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New UG, PG courses soon on Indian systems of knowledge



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In line with the Education ministries push for Indian systems of Knowledge, new undergraduate and postgraduate courses varying from Vastu to Indian musical instruments will be offered from academic session 2023-24.

This new initiative has been taken under the provisions of the New Education Policy, and UGC has already prepared a draft for it.

The new courses are -- foundation and optional which include Indian Language Science, Indian Vastu Shastra, Indian logic science, metallurgy science, sculpture science, algebra, Indian musical instruments, pre British era period water management.

In foundation course, six vedangas, Indian civilisation and culture, Indian mathematics, Astrology, Indian Health Sciences and Indian Agriculture are included.

Besides, Higher education institutes across the country will offer courses on idol worship, astrological instrument, vedanga philosophy, health philosophy, agriculture, among others.

According to the UGC, Universities and higher educational institutes and states across the country have been sent the draft for the courses based on Indian systems of knowledge.

States and educational institutions can send their suggestions on the subject to the UGC till April 30.

According to UGC chairman M Jagdish Kumar, in the higher educational institutes, admissions will be done under four year undergraduate programme.

The students taking admissions in the universities will get at least five per cent credit score from courses based on Indian systems of knowledge.

Initial steps have been taken for that under which all IIT institutions, chancellors of all universities and principals of colleges have been contacted. The UGC has sent a letter to all in which it has been mentioned that the step has been taken to promote cultural development.

Efforts are on to introduce Vedic Mathematics in higher educational institutes.

VIVEKA MURDER CASE: BHASKAR REDDY ARRESTED, SENT TO JUDICIAL REMAND

A Hyderabad court on Sunday sent Andhra politician Y.S. Bhaskar Reddy, arrested earlier in the day in connection with the 2019 murder case of his cousin and former Andhra Pradesh minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, to 14 days judicial custody. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which arrested Bhaskar Reddy from Pulivendula town in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district early on Sunday, brought him to Hyderabad and produced before a magistrate who sent him to judicial custody till April 29.



Hyderabad | Agencies

Bhaskar Reddy was arrested early Sunday from his residence in Pulivendula town by the CBI amid high drama. A team of CBI officials went to his residence and handed a memo to his family members informing them that they are arresting him under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 120 B read with 302 and 201.

Bhaskar Reddy, father of Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy, was shifted to Chanchalguda Central Jail. Before producing Bhaskar Reddy at the magistrate's residence, the CBI took him to Osmania General Hospital for medical check-up. His blood pressure was found to be high. His lawyers informed the magistrate about his ill-health. The magistrate asked them to show medical certificates to jail superintendents for appropriate action.

A large number of Bhaskar Reddy's followers had gathered at his residence at the time of the arrest. Some of the supporters reportedly tried to stop the vehicle when he was being shifted to Hyderabad.

Supporters of Bhaskar Reddy and Avinash Reddy later took out a rally in the town to protest the arrest. Shops and business establishments were closed.

Avinash Reddy, who reached Pulivendula from Hyderabad, alleged that the CBI ignored key facts in the case to project them as accused in the case. Bhaskar Reddy's arrest came two days after police arrested G. Uday Kumar Reddy, a close follower of Avinash Reddy.

The CBI expedited the pace of investigation after the Supreme Court last week constituted a new Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the agency and directed it to complete the investigation by April 30.

Vivekananda Reddy, brother of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and uncle of present Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was found murdered at his residence in Pulivendula of Kadapa district on the night of March 15, 2019, a few days before the elections.

The 68-year-old former state minister and former MP was alone at his house when unidentified persons barged in and killed him. The CBI took over the investigation into the case in 2020 on the direction of Andhra Pradesh High Court while hearing a petition of Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Suneetha Reddy, who raised suspicion about some relatives. The Supreme Court transferred the case to Hyderabad in November last year while observing that doubts raised by Suneetha Reddy about getting a fair trial and investigation in Andhra Pradesh were reasonable.

In an affidavit filed in the Telangana High

Court in February while opposing the bail petition of Sunil Yadav, one of the accused, the CBI had claimed that Avinash Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy and their follower D. Siva Sankar Reddy had hatched a criminal conspiracy to kill Vivekananda Reddy over conflicting political ambitions.

Avinash Reddy and Bhaskar Reddy allegedly had a grudge against Vivekananda Reddy as the latter was opposed to the YSRCP fielding Avinash Reddy as the party candidate from Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency. The former minister wanted Jagan Mohan Reddy to field his sister Y.S. Sharmila or mother Y.S. Vijayamma. The CBI claimed that Rs 40 crore was offered to the other accused to carry out the murder.

The investigating agency also stated in its counter that Vivekananda Reddy was not happy with his brother Bhaskar Reddy and nephew Avinash Reddy as they had sabotaged his chances in MLC election in 2017 in Kadapa. Avinash Reddy and his father wanted Siva Sankar as MLC candidate but when Jagan Mohan Reddy fielded Vivekananda Reddy, the trio ensured he was defeated.

6 people rescued after avalanche near Zojila Pass in Kargil



Srinagar | Agencies

Six people were rescued on Sunday from near the Zojila Pass in Kargil district after an avalanche hit the area, officials said. Officials said that an avalanche hit an area near the

Zojila Pass, trapping five vehicles in which 6 people were travelling.

"A massive rescue was immediately organised. All the six people have been safely rescued. There is no casualty in this incident," an official said.

CLASS 1 BOY RAPES GIRL FROM PLAYGROUP

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 10-year-old boy allegedly raped a three-year-old girl at a school in the district, said a police official on Sunday. The girl has been sent for medical examination while the boy has been detained by the police.

According to the complaint filed by the victim's father, the girl was taken to the roof of the school and allegedly raped by the boy on Saturday.

The minor boy is a student of Class 1, while the girl is a student of playgroup.

Excise scam case Kejriwal appears before CBI

Questioning finishes after nine hours

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the alleged excise policy scam later over 9 hours before ending at around 8.15 p.m.

Kejriwal, who joined the probe at the CBI headquarters at 11.05 a.m., was asked about AAP leader Vijay Nair, businessman Sameer Mahendru and how the policy got leaked before it was implemented.

A team of senior officials recorded his statement.



The CBI has filed a charge sheet in the matter and now they are all set to file a supplementary charge sheet. This is the first time that Kejriwal is being grilled by the agency. Delhi's then Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia was arrested by the CBI and the ED in the case and is presently behind bars. The Delhi Police had imposed Section 144 in and around the CBI's headquarters to avoid any problems and detained 1,305 AAP

DMK serves legal notice to TN BJP chief Annamalai, seeks Rs 500 crore compensation

Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK has served a legal notice to state BJP state President K.

Annamalai over his allegations in the 'DMK files' on corruption charges against its leaders, asking him to withdraw his remarks or to pay Rs 500 crore as compensation.

DMK Organising Secretary, R.S. Bharathi, in the legal notice, said that the charges raised by the BJP state President were false and fake and made intentionally against the DMK leadership including Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Bharathi also termed the allegations made by the BJP President in the video as engineered and baseless and also a misinterpretation of facts. He said that the statements made



by the BJP leader were baseless, scandalous, malicious and defama-

tory and was made to the sole intention of tarnishing the reputation of

the DMK in public eye.

The DMK, in the legal notice, also said that Annamalai, in his 1 hour, 2 minutes and 15 seconds press conference, said that the DMK had looted people's money in an incomparable level and that it far exceeds that of Robert Clive and termed such statements as prima facie defamatory and baseless.

It said that it want the BJP leader to tender unconditional public apology for his speech and allegations made on April 14, 2023 and the video titled 'DMK Files' by publishing the same in any national English newspaper and regional Tamil newspaper and regional TV channels as well as on the social media page of the BJP state President or else pay a compensation of Rs 500 crore as damages.

Give us 150 seats as BJP will try to break Cong govt, Rahul appeals to Karnataka's people

Kolar (Karnataka) | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday appealed to the people of Karnataka to ensure victory of his party in 150 seats, out of total 224, to ensure that the BJP does not break its government.

Addressing a mega 'Jai Bharat' rally here, he stated that he is happy that the Congress unit is fighting unitedly.

"The party is all set to get a full majority. One thing you remember... The BJP, with full force, will attempt to break the government with the 40 per cent money taken from the people."

"They will try to break your own government from the money stolen from you. The Congress should come to power with 150 seats. No chance should be given to the BJP," he said.

Asserting that the Congress is going to come to power in Karnataka, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will help top businessmen "and our government will help the poor, farmers, labourers and small industrialists".



"The BJP will open banks doors to industrialists. Our government will open the banks doors to small shop owners, small businessmen, poor and labourers," he assured.

"In few days, the Congress government will take charge in Karnataka. The question is what it will do after coming to power? What will it deliver to youth, women, and the poor?"

"After the elections in Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,

Rajasthan, the CMs asked me what they have to do. I told them to deliver the assurances given to the people in the elections at the first cabinet meeting. It should not take one or two years," Gandhi said.

He said that the promises made in Karnataka - of providing 200 units of free electricity under Bhagya Jyothi scheme, Rs 2,000 allowance for woman heads of family under Gruhalakshmi scheme, 10 kgs of free rice for every member BPL family under Anna Bhagya scheme and Rs 3,000 allowance for graduates and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders should be fulfilled in the first cabinet meeting, he added.

He urged that the message should be given to PM Modi and people of the country that, if thousands of crores could be given to Adani and other businessmen, the Congress government can very well give it to the poor, women, and youth. He claimed that whenever he questioned the relationship of PM Modi with the Adanis, he was targeted.

IAF CHOPPER PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO DOUSE COIMBATORE FOREST FIRE

Chennai: The forest fire, raging in the Madhukarai forest range of Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district since April 11, continued to blaze as fire and rescue team could not climb the steep hills and an IAF chopper was pressed into service on Sunday, officials said. The fire and rescue team had doused some areas but could not extinguish it fully and hence the Forest Department and Fire Department sought the services of the Indian Air Force helicopter. The IAF chopper has done seven sorties since morning on Sunday and doused 10 hectares of fire. It carried 3,000 litres of water in each sortie, lifted from the Malampuzha dam in Kerala. Forest Department officials said that the IAF chopper would fly more sorties till evening and douse fire in more areas. Coimbatore District Collector, Kranthi Kumar Pati, and senior Forest Department officials have been overseeing the operation of the IAF chopper in dousing the forest fire that was threatening the entire forest area of Madhukarai forest range.



REAL 'JUNGLE RAJ' IS IN UTTAR PRADESH, SAYS RJD AFTER ATIQ MURDER



Patna | Agencies

pretext of something followed by his murder. He also told the media persons that a police officer informed him about such a plan. On April 15, his apprehension was proved true," RJD national Vice President Shivanand Tiwari said.

"Whenever, Atiq Ahmed came into public places, a large number of police force surrounded him. There was no chance for any media persons to reach there. On April 15, the cops had brought Atiq Ahmed and his brother out

of the police van. Some media persons reached there easily and took his interview and the killers posed as media persons executed the murder. Who had allowed media persons to go close to Atiq Ahmed who was in police custody," he asked.

"Atiq Ahmed was facing more than 100 criminal charges and there are possibilities that the court would give him capital punishment. No one objects to the decision of the court. But the way killers were given an oppor-

tunity to murder Atiq Ahmed and his brother, it proved that the government of Uttar Pradesh does not believe in law and judicial process. The state, which was not ruled through law and legislatures is called Jungle Raj.

In such a state, there is a provision for the implementation of Article 356 under the Constitution," Tiwari added. Meanwhile, the Bihar government is on high alert, especially in the districts adjoining Uttar Pradesh.

I AM SHOCKED OVER ATIQ AHMAD'S MURDER: MAMATA

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday expressed deep anguish over the murder of former MP Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in Uttar Pradesh and claimed that she is really "shocked" over the twin murder.

"I am shocked by the brazen anarchy and total collapse of law & order in Uttar Pradesh. It is shameful that perpetrators are now taking the law in their own hands, unfazed by the police and media presence. Such unlawful acts have no place in our constitutional democracy," the chief minister said in a Twitter message on Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the twin murder at Uttar Pradesh was also referred to by the West Bengal municipal affairs & urban development minister and the Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Firhad Hakim while addressing at a public rally at Suri in Birbhum district on Sunday afternoon.

Delhi Police detains 1,350 AAP workers, leaders: Officials



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Police on Sunday detained as many as 1,350 AAP workers and leaders who were staging protest against the questioning of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with alleged irregularities in Delhi Excise Policy 2021-2022, officials said.

The questioning of Kejriwal in the matter is currently underway, and the AAP has claimed that

around 1,500 party workers have been detained by the police.

To avoid clashes with AAP workers, the Delhi Police imposed Section 144 outside the CBI's headquarters on the day.

The police also put extra barricades all over the city. Besides this, Rapid Action Force was also deployed to maintain law and order.

AAP workers, also assembled from other states, tried to halt the traffic at major crossings but were overpowered and detained by the police.

In wake of the sensational murders of arrested gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf Ahmed in Prayagraj while under police custody, the RJD on Sunday said that there was clear "Jungle Raj" in Uttar Pradesh and there is a provision for the implementation of Article 356 of the constitution.

"Atiq Ahmed, during his interview with media persons on March 29, claimed that he would be brought out from jail on the

RULE OF LAW SHOULD BE HONoured: CONG

New Delhi: After the gruesome murder of mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother, the Congress said on Sunday the rule of law as laid down in the country's Constitution is paramount.

"Criminals should be given the harshest punishment, but it should be under the law of the land. Subverting or violating the rule of law and judicial process for any political purpose is dangerous for our democracy. Whoever does this, or gives protection to those who do such acts, should also be held responsible and the law should be strictly enforced on them," said Jairam Ramesh, party General Secretary. He said the collective endeavour should be there to ensure that the judicial system and rule of law is at all times honoured in letter and spirit. The state has been put on high alert and senior officials.



Delhi LG, govt clash over summoning of one-day Assembly session

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The summoning of one-day session of the Delhi Assembly on Monday, a day after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's questioning by the CBI in the alleged liquor policy scam, has emerged as the new flash-point between the AAP government and Lt Governor V.K. Saxena, who said that he failed to understand under which circumstances and which provision had the decision being taken.

In response to the Lt Governor's criticism, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj cited the rules on "Adjournment of the House and procedure for reconvening".

"Let me enlighten LG saab



- Under Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Delhi Assembly, Honble Speaker has the power to call a sitting of the House 'at any time after the House has been adjourned sine-die'." However as per prevailing parliamentary practice the Speaker con-

venes only on the recommendation of the Cabinet. The House has not been prorogued and prorogation can be done only on the recommendation of the Cabinet," he said in a series of tweets.

The Lt Governor had claimed that the proper procedure was not followed in

calling the session, and questioned the need for summoning the House again.

"I fail to understand as to under what circumstances and under which provision of the GNCTD Act 1991 the Second Part of the Fourth Session (Budget Session) of the Seventh Legislative Assembly has been convened instead of moving a proposal for Prorogation of the Budget Session and convening of the 'One Day Session' as per the Cabinet Decision," he said.

In further criticism, Saxena said that the special session has been recommended by the Delhi Cabinet "without any specified legislative business, which would have allowed the members of the House to come prepared for fruitful deliberations".

MAN MAULED TO DEATH BY STRAY DOGS IN AMU CAMPUS

Aligarh (UP): A 65-year-old man was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in the premises of Aligarh Muslim University on Sunday, police said.

Safdar Ali, a resident of a locality adjoining the campus, was out on a morning walk in a garden of the Sir Syed Museum when the dogs attacked him, the police said.

SP City Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said that a police team rushed to the spot but by then the victim had died.

The body has been sent for post-mortem and further action will follow, he said. The incident was recorded in a CCTV camera, a video clip of which surfaced on social media.

Four killed in collision between two cars in Andhra

Amaravati | Agencies

Four persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Annamayya district.

The accident occurred when two cars collided head-on on Chittoor-Kadapa national highway near Kothapalli cross in Ramapuram mandal in the wee hours of Sunday.

Four persons including two women died while four others were injured. Police shifted the injured to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) at Kadapa.

The deceased were identified as Lakshamma (65), Chinnakka (60), Narsaiah (41) and car driver Raja Reddy (35). Lakshamma of Budvel in YSR Kadapa district had



suffered paralysis and her family members were taking her for treatment to Virupakshapuram in Chittoor district in a car. However, the car in which they were travelling collided with another car coming from the opposite direction near Kothapalli cross. Lakshamma, her son Narsaiah and driver Raja

Reddy died on the spot. Two other relatives -- Chinnakka and a boy Harshvardhan -- were critically injured. Chinnakka succumbed at RIMS Kadapa.

Three occupants of the car that was heading to Kadapa from Rayachoti were injured in the collision. They were admitted to RIMS Kadapa.

AIADMK not to contest Karnataka elections, will back BJP

Chennai | Agencies

The AIADMK Executive, in its meeting held here on Sunday, decided not to contest the May 10 Karnataka Assembly elections, and support the BJP instead.

The first executive meeting, since K. Palaniswami was elected as the party's General Secretary, was chaired by party Presidium Chairman Thamizhagan Hussain.

The AIADMK's decision to support the BJP in Karnataka comes at a time when the BJP Tamil Nadu President K. Annamalai had engaged in confrontation with the party. However, sources in AIADMK said that the BJP national leadership has requested the party to extend its support in the Karnataka elections. The party has decided to convene a public meeting in Madurai on April 20.

A total of 15 resolutions were passed in the executive meeting of which 10 were against the ruling DMK, including one condemning it for the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. One resolution was passed to authorise Palaniswami to lead the party in the



2024 Lok Sabha elections. The AIADMK, after election of Palaniswami, is trying to win at least a few Lok Sabha seats from Tamil Nadu in 2024. The party is trying to conduct several programmes in the run-up to the elections and the decision to support the BJP in the Karnataka elections is a political move.

The AIADMK had won only one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in the 39 seats the NDA contested. The DMK have announced that it would win all the 39 seats in the 2024 and has already appointed coordinators for each Assembly constituency to work among the masses.

SUDAN CLASHES: KILLED KERALITE'S WIFE APPEALS FOR CENTRE FOR HELP

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

The wife of a Keralite, who was killed during the exchange of firing between paramilitary forces and the Sudanese Army in Khartoum, has appealed to the Indian government to extend help to retrieve the body from the flat where they were living.

Speaking to reporters over telephone from Khartoum, Saibella on Sunday said that the ambulance that had come to take the body of her husband, Albert Augustine, was not allowed to remove his body as fighting was continuing in that area.

Saibella, who was on a holiday to join her husband in Khartoum, said that she was now staying in the basement of the flat building along with the neighbours and her daughter who is in the Class 6, and had not consumed food for the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, V.



Muraleedharan said that the government was taking steps to bring the body of Augustine back to India and efforts are on to rescue his family.

Augustine, an ex-serviceman, had joined as a private company in Khartoum as a security officer seven months ago and was shot dead on

Saturday night when a stray bullet hit during fighting between paramilitary forces and the army in the Sudanese capital.

Smuggled from Myanmar, areca nut valued at Rs 31.73 cr seized in 100 days in NE

Aizawl | Agartala | Agencies

The Mizoram Police and the Assam Rifles have seized 5.44 lakh kgs of areca nut, also called betel nut or 'supari', valued at Rs 31.73 crore in the past 100 days after these contraband were smuggled from Myanmar, officials said on Sunday.

A Mizoram Police official said that following the directives of state government, the police is making all out efforts in the fight against illegal transportation of smuggled dry areca nuts, resulting in significant seizures during the past 100 days (from January 1 to April 10).

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to continue our efforts with active support and participation of civil society and all stakeholders for complete stoppage of illegal transportation of smuggled areca nuts," the official said.

The police have so far registered 19 FIRs and arrested 61 persons in connection with the smuggling and illegal transportation of areca nuts.

Due to large-scale smuggling from Myanmar and Assam government's transportation restrictions, areca nut farmers in the northeastern states, especially Mizoram and Tripura, are affected a lot and are seeking central intervention. The illicit trade of



areca nut is on the rise with the security forces, including the Assam Rifles, often seizing thousands

of tonnes of the product, along with drugs, exotic animals and other goods smuggled in from

THREE OF A FAMILY CHARRED TO DEATH IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Three members of a family were charred to death in a fire accident in Hyderabad on Sunday. The incident occurred in Kushaiguda when a huge fire broke out early in the morning in a timber depot and engulfed an adjoining house.

According to police, a gas cylinder in a timber depot exploded which added to the intensity of the fire. Four fire tenders rushed to the scene and doused the fire.

The deceased were identified as Nareesh (35), his wife Suma (28) and their son Joshith (5). Another son of the couple, who had gone to a relative's house, survived. The incident occurred around 3 a.m. at Sai Nagar under the limits of Kushaiguda police station of Rachakonda commissionerate. In another fire accident in the city, a lorry mechanic shop and a warehouse were gutted. The accident occurred in Bahadurpura. Four fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the fire. There was no loss of life.



AMIT SHAH CONFERS 'MAHARASHTRA BHUSHAN' ON REFORMER APPASAHEB DHARMADHIKARI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Renowned social reformer Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, revered as 'Appasaheb Dharmadhikari', was conferred the coveted 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award - 2022' in the presence of an estimated crowd of two million devotees, here on Sunday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the honour to Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, 77, with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and other dignitaries.

The award, comprising a medal, a citation and Rs 25,00,000, was handed over to Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, who was earlier conferred the Padma Shri in 2017. Incidentally, his father and a renowned preacher-reformer, the late Dr. Narayan Vishnu Dharmadhikari, remembered as 'Nanasaheb Dharmadhikari' was also conferred the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award-2008'. Shinde described Appasaheb Dharmadhikari as instrumental in social and society building activities like afforestation, blood donation and medical camps, shunning dowry system, empowering women and tribals,



organising training for children and adult literacy centres, holding job fairs, cleanliness, eradicating superstitions, conducting de-addiction, national integration and preaching to

the masses on traditional and religious values. The famed 80-year-old regular gatherings, known as 'Shri Baihaks', were launched in October 1943 by the late Nanasaheb

Dharmadhikari, and for the past over three decades, his son Appasaheb Dharmadhikari has taken it forward, with Shinde also one of the devoted followers.

Maharashtra Congress to protest against PM on Monday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Sunday said it will hold state-wide protests on Monday against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence on the revelations made by former Governor Satya Pal Malik.

State Congress President Nana Patole said the protests will be under the banner of 'Shame on Modi, Shame on you' for not commenting on Malik's statements that reek of a conspiracy behind the 2019 Pulwama terror strike that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF jawans.

"Why was Malik asked to keep quiet about the matter... Why did the PM, Home Minister hide the truth from the people, and what is the government suppressing about such a big incident that shocked the nation," Patole demanded. He reiterated the questions raised by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies on Friday on Malik's contention that aircraft were not allowed



to transport the CRPF forces convoys that could have averted the huge tragedy.

Patole asked what was the origins of the 300-kg RDX used in that blast, why did the government deliberately ignore intel warnings and Malik's claims that the Pulwama strike was due to the government's failure, yet he was told to keep mum.

"The Modi government has not given answers to many questions in the past including this which has

made the authorities sleepless... All attempts by the BJP to divert nation's attention from Malik's statement will not work and the people will demand replies," Patole declared.

He said that thousands of Congress leaders and activists all over the state will hold demonstrations outside Collectorate with banners and placards of 'Shame on Modi, Shame on you' and demand replies from the BJP government.

High on drugs, man drags traffic cop on car's windshield for 10 km

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A man, allegedly under the influence of drugs, dragged a traffic policeman on his car's windshield for nearly ten kilometres in Maharashtra. The entire incident, which happened this afternoon around 2 PM, was captured on a CCTV camera.

The incident happened when the traffic police tried to stop the car suspecting something was amiss. When the driver did not stop, he chased the car on his bike and tried to stop it again at a crossroad in Washi city.

However, the man, instead of slowing down, kept moving, taking constable Siddheshwar Mali along with him. A video of the incident showed him sprawled on the windshield. The accused,



Aditya Bembade, drove like this for nearly ten kilometres. Finally, the car, which was being tailed by a police vehicle, was stopped near Gavhan Phata at Uran Naka

in the city. The man has now been arrested and a case has been registered against him for attempting to kill Mr Mali under the influence of drugs.

MAN GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPING MINOR DAUGHTER

Team Absolute | Thane

A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 48-year-old man to rigorous life imprisonment for raping his minor daughter. The court said no unnecessary or unwarranted sympathy is required to be shown in the case. "Such cases are on rise now days and to tackle the same a deterrent theory of punishment has to be used," the court said in its order on April 11, a copy of which was made available on Saturday.

"The accused is hereby sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life," said District and Additional Sessions Judge at Kalyan, PR Ashturkar, hearing cases pertaining to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The judge also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on the accused.

Special Public Prosecutor Kadambini Khandagale told the court that the man, from Ambivalli in Kalyan town of Thane district, had lost his wife when the victim was around two years old. He, thereafter, shifted to neighbouring Mumbai along with his daughter and son.

The accused repeatedly raped his daughter since around 2011, when she was 4 to 5 years old. He also threatened the girl to leave her and her brother if



she told about the offence to anyone.

The girl informed police about the offence in November 2016, when she was 10 years old, following which a case was registered against the accused and he was arrested.

The prosecutor examined eight witnesses, including the victim.

The judge in his order said it cannot be kept out of mind that the victim was only five years old since when she was subjected to aggravated penetrative assault and underwent the ordeal for almost five

years. She was so small and innocent that she might not have even understood what she was subjected to by the accused. Her nightmare ended only when the accused after committing the heinous act fled away from the house leaving her behind to starve alone, the court noted.

"One cannot imagine as to what trauma the victim would have to carry throughout her life. This incident would give her nightmare whole her life every now and then," the judge said. The accused took advantage of her situation. He did not bother about her age and body while satisfying his carnal lust. In such a situation, the punishment should be striking a balance between the act committed by the accused and status of the victim girl, he said.

"Thus, no unnecessary or unwarranted sympathy is required to be shown. Such cases are on rise now days and to tackle the same a deterrent theory of punishment has to be used," the judge said.

Considering all the facts and circumstances, there can be no second thought but to impose extreme/maximum sentence prescribed under relevant sections, he said. It is a fit case wherein such punishment shall be awarded which should give a stern lesson to the accused and strong message is sent in the society that such instances are tackled by the court with an "iron hand", the judge said.

Sharad Pawar told Uddhav NCP will never join hands with BJP, claims Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed NCP chief Sharad Pawar recently told Uddhav Thackeray that his party will never join hands with the BJP even if anyone takes an individual decision to do so. Raut made the comments in his weekly column 'Rokhthok' in the party mouthpiece Saamana in the wake of speculations that senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar may break ranks to join hands with the ruling BJP in the state, amid a plea seeking disqualification of 16 MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena pending before the Supreme Court. However, Ajit Pawar, who is the leader of opposition in the state Assembly, dubbed such speculations as baseless and denied meeting Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah in Mumbai on Saturday night.

Raut in the Marathi publication claimed, "(Sharad) Pawar told Uddhav Thackeray during their meeting (on Tuesday) that nobody wants to switch over. But, family is being targeted.



If anyone takes a personal decision to leave, it is their individual issue. But we as a party will never go with the BJP. "There is tremendous anger among people of Maharashtra against the present state government. Any one joining the BJP will be committing political suicide. This is what Thackeray and Pawar felt," the Rajya Sabha member wrote.

CASE AGAINST MAN FOR BID TO KILL EX-GIRLFRIEND

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thane: Police have registered a case against a man in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly trying to kill his former girlfriend after she refused to run away with him, an official said on Sunday. The 25-year-old victim, after breaking up with the accused, got married to another man and she has a two-year-old child, the official from Tilak Nagar police station said. The incident took place on Friday afternoon when the woman had come to her parents' house at Desle Pada in Dombivli area, he said. When the woman stepped out of the house, the accused approached her. He told the woman that he loved her, wanted to marry her and she should run away with him, the official said.

When the woman refused, the accused pulled out a knife and allegedly slit her throat with it, he said. The victim ran to her house. Her family members rushed her to a local hospital where she was given first aid and then shifted to the ICU of a civic hospital in Kalva, the official said, adding she was currently undergoing treatment.



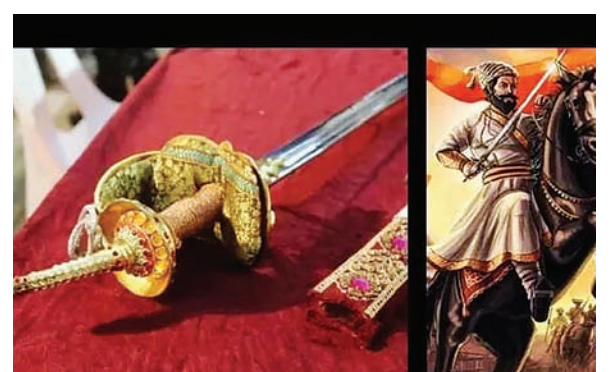
Will Try To Get Back Shivaji's Sword From UK: Sudhir Mungantiwar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on Sunday said he would visit the United Kingdom next month and try to get back a sword and a dagger used by warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the 17th century.

Speaking at an event attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Kharghar in Raigad district, Mungantiwar said the 350th anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj's coronation will be celebrated soon.

"I had a discussion with Alan Gemmell, British Deputy High Commissioner for Western India and



Imogen Stone, Deputy Head, Political and Bilateral Affairs, on making available the 'Jagdamba' sword and 'wagh-nakh' (a dagger looking like tiger claws) for the Marathi people for viewing," he said. "I am going to Britain in the first week of May for the

same and will try to bring them back for the 350th anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj's coronation, which we will celebrate with such grandeur that the world will salute this country led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the minister said.

Court acquits Nepalese man accused of beheading colleague

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has acquitted a 38-year-old Nepalese national accused of beheading his colleague and disposing off his remains at different places. Additional sessions judge at Kalyan Shaukat S Gorwade acquitted Rajeshkumar Nepali aka Yagnaprasad Kaluram Pukhrel (Jaisi) of charges under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code.

The judge in his order dated April 10 noted that the prosecution had failed to prove all the charges against the accused.

According to the prosecution, the alleged accused worked at a Chinese eatery at Katrap on Badlapur-Karjat Highway.

On April 14, 2017, the owners of the eatery and the staffers, including the victim



Jagat Teghbahadu Shahi, had a party at the establishment, after which the owners left and the accused and the victim were the only persons left at the place.

The next day, a shopkeeper near the eatery found a bloodied plastic bag with the victim's head and the police later found the torso some 1,000 feet away from the place. The accused was arrested from Pushpak Express train at Bhusaval while he was travelling to Uttar Pradesh. In his order,

the judge pointed out several flaws in the police probe.

The test identification parade of the accused was not conducted in the present case. Hence, the identity of the person throwing the bag having chopped head is not established," the order stated.

The CCTV footage with proper sanctity is not produced in the court, it stated, adding that the prosecution had also not led evidence to prove that the deceased was in the company of the accused before his death.

NCP LOSES 'NATIONAL PARTY' STATUS, BUT PAWAR'S ALL-INDIA STATURE STAYS UNAFFECTED

QUAID NAJMI | Mumbai

The Opposition space in the country underwent a churning after the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s order last week on the status accorded to various political parties, barely a year ahead of the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections.

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) suffered the loss of its coveted tag of 'National Party' and is now downgraded to a state party with influence in only two states - Maharashtra and Nagaland.

It will now be treated at par with other state entities like the Shiv Sena, Shiv Sena (UBT), Maharashtra Navnirman Sena as the 'National Party' recognition is lost, but its credentials remain strong as ever, with the universally accepted senior leader Sharad Pawar helming it almost single-handedly.

The ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition Congress will be the main national parties in Maharashtra now, plus a couple of other smaller entities, with the likelihood of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) now vrooming into



Maharashtra in a big way to sweep clean with its 'broom' in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

However, senior NCP leaders claimed that the loss of 'National Party' tag may not significantly affect the party's popularity, its reach and influence in the state, as Pawar enjoys a reputation 'sans frontiers'.

"We have enjoyed this status continuously from 2000-2023. In between in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, our support base got eroded due to the so-called BJP wave. Hence, the present ECI verdict has divested

us of the privilege," said a senior leader, requesting anonymity. A state officer-bearer pointed out that NCP president Sharad Pawar has already made the party's stance clear that it must work "very hard to make up" and recover the status in the next elections. "We are fully geared towards that aim now. Our cadres are being activated right away not only in Maharashtra but even certain other states to start preparations for the next elections to fulfil the ECI requirements for a 'national party' recognition," he explained.

Constitutional law expert, Barrister Vinod Tiwari feels that the 'National Party' status is not strictly a permanent feature and keeps coming and going, as has been witnessed several times in the past few decades. "Rather than any setback, it's a golden opportunity for the NCP to reinvigorate itself, improve its performance in the next Assembly and Lok Sabha elections and become eligible to claim the title again," Tiwari said. Despite its size and population, India now has only 6 recognised 'national parties' -- the ruling BJP, the Opposition INC, BSP, CPM, AAP and the National People's Party (Nagaland) -- though the NPP is considered a strictly regional force in the north-east. For the NCP to retrieve its recognition, it should get 6 percent valid votes cast in the Lok Sabha elections plus 4 LS seats; at least 2 percent LS seats with candidates elected from three different states; and have recognition as a State Party in at least 4 states. Owing to the elections arithmetic, the NCP is no longer a recognised State Party in Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya, and is restricted to Maharashtra and Nagaland, hence it lost out on the 'National Party' status.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP a hot favorite of ticket seekers in UP municipal body polls

Lucknow: The BJP in Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the top favourite of candidates seeking a ticket for the upcoming municipal elections. The Samajwadi Party ranks second and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), after getting the status of national party, is now much in demand. The BJP, undoubtedly, is seen as the well-prepared party for the polls. "We have all our plans laid out and the candidates have also been shortlisted. The party will soon announce the names of contestants for posts like mayors and chiefs of urban local bodies from its state headquarters. Similarly, names for member posts of urban local bodies would be announced from the party's district offices," said a party functionary. The BJP has put in place a three-layered system for its ticket. Nearly all parties, mainly the BJP, are also putting together a damage control strategy in place to ensure that those who do not get tickets are pacified and are made to work for the party. The Samajwadi Party also has many ticket seekers but the party fumbled due to delay on finalisation of OBC seats. "The attempt is to ensure that any request or proposal for any candidate or candidates should be unanimous. The merit factor would be the first criteria in deciding candidates," said the functionary. The BSP, however, has not yet laid out its poll strategy which is confusing the cadres. In any case, the BSP does not have much presence in the urban areas and several of its leaders have already left for greener pastures in the past months. The Congress, expectedly, faces a dearth of leadership, direction and candidates. The party is waiting for directions from the high command which apparently is in no hurry to finalise candidates.

170 YEARS AGO, MUMBAI-THANE TRAIN SET IN MOTION INDIA'S RAILWAY SAGA



Marking the dawn of a new era in public transportation, the first passenger train in Asia was operated on a small stretch of 34 km between Mumbai and Thane on April 16, 1853, which proved to be a giant leap for the progress and prosperity of the country over the next 17 decades. The inaugural train was flagged from Boribunder station - where the imposing UNESCO World Heritage Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus now stands - with 14 new wooden carriages crammed with 400 excited and nervous guests on their first day out on the tracks. The maiden passenger service was hauled by three engines, inexplicably named 'Sahib', 'Sindh' and 'Sultan', which blew off loud whistles, belched out thick smoke and steam and soon chugged into the historic journey at 3.35 p.m. that day, accompanied by a resounding 21-gun salute, thunderous cheers

and claps of those who witnessed the British India's first rail history. The gruelling spade-work for that epochal journey started some 30 years before, with an experimental railway line in Madras thrown in, followed by the first passenger service on the Mumbai-Thane sector. Unlike the old railways in many other countries, Indians quickly adapted to the quick, cheap and safe mode of rail travel. The railways soon spread wings - and tracks -- to other parts of India. The first passenger train started in the east on August 15, 1854, covering 39 km between Howrah and Hooghly, followed by Veyasarpandy and Walajah Road in the south (Madras Presidency) on July 1, 1856, and in the north between Hathras Road and Mathura Cantt., a 53 km stretch, on October 19, 1875, -- and chugged along, never to look back. With these humble beginnings, in around 27 years by 1880, India had a 9,000 km railway network spanning the length and breadth of

the sub-continent, even as the country saw historic events such as the First War of Independence, which started on May 10, 1857, and spurred one of the biggest freedom movements in modern world history lasting 90 years. Over the past 170 years, the Indian Railways, as it is known now, has mushroomed into a multi-gauge, second biggest in the world with over 108,000 km of running lines, transporting passengers, animals and cargo to some of the remotest corners of the country, traversing plains, forests, deserts or snowy mountains, safely and surely. Starting with the heavy, highly-polluting steam locomotives, the Indian Railways started services on the first electrified 15 km track between Mumbai's Victoria Terminus (now, CSMT) and Kurla Harbour in February 1925. At one point, it even shifted in August 1955 to diesel locos, but these were gradually discarded as oil prices became prohibitive over the decades. However, electrification picked

up pace and in the past 100 years, the Indian Railways has become 80 per cent electrified, offering a cheaper, environment-friendly and faster alternative, as per the official data till 2022. During the British rule, the railway network had multiple owners and fathers', but after Independence, the earliest visionary Railway Ministers - John Mathai, N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and Lal Bahadur Shastri - initiated the process of unification into a single compact entity. This started in 1951 with the formation of various divisions like Central Railway, Western Railway, Northern Railway, Southern Railway, divided into zones -- which later multiplied as per the growth and local requirements. Many of the railway networks originally owned by private individuals, by companies, royalty or princely states and other independent organisations in different territories, were

merged/integrated into a single entity, Indian Railways, which practically runs the entire standardised network now. Central Railway's chief spokesperson Shivaji Sutar said that from that humble beginning on April 16, 1853, today, the Indian Railways has come a long distance with thousands of services daily. They include some of the oldest services running for over a century, comprising long-distance trains like passengers/emails/expresses, Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Tejas, elite tourist specials (Palace on Wheels), unique toy trains or hill-trains, and the most recent addition of Vande Bharat trains, suburban trains, all-women trains and even women loco pilots. In a few years, the first Bullet Train shall be zooming between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, catapulting the country's rail network into the next era of high-speed train journeys.

international

Pakistan minister killed in road accident

Islamabad | Agencies Pakistan's Religious Affairs Minister Mufti Abdul Shakoor was killed in a road accident, the Islamabad Police said in a statement. The minister, who was driving a car himself here on Saturday, got hit by a pick-up truck when he was crossing a roundabout, the statement read. Xinhua News Agency reported. The official was shifted to a hospital, but due to severe internal bleeding, he succumbed to his wounds, the statement said, adding that the driver of the vehicle that hit the minister's car has been taken into custody, along with the four other people on board.



Talking to media, Inspector General of Islamabad Police Akbar Nasir Khan said that the minister got a serious head injury which proved fatal for him. Pakistan President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed their condolences and paid tribute to the departed soul.

NEPAL APPOINTS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, SAYS PM'S INDIA VISIT SOON

Kathmandu | Agencies Nepali Congress leader N.P. Saud was on Sunday appointed the country's new Foreign Minister - filling the key post that was lying vacant for over one and half months. Saud, who is considered close with former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Chandra Poudel. After assuming the office, he said that homework for the India visit of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will now begin. According to some media reports, Prachanda is now planning to visit India by mid May, instead of April as planned earlier. "I have just assumed office today... I will take a briefing from the officials regarding the India visit of the Prime Minister," Saud said after assuming the office. "We will strengthen our ties with the neighbouring countries," he added. A slew of agreements across various sectors are



expected to be signed during Prachanda's visit, including signing of an agreement for the construction of the Raxaul-Kathmandu railway with India's financial assistance as its detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared by the Indian consultant Konkan

Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL). The KRCL has already handed over the DPR to India's Ministry of External Affairs. During a press conference on March 27, Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, who then held the Physical Infrastructure and Transport portfolio, had said that the DPR of the proposed Kathmandu-Raxaul railway would be prepared within a month and the Nepali side could receive the report a month later. To discuss the DPR of the 136-km-long railway that will link Kathmandu with the Indian town Raxaul, Nepal and India are holding a meeting of their joint working group on railway by the end of this week, said a senior official at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. Some other agreements and issues related to development of two hydropower projects in Nepal, energy cooperation, trade, commerce, digital payments, import of wheat, air routes, water resources, transit, cross-border transmission line among others will be signed or discussed in the visit.

2 SOLDIERS, 8 TERRORISTS KILLED IN CLASH IN PAKISTAN



Islamabad: Two soldiers and eight terrorists were killed during a shootout between security forces and the terrorists in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an army statement said. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani military, said in the statement that the military carried out an operation on tip-off in the district located in the country's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, Xinhua News Agency reported. During the operation, a fire exchange took place between the two sides, during which the troops killed all the attackers in a retaliatory attack, said the ISPR. Arms and ammunition were also seized from the terrorists, said the statement.

FOUR INDIANS AMONG 16 KILLED IN BUILDING FIRE IN DUBAI

Dubai: At least 16 people, including four Indians, were killed and nine injured after a massive fire in a residential building in Deira district in Dubai, local media reported. The deceased Indians were a couple from Kerala and two men who worked at the said building, Gulf News quoted an official at the Indian Consulate as saying. The Indians who died were identified as Rijesh Kalangadan, 38, his wife Jeshi Kandamangalath, 32, Gudu Saliyakoondu, 49 and Imamkasim Abdul Khader, 43, the Gulf News reported. The fire broke out on fourth floor of the building on Saturday at 12.35 p.m. and soon spread to other areas. Dubai Civil Defence Operations Room was informed about the inferno after which fire engines were rushed to the spot. The fire was controlled around 2.42 p.m., The Khaleej Times reported. The building has been sealed for safety reasons. As per preliminary investigations, fire was caused by lack of compliance with building security and safety requirements.

S.Korean finance minister to meet Japanese counterpart in May amid thawing relations

Washington | Agencies South Korean Finance Minister Choo Kyung-ho has said he will meet with his Japanese counterpart, Shunichi Suzuki, next month, the first meeting between the finance ministers of the two neighbours in nearly seven years in the latest sign of a thaw in diplomatic relations. The agreement was made in Washington where the two attended the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting, Choo said last Thursday (local time), Yonhap News Agency reported. "Since the two leaders initiated a watershed moment (for cooperation) during their summit, we need to start working-level consultations in each sector, and there is a need to expand cooperative relations with Japan's finance ministry in economy and finance," Choo said while meeting with Korean reporters. Choo will meet with Suzuki on the sidelines of the 56th Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting to be held in Songdo, Incheon, from May 2-5. It will mark the first in nearly seven years since August 2016, when then South Korean Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho met with his counterpart, Tarō Aso.



The two countries' relations had been seriously strained over historical disputes stemming from Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. In March, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime

FIVE BODIES FOUND OFF OKINAWA DURING SEARCH FOR MISSING JAPANESE HELICOPTER

Tokyo: Five bodies were found on Sunday following a deep-sea dive in search of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) helicopter that went missing off the southern prefecture of Okinawa, local media reported. On the ocean floor at a depth of 106 meters off the southern prefecture of Okinawa, the bodies were found by divers around 8.30 a.m. local time six kilometers north of Irabu Island, Japanese news agency Kyodo reported, citing GSDF, Xinhua News Agency reported. On April 6, the UH-60JA multipurpose chopper disappeared from radar about 18 km northwest of an airport in Okinawa's Miyakojima Island, and was believed to have been caught up in an aircraft accident. All 10 GSDF members on board went missing, including Lieutenant General Yuichi Sakamoto, commander of the GSDF's 8th Division in charge of the defence of southwestern Japan.

Hungary joins Poland in banning grain from Ukraine to protect local farmers

Budapest | Agencies Hungary has joined Poland in banning the import of grain and other food products from Ukraine, in an effort to protect its domestic farming industry, according to official sources. The ban, which was announced by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture late Saturday night, is temporary and will last until June 30. Ukrainian grain exports have been forced to take alternate routes through the European Union (EU) since Russia blocked access to the Black Sea, Xinhua News Agency reported. Minister of Agriculture Istvan Nagy took to Facebook to announce the ban, saying that the Hungarian government is committed to representing the interests of its farming community. The ministry's statement said that in the absence of meaningful EU measures, Hungary is temporarily prohibiting the importation of grain, oilseeds, and several other agricultural products



from Ukraine, similar to Poland. Poland announced its own temporary ban on several Ukrainian foodstuffs on Saturday, following protests by Polish farmers. The Hungarian ministry explained that the continuation of the current domestic market processes would cause serious damage to Hungarian agriculture, so "extraordinary measures must be put in place to hinder them." The statement also cited cheap production practices not allowed in the EU, as well as duty-free and free trade opportunities, which have allowed large quantities of Ukrainian poultry, eggs, and honey to enter the European market, making it difficult for domestic and Central European farmers to compete.



MP BJP BIGWIGS ON TENTERHOOKS AFTER NEGATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PEOPLE

SUNDEEP POURANIK | Bhopal

With just a few months left for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party is collecting ground feedback, which is not good for many veteran leaders of the state. This is the reason why all the contenders are having sleepless nights.

Also, the formula of Gujarat and Karnataka has increased the concerns of the claimants. The BJP, which has been on alert mode since the 2018 assembly election results, is not ready to make any blunders in the next elections that could come in the way of its retention in power.

Therefore, the party is engaged in gathering feedback from the grassroots level. The ground reports show that in the present situation it is not easy for the party to get a majority in the elections. There is resentment among the people against the government and the legislators. It can't be eliminated but it can be reduced. For this, tough decisions need to be



taken.

The major concern of the government is regarding education, agriculture and the labour class. For this reason, a meeting of office bearers of the organisation was held at the Chief Minister's residence with representatives and ministers.

According to sources, on the basis of the ground report, the party has decided that new faces should be given place in the upcoming elections as there is resentment against many MLAs. For this, the party is also going to work on the age formula. The party is also deciding that the

leaders who have crossed the age of 65 years should be kept away from politics.

In the 2018 assembly elections, the BJP had denied tickets to more than 50 MLAs, including many big names.

This time the BJP is working on the strategy of moving forward on the formula of Gujarat and Karnataka as well, due to which it is expected that tickets may be denied to half of the 127 MLAs of the party.

The biggest change in the politics of the state may be seen after the election results in Karnataka. On the basis of these results, the party will work on further strategies in Madhya Pradesh.

Despite this, it is certain that the BJP has almost made complete preparations to bet on new and young faces in the next election.

The churning going on within the party has given sleepless nights to veteran leaders who have won the assembly elections several times and are trying to stake claim for the next time also.

'Congress did not organise Baba Saheb Ambedkar Mahakumbh', says CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Gwalior

Lashing out at the Congress party, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said that the grand old party did not organise Baba Saheb Ambedkar Mahakumbh and did not build Baba Saheb's memorial, but all these were done under the BJP government. Addressing the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Mahakumbh organized at Mela Ground, Gwalior, he said that the Congress party only focused on dynastic politics.

"Congress did not organize Baba Saheb Ambedkar Mahakumbh, did not build Baba Saheb's memorial. You made everything for a family, whereas BJP built Baba Saheb's memorial and organised Kumbh," said Chouhan. He said that Baba Saheb gave us the constitution, and the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is running the govern-



ment on those same lines of the constitution.

"Government will pay fees of poor children"

The Madhya Pradesh CM said that the government will now pay the fees for children of those families whose income limit is up to 8 lakhs. "Now the government will pay the fees for the children of families whose income limit is up to 8 lakhs. Till now the government pays the fees of the children of families with an income of 6 lakhs," he said. He said that better arrangement of hostels is being done under Kaya Kalp Yojana.

"Now cleaning of manholes in urban bodies will be done by machines. The government will pay the room rent for the scheduled caste students taking rooms for studies. Better arrangement of

hostels is being done under Kaya Kalp Yojana. Welfare boards of different sub-castes will be formed under all scheduled castes, added Chouhan. 'Panchathirth' related to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar included in CM Tirth Darshan Yojana Earlier on April 14, the CM announced to include five important places 'Panchathirth' related to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar under the "Mukya Mantri Tirth Darshan Yojana". The 'Panchathirth' include the birthplace of Ambedkar in Mhow, his education land in London, ground of initiation in Nagpur, his Mahaparinirvana land in Delhi and Chaitanya Bhumi in Mumbai will be covered under "Mukya Mantri Tirth Darshan Yojana". Dharamshala near Ambedkar Memorial soon "I am proud to say that we got the opportunity to build Baba Saheb's memorial in Mhow, Indore. We built the memorial but there was no Dharamshala or place for the visitors to stay.

Gang supplying guns to Punjab-based criminals busted

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has said that they have arrested three persons, including two arms suppliers and one receiver. The gang has supplied 300 guns to Punjab-based criminals, police said.

Alok Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell (Southern Range), said that the accused were identified as Rajinder alias Raju, Narendra Singh alias Nitu alias Saphera and Pradeep Singh.

A senior police official said that 21 pistols and an Etios car used in carrying firearms were recovered from their possession. Recovered firearms were meant to be supplied to the criminals and arms traffickers in Delhi and Punjab. "Inspector Ranjeet Sing Satvinder, ACP Attar



Singh received the tip-off about the gang members and a team was formed to nab them. A specific information was received that Rajinder and Pradeep had procured a consignment of pistols from Madhya Pradesh and they had brought them in Delhi in their Etios car. They were about to supply it to one Punjab-based arms trafficker

near Modi Mills Flyover. A trap was laid and they were held. Nitu was also held when he came to meet them," the police official added. Nitu was also previously arrested in a case of highway robbery and Arms Act in Patiala, Punjab. The accused have already supplied more than 300 pistols.

CM Chouhan seeks reply from Sonia Gandhi over Congress leader Govind Singh's remarks on Rani Kamlapati

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The statement of leader of opposition Govind Singh that no one knew Rani Kamlapati has created a political storm in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Sunday, reacted strongly to Singh's statement by saying that it is an insult to the brave queen who sacrificed her life to save pride. Sonia Gandhi should reply whether she knew Rani Kamla Pati? He asserted that Congress has never respected the revolutionaries and great personalities.

Expressing utter shock over Singh's statement, he said, "Gond queen Rani Kamlapati was the last Hindu ruler of Bhopal.

She had been given good governance and when she saw that Dost Mohammad Khan's army could win war anytime, she took the 'Jal Samadi' in lower lake to save her pride. Even today the lower lake resonates with the sound of her sacrifice." He asserted that Congress knew only one family i.e Gandhi family which is actually Nehru family.

Targeting Congress, he said that it should not at least insult the tribals and the Gond Queen and also assured that the state government will not tolerate it.

Govind Singh had given the controversial statement during a programme organized on Ambedkar Jayanti in Bhind.

'I HAVE NOT SPOKEN ANYTHING AGAINST RANI KAMLAPATI, BJP MISINTERPRETED MY STATEMENT': GOVIND SINGH

Bhopal: Leader of opposition (LOP) in the Madhya Pradesh assembly, Dr Govind Singh, has issued a clarification on the statement he made regarding Rani Kamlapati not being a popular figure and said that he was misinterpreted. In his defence, the veteran Congress leader said, "I had said that why did the BJP remember to rename the station after Rani Kamlapati after 18 years. I have not spoken anything against Rani Kamlapati, the BJP has presented my statement in a different way."

Earlier on Sunday, BJP workers protested against Singh's statement in the city. They burnt his effigy at Roshanpura intersection and raised slogans against Govind Singh and Congress. BJP has also demanded Congress to seek an apology from the scheduled tribe. Notably, in a controversial statement on Saturday the leader of opposition had said, "A railway station in Bhopal has been named after Rani Kamalapati. The BJP is discovering such names that people have never heard of." He further added that the kings and the queens always tortured the Dalits and the poor, but the BJP is honouring such people.



Trees also contribute in maintaining voice quality: CM Shri Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with renowned ENT specialist Dr. S.K Dubey planted neem, peepal and guava saplings on the occasion of World Voice Day. Praveen Premchandani, Saurabh Aggarwal, Chetan Patel and Srishti Dubey planted sapling on the occasion of her birth day with her family members accompanied the Chief Minister in the plantation programme in the garden located at Shyamala Hills.

Voices have changed the direction and flow of the world many times.

After planting saplings, Chief



Minister Chouhan discussed with media representatives and greeted them on World Voice Day. He said that this year the theme of 'World Voice Day' is 'Your Voice Matters'. We all know the importance of voice and are familiar with its wonders. 'Swaraj is my birthright', 'Tum mujhe khoon do mein tumhe azadi dunga', 'Mein apni Jhansi nahi dunga' all of these were a voice. Such voices have changed the direction and course of the world many times. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said 'Shikshit raho-Sashakt bano- sangharsh karo' Such voices have had a wide impact on the people and the society.

Former BSP MLA Sheela Tyagi joins Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former BSP, MLA Sheela Tyagi joined Congress in presence of former chief minister Kamal Nath here on Sunday. Sheela Tyagi was MLA from Mangawan Assembly seat in Rewa district. In the 2013 elections, she had defeated Panna Bai Prajapati of BJP in a close fight on Mangwan seat. In the 2018 elections, BJP's Panna Bai defeated Congress' Vindra Prasad. At that time, Sheela Tyagi was at the third position.

After joining the Congress party, the ex-MLA said that she is influenced by the cul-



ture of the Congress party. She also added that she is impressed by the working of former CM Kamal Nath during his 15-months govern-

ment. She further added that whatever responsibility the party gives to her she will perform her duties religiously.

Kamal Nath demands SC-monitored probe into Atiq's killing



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Sunday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the gunning down of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh a day earlier. Ahmad and Ashraf were shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction late Saturday night while police personnel were escorting them to a medical college in Prayagraj for a mandatory check-up. "What kind of politics is

taking place in Uttar Pradesh and in the country? One day someone is killed and the next day someone else. It is for the society to think where UP and the country is headed. The Supreme Court should take notice of it and order an inquiry," Nath said. Hitting back at Nath, MP Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Narendra Saluja said Nath should have instead expressed grief over those who had been killed by Atiq Ahmad. "Atiq was facing more than 100 criminal cases. It is shameful Nath is demanding an investigation into the killing of a man who murdered several people and destroyed their families.

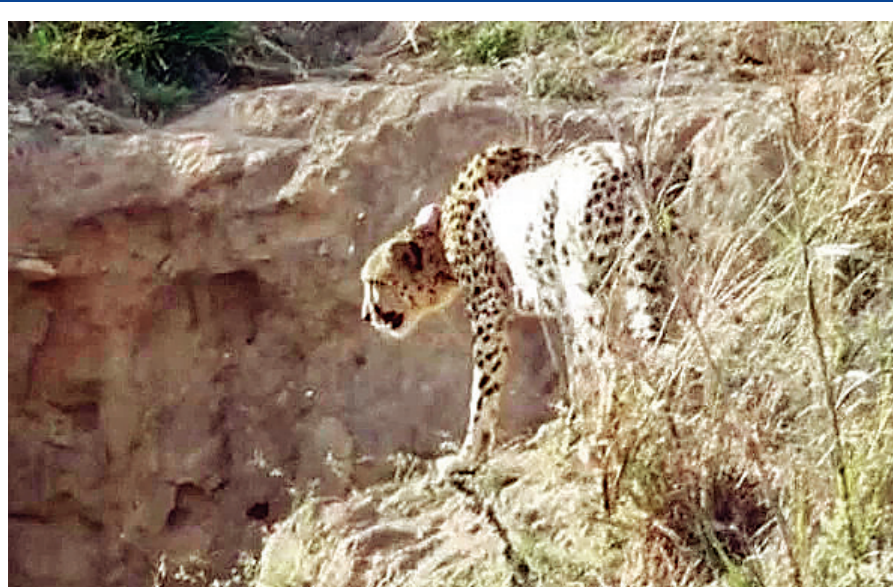
Not fond of KUNO

Male cheetah Oban once again strays out of KNP, spotted in residential areas in Shivpuri

Team Absolute | Sheopur

Seems like the Namibian male cheetah Oban is not fond of the Kuno National Park as on Sunday morning, it once again strayed into residential areas in Shivpuri district. The cheetah was spotted roaming in the fields of Jorai village of Bairad tehsil. While Oban has created much panic among the villagers, teams of the Forest Department and Kuno National Park officials are trying everything possible to get the cheetah back to the national park safely. Spotted resting under tree

The big cat reportedly ventured out of Kuno on Saturday night. Forest team officials were trying to track Oban with the help of a radio collar when some villagers reported that they spotted the cheetah resting under a tree in the fields of Jorai vil-



lage. Forest guard Alok Prajapati, forest range assistant Sughar Singh Bajoria, forest guard Gabbar Singh Bajoria, tracking guard

Surendra Yadav and driver Hari Om Parihar of the Forest Department team are present on the spot and are trying to take the cheetah back into

the National Park area. Notably, Oban has fled Kuno National Park boundaries in two instances earlier this month as well.

MP man, declared dead of Covid in Guj and 'body' cremated, returns home

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Creating shock and astonishment among his family members and neighbours, a resident of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, declared dead of Covid in a Gujarat hospital during the second wave of the pandemic in 2021 and his 'remains' cremated, has returned home.

The incident was reported from Karodkala village in Dhar when Kamlash Patidar, 35, knocked on the door of his maternal aunt's house early on Saturday morning.

According to his cousin Mukesh Patidar, Kamlash Patidar fell ill during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and was admitted to a hospital in Gujarat's Vadodara. Later, doctors declared him dead and handed over his body to family members who then performed his last rites. However, on Saturday, Patidar suddenly returned home, but did not reveal anything about his whereabouts



during the last two years. Kanwan police station in-charge, Ram Singh Rathore, said that as per the family members, Patidar had been suffering from the coronavirus infection and after the Vadodara hospital declared him dead, the family members performed his last rites there and returned to their village. The incident has left the locals of the Karodkala village in shock and disbelief. Things would become clear only after recording of Patidar's statement, especially on where he was since his "death", Rathore added. The hospital which declared him dead is said to be a government hospital.



Taylor Swift reportedly blames Joe Alwyn for leaking their split news

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Taylor Swift reportedly didn't expect the news of her split from Joe Alwyn to come out the way it did. If a new report is to be believed, the singer-songwriter is blaming her alleged ex-boyfriend for leaking the end of their relationship to the public, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a recent episode of 'Deux/U' podcast, a source detailed what happened leading up to the pair's split, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Joe's been getting more and more withdrawn leading up to the start of the tour and the start of him going off to film," the source said as summed up in an Instagram post by the celebrity gossip account.

"It's been bumpy in the lead up to the tour so then Taylor brought up to a head and was like, do we need to address this?" the site reported. Alwyn reportedly suggested that they "take a break and call this tour a chance for a breather and to reassess and we'll see where things stand at the end of it."

While Swift "was fine with it," she allegedly "thought he'd miss her like crazy and they'd be back together again eventually." However, "he not only seemed okay with the distance and space, but she absolutely thinks he's the one who leaked the news," according to the source.

Taylor and Joe had been dating for six years before

news of their split broke earlier this month. While neither of them has confirmed the reports, fans believe that the pop superstar alluded to it during her first night back on tour since their split reports.

On Thursday night, April 13, the singer resumed her 'The Eras Tour' in Tampa. While she didn't mention the split directly, she appeared to refer to the headline-making news as saying: "Is it just me or do we have a lot of things to catch up on?" She then added: "It's been a really long time since I've been on tour. And to say that

a lot has happened is an understatement."



I LEARNT ENGLISH BY WATCHING 'FRIENDS', SAYS ANA DE ARMAS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Ana de Armas paid homage to her Cuban roots during her 'Saturday Night Live' hosting debut. As the 'Blonde' star emerged on stage for her monologue, she greeted the audience in Spanish, before opening up about her experience coming to the United States, reports Variety. "I speak English," De Armas continued.

"But I didn't when I first got to the U.S. I was born in Cuba. I came to America when I was 26, and I learnt English the way everyone who comes to this country does: by watching 'Friends.'"

"Who would have thought that the best English tutor would be Chandler Bing?" De Armas joked, proceeding to mimic the fan-favorite sitcom character. "I mean look at me now; could I be any better at English?"

De Armas went on to explain the hardships she faced coming to America with English as a second language. She used the example of an acting class, "which was definitely a scam," centred around the audition process: "There was this line, 'I beg your pardon.' But I had never seen or heard that phrase, so I thought this character was literally begging."

The Academy Award nominee also shouted out Robert de Niro during her opening remarks, who she met while working on her first movie in the U.S., titled 'Hands of Stone'. De Armas elaborated on how the fellow actor visited her father at work while on a trip to Cuba.



Beyonce rents Europe's largest indoor arena to rehearse 'groundbreaking' world tour

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rehearsals for singer Beyonce's upcoming world tour are well under way and she is pulling out all the stops to ensure her performance will be "groundbreaking".

The Renaissance World Tour will be the singer's first solo world tour since her 2016 Formation World Tour and is due to kick off next month in Stockholm, reports mirror.co.uk. She will take in dates across Europe, the UK, and North America.

And while tickets have controversially cost thousands for fans to snap up, it seems no expense is being spared in preparation for the live dates.

According to The Sun, Beyonce is currently hard at work in France perfecting her dance moves and set manoeuvres.

The singer has booked out the La Defense Arena in Paris to use as her practice ground - with the stadium twice the size of London's O2 arena and capable of seating 40,000 fans.

A source told the publication: "The structure for the stage is gigantic and on a totally different scale from any other tour right now - that's why she needed a huge venue to rehearse in."

"And she can't run through the show in any of the stadiums she is performing in because they aren't soundproofed and people would hear what she was preparing."

"She is on top form and is pulling out all the stops to make this a truly groundbreaking tour."



LEWIS CAPALDI'S MUM DOES HIS LAUNDRY AFTER HE 'SHRUNK A LOT OF CLOTHES'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Lewis Capaldi is afraid he now sounds "unrelatable" to fans as he has two houses. The singer 'Somebody you Loved' singer has spent some of his fortune to buy homes in his native Scotland and London, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I have a house now, I'm no longer in Whitburn, I am in Glasgow and I did purchase a little place down here (London). I'm making myself sound non-relatable!" he told DJ Scott Mills on his BBC Radio 2 show.

Capaldi also said, being so useless at housework, his mum still does his washing as he ended up shrinking his designer clobber in the wash.

He said: "Loading the dishwasher, doing my undies, rubbing my clothes together in the hope they'll be clean, I do things for myself. Sean Mendes might have had his tighty whities in his of course, but I do my bit. Nowadays my mum does my laundry because I've shrunk a lot of my clothes."

The Tourette's-stricken singer also recently moved from a mansion to a flat near his favourite pub in Glasgow. He said he woke up so anxious after his latest boozing session he had "panic attack after panic attack."

Capaldi added on Scott's show: "I had multiple panic attacks on Saturday evening - I went out for a few beers on the Friday, I always feel anxious after drinking but I'd really hammered it after a long time of not boozing and my mum had to come down to calm me down, lie in bed with me and I was having panic attack after panic attack and the whole week after I felt off."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singers Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello were captured spending time together while attending Coachella in California, on Friday. A video shared on 102.7 KIIS FM's Twitter account showed the two kissing, reports People.

In the seconds-long clip, Mendes and Cabello can each be seen holding a drink in their hands while engaging in conversation.

For the night time outing, the 'Mercy' singer wore a graphic T-shirt, beige pants and a bandana around his neck, while the 'Havana' crooner donned a white bustier top and denim cargo pants. In another video, shared online by a Mendes fan account, the duo can be seen watching a performance in the crowd together and kissed. Mendes and Cabello were friends for several years before they started dating in July 2019.

They were photographed sharing several PDA moments throughout that summer, and they made their first major public appearance as a couple that August at the MTV Video Music Awards, where they performed their duet 'Senorita'.

The duo quarantined together in Miami during the COVID-19 pandemic, which Mendes said in August 2021 was a time that brought them closer together. "Camila and I were so lucky because we were able to just kind of be in a still moment, and it was the first time in the past six years that we've been just able to relax and not work at all," he said in an interview with Audacy Check In at the time.

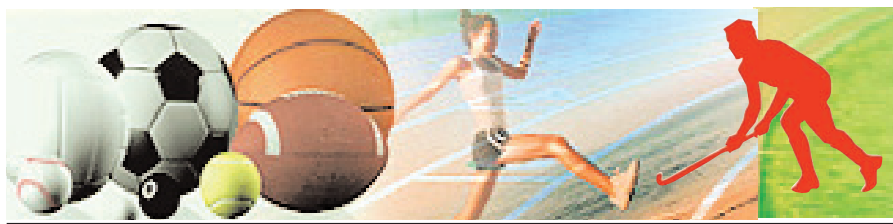
"We were going on bike rides around Miami, and it just felt really beautiful."

Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello seen kissing after 1 year of breakup

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Miranda Kerr



IPL 2023: HETMYER, SAMSON FIFTIES HELP RAJASTHAN ROYALS BEAT GUJARAT TITANS BY 3 WICKETS

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Rajasthan Royals were literally in a no man's land at 66/4 in 12 overs in their pursuit of chasing down 178 against a strong Gujarat Titans bowling attack, who bowled 26 dot balls in the first six overs.

From there, captain Sanju Samson took 20 runs off Rashid Khan in the 13th over to eventually make 60 while Shimron Hetmyer smashed a whirlwind unbeaten 56 off just 26 balls to give Rajasthan an improbable three-wicket victory in 23rd match of the IPL 2023, here on Sunday.

The stunning heist also means that Rajasthan retain their top spot on the points table with eight points. Samson and Hetmyer added a crucial stand of 59 runs off 27 balls, followed by the latter adding 47 runs off 20 deliveries with Dhruv Jurel to complete the chase with four balls to spare.

Mohammed Shami built pressure from the word go, troubling Yashvir Jaiswal and Jos Buttler. Gujarat got the reward when Hardik Pandya had Jaiswal nicking to slip in the next over. Shami bowled a wicket maiden third over and took out Buttler, whose attempt to scoop backfired and could only see off-stump being sent on a cartwheel ride.



Gujarat could have got their third wicket had Shubman Gill held on to a tough chance at slip to dismiss Devdutt Padikkal off Shami. The left-handed batter then lofted Hardik inside-out over extra cover for six as Rajasthan ended power-play at 26/2.

Samson and Padikkal hit a six and four each off Alzarri Joseph, with the Rajasthan captain driving Hardik in the gap between extra cover and mid-off after surviving an lbw appeal.

Rashid straightaway made a breakthrough as Padikkal's heave took an outside edge and was caught by short

third man. The leg-spinner struck again in his next over as Riyan Parag holed out to a forward diving long-off. Samson, though, had other ideas, taking Rashid for a hat-trick of sixes -- once over long-off and twice pulling over deep mid-wicket.

Hetmyer took on Joseph by heaving high past leaping deep square leg for six and slogging through the same region for four more, before Samson got his fifty in 29 balls. Samson took on debutant spinner Noor Ahmad, lifting a drive over long-off for six and pulling past short fine leg for four.

Brief scores

Gujarat Titans 177/7 in 20 overs (David Miller 46, Shubman Gill 45; Sandeep Sharma 2/25, Adam Zampa 1/32) lost to Rajasthan Royals 179/7 in 19.2 overs (Sanju Samson 60, Shimron Hetmyer 56 not out; Mohammed Shami 3/25, Rashid Khan 2/46) by three wickets.

Ishan fifty, Surya 43 negate Venkatesh Iyer ton as MI down KKR by 5 wickets

Mumbai | Agencies

Ishan Kishan hammered a half-century and Suryakumar Yadav roared back to form to negate a brilliant century by Venkatesh Iyer and help Mumbai Indians defeat Kolkata Knight Riders by five wickets and register their second win of the season in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 on Sunday.

It was the first afternoon match for Mumbai Indians at Fortis Wankhede and the hosts made the most of this opportunity to romp to their second win in four matches.

Though Venkatesh Iyer struck a brilliant 104 off 51 deliveries, Mumbai Indians did not allow their other batters to prosper and thus restricted them to 185/6 in 20 overs. Hrithik Shokeen claimed 2-34 while Piyush Chawla was at his economical best for 1-19 in four overs as Mumbai Indians came up with a clinical performance.

Ishan Kishan then hammered 58 off 25 balls, hitting



five boundaries and as many sixes while Suryakumar smacked a 43 in a match in which he captained as Rohit Sharma missed the KKR innings because of a stomach bug but came in as an Impact Player to bat. Tilak Varma scored 30 off 25 balls as Mumbai Indians reached 186/5 to win the match with 14 balls remaining.

Mumbai Indians also used the rules to perfection as they shielded skipper Rohit Sharma, who was hit by a stomach bug, and brought him as an Impact Player while giving debuts to Duan Jansen and Arjun Tendulkar

(0-17 off 2).

Mumbai made a brilliant start as they raised 72/1 in the Power-play as they set about in hot pursuit of the target of 186 runs.

Brief scores

Kolkata Knight Riders 185/6 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 104, Andre Russell 21 not out; Hrithik Shokeen 2-34, Piyush Chawla 1-19) lost to Mumbai Indians 186/5 in 17.4 overs (Ishan Kishan 58, Suryakumar Yadav 43, Tilak Varma 30; Sujay Sharma 2-27) by 5 wickets.

Brazil Para-Badminton International 2023

Pramod Bhagat storms into singles finals; doubles finals with Sukant Kadam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Acce shuttler Pramod Bhagat stormed into the singles finals of the ongoing Brazil Para-Badminton International 2023. He along with his doubles partner Sukant Kadam has also reached the men's doubles finals of the tournament.

The Padma Shri Awardee won a hard-fought match with Japan's Daisuke Fujihara to book a place in the finals. The match lasted for 86 minutes and swung both ways with Fujihara taking the first set 21-19. Pramod made a strong comeback in the second set winning it 21-19 and pushing it to the third set, where Pramod showcased his exceptional gameplaying wrapping up the set 21-12. The final score read 19-21, 21-19 and 21-12, Fujihara threw everything he had in his armour, but Pramod had all the answers.

The shuttler will now face India's Kumar Nitesh in the finals. In the men's doubles match, Pramod Bhagat and his partner Sukant Kadam beat India's Kumar Nitesh and Tarun to book a place in the finals. Pramod



and Sukant put on a strong game and defeated their Indian counterpart in straight sets. The finals score read 21-17 and 21-16, they now face Korea's Joo Dongjae and Shin Kyung Hwan.

On the other hand, Sukant Kadam went down fighting to India's Tarun in the singles semifinals. The 52-minute match was evenly fought and the final score read 16-21, 21-19 and 12-21.

Premier League

Man City cruise past Leicester as Newcastle and Spurs both lose

London | Agencies

Manchester City put the pressure on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League with a comfortable 3-1 win at home to Leicester City.

Although Leicester appointed Dean Smith as coach until the end of the season, the new man in the dugout could only watch as City raced into a 3-0 lead, with John Stones lashing home a volley in the 5th minute, reports Xinhua.

Erling Haaland converted a penalty, given for handball in the 13th minute and the striker netted his 47th goal of the season with just 25 minutes on the clock, thanks to a simple finish after a Kevin de Bruyne assist.

Kelechi Iheanacho pulled a goal back against his former club with 15 minutes left to play. Manchester United were the big winners in the race for a top-four finish without kicking a ball as Newcastle United and Tottenham both lost. Ollie



Watkins scored twice as Aston Villa beat Newcastle 3-0 to strengthen their position in sixth. Jacob Ramsey opened the scoring as Villa ended Newcastle's five-game winning run while extending

their own 100 percent record to five games. Tottenham were stunned by a 3-2 defeat at home to Bournemouth, who won a thrilling game with a goal deep into injury time.

Wolverhampton also took a big step towards salvation as goals from Diego Costa and Hwang Hee-chan in each half saw them to a 2-0 win at home to Brentford.

Everton are also back in deep trouble after losing 3-1 at home to Fulham, who ended a run of seven games without a win in all competitions thanks to goals from Harrison Reed, Harry Wilson and Daniel James, with Dwight McNeil giving Everton brief hope with a low 35th minute shot.

Frank Lampard's return to Chelsea continues without results as his side lost 2-1 at home to Brighton. Although Conor Gallagher put Chelsea ahead in the 13th minute, the home side were outplayed by their rivals, who had 10 shots on target and win the game with goals from Danny Welbeck and substitute Julio Enciso.

Monte Carlo Masters

RUNE CLAWS PAST SINNER TO ENTER FINAL; SETS UP SUMMIT CLASH WITH RUBLEV

Monte Carlo | Agencies

Holger Rune of Denmark moved to within one win of capturing his second ATP Masters 1000 title after he moved past Italian Jannik Sinner 1-6, 7-5, 7-5 in a thrilling semifinal of the Monte-Carlo Masters.

With his 17th tour-level win of the season, Rune has improved to 2-0 in his ATP Head-to-Head series against Sinner. The Dane is up two spots to No. 7 in the ATP Live Rankings and can rise to a career-high No. 6 by claiming his eighth tour-level crown on Sunday. In a battle between two of the brightest talents on Tour, it was the 19-year-old Rune who handled the conditions and pressure the best in a rain-disrupted clash on Saturday night. The Dane struck his clean groundstrokes with aggression in the heavy conditions and recovered from



a slow start against the 21-year-old Italian to advance after two hours and 46 minutes. Rune, who had defeated Novak Djokovic in the championship match in Paris last season and will aim to clinch his second ATP Masters 1000 crown when he takes on Andrey Rublev in Sunday's final.

Rublev overcame a resilient Taylor Fritz and damp conditions to reach



the Monte-Carlo Masters championship match on Saturday. With victory in his first four-level match against the American on clay, Rublev advanced to the Monte-Carlo final for the second time.

He fell to Stefanos Tsitsipas at the final hurdle in the Principality in 2021, but the 25-year-old will hope to banish memories of that disappoint-

ment when he meets Rune in Sunday's championship match.

Rublev is a five-time champion at ATP 500 level but is chasing his maiden ATP Masters 1000 trophy this week at the Monte-Carlo Country Club. He is now 17-8 for the 2023 season, a tally that also includes a run to the Dubai championship match in February.

National shooting

Pankaj Mukheja wins second trial on the trot, completes 3P double

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Pankaj Mukheja won his second match in two days, topping the men's 50m rifle 3-positions (3P) T4 trials at the M.P. State Shooting Academy Range here on Sunday, after he had won the T3 trials of the same event on Saturday.

In the T4 gold medal match, Mukheja, representing the Railways, overcame local favourite Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 16-12 to come out on top.

Also winning on the day was Mehuli Ghosh, now representing the ONGC, who won the women's 10m air rifle T4 trials with a 17-9 result over her former state-mate Swarnali Roy of West Bengal and Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhawat, who won the men's 25m rapid fire pistol (sRFP) T4 trials.

The day however belonged to Mukheja, who completed the men's 3P double on his current trip to Bhopal. He had gotten the better of Railway's colleague Swapnil Kusale in

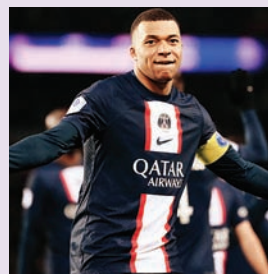


the T3 trials. Kusale was pushed to third on Sunday by India's number one Tomar as he finished second in the ranking round ahead to claim the right to challenge Mukheja for gold.

The winner for the second consecutive day finished way clear on top of the eight-man ranking round field shooting 413.2 as Tomar finished with 409.7. This after finishing only sixth in the qualifiers with a score of 580 even as Swapnil shot 590 to top the field and Aishwary qualified second with a 585.

KYLIAN MBAPPE BECOMES PSG'S ALL-TIME LIGUE 1 TOP SCORER

Paris | Kylian Mbappe has become Paris Saint-Germain's sole all-time top scorer in Ligue 1, scoring his 139th league goal in a 3-1 win over RC Lens.



The French international, who netted his 139th goal in his 169th league match since joining Paris in 2017, is now one ahead of his former teammate Edinson Cavani, who scored 138 times in 200 league games between 2013 and 2020.

Mbappe barely seemed to move out of third gear on Saturday yet still had a hand in two of PSG's three goals. The recently named France captain now has 20 goals for the campaign, putting him one clear of Lyon's Alexandre Lacazette and LOSC Lille's Jonathan David at the top of the Ligue 1 scoring charts of the season. In the course of a spectacular match, PSG confirmed their status as league leader by beating second-placed RC Lens on Saturday.

Relegation-threatened Stuttgart flabbergast Dortmund in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

Borussia Dortmund squandered a 2-0 lead against ten-men Stuttgart after Silas Katomba Mvumpa snatched a 3-3 draw on home soil in the dying seconds of the game at the Bundesliga 28th round.

Both sides staged a lively opening with chances at both ends as Joshua Vagnoman wasted the presentable opportunity from close range with five minutes played before Stuttgart goalkeeper Fabian Bredlow defused the efforts from Sebastien Haller and Julian Brandt in quick succession, reports Xinhua.

Dortmund eventually overcame Bredlow in the 26th minute when Donyell Malen's good build-up work allowed Haller to slot home from five meters into the roof of the net.

The Swabians thought they had halved the deficit after the restart, but Guirassy's goal was



ruled offside by the video assistant referee. Dortmund seemed content with the two-goal lead and lacked in accuracy in the final third whereas the hosts increased the pressure despite a numerical disadvantage.

Stuttgart reduced the arrears through joker Tanguy Coulibaly,

who overcame Kobel with a deflected shot from the edge of the box into the top left corner in the 78th minute.

The hosts pushed forward and levelled the scores six minutes later when Dortmund couldn't clear a corner, allowing Vagnoman to beat Kobel with a

turn shot from nine meters.

Dortmund remained unimpressed and took the lead again in the injury time after Giovanni Reyna tapped home. Stuttgart had the last laugh though and clinched a late by courtesy of Silas, who made it 3-3 with the last action of the game.

MONZA STUN INTER IN SERIE A



Rome | Agencies

Inter Milan failed to carry their Champions League performance as they sank at San Siro with a 1-0 defeat against Monza in Serie A.

Inter were coming off a 2-0 away victory over Benfica in the first leg of Champions League quarterfinals, but only managed one point in the previous four domestic matches, reports Xinhua.

The Nerazzurri dominated the game but Romelu Lukaku and Joaquin Correa were wasteful while Luca Caldirola

stole the show as the former Inter player steered in a header in the 78th minute, allowing Monza left San Siro with three points.

The frustrated defeat saw Inter drop out of the top four and rank fifth with 51 points. Another Milanese club AC Milan also failed to register a win as Tommaso Pobega's blockbuster canceled out Nicola Sansone's early strike, helping the Rossoneri draw with Bologna 1-1.

Elsewhere, Serie A leaders Napoli tied with Hellas Verona at 0-0.



'Be happy and eat lots'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kajol has shared some tips for having a happy Sunday which also includes eating lots of food. Kajol took to Instagram, where she shared a selfie sitting on a chair. She has her sunglasses placed on her forehead and in the backdrop; several buildings can be seen from a height.

"Happy Sunday u awesome 14 million people. Be well. Be happy and eat lots! Love my Sunday's, home and living, Sunday vibes," she wrote as the caption.

On the work front, Kajol will next be seen in 'The Good Wife', an Indian adaptation of the American courtroom drama of the same name starring Julianna Margulies in the lead role.

Kajol will be seen playing the role of a housewife who goes back to working as a lawyer after her husband's scandal lands him in jail.

Kajol shared some tips for having a happy Sunday

When Salman took a taxi to college without money to pay for the ride

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recalled his college days when he had no money to pay the taxi driver and got left mid-way without paying the fare. However, after several years when he met him again, he paid the whole amount with interest.

Salman said: "We usually used to travel by train to college but sometimes, we felt like travelling comfortably, so one day I decided to take a taxi to my college. But, the fun part was, I did not have the money to pay for the taxi, so I stopped the driver a lane away from my college and told him that I would get the money from a place and give it to him, but I never returned."

He is currently busy with the promotion of his upcoming film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. Salman along with the cast of his film including Pooja Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Raghav Juyal, Palak Tiwari, Jassi Gill, Siddharth Nigam, Vinali Bhatnagar, and Sukhbir, appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.



During a conversation with the host, Salman talked about his youth days and how he used to travel by train as couldn't afford a taxi every day. However, once for comfort, he decided to travel by taxi to his college but ran away without paying the fare. After years, when he started getting work in the industry, he met the same driver, and this time he paid him all the money with interest. He added: "Then eventually I got into modelling and started earning quite well so again I decided to take a taxi back home. I stopped one taxi and sat inside it, but throughout the journey, the taxi driver kept saying that he has seen me somewhere before. Once I reached home, I told him that I will get the money, and he snapped right back as he recognised me. We both had a laugh about the situation, but I made sure to pay back the last due money with interest."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga said that love stories are always liked by the audience, and with time, their presentation on-screen has evolved and changed. She was talking in the context of her latest web series 'Gutur Gu', which is all about teenage love and the issues, and challenges that can affect their relationship. It features 'The Family Man' fame Ashlesha Thakur and Vishesh Bansal from 'Yeh Meri Family'. After casting Ashlesha and Vishesh in the short film, 'Gupt Gyan', she collaborated with director Saqib Pandor for this web series with the same cast.

While talking about love stories and their popularity on the digital platform, she said that irrespective of the medium, romance as a genre still interests the makers.

Guneet said: "I don't think that the Hindi film industry has stopped making romantic stories, but rather, there has been an evolution of love stories on screen." She has been associated with a number of popular films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Peddlers', 'The Lunchbox', 'Masaa', 'Zubaan', and 'Pagglait'. Recently she was in the headlines because of her Academy Award-winning documentary short film 'The Elephant Whisperers'. Guneet added on the kind of content being liked by the audience: "Stories that are now more diverse and inclusive, are a larger representation of the unique perspectives that span across India. And that's the magic of content because it reflects the changes over time. But the essence of love stories, be it any decade, remains the same."

We are busy with our own lives & responsibilities:

Sumati Singh



Team Absolute | Mumbai

TV actress Sumati Singh, who is known for her roles in shows such as 'Roop - Mard Ka Naya Swaroop' and 'Amma Ke Babu Ki Babyess', recalled her childhood days and how she did pranks with her younger brother.

She said: "I have a younger brother, and when we were kids, I used to enjoy doing his funny makeup with Holi colours. Sometimes I would even wrap him up in my mother's saree, put a bindi on his forehead, and do his makeup. Those were the days of innocent fun and sibling rivalry."

The actress is currently seen playing the role of Kirti in the show 'Kismat Ki Lakiro Se' and in the show she decides to teach a lesson to her roommate Payal by offering her to do her makeup. However, she used all expired products, leaving Payal with an allergic reaction.

Sumati added how due to work, she hardly gets time to play such pranks with her brother but while shooting the scene she went down memory lane and recalled those moments. "Now that we have grown up, we hardly get time to spend together. We are busy with our own lives and responsibilities. But shooting such scenes takes me down memory lane, reminding me of the fun times we had as siblings. It makes me cherish those moments even more and appreciate the bond we share," she added.

My desire was to sit for the civil services entrance in college: Rahul Dev

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Actor Rahul Dev, who is currently seen playing the role of Inspector Hooda in the web series 'Hunter - Tootega Nahi Todega', shared how he was inspired by his real-life incidents while preparing for the role. He also spoke about getting injured on the sets for shooting for action sequences.

Rahul said: "I have literally grown up in a household where I have watched my illustrious late father go to work daily. In fact, my desire was to sit for the civil services entrance in college, observing the pressure on him. His work hours weren't defined and there were no Sundays. The role essayed by me is that of a police SHO named Hooda (Haryanvi). I hail from Delhi, so the character is loosely based on observations of people from that belt, Gurgaon, Haryana, not necessarily as cops."

The actor is known for his work in regional as well as Hindi cinema including 'Champion', 'Aashiq', 'Asoka', 'Narasimha', 'Indian', 'Kachchi Sadak', 'Raat Baki Hai', 'Gaslight', among others.

He added more about prepping up for the role and recalled how he injured himself on the sets.

"I remember filming in a location wherein the vehicles couldn't go, so the arrangement involved the villagers staying in the neighbourhood. They were dropping talents at the actual location (about 1.5 km away from the vanity). My spot boy Shankar mistakenly left the knee pads to be used in action back at the vanity parked about 1.5 km away," he added. The outside light was failing and everything was set, so I literally shot my longest action sequences (in which Hooda finally succumbs to fire) without the requisite safety pads in place. I hurt my right knee in the second take, but continued with my Master's grace to complete the sequence," Rahul concluded.



The essence of love stories, be it any decade, remains the same: Guneet Monga

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sana Makbul