality TV show

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Shape of You' hitmaker Ed Sheeran revealed he wouldn't mind showing up in a reality TV show as it "looks fun", reports Mirror.co.uk. The singer talked about the idea of showing up in the hit series, 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!' during an appearance on the 'Jonathan Ross Show'. The singer sits down with Russell Crowe, Lily Allen, Michael Buble and Desiree Burch in the upcoming episode.

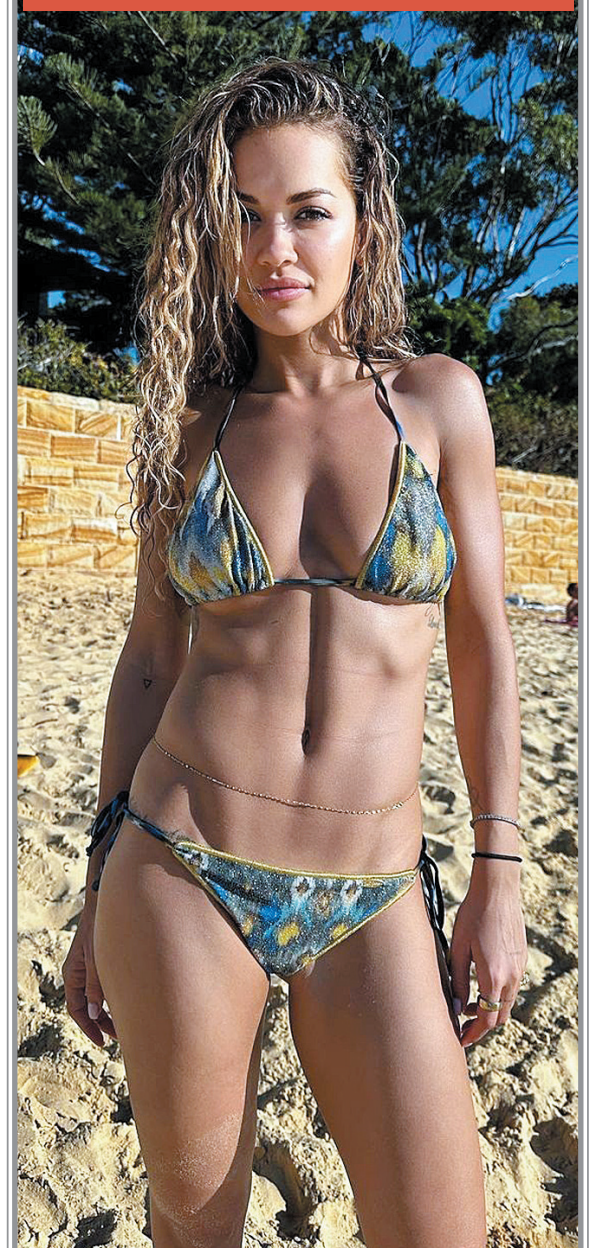
He said, as quoted by Mirror.co.uk, "The one I would do is probably I'm A

Celebrity... (Get Me Out of Here!) It looks quite fun. Genuinely. It looks fun. If I had time off, you go in a jungle with a bunch of people you sort of know. I'm not going to do it - I do like the idea of it".

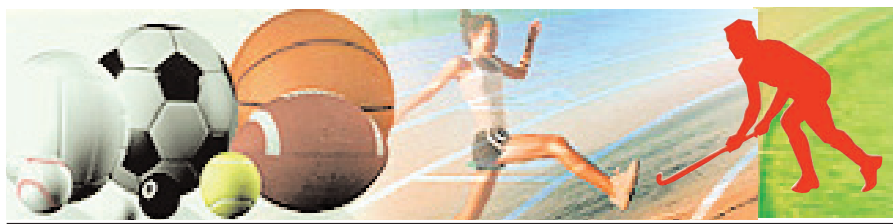
As per Mirror.co.uk, in recent weeks, Ed has opened up about his personal life, including how he developed an eating disorder after comparing himself to pop stars like Justin Bieber.

The singer previously said he began struggling with his body image after he collaborated with Justin and Shawn Mendes, who have "fantastic figures".

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rita Ora



IPL 2023

GUJARAT TITANS BEAT CSK BY FIVE-WICKET IN OPENING MATCH

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Shubman Gill scored a half-century (63) as Gujarat Titans (GT) registered a five-wicket win against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the opening match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 at Narendra Modi Stadium here on Friday.

Shubman Gill struck 63 off 36 while Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan hammered crucial boundaries off the final over as Gujarat Titans started the defence of their title on a winning note here.

CSK's Tushar Deshpande became the first Impact Player (substitute) in the IPL. He came in place of Ambati Rayudu. GT's Sai Sudharsan joined him as the second player to be picked as Impact Player, coming in as a substitute for New Zealand batter Kane Williamson, who had suffered an injury while fielding in the first innings.

CSK's Rajvardhan Hangargekar had a dream IPL debut as he picked up three wickets for 36 runs in his four overs.



Chasing 179, Titans' had a similar start to that of CSK with just three runs off the first over. Then, Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman

Saha hit Deshpande for a couple of fours and a six, taking 15 runs off the over. Debutant Hangargekar did not have the

start he expected as he overstepped and sent down a no-ball on the second ball of his IPL career. He followed that up with a wide. Saha dispatched the short ball over mid-wicket with a pull for a four on a free hit.

With 18 needed off 9 balls to win, Rashid Khan went for a six to deep mid-wicket and followed that up with a boundary to bring GT back in the driving seat.

With 8 needed to win off the final over, Deshpande started with a wide and the next ball Rahul Tewatia dispatched the ball for a six over mid-off and sealed the deal with four on the next delivery.

Brief scores

Chennai Super Kings 178/7 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 92, Moeen Ali 23; Rashid Khan 2-26 Alzarri Joseph 2-33) lost to Gujarat Titans 182/5 in 19.2 overs (Shubman Gill 63, Vijay Shankar 27; Rajvardhan Hangargekar 3-36) by 5 wickets.

Winning WPL was one of the best moments of my life: Amelia Kerr

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Zealand's leg-spin all-rounder Amelia Kerr said being a part of the Mumbai Indians side winning the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) was one of the greatest experiences of her life.

"It was one of the best moments of my life. The auction obviously happened and you didn't really know what it was about. It was on the same day as playing South Africa in the World Cup so that probably made it a bit tricky for some but it was the same for everyone."

"Then (I) got to India, my dad came over for the whole time which was pretty special and to get picked up by Mumbai as well they're a very successful franchise and I've heard a lot about them."

"Charlotte Edwards was the head coach and for me,



I've worked with her once before and she's one of the best coaches going around in the world so I loved that opportunity," she said to SENZ Mornings.

World Test Championship

Ross Taylor backs India pace attack to fire in final

Dubai | Agencies

India have the pace attack to trouble Australia in the World Test Championship final in England even if Jasprit Bumrah remains sidelined through injury, feels WTC winner Ross Taylor.

"Any time you play in England, conditions and the weather play a big part," Taylor was quoted as saying by ICC.

"Any time you think of Australia and India, and also you're playing in a neutral ground, the seamers play a big part. The Australian seamers are renowned for bowling with the Dukes ball and have a lot of experience."

"I wouldn't rule out this Indian side. They have had a lot of success over there in the years gone past, they have a few of these seamers."



Bumrah is in serious doubt for the WTC Final this time after being sidelined with a back stress fracture and last playing for India in September 2022. Even with Bumrah in a race against time to be fit for the WTC Final, Taylor is confident that India has enough options to call on for pacers to make an impact in England conditions. "Very tough to replace someone like Bumrah. He's been fantastic in all three formats and is the leader of their

bowling attack," Taylor said. "But I think there's still enough depth in this Indian line-up to trouble the Australian side. Shami and co are fantastic in these conditions. "When you consider the India attack, Siraj and co are also very good with the Dukes ball."

"I think there are still a lot of (India) seamers that are fantastic and enjoy bowling with the Dukes ball," Taylor said. "Shami and his seam presentation, the way he bowls with the new ball, I think he is going to enjoy bowling with the Dukes ball. These players bowl in all conditions and the way they go about it."

"Umesh Yadav also bowls 140-plus. They will relish the opportunity to bowl with the Dukes ball and in English conditions."

IRE vs BAN 3rd T20I

Paul Stirling, Matthew Humphreys guide Ireland to 7-wicket victory

Chattogram | Agencies

Paul Stirling and Matthew Humphreys played crucial roles in guiding Ireland to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the third and final T20I match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on Friday.

Humphreys took two wickets in his first three balls on his T20I debut as Ireland bowled Bangladesh out for 124 in 19.2 overs. In a standout performance with the ball, all seven of Ireland's bowlers contributed to the wicket tally, Bangladesh falling four balls short of batting their 20 overs.

Stirling then knocked off the bulk of the runs with the bat, scoring 77 off 41 as Ireland chased down their target with six overs to spare. The result was Ireland's first-ever winning over Bangladesh on home soil though the hosts' won the T20I series 2-1.

Curtis Campher joined the wicket-taking ranks by dismissing Rony Talukdar, leaving Bangladesh 24/3 at



the end of the fourth over.

But Humphreys stole the bowling show, however, sending down a memorable first over in T20I cricket. He cleaned up fellow T20I debutant Rishad Hossain with his first delivery, becoming the 25th bowler in history to take a wicket with the first ball of their T20I career. He struck again two balls later to dismiss Taskin Ahmed, caught at deep midwicket once again by Campher and

finished his first over with figures of 2-3 as Bangladesh were in tatters at 64-7. A steady maiden T20I half-century off 40 balls from Shamim Hossain dragged the hosts past the three-figure mark. He was the final batter to fall; giving a catch to backward square-leg off Fionn Hand to ensure all seven of Ireland's bowlers had a mark in the wickets column.

Set 125 to chase, Stirling led the march to a well-deserved victory.

Despite the loss of Ross Adair and Lorcan Tucker in the powerplay, he powered Ireland forward, hitting five boundaries in the first six overs of the innings. He reached his 22nd T20I half-century off 31 balls before unleashing a flurry of boundaries to accelerate towards the target. Shoriful Islam was hit for four consecutive boundaries by Stirling immediately after he reached his fifty, starting with a huge six over fine leg before he scooped a full ball for four over the same boundary.

Campher finished the match with a six to complete a dominant victory for Ireland. After losing the T20I series 2-1, Ireland and Bangladesh will face off in the only Test of the tour starting from April 4 in Dhaka.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 124 all out in 19.2 overs (Shamim Hossain 51, Rony Talukdar 14, Mark Adair 3-25, Matthew Humphreys 2-10) lost to Ireland 126/3 in 14 overs (Paul Stirling 77, Rishad Hossain 1-19) by seven wickets.

Sri Lanka miss out on direct cricket WC qualification after NZ loss

Hamilton | Agencies

Sri Lanka has failed to snatch the eight spot in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table after losing to New Zealand in the third ODI here.

Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka opted to bat first in the crucial encounter. But the Sri Lankan batters failed to fire yet again, struggling against the pace and bounce of the New Zealand bowlers.

Matt Henry (3/14), Henry Shipley (3/32) and Daryl Mitchell (3/32) were all outstanding with the ball, as Sri Lanka huffed and puffed to cross the 150-run mark.

For Sri Lanka, Pathum Nissanka (57 off 64), Dasun Shanaka (31 off 36) and Chamika Karunaratne (24 off 42) were the only batters to show any form of resistance. The visitors were bowled out for 157 in 41.3 overs, with their bowlers now facing a herculean task of getting their side over the line.

In reply, New Zealand's chase got off to a rocky



start as they lost three wickets within the first seven overs. Four of their batters Chad Bowes, Tom Blundell, Daryl Mitchell and Tom Latham failed to reach the double-digit mark.

But Will Young and Henry Nicholls played vital knocks to get the hosts over the line. The pair established a partnership of 100 runs with Young scoring 86* and Nicholls 44* to seal a six-wicket win for New Zealand.

With the victory in Hamilton, New Zealand secured a 2-0 win in the three-match ODI series.

With the defeat, Sri Lanka has failed to overtake West Indies (88 points) for the final direct qualification spot. Sri Lanka ends their CWCSL campaign on 81 points.

Sri Lanka will now travel to Zimbabwe in June to compete in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier and look to secure their place in the 2023 edition of the tournament later this year, reverts ICC.

New Zealand end on the top spot of the CWCSL standings, accumulating 175 points in their campaign.

Shooting

Shahu, Shiva make the cut for the upcoming Baku World Cup

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), the governing body for the Olympic sport of shooting, has announced a 22-member Indian squad for the upcoming International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from May 08-May 15.

This would be the year's fourth ISSF World Cup stage after the third was successfully concluded recently in Bhopal. The fourth will be held from April 11 in Lima, Peru, where India has chosen not to participate.

Shahu Tushar Mane in the men's 10m Air Rifle and Shiva Narwal in the men's 10m Air Pistol are the two new names in the squad from the Bhopal World Cup, the NRAI said in a release on Friday.

Shahu, after posting a solid 630.7 in Bhopal when playing for ranking points only, replaced Divyansh Singh Panwar in the top three when the latest rankings were revealed. Shiva Narwal also posted a score of



585 in Bhopal while playing for ranking points, which was incidentally also the top qualifying score in the event. He replaces Sumit Raman in the squad.

In another slight change, Esha Singh replaced Manu Bhaker in the women's 10m Air Pistol event, also doubling up in the women's 25m pistol. Bhopal bronze medalist Manu will only shoot the 25m event in Baku.

All Rifle and Pistol shooters are now preparing for the national selection trials coming up in Bhopal in two weeks.

LALIGA LAUNCHES VIDEO REVIEW SYSTEM



Team Absolute | Mumbai

LaLiga strengthens its position as a leader in cutting-edge technology during Matchday 27 in LaLiga Santander and Matchday 34 in LaLiga SmartBank by launching an innovative system called the "Video Review System".

Through a powerful

Surface Pro device equipped with Microsoft technology that LaLiga will make available to all clubs, their technical teams will be able to review actions in great detail from different camera angles in the technical area and the home and away benches at every fixture from this matchday onwards.

The service will have a

dual medical and tactical function, which, among other things, will allow for more effective action or intervention in the event of injury. The initiative is part of the work that the Mediacoach area of LaLiga has been carrying out for years to help protect the health of players.

IPL 2023

TUSHAR DESHPANDE MAKES HISTORY, BECOMES FIRST 'IMPACT PLAYER'

Chennai Super Kings' pacer Tushar Deshpande made history on Friday made history, becoming the first 'Impact Player' of the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Los Angeles | Agencies

Gujarat Titans' B. Sai Sudharsan joined him as the second player to be picked as Impact Player, coming in as a substitute for New Zealand batter Kane Williamson, who had suffered an injury while fielding in the first innings.

Deshpande became the first beneficiary of the newly-introduced rule, replacing middle-order batter Ambati Rayudu in their opening match against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Having scored 178/7 in 20 overs thanks to a 50-ball 92 by opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, whose scintillating innings was decorated with



four boundaries and nine maximums. Having reached a defend-

able total, CSK decided to bring in Tushar Deshpande as Impact

Player to bolster their bowling attack. However, the move did not have an immediate impact as Deshpande conceded 29 runs in two overs. Deshpande was among the five substitute players named by CSK after the toss. The others were Subhanshu Senapati, Shaik Rasheed, Ajinkya Rahane and Nishant Sindhu.

On the other hand, Gujarat Titans had named Jayant Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Abhinav Manohar, K.S. Bharat besides B. Sai Sudharsan as their substitutes.

The Impact Player rule is implemented for the first time in this year's edition of the tournament after the Board for Cricket Control in India (BCCI) tested it out during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournament.



DIRECTOR PAVAN KIRPALANI CALLS SARA AN EXTREMELY HUNGRY & DEDICATED ACTOR



'SARA IS AN EXTREMELY HUNGRY ACTOR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Appreciating Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan for her performance in the movie 'Gaslight', director Pavan Kirpalani said she is an "extremely hungry and dedicated actor who is always willing to take up the challenges".

In the movie, Sara is playing the role of Meesha, a young paraplegic woman confined to a wheelchair, who returns to her family's royal palace 15 years after receiving a letter from her father. When she returns to the royal palace, she finds her father missing and is welcomed instead by her stepmother Rukmini, played by Chitrangda Singh.

'Gaslight' director Kirpalani, who is known for his movies such as 'Ragini MMS', 'Bhoot Police' and 'Phobia', said: "Reimagining Sara in this movie has been great fun. It's a serious role with many layers. It's a performance driven narrative, and she's pulled off all the shades effortlessly."

Praising Sara, he added that she is a dedicated actor and always willing to take up the challenges.

"Sara is an extremely hungry actor and I am lucky to find her at a time when she wants to push her own acting boundaries," he concluded.

Starring Sara Ali Khan, Vikrant Massey and Chitrangda Singh, 'Gaslight' is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

SUNIEL SHETTY SAYS BOLLYWOOD HELPS INDIAN DIASPORA STAY CONNECTED WITH THEIR ROOTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Suniel Shetty, who has been garnering audience appreciation ever since his streaming debut, has shared that Bollywood helps the Indian diaspora, in different parts of the world, stay rooted to their homeland and that the upcoming stage musical show, 'Disco Dancer - The Musical' celebrates the Bollywood of the 1980s era.

The actor said, "To the Indian diaspora, Bollywood provides a connection with their memories back home. Music unites us all and this is the sentiment that we are celebrating and showing respect to through 'Disco Dancer - The Musical'. Long before musicals, our cinema was pioneering the concept of telling a story through song and dance. We did it first".

He further mentioned, "I have grown up listening to this music, idolising the

heroes of that era and for me and everyone else, this will be an experience of pure nostalgia. Our song and dance routines have been mocked but now people are realising their importance and the happiness they have brought to millions... After sold-out shows at West End, London, 'Disco Dancer - The Musical' has been brought to India by Saregama and Suniel Shetty.

A Saregama production 'Disco Dancer - The Musical' will premiere on April 14 at the NSCI dome in Mumbai.



ESHA

DEOL SHARED HER EXPERIENCE OF DOING ACTION SCENES WITH SUNIEL SHETTY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Esha Deol has shared her experience of performing all the stunts by herself on the sets of 'Hunter: Tootega Nahi Todega'. Working with Suniel Shetty, she says, has helped her perfect her action skills. She said: "All the action sequences have been performed by me. Fighting against the cool and calm Anna was a wonderful experience. Got lots of takeaways from him as he is a pro at it. Having worked with Anna in the past, so there was a certain level of comfort and we had fun times shooting for the project. The action scenes with him were especially awesome to shoot. I have immense respect for him." Esha, who made her acting debut with 'Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe', and later worked in 'Dhoom', 'Kaal', 'Dus', and 'No Entry', further briefed about her character in the series. "My character is transitional and portrays the journey of a girl coming from a small town. She is a girl on a mission. No muss no fuss. Bold and gutsy," she concluded.

The show features Suniel Shetty as A.C.P. Vikram Sinha, Esha Deol as Divya (Freelance Journalist), Rahul Dev as Police SHO Hooda, alongside Barkha Bisht, Karanvir Sharma, Mihir Ahuja, Teena Singh, Chahat Tejwani, Siddharth Kher, Gargi Sawant, Smita Jayakar and Pawan Chopra. 'Hunter - Tootega Nahi Todega' streams on Amazon miniTV.



Prabhas' upcoming film is shot at James Bond film locations

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

'KGF' director Prashant Neel is literally going places to ensure that Prabhas-starrer 'Salaar' is a feast for the eyes. Mid-March saw the team shift location to Matera, the old southern Italian town famous for its prehistoric whitewashed caves to shoot for the highly anticipated movie, written and directed by Prashant Neel and produced by Vijay Kiragandur's Hombale Films. Incidentally, the action prologue for the 2021 James Bond film 'No Time to Die' was shot in Matera. Several other international movies have also been shot here. Unit sources said that 'Salaar' production has now moved to Naples, where preparations for filming in the southern port city's central Piazza del Plebiscito plaza are underway. The local police are assisting with the set preparations, which include the use of drones and lighting for night shooting. Aside from Matera and Naples, other 'Salaar' locales include Rome and Budapest. Pan-India star Prabhas will be seen playing a dual role in the movie, according to sources. While the plot details are sketchy at the moment, 'Salaar' is said to be about two young people from different nations who fall in love despite the distance and cultural differences, and overcome numerous challenges. The first installment of the thriller with a love undercurrent is set to be released internationally on September 28 in Telugu and dubbed versions in Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and English.

I'M PLAYING A PSYCHOLOGIST WHO IS VERY VULNERABLE:

Donal Bisht

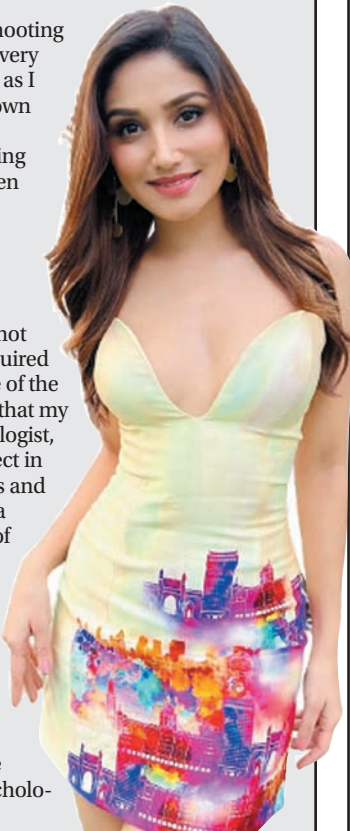
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and model Donal Bisht, who is known for her stint in 'Bigg Boss 15', talked about her role in the web series 'Tu Zakhm Hai 2' and her experience of sharing screen space with Gashmeer Mahajani.

In the web series, 'Tu Zakhm Hai 2', she is playing the character of Kavya Grewal, who is a clinical psychologist. She said: "I am playing a girl who may not appear to be but is very vulnerable. She's stout-hearted and knows the tricks to deal with situations. She goes beyond her limits without any full stop. In Season 2, you will see her fight and test her limits for the right. It's Kavya's journey of dealing with all the odds that come her way, and she tackles every problem beautifully."

When asked about her shooting experience, she recalled: "Every day was very special for me as I was shooting in my hometown Delhi, and got to stay with my family during the shooting schedule. While the onscreen discussions and rehearsals were amazing, there were quite a few unexpected moments."

However, she added that playing a psychologist was not an easy task for her and required a lot of research work. "One of the challenges that I faced was that my character Kavya is a psychologist, and I had to study the subject in depth through online books and study materials, as playing a psychologist is not a piece of cake. It is a big task as you have to convince the audience that you can read other people's minds and help the people in the story. So, all those things, the ups and downs of emotions, were very difficult," added the actress about the challenges of playing a psychologist on-screen.



GASLIGHT - VIKRANT MASSEY SHINES IN THIS DAWDLING MURDER MYSTERY



AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by: - Pavan Kripalani
Cast:- Sara Ali Khan, Vikrant Massey, Chitrangda Singh, Akshay Oberoi, Rahul Dev, Shishir Sharma
Duration: - 110 minutes
Rating: - 2.5/5

Story: Meesha returns to her ancestral home years after an accident struck her family and she gets bound to a wheelchair. She is welcomed by her stepmother Rukmini, with whom she shares a strange and hostile relationship. Upon returning, she is eager to meet her father Ranjit Singh Gaikwad who is apparently missing since days. Misha, who is busy looking for her father, finds him dead in mysterious circumstances. Doubting it to be a murder, Sara sets on a journey to find her father's murderer where she comes across a lot of terrifying instances. What happens next and how she finds the murderer, is what the movie is all about.

Review: Director Pavan Kripalani does well to build the ambience of a thriller, by slowly taking the audience into the dark world of twisted characters. He also tactfully infuses the reasoning of the protagonists, without deviating much from the core conflict of the film.

However, the biggest challenge for a murder mystery is to weave a water-tight plot, and Gaslight is not up to the mark in that aspect. There are a few occasions in the movie when you sense a convenient lack of logic.

It's the lazy writing that dilutes the



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overall experience of this otherwise riveting thriller.

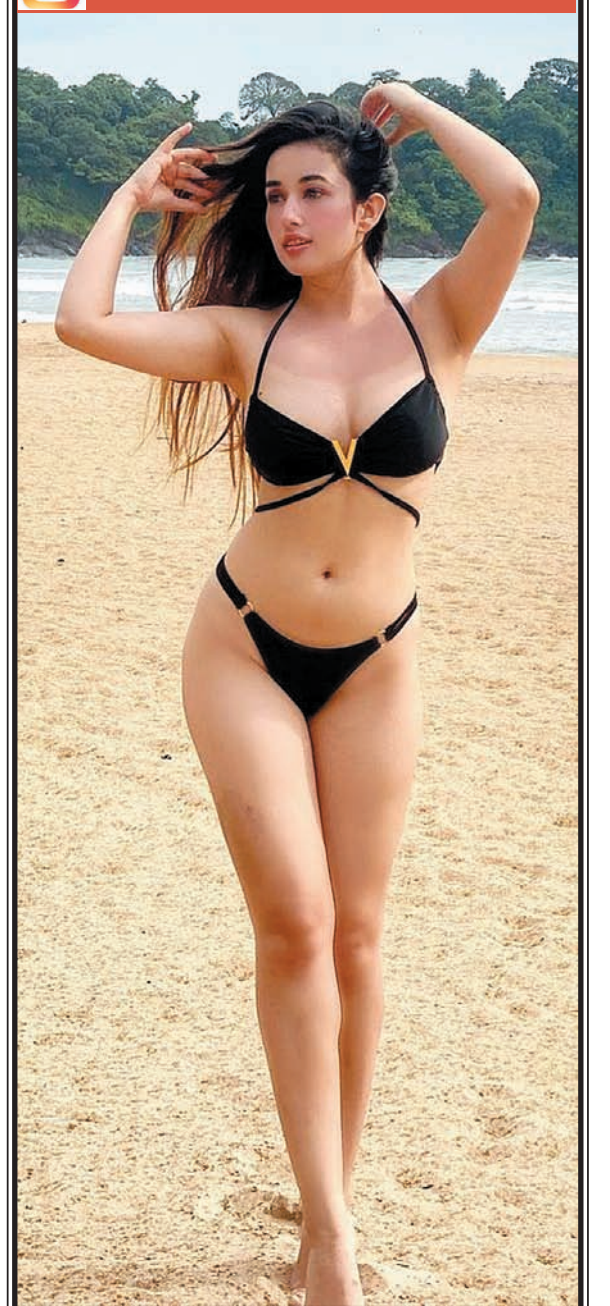
As the film proceeds, we get to see ample amount of twists and turns that are surprising. But things seem to go for a toss as the reasoning behind the motive seems absurd. For instance, there are not one, but three suspects behind Raja Saheb's murder. However, motive of none of them seemed hard-hitting. In a nutshell, what happens is engaging, but that's not justified well. Even the overall story, has no novel factor, but screenplay is gripping enough to keep you hooked due to the terrific camera work by Aman Jain and Navin Chandra, and thrilling background score laced with jump-scares. Despite a runtime of 1 hour 50 min-

utes, the film seemed slow-paced.

When it comes to performances, Vikrant Massey steals the show with his nuanced act. He makes an impact by handling his unconventional character with subtlety and maturity. While Sara Ali Khan makes sure she puts her best foot forward yet again, at some places it seemed like she lost the sheen. Talking about Chitrangda Singh, she pulls off the complexity of her character quite effortlessly.

Rahul Dev, Shishir Sharma and Akshay Oberoi left an impact despite limited screen time. While Shataf Ahmed Figar didn't had much screen presence. On the whole, this genre has a very niche audience and is definitely not for the faint-hearted.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aditi Budhathoki