

absolute india

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India now has third highest number of billionaires in the world



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India, which has the third-most billionaires, with 169, had a more mixed year. Indian billionaires as a group - worth \$675 billion - are \$75 billion poorer than in 2022, as per the Forbes World's Billionaires List 2023. As per the list, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is the richest India with a net worth of \$63.4 billion. Ambani is the 9th richest in the world as per the list. The US still boasts the most billionaires, with 735 list members worth a collective \$4.5 trillion. China (including

Hong Kong and Macau) remains second, with 562 billionaires worth \$2 trillion, followed by India, with 169 billionaires worth \$675 billion. Nearly half of all billionaires are poorer than they were a year ago, as per the Forbes World's Billionaires List 2023. Falling stocks, wounded unicorns, and rising interest rates translated into a down year for the world's wealthiest people. Globally, the list counted 2,640 ten-figure fortunes, down from 2,668 last year. Altogether, the planet's billionaires are now worth \$12.2 trillion, a drop of \$500 billion from \$12.7 trillion in March 2022.

Nearly half the list is poorer than a year ago, including Elon Musk, who falls from No. 1 to No. 2 after his pricey acquisition of Twitter helped sink Tesla shares. Bernard Arnault, head of luxury goods giant LVMH, takes his place as the world's richest person, marking the first time a citizen of France leads the ranking. Despite a down year in the markets, rising inflation and war in Eastern Europe, more than 1,000 billionaires are actually richer than they were on Forbes' 2022 list - some by tens of billions of dollars. Luxury goods tycoon Arnault has had the best run. His net worth surged by \$53 billion since last year, a bigger gain than anyone on the planet. Shares of his LVMH, which owns brands like Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Tiffany & Co, rose by 18 per cent on the back of strong demand. Now worth \$211 billion, Arnault has taken the top spot on the World's Billionaires ranking. It's his first time at No 1 - and the first time a citizen of France has led the list. Michael Bloomberg is ranked 7th on the list with a net worth of \$84.5 billion.

7 tourists killed in Sikkim avalanche; 350 rescued



Team Absolute | Gangtok

At least seven tourists were killed on Tuesday in Sikkim after a massive avalanche hit a section of National Highway 310, an official said. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has managed to rescue at least 350 tourists stranded in the affected area after they were stuck due to the avalanche, defence sources said. Defence spokesperson Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said

the avalanche hit the Gangtok-Natu La Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg on National Highway 310. He said that around 30 tourists travelling in 5-6 vehicles on their way to Natu La were buried beneath the snow. Troopers of Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army and BRO personnel under 'Project Swastik' swung into action immediately, and launched an all-out rescue mission. A total of 23 people, including six from a deep

valley, have been pulled out alive. They have been shifted to the nearby medical facilities of the Indian Army. "Unfortunately, seven tourists have died. Search and rescue missions are underway by the Army, State Disaster Management team and police," Lt. Col. Rawat said. So far, 350 stranded tourists travelling in 80 vehicles have been rescued after clearing the snow from the road. Rescue operations are currently underway.

Avalanche area 9th most vulnerable to landslides in India

New Delhi: Sikkim's East District, which witnessed a massive avalanche that claimed several lives on Tuesday, ranks ninth in landslide density and risk exposure among all districts in the country. According to the Landslide Atlas of India, released by ISRO's Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre, Sikkim witnessed 1,561 landslides between 2011 and 2017, with most falling in the category of event-based landslides triggered by earthquakes or heavy rainfall. Sikkim's South District ranks eighth across the country in terms of landslide density and risk exposure. "Himalayas and Western Ghats are highly susceptible to mass movements due to hilly topography and heavy rainfall," the Landslide Atlas of India said. The findings emerged from the latest risk assessment done by scientists from NRSC, which published the list as part of the Landslide Atlas of India. The team released a list of 147 most landslide-vulnerable districts in 17 states and two Union Territories. The East District had been experiencing rainfall and snowfall in the higher reaches since Friday, an official from the weather office said. The weather station at Gangtok, also in the East District, recorded 50 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Tuesday, the Gangtok office of the India Meteorological Department said.

Whose Rs 20,000 cr is in Adani shell companies: Rahul

New Delhi: A day after his bail was extended by sessions court in Surat, Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday questioned the money trail in Adani companies. Gandhi arrived at the Congress office here for the central election committee (CEC) meeting, which will finalise the remaining 100 candidates for Karnataka Assembly elections. When asked about the BJP's allegation of pressuring the judiciary, he responded, "why do you ask what BJP says... the only question is whose Rs 20,000 crore money is in Adani shell companies?" Gandhi, who was on Monday given bail in a criminal defamation case, where he has been convicted and sentenced, said that "truth" is his "weapon in this struggle". In a series of tweets in Hindi, Gandhi said that it was "a fight to save democracy" and against "mitra kaal", and "in this struggle, truth is my weapon and truth is my shelter".

'BJP NOT A PARTY FOR HONEST POLITICIANS', SAYS CONG AS 5-TIME MLA QUILTS

Bengaluru | Agencies

The opposition Congress in Karnataka on Tuesday criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state after five-time party legislator Halady Srinivas Shetty from Kundapur constituency in Udipi district announced his retirement from electoral politics. Taking to social media, the Congress said "the leader of Bunt community, MLA Halady Srinivas Shetty has announced political retirement after being humiliated by the BJP". "Even as Halady was inducted into the Cabinet, he was not offered any high post in the party. Now, with a painful message, he has announced his retirement from politics. The development has shown that the BJP is not a party for the good people," the Congress said in a social media post. The Congress claimed that "the only reason for the retirement of Halady Srinivas Shetty, who was not a typical BJP person, is harassment". He was elected five consecutive times,



and was a powerful leader from the Bunt community. "This is not an insult to Srinivas Shetty, it is an insult to the Bunt community," the Congress said. Srinivas Shetty had announced that he would not contest in the upcoming assembly elections on April 3. He was elected as an MLA four times on a BJP ticket, and won the elections once as an independent candidate. Shetty's retirement announcement is being seen as a setback to the ruling BJP ahead of the May 10 Karnataka assembly polls.

Himachal amends 51-year-old law, provides equitable rights to daughters

Shimla | Agencies

The initiative towards promoting gender equality by carrying out amendment in a 51-year-old legislation, Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act of 1972, is a landmark decision for providing equitable rights in landholding to the adult daughter (married and unmarried), Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said on Tuesday. As per the amendment, an adult daughter will be permitted to have a separate independent unit up to 150 bighas of land. The state government has rectified the error by inserting the words, 'or daughter' after the word 'son' in sub-section 4 of section 4 of the existing Act. The bill includes the daughter on a par with the son as a separate independent unit. Earlier, the Act allowed an adult son to have an additional 150 bighas while denying the same right to an adult daughter. As a result, families with adult



daughters will have the same land rights as those with adult sons, totalling up to 300 bighas of land. The Bill, Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2023, which was introduced in the assembly on March 29 by Chief Minister Sukhu, and passed on April 3 aims to ensure gender equality to both son and daughter when it comes to owning an independent unit.

The Bill paves the way to remove gender discrimination in line with the provisions of Indian Constitution. The Chief Minister himself took a special interest in this regard and was keen to introduce the amendment bill in the current budget session of the state Assembly. The amendment in the act is aimed to provide relief to lakhs of families in Himachal Pradesh having daughters, as it would enable their daughter to have an additional unit of 150 bighas of land. The move has been widely welcomed by all sections of society as a positive step towards empowering women in the state. "By making the necessary amendment, the state government is providing succour to lakhs of families having daughters. This amendment aims to ensure that families with daughters have equal rights in land ownership, removing the unconstitutional clause that promotes gender inequality," the Chief Minister said.

Sikhs for Justice now offers support to ULFA-I



Guwahati | Agencies

US-based secessionist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has allegedly reacted to a letter from the outlawed terrorist group United Liberation Front of Assam - Independent (ULFA-I), saying that they are prepared to offer assistance for the "Assam Independence Referendum" (AIR). The letter was sent after threats against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma prompted ULFA-I leader Paresh Baruah to write an open letter to the SFJ. The letter from pro-Khalistani group's founder Gurpatwant Singh Pannu reads: "We are writing to you in response to your recent



Open Letter to 'Sikhs For Justice' (SFJ) regarding the ongoing controversy between the pro-Khalistani Sikhs and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of Hindu supremacist party BJP which believes in continued tyrannical occupation of the people and land of Assam. "At the very outset, SFJ expresses gratitude to the Assamese people for always standing with the Sikh people in their struggle for freedom from India and for never being part of the state sponsored persecution of Sikhs being carried out in India since June 1984 Operation Blue Star," the letter read. In the letter, Pannu stated that if the ULFA-I decided to hold an Assam independence referendum; his group would support it and offer all legal assistance and logisti-

cal support. It contended that "considering that Assamese people have the right to self-determination under international law, valuing their commitment and sacrifices for the cause of freedom and accounting for ULFA-I's dedication, strength, discipline, popularity, and organisational setup", the SFJ would like to suggest that, on the lines of Khalistan Referendum, "General Paresh, you also announce to hold Referendum on the question" on should Assam be independent. Pannu further said: "SFJ challenges and repudiates India's claim to the territorial integrity as the current territorial borders of the Union of India are a colonial legacy founded on the usurpation of right to self-determination of the indigenous people of Punjab, Assam and other areas." The threat made by Pannu against Assam Chief Minister was previously described by ULFA-I leader Paresh Baruah as "unfortunate and misunderstood" in a letter to the SFJ. Notably Assam Police have beefed up the security measures in the wake of the threat issued by Pannu against CM Sarma.

Skyroot Aerospace test fires 3D printed cryogenic engine successfully

Chennai | Agencies

Private rocket maker Skyroot Aerospace on Tuesday said it had successfully test fired its 3D printed cryogenic engine called Dhawan-II for 200 seconds. According to Skyroot Aerospace, the test was done at Solar Industries propulsion test facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra using the company's indigenously developed mobile cryogenic engine test pad. This achievement follows the November 2022 launch of Vikram - S, which made Skyroot the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space. "The successful test of Dhawan-II is a landmark achievement for Skyroot and the Indian private space sector. We are proud to be at the forefront in developing cutting edge cryogenic technologies in the private space sector of India, and pushing the limit with advanced technologies like 3D printing and green propellants," Pawan Kumar Chandana, Co-founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace said. The Dhawan-II engine



builds upon the foundation laid by Skyroot's first privately developed fully-cryogenic rocket engine, the 1.0 kN (kilo Newton) thrust Dhawan a I, which was successfully test fired in November 2021. The cryogenic engine series is named in honour of Dr. Satish Dhawan, an eminent Indian rocket scientist who played a crucial role in the development of the Indian Space Programme. Naga Bharath Daka, co-

founder and COO of Skyroot Aerospace, added: "This is a major milestone for our cryogenic propulsion programme, which will enhance the payload capacity of the Vikram series of space launch vehicles (rockets), making them more modular so as to meet wider customer requirements." According to Padmashri awardee V. Gnanagandhi, and veteran rocket scientist who leads liquid and cryogenic

propulsion at Skyroot Aerospace, it is encouraging to have achieved continuous firing of 200 seconds with stable combustion. "Our 3D printed Dhawan - II engine also uses a 3D printed torch igniter and a bellows actuated cryo-injection valve with quick response time. It is a remarkable achievement by our team and we could get valuable data for next generation cryogenic engine technology with LNG as fuel," Gnanagandhi said.

DALIT INTELLECTUALS HAIL KCR FOR INSTALLING 125-FOOT STATUE OF AMBEDKAR

Hyderabad | Agencies
Dalit intellectuals have hailed the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government of Telangana for installing a 125-foot statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar. The University Grants Commission's (UGC) former Chairman Prof Sukhadeo Thorat and other intellectuals visited the statue which is coming up near Hussain Sagar in the heart of Hyderabad and is scheduled to be unveiled on April 14, the birth anniversary of Ambedkar. They were all praise for Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu for paying fitting tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution by installing his tallest statue. The statue has come close to the newly-built state Secretariat which has also been named after Ambedkar. A thanksgiving ceremony was held in the city by various Dalit organizations to thank the Chief Minister for naming the Telangana secretariat after Ambedkar and also for installing a 125-foot statue.



Leaders of Prabuddha Bharat International, Samata Sainik Dal, SC, ST Officers Forum and others attended the meeting. Thorat said he was feeling proud to be a part of this thanksgiving ceremony. He appreciated KCR, as the Chief Minister is popularly known, for naming the secretariat and installing a statue as a fitting tribute to Ambedkar. K. Srinivas, editor of Telugu daily Andhra Jyothi said Chief Minister KCR has done what no other Chief Minister could do. Press Academy Chairman Allam Narayana said that one language and one state was the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and KCR has made this come true by implementing the ideals mentioned in the Constitution. Former Chief Secretary K. Madhav Rao said that Ambedkar sacrificed his life to bring all core values of humans on one platform. Delhi Vasanth, Founder, Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce & Technology, said that Baba Saheb Ambedkar is truly the real father of the nation with his innovative ideas for uplifting the downtrodden. He proposed auction of the thesis "Problem of Rupee" written by Dr Ambedkar as done earlier for Theory of Relativity of Albert Einstein. Benjamin, Chairman of Saint Paul's institutions came forward with initial bidding of Rs 1 crore. Vasanth said this process will go for 6 months, inviting different national heads and business heads to globalise the doctrine of "Problem of Rupee".

Five more IPS officers posted in UP prison department

Lucknow | Agencies
Five IPS officers have been given the additional charge in the prisons department in Uttar Pradesh. The decision to post additional IPS officers has been taken for better administration of jails in the state and keeping vigil on activities inside them, said a government spokesman. Those given the additional charge are SP cyber-crime Shiv Hari Meena, SP SIT Subhash Shyam, SP security headquarters Rajesh Kumar, SP SDRF Hemant Kutiyal, and Commandant PAC Moradabad Himanshu Kumar. The decision was taken after the new Director General (DG) Jail S.N. Sabat and principal secretary, prisons, R.K. Singh held a meeting with all jail superintendents. R.K. Singh said no special treatment must be given to any prisoner and instructions have been issued time and again not to allow any electronic gadget and device inside any jail. "No special facility for preparation of food for a prisoner would be allowed and a ban must be imposed on prisoners getting any property registered," he said. Sabat said a mechanism will be made for keeping vigil on top 20 criminals lodged in a jail. Recently, SBSM MLA Abbas Ansari, who was lodged at Chitrakoot jail, was caught meeting his wife Nikhat illegally in the jail in connivance with jail officials. Five jail officials were later arrested in the case. In Bareilly central jail, Jailor, deputy jailor along with four other jail personnel were suspended for allegedly facilitating meetings between former MLA Ashraf, brother of Atiq Ahmed, and his aides.



Doctors protest in Gurugram against Rajasthan's health Bill

Gurugram | Agencies
A group of doctors from Indian Medical Association (IMA) Gurugram, carried out a protest in the city on Tuesday against the Right to Health Bill which was passed by the Rajasthan assembly last week. IMA Gurugram has also extended support to the doctors of Rajasthan in protest against the Bill. To observe the protest, all types of private medical services remained closed in the entire Haryana on Tuesday. More than 500 doctors staged a protest against the Rajasthan government's decision. On Tuesday, doctors in Gurugram observed a 24-hour strike across Haryana. Hundreds of doctors took to the streets in



Cyber City Gurugram to protest against the Rajasthan government's Right to Health Bill. "There is a provision in the Right to Health Bill like giving treatment to the patient without charging in an emergency. Due to this, the doctors will not only have to face loss, but the cases of quarrels in the hospital will also increase. The Rajasthan gov-

SAFETY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IS PRIORITY FOR MODI GOVT: BJP

New Delhi | The Bharatiya Janata Party, which is campaigning across the country to connect with the minority communities, especially the Muslim community, has claimed that the safety of Muslim women is the priority for the Narendra Modi-led Central government. In an attempt to convey the message that the government has done a big and historic work of providing equal rights and security to the Muslim women by declaring triple talaq illegal through Parliament, the saffron party on Tuesday took to its Twitter account depicting the entire sequence of events declaring the practice as illegal. The video depicts the reactions of Muslim women along with the passing of the motion in the Rajya Sabha to declare triple talaq as illegal and the speech delivered by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Claiming to have empowered and protected Muslim women, the BJP wrote in a second tweet: "Triple Talaq law empowers and protects Muslim women!" The Triple Talaq Bill was passed in Parliament on July 30, 2019 making it illegal.

Chirag Paswan hints at contesting all 40 LS seats of Bihar in 2024

Patna | Agencies
After Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that his party will contest all 40 Lok Sabha seats of Bihar in 2024, Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas (LJP) hinted that his party will also contest on all 40 seats. You know that we recently went to Biharsharif Nalanda to strengthen our party and I am going to Mokama today. So we are also preparing to contest all seats of Bihar." "You know that LJP has a party structure in all Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar and they are working well," he said. When asked about the collabo-



ration with his uncle's party Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), Chirag Paswan said that it is not possible in this life. Chirag Paswan, Pasupati Kumar Paras and Upendra Kushwaha are openly supporting BJP. They were expecting alliance with BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. But, after the announcement of Amit Shah, it would be a big jolt to these three leaders. Amit Shah, during the

Nawada rally on Sunday claimed that BJP will contest Lok Sabha election on all 40 seats of Bihar. Besides Lok Sabha poll preparation, Chirag Paswan also targeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the election during Ram Navami in Sasaram and Biharsharif. "CM Nitish Kumar is also a home minister of the state. Where was his intelligence? How the stones were stored on the rooftops of the buildings and district administration of Sasaram and Biharsharif were clueless about it. Who is responsible for it? The state government has completely failed in preventing such violence in these two places," Paswan said. "The party of Nitish Kumar is blaming BJP for the conspiracy. If this is true, then expose its leaders with solid proofs. Arrest the accused and put them behind bars," he said.

SSC BOARD EXAM PAPER LEAK IN TELANGANA FOR SECOND DAY

Hyderabad | Agencies
For a second consecutive day on Tuesday, Telangana witnessed leakage of question papers of 10th class exams. Hindi question paper of Second School Certificate (SSC) was allegedly circulated on some WhatsApp groups in Warangal district on Tuesday. Minutes after the Hindi exam started, the paper was circulated on social media. Education minister P. Sabita Indra Reddy has taken serious note of the reports and directed the district education officers of Warangal and Hanamkonda to lodge complaints with the police. The DEOs denied the reports of paper leak. This comes a day after Telugu paper was circulated on WhatsApp group in Vikarabad district. Two teachers were arrested by the police for leaking the paper from an examination centre in Tandur. One of the teachers, who was on invigilation duty at the exam centre, allegedly took a photo of the ques-



tion paper and shared it on WhatsApp. The education department suspended four others who were on duty at the exam centre. Meanwhile, some answer sheets of the first paper went missing in Adilabad district's Utnoor town. Police registered a case and took up

investigation after education department officials lodged a complaint. The answer sheets of the Telugu paper went missing on Monday when they were being transported from post office to bus stand in an autorickshaw. One of the 11 bundles of the answer sheets was found missing. Additional collector launched an investigation. However, police officials informed him that CCTV cameras on the route from post office to bus stand were not functioning. Footage from CCTV cameras installed in shops was being scanned as part of the investigation. Answer sheets of nine students are reported to be missing. The education department officials said justice would be done to them. The education department blamed postal staff for the negligence. The Second School Certificate (SSC) board exam began across Telangana. A total of 4,94,620 students are appearing for the exams at 2,652 centres.

After busting prostitution racket, J&K Police advise verification of tenants

Srinagar | Agencies
After busting a prostitution racket in J&K's Srinagar city, the police on Tuesday asked all house owners to verify the antecedents of their tenants. Police on Monday busted a prostitution racket in Baghe-mehtab area of Srinagar city which was being operated in a rented accommodation. A police statement said, "All citizens are requested to do tenant verification if they have given their Houses/rooms/shops on rent." The statement further said that on the basis of specific information a prostitution racket was busted by the Srinagar Police. "This sex racket was being run by Irshad Ahmad Bhat, son of Shaban Bhat resident



of Kadlalab Pampore and Mohd Shafi Hajam, son of Abdul Qayoom Hajam, a resident of Karimabad, Pulwama and others. "The premises was raided by Channpura Police station. Both people were arrested on spot." Four sex workers and two customers (all six are locals of Srinagar) were also detained for questioning. The whole racket was run from a rented house owned by one Altaf Hussain Afaqi, son of Asadullah Afaqi and a resident of Channpura," said police in the statement. FIR NO.19/2023 under sections 3, 4, 8 of the Immortal Trafficking Act was registered at the Channpura police station. The statement said that as the house owner had not done tenant verification, he will also be booked.

Three students drown in Odisha's Bhadrak

Bhubaneswar | Agencies
Three students drowned in the Nalia River in Odisha's Bhadrak district on Tuesday, while two others were rescued, police said. According to locals, the five Class 11 students of Charampa College went to the river for a bath, when the tragic incident occurred. The local fire service team rushed to the spot and rescued all five students and took them to Bhadrak hospital where the doctors pronounced three dead. Two other students were discharged after first aid. P.K. Khara, a doctor of the Bhadrak hospital said: "We received three of them dead at the hospital. Their post-mortem examination will be



conducted and the exact cause will be ascertained after that." "A very tragic incident occurred today, in which we lost three of our young children. Assistance from the

Gang involved in trafficking stolen mobile phones to Nepal busted

Team Absolute | New Delhi
In a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed to have successfully dismantled a syndicate involved in trafficking of stolen or snatched mobile phones in the national capital, an official said on Tuesday. Seven men were arrested and 70 stolen mobile phones were recovered, the official said. The accused, identified as Sandeep, Mohd Chaman, Radhey Shyam Mishra, Arman Ansari, Sarabjit Singh, Riyaz and Rahul were found to be involved in receiving stolen or snatched phones through snatchers and thieves. The gang had sent about 700 mobile phones to Nepal in the last six months. According to Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ravindra Singh Yadav, the task was challenging because the stolen phones were inactive for a long time and were disposed of outside India's boundaries. The gang members were active in the Karol Bagh/Rohini area of the city and used to purchase stolen mobile phones in bulk from their associates. Sandeep would then send them to Nepal through his known carrier.



"His associates in Nepal would send the money through hawala after receiving these mobiles," said the Special CP. On the basis of an integrated approach made by the police team, it was also revealed that Sandeep along with his associates would go to Anand Vihar Bus Terminal along with a box of 40-50 stolen mobile phones for sending it to Nepal for disposal. During interrogation, Sandeep disclosed that he used to work with his cousin Lalit and both of them would collect stolen mobile phones from various associates from the different places of Delhi-NCR. "After arrest of Lalit, he started doing it on his own along with his partner Arman

and hired a mobile shop on rent at Rohini from where they carried out this illegal activity. He also disclosed that he used to collect stolen mobile phones from the area of Trans Yamuna, Outer North Delhi and NCR while Chaman used to collect the same from Rahul and Riyaz Naqi," said the official. "The gang had sent about 700 mobile phones to his three associates namely Aashiq, Kishore Mahajan and Manish in Nepal during the last six months. Sandeep used to earn a profit of Rs 500 to Rs 1000 for low-end mobile phones and Rs 5,000 to 6,000 for high-end mobile phones," said the official. All correspondence and communication with regard to sale/purchase of these stolen mobile phone was done through WhatsApp calls & messages and once the deal was completed accused Sandeep would collect the money/payment from associates in Karol Bagh and the profit was distributed in equal ratio between Sandeep and Arman after deducting the expenses. "Arman, Rahul, Riyaz and Sarabjeet were also apprehended and stolen mobile phones were recovered from their possession. Most of these mobile phones were pick-pocketed from buses or jam-packed places of Delhi-NCR," said the official.



Sena (UBT) worker attacked

THACKERAY SEEKS 'COWARD' FADNAVIS' RESIGNATION, ACTION ON THANE COP

Team Absolute | Thane

Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray demanded the resignation of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis...



submitted a written complaint to the police, along with the names of the attackers, and there are videos of the incident...

are being threatened or assaulted, and now even 'female goons' are indulging in 'goondagiri'.

Thackeray. A massive political brawl erupted after a Sena (UBT) activist was attacked late on Monday evening...

Fadnavis slams Thackeray's 'coward' remark, vows to remain as home minister

In a sharp rejoinder to Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray's 'fattus' (coward) remark, Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis declared that he would not 'quit' as the home minister, here on Tuesday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hitting at Thackeray, he called him as 'the weakest Chief Minister' who was so scared that though two of his cabinet ministers (Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik) were in jail, he had 'no guts' to seek their resignation.



even worse words, and when I open my mouth, it will create problems, but I won't do it. I am not going to quit and will continue as the home minister.

workers of the rival Shiv Sena late on Monday. The woman, who Sena (UBT) leaders like Sushma Andhare and others claimed was pregnant, is admitted to the ICU of a private hospital...

Maharashtra to conduct mock drill for Covid preparedness next week

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant on Tuesday informed that the state would be conducting a mock drill on 13-14th April following a surge in Covid cases in the state.



Centre's directions.

However, the health minister asked people not to panic but remain vigilant and take precautions. "It's true that Covid numbers are increasing but it's not affecting much as it's a very mild variant which is prevalent in the state."

6 Districts of Maharashtra Solapur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, Pune and Satara have higher numbers of positive patients. Numbers are rising in the areas where population density is a bit higher.

DIA MIRZA PULLS BMC'S EARS, WANTS MUMBAI TO BREATHE 'CLEAN AIR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress-environmentalist Dia Mirza and other worried citizens have urged the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to make efforts to curb pollution and ensure 'clean air' for Mumbaikars.



Mirza, along with Sumaira Abdulali (Awaaz Foundation), Hema Ramani (BEAG), Shruti Panchal and Rasika Nachankar (Waatavaran Foundation) met the Additional Municipal Commissioner Sanjeev Kumar on Monday and submitted suggestions for a 10-year action plan to reduce health risks posed by the city's high levels of air pollution.

sources, since "clean air is a basic human right and timely collective action is needed to protect it".

development and even causes cancer," said Mirza.

the administration along with creating awareness and sensitising citizens.

Part of the Clean Air Mumbai (CAM) network, they discussed the culprits responsible for pollution like construction and demolition wastes, solid waste management and the need for an institutional framework to tackle air pollution at the ground level in the country's commercial capital.

The CAM group also urged for collaboration with urban local bodies, research institutions like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, builders' associations and civil society organisations.

Mirza added that the amount of particulate matter (PM) in Mumbai has reached an all-time high and other pollutants continue to vitiate the air that our senior citizens and children are breathing.

As announced in the recent Budget 2023-2024, the BMC is planning to issue public health advisories at the Ward levels, and drive campaigns with citizens groups on air pollution, tree-cutting, waste management, noise pollution, among others.

Mumbai Court upholds Shilpa Shetty's discharge in Richard Gere kiss case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A sessions court here on Monday dismissed a petition filed against a magistrate's order discharging Shilpa Shetty in the 2007 obscenity case over Hollywood star Richard Gere kissing her at a public event.



Act. This case was transferred to Mumbai on the orders of the Supreme Court in 2017.

The revision application against the magistrate court's order was dismissed by additional sessions judge S C Jadhav. The detailed order, however, was not available as yet.

The kissing incident had taken place during an AIDS awareness programme held in Rajasthan and had hit national headlines, with some segments calling it obscene and an affront to the country's culture.

In January 2022, the magistrate's court discharged Shetty after observing that she seemed to be the victim of Gere's act.

On the allegation that she did not protest when she was kissed, the magistrate's court had said "this

by no stretch of the imagination makes her a conspirator or perpetrator of any crime".

However, the prosecution filed a revision application before the sessions court claiming the magistrate "erred in discharging the accused" and that the order was "illegal, bad in law and against the principle of natural justice" and deserves to be set aside.

Shetty's response, filed through advocate Prashant Patil, had said the magistrate court's order was "well-reasoned and based upon the guidelines of the Supreme Court" and, hence, the revision application needs to be dismissed with heavy costs.

Bookie extorted Amruta Fadnavis to save himself from criminal cases: Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Suspected bookie Anil Jaisinghani and his daughter Aniksha in conspiracy tried to bribe Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis and also used private messages to extort money from her when she refused to save Jaisinghani from several FIRs lodged against him, a special court has said.



As per the detailed order which was made available on Tuesday, the father-daughter duo hatched a conspiracy by which Aniksha developed friendly relations with Amruta Fadnavis and then requested her to 'save her father from the several criminal cases pending against him as the husband of the complainant (Amruta

Fadnavis) is a public servant". Aniksha tried to offer a bribe of one crore to Amruta Fadnavis, the court said. "It is the case of the prosecution that when the complainant denied to act according to Aniksha, she (Aniksha) sent videos, voice notes and screen shots to the complainant's mobile and tried to extort and made a demand of Rs 10 crore to return the same," the court said in its order.

MAN ARRESTED FOR HAVING SEX WITH STRAY DOG IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: A 45-year-old man was arrested for allegedly having unnatural sex with a stray dog in Mumbai's Andheri area, Amboli Police informed today.

The accused was identified as Mithlesh Das. A 25-year-old woman saw the accused, Das, having unnatural intercourse with a dog at a place near Balaji Telefilms, Veera Desai Road, Andheri, following which she approached the nearest police station and lodged a complaint, said an officer at Amboli police station.

According to officials, on the basis of the woman's statement, the police registered a case against the accused. "A case has been registered under Section 377 of the IPC and section 11(1)(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960," the officer added.

Further details are awaited.

Drunk Mumbai youth clobbers elderly father to death, arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a chilling incident, a 23-year-old Mumbai man, while in a heavily drunken state, allegedly beat his father to death, police officials said here on Tuesday.

According to Joint Police Commissioner Satyanarayan Choudhary, on Sunday, following a tip-off, a mobile police van discovered an unidentified person lying in a seriously injured condition near Hariyali village in the Indira Nagar slums in Vikhroli east, a north-east Mumbai suburb.

The mobile police team immediately rushed the person to the BMC's Rajawadi Hospital where he was pronounced dead, and the police started investigations.

The man's identity was subsequently established as Sanjay P. Salve, 52, said the police.

According to a complaint lodged by the deceased's elder sister, Nanda Salve,



53, her nephew Rahul, who was in a heavily inebriated condition, had allegedly assaulted his father brutally after a brawl on Sunday.

The motives behind Rahul's fatal attack on his elderly father is not clear, but based on his aunt's complaint, he has been arrested on charges of murder.

The accused was produced before a court which sent him to police custody till April 6, and further probe is on, said Choudhary.

"Public voted for pm on basis of degree? it was charisma": NCP's Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar has said that it is not right to question the degrees of ministers and that people should focus on what a leader has achieved in their tenure.

Speaking regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualifications, while addressing the public meeting on Sunday, Ajit Pawar said, "In the year 2014 did the public vote for Prime Minister Modi on the basis of his degree? it was the charisma he had created which helped him win the elections."

"Now he has been representing the country for nine



years. It is not fair to ask about his degree. We should question him on issues like inflation and unemployment. Minister's degree is not an important issue," he added. He further asked, "Will

inflation reduce if we get clarity on his degree? Will people get jobs after knowing the status of his degree?" Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that Prime Minister

Modi should put his college degrees in the domain of the public. "Doesn't the country even have the right to know how much their PM has studied? He vehemently opposed showing off his degree in the court. Why? And those who demand to see their degree will be fined? What is this happening? Illiterate or less educated PM is very dangerous for the country," he said in the tweet.

His remarks came hours after the Gujarat High Court last week set aside the Chief Information Commission (CIC) order and ruled that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) need not furnish the degree and post-graduate degree certificates of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



EDITOR'S SPECS

'Guest House' returns in UP politics

Almost 23 years after it took place, the infamous State Guest House incident of Uttar Pradesh has returned to haunt state politics. The BSP has reminded SP President Akhilesh Yadav of the incident and said that he should remember June 2, 1995 when a 'Dalit ki beti' (Mayawati herself) was attacked at Lucknow State Guest House during the SP government tenure. The reminder comes at a time when Akhilesh is starting a campaign to win over Dalits and unveiled a statue of late Kanshi Ram on Monday. The State Guest House incident took place on June 2, 1995, when SP workers laid a siege to the State Guest House where Mayawati was holding a meeting with BSP MLAs. SP leaders stormed the guest house and locked up BSP MLAs and Mayawati for several hours. Eventually, BJP MLA Brahm Dutt Dwivedi stepped in and reached the State Guest House. The then Governor Motilal Vora dismissed the Mulayam Singh government and police force was sent to rescue Mayawati and BSP MLAs. The BJP, meanwhile, has also stepped in by reminding Dalits of the infamous State Guest House attack and how the BJP leaders had saved the BSP chief Mayawati from the mob of SP cadres. According to party sources, the State Guest House will be a part of the BJP narrative in the coming days. The race between the BJP and SP to eulogise Kanshi Ram has twin goals-- to woo Dalits since they have a significant electoral role on UP's political turf and to wean them away from the BSP which sees them as the core part of its politics. SP spokesperson Abdul Hafiz Gandhi, however, said his party has been championing the cause of Dalits who have been under tremendous pressure under BJP government.

REALITY SHOWS: NOTHING REAL ABOUT IT

Vinod Mirani

There are all kinds of reality shows on various television channels. And there are a lot of aspirants for these programmes, too. There is 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', where people dream of hitting a jackpot, and then, there are other reality shows such as 'Indian Idol', which promotes young singers, besides 'India's Best Dancer', which shows little of dance, least of all the dances as we know in India, and more of acrobatics and acrobatics. KBC is, of course, a quiz programme where general knowledge questions are posed and the winnings increase with every right answer. There are lifelines for outside help and the programme is very popular, thanks to host Amitabh Bachchan's iconic status and to the huge amounts in prize money.

Also popular is 'Indian Idol', where Indian youth show their singing talent and get breaks in the entertainment industry. The dance programme may not be as popular, but is made watchable with huge sets and, now, even special effects added, the kind not possible outside a television studio. In my opinion, the best special effects so far used were for the song 'Sara zamana...' from the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer 'Yaarana'. What was special about the song was its choreography, apart from its melodious tune and Bachchan's costume, which was illuminated with tiny lights. It was not even the LED era. To add to that, when the crowds could not be controlled, the song had to be shot without the crowds. But it was a public performance song and could not be shot without an audience. So, what did the makers do? They lit the stadium with candles to make it seem like a crowded hall.

The idea has become very popular now, be it in cricket matches or other events. The only difference is that the viewers light up their mobile phones.

This was all about applying minds. It was not computer generated as it is the practice today. So, what is the first criteria to qualify for one of these reality talent shows? Talent? No! Though that is what you are supposed to possess.

The primary qualifying criteria is poverty. You have to come from a poor, deprived, almost starving family, fighting for survival. I mean, you can sing and there are a dozen or so who also can. But that does not make for an interesting script for the show. A partici-



pant's poor background does help the narrative and create sympathy around him/her.

To add to the effect, the participant's home (usually ramshackle) is visited. And shot for telecast. Some kids are also made to dress to suit the narrative and to go with the sad family background for greater effect.

The participant's parents are invited to be a part of the show and asked to narrate the story of their poverty.

Earlier, we used to say that a lot of film-makers depict India's poverty in their films. These were called realistic films, they were viewed and lauded by international critics and in the festival circles! It tallied with their perception of India then.

Now, there is this case of a 13-year-old lad who possessed a good voice and was keen to participate. The boy's father, a well-placed marketing executive, thought too that his son had what it took. For the sake of the boy, he gave up his marketing job in Delhi and took one in Mumbai just to promote his son's talent and to be close to the action.

A recording of the boy's singing was sent to the programme makers and they too approved of his talent.

So, was he selected? No. He was not poor enough to qualify. He had no sad stories to tell about his poor background. Strangely, his father was asked to leave his job. Become jobless and needy! The father did not fall for the bait. Okay, so what happens to those poor singers who participate? Do they make millions, do they make a career once the

show is finished? Does a promising career await them?

None of the above in most or almost all cases. They go back as poor as they were when they entered the show, except for whatever they get paid when the programme is on and the decent meals and lifestyle while it lasts.

And what is the criteria to be a judge on such a show? They have to be well-qualified cry babies. They are needed to start shedding tears as soon as a participant narrates the story of struggles and poverty! Besides the songs that these kids sing, these judges shedding tears, I suppose, serves as the entertainment quotient in such shows.

As for KBC, it has its lure. One being meeting Amitabh Bachchan face to face. Then comes the prize money. Even the biggest duffer is assured of at least Rs 10,000 with four lifelines available. But there are those who have won up to a crore. Now, there are no poverty stories on KBC, but, for some time, the show has shifted its priority in that direction. The concentration was mostly on rural participation and they had poverty stories to tell. Probably, the MNC sponsors wanted it to be so, though their product was too pricey for the poor of the rural areas.

As for the singing stars who emerge from these shows, what is their future after a few months of limelight? Unless they survive on their own grit, these shows guarantee no future. The judges who praise every singer

sky high and, at times, promise playback assignments, are just following the script. Their words of praise are grossly repetitive and sound fake.

So, what are these judges doing here, for there is a voting system that determines the popularity of the contestants and the winner? These singing contestants render and are appreciated for the old-time melodies they perform on the show. In such an event, wouldn't it be better if the anchor blabbered less and let more songs play?

As for a couple of music composers who judge these shows, they don't seem to have it in them to tune melodies. And the show producers also invite a celebrity guest who praises every singer as if that was part of their appearance contract! No analyses or suggestions; just praise!

The music today is mostly cacophony! Maybe they can sing ad jingles because most television and radio commercials use old film melodies nowadays.

As for the dance reality shows, little said the better. They won't even fit in a film dance number as background dancers, for no present-day hero has that pep to dance like them.

These reality shows, are they for real? Well, they make real money for the channels as well as the judges who laugh all the way to the bank.

international

MAJORITY OF AMERICANS APPROVE OF TRUMP INDICTMENT: POLL

New York | Agencies

A new poll has revealed that majority of Americans (60 per cent) approve of former President Donald Trump's indictment in a hush money case involving adult film actress Stormy Daniels.

Trump will be the first former President to be arrested and face a trial in the nation's 246-year history, sending the US into uncharted legal and political territory.

Trump is facing charges relating to the \$130,000 payment he allegedly made before the 2016 election through his former lawyer Michael Cohen to Daniels, who claimed to have had an affair with him in 2006.

The charges, handed down by a grand jury -- a panel of citizens convened to decide if there was a prima facie case -- are under seal till they are



presented in court on Tuesday. Since hush money payments and extra-martial affairs are not illegal, it is likely that the charges will be about bookkeeping irregularities in how they were recorded and if they can be made out to be in violation of campaign finance laws.

Some leaks reported by the media have said that Trump will be bludgeoned with more than two dozen charges, some of them seri-

ous criminal allegations or felonies with a maximum sentence of four years in prison.

Meanwhile, the CNN poll released on the eve of his court appearance revealed that about three-quarters of Americans have said politics played at least some role in the decision to indict Trump, including 52 per cent who said it played a major role. Independents largely lined up in support of the

indictment -- 62 per cent approve of it and 38 per cent disapprove.

Democrats are near universal in their support for the indictment (94 per cent approve, including 71 per cent who strongly approve of the indictment), with Republicans less unified in opposition (79 per cent disapprove, with 54 per cent strongly disapproving), according to the CNN poll.

That includes gender (62 per cent women, 58 per cent men); racial and ethnic groups (82 per cent of Black adults, 71 per cent of Hispanic adults, 51 per cent of White adults); generational lines (69 per cent under age 35; 62 per cent age 35-49; 53 per cent age 50-64; 54 per cent 65 or older); and educational levels (68 per cent with college degrees, 56 per cent with some college or less).

6.4-MAGNITUDE QUAKE JOLTS INDONESIA, NO CASUALTIES

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck off Indonesia's western province of North Sumatra, leaving no damage or casualties, according to a local official.

The jolts of the quake late Monday did not cause damage or casualties, said Zul Indra, head of the operation unit of the search and rescue office of the province. "All the reports we got from our posts in this province said there were no buildings or houses destroyed, or those injured or killed," he told Xinhua news agency by phone. Indonesia's meteorology, climatology and geophysical agency BMKG did not issue a tsunami warning as the tremors of the quake did not trigger giant waves.

The earthquake occurred at 9.59 p.m. with the epicentre located at 82 km southwest of Padang Sidempuan City and a depth of 102 km under the seabed, the agency said.

The tremors of the quake were also felt in the nearby provinces of Aceh, West Sumatra and Riau, it added.

21 KILLED BY FLASH FLOODS IN SOMALIA: UN

Mogadishu | Agencies

Flash floods caused by heavy rains killed at least 21 people, displaced over 100,000 more and destroyed property in the past two weeks in Somalia, the UN humanitarian agency said on Monday.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the lives were lost in the worst affected Bardhere district, Gedo region which has experienced the heaviest rainfall in recent days, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The floods also destroyed six health facilities, 200 latrines, and four schools," OCHA said in its latest update on flash floods in Somalia.

It said more than 1,000 hectares of farmland have been swamped and learning has been disrupted for over 3,000 chil-



dren.

The flooding came at a time when Somalia has been experiencing severe drought, leaving more than 8.25 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, an inter-agency assessment by partners and authorities in Bardhere found that more than 13,000 families (about 78,000 people) have been affected, with shelters of 8,945 families (about 53,600 people) damaged or destroyed. It said moderate to heavy rains in the Ethiopian

highlands are the main cause for the increasing levels of the Shabelle and Juba rivers. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN Somalia Water and Land Information Management (FAO-SWALIM), the sharp increase in the river levels is a concern for flood-prone areas. The heavy rains and flooding have come following five seasons of drought that has displaced more than 1.4 million Somalis and killed 3.8 million livestock since mid-2021, the UN agency said.

Israeli war jet downs unmanned aircraft over Gaza: Military

Jerusalem | Agencies

An Israeli fighter jet downed "an unidentified aircraft" over the Gaza Strip, Israel's military said in a statement.

"The aircraft was spotted and monitored by Israel Air Force Aerial Control Unit until its interception," the statement added on Monday.

It did not cross into Israeli territory and did not pose a threat at any stage, said the Army.

The incident came a day after another unmanned drone crossed into Israeli airspace from Syria before it was intercepted, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that Israeli officials estimate that the drone was linked to Iran.



The Gaza Strip, a coastal Palestinian enclave, has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007 that has severely limited the movement of people and goods in and out

of the territory. The blockade has been a major point of contention between Israel and the leadership of Hamas, an armed movement that runs Gaza.

Chinese spy balloon gathered intel from sensitive US military sites: Report

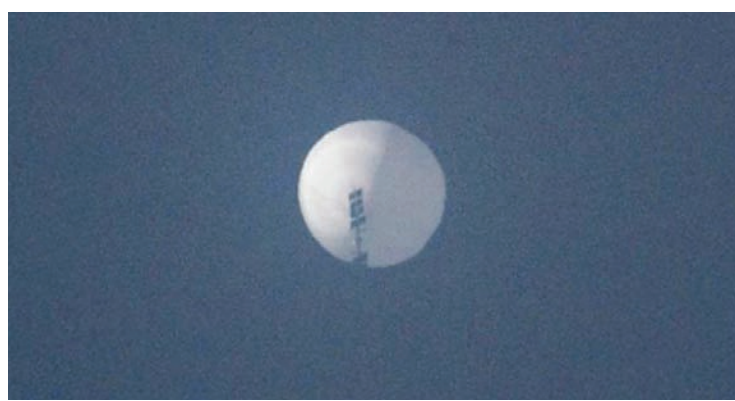
Washington | Agencies

The suspected Chinese spy balloon which was shot down by a US F-22 fighter jet on February 4, was able to gather intelligence from several sensitive American military sites, despite the administrations efforts to block it from doing so, a media report said citing informed officials.

"China was able to control the balloon so it could make multiple passes over some of the sites (at times flying figure-eight formations) and transmit the information it collected back to Beijing in real time," quoting the officials, the NBC report said on Monday.

"The intelligence China collected was mostly from electronic signals, which can be picked up from weapons systems or include communications from base personnel, rather than images."

The suspected spy balloon, which



US defence officials first announced of tracking on February 2, was shot down two days later.

Officials waited until the "strange object" was safely over water before shooting it down.

The balloon was retrieved off the coast of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina on February 5.

The officials told NBC News that China could have gathered much more intelligence from sensitive sites if not for the administration's efforts to move around potential targets and obscure the balloon's ability to pick up their electronic signals by stopping them from broadcasting or emitting signals.

At his daily press briefing on Monday, National Security Council spokesperson Kirby John declined to comment on what kind of electronic signals or communications the balloon could have accessed.

"Knowing it was going to enter US airspace we took action to limit the ability of this balloon to garner anything of additive or especially useful content," said Kirby.

"So again, I won't get ahead of what we're learning off this thing."

The discovery of the balloon had set off a diplomatic crisis, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken immediately calling off a scheduled trip to China -- which would have been the first such high level meeting between the two sides in years.

China however, admitted ownership of the balloon, saying it was used for flight tests and had "seriously deviated" from its flight course "by mistake".



CABINET NODS APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF 730 PM SHRI SCHOOL IN STATE

Administrative approval of Rs 714 crore 91 lakh for New Medical College, Budhni. Cabinet decisions led by Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at Mantralaya under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Cabinet ratified the establishment of 730 PM Shri Schools in the state.



the provisions of the National Education Policy-2020. These schools will be presented as examples for other schools.

will get medical facilities easily. Approval to free government guarantee amount of Rs 29 thousand 400 crore under support price decentralized scheme.

grain credit limit with higher rate of interest. Out of the free government guarantee, the Food Department has been given the right to reallocate between Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation and Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation from time to time.

Sale of spares and spare engines of government helicopter Bell-430

In the tender issued by the Council of Ministers for the sale of Government Helicopter Bell-430's spares and spare engines, it was decided to sell it to the organization offering more than Rs 2 crore 24 lakh which is more than the fixed offset price of Rs 2 crore 36 lakh.

Other decisions While approving the departmental proposal for amendment in Madhya Pradesh Film Tourism Policy-2020, the Cabinet authorized the empowered committee to decide the second star of sub-paragraph 10.1.3 of paragraph-10 of the policy.

Kamal Nath, Shashi Tharoor question Rahul Gandhi's disqualification



Team Absolute | Indore

Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday questioned the disqualification of party leader Rahul Gandhi as a Lok Sabha member following his conviction in a defamation case.

for criminal defamation was conducted in Gujarat over a statement made by Gandhi in Karnataka four years ago. He wanted to ask the lawyers present at the seminar whether the action taken against Gandhi was 'bona fide or mala fide' (taken with good or bad intent), the Madhya Pradesh Congress chief said.

"Both the interpretations of Gandhi's statement should have been understood, and if at all any minimum punishment was to be awarded, he could have been given a warning that he should not repeat such action and the case should have been closed," he said.

CM Chouhan plants Neem, Guava and Amla saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Guava and Amla in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Former MP Alok Sanjar planted saplings on his birthday.



CM sings 'Ek hazaro mein meri behna hai' as 'Ladli Behna Yojana' applications cross 50 lakh-marks

Team Absolute | Khandwa

Chief Minister announced that over 50 lakh applications were registered under 'Ladli Behna Yojana'. Elated, CM sang an old Bollywood song 'Ek hazaro mein meri behna hai' to celebrate the milestone at 'Ladli Behna Mahasammelan' in Khandwa on Tuesday.



said, "Sisters, the faith you have expressed in me, I will never let this faith break, even if I lose my life." "As soon as I became the Chief Minister, I made the Ladli Laxmi Yojana and decided that if a daughter is born, I will buy a 'Bachat Patra' from the

government and keep it in the name of that daughter", he added. "Marriage should not become a burden, so we made Chief Minister Kanyadan and Nikah Yojana", he said. 30 percent of the recruitment in the police will be of daughters, he

said. "A thought came to my mind that if I give one thousand rupees to my sisters who are financially weak, their lives will improve. So, I launched Ladli Behna Yojana", Chouhan added. Chief Minister Chouhan informed that all the 2 thousand 611 ahatas operating along with liquor shops in the state have been closed. 232 liquor shops located within 100 meter radius of schools and religious places have also been closed. Cent percent implementation of the provisions of the new excise policy has been done. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan also distributed the cheques to the beneficiaries of various schemes in the program.

SHIV SENA COMPLAINS AGAINST DHIRENDRA SHASTRI IN MUMBAI HE SAID ON SAI BABA IN JABALPUR - NO ONE CAN BECOME A LION BY WEARING THE SKIN OF A JACKAL

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

A complaint has been lodged with the Mumbai Police regarding the statement given by Pt. Dharendra Krishna Shastri of Bageshwar Dham on Sai Baba. Shastri is accused of hurting religious sentiments. This complaint has been made by Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) Yuva Sena leader and former trustee of Shirdi Sai Sansthan Rahul Kanal at Bandra Police Station.



Dhirendra Krishna Shastri was discussing with the enlightened people during the Katha in Panagar, Jabalpur. Dr. Shailendra Rajput asked him

a question - There are many Sai devotees in India. Sanatan seems to be denying the worship of Sai, whereas Sai is worshipped with the complete Sanatani method. Throw light on this. In response to this, Shastri said: "Our Supreme Guru Shankaracharya had never given the place of God to Sai Baba. Shankaracharya is the prime minister of Hindu religion, so it is very important for every Sanatani to obey him. Any saint may be of our religion, of another sect or even Tulsidas and Surdas, these people can be great saints, can be men of the era, but no one can be God. People have their own personal beliefs. Sai Baba may be a saint, may be a fakir, may not be God. No one can become a lion by wearing the skin of a jackal. If you put any kind of cover, it will not happen. If the Bageshwar Dham government accepts that we should put up Shankaracharya's umbrella, put up a throne, if we say that yes brother Shankaracharya is sitting, will we become that? No."

Special dog appointed to prevent illegal poaching at Kuno forest area

Team Absolute | Sheopur

The Kuno forest staff has got a special member in their squad to prevent illegal hunting of wild animals including Cheetahs in the area. Illu, a German Shepherd dog has been trained for seven months along with two other forest officials to guard the Kuno forest area. According to reports, Illu is 11 months old and has reached Kuno National Park on Tuesday.



using their smell power." "Earlier, we had dog squads from Sagar and Jabalpur for the Cheetah Relocation Project. Now, we have Illu and our officers have also been trained, so we will be able to control poaching incidents more effectively." Illu has been trained in Panchkula, Haryana under a government agency named Traffic India which provides such dogs to different places across the country.

NEIGHBOUR RAPES 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL ON PRETEXT OF PLAYING WITH HER, HELD

Bhopal: A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 19-year-old man in Kolar of Bhopal city, on Monday, said officials. According to reports, the accused lured the girl to him on the pretext of playing with her and then sexually assaulted and raped her. The girl's mother saw her naked with the accused. Immediately, the minor's mother raised an alarm. Locals gathered and handed over the accused to the police. Police have registered an FIR under sections of the POCSO Act. The incident has caused outrage in the community, with many calling for strict action against the accused.

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon visits Bhimbetka

Team Absolute | Raisen

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon is on an MP tour these days. On Tuesday, the Padma Shri awardee actress went to Bhimbetka rock shelters, a famous archaeological site in Raisen district. Raveena shared pictures of the trip on her twitter account and wrote, "Day well spent seeing the artwork of our ancestors. Some dating back 10 thousand years. The way they lived, danced, painted, hunted. A shout out to Madhya Pradesh tourism, team 'Bhimbetka' keeping the heritage site clean as well as maintaining the sancti-



ty/serenity of our ancestors". The official account of Madhya Pradesh tourism quoted her tweet with, "Thank you for the admiration. We appreciate your adulation towards the state." The actress was seen sporting a plain white top, ripped denim jeans and white sneakers. With sunglasses on her head, Raveena posed with the majestic rocks of Bhimbetka. Earlier, Raveena had visited Mahakaleswar Temple in Ujjain on Sunday. She prayed for the happiness and prosperity of everyone in the country.

'MBA Chaiwala' booked for franchisee fraud

Team Absolute | Indore

MBA Chaiwala, who rose to fame for his entrepreneurial success story, was accused of cheating by a group of youths who claim that he took lakhs of rupees from them for franchisee but failed to deliver on his promises. The group has lodged a complaint with the Lasudia police station, and an inquiry was ordered by DCP Suraj Verma. On Monday, Ashish Tiwari reached Lasudia Police Station with the complainants, who said that MBA Chaiwala's director Prafulla Billaure took Rs 10 lakh each from them for franchisee and promised to set up the business and ensure a daily income of at least Rs 10,000. However, they claim that none of



this has materialized, and they are now struggling with debt due to the loans they took to open the shops. The allegations were denied by Billaure's lawyer, who says that everything was done according to the contract. The investigation is ongoing, and action will be taken if any fraudulent activity is found.



Dating Confirmed

After lip-lock with Harry Styles, Emily Ratajkowski admits dating since 2 months

Los Angeles | Agencies

The visuals of Harry Styles locking lips with actress Emily Ratajkowski sent many in a frenzy. While things settle on the viral imagery, Emily seems to have admitted she is secretly dating Harry Styles after the pair were spotted passionately kissing in Tokyo.

The model, 31, has revealed she has been in a relationship since early February and described her new partner as "kind of great", reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

Speaking on a podcast which was recorded before the pair were caught locking lips, Emily said: "I just started dating someone that I think I like, so that is different. I was like, 'He's kind of great'."

She said her love life hasn't always been so good, "If you had been talking to me four weeks ago, absolutely. I would be seeing someone and then suddenly the way he would walk would be like, ugh."

'Mirror.co.uk' further states that Emily revealed to the Going Mental with Eileen Kelly podcast that she had been going to therapy to help her stop dating the wrong type of men before she met Harry.

"I was drawn to a specific type of

partner before I went to therapy. Now I feel I'm not as attracted to that same type of person," she said. "I don't like a lot of men. I don't go on dates if I'm not sure about them."

She further mentioned, "I can get the ick. I've found that men - at least the guys that are attracted to me - always say they like superwoman, a woman that is successful and all these things. They say that is what they want. But when they are actually in the relationship, they start to get resentful. I will say, 'I thought that's what you liked about me, that I had this big life?' They get emasculated and resentful. That's been my experience across the board. I'm hoping that won't always be true."

SHAKIRA

GOT 'EVICTION NOTICE' FROM PIQUE'S DAD BEFORE SHE LEFT BARCELONA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Shakira reportedly left her beloved Barcelona for good after being served an "eviction notice" by her former beau Gerard Pique's father. The 'Whenever, Wherever' hitmaker announced she is leaving the Spanish city amid reports she and her children, Milan, 10, and Sasha, eight, are moving to Miami, and Spanish media have reported it came after she received a demand for her and her parents to abandon the ex-couple's former family home, reports aceshowbiz.com.

It is the same house where Shakira - born Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll - is said to have set up a witch doll on her balcony, which faces her mother-in-law's home.

According to both El Periodico and La Vanguardia in March, Shakira had until this month to leave the mansion in Esplugues de Llobregat where she has lived since she split from ex-footballer Gerard last year or face a "compensation" payment.

It was reported the demand came by email signed by Joan, who is thought to be the sole director of his son's holding company, Kerad Holding. El Periodico reported in reference to the house move demand, "Now we understand the photos of the singer crying." In an Instagram statement in both English and Spanish about how she was leaving Barcelona, Shakira said, "I settled in Barcelona to give my children a stability, the same we are now looking for in another corner of the world next to family, friends and the sea." "Today we start a new chapter in the pursuit of their happiness. Thank you to everyone who surfed alongside me so many waves there in Barcelona, the city where I learned that friendship is certainly longer than love."

CHRIS HEMSWORTH TRIES TO FIGHT HIS WAY OUT OF RIOT IN 'EXTRACTION 2' TEASER TRAILER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth has shared a glimpse of his latest action film 'Extraction 2' amid a report he is planning to slow down his acting career. Hemsworth, who is reportedly planning on reducing his workload after discovering he could be vulnerable in later life to Alzheimer's while he filmed his National Geographic and Disney+ docuseries 'Limitless', featured in a clip he and Netflix released on Instagram celebrating the shooting of his upcoming sequel 'Extraction 2', reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Two things are very different from the last film. One - it's very, very cold. Two - I'm alive. How? You'll have to find out -



watch the movie," he shouts in the clip, filmed on the back of a speeding train in the snow while its director Sam Hargrave stands behind him.

Filmmaker Sam Hargrave said on Instagram, "That's a wrap on day one of 'Extraction 2' with the train location. We got a lot of snow today, but it looks pretty great on camera, so we'll take it."

The first 'Extraction' movie left fans on a cliffhanger as Hemsworth black ops mercenary character Tyler appeared to have been left for dead, though there was a hint he could still be living.

The sequel is said to pit Tyler against a ruthless Georgian gangster, when he is tasked with rescuing a family he has imprisoned.

Hemsworth will also be reprising his Thor role in an upcoming 'The Avengers' sequel, and a part in an untitled biopic of wrestling icon Hulk Hogan.

'MOANA' live-action remake set with Dwayne Johnson returning

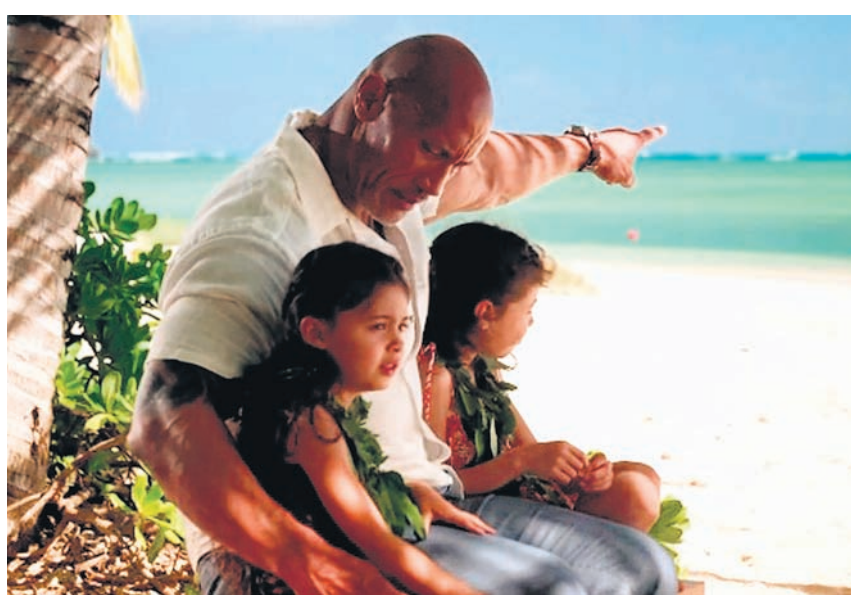
Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson announced a new live-action remake of 'Moana' during the Disney shareholders meeting on April 3. "Humbled to say we're bringing Moana's beautiful story to the live-action big screen! Maui changed my life (miss you grandpa) and I'm honoured to partner with Disney to tell our story through the realm of music and dance, which at the core is who we are as Polynesian people," Johnson tweeted, reports 'Variety'.

The 2016 animated feature was a hit for Disney, making over \$680 million at the box office.

The new film will be produced by Johnson, Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia through their Seven Bucks Productions and Beau Flynn via Flynn Picture Co. Executive producers include Auliai Cravalho, the voice of Moana in original film, and Scott Sheldon of Flynn Picture Co. Jared Bush and Samoan industry leader Dana Ledoux Miller will also take part in the production. "I'm deeply humbled and overcome with gratitude to bring the beautiful story of 'Moana' to the live-action big screen," Johnson said in a statement.

"This story is my culture, and this story is emblematic of our people's grace and warrior strength. I wear this culture proudly on my skin and in my soul, and this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reunite with Maui, inspired by the mana and spirit of my late grandfather, High Chief Peter Maivia, is one that runs very deep for me. I want to thank my partners at Disney for their strong commitment to this special endeavour, because there is no better world for us to honour the story of our people, our passion and our purpose than through the realm of music and dance, which is at the core of who we are as Polynesian people."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rachel Zegler



'Harry Potter' TV series inching closer to reality

Los Angeles | Agencies

The long-rumoured but much talked about Harry Potter TV series is on track and author J. K. Rowling is in talks to produce.

Warner Bros. is in talks with Rowling to join the project as a producer, according to 'Deadline'.

Once she comes on board, the project, which is in early stages, is expected to look for a writer. As first reported by 'Bloomberg', the general idea is for each season of the potential TV series is to focus on one book in the Harry Potter book series, which consists of seven novels.

The series would be produced by Warner Bros Television.

HBO Max and its then-parent company WarnerMedia started exploring a potential Harry Potter TV series a couple of years

ago.

At the time, Warner Bros appointed Kids, Young Adult and Classics president Tom Ascheim to manage the Wizarding World and Potter franchises, which includes theme parks, tours and the \$9.1 billion-grossing theatrical library that spans the Harry Potter and spinoff Fantastic Beasts titles. Under that remit, Ascheim became WarnerMedia's senior rep in its relationship with Rowling and her representatives, and exploratory conversations for a Max series got underway.

Warner Bros Discovery CEO David Zaslav has stressed multiple times his focus of franchises, with mining the Harry Potter IP identified as a priority. He has met multiple times with Rowling and has spoken up in support of the author who has been involved in an ongoing controversy over her comments on transgender issues.



Kajol calls daughter Nysa Devgn 'mini me' in hilarious picture string

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kajol has shared a string of photographs featuring her daughter Nysa Devgn and her before attending the inauguration of Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) and even gave a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes moment from the photoshoot.

Kajol took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures. The first few images feature Nysa looking gorgeous in a silver outfit she wore for the launch. Then comes the actress, who poses with her and the two in the last image are seen laughing.

"Mini me and me! Started off all graceful and then we became human," she wrote as the caption.

The NMACC launch was a star-studded affair, where the who's who of the showbiz world were seen attending it.

The names include Gigi Hadid, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Penelope Cruz, Karlie Kloss, Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, and global icon Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, Kareena Kapoor, and Saif Ali Khan.

SAMANTHA DENIES TALKING ABOUT NAGA CHAITANYA AND SHOBHITA DHULIPALA DATING RUMOURS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been making headlines for the past several months due to professional and personal life. It began with the end of the actress' marriage of four years to actor Naga Chaitanya. The couple separated in 2021.

Now, with rumours of Naga Chaitanya dating actress Sobhita Dhulipala gaining momentum.

A report by The Siasat Daily stated the actress as having reacted to the rumours and even attributed a quote to her. However, Samantha has clarified that she did not make any such comments. Sharing a quote attributed to her,

Samantha tweeted: "I never said this."

The news report stated Samantha Ruth Prabhu as saying: "I am not bothered as to who is in a relationship with whom. Those who do not know the value of love will be left in tears irrespective of the number of people they date. At least that girl should be happy. If he changes his behaviour and looks after the girl without

hurting her, it will be good for everyone."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is gearing up for the release of Shaakuntalam. The film will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada on April 14. Besides this, Samantha has Kushi with Vijay Deverakonda and Citadel opposite Varun Dhawan in her pipeline.



POOJA, SALMAN AND RAM SHOWCASE THEIR POWER-PACKED MOVES IN A NEW SONG

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Salman Khan and Pooja Hegde starrer Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan is one of the most-anticipated films. Ever since the songs of movie are dropped by the makers, it is confirmed that there are a lot of surprise elements in the film. Recently, we saw that star Ram Charan is also having a cameo appearance in the recent song titled 'Yentamma'.

The song features Pooja Hegde, Salman Khan, Venkatesh Daggubati and Ram Charan dancing to the upbeat rhythm in a full-blown family celebration. All the actors steal the show with her energetic and captivating performance in a plaid lungi.

Talking about Pooja, she always manages to stand out in any song she's a part of. A source informs, "Pooja has always been the main highlight in any song she's been a part of, and they have all turned out to be chartbusters. With her performance in 'Yentamma', Pooja has once again proven her prowess. Her energy and charisma in the song have left fans in awe. She brings an infectious enthusiasm to every project she is a part of, and we can't wait for audiences to see her on the big screen in Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan."

Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan is directed by Farhad Samji. The film stars Salman Khan, Venkatesh Daggubati, Pooja Hegde, Jagapathi Babu, Bhumi Chawla, Vijender Singh, Abhimanyu Singh, Raghav Juyal, Siddharth Nigam, Jassie Gill, Shehnaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari and Vinali Bhatnagar. The film is slated to release on Eid 21st April 2023.

Bappa Lahiri remembers his father Bappi Lahiri

SAYS 'DISCO DANCER-THE MUSICAL' IS THE PERFECT TRIBUTE TO HIM'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bappi Lahiri passed away on 15 February 2022 but the music he left behind continues to echo in millions of hearts and minds. Known for his trademark gold necklaces and rings and his trademark sunglasses, he was known for his amazing repertoire of Bollywood hits especially during the '70s, '80s and '90s. 'Disco Dancer - The Musical', is a Broadway style celebration of Bappi Lahiri's cult classics with a reimagined score by Salim-Sulaiman that promises to bring back all the nostalgia of the '80s disco era. Bappa Lahiri, the legendary music director is thrilled that a lavishly mounted musical that regaled audiences in sold-out shows at West End, London, is now being brought to India.

He is looking forward to the musical's premiere on



April 14th, 2023 in Mumbai and says, "This is the perfect tribute to my father and to a certain time in Bollywood's history when music was integral to the progression of a film's narrative. The reason why 'Disco Dancer' did so well not just in India but in so many countries is that its music was situational, emotive and made you connect

with the characters. I am looking forward to seeing songs like 'Goron ki na kalon ki.', 'Yaad aa raha hai', 'Jimmy Jimmy' and the title song, performed live and wish my father was here too to see how his music still continues to unite different generations."

His sibling Rema Lahiri is equally excited about the

musical and says, "It makes me both proud and emotional to think that so many decades after this film was released, countless people across the world still remember my father's music fondly, hum it and dance along with it. This musical has further solidified my belief that good music never grows dated and lives on forever."



"I believe in Kismet and..."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Malaika Arora and Guru Randhawa today presented their new song in an extraordinary event. The song was played in a VR environment for the media during the occasion. Malaika and Guru interacted with the reporters following the song launch event. Malaika shared a snippet of her well-known song Chaiyan Chaiyan and chatted about her return in a song album during the conversation.

While discussing actresses who turned down Chaiyan Chaiyan's offer to join the squad, Malaika said, "I don't know if anyone rejected the song I don't get into much details. But those rejection benefited me. I believe in Kismet and I think it was meant to happen. It was my faith that I got to work with the best in the business, right from Farah, Shah Rukh to Mani sir and Rehman sir. 25 year later also if someone ask me about one of the greatest song and you all will agree, it was Chaiyan Chaiyan." To note, the singer is also featured in the song, which features Malaika showing off her glitzy persona and dance moves while donning various costumes.

Malaika Arora on working in the iconic song Chaiyan Chaiyan



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Radhika Apte