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ED summons Tejashwi Yadav in 'land for jobs' case ...



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Kim showcased her eye-catching physique in plunging swimwear ...



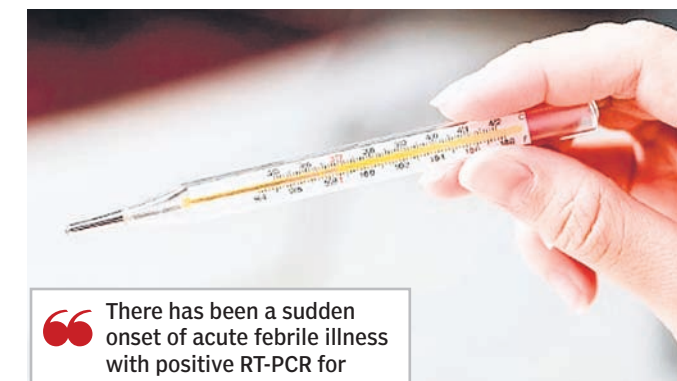
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Kohli shouldn't open the batting for RCB: Irfan Pathan ...



COVID INFECTION RISING IN KIDS, DOCTORS REPORT HIGH FEVER, ITCHY EYES

In changing weather, along with Covid-19 and the flu, we are witnessing a spike in cases of RSV, and not only young children but even infants are getting affected by it. RSV is highly contagious and spreads through contact with droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person, or by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough, running or stuffy nose, breathing problems, sore throat, ear-ache, and headache.



There has been a sudden onset of acute febrile illness with positive RT-PCR for SARS-CoV2 among infants, aged 6-11 months. Most children presented with moderate fever, cold and mild cough with features of bronchitis. The one differentiating feature is conjunctivitis, not seen in previous waves, especially here.

Dr. Vipin M. Vashishtha, member of WHO's Vaccine Safety Net

Rachel V. Thomas | New Delhi

The surging cases of Covid-19 infection has also started affecting infants and children, with many of them reporting high fever, cough and even itchy eyes and conjunctivitis, said doctors here on Monday.

From the beginning, Covid was rare and mild in children. But some of those infected faced severe multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS) -- a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

However, this time, it is showing newer symptoms like itchy eyes that were not seen during previous Covid waves.

Vashishtha, who is also a consultant paediatrician at the Mangla Hospital and Research Centre in Bijnor, UP, said that the Covid infection in children, which has surfaced once again after a gap of six

months, is not "MIS-C, which has rash and other features".

Chugh added that children, mainly of "school going age, are increasingly being affected with fever and throat pain since the last two weeks". He said that in most cases they are acquiring the infection from infected family members.

While the infection is rising, the doctors said that there has been no case of hospitalisation and that the children are responding to treatment.

They suggested using masks, maintaining social distance, and washing hands regularly.

India on Monday logged 5,880 coronavirus cases, according to data released by the Union Health Ministry on

Monday. The country also saw 14 deaths due to the virus. Besides, Covid, doctors report that Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is also rising among kids. RSV is a highly contagious virus that causes respiratory infections, especially in young children.

"Prevention is the key to dealing with this. Prevention includes frequent hand washing, avoiding contact with people who have respiratory infections, covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, keeping infants and young children away from crowds and people with respiratory infections, and vaccination for those at high risk," Dr Roli Munshi, Consultant - Paediatrics at Dharamshila Narayana Superspecialty Hospital Delhi, told correspondent.

BMC ADVISES SENIOR CITIZENS TO MASK UP, MUST IN HOSPITALS

Mumbai: Cracking the whip, the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has advised all senior citizens to start wearing face masks in public and made it compulsory for all civic hospital employees, patients and visitors, a top official said here on Monday. The move comes in the wake of a possibility of a huge spike in cases in May, as per Central forecast, said BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal, after a major review meeting of the Covid-19 situation in Mumbai. Chahal has instructed that while seniors aged above 60 are urged to wear masks while stepping out in public places, it will be mandatory for all in civic hospitals.

The meeting also decided to make central procurement of all requirements like face masks, PPE kits, gloves, medicines and other medical supplies for all civic hospitals to ensure there are no shortages. The BMC will start testing in a big way to enable early detection of Covid-19 cases, with the collaboration of private labs. Keeping in view the possibility of increased patients and hospitalisation, the BMC has stressed the need for more intensive care units, functional medical oxygen plants with proper audit of the demand-supply of the hospitals.

As in the past Covid-19 waves, the civic chief has ordered all Ward War Rooms for patient management, ensure they are functional with all necessary manpower and systems to tackle any eventualities. All civic employees are advised to use masks, at least when they come in contact with the public, and politely request the people also to follow suit.

Gadkari inspects work progress of Zojila Tunnel in J&K

Srinagar | Agencies

Union road transport and highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the Zojila tunnel with J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The 13.14 km long Zojila Tunnel will be Asia's longest tunnel which will establish all weather connectivity for Ladakh region with the rest of the country. The MPs, who are part of the Parliamentary consultative committee on road transport and highways, also accompanied the minister. Speaking to the media during his visit to Zojila Tunnel, Gadkari said that 19 tunnels are being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of Rs 25,000 crore.

Under the Zojila Tunnel project, the main Zojila tunnel of 13,153 meters with four culverts of total length of 810 meters, four Nilgrar tunnels of total length of 4,821 meters, eight cut and covers of total length of 2,350 meters and



three 500 meters, 391 meters and 220 meters of vertical ventilation shaft are proposed. So far 28 per cent work of Zojila Tunnel has been completed.

With the construction of this tunnel, there will be all-weather connectivity for Ladakh. Currently, the average travel time to cross the Zojila Pass sometimes takes three hours, after the completion of this tunnel the travel time will come down to 20 minutes. The reduction in travel time will ultimately result in fuel savings.

Day before one-day fast, Pilot speaks of self-respect of Rajasthan

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot spoke of 'self-respect of Rajasthan' on Monday, a day before sitting on one-day fast against his own government's inaction on ex-chief minister Vasundhara Raje.

In his tweet, he said, "Happiness in mind, smile on face, Resides here in every heart, Self respect of Rajasthan."

Pilot can be seen laughing out loud as being hugged by one of his followers.

Pilot along with his supporters will observe a day-long fast at Jaipur's Shaheed Smarak on Tuesday. He has announced a fast against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's inaction on alleged scams reported under Vasundhara Raje's CM tenure.

Pilot will not take supporting ministers and MLAs with him in his fast. Instead of keeping ministers and MLAs



together, he will keep common supporters together.

On the other hand, Revenue Minister Ramlal Jat said: "CM builds a wall with one hand and falls with the other by giving a wrong statement. What does it mean? Congress workers should not support such people," he added.

His supporters from all over the state will reach Jaipur to join him during his

fast. Pro-Pilot leaders and MLAs had given a message to the supporters to reach Jaipur a day in advance.

Sources said Pilot has decided to keep the pro-ministers and MLAs away from the fast as a strategy. "If the supporting MLAs were on hunger strike, they would have been counted. There were two types of disadvantages in it. The issue arises as to who has more numbers. Second, the issue would have been associated with rebellion. Because of this, Pilot has adopted the strategy of fasting with common supporters."

After the announcement of Sachin Pilot's fast, the internal politics of the Congress has again heated up. State in-charge Sukhjinder Randhawa is reaching Jaipur on Tuesday afternoon for damage-control. Randhawa will meet Ashok Gehlot and Congress State President Govind Singh Dotsara in a face-saving attempt.

AAP recognised as national party by EC, Trinamool, NCP, CPI lose their status

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was on Monday accorded the status of a national party by the Election Commission, even as Sharad Pawar's NCP and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress lost their national party status along with Communist Party of India (CPI).

In an order issued on Monday, the ECI also withdrew the state party status given to late Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) in Andhra Pradesh, the PDA in Manipur, the PMK in Puducherry, the RSP in West Bengal, and the MPC in Mizoram.

The Commission said that the AAP has been nominated as a national party according to its electoral performance in four states namely Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat. The Arvind Kejriwal-led party is in power in Delhi and Punjab.

The poll panel said that the status of the NCP, the CPI, and the Trinamool as national political parties would be withdrawn.

The BJP, the Congress, the CPI-M, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the National People's Party (NPP) and the AAP are now the main national parties.

Man killed in Delhi after political debate turns ugly

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 45-year-old man was killed in Delhi's Okhla area following a quarrel with another man over some political issue, an official said on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Prabhu Nath.

According to the police, a PCR call regarding a quarrel in Okhla Phase-II was received at the Okhla Industrial Area police station at 10:57 p.m. on Sunday.

"Head constable Vinod reached the spot and inquired about the matter following which it was revealed that a scuffle took place between Prabhu Nath and a person named Vikas Chauhan," said Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).

An injured Prabhu was shifted to some 'unknown' hospital. However, at 3:48 a.m. on Monday, the police were informed by AIIMS authorities that Prabhu Nath



was brought dead to the hospital.

"A police team reached the hospital and inspected the body. However, no other injury marks were found on the dead body except an abrasion over nose," the DCP said. "On further inquiry, one eyewitness named Kishore Kumar, who works as a security guard, told the police that the drivers of Gaurav Goods Career Transports - Prabhu Nath, Vikas Chauhan and Nitin were drinking near their trucks on Sunday night," Deo said. "After some time, a heated

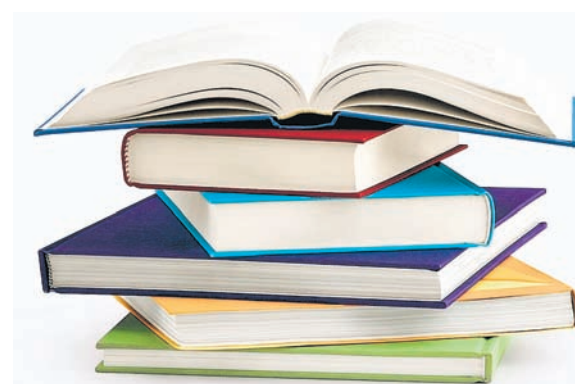
argument broke out between Prabhu and Vikas over some political issue. Vikas pushed Prabhu due to which he fell down and became unconscious. Kishor had dialled 112 and shifted Prabhu to AIIMS in an ambulance where he was declared brought dead," said the officer.

"The body has been preserved in the mortuary. A case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and a manhunt is on to nab the accused, who is on the run," the DCP added.

SECOND HAND BOOKS TO BECOME REDUNDANT POST NEW EDUCATION POLICY

"The last NCF revision happened in 2005 and back then a new syllabus was rolled out over a period of three years. Like last time, we believe, new NCF adoption this time will also be staggered. Revised NCF for K-2 was already announced in October-22 and recently released pre-draft indicates subsequent announcement for higher grades is around the corner. Thus, NCF revision benefits will not be short-lived and would benefit publishers for 2-3 years.

"As the entire curriculum will get re-designed and new books will be published after adoption of NEP, the second hand books market will become redundant. This will significantly aid volumes of state board publishers where usage of second hand supplementary books is substantially higher," the report said.



Sanjeev Sharma | New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Education recently released a pre-draft of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for school education.

As this is a key document based on which new curriculum will get re-designed, it

would make second hand books market redundant and result in significant volume delta for book publishers, broking firm Prabhudas Lilladher said in a report.

Substantial yield advantage would also accrue as replicating at a higher level becomes easier post curriculum revamp. "We believe policy change

would result in strong growth for book publishers over a period of 2-3 years, as substantial volume/price delta is in the offing. Post formal induction of NEP, the entire curriculum will get re-designed and new books will be published rendering the second hand books market completely redundant," the report said.

S. Chand derives 50-55 per cent of revenue from CBSE board and 15-20 per cent of revenue through state board supplementary book publisher Chhaya Prakashani, where usage of second hand books is higher when compared with ICSE board.

In comparison, Navneet Education derives 87 per cent of its publishing revenue from supplementary books like workbooks, guides and 21-sets where usage of second hand books is high.



DGCA ASKS AIRLINES TO SENSITISE PILOTS, CABIN CREW ON HANDLING UNRULY PASSENGERS



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid instances of unruly behavior by some passengers on flights, aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines saying such incidents have the potential of compromising the safety of aircraft operations.

The aviation regulator has advised the heads of operations of all airlines to sensitise their pilots, cabin crew and post holders on handling of unruly passengers through appropriate means.

Air India flight AI 111 scheduled to operate from Delhi to London on Monday returned to Delhi shortly after departure due to "serious unruly behaviour" of a passenger on board. An FIR was lodged as the accused person allegedly misbehaved and caused physical harm to two of the cabin crew members.

The advisory issued on Monday said that there are provisions under the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) for action to be taken by the airline to deal with unruly passengers and the responsibilities of pilots, cabin crew members and the director of in-flight

services are also mentioned in the CAR. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has noticed a few incidents such as smoking in aircraft, consumption of alcoholic beverages resulting in unruly behaviour, altercations between passengers and sometimes inappropriate touching or sexual harassment by the passengers onboard an aircraft during the flight, wherein post holders, pilots and cabin crew members have failed to take appropriate actions.

Air lines shall categorise all such unruly passenger behaviour into three levels and such people can face

- Unruly behavior such as physical gestures, verbal harassment and unruly inebriation are classified as Level 1.
- Physically abusive behaviour like pushing, kicking or sexual harassment will be classified as Level 2.
- Life threatening behaviour such as damage to aircraft operating systems, physical violence like choking and murderous assault will be considered as Level 3.

a flying ban for varying periods.

An internal committee set up by the airline concerned can decide on the duration for which an unruly passenger can be banned from flying.

Airlines have witnessed many such incidents of unruly behaviour by some air passengers in the last few months. Last week, in an incident of unruly behavior by an air-passenger, a drunk flyer on board an Indigo flight from Delhi to Bengaluru tried to open the flap of the emergency doors.

Subsequently, the matter was reported to the concerned agencies and appropriate action was initiated.



Mandaviya visits RML Hospital, reviews mock drill for ensuring Covid readiness

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the rising trend of Covid cases, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital here on Monday to review the mock drill being undertaken for ensuring operational readiness of the hospital for Covid-19 management.

At a review meeting, chaired by the Union Minister a few days back with the state Health Ministers on Covid-19 status and preparedness of prevention and management in the country, it had been decided that mock drills be conducted across the country to ensure preparedness for any future outbreaks, if any. Hence, the government as well as private hospitals are undertaking mock drills from Monday and state Health Ministers are reviewing the drills in their respective states/UTs.

While visiting the RML Hospital,

Mandaviya had an informal interactive session with Heads of Departments and staff. He spent some time with the doctors, nurses, heads of security, and sanitation services listening to their suggestions on quality clinical practices, measures for infection control, hospital management, sanitation processes and patient-centric provisions.

Huge response was seen nationwide, where ministers and senior officials reviewed the preparations and capacities of hospitals and facilities.

The Union Health Minister has already advised States to be on alert and keep all preparedness for Covid-19 management. He has cautioned against any complacency and urged everyone to follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

Dr Ajay Shukla, Director and Medical Superintendent, RML Hospital, and heads of various departments including sanitation were present on the occasion.

Another meeting on K'taka polls begins at Nadda's residence

New Delhi: With less than a month left for the Assembly elections in Karnataka, the BJP is holding a series of meetings to finalise its candidates' list. The latest meeting in this connection began at the residence of BJP President J.P. Nadda here on Monday.

Earlier in the day, two rounds of meetings were held, one at Nadda's residence, and the other at the residence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Chaired by Nadda, the latest meeting is being attended by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, state BJP President Nalin Kumar Kateel, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, and BJP's national General Secretary C.T. Ravi, among others.

As per an insider, brainstorming is going on a few candidates' names, and the BJP will most probably release a list late on Monday evening.

NITISH KUMAR CLEARS NEW GUIDELINES FOR RECRUITMENT OF 2.25 LAKH TEACHERS

Patna | Agencies

After a long wait, the Bihar cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, on Monday passed the new guidelines related to teacher recruitment in the state. With this, the state government will recruit more than 2.25 lakh teachers for the primary, middle, and upper classes.

Education Minister Dr Chandra Shekher said that the new teachers will be the employees of Bihar government and will be given attractive salaries, allowance and other facilities. "In the earlier recruitment, the employed teachers were not getting allowance and other facilities that the state government offered to the employees. The recruitment of new teachers will have new guidelines under which they will avail all the facilities, attractive salaries and allowance," he said. "We have also given the provision of reserva-

tion for 50 per cent female candidates in the recruitment. The teachers will also get the facility of transfer and posting," he added.

Besides teachers, 40,000-50,000 third and fourth grade employees in the Education Departments will also be recruited.

"We have a provision for employed teachers to pass an examination and also become permanent teachers. The Bihar Public Service Commission will organise an exam for employed teachers," the Minister added.

Reacting to the BJP's allegation that Nitish-Tejashwi government is doing the politics of appeasement, Chandra Shekher said: "If the state government takes action against rioters and manages to stop communal violence, it is not appeasement politics. We are offering jobs and working for the common people of the state and they are putting common people into communal violence."

TN's Villupuram tense as Dalits barred from entering state govt-controlled temple

Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu's Villupuram was tense on Monday after caste Hindus did not let Dalit community members enter the local Shri Dharmaraja Draupati Amman Temple at Melpathi village.

The temple, interestingly, is controlled by the state government's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department.

Dalit youth Kathiravan, 23, had visited the temple on Friday along with his two siblings and was assaulted by caste Hindus who prevented their entry.

Kathiravan said: "Caste Hindus prevented us from entering the Shri



Dharmaraja Draupati Amman temple and even beat us up. They said that we are not even allowed to take photographs of the idol, leave alone providing entry." Since the past 70 years, the Dalits were not allowed

entry into the temple but six months before, the district authorities had allowed their entry when the idol of Dharmaraja was reinstated. However a curtain was in place that prevented the Dalits from having a glimpse of the idol.

The District Collector and district police had already conducted one round of discussions with the Dalit leadership and the caste Hindus on Saturday but could not reach a conclusion.

Tamil Nadu Police have been given stringent instructions to deploy a heavy police posse on the areas in Melpathi village and surroundings in Villupuram district to prevent any untoward incidents.

ED SUMMONS TEJASHWI YADAV IN 'LAND FOR JOBS' CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday in connection with the alleged land for job matter involving his father and former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and other family members.

Earlier, his sister and Rajya Sabha Member Misa Bharti was questioned by the ED.

In March, the ED claimed unaccounted cash of Rs 1 crore, \$1,900, 540 gms gold and 1.5 kg of gold jewellery and other incriminating documents were recovered during the raids conducted at 24 locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and in Ranchi based on specific intelligence inputs.

The ED had said that they detected around Rs 600 crore in "proceeds of crime" which were in the form of immovable properties of Rs 350 crore and transactions of Rs 250 Crore routed through various benamidaars. It alleged that the PMLA investigation conducted so far has revealed that several pieces of



land at prominent locations in Patna and other areas were illegally acquired by the family of Lalu Prasad in lieu of jobs provided in Railways. The current market value of these land parcels is more than Rs 200 crore and several benamidars, shell entities and beneficial owners for these lands have been identified.

An official claimed that huge amount of cash/Proceeds of Crime were infused in purchasing this property and few Mumbai-based entities, dealing in the gems and jewellery sector, were used to channel ill-gotten proceeds of crime in this regard.

"The property has been though, on paper, declared as office of A.B. Exports Private Ltd and AK Infosystems Pvt Ltd, is being exclusively used as residential premises by Tejashwi Prasad. During the searches, Tejashwi Prasad was found to be staying at this house and was found to be using this house as his residential property," ED alleged.

The ED said that their investigation has found that 4 parcels of lands acquired by the family of Lalu Yadav for just Rs 7.5 lakh from poor Group-D applicants were sold to former RJD MLA Syed Abu Dojana by Rabri Devi with huge gains at Rs 3.5 crore. It said that their investigation has further revealed that a major portion of the amount thus received, was transferred to the account of Tejashwi Prasad.

International conference on 'Emerging Trends of Design & Arts'

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Faculty of Design and Arts, Poornima University (PU) organized a two-day international conference on 'Emerging Trends of Design & Arts (ICETDA-2023)' topic in association with Indian Institute of Crafts & Design (IICD), Jaipur. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof. Chinmay Mehta (Retired Professor & Dean, University of Rajasthan) as a chief guest, while Dr. Toolika Gupta (Director, IICD) as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Prof. Bhargav Mistry (Design Practitioner and Pedagogies), Prof. Achha Anzi (Professor, O P Jindal University), Dr. Daniel Connell (Visual Artist, Adelaide Central School of Art, Australia) and Dr. Mahesh Singh (Professor, Banaras Hindu University) were the different session chairs. More than 70 research papers and posters were presented in the conference;



out of them selected papers will be published in UGC Care journal and Web of Science. Conference convener Dr. Jitendra Sharma (Dean, FDA) said that, many academicians, researchers, students and faculty from all over the country including Russia took part in the conference which provided unique platform to the participants to evolve their ideas and cognition and to listen the thoughts - provoking keynote speakers.

NIA raids 9 locations in CPI (Maoist) case, 1 held with weapons

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said that they conducted raids at nine locations in Lohardaga in CPI (Maoist) case and arrested a man along with illegal arms.

The accused was identified as Sajan Kumar, a resident of Jharkhand. The raids were conducted on Sunday. The NIA had taken up the case of conspiracy by active cadres of CPI (Maoist) to attack security forces in June 2022.

A joint operation was launched in February last year by local police and CRPF when cadres of CPI (Maoist) fired indiscriminately upon them at Harkatta Toli and Banglapat on the way to Bahabar jungle.

When security forces combed the surrounding area, a large quantity of arms, ammunition, explosives and other items were recovered leading to registration of this case at Peshrar police station in Jharkhand. Earlier, the Jharkhand Police had filed a charge-sheet against nine accused on June 18 last year, under various sections of the IPC, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and UA(P) Act. The NIA



learnt that the Regional Committee member Ravindra Ganju along with active cadres of CPI (Maoist) hatched the criminal conspiracy and assembled in the Bulbul forest to attack the security forces. "In pursuit of the supporters who provide shelter and act as couriers for funds and weapons, the NIA conducted searches at the premises of the accused in Lohardaga and in Latehar district," the central probe agency said. "One country-made pistol along with six live rounds, one magazine, electronic gadgets and incriminating documents pertaining to financial transactions and property were seized. Sajan Kumar was arrested during the raid," the NIA added.

Yogi govt to spend Rs 150 cr on marriages of OBC women

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Yogi Adityanath government will spend Rs 150 crore to conduct the marriages of poor women belonging to other backward classes (OBCs).

A government spokesperson said that the government has issued instructions to all districts, stating that non-compliance with the prescribed rules will be treated as an irregularity.

He stated that the state government has been allocating funds and providing grants for the marriage of 'OBC' daughters.

The grant is provided by the state backward classes welfare depart-



ment on applications submitted by any such family belonging to backward classes. So far, the state government has provided grants of Rs 771 crore to 3,85,514 beneficiaries under the Marriage

Grant Scheme.

The order issued by the department states that officers must inform the government by the 10th of every month that the amount has been spent under this head. Also, the sanctioned amount will not be used for any other work under any circumstances and the remaining amount will have to be deposited in the treasury at the end of the financial year.

According to the terms and conditions set by the department, the annual income of the applicant should be Rs 56,460 in urban areas and Rs 46,080 in rural areas.

In the application, the age of the groom should be 21 years and the bride should be 18 years. Caste certificates must be attached. Under the scheme, the benefits of the marriage grant can be given to a maximum of two daughters from a family.

3 Iranians posing as cops duped Yemen national, held

Gurugram: Gurugram Police arrested three Iranian nationals who allegedly posed as policemen and duped a Yemen national, police said on Monday.

The Yemen national visited India for his wife's medical treatment in Gurugram.

The accused, who came to India on valid visas, were held from Delhi on April 5 and were taken on remand, police said.

The Iranian nationals have been identified as Hossein Rezaeifard, Marammad Hussain Peerfalak and Abdol Salam.

After investigating the accused, police learned that the three used to target foreign nationals who were here for medical treatment.

Posing as police officials, the accused used to approach the foreign nationals posing as police and ask for their wallets to check if they are carrying any narcotic substance, following which they used to escape with the money in the wallets.

In this case, the accused also duped the victim of 4300 (USD) and other documents. The victim told the police on January 15 he was on his way to the guest house when the trio posed as police officers, duped him and escaped the spot.



CONGRESS MLA SUPPORTS KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA'S 'SHURPANAKHA' REMARK

Team Absolute | Bhopal

While the Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress staged a protest against BJP National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya for his alleged controversial 'Shurpanakha' remark over women, State Congress MLA Lakshman Singh has come out in support of the saffron party leader. Singh, who is the younger brother of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, has waded into the controversy asserting that 'attention should be paid to women's dresses'.



It is true in some sense, Indore is the city of Ahilya Devi's rituals. Attention should be paid to the women's dress," Singh wrote on Twitter, further

adding that "But, Kailash brother, you are the uncrowned king of Indore, then how such things are happening." Singh, a five-time Lok Sabha member and three-term legislator, had joined the BJP in 2003 and resigned from the party in 2009. His comment came two days after the Congress workers led by its state Mahila President Pratibha Patil staged a protest at Vijayvargiya's house in both cities - Indore and Bhopal against his "Shurpanakha" remark. Last week, the BJP General Secretary had said, "When I leave for home at night, I see educated young people and children under the influence of drugs. I feel like getting down (from the car) and slapping them five to seven times to sober them up."

God man Pradeep Mishra's burnt effigy for his statement on Constitution



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A protest was held against Pandit Pradeep Mishra in Ujjain on his earlier statement of changing the constitution. Dr. Ambedkar student organization and Ajax protested by burning the effigy of Pandit Mishra. By giving a memorandum in the police control room, demanded that the property of the narrator be investigated by the EOW. Women associated with Ajax organization said, if the case is not registered in 8 days, Ajax

will protest wherever Pt Mishra's story will take place. The way the Madhya Pradesh government is taking action to demolish the houses of criminals, similarly Pt. Mishra's house should also be demolished. Dharmendra Solanki, associated with the Bahujan Samaj Party, said that Pt. Pradeep Mishra publicly commented on changing the symbol of Indian national unity and the world's greatest constitution during the Katha in Sehore. By doing this, he has insulted the Constitution of India. Their intention seems to be to spread hatred in the country. Ram Solanki of Ambedkar Students Organization said - A case of enmity, disturbance, spreading hatred and treason should be registered against Pt. Pradeep Mishra, who has an anti-constitutional mindset. Along with this, the programs of Pandit Mishra should be curbed. Economic Offenses Cell (EOW) should be investigated on illegally acquired property. Last year in 2022 also, Pt. Pradeep Mishra had talked about changing the constitution. Shivamahapuram Katha was held in Narmadapuram from May 3 to May 9 last year. Here Pandit Pradeep Mishra was telling people about the glory of Lord Shiva. During this, he appealed to create a Hindu nation through the song.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings along with the members of Twin Club



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Along with the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the members of the Twin Club planted saplings of Mango, Champa and Maulshri. Founders of Twin Club Abhishek Khare, Dr. Renu Srivastava and twin siblings Akash and Avinash, Dharya and Dhvani, Sankalp and Siddhant also planted saplings. The club has 100 members in Bhopal and 225 in Madhya Pradesh. Along

with Chief Minister Chouhan, social worker Jagdish Yadav planted saplings on his birthday. Gajraj Singh Kushwaha, Cameraman of Channel Hindi Khabar, planted saplings by his son Aryan and Devendra Patel on the birthday of his son Hetansh. Article editor of Doordarshan Bhopal Ankur Jain planted saplings after being selected for presentation of his research paper at the University of London. During this, relatives and acquaintances of the relatives also participated.

Mock drill on covid-19 treatment arrangements in all the hospitals of the state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amidst the increasing cases of corona in the country and the state, a mock drill was conducted at Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal regarding preparations to deal with corona. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang reviewed the arrangements during the mock drill. He told that complete arrangements have been made in the Covid Hospital so that the corona infected patients can get treatment within the stipulated time. The situation of corona in Madhya Pradesh is currently under control, the state government is fully prepared to deal with any kind of situation. After the mock drill, Minister Sarang held a review meeting with senior officers and gave necessary instructions. Mock drill : In the presence of Minister Sarang, the dummy patient brought from the Life Support Ambulance was taken to the Covid Dedicated Ward on a stretcher with an oxygen tank. Where he was registered in casualty and taken to the ICU ward with ventilator bed. During this entire process, the time was recorded



using a stop watch. It took 2:59 minutes to transport the patient from ambulance to casualty and less than 5 minutes from casualty to ICU. Wear a mask and avoid going to crowded areas : Minister Sarang said that the situation of Corona in the state is completely under control. At present, there is no need to hospitalize the corona infected patients. All the patients are in home isolation and continuous consultations are being done through telemedicine. Along with this, their condition is also being recorded. He also appealed to the cit-

izens to wear masks and avoid going to crowded areas. Oxygen plant will have mockdrill every month : Minister Sarang also observed the mock drill of oxygen plant at Hamidia Hospital. He told that the capacity of the oxygen plant is 2 thousand LPM. The plant is being monitored 24 hours. GPS system has been installed for monitoring. Every activity is being monitored through this system. He said that to deal with the possible threat of corona, mock-drill would be done every month in the oxygen plant for adequate avail-

ability of oxygen in the hospitals. After the mock drill, Minister Sarang took a meeting of senior officials at Gandhi Medical College regarding preparations related to Corona. It was told that there are 35 labs in the state, whose testing capacity is 1 lakh 24 thousand per day. On the other hand, 20 thousand tests can be done daily in medical colleges. There are 42 thousand 974 covid beds available in the state. Out of these 13 medical colleges have 8 thousand 459 covid beds. Minister Sarang also reviewed the capacity of the oxygen plant in the state. It was informed that 215 PSA plants are operational. From these, 1 lakh 21 thousand liters of oxygen can be made per minute. So far 13 crore 39 lakh vaccines have been administered in the state. During the review, Minister Sarang expressed satisfaction over the preparations and gave necessary instructions. Director Medical Education Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Commissioner Bhopal Division Mal Singh Bhadia, Dean Gandhi Medical College Dr. Arvind Rai, Hamidia Hospital Superintendent Dr. Ashish Gohiya and senior officers were present.



1000 SECURITY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN BURHANPUR AS ADMIN CONTINUES CRACKDOWN FOR THE THIRD DAY

Team Absolute | Burhanpur

Burhanpur administration and police action against forest encroachers and those who were involved in the attack on Napanagar police station continued for the third day in a row on Monday. The team reached Bakdi village of Napanagar forest division of Burhanpur district on Monday morning and demolished 10 to 12 houses belonging to the encroachers here. About seven JCBs were pressed into action along with the deployment of 1000 security personnel.

The entire operation is being led by the superintendent of police (SP) Rahul Kumar Lodha. According to SP Lodha, encroachers have erected a huge number of dwellings and huts on forest land here as well. They are also cultivating on hundreds of acres of nearby forest property. The police administration will clear the forest land of any encroachments, and the forest department will plant saplings on it. Encroachers have been active in the Napanagar region for a long time, and their unlawful presence on forest land has been a source of disagreement for the forest department, as well as the police and district administration. Earlier, the administration had attempted to persuade the encroachers through negotiations. The encroachers would surrender at first, but after a while, they would resume their illegal forestry activities.

Meanwhile, following the recent attack on Napanagar police station personnel, the government and police have launched a major drive to clear all encroachments. DIG Tilak Singh and district collector Bhavya Mittal were also present during the action. On Monday morning, a force of about 1000 security personnel left for the Bakdi area. Three teams have been formed under the leadership of SP Rahul Kumar Lodha. The first team includes SP Rahul Kumar Lodha who is leading in the sensitive area, Bakdi. While a team has been deployed on the Sewal - Bakdi road. Here encroachers are being monitored by stopping the common people from coming towards the seawall so that they may not run away from here. Apart from this, teams have also been deployed nearby. Section 144 is in force in village Sewal for the third day as well. 144 remains effective here from morning till late evening till the action of the force continues. The villagers are able to go out in the evening.

CONGRESS WILL FORM NEXT GOVERNMENT WITH KAMAL NATH AS CM FACE: DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Team Absolute | Vidisha

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday claimed the grand old party will form the next government in Madhya Pradesh by winning more than 116 of 230 seats and Kamal Nath will be the chief ministerial face. The Assembly elections in MP are due later this year. "We need 116 seats to form a government. We are going to get more than 116 seats. The party face will be Kamal Nath," the Rajya Sabha member told reporters when asked about the number of seats the Congress will win and who will be its chief ministerial candidate in the Assembly polls. Queried on Congress' face against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the next general elections, Singh said this is not a presidential form of election. "Under the Parliamentary

form of government, elections are fought between parties in which a party wins, not a candidate," he added. When asked about the demand by some Hindu preachers and BJP leaders to turn India into a Hindu Rashtra, Singh said if they don't have faith in Constitution, then all of them including BJP leaders holding constitutional posts should resign. He termed as the "election

stunt" the Ladli Bahna Yojana rolled out by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan last month promising Rs 1,000 monthly aid for women in MP. "Chouhan has been the chief minister since 2003. In between Congress came to power for just 15 months (December 2018 to March 2020). Why did he not think of women's welfare in 18-and-a-half years?" he questioned.



OVER 20 INJURED AS SPEEDING BUS OVERTURNS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE ANOTHER VEHICLE

Team Absolute | Balaghat

Over 20 passengers were injured in road mishap near Vaishno Devi temple on Monday. The driver reportedly fled the scene, leaving the conductor and the passengers injured. According to report, a speeding bus overturned twice when driver suddenly applied the brakes to save the vehicle that came in front of the bus. Police rushed to the spot and admitted the injured passengers to Varasivani Hospital for

treatment. Thirteen injured passengers were admitted to District Hospital, while eight others admitted to a nearby hospital. The injured include individuals from various locations such as Varasivni, Khandwa, Garra, Khamaria, Bhendara, Kaspur, Naitari, Amgaon, Maneagan, and others. SDOP Arvind Shrivastav, stated that the bus overturned due to high speed on the Varasivani Kaydi road. The driver of the bus absconded. Also, police had seized the bus and registered a case in this matter.

Women like the different style of the Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Various activities are going on all over Madhya Pradesh these days to provide information about the Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana and to get its forms filled by women. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself is informing the sisters about the provisions of the scheme in the district level conferences. The Chief Minister first welcomes and greets the sisters who come to the conference by showering them with flowers and starts the conversation with the filmi song "Phoolon Ka Taron Ka Sabka Kehna Hai - Ek Hazaaron Me Meri Behna Hai". This different style of the Chief Minister is being very much liked and appreciated by the women of the state. The sisters who came to the conference are also greeting their Shivraj Bhaiya through placards to



welcome him. The words written on the placards are as follows - "Shivraj Bhaiya ki nayi saugat- aadhi abaadi rahe khushhall, hum behenon ko mila samman- Shivraj Bhaiya hai mahan, thanks to Shivraj Bhaiya for the Ladli Bahna Yojana. Chief Minister Chouhan's Ladli

Bahna Yojana has been launched in the state on March 5. The Chief Minister implemented the scheme after deep thought to empower the sisters of poor and middle class families socio-economically. The process of taking applications under the scheme has been started from

April 1st. Several mediums are being adopted to publicize the scheme in the state. Chief Minister Chouhan shared the process, step-by-step with the women and also got the application of one of them filled in the sammelan held at Bhopal's Jambore Maidan on March 5th. CM is of the opinion from the beginning that family, society, state and country will be strong only when women are strong and self-dependent. The aim of his life is to make their petty needs and requirement of money. For this purpose, he has started Abhinav Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana in the state. In the scheme, women of poor and middle class families whose annual income is less than Rs two and a half lakh, who have less than 5 acres of land and in families where there is no income tax payer, and who are in the age group of 23 to 60 years

will be considered eligible and Rs one thousand each will be transferred to their accounts every month. For effective implementation of the scheme, applications of sisters are being filled in the camps being organized in all the villages and urban wards. Chief Minister Chouhan himself is also observing the process by reaching these camps. The state government is also giving an amount of Rs 15 per KYC to the concerned institutions so that the sisters do not face any difficulty in getting e-KYC done. All the sisters of the state are happy with all these arrangements and the sensitivity of Chief Minister Chouhan and they are now waiting for a new dawn in their lives, which will expected on June 10, 2023. This day will become historic for the sisters of the state, when the first installment of Rs One thousand will be deposited in their accounts.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Kharge sets wheels of Oppn unity moving

At a time when Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar, a Congress ally in Maharashtra, has expressed doubts over Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations of financial irregularities levelled against the Adani Group, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge is leaving no stone unturned to gloss over the issue and project a united Opposition face in the run-up to next year's Lok Sabha polls. Amid all these developments, taking the first step to unite the Opposition parties, Kharge recently rang leaders of various like-minded parties, including DMK's M.K. Stalin, Nitish Kumar of the JD(U) and Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena (UBT), inviting them for a meeting in Delhi next month to formalise a common agenda. With Opposition leadership being a core issue as the Trinamool Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and parties like the Samajwadi Party might not accept the Congress leading the front, Kharge has tried to clear the matter by stating that there should not be an obsession over leadership among the Opposition parties. Also, on BJP attacking the Congress over dynasty politics, Kharge said that since 1998, no Gandhi family member has been either a Prime Minister or a minister. He added that all the issues to be raised in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be discussed at an appropriate time. Meanwhile, BRS leader and Rajya Sabha MP K. Keshava Rao said that though his party has been politically distant from the Congress, it is with the main Opposition party on certain issues. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has also said that he is waiting for the Congress to take the initiative to bring the Opposition together. Although the first step has been taken for Opposition unity, there are still miles to go.

CHEAP PUBLICITY: A WOMAN'S UORFI JAVED MOMENT ON THE METRO

Deepika Bhan

Amid the Adani-Hindenburg noise, the protests and the marches on various issues, the political accusations and allegations, a little video suddenly took social media by storm. It was the footage of a skimpily-clad woman travelling on the Delhi Metro that was widely circulated and talked about. Wearing a bralette and the mini-skirt possible, apparently influenced by the social media favourite, Uorfi Javed, the young woman was a picture of confidence as she got her 15 minutes of fame. The woman is seen sitting or standing inside the Metro with no eyes prowling on her. All her co-passengers are seen immersed in their mobile phones and a semi-clad woman seems to be of least interest to them. But for the world outside the Delhi Metro, the video clip appeared to be shocking and the woman 'questionable'. The woman is not from the reel world, but the real one. Actors do photo-ops, create scenes and entertain audiences. This woman on the Metro did what many are describing as non-conformist, even revolting, but for some, it is all about freedom. In any case, the woman's move is too bold to be dismissed. Perhaps that is what she wished for - to be talked about, to be discussed. "There's no such thing as bad publicity," an American showman of the mid-19th century P.T. Barnum had said. True to this notion, the woman did what she did and, in the process, got what she aspired for - publicity. Next, she may land in some reality show or may even get a film offer. "Not a bad deal. What she did

needs guts. If she gets into films or reality shows, her life is made," said a colleague in the office, a women journalist examining the video and discussing it threadbare. "She is a vile, bad influence. Wonder what her family is like." "How can you talk like this... it's not fair... she did what she wanted to do." "No, it is not right. Look at the number of cases against women." "But what and how you dress has no link with the cases of physical assaults. It is all in the mind. When an infant or an 85-year-old woman is raped, the reason is not the dress, but the psycho mentality." "She was not harmed by anyone while travelling on the Metro. Did she wear something similar outside as well." "She is so ugly to look at." The discussion was intense and seemed to be reaching nowhere. As meeting the deadline for story releases was too pressing, the discussion was abandoned. And, the next stories to come were the woman's reaction and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's statement. The woman, a 19-year-old, has this to say: "I was exercising my freedom to wear what I want to wear... I don't care what people have to say." She said what we all knew she would say, and she also added that she has "no interest in the publicity stuff." The latter part of the statement may have no takers, because she has got the attention she may or may not have wanted. The tumultuous reaction forced the DMRC to release a statement. "DMRC expects commuters to follow social etiquette and protocols. Commuters should not indulge in any activity or wear any attire which could offend sensibilities of fellow passengers. DMRC's Operations & Maintenance Act in



fact lists out indecency as a punishable offence. "We appeal to all our passengers to kindly maintain decorum while travelling in a public transport system like the Metro. Issues such as the choice of clothing when one's travelling is a personal matter, but passengers are expected to self-regulate their conduct in a responsible manner," said Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director, Corporate Communications, DMRC. The DMRC's statement on appropriate attire for public transport could be termed iconic. It's both a warning and an appeal. After this statement, it is to be seen what the woman's next move will be. Will she continue in some other style and do something equally bizarre? P.T. Barnum's quote on bad publicity is much like Oscar Wilde's saying: "There's only one thing in the world worse than being talked

about, and that is not being talked about." The woman has understood the concepts of Barnum and Oscar Wilde. Perhaps, why just this woman, a number of people across society, and the politicians above all, are just following the concepts to stay in the public gaze. Another video of a woman dancing at a Delhi Metro station also has gone viral. In the video, the woman dressed in a red saree was seen dancing to a Bhojpuri song at a Delhi Metro station. The woman has written in her Instagram account: "Yar, bahut himmat chahiye Metro mein dance karne ke liye (It requires a lot of guts to dance in the Metro)." To stay in news and get the necessary traction on social media, no matter how, is the aim of such people. For those wanting to lead,

it is not anymore about principles or setting the right example. It is all about staying in news and getting as many likes and responses as possible on social media. For politicians, slaying the opponent by words is the new norm. Issues and problems of the people are not the subjects that dominate political discourse anymore. Building narratives is the new norm. The Delhi Metro woman has said that Uorfi Javed, the 25-year-old social media influencer, is her icon. And for some, this Metro woman may be the new 'icon'. Feminists may say it is about the quintessential freedom of expression for women, but for the majority, it is a cheap way to seek publicity. The debate rages.

international

CHINA'S MILITARY PRACTISING SHIP-LAUNCHED STRIKES ON TAIWAN

Taipei | Agencies

China's military is practising ship-launched strikes on Taiwan from the east, information released by Taiwan's Defence Ministry on Monday indicated, as Beijing's retaliatory military drills entered their third day. The Ministry did not give the positions of People's Liberation Army (PLA) ships it had detected, but a map of PLA aircraft detections show four J-15 fighter jets east of Taiwan, in the western Pacific, on Saturday, the Guardian reported. The J-15s have never been seen inside Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) before, and are known to be launched from two PLA aircraft carriers, including the Shandong which had been tracked by Taiwan and Japan



sailing past Taiwan into waters to its south-east late last week. On Monday, Japan confirmed its military had responded to the drills, scrambling jets in response to the PLA's aircraft launches. On Saturday, Beijing launched three days of military

exercises targeting Taiwan in response to Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen meeting US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles last week. The drills have not matched the scale of those launched in retaliation to a Taipei visit by

McCarthy's predecessor, Nancy Pelosi, which included missile launches, but do appear to show an escalation in the Chinese military's training for strikes on Taiwan, observers said, the Guardian reported. Taiwan's Defence Ministry detected 70 PLA aircraft and 11 ships inside its ADIZ. The ADIZ is a large area monitored for defence purposes, and the PLA assets did not enter sovereign Taiwan territory. However the Ministry said 35 of the planes had crossed the median line -- a de facto border in the international waters of the Taiwan Strait. The launch of J-15s suggested the PLA was "practising strikes on Taiwan from an encirclement-style posture", independent defence analyst Ben Lewis told the Guardian.

15 killed in Nigeria bus-truck collision

Lagos: At least fifteen people were killed when a bus and a truck collided head-on along a busy highway in the southern part of Nigeria, local traffic police have said. Bisi Kazeem, the national spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday and said that the accident took place at the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway on Saturday night. Xinhua news agency reported. "The victims have been given mass burials. All obstructions have been cleared. The Enugu State Fire Service already extinguished the fire in the bus," he said. "The fatal crash is blameable on several factors, including fatigue, which must have made one of the drivers sleep on the wheels." While confirming no survivors from both vehicles, Kazeem warned motorists to desist from nighttime journeys to reduce fatalities from road crashes. Nigeria often sees deadly road accidents mainly caused by bad road conditions and reckless driving.



Wetlands in China see over 550,000 migratory birds

Beijing | Agencies

Over 550,000 migratory birds have been spotted this spring in the four wetland nature reserves in China's Tianjin Municipality, local authorities said. Over 60 migratory bird species have made the transit in the four wetland nature reserves this spring, Xinhua news agency quoted an official from the municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources as saying. Among these birds, the number under the national first-class protection, such as the oriental white stork, larus relictus, and great bustard, is generally the same as that in previous years, he said. The number of white-napped cranes, rarely seen in the past, has reached more than 500 this year, showing a significant increase compared with previous years. The number of birds under the second-class national protection, such as the whooper swan, tundra swan, and white spoonbill, exceeded 80,000, a slight increase com-



pared with previous years. The peak migration period of migratory birds in Tianjin continues, and the migration period of migratory birds in spring will likely end in mid to late May, the official added. To ensure the safety of migratory birds, Tianjin focuses on conducting inspections and patrols in habitats where migratory birds are concentrated. Tianjin severely cracks down on poaching, illegal trading, illegal consumption of migratory birds, and other illegal and criminal activities throughout the city while curbing unlawful acts that destroy migratory birds' resources, the official added.

PHILIPPINE POLICE SAID 76 DIED OF DROWNING, CAR CRASHES DURING EASTER WEEK

Manila: The Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday that at least 72 people died of drowning, and at least four were killed in car accidents during the Easter week break.



PNP spokesperson Colonel Jean Fajardo told local media that the PNP has recorded 67 drowning incidents across the country as of Sunday, resulting in the death of 72 people, reports Xinhua news agency. Police also reported in a statement that it recorded 11 vehicular accidents during the week-long holidays that killed at least four people. This year, Filipinos splurged on "revenge travel" during the Holy Week after the government lifted the Covid-19 restrictions since the pandemic hit in 2020. Since early last week, people thronged to airports, seaports and bus terminals to spend time with their families in the provinces. Fe Ablang-Yu, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association, said many families this year travelled across the country to enjoy the holidays. "Many of the hotels and resorts were bursting for the long holiday weekend," Ablang-Yu told a television interview on Monday.

4 killed in avalanche in French Alps

Paris | Agencies

Four people were killed in an avalanche in the French Alps, according to Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin. "An avalanche occurred in the middle of the day (Sunday) at the Armanette glacier in the Alps. The provisional toll is four people dead and several injured. Rescue workers are still at work," he tweeted. Jean-Luc Mattel, Deputy Mayor of the nearby Contamines-Montjoie village has confirmed that two of the dead were mountain guides, media reports said. According to the Deputy



Mayor of the avalanche was caused by a slab of snow detaching from the top of the mountain, BBC reported. Search and rescue dogs and mountain-rescue teams worked all day to try to reach those who were caught, who are all thought to have been backcountry skiing. The search for two missing people is expected to resume on Monday.

IRAN 'SUCCESSFULLY' TESTS KAMIKAZE DRONE EQUIPPED WITH 50-KG WARHEAD: OFFICIAL

Tehran | Agencies

An Iranian official said that the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has successfully tested a homemade long-range, high-precision kamikaze drone equipped with a 50-kg warhead. Ali Kouhestani, the head of the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC's Ground Force, made the remarks in an interview with the semi-official Tasnim news agency, which was published on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), named "Meraj-532", has a range of 450 km, and is capable of flying at a maximum altitude of 12,000 feet for three straight hours, said Kouhestani,



noting that the drone can hit targets with pinpoint accuracy. The suicide drone is equipped with a piston engine and can take off from a vehicle, Kouhestani added.

He said the UAV has a 50-kg warhead and can be assembled and prepared for flight easily, making it suitable for rapid reaction operations. Iran has made significant

progress in the area of manufacturing UAVs over the past years. The country is currently producing drones capable of carrying out a wide range of missions.



Bank of Maharashtra fraud: Ex-AGM, eight company directors sent to jail

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special CBI court in Mumbai on Monday sentenced a former Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) AGM and several directors of private companies to varying jail terms in connection with a fraud of over Rs 3.50 crore, officials said here. The convicts include ex-AGM of BoM, D.R. Deshpande, who has been awarded three-year rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 200,000. SPL Technochem Ltd directors Mukesh M. Shah and Shreyansh P. Sheth have also been awarded three-year jail term along with a fine of Rs 1.01 crore. The company has also been separately penalised for Rs 300,000. Other directors like Kalpataru Comtrade's Dhumi Sheth, Sabrang Polymers' Vilesh Sheth,



Vision Agencies' Vishal Sheth, Sharp Industries' Hasmukh Sheth and Vinod Sheth, and Cat Cosmetics & Healthcare's Manoj B. Shah have been

sentenced to three-year jail term each, along with a fine of Rs 50.50 lakh each. The verdict was pronounced by special judge S.P. Naik-Nimbalkar after a trial that lasted over 13 years. As per the CBI investigation, in 2007, the accused along with Deshpande had connived to obtain cash credit limit of Rs 2.10 crore against hypothecation of inventory and receivables, and LC-inland/import limit of Rs 5.40 crore from the Bank of Maharashtra through fraudulent means and on forged documents. Following a complaint lodged by the BoM General Manager, the CBI took up the probe in March 2009. CBI's detailed probe into the fraud revealed cheating to the tune of Rs 2,69,08,482 plus interest of Rs 1,04,25,069 by the accused persons, who were arrested, chargesheeted and the case went for trial.



Lightning, drowning kill 14, CM's ex-gratia for temple tragedy victims

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ongoing unseasonal rains and hailstorms sporadically lashing different parts of Maharashtra claimed at least 13 lives in lightning related deaths and one due to drowning in the past 48 hours, officials said here on Monday. In the worst single tragedy, 7 persons were killed at Parasgaon village of Akola late on Sunday where a lightning bolt felled a 150-year-old neem tree on a tin shed at the Babuji Maharaj Sansthan ashram. At least four dozen devotees participating in the prayer ceremonies were trapped underneath but most were rescued and the bodies of four deceased were recovered early on Monday, and 3 died later during treatment in hospital. Another 23 have been rushed to nearby hospitals and admitted for varying injuries including 2 described as serious. Expressing grief over the tragedy, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde this afternoon

announced compensation of Rs 400,000 to the deceased victims' kin, and free medical treatment for all the injured. Besides, Aurangabad, Beed, Hingoli, Nandurbar, Parbhani and Pune have reported one death each, mainly farmers working in the fields, owing to lightning hits. One person was drowned in flash floods triggered by torrential rain that was witnessed in Nashik on Sunday, said the officials. Additionally, scores of animals have also been killed or hit in these lightning strikes as the sporadic inclement weather wreaks disasters in different regions of the state since the past few weeks. Many districts have suffered massive agriculture damage due to hailstorms, playing havoc with standing crops, especially of mangoes and other fruits, vegetables, etc. This afternoon, Shinde and his team surveyed many of the rain-affected areas of Nashik and directed immediate panchama for the massive losses suffered by the fruit and vegetable farmers, and to complete other formalities.

"BACKSTABBERS CAN'T CARRY BALASAHEB'S LEGACY": KAPIL SIBAL SLAMS E SHINDE



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday took a swipe at Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde after his Ayodhya visit, saying "conspirators, opportunists and backstabbers" cannot carry forward the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray. Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Sunday made his maiden visit to Ayodhya after becoming the chief minister in June last year. He was accompanied to the temple town in Uttar Pradesh by thousands of Shiv

Sainiks. In a tweet, Sibal said, "Shinde in Ayodhya: Lord Ram chose: Sacrifice, the path of truth, rectitude. Balasaheb also imbibed those attributes. 'Conspirators, opportunists, backstabbers cannot carry forward the legacy of Balasaheb,' the former Union minister said, attacking Shinde. The Maharashtra chief minister on Sunday said the ideology of his party and that of the BJP is the same, and they will unfurl the saffron flag all over the state next year. "Our party's role is clear. The Shiv Sena has an alliance with the

BJP. Our ideology, which is Hindutva, is the same. We will go to our state with new energy from Ayodhya and serve the people. In 2024, the Shiv Sena and the BJP's 'bhagva' (saffron flag) will be unfurled in the entire state," he said while addressing a press conference in Ayodhya. The Lok Sabha election as well as the Maharashtra Assembly polls are due next year. Shinde's coup against Uddhav Thackeray split the Shiv Sena last year and toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray.

"Revived Pride Of Our Faith": Eknath Shinde meets Yogi Adityanath

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath has "revived the pride of our faith" and appreciated the development works being undertaken in Ayodhya. Eknath Shinde and his team paid a courtesy visit to Yogi Adityanath at his official residence here on Sunday. Yogi Adityanath also hosted a dinner in honour of the Maharashtra chief minister and his entourage. The Shiv Sena leader was on a two-day tour of Uttar Pradesh during which he visited Ayodhya, his first since becoming Maharashtra chief minister last June. During their meeting with Yogi Adityanath, the group of ministers from Maharashtra shared their experience of visiting Ayodhya and appreciated the development works being undertaken in the city. Shinde said Yogi Adityanath has revived the "pride of our faith" and added that under his leadership, "the



city of Lord Ram is touching new dimensions of development". According to a statement issued from the Chief Minister's Office here, Yogi Adityanath welcomed Shinde and his team and said "Maryada Purushottam Prabhu Shri Ram is our ancestor as well as the soul of this country". "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is realising the vision of 'Ram Rajya' in the country by bringing the ideals of Lord Ram in his life," he said. Under his leadership, Ayodhya is becoming the world's most luxurious city and the centre of global pilgrimage, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

CM'S SHIV SENA SAYS 'NO LINKS' WITH PLEA SEEKING SHIV SENA BHAVAN, FUNDS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ruling ally Shiv Sena has washed its hands off a purported plea filed by a lawyer seeking the Shiv Sena Bhavan, the headquarters of the Shiv Sena (UBT) and its funds in all banks, here on Monday. In an official statement from the Shiv Sena Central Office in Thane, state party Coordinator and Spokesperson Naresh Mhaske said that news in some sections of the media to the effect were "absolutely false". As per certain local channels, advocate Ashish Giri has claimed to have filed a plea in the Supreme Court demanding that all the funds and the party headquarters of ex-CM-led Shiv Sena (UBT) should be handed over to the Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Filing the plea in his personal capacity, Giri contended that the Election Commission had last year (Oct) ordered allotting the original name-symbol of 'Shiv Sena' and 'Bow and Arrow' to the Shinde faction. However, there was no clarity on the



party's headquarters in Dadar, the iconic Shiv Sena Bhavan, its 227 branches in Mumbai and other units across the state and the funds in various bank accounts. He argued that since the Election Commission had given the name and symbol to the Shinde faction, it also had the rights to the party headquarters and the bank funds, and demanded a stay till the case is heard. However, Mhaske categorically stated that his party has not made any such demand, the lawyer (Giri) has no connections with the Shiv Sena and dismissed the reports to the effect. Last year, there was speculation on the fate of the Shiv Sena Bhavan and other things, but Sena (UBT) leaders said it belonged to a Thackeray family trust and so nobody could stake claim over it. Later, Shinde had also indicated that they would not raise the issues after which his party set up the Central Office in his hometown Thane.

TEEN RAPED BY RELATIVE COMMITS SUICIDE; ONE BOOKED

Mumbai: The police in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday registered a case against a man for allegedly raping his 17-year-old relative and abetting her suicide, an official said. According to the police, the victim, who hailed from Bihar, had been living with a relative's family in Shilphata area to pursue her education. The girl had recently complained to her father over the phone that family member had allegedly raped her repeatedly and she was afraid to live with them and wished to come home, an official said. The victim's father asked her to wait for a few days, as he did not have enough money to bring her back, he said. The complainant, however, received a phone call on Friday that his daughter had allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling of the house the previous evening, the official said. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

7 KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED AFTER OLD TREE FALLS ON TIN SHED AT TEMPLE IN AKOLA

Akola: At least 7 people died after an old tree fell on a tin shed with devotees standing beneath in Maharashtra's Akola on Sunday. Around 40 persons were standing below the shed when the tree fell due to heavy rainfall, informed Nima Arora the Collector of Akola. The incident took place at around 7.30 pm on Sunday at Babuji Maharaj temple located in Paras village under Balapur taluka when the people had gathered for the 'maha aarti'. "Nearly 40 persons were present under the shed, out of which 36 were admitted in the hospital and four of them were brought dead," an ANI report quoted the Collector as saying. "Later the death toll rose up to seven, and one person is critically injured," she added.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis took to Twitter and expressed his condolences on the incident. He also said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has decided to provide financial assistance to the families of those who died. The devotees had gathered for a religious ceremony at Paras in the Akola district, he said. "It is painful to report that some devotees were killed when a tree fell on a tin shed when some people had gathered for a religious ceremony at Paras in Akola district. I pay my humble respects to them," he said in a tweet. "The Collector and the Superintendent of Police immediately visited the spot and are coordinating to ensure timely treatment of the injured. We are constantly in touch with them," he added. The district authorities said families of each of the deceased will be given a compensation of Rs 4 lakh and the injured persons will be given monetary assistance as per government rules. Talking about the treatment of the injured, Fadnis wrote, "Some of the injured have been admitted to the District General Hospital and minor injuries are being treated at Balapur."

71-year-old loses Rs 5 lakh to man posing as "Former First Lady Of Afghanistan"

Mumbai | Agencies

A 71-year-old man was allegedly duped of Rs 5 lakh by a cyber fraudster who posed as the former 'first lady of Afghanistan' and sought his help in investing \$22 million in India, police said on Monday. The incident came to light on April 8 when the victim, an accountant living in suburban Andheri, approached the police with a complaint of cheating, an official said. The complainant, identified as Rameshkumar Shah, alleged that he received an email on February 18, in which the sender introduced herself as the "former first lady of Afghanistan" Rula Ghani, and told him that she requires his help in India.

After Shah responded to the email, the sender informed him that she was interested in investing \$22 million in India and the amount would be deposited in Shah's account, the official said. The sender told Shah that he would get 25 per cent of \$22 million and that he would have to invest the rest of the amount in a business from which they would profit, the official added. The sender also forwarded a copy of a passport, two photographs and a receipt of \$22 million to win the trust of the victim, who accepted her offer, he said. Shah was informed that the managing director of a bank in Indonesia will contact him for further instructions, and accordingly, he received a call on WhatsApp from an international number

and the caller identified himself as Rula's representative, the official said. He was asked to open an account in an Indonesian bank to start the entire process and to deposit \$360, he said. After some days, the caller again asked Shah to deposit some money to convert the offshore account into a local one, the official said, adding that the victim had lost Rs 5 lakh in the transactions. When the caller stopped responding to his calls, Shah realised that he had been cheated, he said. An FIR was registered under section 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act against the unidentified cyber fraudsters, the official said.

COP IN MAHA'S HINGOLI REPORTS FOR DUTY DEAD DRUNK, TO FACE PROBE

Hingoli | Agencies

A heavily inebriated on-duty policeman has been served with a notice for a departmental probe and booked by his own staff, sending shockwaves in the establishment, officials said here on Monday. The incident happened early on Sunday when accused, Sunil Mahadev Giri, 47, of Hingoli City Police Station was found dead drunk on duty during a night patrol. During the night-patrol, Giri, in a fully tipsy state, somehow reached the Aundha Police Station for a check around 2 a.m. However, the other policemen on duty were taken aback to see that he was stumbling, tottering,

talking gibberish, unable to keep his eyes straight, and reeking strongly of liquor. Seeing his condition, they informed the senior police officers who ordered a probe into the matter. Based on a complaint filed by another policeman D. K. Naik, a case has been registered against Giri at the Aundha Police Station, which could pose ramifications for the cop. "As per the Supreme Court guidelines in such cases involving public servants, Giri has been served with a show-cause notice and allowed to go pending a further departmental inquiry," Aundha Police Station in charge Inspector Vishwanath K. Zunjare told reporter.

RTI reply: 'No commonly delineated' LAC between India-China

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

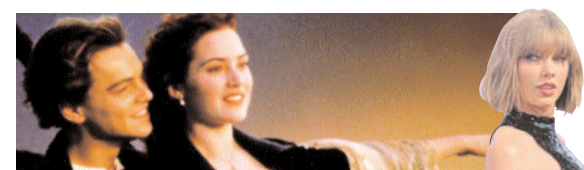
As India and China with increasing frequency grant and growl at each other their territorial rights, an RTI reply has said that there is actually no 'Line of Actual Control' between the world's two most populous nations. The RTI revelations were in response to a query filed by Pune businessman Prafulla Sardar to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was later transferred to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) seeking details of the LAC. The reply was an eye-popper: "There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China." The government admitted in its April 2018 reply that from time to time, on account of the difference in the perception of the LAC, "situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC." The government said that it regularly takes up a transgression along the LAC with China



through established mechanisms like border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, and of course the diplomatic channels. "The Bharatiya Janata Party government has been claiming that it has protected the country

from Chinese incursions in Arunachal Pradesh and in Ladakh region. However, since by its own admission, there is no mutually-accepted LAC, then which areas it has actually secured and what is the real ground situation currently," Sardar urged. Interestingly, much later, the Army Headquarters had declined to give details on ceasefire violations along the LAC and the June 2017 Doklam (Donglang, as referred by China) skirmishes, on grounds of exemption under the RTI Act 2005, Sec. 8(1)(a). This Section reads that the government is not obliged to give to citizens any "information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence." "As far as the Line of Control (LoC -- between India-Pakistan) is concerned, the government has admitted to around 320 ceasefire violations (2004-2013, during the UPA tenure), which shot up to

more than 11,625 from 2014 - February 2021. Why can't it enlighten the people and Parliament similarly on the figures of LAC ceasefire violations on the India-China borders," demanded Sardar. The Indo-Chinese border has been a cause of concern in the past over five years with several stand-offs with casualties and alleged fatalities that the world is watching anxiously amid apprehensions of a major flare-up between the two most-populous nuclear-powered nations. Among the recent border disturbances along the LAC include: Doklam (June 2017), Galwan Valley skirmishes (June 2020) with reports of fatalities, clashes near Sikkim (January 2021), allegations of cross-firing in the air (September 2021), and the Tawang fisticuffs (December 2022) with injuries. The much-vexed India-China border is around 3,500 kms long on the frontline Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, comprising the undisputed McMahon Line.



'I DO WHAT I WANNA DO'

Halle Berry ignites the internet by sharing a naked picture of herself while drinking wine

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Halle Berry has heated up the Internet over the weekend by sharing a photograph of her drinking wine while getting naked on a balcony. The picture was shared on Instagram. In the caption of the post, the actress simply wrote: "I do what i wanna do. Happy Saturday."



The post has since been flooded with comments from fellow celebrities. Among them were Halle Bailey and Lena Waithe, who both sent out clapping hand emojis. Kelly Rowland said: "YES!!!!" while Jenna Devan chimed in "Wow!", reports aceshowbiz.com.

This is not the first time Berry shared a picture like this.

In March, the 'Catwoman' star unleashed bathroom mirror selfies in which she posed with her hands across her breasts.

She captioned it: "Mump day self love."



RYAN REYNOLDS ACQUIRES A \$1.8 MILLION HOME IN WELSH VILLAGE

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Deadpool' star Ryan Reynolds has snapped up a \$1.8 million house in a small Welsh village following his Wrexham FC success. The Hollywood A-lister has become a local hero thanks to pumping cash into the struggling football club and has shown his commitment by owning a property in the area, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The actor looks set to shift from the bright lights of New York to the village of Marford, just five miles from his football ground.

It will be a stark contrast from the star's \$5.3 million in the Big

Apple, where he lives with actress wife Blake Lively and their four children.

A source told The Sun: "Ryan is moving to Marford and it's all the locals can talk about. His house is on the poshest road."

The source further mentioned, quoted by Mirror.co.uk: "The most famous person from Marford is Tim Vincent from Blue Peter, so a Hollywood star is a step up. It might not be the Big Apple but the red carpet will be rolled out when Ryan comes to town."

Ryan and Hollywood actor Rob McElhenney bought Wrexham FC back in 2020 and have spent \$10.2 million on the club as it bids for promotion to the Football League.



KIM SHOWCASED HER EYE-CATCHING PHYSIQUE IN PLUNGING SWIMWEAR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian appeared in a set of promotional images for SKIMS' soon-to-be-released Sport Swim collection that were shared on the brand's Instagram account on Sunday. In the snaps, the influencer showcased her eye-catching physique as she modeled several of her shapewear brand's new offerings while spending time at the beach. The reality television personality, who recently helped her daughter bake cake balls for Easter, will make her new products available to the public on Monday.

Kardashian showed off much of her upper chest while wearing a dark beige one-piece swimsuit that featured a zipper on its front portion. The model's impressively chiseled arms and curvy hips and thighs were prominently shown in the snaps.

The entrepreneur later changed into another one-piece swimsuit that featured attached leggings, which clung tightly to her sculpted legs. She eventually donned a bright pink bra top that exposed her washboard abs for part of the photoshoot. Kardashian finished off her look for the day with a matching bottom that exposed her upper thighs.

The reality television mainstay's voluminous Brunette hair remained free-flowing for the length of her time on the sand.

The entrepreneur initially launched SKIMS in 2019, and the brand was originally known as Kimono. After she was faced with claims of cultural appropriation, however, she changed the company's name. The brand has become notable for offering an impressive assortment of offerings in a wide variety of body types.

Kardashian has appeared in several of her company's promotional campaigns in the past.



'Slightly jealous'

Russell Crowe opens up on 'Gladiator' sequel, comments he's 'slightly jealous'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Russell Crowe is opening up about the 'Gladiator' sequel Ridley Scott has been working on which will release in November 2024.

The actor, who won an Oscar for his role in the "forementioned movie", is not part of the follow-up and is saying that he's "slightly jealous", reports 'Deadline'.

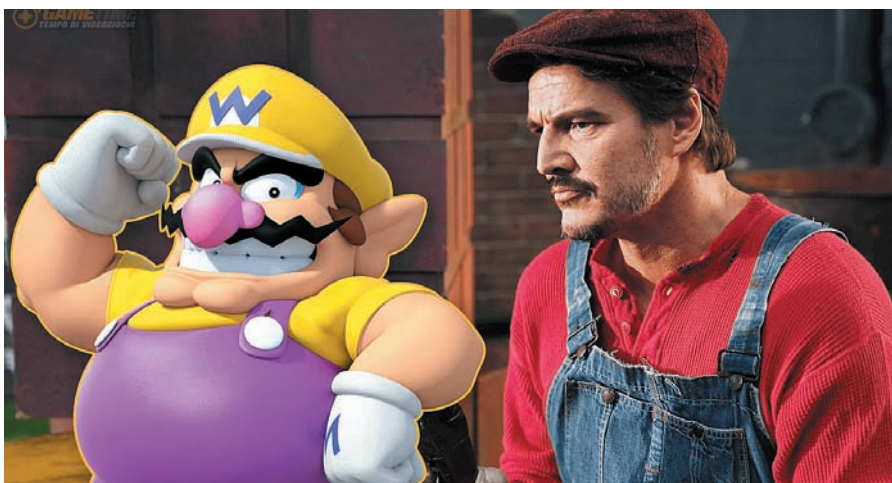
"I mean, look, the only thing that I really feel about it is slightly jealous, you know? Because I was a much younger man, obviously, and it was a huge experience in my life," Crowe told Collider in an interview. "It's something that changed my life, really. It changed the way people regarded me and what I do for a living, and, you know, I've

been very lucky to be involved in lots of big movies, but the legs on that film are incredible." Crowe continued: "Here it is, it's 2023, and we made that film in 1999. I guarantee you, somewhere around the world tonight; Gladiator is going to be showing on prime-time TV. And you don't always get that kind of longevity with every film you do, so, it obviously holds a special place in my heart."

Scott is directing the sequel that is set to star Paul Mescal with David Scarpa penning the script.

Barry Keoghan is reportedly in talks to board the film sequel.

In the follow-up, Mescal is set to play the role of Lucius, the son of Lucilla (Connie Nielsen) and the nephew of Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix).



JACK BLACK SUGGEST PEDRO PASCAL AS WARIO IN 'THE SUPER MARIO' SEQUEL

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jack Black has some ideas for 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' sequel and he is suggesting Pedro Pascal get cast as Wario. Black voices Bowser in the animated movie and although he is not sure if his character would return for a potential follow-up film, he would want 'The Mandalorian' star to voice Mario's arch-rival, reports 'Deadline'.

"It's not a given that Bowser will return. You know, I did a few 'Kung Fu Panda' movies, and it was a different villain every movie. They may do the same thing," Black told Game Spot. "You know, what if there is a more powerful, more evil villain? Then I may need to be turned to help Mario and the rest to defend our universe against some other unseen force of evil. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

Wario. Pedro Pascal is Wario." The 'Nacho Libre' star recently made a cameo on Pascal's Disney+ 'Star Wars' spinoff series alongside Lizzo.

'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' has turned out to be a big hit at the box office for a three-day weekend total of \$146.36 million.

With the animated movie dropping on April 5, its five-day total was a record-breaking \$204.6 million.

Globally, the Nintendo, Universal and Illumination film bowed out to a \$377.5 million box office debut. The voice actors also included Chris Pratt as Mario, Anya Taylor-Joy as Princess Peach, Charlie Day as Luigi, Keegan-Michael Key as Toad, Fred Armisen as Cranky Kong, Charles Martinet as Mario's Dad, Khary Payton as Penguin King and Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong.

Ryuichi Sakamoto, J-Hope to feature in BTS rapper Suga's solo album

Seoul | Agencies

K-pop super-band BTS member Suga, on Monday revealed the tracklist for his first solo album 'D-Day', with two songs respectively featuring late Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto and his fellow BTS bandmate J-Hope as a collaborator.

The tracklist consists of 10 songs, two of which - 'Snooze'



and 'Huh?!' - credit Sakamoto and J-Hope as featured artists, respectively, reports Yonhap.

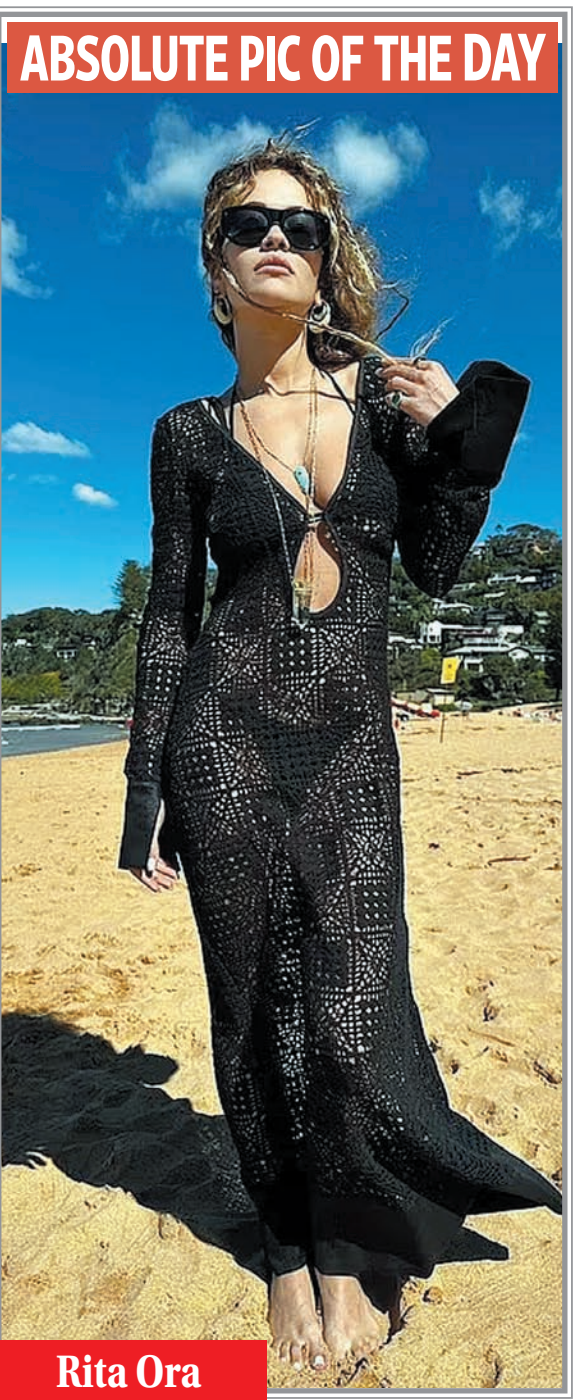
Also included were the pre-released songs 'People Pt. 2 (Feat. IU)', lead single 'Haegeum', 'D-Day' and 'SDL'.

The upcoming album set to roll out April 21 also has 'Life Goes On', in which Suga reinterpreted the band's hit song of the same name with his own sensibility.

As indicated by the title, the main track 'Haegeum' is a song that uses the sound of a haegeum, a traditional Korean string instrument.

Suga previously used the haegeum sound in 'Daechwita', the lead song of his second mixtape 'D-2' released in 2020.

The rapper wrote and composed all the songs for the forthcoming album and led the overall production work as a producer, according to the agency.



Rita Ora



IPL 2023

Stoinis, Pooran fifties lead LSG to thrilling one-wicket win over RCB

Lucknow Super Giants were 37/3 at the end of power-play, with Royal Challengers Bangalore on top of them in a run chase of 213 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium but Marcus Stoinis brought Lucknow back with his impressive 30-ball 65 while Nicholas Pooran smashed a sensational 19-ball 62 to take the team to a last-ball thrilling one-wicket victory, here on Monday.

Bengaluru | Agencies

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Mohammed Siraj gave Bangalore an ideal start as Kyle Mayers chopped on to his stumps. Wayne Parnell dealt double blows to Lucknow in the fourth over, having Deepak Hooda nick behind a cutter to Dinesh Karthik and then forcing Krunal Pandya to edge off an outswinger to the keeper.

After ending the power-play at 37/3, Stoinis began his onslaught in the eighth over by flicking off the pads for six off Harshal Patel, then slashed through point and smacked a straight drive down the ground for back-to-back fours.

Stoinis welcomed Karn Sharma with a pulled six over deep mid-wicket and struck a brace of fours, before bringing a lofted driven six over long-off against Shahbaz Ahmed to get his fifty in 25 balls. Stoinis hit a six each off Karn and Shahbaz, before slicing to deep point off



the former. Rahul never got going in his 18 off 20 balls and flicked straight to deep square leg off Siraj in the 12th over. Pooran began his blitz with a classic square cut off Siraj, with Ayush Badoni taking a four too off him. While Badoni flicked Karn off his legs for four, Pooran upped the ante with successive sixes. Pooran teared into Harshal by slamming pulled sixes over fine leg and deep

backward square, apart from a four cut through short third man. Parnell came under attack from Pooran, with the left-hander slicing him twice for fours apart from a six whacked over long-on which got him his fifty in just 15 balls.

Badoni was lucky in an outside edge flying over short third man for four off Willey while Pooran ended the 16th over with a magnificent swing over deep square leg for six. Pooran's blitzkrieg came to an end in the 17th over when he picked out the deep backward square leg off a full toss from Siraj.

As Bangalore fielded four fielders outside the circle in the final over due to over rate penalty, Harshal added more drama by casting Mark Wood and had Unadkat holing out to a juggling long-on.

After Harshal's attempt to run out Ravi Bishnoi and later running him out wasn't successful, a fumble from Karthik behind allowed Bishnoi and Avesh Khan to go for a leg-bye, taking Lucknow to a thrilling victory.

Brief scores

Royal Challengers Bangalore 212/2 in 20 overs (Faf du Plessis 79 not out, Virat Kohli 61; Amit Mishra 1/18, Mark Wood 1/32) lost to Lucknow Super Giants 213/9 in 20 overs (Marcus Stoinis 65, Nicholas Pooran 62; Wayne Parnell 3/41, Harshal Patel 2/48) by 1 wicket.

GILL CAN BREAK KOHLI'S RECORD OF MOST RUNS IN A SEASON: SHASTRI



New Delhi | Former India cricketer and coach Ravi Shastri feels rising star Shubman Gill, who is playing for Gujarat Titans in IPL 2023, can break Virat Kohli's historic record for most runs in a season.

"He has to be an opening batsman, because only then will he get many opportunities to score runs. I feel it is

Subman Gill because he is in good form and also because he plays top of the order. So he will get a good number of opportunities to score runs. The pitches are good, so if he can score 80-100 runs consecutively in two or three innings, then at that point of time only he will already have 300-400 runs," Shastri told.

Kohli shouldn't open the batting for RCB: Irfan Pathan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Opening the batting for RCB along with captain Faf du Plessis, Kohli has scored 103 runs in two games in TATA IPL

2023, but former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan claims the Delhi cricketer isn't the apt choice to open the innings.

Pathan said, "This year is looking different for RCB as runs are coming out of Virat Kohli's bat in the first few games. But it is no guarantee that he will continue scoring at the same pace (or for the remainder of the season) and win you every game. In a tournament like this, other batters in the

RCB squad will have to be ready for the challenge and justify their talents and roles. Also, I don't think Kohli should be opening the batting for RCB."



DHAWAN PLAYED ONE OF THE BEST T20 INNINGS: BRIAN LARA



New Delhi | Sunrisers Hyderabad lifted themselves from the bottom of the points table after a convincing eight-wicket win over Punjab Kings. Dhawan's performance impressed Sunrisers Hyderabad's head coach, the legendary Brian Lara as well.

Lara said, "I must commend Shikhar Dhawan. I think it is one of the best innings I've ever seen in T20 Cricket, the way he shepherd the strike and totally just controlled the game."

Chris Gayle also said, "Shikhar was fantastic for his team, and when you keep losing wickets around you, it's never going to be easy, and to hold the steady nerves and to actually get to that particular total and get to 99 as well, and I thought he deserved a hundred and that's one of the best innings you will ever see in the IPL as well."

CHARLESTON OPEN

Ons Jabeur stuns Bencic to clinch first title of the season

Charleston (USA) | Agencies

Last year's runner-up, Ons Jabeur of Tunisia exacted revenge on reigning champion Belinda Bencic to capture the 2023 Charleston Open with a tight straight-sets victory over the Swiss player.

The Tunisian world No. 5 battled from a break down in the first set and then held her nerve in set two to move to 15-4 in her Charleston career, beating the Swiss star 7-6(6) 6-4. This was her fourth career title and first of the season.

Interestingly, Jabeur and Bencic were the first duo to face off in back-to-back finals in tournament history.

Jabeur was just 4-4 coming into Charleston having undergone minor knee surgery in February. The No. 2 seed didn't drop a set all week, including a win over 2017 champion Daria Kasatkina in the rain on Saturday afternoon.

With a win, Jabeur moved back up to world No. 4 as Charleston kicked off the clay swing



on the WTA Tour, in which Jabeur is the defending champion in Madrid.

Since the start of the 2020 season, the Tunisian has now won 37 matches on clay, the most of any player on tour, one more than Iga Swiatek during that span.

On the other hand, all-American pair Danielle Collins and Desirae Krawczyk saved two match points to defeat top seeds Giuliana Olmos and Ena Shibahara 0-6, 6-4 [14-12] to win the women's doubles title.

The title win is the first doubles win of Collins' career and the eighth and first of the season for No.10 Krawczyk.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool fight back against Arsenal to keep title race alive

London | Agencies

The race for the Premier League title got closer as league leaders Arsenal surrendered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 away to Liverpool.

The draw reduced Arsenal's lead at the top of the table to six points over Manchester City, who have nine games left to play, while Arsenal have eight, reports Xinhua. After half an hour, Arsenal looked to be cruising to end a wait of over 10 years for a win at Anfield at halftime when they led through goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus, but Mohamed Salah pulled a goal back for Liverpool in the 42nd minute. Salah then missed a penalty, but Roberto Firmino's 87th-minute penalty saved a point for Liverpool and further opened up the title race. Erling Haaland returned to fitness with two goals as Manchester City kept up their challenge with a 4-1 win away to bottom-of-the-table Southampton on Saturday evening.

The battle for third and fourth remains intense with Manchester United, Newcastle United and Tottenham all winning, with Newcastle coming behind from Ivan Toney's penalty in first half injury time to win 2-1 away to Brentford.

Son Hyeung-Min scored his 100th goal for Tottenham and Harry Kane scored in a controver-



sial 2-1 win for Tottenham against Brighton.

Aston Villa moved up to sixth after goals from Leon Bailey and Ollie Watkins gave them a 2-0 win at home to Nottingham Forest, whose coach Steve Cooper is in danger of the sack as his team slip into

the bottom three. Crystal Palace also took three big points, which lift them, clear of the danger zone after an incredible 5-1 win away to Leeds United, which gave them two wins from two games since Roy Hodgson returned to replace Patrick Vieira as coach.

LA LIGA: ATLETICO CLOSE GAP ON REAL MADRID, WHILE ALMERIA & CADIZ TAKE BIG WINS



Madrid | Agencies

Atletico Madrid remain third but moved to within two points of Real Madrid in La Liga thanks to a 2-1 win away to Rayo Vallecano in a Madrid derby.

Goals from defenders Nahuel Molina and Mario Hermoso after 21 and 23 minutes put the game swiftly under Atletico's control, with Molina dedicating his goal to striker Angel Correa, whose father died earlier in the week, reports Xinhua.

Rayo's task was made harder when defender Florian Lejeune was sent off for hauling down Alvaro Morata with half an hour to play.

Fran Garcia's powerful left-foot shot in the 84th minute gave Rayo hope of a point, but Atletico held firm for their ninth league win in 11 games. Betis suffered a surprise 2-0 defeat at home to Cadiz, who scored a 52nd-minute penalty from Ruben Alcaraz and followed it with a sec-

ond goal from Chris Ramos six minutes later. Betis ended the game with nine men on a disastrous afternoon after Sergio Canales was sent off for a professional foul in the first half, and Aitor Ruibal saw red for aggression a minute after Cadiz's second goal.

Osasuna qualified for the final of the Copa del Rey for only the second time in their history in midweek, and their good week continued as two second-half goals from Eze Abde saw them come back from a goal down to beat bottom-of-the-table Elche 2-1.

Almeria's 2-1 win at home to Valencia lifted them out of the relegation zone while dumping Valencia back into the bottom three.

Gonzalo Melero and Srđan Babic put Almeria 2-0 up with goals in the 48th and 57th minutes of the game, and the home side hung on for three vital points after Samu Castellejo's left-foot shot for Valencia on the hour.

NBA: Raptors conclude regular season with win over Bucks

Totonto : The Toronto Raptors closed out their 28th NBA regular season with a 121-105 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks. The Raptors finished the season with a 41-41 record for ninth place in the Eastern Conference. This is the ninth time the team has beaten the 40-win mark in their last ten seasons, reports Xinhua. Toronto also wrapped up the season with a 27-14 record at home, including winning 11 of their last 12 games at Scotiabank Arena. During the win, the Raptors guard Gary Trent Jr. returned to form with a game-high 23 points, including four 3-pointers in just 27 minutes of action. This was his third game since a seven-game absence due to elbow and back injuries. Teammate Malachi Flynn had a season-high 20 points, while big man Precious Achiuwa recorded 14 points and pulled down 13 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season. Nurse's team ended the season with the most steals in the league with 772, a franchise record. A part of this was forward O.G. Anunoby, who led the league with 1.91 steals per game. He became the second player in team history to lead in one of the five major categories, joining Marcus Camby, who led the league in blocks in the 1997-98 season. With the regular season over, the Raptors will enter the play-in tournament for the first time in franchise history. On Wednesday, Toronto will host No. 10 Chicago Bulls in a single-elimination game. The winner will face the loser of Tuesday's match between No. 7 Miami Heat and No. 8 Atlanta Hawks to determine who faces the No. 1 ranked Milwaukee Bucks in the first round of the playoffs.

BUNDESLIGA

Monchengladbach beat Wolfsburg by 2-0

Berlin | Agencies

Borussia Monchengladbach ended its winless run of five games after goals from Nathan Ngoumou and Marcus Thuram helped the team edge an uninspired Wolfsburg 2-0 in the 27th round of Bundesliga.

The Wolves are still in the hunt for a berth in Europe and took the reins from kick-off as Foals goalkeeper Jonas Omlin had to be on guard to defuse Omar Marmoush's dangerous header in the fifth minute, reports Xinhua.

Marmoush remained in the thick of things and thought he had opened the



scoring, but his opener was ruled offside by the video assistant referee ten minutes into the clash.

Monchengladbach then shocked the visitors from Lower Saxony at the half-hour mark as Lars Stindl intercepted a poor pass from goalkeeper Koen Casteels and assisted Thuram, whose cutback pass allowed Ngoumou to break the dead-

lock against the flow of the game. Wolfsburg nearly restored parity after the restart, but Omlin's diving save defused Mattias Svanberg's presentable effort in the 47th minute.

Monchengladbach defended well and staged a clinical chance conversion at the other end of the pitch as Alassane Plea teed up for Thuram, who doubled the advantage to put the result beyond doubt at the hour mark. Elsewhere, Stuttgart clinched vital points in the relegation battle after overpowering Bochum 3-2, while Schalke slump to the last place after suffering a 2-0 defeat to Hoffenheim.

FRENCH LIGUE 1: MARSEILLE SLOW DOWN IN TITLE RACE WITH GOALLESS DRAW AT LORIENT

Paris | Agencies

Marseille failed to keep up with the top two sides in the league title race as they were forced to a 0-0 draw at Lorient in the French Ligue 1.

Igor Tudor's side have lost four precious points in two recent league matches as they drew with mid-table Montpellier 1-1 at home last week, reports Xinhua.

Earlier in the day, Lyon came from one goal down to beat Rennes 3-1, moving three points behind the Breton side in the sixth spot.

Laurent Blanc's side is still fighting for a place in next season's continental competitions as the fifth finishers of the French League could participate in the Europa Conference League qualifiers.

Former Lyon forward Amine Gouiri opened the scor-



ing for Rennes in the 11th minute. Midfielder Corentin Tolisso fired from 20 meters in the 60th minute to hit an

equalizer before Alexandre Lacazette volleyed home eight minutes later with his 18th goal of the season, only one behind joint top scorers Kylian Mbappe of PSG and Jonathan David of Lille.

Talented young forward Bradley Barcola, who stroked the winner last week against PSG, made it 3-1 in the 79th. In another action, Monaco squandered a two-goal lead to concede a 2-2 draw against an in-form Nantes, who have saw off Lyon in the French Cup semifinal to stay on track in defending the title.

Axel Disasi and Eliot Matazo's goals secured Monaco a comfortable 2-0 lead before the break. But Egypt international Mostafa Mohamed responded with a header midway through the second half to lift the morale of the hosts as fellow substitute Ludovic Blas nodded in an equaliser in the 78th minute to wreck Monaco's victory.



HATE COMPETING WITH MYSELF: TIGER SHROFF

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood action hero Tiger Shroff has revealed why he hates competing with himself and treated his fans to some jaw-dropping pictures.

Taking to twitter, Tiger shared a slew of pictures flaunting his perfectly chiseled body and washboard abs.

In the pictures, the son of actor Jackie Shroff can be seen sporting just blue denims, as he chose to go shirtless.

He posted the pictures with the caption: "Hate competing with myself...kicking my own a** everyday."

On the work front, Tiger will be seen in 'Ganapath' later this year, alongside Kriti Sanon.

The film will hit the theatres around the Dussehra festival on October 20, in five languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu.

The actor will also be seen in 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', which also stars Akshay Kumar. Prithviraj Sukumaran joins this spectacle as he brings on board his acting prowess as the powerful antagonist. The film will release in December 2023.



ALWAYS LOVED TAKING CHANCES & DOING UNCONVENTIONAL ROLES: MRUNAL THAKUR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur said that she always believed in taking chances and is overjoyed that her choices are being rewarded. Her latest release is 'Gumraah', where she portrays the role of a righteous cop who goes to great lengths to uncover the truth behind a crime. Speaking about her role in Gumraah, Mrunal said: "Playing a tough cop was a new experience for me. I had to put in a lot of effort to get into the skin of the character, but it was worth it. I am glad that the audience has appreciated my performance."

"Playing a tough cop in Gumraah was a challenging yet thrilling experience. I have always loved taking chances and doing unconventional roles, and I am glad that my choices have paid off. When I hear compliments about the film's engaging second half, and how my role contributed to it, it makes me feel great as a performer. I am grateful for the opportunity to bring impactful characters to life on screen."

She will next be seen in 'Pippa' and 'Ankh Micholi'.



SAMANTHA SAYS 'SELF LOVE IS WHEN YOU CAN BE HAPPY IN YOUR OWN COMPANY'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Star Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is gearing up for the release of her film 'Shaakuntalam', has replied to how she keeps going forward despite dealing with multiple issues in her life.

Samantha treated her fans to a question and answer session on Twitter, where a user asked her: "Where do you get your strength from? How do you keep going on strong despite so many things happening?"

Samantha replied: "Because this is not how my story will end I decide. Shaakuntalam"

Another fan asked what's self-respect and self-love in her opinion. "When you don't look to others to define who you are. When you can be happy in your own company," she said.

Samantha is gearing up for the release of her mythological romantic drama 'Shaakuntalam' which is scheduled to release on April 14. Directed by Gunasekhar, it also stars Dev Mohan in the lead role.



ALWAYS PROUD TO REPRESENT HINDI MUSIC TO AUDIENCES GLOBALLY: AYUSHMANN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is set for his solo US tour in July where he is expected to enthrall audiences in eight American cities with his incredible musical talent.

Ayushmann will be seen touring Dallas, San Jose, Seattle, Washington DC, New Jersey, Atlanta, Orlando, Chicago in the U.S., as well as Toronto in Canada in July and August this year.

Ayushmann, who has delivered several hit songs like 'Paani Da Rang', is proud to be representing Hindi music to audiences in North America.

He said: "iMusic has enabled me to connect with countless people and I constantly look forward to my live concerts because I get to experience this connection first hand. I'm grateful that the world has come out of the debilitating pandemic and we are again doing things that are community experiences."

"I was missing my live concerts because as an entertainer, I only look to spread joy through my films and music. I felt that was taken away from me."

Ayushmann added: "I'm in a much happier headspace now that I can travel and sing and do these concerts and see the smiles on people's faces! I can't wait for my U.S. tour. I can't wait to be in these cities. I'm always proud to represent Hindi music to audiences globally and I hope people will enjoy what we have in store for them."

On the film front, Ayushmann will be seen in the much-awaited 'Dream Girl 2', which releases on July 7.



Rhea Chakraborty appears on a reality show as a 'gang leader'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rhea Chakraborty has joined Prince Narula and Gautam Gulati as a gang leader in the 19th season of the youth-based reality show 'MTV Roadies'. Talking about being part of the latest season, Rhea said: "I am thrilled to be a part of MTV Roadies Karm Ya Kaand, which is an iconic cultural phenomenon. I look forward to working with Sonu Sood and my fellow gang leaders, as I get to showcase my resolute and fearless side during this thrilling journey. I hope to receive love and support from fans for this incredible new adventure!" The brand-new season's theme is of 'Karm Ya Kaand' and is hosted by actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood.

Adding to this, Deborah Polycarp, Associate Vice President and Head - Content Originals, MTV, commented: "The show has become a cultural mainstay in youth entertainment. For the new season, it's a delight to have Rhea on board, who

began her career in this industry with us." On the Bollywood front, Rhea was last seen on screen in the 2021 film 'Chehre', which stars Amitabh Bachchan, Emraan Hashmi, Krystle D'Souza, Siddhant Kapoor, Annu Kapoor, Alexx O'Neil, Samir Soni, Dhritiman Chatterjee and Raghubir Yadav.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rashi Khanna