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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION

Dalit intellectuals hail KCR for installing 125-foot ...



HOLLYWOOD

Shakira got 'eviction notice' from Pique's dad before she left ...



SPORTS

Gujarat Titans beats Delhi SC by six-wicket



India now has third highest number of billionaires in the world



Team Absolute New Delhi

ndia, which has the third-most billionaires, with 169, had a more mixed year. Indian billionaires as a group worth \$675 billion - are \$75 billion poorer than in 2022, as per the Forbes World's Billionaires List 2023.

As per the list, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is the richest India with a net worth of \$63.4 billion. Ambani is the 9th richest in the world as per the list.

The Us still boasts the most billionaires, with 735 list members worth a collective \$4.5 trillion. China (including Hong Kong and Macau) remains second, with 562 billionaires worth \$2 trillion, followed by India, with 169 billionaires worth \$675 billion. Nearly half of all billionaires are poorer than they were a year ago, as per the

Falling stocks, wounded unicorns, and rising interest rates translated into a down year for the world's wealthi-

Forbes World's Billionaires

est people. Globally, the list counted 2,640 ten-figure fortunes, down from 2,668 last year. Altogether, the planet's billionaires are now worth \$12.2 trillion, a drop of \$500 billion from \$12.7 trillion in March

Nearly half the list is poorer than a year ago, including Elon Musk, who falls from No. 1 to No. 2 after his pricey acquisition of Twitter helped sink Tesla shares.

Bernard Arnault, head of luxury goods giant LVMH, takes his place as the world's richest person, marking the first time a citizen of France leads the ranking.

Despite a down year in the markets, rising inflation and war in Eastern Europe, more than 1,000 billionaires are actually richer than they were on Forbes' 2022 list - some by tens of billions of dollars. Luxury goods tycoon

Arnault has had the best run. His net worth surged by \$53 billion since last year, a bigger gain than anyone on the planet. Shares of his LVMH, which owns brands like Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Tiffany & Co, rose by 18 per cent on the back of strong demand. Now worth \$211 billion, Arnault has taken the top spot on the World's Billionaires ranking. It's his first time at No 1 - and the first time a citizen of France

has led the list. Michael Bloomberg is ranked 7th on the list with a net worth of \$84.5 billion.

7 tourists killed in Sikkim avalanche; 350 rescued



Team Absolute | Gangtok

t least seven tourists were killed on Tuesday in Sikkim after a massive avalanche hit a section of National Highway 310, an official said.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has managed to rescue at least 350 tourists stranded in the affected area after they were stuck due to the avalanche, defence sources said.

Defence spokesperson Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said

the avalanche hit the Gangtok-Natu La Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg on National Highway 310.

He said that around 30 tourists travelling in 5-6 vehicles on their way to Natu La were buried beneath the

Troopers of Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army and BRO personnel under 'Project Swastik' swung into action immediately, and launched an all-out rescue mission.A total of 23 people, including six from a deep

valley, have been pulled out alive. They have been shifted to the nearby medical facilities of the Indian Army.

"Unfortunately, seven tourists have died. Search and rescue missions are underway by the Army, State Disaster Management team and police," Lt. Col. Rawat said.So far, 350 stranded tourists travelling in 80 vehicles have been rescued after clearing the snow from the

Rescue operations are currently underway.

Avalanche area 9th most vulnerable to landslides in India

New Delhi: Sikkim's East District, which witnessed a massive avalanche that claimed several lives on Tuesday, ranks ninth in landslide density and risk exposure among all districts in the country. According to the Landslide Atlas of India, released by ISRO's Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre, Sikkim witnessed 1,561 landslides between 2011 and 2017, with most falling in the category of event-based landslides triggered by earthquakes or heavy rainfall. Sikkim's South District ranks eighth across the coun-

try in terms of landslide density and risk exposure. "Himalayas and Western Ghats are highly susceptible

to mass movements due to hilly topography and heavy rainfall," the Landslide Atlas of India said. The findings emerged from the latest risk assessment done by scientists from NRSC, which published the list as part of the Landslide Atlas of India. The team released a list of 147 most landslide-vulnerable dis-

tricts in 17 states and two Union Territories. The East District had been experiencing rainfall and snowfall in the higher reaches since Friday, an official from the weather office said.

The weather station at Gangtok, also in the East District, recorded 50 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Tuesday, the Gangtok office of the India Meteorological Department said.

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

New Delhi: A day after his bail was extended by sessions court in Surat, Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday questioned the money trail in

Adani companies. Gandhi arrived at the Congress office here for the central election committee (CEC) meeting, which will finalise the remaining 100 candidates for Karnataka Assembly

When asked about the BJP's allegation of pressuring the judiciary, he responded, "why do you ask what BJP says... the only question is whose Rs 20,000 crore money is in Adani shell companies?'

Gandhi, who was on Monday given bail in a criminal defamation case, where he has been convicted and sentenced, said that "truth" is his "weapon in this struggle".

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Gandhi said that it was "a fight to save democracy" and against "mitra kaal", and "in this struggle, truth is my weapon and truth is my shelter".

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

Bengaluru | Agencies

he opposition Congress in Karnataka on Tuesday criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state after five-time party legislator Halady Srinivas Shetty from Kundapur constituency in Udupi district announced his retirement from

Taking to social media, the Congress said "the leader of Bunt community, MLA Halady Srinivas Shetty has announced political retirement after being humiliated by the BJP".

"Even as Halady was inducted into the Cabinet, he was not offered any high post in the party. Now, with a painful message, he has announced his retirement from politics. The development has shown that the BJP is not a party for the good people," the Congress said in a social media post.

The Congress claimed that "the only reason for the retirement of Halady Srinivas Shetty, who was not a typical BJP person, is harassment".

He was elected five consecutive times,

Letter to

Sikhs For



and was a powerful leader from the Bunt community."This is not an insult to Srinivas Shetty, it is an insult to the Bunt community," the Congress said.

Srinivas Shetty had announced that he would not contest in the upcoming assembly elections on April 3.

He was elected as an MLA four times on a BJP ticket, and won the elections once as an independent candidate.

Shetty's retirement announcement is being seen as a setback to the ruling BJP ahead of the May 10 Karnataka assembly

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

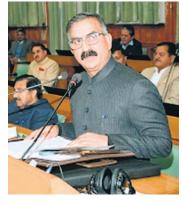
Shimla Agencies

he initiative towards promoting gender equality by carrying out amendment in a 51-year-old legislation, Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act of 1972, is a landmark decision for providing equitable rights in landholding to the adult daughter (married and unmarried) Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said on Tuesday.

As per the amendment, an adult daughter will be permitted to have a separate independent unit up to 150 bighas of land. The state government has rectified the error by inserting the words, 'or daughter' after the word 'son' in sub-section 4 of section 4 of the existing Act.

The bill includes the daughter on a par with the son as a separate independent unit. Earlier, the Act allowed an adult son to have an additional 150 bighas while denying the same right to an adult daughter.

As a result, families with adult



daughters will have the same land rights as those with adult sons, totalling up to 300 bighas of land.

The Bill, Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2023, which was introduced in the assembly on March 29 by Chief Minister Sukhu, and passed on April 3 aims to ensure gender equality to both son and daughter when it comes to owning an independent unit.

The Bill paves the way to remove gender discrimination in line with the provisions of Indian Constitution.

The Chief Minister himself took a special interest in this regard and was keen to introduce the amendment bill in the current budget session of the state Assembly.

The amendment in the act is aimed provide relief to lakhs of families in Himachal Pradesh having daughters, as it would enable their daughter to have an additional unit of 150 bighas

The move has been widely welcomed by all sections of society as a positive step towards empowering

women in the state. "By making the necessary amendment, the state government is providing succour to lakhs of families having daughters. This amendment aims to ensure that families with daughters have equal rights in land ownership, removing the unconstitutional clause that promotes gender inequality," the

Chief Minister said.

Sikhs for Justice now offers support to ULFA-I



Guwahati | Agencies

S-based secessionist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has allegedly reacted to a letter from the outlawed terrorist group United Liberation Front of Asom Independent (ULFA-I), saying that they are prepared to offer assistance for the "Assam

Independence Referendum" (AIR). The letter was sent after threats against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma prompted ULFA-I leader Paresh Baruah to

write an open letter to the SFJ. The letter from pro-Khalistani group's founder Gurpatwant Singh Pannu reads: "We are writing to you in response to your recent

regarding the ongoing controversy between the pro-Khalistan Sikhs and

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of Hindu supremacist party BJP which believes in continued tyrannical occupation of the people and land of Assam."

"At the very outset, SFJ expresses gratitude to the Assamese people for always standing with the Sikh people in their struggle for freedom from India and for never being part of the state sponsored persecution of Sikhs being carried out in India since June 1984 Operation Blue Star," the letter

In the letter, Pannu stated that if the ULFA-I decided to hold an Assam independence referendum; his group would support it and offer all legal assistance and logisti-

cal support.It contended that "considering that Assamese people have the right to self-determination under international law, valuing their commitment and sacrifices for the cause of freedom and accounting for ULFA-l's dedication, strength, discipline, popularity, and organisational setup", the SFJ would like to suggest that, on the lines of Khalistan Referendum, "General Paresh, you also announce to hold Referendum on the question" on should Assam be independent.Pannu further said: "SFJ challenges and repudiates India's claim to the territorial integrity as the current territorial borders of the Union of India are a colonial legacy founded on the usurpation of right to self-determination of the indigenous people of Punjab, Assam and other areas."

The threat made by Pannu against Assam Chief Minister was previously described by ULFA-I leader Paresh Baruah as "unfortunate and misunderstood" in a letter to the SFJ.

Notably Assam Police have beefed up the security measures in the wake of the threat issued by Pannu against CM Sarma.

Skyroot Aerospace test fires 3D printed cryogenic engine successfully

Chennai | Agencies

Private rocket maker Skyroot Aerospace on Tuesday said it had successfully test fired its 3D printed cryogenic engine called Dhawan-II for 200 sec-

According to Skyroot Aerospace, the test was done at Solar Industries propulsion test facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra using the company's indigenously developed mobile cryogenic engine test pad.

This achievement follows the November 2022 launch of Vikram - S, which made Skyroot the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space.

"The successful test of Dhawan-II is a landmark achievement for Skyroot and the Indian private space sector. We are proud to be at the forefront in developing cutting edge cryogenic technologies in the private space sector of India, and pushing the limit with advanced technologies like 3D printing and green propellants," Pawan Kumar Chandana, Co-founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace said. The Dhawan-II engine



builds upon the foundation laid by Skyroot's first privately developed fully-cryogenic rocket engine, the 1.0 kN (kilo Newton) thrust Dhawan a" I, which was successfully test fired in November 2021

The cryogenic engine series is named in honour of Dr. Satish Dhawan, an eminent Indian rocket scientist who played a crucial role in the development of the Indian Space Programme. Naga Bharath Daka, coAerospace, added: "This is a major milestone for our cryogenic propulsion programme, which will enhance the payload capacity of the Vikram series of space launch vehicles (rockets), making them more modular so as to meet wider customer requirements.

founder and COO of Skyroot

According to Padmashri awardee V. Gnanagandhi, and veteran rocket scientist who leads liquid and cryogenic

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

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

Hyderabad Agencies

alit intellectuals have hailed the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government of Telangana for installing a 125-foot statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

The University Grants Commission's (UGC) former Chairman Prof Sukhadeo Thorat and other intellectuals visited the statue which is coming up near Hussain Sagar in the heart of Hyderabad and is scheduled to be unveiled on April 14, the birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

They were all praise for Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for paying fitting tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution by installing his tallest statue.

The statue has come close to the newly-built state Secretariat which has also been named after Ambedkar.

A thanksgiving ceremony was held in the city by various Dalit organizations to thank the Chief Minister for naming the Telangana secretariat after Ambedkar and also for installing



International, Samata Sainik Dal, SC, ST Officers Forum and others attended the meeting

Thorat said he was feeling proud to be a part of this thanksgiving ceremony. He appreciated KCR, as the Chief Minister is popularly known, for naming the secretariat and installing a statue as a fitting tribute to Ambedkar.

K. Srinivas, editor of Telugu daily Andhra Jyothi said Chief Minister

Minister could do.

Press Academy Chairman Allam Narayana said that one language and one state was the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and KCR has made this come true by implementing the ideals mentioned in the Constitution.

Former Chief Secretary K. Madhav Rao said that Ambedkar sacrificed his life to bring all core values of humans on one platform.

Delhi Vasanth, Founder, Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce & Technology, said that Baba Saheb

Ambedkar is truly the real father of the nation with his innovative ideas for uplifting the downtrodden.

He proposed auction of the thesis "Problem of Rupee" written by Dr Ambedkar as done earlier for Theory of Relativity of Albert Einstein.

Benjamin, Chairman of Saint Paul's institutions came forward with initial bidding of Rs 1 crore. Vasanth said this process will go for 6 months, inviting different national heads and business heads to globalise the doctrine of "Problem of Rupee".

Five more IPS officers posted in UP prison department

Lucknow Agencies

ive IPS officers have been given the additional charge in the prisons department in Uttar Pradesh.

The decision to post additional IPS officers has been taken for better administration of jails in the state and keeping vigil on activities inside them, said a government spokesman.

Those given the additional charge are SP cyber-crime Shiv Hari Meena, SP SIT Subhash Shakyam, SP security headquarters Rajesh Kumar, SP SDRF Hemant Kutiyal, and Commandant PAC Moradabad Himanshu Kumar.

The decision was taken after the new Director General (DG) Jail S.N. Sabat and principal secretary, prisons, R.K. Singh held a meeting with all jail superintend-

R.K. Singh said no special



treatment must be given to any prisoner and instructions have been issued time and again not to allow any electronic gadget and device inside any jail."No special facility for preparation of food for a prisoner would be allowed and a ban must be imposed on prisoners getting any property registered," he said.Sabat said a mechanism will be made for keeping vigil on top 20 criminals lodged in

Recently, SBSP MLA Abbas Ansari, who was lodged at Chitrakoot jail, was caught meeting his wife Nikhat illegally in the jail in connivance with jail officials. Five jail officials were later arrested in the case. In Bareilly central jail, Jailer, deputy jailer along with four other jail personnel were suspended for allegedly facilitating meetings between former MLA Ashraf, brother

Doctors protest in Gurugram against Rajasthan's health Bill

Gurugram | Agencies

group of doctors from Indian Medical Association (IMA) Gurugram, carried out a protest in the city on Tuesday against the Right to Health Bill which was passed by the Rajasthan assembly last week.

IMA Gurugram has also extended support to the doctors of Rajasthan in protest against the Bill. To observe the protest, all types of private medical services remained closed in the entire Haryana on Tuesday.

More than 500 doctors staged a protest against the Rajasthan government's decision.On Tuesday, doctors in Gurugram observed a 24-hour strike across Haryana. Hundreds of doctors took to the streets in



Cyber City Gurugram to protest against the Rajasthan government's Right to Health

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

ernment has not clarified how much and when it will pay the bills of the patients admitted in an emergency. Similarly, there are many such provisions in the Bill which are not in the interest of the doctors," said a protesting doctor.

The protesting doctors have made it clear that until this bill is withdrawn, this

SAFETY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IS PRIORITY FOR MODI GOVT: BJP

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party, which is campaigning across the country to connect with the minority communities, especially the Muslim community, has claimed that the safety of Muslim women is the priority for the Narendra Modi-led Central government.

In an attempt to convey the message that the government has done a big and historic work of providing equal rights and security to the Muslim women by declaring triple talaq illegal through Parliament, the saffron party on Tuesday took to its Twitter account depicting the entire sequence of events declaring the practice as illegal.

The video depicts the reactions of Muslim women along with the passing of the motion in the Rajya Sabha to declare triple talaq as illegal and the speech delivered by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Claiming to have empowered and protected Muslim women, the BJP wrote in a second tweet: "Triple Talaq law empowers and protects Muslim women!"

The Triple Talaq Bill was passed in Parliament on July 30, 2019 making it

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

Patna Agencies

fter Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that his party will contest all 40 Lok Sabha seats of Bihar in 2024, Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas (LJPR) hinted that his party will also contest on all 40 seats as well.

After reaching Patna, Paswan said: "Every party wants to expand its reach. Amit Shah is doing the same. We are also preparing to contest Lok Sabha election 2024 on all 40 seats. You know that we recently went to Biharsharif Nalanda to strengthen our party and I am going to Mokama today. So we are also preparing to contest all seats of Bihar."

"You know that LJPR has a party structure in all Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar and they are working well," he said.

When asked about the collabo-



ration with his uncle's party Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), Chirag Paswan said that it is not possible in this life.

Chirag Paswan, Pasupati Kumar Paras and Upendra Kushwaha are openly supporting BJP. They were expecting alliance with BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. But, after the announcement of Amit Shah, it would be a big jolt to these three leaders. Amit Shah, during the

Nawada rally on Sunday claimed that BJP will contest Lok Sabha election on all 40 seats of Bihar.

Besides Lok Sabha poll preparation, Chirag Paswan also targetted Chief Minister NItish Kumar for the violence during Ram Navami in Sasaram and Biharsharif.

"CM Nitish Kumar is also a home minister of the state. Where was his intelligence? How the stones were stored on the rooftops of the buildings and district administration of Sasaram and Biharsharif were clueless about it. Who is responsible for it? The state government has completely failed in preventing such violence in these two places," Paswan said.

"The party of Nitish Kumar is blaming BJP for the conspiracy. If this is true, then expose its leaders with solid proofs. Arrest the accused and put them behind

SSC BOARD EXAM PAPER LEAK IN TELANGANA FOR SECOND DAY

Hyderabad | Agencies

or a second consecutive day on leakage of question papers of 10th class exams. Hindi question paper of Second

School Certificate (SSC) was allegedly circulated on some WhatsApp groups in Warangal district on Tuesday, Minutes after the Hindi exam started, the paper was circulated on social media. Education minister P. Sabita Indra

Reddy has taken serious note of the reports and directed the district education officers of Warangal and Hanamkonda to lodge complaints with the police. The DEOs denied the reports of paper leak.

This comes a day after Telugu paper was circulated on WhatsApp group in Vikarabad district. Two teachers were arrested by the police for leaking the paper from an examination centre in Tandur.

One of the teachers, who was on invigilation duty at the exam centre, allegedly took a photo of the ques-



tion paper and shared it on WhatsApp. The education department suspended four others who were on duty at the exam centre.

Meanwhile, some answer sheets of the first paper went missing in Adilabad district's Utnoor town. Police registered a case and took up

investigation after education department officials lodged a complaint. The answer sheets of the Telugu

ner went missing on Mond when they were being transported from post office to bus stand in an autorickshaw. One of the 11 bundles of the answer sheets was found missing.

Additional collector launched an investigation. However, police officials informed him that CCTV cameras on the route from post office to bus stand were not functioning. Footage from CCTV cameras installed in shops was being scanned as part of the investigation.

Answer sheets of nine students are reported to be missing. The education department officials said justice would be done to them.

The education department blamed postal staff for the negligence.

The Second School Certificate (SSC) board exam began across Telangana. A total of 4,94,620 students are appearing for the exams at 2.652 centres.

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

fter busting a prostitution racket in J&K's Srinagar city, the police on Tuesday asked all house owners to verify the antecedents of their tenants.

Police on Monday busted a prostitution racket in Bagh-e-Mehtab area of Srinagar city which was being operated in a rented accommodation.

A police statement said, "All citizens are requested to do tenant verification if they have given their Houses/rooms/shops on rent."

The statement further said that on the basis of specific information a prostitution racket was busted by the Srinagar Police.

"This sex racket was being run by Irshad Ahmad Bhat, son of Shaban Bhat resident

Gang involved in trafficking stolen



of Kadlabal Pampore and Mohd Shafi Hajam, son of Abdul Qayoom Hajam, a resident of Karimabad, Pulwama and others.

"The premises was raided by Chanpora Police station. Both people were arrested on spot."Four sex workers and two customers (all six are locals of Srinagar) were also detained for questioning. The

whole racket was run from a

rented house owned by one Altaf Hussain Afaqi, son of Asadullah Afaqi and a resident of Chanapora," said police in the statement.

FIR NO.19/2023 under sections 3, 4, 8 of the Immortal Trafficking Act was registered at the Chanpura police station.The statement said that as the house owner had not done tenant verification, he will also be booked.

Three students drown in Odisha's Bhadrak

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

hree students drowned in the Nalia River in Odisha's Bhadrak district on Tuesday, while two others were rescued, police

According to locals, the five Class 11 students of Charampa College went to the river for a bath, when the tragic incident occurred.

The local fire service team rushed to the spot and rescued all five students and took them to Bhadrak hospital where the doctors pronounced three dead. Two other students were discharged after first aid.

P.K. Khara, a doctor of the Bhadrak hospital said: "We received three of them dead at the hospital. Their postmortem examination will be



conducted and the exact cause will be ascertained after that.

"A very tragic incident occurred today, in which we lost three of our young children. Assistance from the

Red Cross has been provided to the deceased. I will pursue the government for sanctioning an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to each of the deceased's family members," said local MLA Sanjib Kumar Mallick.

Team Absolute New Delhi

n a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed to have successfully dismantled a syndicate involved in trafficking of stolen or snatched mobile phones in the national capital, an official said on Tuesday.

Seven men were arrested and 70 stolen mobile phones were recovered, the official said.

The accused, identified as Sandeep, Mohd Chaman, Radhey Shyam Mishra, Arman Ansari, Sarabjit Singh, Riyaz and Rahul were found to be involved in receiving stolen or snatched phones through snatchers and thieves.

The gang had sent about 700 mobile phones to Nepal in the last six months.

According to Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ravindra Singh Yadav, the task was challenging because the stolen phones were inactive for a long time and were disposed of outside India's boundaries. The gang members were active in the Karol Bagh/Rohini area of the city and used to purchase stolen mobile phones in bulk from their associates. Sandeep would then send them to Nepal through his known carrier.



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

and hired a mobile shop on rent at Rohini from where they carried out this illegal activity. He also disclosed that he used to collect stolen mobile phones from the area of Trans Yamuna, Outer North Delhi and NCR while Chaman used to collect the same from Rahul and Riyaz Naqi," said the official.

'The gang had sent about 700 mobile phones to his three associates namely Aashiq, Kishore Mahajan and Manish in Nepal during the last six months. Sandeep used to earn a profit of Rs 500 to Rs 1000 for low-end mobile phones and Rs 5,000 to 6,000 for high-end mobile phones," said the official.

All correspondence and communication with regard to sale/purchase of these stolen mobile phone was done through WhatsApp calls & messages and once the deal was completed accused Sandeep would collect the money/payment from associates in Karol Bagh and the profit was distributed in equal ratio between Sandeep and Arman after deducting the expenses."Arman, Rahul, Riyaz and Sarabjeet were also apprehended and stolen mobile phones were recovered from their possession. Most of these mobile phones were pick-pocketed from buses or jam-packed places of Delhi-NCR,' said the official.



madhya pradesh



CABINET NODS APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT Kamal Nath, Shashi Tharoor question Rahul Gandhi's disqualification **OF 730 PM SHRI SCHOOL IN STATE**

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

Team Absolute Bhopal

meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at Mantralaya under the chair-manship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Cabinet ratified the establishment of 730 PM Shri Schools in the state. Maximum 2 schools in each development block of the state (626 in 313 development blocks) and 104 schools in urban bodies of 52 districts, in this way maximum 730 schools have been marked as PM Shri Schools. One of the identified schools will be run for primary education (Class I to VIII) and one school for higher secondary education. The cost of PM Shri School will be borne by the Center and the State in the ratio of 60:40. As many as Rs. 277 crore 40 lakh will be spent on all 730 PM Shri Schools every year, out of which the state's share will be Rs. 110 crore 96 lakh per year. This project is of 5 years and during this period the expenditure burden of Rs 554 crore 80 lakh will fall on the state government. After 5 years of the scheme, it will be fully operated by the state government. It is noteworthy that PM Shri School will include quality of education, equality and access to education facilities with overall compliance with



will get medical facilities easily.

decentralized scheme.

Approval to free government

guarantee amount of Rs 29 thou-

sand 400 crore under support price

The Cabinet has sanctioned free

government guarantee amount of Rs

29 thousand 400 crores for the period

from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024,

public distribution system and opera-

and for meeting the deficit under the

support price decentralized scheme

in the state. Apart from the amount

available from the government guar-

antee, the finance of the remaining

amount will be done from the food

for the procurement of food grains,

tion of other government schemes

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

The Cabinet granted administrative approval of Rs 714 crore 91 lakh for a new medical college with 100 MBBS seat admission capacity at Budhni in Sehore district, a 500 bed affiliated hospital, 60 seat admission capacity nursing college for nursing courses and 60 seat admission capacity college for paramedical courses. Due to the long distance from the medical colleges located in Hoshangabad, Itarsi, Pipariya, Betul and surrounding areas to Bhopal, Jabalpur and Chhindwara, the people of the area

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

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

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

Other decisions

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

The Cabinet approved the allotment of land to Ekatm Shikshan Samiti Bhainsoda Tehsil Nalkheda, District Agar Malwa and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Malwa Province Tehsil Malharganj District Indore on submitting prescribed conditions and

Team Absolute Indore

ongress leaders Kamal Nath and Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday questioned the disqualification of party leader Rahul Gandhi as a Lok Sabha member following his con-

viction in a defamation case. The two were talking to the media after participating in a seminar on "Protection and Upliftment of the Constitution" organised by the Madhya Pradesh unit of the All-India Professional Congress here. Nath noted that the trial

for criminal defamation was conducted in Gujarat over a statement made by Gandhi in Karnataka four years ago.

He wanted to ask the

lawyers present at the seminar whether the action taken against Gandhi was "bona fide or mala fide" (taken with good or bad intent), the Madhya Pradesh Congress chief said. Tharoor said that Gandhi, in his statement at the election rally in Karnataka, had named threefour people, and it did not convey the meaning that all people with the surname 'Modi' are thieves.

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

closed," he said. But the court awarded Rahul Gandhi two years' jail term which was the maximum punishment for the offence and that was why he was disqualified as an MP, Tharoor said, adding that this was a very bad

CM Chouhan plants Neem, **Guava and Amla saplings**

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Guava and Amla in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Former MP Alok Sanjar planted saplings on his birthday. Ram Avtar Dangi, a social worker from Prithvipur in Niwari district, also planted saplings on his birthday. Arun Yadav, Bablu Yadav, Mohit Raghuvanshi were with him. Pankaj Shukla, Jitendra Verma, Abhishek Purohit, Vikram Singh Jagdish Pal and Pradyunya Rawat also



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

Team Absolute Khandwa

hief Minister announced that over 50 lakh applications were registered under 'Ladli Behna Yojana'. Elated, CM sung an old Bollywood song 'Ek hazaro mein meri Behna hai' to celebrate the milestone at 'Ladli Behna Mahasammelan' in Khandwa on Tuesday. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted, "Seeing the smiling faces of a large number of sisters, my heart swelled with joy. A pleasant change is about to come in the life of the sisters".

Ladli Behna Mahasammelan in KhandwaCM Chouhan while addressing a 'Ladli Behna Mahasammelan' in Khandwa district, sang a song 'Phoolo ka taaro ka sabka kehna hai...ek hazaro mein meri behna hai' on this occasion. He addressed around 1 lakh beloved sisters in the Mahasammelan. Chouhan



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

government and keep it in the name of that daughter", he added.

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

"A thought came to my mind that if I give one thousand rupees to my sisters who are financially weak, their lives will improve. So, I launched Ladli Behna Yojana", Chouhan added. Chief Minister Chouhan informed that all the 2 thousand 611 ahatas operating along with liquor shops in the state have been closed. 232 liquor shops located within 100 meter radius of schools and religious places have also been closed. Cent percent implementation of the provisions of the new excise policy has been done.CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan also distributed the cheques to the beneficiaries of various schemes in the program. Almost around 1 lakh sisters of self-help groups and

National Rural Livelihood Mission

Shivraj Singh Chouhan and thanked

wrote letters to Chief Minister

SHIV SENA COMPLAINS AGAINST DHIRENDRA SHASTRI IN MUMBAI

HE SAID ON SAI BABA IN JABALPUR - NO ONE CAN BECOME A LION BY WEARING THE SKIN OF A JACKAL

Team Absolute Jabalpur

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

Shastri had said during the Katha on Sai Baba of Shirdi in Jabalpur - No one can become a lion by wearing the skin of a jackal. BJP MLA Sushil Indu Tiwari got his story done in Jabalpur from 25 to 31 March. Let me tell you, ten days back the Rajasthan Police has also registered a case against Shastri for making inflammatory statements. In the Dharmasabha, he called upon the people to install saffron flags in place of the 100 green flags which have been put up at the Kumbhalgarh fort in Rajsamand district.



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

a question - There are many Sai devotees in India. Sanatan seems to be denying the worship of Sai, whereas Sai is worshiped with the complete Sanatani method. Throw light on this.

In response to this, Shastri said- "Our Supreme Guru Shankaracharya had never given the place of God to Sai Baba. Shankaracharya is the prime minister of Hindu religion, so it is very important for every Sanatani to obey him. Any saint may be of our religion, of another sect or even Tulsidas and Surdas, these people can be great saints, can be men of the era, but no one can be God.

People have their own personal beliefs. Sai Baba may be a saint, may be a fakir, may not be God. No one can become a lion by wearing the skin of a jackal. If you put any kind of cover, it will not happen. If the Bageshwar Dham government accepts that we should put up Shankaracharya's umbrella, put up a throne, if we say that yes brother Shankaracharya is sitting, will we become that?

Special dog appointed to prevent illegal poaching at Kuno forest area

Team Absolute Sheopur

he Kuno forest staff has got a special member in their squad to prevent illegal hunting of wild animals including Cheetahs in the area. Illu, a German Shephard dog has been trained for seven months along with two other forest officials to guard the Kuno forest area. According to reports, Illu is 11 months old and has reached Kuno National Park on Tuesday. District Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Verma said, "Kuno is vulnerable to poaching and it can be dangerous for the Cheetahs and its newly born cubs. In such cases, special dogs are very helpful. They help us trace the accused



using their smell power." "Earlier, we had dog squads from Sagar and Jabalpur for the Cheetah

have Illu and our officers

will be able to control poach-

ing incidents more effective-

Illu has been trained in Panchkula, Haryana under a Relocation Project. Now, we government agency named Traffic India which provides have also been trained, so we such dogs to different places

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

Bhopal: A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 19-year-old man in Kolar of Bhopal city, on Monday, said officials. According to reports, the accused lured the girl to him on the pretext of playing with her and then sexually assaulted and raped her. The girl's mother saw her naked with the accused. Immediately, the minor's mother raised an alarm. Locals gathered and handed over the accused to the police. Police have registered

an FIR under sections of the POCSO Act. The

incident has caused outrage in the communi-

ty, with many calling for strict action against

the accused. According to SI Lakshmi Patel of Kolar police station, minor lives with her relatives in Kolar, while the accused runs a salon shop near her house and lives in Kanhakunj Kolar. The incident took place on Monday night around seven o'clock, when the girl was playing on the stairs of her house. The accused lifted her from the stairs on the pretext of caressing her and took her to a place near his

shop, where he raped her. The police have arrested the accused, and further investigation into the matter is under-

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon visits Bhimbetka

Team Absolute Raisen

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



ty/serenity of our ancients". The official account of Madhya Pradesh tourism quoted her tweet with, "Thank you for the admiration. We appreciate your adulation towards the state."

The actress was seen sporting a plain white top, ripped denim jeans and

white sneakers. With sunglasses on her head, Raveena posed with the majestic rocks of Bhimbetika, Earlier, Raveena had visited Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain on Sunday. She prayed for the happiness and prosperity of everyone in the country.

'MBA Chaiwala' booked for franchisee fraud

Team Absolute Indore

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



this has materialized, and they are now struggling with debt due to the loans they took to open the shops. The allegations were denied by Billaur's lawyer, who says that

everything was done according to the contract. The investigation is ongoing, and action will be taken if any fraudulent activity is found.

EDITOR'S SPECS

'Guest House' returns in UP politics

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

REALITY SHOWS: NOTHING REAL ABOUT IT

Vinod Mirani

here are all kinds of reality shows on various television channels. And there are a lot of aspirants for these programmes, too.

There is 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', where people dream of hitting a jackpot, and then, there are other reality shows such as 'Indian Idol', which promotes young singers, besides 'India's Best Dancer', which shows little of dance, least of all the dances as we know in India, and more of aerobics and acrobatics.

KBC is, of course, a quiz programme where general knowledge questions are posed and the winnings increase with every right answer. There are lifelines for outside help and the programme is very popular, thanks to host Amitabh Bachchan's iconic status and to the huge amounts in prize

Also popular is 'Indian Idol', where Indian youth show their singing talent and get breaks in the entertainment industry. The dance programme may not be as popular, but is made watchable with huge sets and, now, even special effects added, the kind not possible outside a television studio.

In my opinion, the best special effects so far used were for the song 'Sara zamana...' from the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer 'Yaarana'. What was special about the song was its choreography, apart from its melodious tune and Bachchan's costume, which was illuminated with tiny lights.

It was not even the LED era. To add to that, when the crowds could not be controlled, the song had to be shot without the crowds. But it was a public performance song and could not be shot without an audience. So, what did the makers do? They lit the stadium with candles to make it seem like a crowded hall.

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

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

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



pant's poor background does help the narrative and create sympathy around him/her. To add to the effect, the participant's home (usually ramshackle) is visited. And shot for telecast. Some kids are also made to

sad family background for greater effect. The participant's parents are invited to be a part of the show and asked to narrate the story of their poverty.

dress to suit the narrative and to go with the

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

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

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

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

show is finished? Does a promising career await them?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

international 6.4-MAGNITUDE **MAJORITY OF AMERICANS APPROVE**

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

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

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

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



OF TRUMP INDICTMENT: POLL

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

Some leaks reported by the media have said that Trump will be bludgeoned with more than two dozen charges, some of them serious criminal allegations or

felonies with a maximum

sentence of four years in

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

lined up in support of the

disapprove.

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

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

QUAKE JOLTS INDONESIA, NO CASUALTIES

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck off North Sumatra, leaving no damage or casualties, according to a local offi-

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

not trigger giant waves. The earthquake occurred at 9.59 p.m. with the epicentre located at 82 km southwest of Padang Sidempuan City and a depth of 102 km under the seabed, the agency said.

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

21 KILLED BY FLASH FLOODS IN SOMALIA: UN

Mogadishu | Agencies

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

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

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

It said more than 1.000 hectares of farmland have been swamped and learning has been disrupted for over 3,000 chil-



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

said moderate to heavy

rains in the Ethiopian

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

Israeli war jet downs unmanned aircraft over Gaza: Military

Jerusalem | Agencies

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

sensitive US military sites: Report Washington | Agencies

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

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

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

The suspected spy balloon, which



Chinese spy balloon gathered intel from

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

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

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

The officials told NBC News that China could have gathered much more intelligence from sensitive sites if not for the administration's efforts to move around potential targets and

obscure the balloon's ability to pick

up their electronic signals by stopping

them from broadcasting or emitting

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

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

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

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

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



maharashtra

absoluteindia

New Delhi, Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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

Sena (UBT) worker attacked

Team Absolute Thane

hiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray demanded the resignation of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis - who holds the home department and suspension or transfer of Thane Commissioner of Police Jai Jeet Singh, here on Tuesday.

Thackeray, along with his wife Rashmi and son Aditya Thackeray, rushed to Thane where a party activist Roshani Shinde-Pawar was attacked allegedly by workers of the rival Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, in his hometown.

"Recently, the Supreme Court called the Maharashtra government 'impotent', today's incident is proving it... Women are being brutally kicked and assaulted and no action is taken... What can be expected from such an 'impotent' CM," said a fuming Thackeray

The Thackeray family along with Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve first visited the Shinde-Pawar, then went to the Police Commissionerate to check on the status of the victim's complaint.

"When we came here, the Police Commissioner was not here... We were told that our activist (Shinde-Pawar)



submitted a written complaint to the police, along with the names of the attackers, and there are videos of the incident, but so far the FIR has not been registered... It has been regularly happening that when our people are attacked, the police don't take action," said Thackeray.

Referring to the incident, the ex-CM said that once considered a 'cultural thana' (cultural hub), Thane is now becoming a 'goonda thane' (goon centre), where politicians and journalists

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

Under such circumstances, Thackeray said that "we have a 'coward' (Fattus) home minister (Fadnavis), who has lost the right to continue and must resign". "When someone spies in his home he appoints a SIT, but when goons assault a woman activist, no action... If you cannot handle the work, then quit, Even the CoP must be suspended or transferred..." demanded

Thackeray. A massive political brawl erupted after a Sena (UBT) activist was attacked late on Monday evening allegedly by some four-five dozen women and some men activists of the rival Shiv Sena in the Kasarvadavali area of Thane, Shinde's hometown.

She was rushed to a private hospital by her colleagues and is presently in the ICU where her condition is described as stable with some minor internal organ injuries.

Condemning the incident, senior Sena (UBT) leader Sushma Andhare said that the victim (Shinde-Pawar) is seven-months pregnant and yet she was pounced upon, pulled, kicked and punched allegedly by the rival Shiv Sena. "This has been regularly happening all over the state... There is another party worker Girish Kolhe who also hammered in the CM's home town, and another woman activist heaten up in Kalyan town," said Andhare.

lodge police complaints, we are not entertained, but culprits supporting the ruling alliance are given priority in lodging complaints against us and immediate action is taken," Andhare said. Shinde-Patil made a social media post allegedly taking a potshot at the CM which did not go down well with

his supporters, resulting in the attack.

"When we (the Opposition) go to

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

itting at Thackeray, he called him as "the weakest Chief Minister" who was so scared that though two of his cabinet ministers (Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik) were in jail, he had 'no

guts' to seek their resignation.

"Who is he (Thackeray) to demand my resignation? I have not got the post because of him. A person who fought the elections in the name of (PM) Narendra Modi but discarded principles to become the CM has no right to ask for my resignation...," said Fadnavis.

The BJP leader warned that he was handling the home department for five years when he was the CM, and now again as the Deputy Chief Minister, and knew his job very well, hence needed no advice from "CM who worked from home" on how to function.

Fadnavis warned Thackeray to mind his language and said: "I can use

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

workers of the rival Shiv Sena even worse words, and when I open my mouth, it will crelate on Monday. ate problems, but I won't do The woman, who Sena it. I am not going to quit and

minister.' The verbal assault came in the wake of a huge row between the Sena (UBT) and the ruling Shiv Sena-BIP alliance government after a woman Sena (UBT) activist was assaulted allegedly by

will continue as the home

(UBT) leaders like Sushma Andhare and others claimed was pregnant, is admitted to the ICU of a private hospital and hundreds of her supporters are staging protests in Thane demanding action against the rival Sena activists responsible for the

Maharashtra to conduct mock drill for Covid preparedness next week

Team Absolute | Mumbai

aharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant on Tuesday informed that the state would be conducting a mock drill on 13-14th April following a surge in Covid cases in the state. "As suggested by the central government, we are going to hold a mock drill for our Covid preparedness in the state on 13-14th April."

However, the health minister asked people not to panic but remain vigilant and take precautions. "It's true that Covid numbers are increasing but it's not affecting much as it's a very mild variant which is prevalent in the state. No need to panic at all but everyone should take precautions while going to crowded places. ""I have talked to all the Covid hospitals and can update you that no patient is on ventilator or oxygen support in Maharashtra. It's very satisfactory that patients are recovering only in 48-72 hours. So nothing to worry much about because Prevalent XBB.1.16 is not as lethal as Delta variant was in second wave of Covid", said the minister.

Talking about random testing not being done Sawant said, for now, we don't think that random testing is needed yet but we will do as Centre suggests in this regard, also the call on another booster dose will be taken only after



Centre's directions.

6 Districts of Maharashtra Solapur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, Pune and Satara have higher numbers of positive patients. Numbers are rising in the areas where population density is a bit higher. Districts like Pune, Raigad, Thane are seeing a rise in daily positive patient numbers due to high population density. Sawant also mentioned the ongoing Chaitra month which has several festivals which are celebrated across Maharashtra, and people also start taking vacations, adding to the movement of people. He advised all to take necessary precautions.

The health minister also claimed that the state has an adequate number of Oxygen and Ventilator beds. All Covid Hospitals are also prepared and are on standby with sufficient

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

Part of the Clean Air Mumbai (CAM) network, they discussed the culprits responsible for pollution like construction and demolition wastes, solid waste management and the need for an institutional framework to tackle air pollution at the ground level in the country's commercial capital. The action plan includes measures to improve Mumbai's air quality by reducing vehicle emissions, promoting public transportation and encouraging the use of clean energy



action is needed to protect it". The CAM group also urged for collaboration with urban local bodies, research institutions like National **Environmental Engineering Research**

Institute, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, builders' associations and civil society organisations. "The negative effects of air pollution on public health are clearly visible... and are to blame for increasing respiratory illnesses and heart conditions. Reports have established that air pollution stunts children's brain

development and even causes cancer," said Mirza.

Abdulali said ward-wise committees, enforcement of rules and environmental standards during building along with citizen friendly complaint mechanisms are the need of the hour.

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

Ramani said that the BMC was very receptive to the suggestions regarding the necessity of capacity building of

the administration along with creating awareness and sensitising citi-

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

noise pollution, among others. The CAM member expressed hope that the civic body and the citizenry can collaborate to create a road map for a cleaner and healthier Mumbai and improve the quality of air that the

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

The kissing incident had taken place during an AIDS awareness programme held in Rajasthan and had hit national headlines, with some segments calling it obscene and an affront to the country's culture. A case was registered in Rajasthan against Gere and Shetty under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology



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

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

On the allegation that she did not protest when she was kissed, the magistrate's court had said "this by no stretch of the imagination makes her a conspirator or perpetrator of any crime".

However, the prosecution filed a revision application before the sessions court claiming the magistrate "erred in discharging the accused" and that the order was "illegal, bad in law and against the principle of natural justice" and deserves to be set aside. As per the prosecution, prima-facie a case was made out to frame charges against the accused and that the magistrate ought to have taken into consideration that act of the accused/respondent to kiss or allow to be kissed in public definitely came within the purview of Obscene Act.

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

Special Judge Deepak Almale, designated to hear anti-corruption cases, refused bail to Anil Jaisinghani on April 1.The father-daughter duo are accused of attempting to blackmail and bribe Amruta Fadnavis.



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

Fadnavis) is a public servant". Aniksha tried to offer a bribe of? one crore to Amruta Fadnavis, the court said. "It is the case of the prosecution that when the complainant denied to act according to Aniksha, she (Aniksha) sent videos, voice notes and screen shots to the complainant's mobile and tried to extort and made a demand of Rs 10 crore to return the same," the court said in its order. The investigation in the case is still on and there are 17 other cases pending against Anil Jaisinghani, it said."....therefore there is every possibility that the accused may flee away if he is

released on bail," the order

MAN ARRESTED FOR HAVING SEX WITH STRAY DOG IN MUMBAI

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

The accused was identified as Mitlesh Das

"A 25-year-old woman saw the accused, Das, having unnatural intercourse with a dog at a place near Balaji Telefilms, Veera Desai Road, Andheri, following which she approached the nearest police station and lodged a complaint," said an offi-

cer at Amboli police station. According to officials, on the basis of the woman's statement, the police

registered a case against the accused. "A case has been registered under Section 377 of the IPC and section 11(1)(1)(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960," the officer added.

Further details are awaited.

Drunk Mumbai youth clobbers elderly father to death, arrested

Team Absolute Mumbai

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

Commissioner Satyanarayan

Choudhary, on Sunday, following a tipoff, a mobile police van discovered an unidentified person lying in a seriously injured condition near Hariyali village in the Indira Nagar slums in Vikhroli east, a north-east Mumbai suburb.

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

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

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



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

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

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

Team Absolute Mumbai

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

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

tions. "Now he has been representing the country for nine



"Public voted for pm on basis of degree?

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

He further asked, "Will

people get jobs after knowing the status of his degree?" Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that Prime Minister

inflation reduce if we get

clarity on his degree? Will

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

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







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

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

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

"I was drawn to a specific type of

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

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

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

down his acting career. Hemsworth, who is reportedly planning on reducing his workload after discovering he could be vulnerable in later life to Alzheimer's while he filmed his National 'Limitless', featured in a clip he and Netflix

released on Instagram celebrating the shooting of his upcoming sequel 'Extraction 2', reports aceshowbiz.com. "Two things are very different from the last film. One - it's very, very cold. Two - I'm alive. How? You'll have to find out - watch the movie," he shouts in the clip, filmed on the back of a speeding train in the snow while its director Sam Hargrave stands behind him.

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

The first "Extraction" movie left fans on a cliffhanger as Hemsworth black ops mercenary character Tyler appeared to have been left for dead, though there was a hint he could still be living. The sequel is said to pit Tyler against orgian gangster v tasked with rescuing a family he has impris-

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



'Harry Potter' TV series inching closer to reality

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

join the project as a producer, according to 'Deadline'. Once she comes on board, the project, which is in early stages, is expected to look for a writer. As first reported by

'Bloomberg', the general idea is for each season of the potential TV series is to focus on one book in the Harry Potter book series, which consists of seven novels.

The series would be produced by Warner Bros Television.

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

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

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

series got underway.

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

Los Angeles | Agencies

Spanish about how she was leaving Barcelona, Shakira said, "I settled in

Barcelona to give my children a stability, the same we are now looking for in another corner of the world next to family, friends and

the sea.""Today we start a new chapter in the pursuit of their happiness. Thank you to everyone who surfed along-

e me so many waves there in Barcelona, t

city where I learned that friendship is

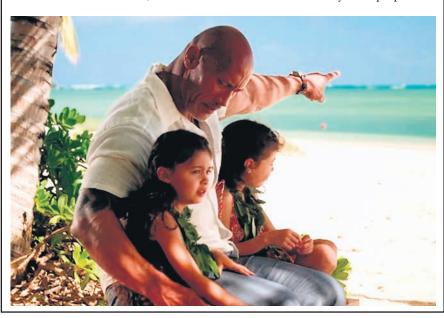
certainly longer than love.'

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

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

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

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





Top five most expensive signings at IPL 2023 auction

Team Absolute | New Delhi

he Indian Premier League (IPL) is one of the most popular and lucrative cricket events not only in India but



HARRY BROOK (RS 13.25 CR)

batsman who was signed by the Sunrisers Hyderabad for the IPL 2023 season for Rs 13.25 crore

Brook has represented England in various age-group teams and is known for his attacking stroke play.

He made his first-class debut for Yorkshire in 2022 and has since scored over 3,000 runs

This will be the first time that Brook will be

This prestigious tournament attracted only the top international talent and local stars in the cricket world, and that has IPL franchises competing to sign the best players.

With the 2023 IPL season kick-started, IANS takes a look at the top five most expensive players signed for the tournament during IPL player auction earlier this year. The 2023 IPL auction has witnessed some intense bidding wars, with several teams vying for the services of the top play-

The IPL 2023 promises to be an exciting and action-

packed season with some of the best cricketers from around the world showcasing their skills in the biggest T20 league in the world. It will surely be interesting to see how these expensive signings fare for their respective teams in the com-



Harry Brook is an English right-handed

in his First Class cricket career.

gracing the IPL field.



NICHOLAS POORAN (RS 16 CR)

Nicholas Pooran is a Trinidadian wicketkeeperbatsman who has played for Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad. Last year, he was able to score 306 runs in 14 games and two half-centuries with SRH.This year, the 27-year-old was signed by one of the two new teams in the league, Lucknow Super Giants. He has signed for the IPL 2023 season for Rs 16 crore. Pooran has established himself as a T20 specialist and is known for his explosive batting. He has played for several T20 leagues around the world, including the Caribbean Premier League, the Big Bash League, and the Indian Premier League.



BEN STOKES (RS 16.25 CR)

Ben Stokes is an English all-rounder signed by Chennai Super Kings for the upcoming IPL season. Stokes is one of the best all-rounders in the world and was a crucial part of the Rajasthan Royals after joining the team in 2018. It's easy to see why other franchises would want him in the team, and good for CSK since they got to sign him for Rs 16.25 crore. With Stokes, many 10CRIC IPL punters will probably place their bets on CSK. He is a hard-hitting batsman and a capable fast bowler, with a knack for taking crucial wickets. The 30year-old left-handed batsman is a match-winner with both bat and ball and is known for his aggressive style of



CAMERON GREEN (RS 17.5 CR)

Cameron Green is an Australian all-rounder and was snatched by Mumbai Indians for the 2023 season. Green is regarded as one of the most promising young talents in Australian crick et and is known for his elegant stroke play and his ability to bowl crucial spells of fast-medium pace. The 23-year-old right-handed batsman is a technically sound player, can score runs all around the ground, and can swing the ball both ways. He'll surely be a key player for Mumbai Indians this year. It's also worth noting that that'll be the first time that Green will be playing for the IPL.



SAM CURRAN (RS 18.5 CR)

Sam Curran is a young and talented allrounder from England who has made a big impact in international cricket in a short period. He joined the IPL in 2019 by playing for Punjab Kings. The all-rounder also played for Chennai Super Kings from 2020 to 2021. He already stood out during his IPL debut in 2019 and scored 95 runs and picked up 10 wickets in just 9 matches. Despite being a first-timer in the league, he was awarded Player of the Match twice. He's now the most expensive purchase in the history of IPL after breaking Chris Morris' record of RS 16.25

Gujarat Titans beats Delhi SC by six-wickets

Team Absolute New Delhi

. Sai Sudharsan slammed an impressive 62 not out while David Miller and Vijay Shankar played crucial roles to help Gujarat Titans defeat Delhi Capitals by six wickets in match seven of IPL 2023 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

After Mohammed Shami and Rashid Khan picked three-wicket hauls each for Gujarat to keep Delhi to 162/8 in 20 overs on a pitch which had plenty of pace and bounce, Sudharsan and Shankar played some good solid cricket in their 53-run partnership for the fourth wicket after losing three wickets in power-play.

The due looked for houndaries while



also rotating the strike at the same time. It meant that they were able to keep up with the run rate through risk-free cricket before Shankar fell in the 14th over.

With 46 needed off the last five overs, it was anyone's game till Gujarat tilted in their favour. David Miller pulled Mukesh Kumar for six, and then lofted over wide long-on for the same result. He then ended the 16th over with a no

drive through cover for four, as 20 runs came off it. Sudharsan got his fifty in 44 balls with a delightful ramp off Anrich Nortje in the 17th over, followed by a massive swivelled six over fine leg. Miller then uppishly drove off Khaleel Ahmed for four in the 18th over, before finishing off the chase with 11 balls to

Brief scores

Delhi Capitals 162/8 in 20 overs David Warner 37, Axar Patel 36; Rashid Khan 3-31, Mohammed Shami 3-41) lost to Gujarat Titans 163/4 in 18.1 overs (B Sai Sudharsan 62 not out, David Miller 31 not out; Anrich Nortje 2-39, Mitchell Marsh 1-24) by six wick-

Stop bowling no-balls and wides or play under new captain: Dhoni to CSK pacers

Chennai | Agencies

fter a tense 12-run victory against Lucknow Super Giants in the ongoing IPL 2023, Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni gave a polite warning to his fast bowlers to stop bowling no-balls and wides or else they will have to play under a new captain. Notably, the pace duo of Deepak

Chahar (0/55) and Tushar Deshpande (2/45), who came in for Ambati Rayudu as Impact Player, bowled three wides and two no-balls during LSG's runchase at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday night.

The 41-year old CSK skipper pointed out that his side's pacers need to improve and bowl according to the con-

"It's the fast bowling that will need to improve slightly and bowl according to e conditions. Even if it's on the flatter



side, force batters to hit over the fielders. They'll have to bowl no no balls and less wides. We are bowling too many extra deliveries and need to cut them out otherwise they'll be playing under a new captain," Dhoni said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

Though most of the CSK pacers didn't have a great game, the trio of Ruturaj Ali guided Chennai Super Kings to victory over Lucknow Super Giants at their

Gaikwad hit his second successive fifty and stitched a 110-run opening stand with Conway (47 off 29) as CSK posted a commanding 217 for 7 after being sent into bat.

Then Moeen Ali came back with a brilliant spell of 4 for 26 from his four overs to help CSK restrict LSG to 205 for seven, securing a thrilling win at the homecoming.

"Terrific high-scoring game. All of us were thinking how the wicket would be. It was the perfect first game that could happen. I thought it would be much slower. But it was a wicket where you could score runs," Dhoni said.

"I was quite surprised with the wicket. But we'll have to see if we can produce a wicket like this game after

MCA to create a memorial of Dhoni's World Cup winning six at Wankhede Stadium

Team Absolute Mumbai

he Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has decided to immortalise the winning six by Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the 2011 World Cup final by creating a memorial of the title-winning shot by the former India captain, who sealed the World Cup victory with a massive hit at the Wankhede Stadium.

Dhoni dispatched Sri Lanka pacer Nuwan Kulasekara for a six in the Vithal Divecha Pavilion during the historic final on April

"The President of the MCA, Mr. @amolkk1976, Secretary, Mr. @ajinkyasnaik along with the Apex Council Members decided to dedicate a memorial to MS Dhoni at the MCA Pavilion to commemorate his 2011 World



Cup winning six," the MCA said in a tweet on Tuesday.

"The memorial will be made at the spot where Dhoni's iconic six landed." it added.Notably, Chennai Super Kings skipper Dhoni will be in Mumbai for an IPL match against Mumbai Indians on April 8 and during that time, the MCA is likely to felicitate the World Cup winning captain. Earlier, the MCA had also decided to build a

statue of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar at Wankhede Stadium.

"The trophy doesn't just belong to the team it belongs to the nation; 2nd April, 2011, was the best cricketing moment of my life. It has been 12 years of that golden moment. To me that was the reason my journey started," Tendulkar said on Sunday, while recalling the win on its 12th anniversary.

MAGNUS CARLSEN LOSES ON FIRST DAY OF CHESSABLE MASTERS

New Delhi: Vladislav Artemiev took down Magnus Carlsen as the Chessable Masters kicked off with a series of shocks

across all three divisions. The event, the second leg of Chess.com's 2 million dollar Champions Chess Tour, began on Monday with a star-studded field in Division I headed by Carlsen and American rival Hikaru Nakamura.

Right from the start, it was clear the two big beasts of online chess were in for a rough ride. Carlsen, playing in his last event as world champion, lost his first game to Artemiev after walking into a pin with

It was an ultra-rare endgame blunder from the Norwegian that seemed to set the tone going forward.

Carlsen's mistake was the first of many in a topsy-turvy match that saw him go into the final game 2-1 down and needing a win to take it to an Armageddon tiebreaker.

Artemiev's nerve failed to hold, however, and he made two blunders to hand Carlsen a last-gasp way back into the match. Carlsen is never easily beaten.

Nadal, Alcaraz pull out of French Open warm-up tournament in Monte Carlo

Team Absolute New Delhi

he 22-time Grand Slam Champion Rafael Nadal on Tuesday announced that he will miss the French Open warmup tournament, Monte Carlo Masters, as he is still nursing his hip

The Monte Carlo Masters is slated to take place from April 8-16 which will mark the beginning of the clay court season, where the 14time Roland Garros champion has enjoyed immense success in his

"I'm still not ready to compete at the highest level. I will not be able to play in one of the most important tournaments of my career, Monte Carlo," the Spaniard tweeted on Tuesday.

"I am not yet in a position to play with the maximum guarantees and I continue my preparation process, hoping to return soon," he added.



Nadal has been out of action since his Australian Open second-round loss to American Mackenzie McDonald, where he aggravated a hip injury. The Spaniard had also withdrawn from the Indian Wells Masters and Miami Open due to a grade 2 injury in the iliopsoas muscle in his left leg. Last month at the draw ceremony of the Monte Carlo Massey said that the Spaniard has signed up to compete in the tour-

However, Nadal brushed off the claims, stating that he is unable to specify a definite timeframe for his

On the other hand, world No. 2 men's singles tennis player Carlos Alcaraz also withdrew from the French Open warm-up tournament due to muscular discomfort.

"After two months abroad, I am happy to return home but sad because I finished my last match in Miami with physical discomfort. After visiting my doctor in Murcia today and being evaluated, I will not be able to go to Monte Carlo to start the clay court tour," the Spaniard said on Twitter.

"I have post-traumatic arthritis in my left hand and muscular discomfort in the spine that needs rest to prepare for everything that is to

AFC Champions League 2023-24 Group Stage Spot

Mumbai City beat Jamshedpur FC by 3-1

Moanjeri (Kerala) | Agencies

umbai City FC defeated Jamshedpur FC 3-1 in their Hero Club Playoff clash here at the Payyanad Stadium on Tuesday, to seal a place in the group stage of the 2023-24 edi-

tion of AFC Champions League. It was expected to be a close encounter and it did turn out to be a battle of attrition, though the scoreline may suggest Mumbai had it easy.

It was an end-to-end game with both sides going tantalisingly close to scoring on more than one occasion.

Strikes from Ahmed Jahouh, Alberto Noguera and Vikram Partap Singh were enough to guide Mumbai through. Eli Sabia's late effort for a Jamshedpur fightback hardly could make an

Mumbai City began the match strongly, displaying some fine passages of play. Jahouh was at



the centre of all the dangerous attacks. However, Jamshedpur custodian TP Rehenesh managed to stave them off early on in the game.

Jamshedpur, too, had a couple of opportunities to take the lead. In the 12th minute, Jay Emmanuel-Thomas' goal-bound free-kick forced goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa to stretch and put it above the bar. At the half-hour mark, again,

Jamshedpur almost found themselves in the lead. However, Ricky Lallawmawma miskicked a fine cross from the corner to hit the side netting.

The referee eventually blew his whistle as the two teams headed into the break with the scoreboard showing 0-0. After switching sides, Mumbai City once again looked deadly in the attacking

third forcing saves from Rehenesh. Finally, the two-time Hero Indian Super League Shield-Winners found the breakthrough after Lallianzuala Chhangte was brought down inside the box by Ricky.

Jahouh stepped up to take the spot kick and put his side in the lead with a cool-headed finish in the bottom left corner.

With 20 minutes left on the clock, Des Buckingham and his men doubled their lead. This time, it was Alberto Noguera who found the back of the net with a sublime left-footed volley from the centre of the box.

Kane Williamson replaced by Dasun Shanaka for Gujarat Titans

Team Absolute Mumbai

efending champions Gujarat Titans GT) have named Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka as a replacement for the injured Kane Williamson for the entire Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 season.

New Zealand captain, Williamson suffered an on-field injury to his right leg while attempting a catch at the boundary in the tournament opener against Chennai Super Kings at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, on March 31.

Shanaka, Sri Lanka's white-ball captain, is an explosive middle-order batter who also bowls right-arm seam, the franchise informed

in a release on Tuesday. Shanaka was on fire in the recent T20I series in India, smashing 124 runs in three innings at a strike rate of 187 while averaging 62.00. He was also Sri Lanka's leading run-



scorer in the subsequent ODI series, scoring 121 runs in three innings. Signed for his base price of INR 50 lakh, this will be Shanaka's maiden season in the IPL

entertainment

Second Front Page





SAMANTHA DENIES TALKING ABOUT NAGA CHAITANYA AND SHOBHITA DHULIPALA DATING RUMOURS

Team Absolute Mumbai

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

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

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

Samantha tweeted: "I never said this."

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

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



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

The song features Pooja Hegde, Salman Khan, Venkatesh Daggubati and Ram Charan dancing to the upbeat rhythm in a full-blown family celebration. All the actors steals the show with her energetic and captivating performance in a plaid lungi. Talking about Pooja, she always manages to stand out in any song she's a part of.

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

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

Bappa Lahiri remembers his father Bappi Lahiri

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

appi Lahiri passed away on 15 February 2022 but the music he left behind continues to echo in millions of hearts and minds. Known for his trademark gold necklaces and rings and his trademark sunglasses, he was known for his amazing repertoire of Bollywood hits especially during the '70s, '80s and '90s. 'Disco Dancer - The

Musical', is a Broadway style celebration of Bappi Lahiri's cult classics with a reimagined score by Salim-Sulaiman that promises to bring back all the nostalgia of the '80s disco era. Bappa Lahiri, the legendary music director is thrilled that a lavishly mounted musical that regaled audiences in soldout shows at West End, London, is now being brought to India.

He is looking forward to the musical's premiere on



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

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

His sibling Rema Lahiri is

equally excited about the

decades after this film was released, countless people across the world still remember my father's music fondly, hum it and dance along with it. This musical has further solidified my belief that good music never grows dated and lives on forever."

me both proud and emo-

tional to think that so many



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Malaika Arora and Guru Randhawa today presented their new song in a extraordinary event. The song was played in a VR environment for the media during the occasion. Malaika and Guru following the song launch even

the occasion. Malaika and Guru interacted with the reporters following the song launch event. Malaika shared a snippet of her well-known song Chaiyan Chaiyan and chatted about her return in a song album during the conversation.

While discussing actresses who turned down Chaiyan

" I believe in

Kismat and..."

Malaika Arora on

Chaiyan Chaiyan

working in the

iconic song

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

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

Team Absolute Mumbai

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

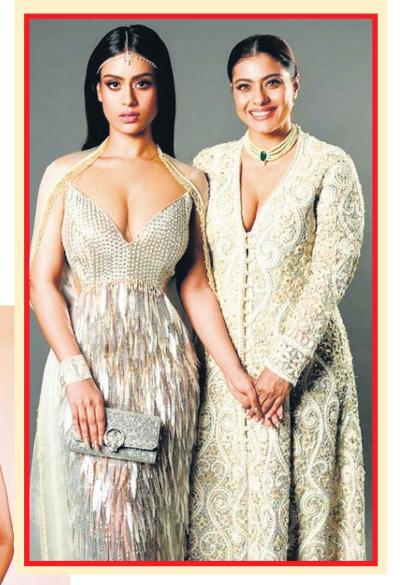
Kajol took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures. The first few images feature Nysa looking gorgeous in a silver outfit she wore for the launch. Then comes the actress, who poses with her and the two in the last image are seen laughing.

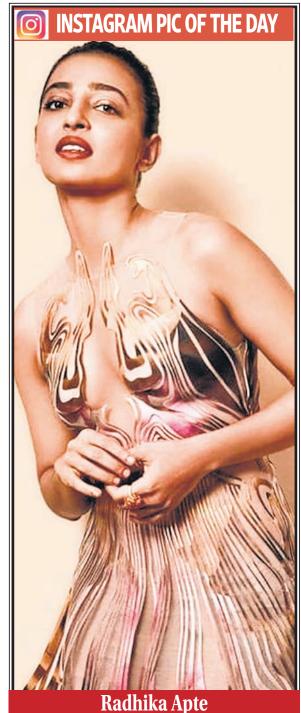
"Mini me and me! Started off all graceful and then we became human," she wrote as the caption.

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

The names include Gigi Hadid, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Penelope Cruz,

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





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