

absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 169, MUMBAI | WEDNESDAY, MAY, 03, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

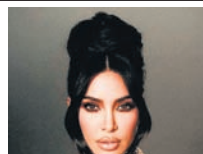
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KL Rahul should have come out in middle overs: Tom Moody...



Go Airlines Stops Flights

According to Go Airlines, it has been forced to apply to the NCLT after Pratt & Whitney, the exclusive engine supplier for its Airbus A320neo aircraft fleet, refused to comply with an award issued by an emergency arbitrator appointed in accordance with the 2016 Arbitration Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

▶ THE AIRLINE SAID IT HAS RESORTED TO APPROACH NCLT DESPITE THE INFUSION OF RS 3,200 CRORE BY THE PROMOTERS INTO THE AIRLINE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS OF WHICH RS 2,400 CRORE WAS INJECTED IN THE LAST 24 MONTHS, AND RS 290 CRORE IN APRIL 2023 ALONE.

▶ THUS, THE TOTAL PROMOTER INVESTMENT IN THE AIRLINE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IS APPROXIMATELY RS 6,500 CRORE.

▶ THE AIRLINE HAS ALSO RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S EXCEPTIONAL EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME, THE COMPANY SAID.

▶ THE GROUNDING OF CLOSE TO 50 PER CENT OF ITS A320NEO FLEET DUE TO THE SERIAL FAILURE OF PRATT & WHITNEY'S ENGINES, WHILE IT CONTINUED TO INCUR 100 PER CENT OF ITS OPERATIONAL COSTS, HAS SET THE AIRLINE BY RS 10,800 CRORE IN LOST REVENUES AND ADDITIONAL EXPENSES.

▶ MOREOVER, THE AIRLINE HAS PAID RS 5,657 CRORE TO THE LESSORS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY RS 1,600 CRORE WAS PAID TOWARDS LEASE RENT FOR NON-OPERATIONAL GROUNDING AIRCRAFT FROM THE FUNDS INFUSED BY THE PROMOTERS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME.

▶ IN ORDER TO RECOVER THESE (AND OTHER) LOSSES, GO AIRLINES SOUGHT COMPENSATION OF APPROXIMATELY RS 8,000 CRORE IN THE SIAC ARBITRATION.



Team Absolute | Chennai

With nearly 50 per cent of its A320neo fleet grounded, India's third largest airline Go Airlines (India) Limited on Tuesday approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for resolution under Section 10 of the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The airline said that it has approached the NCLT "due to the ever-increasing number of failing engines supplied by Pratt & Whitney's International Aero Engines, which has resulted in Go First (airline brand) having to ground 25 aircraft (equivalent to approximately 50 per cent of its Airbus A320neo aircraft fleet) as of May 1, 2023."

"The percentage of grounded aircraft due to Pratt & Whitney's faulty engines has grown from 7 per cent in December 2019 to 31 per cent in December 2020 to 50 per cent in December 2022. This is despite Pratt & Whitney making several ongoing

OFFERS FULL REFUND

New Delhi: Cash-strapped airline Go First Airways has cancelled its flights over the next three days and filed for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings in the National Company Law Tribunal on Tuesday.

The airline, which connects 27 domestic destinations and seven international cities, has offered full refund to those who had booked tickets for May 3, 4, 5.

assurances over the years, which it has repeatedly failed to meet," Go Airlines said.

"That order directed Pratt & Whitney to take all the reasonable steps to release and dispatch without delay to Go First at least 10 serviceable spare leased engines by April 27, 2023 and a further 10 spare leased engines per month until December 2023, with the objective of Go First returning to full operations and achieving its financial rehabilitation and survival," the air-

History of India's private airlines dotted with high-profile take-off and crash landing

Chennai: NEPC Airlines, Damania Airways, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Deccan Aviation, and Paramount Airways have one thing in common. These airlines and several others took off fast only to crash land or get bought out by others. Well, the annals of the Indian private airline industry are dotted with many airways taking off and crash landing with some continuing to fly. The list of failed airlines in India is quite long - full service or low-cost - and the major reason was financial crunch due to various factors. Many of these airlines were promoted by well-known industrialists/industrial groups. The latest airline that finds itself in a turbulent financial weather is Go Airline (India) Limited.

line added. Continuing further, Go Airlines said that even if Pratt & Whitney complied with the arbitration award, it would be able to resume full operations by August/September 2023.

UIDAI allows users to verify email IDs, mobile numbers seeded with Aadhaar

New Delhi | Agencies

Keeping user benefits in mind, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has allowed residents to verify their mobile numbers and email IDs seeded with their Aadhaar.

It had come to the notice of the UIDAI that in some instances, residents were not aware or sure about which of their mobile numbers is seeded to their Aadhaar.

Hence residents were worried that Aadhaar OTP might be going to some other mobile number.

Now, with this facility, the residents can check these quite easily, IT ministry sources said.

The facility can be availed under a 'Verify email/mobile Number' feature on the official website (<https://myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in/>) or through mAadhaar App.

It has been developed for the residents to verify that their own email or mobile number is seeded with



respective Aadhaar.

This feature gives confirmation to residents that email or mobile number under his or her knowledge is only seeded to respective Aadhaar, sources informed further.

It also notifies the resident in case a particular mobile number is not linked, and informs residents to take necessary steps to update the mobile number, if they wish so.

In case the mobile number is already verified residents will see a message like, the mobile number you have

entered is already verified with our records', displayed on their screen.

In case a resident does not remember the mobile number, she or he has given during enrolment she or he can check the last three digits of the mobile on Verify Aadhaar feature on My Aadhaar portal or mAadhaar App.

If a resident wants to link an email or mobile number with Aadhaar or wants to update her or his email or mobile number, she or he may visit a nearest Aadhaar centre.

'NO PRIVILEGE OVER DOCUMENTS ON REMISSION OF CONVICTS IN BILKIS BANO CASE': CENTRE TELLS SC



Mehta said it will have wide ramifications and third parties will come to the courts in criminal cases. The top court recorded Mehta's statement that Centre and Gujarat government are not seeking review of the order regarding the direction of production of records.

New Delhi: The Centre and the Gujarat government on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that they would not claim privilege over the documents in connection with the remission of sentence of convicts in Bilkis Bano gang-rape and murder of her family members' case during the Gujarat riots, and agreed to share the documents with the apex court for its perusal.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre and Gujarat government, submitted that the Centre and the state government will also not seek review of the apex court's earlier order directing them to bring on record documents in connection with the remission of the convicts. Raising objection to the petitions filed in the matter other than by Bano, Mehta said it will have wide ramifications and third parties will come to the courts in criminal cases. The top court recorded Mehta's statement that Centre and Gujarat government are not seeking review of the order regarding the direction of production of records.

The bench said it will hear the matter on May 9, as counsel for convicts said that they need time to file their replies to the plea by Bano.

GANG WAR IN TIHAR

Tillu Tajpuria was stabbed 50 times; Goldy Brar 'claims responsibility'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Incarcerated gangster Tillu Tajpuria, who was killed by four inmates -- said to be members of the notorious Jitender Gogi gang, on early Tuesday morning inside Delhi's Tihar Jail, was stabbed around 50 times by his assailants, an official said.

The attackers are reportedly members of the notorious Jitender Gogi gang.

Sunil a.k.a. Tillu Tajpuria (33), a resident of Tajpur Kalan on the outskirts of Delhi, who had a history of criminal activities, was lodged in Tihar Jail under tight security measures.

Gangster Satinder Singh Brar, also known as Goldy Brar -- believed to be in hiding in Canada, has claimed responsibility for the attack on Tajpuria, citing revenge, according to an unverified social media post.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Akshat Kaushal said that information



was received in Hari Nagar police station from Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) hospital that an undertrial prisoner was admitted to the hospital from Tihar Jail.

He was later declared brought dead in the DDU hospital.

Defamation case: No interim relief for Rahul

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday reserved its orders in the revision plea filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in connection with his conviction in a defamation case that subsequently led to his disqualification as Member of Parliament.

Rahul Gandhi had appealed to the Gujarat High Court for an interim stay of his conviction until the court pronounced its order on his petition. However, the single judge hearing the case, Justice Hemant Prachchhak, has postponed his decision until after the summer vacation, which ends on June 4.

SHARAD PAWAR STEPS DOWN AS NCP PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major development, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar announced that he is stepping down from his post soon, here on Tuesday.

He made the announcement of his retirement during the release of his autobiography, "Lok Majhe Sangaayi - Political Autobiography".

"I know when to stop... I have set up a committee of senior NCP leaders who will decide on the next president," said Pawar, 82, flanked by his wife Pratibha. However, the Rajya



Sabha member with three more years to go, assured that he would remain active in public life through social-politics, as in the past over 55 years. His announcement

was greeted with shock, many bursting into tears and raising slogans in his support with many party activists appealing to Pawar to take back his decision as the country needs him.

He will rethink: Ajit Pawar

New Delhi: Ajit Pawar and Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, met him this evening along with other party leaders and later told reporters that he has sought a few days' time.

"I took my decision but because of all of you, I will rethink on my decision. But I need two to three days and I will give it a thought only if the workers go home. Some people have been resigning from party posts too. These resignations should stop," Ajit Pawar quoted his uncle as saying.

The leaders, he added, have suggested that Sharad Pawar remain the president and appoint a working president under him.

NATIONWIDE NRC NEED OF THE HOUR: HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

Bengaluru: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asserted that the country should have a National Register of Citizens (NRC) to ensure that government schemes reach the deserving.

Sarma, who is on a campaign trail in Karnataka, also batted for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and claimed that this would ensure gender justice and equal rights for Muslim women in the country. The Assam CM has been actively campaigning for the BJP for the past two days in the southern state, where the saffron camp is looking to retain power.

Addressing a presser in Bengaluru's Malleswaram earlier in the day, Sarma said, "A nationwide NRC is just the need of the hour. Our country has completed 75 years of independence, and we are moving towards Amrit Kaal. However, until today, we do not know who the actual citizens of this country are. This has created a confusion whether government schemes are reaching the right people or not." He mentioned that AADHAR is not proof of citizenship.



'Has gone through certification', SC on plea against release of 'The Kerala Story'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to immediately hear a plea seeking a stay on the release of the controversial movie 'The Kerala Story'.

A bench comprising Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna observed that the censor board has already cleared the movie and the petitioners should rather challenge the film's certification before an appropriate authority. This bench is currently hearing matters in connection with hate speeches. The bench said that the exhibition of films entails a different



process, therefore the plea seeking a stay on the release of the movie cannot be clubbed with the hate speech matters. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Nizam Pasha

urged the bench to hear their plea saying that the movie will release on Friday. During the hearing, the bench said, "This has gone through certification. We cannot make it a part of

the hate speech case".

Meanwhile, amid the raging controversy over the upcoming film 'The Kerala Story', the producers of the film on Tuesday changed the text of the introduction to the film in its latest teasers on YouTube. Earlier, the text mentioned that around 32,000 women have gone missing from Kerala. Now, the changed version says that three women, who after getting brainwashed, converted and were sent on terror missions in India and abroad. The film traces the journey of four female college students in Kerala who become part of Islamic State.

FATHER'S NAME CAN BE REMOVED FROM A MINOR'S PASSPORT: DELHI HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has observed that the passport of a minor child can be issued without the biological father's name under varying circumstances and that such a relief depends upon the "facts of each case." In a plea moved by a minor son and his mother seeking deletion of the father's name from his passport and for re-issuance of a fresh passport without mentioning the father's name, Justice Pratibha M. Singh said that the Passport Manual of 2020 and the official memorandum issued by Union Ministry of External Affairs on February 28 last year recognise that passports can be issued

under different circumstances without father's name. No hard and fast rule can be applied in such cases, the judge remarked.

"Such a relief ought to be considered, depending upon the factual position emerging in each case. No hard and fast rule can be applied. There are myriad situations in the case of matrimonial discord between parents, where the child's passport application may have to be considered by the authorities," the court added.

In peculiar cases where there is no contact of the father with the mother or child, his name need not be included in the child's passport, Justice Singh said perusing the Office Memorandum (OM).



CONGRESS WANTS TO HOLD LORD HANUMAN 'CAPTIVE', SAYS PM

Team Absolute | Vijayanagara (Karnataka):

Reacting strongly to the Congress's promise of banning Bajrang Dal if voted to power in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the grand-old party wants to hold Lord Hanuman "captive".

While addressing a huge public rally in Vijayanagara, he said, "Congress had kept Lord Sri Ram in captivity (in Ayodhya). Now, they are preparing to keep Lord Hanuman captive too."

Prime Minister Modi further alleged that Congress does not like Lord Hanuman. "I bow to the people of Vijayanagara kingdom. I am in the land of Lord Hanuman. At the same time, Congress is claiming in its manifesto that they will lock up Bajrang Bali and impose a ban on those who raise the slogans of Jai Bajrang Bali," he said.

"They (Congress) are announcing that they will ban Bajrang Dal. They have planned to tame Bajrang Bali (Lord Hanuman). We reverse Sri Ram and Hanuman equally," he added.

Releasing its manifesto for the May 10 Karnataka assembly elections on Tuesday in



Bengaluru, the Congress said it is committed to taking firm and decisive action against individuals and organisations such as the Bajrang Dal and the Popular Front of India (PFI), including banning them, for "spreading hatred" amongst communities on grounds of caste and religion.

CONG SEEKS PM'S APOLOGY FOR 'COMPARING' LORD HANUMAN TO BAJRANG DAL

Bengaluru: The Congress on Tuesday demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "comparing" Lord Hanuman to a Hindu group, Bajrang Dal.

The Congress said this after PM Modi criticised it for "assuring decisive action on Bajrang Dal and other outfits spreading hate".

On this, Congress Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said "Lord Hanuman depicts piety, commitment to reverence and duty and symbolises service and sacrifice". "To compare Lord Hanuman as synonymous to any individual or organisation is an insult, and PM Modi is hurting the feelings and sentiments of millions of devotees of Hanuman ji," Surjewala said.

"Of course, these canards were manufactured in the factory of BJP national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh, the self-nominated Chanakya. Millions of Hanuman Bhakts will fight this with full vigour," the Congress leader said.

Surjewala further said that "the Prime Minister and co. refuse to speak about the scam-ridden '40 per cent' BJP government in Karnataka, and are merely looking for lame duck excuses to polarise the election

Mamata calls for unity of all anti-BJP forces ahead of Lok Sabha polls

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday gave a call to all non-BJP forces in the country to unite in order to bring about a change in the central regime in the Lok Sabha polls scheduled next year.

On completion of the second year of her third term as Chief Minister, Banerjee released a video message in which she said that there is an urgent necessity for unity of all opposition forces in order to make the 2024 polls an "election for change".

"The next Lok Sabha polls will be for change. If all the opposition parties unite, the defeat of BJP will be inevitable. The country needs a change. Let the 2024 polls bring that change," she said in the video message.

However, she did not make it clear whether Congress features in the blueprint of Trinamool Congress' united opposition alliance.



In the video message, she also launched a scathing attack against the Centre on the twin issues of demonetisation and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"Does such a government deserve any further support? No power is absolute and bigger than the common

people who will have the final word. This time we will not lose. We will win," the Chief Minister said.

However, both the Congress and the CPI(M) ridiculed Banerjee over her call for unity of opposition forces against BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Four crushed death after crane runs over two-wheelers in Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least four people died after a crane lost control on a busy road in Indore and ran over two bikes on Tuesday evening. An injured person has been rushed to the hospital where his condition is stated to be critical, officials said.

The tragic incident occurred in Badhanga area when a crane lost control and crushed the commuters travelling on two motorcycles.

Indore SDM Ajay Dev said, "Four people were dead and one person was injured in the incident. Preliminary inquiry suggests that the driver lost control of the crane, which resulted in the



accident. However, the police are trying to ascertain the exact cause of the mishap."

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said that he has directed the police and the district administration for quick action in the matter. "A sad news has been received about the loss of precious lives in Indore. I

have inquired about the incident from the local administration and have given instructions to provide all possible help to the affected families. I pay my humble tribute to the people who lost their lives and pray to God for the speedy recovery of the injured person," Mishra tweeted.

2 PAKISTANI INTRUDERS SHOT DEAD BY BSF

Jaipur: Two

Pakistani intruders, who were crossing the barricade on the Barmer-Munabav International Border on Monday night, were shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel. The jawans first warned both, when they did not stop, they killed them, confirmed officials on Tuesday.

According to the information, both the suspects had crossed the barricade and entered India with a consignment of about 3 kg of heroin. As soon as the information was received, BSF officers and police reached the spot. Police officials said that information about infiltrators was received at Munabav India-Pakistan border of Gadrard police station area at 9 p.m. on Monday night. The smugglers crossing the barricade had entered inside India with a consignment of heroin. After the encounter, the jawans informed the top officials about the incident.



All central govt exams be conducted in regional languages, demands Stalin

Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin on Tuesday demanded that all central government examinations should be conducted in regional languages. He said that this will benefit students from all states of the country.

It may be recalled, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was the first one to demand the conduct of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in regional languages including Tamil. The central government had in April announced that CAPF examinations would be conducted in 13 languages other than Hindi and English.



Stalin in a statement on Tuesday said that this was a long pending demand of the

DMK in the parliament, state legislative assembly and in all public forums. He said that opportunities for youth should not be limited to those who know Hindi and English only and if central government exams are allowed to be written in regional languages, many youngsters would benefit. Stalin said that India is a Union of States and that youth from all states should get equal opportunities.

He added that everyone should raise their voices to conduct the central government examinations in regional languages and added that this move would be victorious in the days to come.

Delhi HC allows poor daily-wage earners' appeal against seizure of goods without pre-deposit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has permitted an appeal of poor daily-wage workers who were objecting to the seizure of their goods without requiring a pre-deposit.

A prerequisite for filing an appeal may occasionally be imposed by the statute, observed Justices Rajiv Shakkher and Tara Vitasta Ganju's bench.

A requirement that is excessively onerous, however, will make the right to appeal void.

The petitioners, who are not well-educated young people, come from low-income households and reside in Islam Nagar, Hojai, Assam and make a living through agriculture and the sale of modest amounts of agarwood.

The petitioners claim that the items seized by the customs officials



were their purchases, and that the receipts were included in the response to the show cause notice.

The petitioners claimed that the penalty had been imposed based on

an inaccurate assessment of the seized commodities, which had been mistakenly valued at a very high market value.

It is further claimed that because

they are not financially stable, they are unable to pay the obligatory pre-deposit needed to contest the charge and hence cannot exercise their right of appeal under Section 129E.

The petitioners have challenged the constitutional validity of Section 129E. It is their argument that it is free and not restricted to export cultivated kinds of agarwood chips and oil.

The petitioners relied on Notification No. 45/2015-2020 dated November 29, 2021, on the Amendment in the Export Policy of Agarwood Oil and Agarwood Chips and Powder, stating that it is only by the amendment of the policy that the seized products have become prohibited.

However, at the time of the seizure by the customs authorities on September 20, 2019, the policy was not in force.

Prayagraj | Agencies

The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) is working to secure the future of candidates who qualify for the interview stage of Combined State/Upper Subordinate Services Examination, commonly known as UPPSC, but fail to clear it.

The commission has decided to secure jobs for such candidates in the private sector, said a senior official of the commission.

It will now prepare certified data of all such candidates after taking their consent. It will upload their names, phone numbers and other details on its website so that private firms and agencies can invite such meritorious candidates for jobs, he added.

Every year, lakhs of candidates apply for the coveted PCS exams. It is after clearing preliminary and mains exams, that they are selected for the interview round, but very few of them finally get selected against posts on offer. However, clearing the mains and qualifying



for interview is also considered exceptional achievement in terms of potential of the candidates.

According to official sources, the data would mention the name and phone number of the candidate along with their academic details and the same would be available on the commission's website, so that private firms and agencies can invite such meritorious people for jobs.

Delhi excise policy case: Raghav Chadha, Sanjay Singh named in ED charge sheet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its third supplementary charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy scam has mentioned the names of AAP leaders, Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha.

Both leaders are Rajya Sabha members. The charge sheet only mentions their names, they are not shown as accused in the case.

The supplementary charge sheet was recently filed before the Rouse Avenue District Court here.

According to the charge sheet, Chadha was part of a meeting which was held at former Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence in connection with the liquor policy case.

Sources said that the ED was recording the statement of an accused businessman Dinesh Arora, who later became an approver in the Delhi liquor policy, when the names cropped up.

"He initially met Sanjay Singh through whom he



came in contact with Manish Sisodia during a party in his own restaurant, namely Unplugged Courtyard. On request of Sanjay Singh, he spoke to many of the restaurant owners and arranged

cheques amounting to Rs 82 lakh (handed over to Sisodia) for collection of party funds for the then upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi," the ED has mentioned quoting Dinesh Arora.

Dengue virus 'evolved dramatically' in India, is more severe: Study

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Dengue virus has evolved to be more severe in India, said a team of scientists led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), stressing the need for developing a vaccine against the strains found in the country.

In a multi-institutional study on dengue, published in the journal PLoS Pathogens, the scientists showed how the virus causing the disease has evolved dramatically over the last few decades in the Indian subcontinent.

Cases of dengue -- a mosquito-borne viral disease -- have steadily increased in the last 50 years, predominantly in the South-East Asian countries.

And yet, there are no approved vaccines against dengue in India, although some vaccines have been developed in other countries.

"We were trying to understand how different the Indian variants are, and we found that they are very different from the original strains used to develop the vaccines," said Rahul Roy, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering (CE), IISc.

The team examined all available (408) genetic sequences of Indian dengue strains from infected patients collected between the years 1956 and 2018 by others as well as the team themselves.



There are four broad categories -- serotypes -- of the dengue virus (Dengue 1, 2, 3 and 4). Using computational analysis, the team examined how much each of these serotypes deviated from their ancestral sequence, from each other, and from other global sequences.

"We found that the sequences are changing in a very complex fashion," Roy said.

Until 2012, the dominant strains in India were Dengue 1 and 3. But in recent years, Dengue 2 has become more dominant across the country, while Dengue 4 -- once considered the least infectious -- is now making a niche for itself in South India, the researchers found.

The team sought to investigate what factors decide which strain is the dominant one at any

given time. One possible factor could be Antibody Dependent Enhancement (ADE), said Suraj Jagtap, doctoral student at CE.

Jagtap explained that sometimes, people might be infected first with one serotype and then develop a secondary infection with a different serotype, leading to more severe symptoms.

Scientists believe that if the second serotype is similar to the first, the antibodies in the host's blood generated after the first infection bind to the new serotype and bind to immune cells called macrophages. This proximity allows the newcomer to infect macrophages, making the infection more severe.

"We knew that ADE enhances severity, (but) we wanted to know if that can also change the evolution of dengue virus," Jagtap added.

At any given time, several strains of each serotype exist in the viral population. The antibodies generated in the human body after a primary infection provide complete protection from all serotypes for about 2-3 years. Over time, the antibody levels begin to drop, and cross-serotype protection is lost. The researchers propose that if the body is infected around this time by a similar -- not identical -- viral strain, then ADE kicks in, giving a huge advantage to this new strain, causing it to become the dominant strain in the population.



MAHA CONGRESS SEEKS SPL LEGISLATURE SESSION TO DISCUSS MAJOR ISSUES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress leaders here on Tuesday demanded a special session of the legislature to discuss major issues confronting the state including the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. project...

A delegation led by state Congress president Nana Patole, Ashok Chavan, AICC Secretary Ashish Dua, Naseem Khan, Devanand Pawar, Hussain Dalwai, Anis Ahmed, Raju Waghmare, Amar Rajurkar, and others called on Governor Ramesh Bais and submitted a memorandum.

They reiterated the demand to appoint a probe headed by a high court judge into the Navi Mumbai tragedy of April 16 which claimed at least 14 lives due to heatstroke, terming it as 'state-sponsored murder' and holding the state government responsible for it.

The delegation pointed out how the proposed RRPL project, coming up with Arab help, is being pushed through on the people of Barsu despite strong opposition from the local villagers.



Another issue raised was the sufferings of the farmers after the recent spell of unseasonal rains and hailstorms that lashed large parts of the state, leading to large scale destruction of farmland.

"The farmers have been devastated by the climate change effects, they are not getting timely help and the

government's policies are fuelling the farmers' suicides in Maharashtra," said Patole.

They also called for relaxation of the CIBIL score clause which has deprived many farmers from availing agricultural loans.

Chavan brought up the issue of increasing the reservation ceiling

beyond 50 percent to enable implementation of the Maratha quotas, and cited the example of Chhattisgarh.

"In order to discuss all these urgent issues, we have requested the Governor to convene a special legislature session at the earliest," said Patole after the Raj Bhavan meeting.

"He will always be head of NCP family": Ajit Pawar as Sharad Pawar quits

Moments after senior NCP leader Sharad Pawar announced his resignation from the party president's post on Tuesday, his nephew Ajit Pawar supported the former's decision saying that the next party chief will work under Sharad Pawar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Pawar Saheb (Sharad Pawar) will always be the head of the NCP family. Whoever will be the next President will work only under Pawar Saheb's guidance," Ajit Pawar told the party cadre who were protesting against Sharad Pawar's decision urging him to withdraw it.

Ajit Pawar further asked the party workers and leaders not to become emotional over the decision and said, "Pawar Saheb himself had said about the necessity of change in guard a few days back. We should see his decision in the light of his age and health also. Everyone has to take a decision according to time, Pawar Saheb has taken a decision and he won't take it back."

Ajit Pawar said the mem-



bers of the committee suggested by Sharad Pawar to elect the next party President are "not from outside, but are from within the NCP family itself".

Party workers and leaders, however, demanded that Sharad Pawar withdraw his

decision. "We're not ready to accept your decision of resigning from the post of NCP president. We want you to reconsider your decision," said NCP leaders including Chhagan Bhujbal, Jitendra Ahwad and Dilip Walse Patil.

"NCP's internal matter": Devendra Fadnavis on Sharad Pawar's resignation

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as party chief was the Nationalist Congress Party's internal matter.

He was replying to a reporter's question in Nagpur about Sharad Pawar's surprise announcement earlier in the day.

"It is his personal decision...NCP's internal matter. I do not think it will be appropriate to talk about it at this stage. Sharad Pawar is a senior leader and deliberations are going on in his party. It will be appropriate to comment only after the situation gets clear," the BJP leader said.



Asked about Pawar's statement during the launch of a revised version of his autobiography that he had no inkling about his nephew Ajit Pawar's decision to form a government by joining hands with the BJP in 2019, Fadnavis said, "I have not read Pawar's book, hence I would not speak on it now.

"But I also want to write a book, which I will write at the right time. You will know the truth when I write it," he said. Fadnavis had taken oath as chief minister with Ajit Pawar as his deputy following the 2019 Assembly elections though the government fell in a few days as it could not muster the numbers.

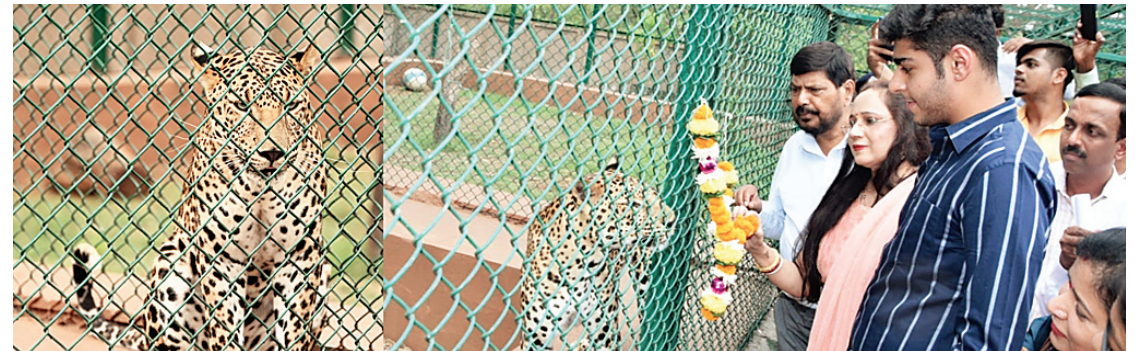
Union Minister Ramdas Athawale 'adopts' leopard in Mumbai's SGNP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Wildlife lover and Union Minister of State Ramdas Athawale adopted a five-year-old leopard at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, here on Tuesday.

"The adoption" for the fifth time, was completed after the Minister's son Jeet Athawale handed over a cheque of Rs 1.20 lakh to the SGNP's Conservator of Forests & Director S. Mallikarjuna.

Athawale - President of Republican Party of India (A) - and his wife Seema, were given a certificate for the adoption of the leopard (Panthera Pardus) that took place under the SGNP's Wild Animal Adoption Scheme. "The Minister is himself like a panther, which is the symbol of the Dalit Panthers groups... He loves



nature and wildlife and this is his contribution to save the environment and wildlife," said an aide. Leopards play an important role in maintaining the balance in the nature's food-chain and the overall environment of its habitats.

Named Simba, it was also the leopard's

fifth birthday that was celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony and reciting the Buddha Vandana at the adoption ceremony.

The SGNP in Borivali east suburb is sprawled across around 105 sq kms spanning Mumbai and Thane districts and is home to a huge variety of flora

and fauna. These include mammals, birds, butterflies, amphibians, snakes, over five dozen leopards roaming in the wilderness surrounded by the concrete jungle, a toy-train, and lion and a tiger safari, besides the famed and estimated 2000-year-old Kanheri Caves complex.

RESTAURANTS HOLDING EATING HOUSE LICENCE CAN'T SERVE HOOKAH: BOMBAY HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

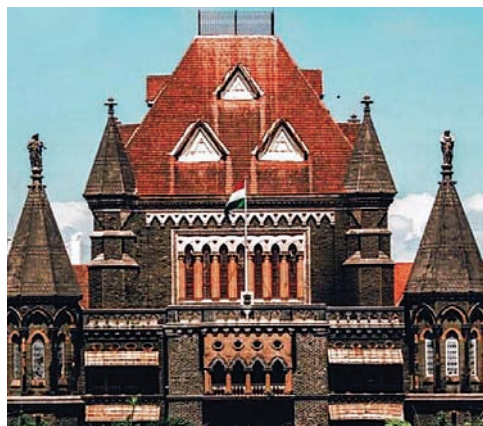
An eating house licence does not automatically include permission to serve hookah or herbal hookah, the Bombay High Court said while refusing relief to a suburban restaurant facing revocation of licence for serving herbal hookah.

A division bench of Justices G S Kulkarni and R N Laddha in its order dated April 24 noted that hookah cannot be one of the items being served in a restaurant where children, women and elderly visit for refreshments or food.

"This would amount to an absolute nuisance in so far as an eating house is concerned. Further, if this is to be a reality, the impact it would create on such customers at the eating house can just be imagined," the court said.

It further observed that if every eating house in the city was permitted to provide hookah, then it would result in a "situation beyond one's imagination" and would be "totally uncontrolled".

The bench was hearing a petition filed by one



Sayli Parkhi challenging an April 18, 2023 order passed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) stating that the eating house licence granted to her restaurant 'The Orange Mint' would be revoked/cancelled if it continues to

serve hookah/herbal hookah.

The civic body's claim was that the restaurant was using flame or burnt charcoal for the herbal hookah activity, which was endangering public safety and putting customers' lives at risk.

The court, while refusing to stay the BMC's order, said the restaurant has been rightly prevented from undertaking hookah activities.

It noted that this was not a case of a pure hookah parlour, but was a case wherein licence has been granted for an eating house and this would not include hookah activities.

It further observed that the civic body and its commissioner were not expected to keep a continuous vigil on the hookah trade/activities of the petitioner, including her claim about its herbal ingredients.

"Once it is clear that hookah activities are not part of the eating house licence conditions, such activity cannot be permitted," the court said, adding that the grant of a licence to operate an eating house does not include permission to conduct hookah activities.

Devendra Fadnavis's veiled dig at Uddhav Thackeray on Refinery Project Row

Team Absolute | Gadchiroli

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis today said that some leaders often seen at agitations are a part of the Barsu refinery protests and they have inputs that a group trying to create disruptions in the state is also playing a role there to defame the state government.

The senior BJP leader was speaking to reporters in Gadchiroli where he replied to queries on the visit of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray to Barsu, the site of the proposed refinery in Ratnagiri district, on May 6 and about allegations that



some leaders were barred from entering the area.

Fadnavis said a few locals are protesting against the refinery, while the number of those supporting the project is much more. He said people from outside are being brought to Barsu to stage protests.

The deputy CM, who also holds the home portfolio,

said the protests are being held for political gains by using the common man.

While a section of locals is opposed to the petrochemical refinery project at Barsu, the protest intensified on Friday after villagers tried to enter the survey site forcibly. The police used teargas and lathi charge to disperse the crowd, injuring several villagers. The opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) has come out in support of the local residents and demanded an immediate end to "atrocities" against protesters.

Fadnavis said a group that is trying to create "disruptions" in the state is also playing a role at Barsu to defame the government.

On Sharad Pawar's shock resignation, Sanjay Raut's "Balasaheb" comparison

Team Absolute | Pune

As Sharad Pawar on Tuesday announced that he had decided to step down as the NCP chief, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut called him the "soul of Maharashtra politics" and likened his decision to the 'resignation' of Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

Taking to Twitter, Raut said, "Fed up by dirty Politics and allegations, Shiv Sena Supremo Balasaheb Thackeray too had resigned as the Shiv Sena Pramukh. History seems to have repeated itself... But owing to the love of Shivsainiks he had to withdraw his decision... Like Balasaheb, Pawar Saheb too is the soul of the State's politics."

Raut's party Shiv Sena (UBT) is a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi that also comprises NCP and the Congress. Springing a surprise, Pawar on Tuesday said he was stepping down as the chief of the Nationalist



Congress Party (NCP), the political outfit he founded and helmed since 1999.

He made the announcement at the launch of a revised version of his autobiography. The announcement was met with protests by party workers and leaders who asked the octogenarian leader to rescind the decision NCP leader Anil Deshmukh, who was present at the meeting in Mumbai where Pawar announced his decision, said that the state and the country need "Pawar saheb".

"There is an insistence by everybody that Pawar saheb remains as the chief of the party (NCP) and we have urged him to review his decision," he told a Marathi news channel.

Mumbai's prime real estate given away for Bullet Train, alleges Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena-UBT President and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday accused the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party alliance of handing over prime real estate, "worth like gold", in the Bandra Kurla Complex for the Bullet Train project.

He said that when the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was in power, they had halted the BKC land for the Bullet Train terminus, but as soon as the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis came to power (June 2022), they gave it away.

"How many of you are going to travel from Mumbai to Ahmedabad in the Bullet Train daily? How many will come from Gujarat to Maharashtra in that train...? Yet, the land of Mumbai valued like gold was given away for the project... Nobody knows how many 'khokhas' (slang for crores of rupees) exchanged hands?" thundered Thackeray.

He was addressing the MVA's third massive rally at the BKC Grounds in the presence of the top leaders of the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party



and the Shiv Sena-UBT, as a curtain-raiser for the upcoming civic polls and next year's Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Thackeray said that similar was the case with the Mumbai Metro carshed which the MVA did not allow in Aarey Colony for the city's environmental concerns and proposed the Kanjurmarg site which could help the Metro railway expansion to distance places in Thane-Raigad. "However, the minute they came to power they reversed the decision... Even the Central government which had blocked our proposal for the Kanjurmarg land in the court, suddenly gave up their claims. But now, after the Aarey Colony,

they were compelled to seek even the Kanjurmarg land (15 hectares) for the project... In the process, Mumbai is the loser," the ex-CM pointed out. The Sena-UBT chief attacked the state government for its series of advertisements splurging public money and said that no government in the state had resorted to so much publicity. "This is not your money. It is the taxpayers' money that is being blown off to hide your shortcomings. If you want to advertise, use the BJP's 2014 election campaign against inflation, unemployment, etc., it will be valid today," declared Thackeray, targeting Shinde-Fadnavis.

49 people arrested from call centre involved in duping Australian nationals

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Breakfast orders for a large group of people at a deserted beach resort helped the police bust a fake call centre in neighbouring Mira-Bhayandar, which was involved in duping Australian nationals, an official said on Tuesday.

As many as 49 people were arrested during a raid at a call centre operating out of a resort near Rajodi beach in Mira-Bhayandar on April 9, the official said.

Teams from Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar (MBVV) police are in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu to track down the main accused and his associates, he said. As beach resorts are mostly deserted on weekdays, the police got suspicious when orders were placed by a large group of people for breakfast and tea at the facility, he said.

Accordingly, a team from Karmala police station conducted a raid and arrested 49



persons and found 60 workstations in the premises, the official said.

The call centre had been operational for 20 days. The accused allegedly contacted Australian nationals by posing as employees of an online payment platform and got their bank details and siphoned off money from their accounts, he said.

The police had also received an email from an Australian national, who claimed that he lost 10,500 Australian dollars, he said. Mira Bhayander Police Commissioner Madhukar Pandey told news agency, "We are using advanced tools to take the investigation to its logical conclusion. We have found out that some of the accused are from different parts of the country."



EDITOR'S SPECS

Scientists inch closer to developing antiviral to fight mpox, Covid

Scientists will soon be able to develop antivirals to manage mpox, formerly known as monkeypox as well as Covid. Since May 2022, mpox has spread into more than 100 countries and caused over 86,900 infections across the world. A team from the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry in Prague deciphered the structure of the protein methyltransferase from the monkeypox virus. It is with the help of this protein that the virus escapes human immunity and causes the monkeypox disease. Based on this discovery, they prepared substances that can block the function of methyltransferase. The results of this research, published in Nature Communications, may constitute the first step towards creating a completely new group of antivirals. This applies not only to monkeypox, but also to diseases caused by other viruses, including Covid-19 induced by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the team said. The deadly Covid virus has infected over 763 million and claimed more than 6.9 million lives globally. Scientists from IOCB have for many years been studying viruses that cause serious diseases. In the past, they focused on the Zika virus from the flavivirus group or the SARS-CoV-2 virus from the coronavirus group. Like other viruses, the monkeypox virus multiplies in a host cell. For it to defend itself against external attack, it needs to recognise which RNA molecules are its own and which are not. The symptoms of monkeypox resemble those of smallpox, a disease that has already been eradicated. Until recently, the virus causing it was found only in Central and Western Africa. Its natural reservoirs reside in rodents and primates. In humans it can cause a disease with an estimated mortality rate of three to six per cent. While this is less than in the case of smallpox, it is much higher than, for example, with Covid-19.

JOCKEYING FOR CM'S POST BEGINS IN BJP, HIGH COMMAND KEEPS UP SUSPENSE

M.K. Ashoka

The BJP high command is maintaining the suspense over the chief minister candidate in Karnataka, if the party is voted to power. Though it is chanting the mantra of collective leadership, hectic lobbying has already started for the top post. Prominent leaders from the Lingayat community have already met and placed a demand before the high command to announce that a candidate from the community would become the CM.

Vokkaliga leader and party national general secretary C.T. Ravi has also expressed his desire to become the CM. Former minister K.S. Eshwarappa has favoured his candidature. However, the high command is maintaining silence over the issue.

BJP insiders said there was always an attempt within the party to extend its base across Karnataka. The decision makers have been trying to limit the dependency of the party on the Lingayat vote bank by extending



the party base to the Vokkaliga and other communities. After ensuring the dethroning of Yediyurappa, the BJP is seriously looking for an alternative leadership, sources said. The BJP wants to get over the "Lingayat party" image. However, since the party is not able to find an alternative leader with mass appeal across the state in other communities and also among Lingayat leaders, the party is treading carefully, sources said.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh had stated that the new government would take shape as per the wishes of Yediyurappa. At the time of the filing of nomination of Chief Minister

Basavaraj Bommai, BJP national president J.P. Nadda stated that the voters are not electing a MLA here. He maintained that CM Bommai would get another opportunity for five years.

Former minister Eshwarappa stated that C.T. Ravi is a good leader. He is doing very good work in Chikkamagaluru. I did not say anything about him being the next CM. I have no authority to make such a statement. As Ravi hails from the influential Vokkaliga community, he has all the qualities to become the CM, he added.

Eshwarappa had also said at a party meeting that he hoped C.T. Ravi would be elected MLA by a huge margin and become the CM. Ravi had expressed his wish to become CM in Mysuru. Senior journalist C. Rudrappa told IANS that there are good chances of a dark horse as the CM candidate if the BJP wins.

Minister for Power, Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar, a staunch follower of Hindutva ideology and hailing from a backward community and prominent Vokkaliga face C.T. Ravi could be the party's choice. Prime Minister Narendra Modi talking to

former minister K.S. Eshwarappa to pacify him is an unprecedented development. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje has earned the confidence of the high command after fulfilling the tasks given to her in the Uttar Pradesh elections. Any of them could emerge as the CM candidate in the place of a Lingayat face, Rudrappa claimed.

However, party sources maintained that the experiment is too risky as it might seriously damage the Lingayat vote bank, which served the saffron party as its core strength to expand its base. The Vokkaliga vote bank is firmly with the JD (S) and the Congress is projecting D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, as one of its CM candidates. The Lingayat vote bank once standing with the Congress moved on and is presently with the BJP and the party is taking a chance, the sources said. However, the policymakers are confident that they could reach out to all sections with the Hindutva ideology and the Modi wave and begin a new chapter in states like Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

NITISH'S CLEAN IMAGE MAKES HIM BEST CHOICE TO LEAD OPPN UNITY EFFORTS

Ajay Kumar

The 2024 Lok Sabha election is crucial for the opposition parties of the country. While it is a fact that fighting against Narendra Modi will not be easy, the opposition seems to have found a leader in Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is having similar capacity -- clean image and big administrative experience.

At present, the BJP has a predictable modus operandi to selectively target opposition leaders involved in corruption cases. Be it Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav, Hemant Soren, Abhishek Banerjee, Ajit Pawar, Arvind Kejriwal, Abhay Chautala or Rahul Gandhi -- all are under the scanner of central probe agencies.

Amid this, Nitish Kumar is the only leader who is not under the lens of the central agencies. Nitish Kumar belongs to the Other Backward Class (OBC). He is Kurmi by caste and is the undisputed leader of Luv (Kurmi)-Kush (Kushwaha or Koiri) in Bihar. On the caste front, Nitish Kumar is an ideal leader to challenge Narendra Modi.

Recently, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) launched a campaign against PM Modi, challenging his educational qualifications, that was spearheaded by the party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Nitish Kumar, on the other hand, has impressive educational qualifications. He is a civil engineer from the prestigious Engineering College Patna, which is now having the status of National Institute of Technology (NIT).

Why is Nitish Kumar getting support from the opposition leaders?

During the Assembly elections in Bihar in 2020, the NDA contested with Nitish Kumar as its face. However, Nitish Kumar's JD(U) could manage only 43 seats.

Nitish Kumar and other leaders of his party strongly felt that the BJP had backstabbed them by joining hands with Chirag Paswan to cut the votes of the JD-U candidates.

The trigger point of separation between the NDA and JD-U was the statement by J.P. Nadda on July 31, 2022 in Patna, where he had said that the BJP will demolish all regional parties of the country.

Soon after in August, Nitish Kumar broke

the alliance with the NDA. After the formation of the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar, Nitish Kumar went to Delhi and met with opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal, Sitaram Yechuri, Akhilesh Yadav, D. Raja and others. Ahead of next year's Lok Sabha polls, the Narendra Modi-led government is focusing on the policy of zero tolerance against corruption, apart from the saffron leaders pointing at Yogi Adityanath's model of crime control. Nitish Kumar knows his positives and so do the opposition parties. This is the reason why his acceptance among them is high.

The Congress garnered great support during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, but soon after Rahul Gandhi was convicted in a criminal defamation case pertaining to the Modi surname by a Surat court, which led to the disqualification of his Lok Sabha membership.

Against this backdrop, Nitish Kumar seems to have emerged as the one leader who could stand in front of the BJP, because the saffron camp cannot target him in corruption cases, nor for his caste or educational qualification.

The opposition leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, Akhilesh Yadav, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, have openly said that Nitish Kumar is doing a good work by uniting the opposition parties.

Meanwhile, the BJP leaders in Bihar are targeting Nitish Kumar for 'sitting' on the lap of Lalu Prasad, though they are not yet clear when it comes to targeting the Chief Minister directly. State BJP President Samrat Chaudhary's recent statement that "Nitish Kumar Ko Rajniti Rup Se Mitti Me Mila Denge" was an indication of how desperate the BJP is now. "The way BJP is selectively targeting the leaders of the opposition parties through central agencies shows how desperate they are to win the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But they do not know how to deal with Nitish Kumar who has a clean image.

However, Nikhil Anand, national General Secretary of BJP's OBC wing, has a different take on Nitish Kumar and his motto of uniting the opposition.

international

IMRAN CLAIMS THIRD ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HATCHED AGAINST HIM

Lahore | Agencies

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan informed the Lahore High Court on Tuesday that a "third assassination attempt" has been hatched against him, as per media reports.

During the proceedings, the PTI chief took to the rostrum and informed the court that he had earlier revealed that there will be an assassination attempt on him and everyone saw what happened in Wazirabad, The Express Tribune reported.

He claimed that a second attack was to be carried out against him in the Islamabad judicial complex, but luckily he remained safe.

He brought to the notice of the court that a fresh assassination plan has been hatched against him.

Khan claimed that while he wanted to appear before the courts, he was not provided adequate security nor was he



allowed to appear by police officials -- referring to the riots outside Islamabad's Judicial Complex during an earlier court appearance, The Express Tribune reported.

He also alleged that a top intelligence officer was "behind the whole game", the report said.

Khan had filed a plea seeking direction to the quarters concerned to declare that the "unprecedented, repeated abuse and misuse of criminal law machinery of the state" to register criminal cases against him amounts to a violation of Section 154 of the CrPC 1898, "causing grave unlawful and illegal violation of the petitioner's fundamental rights under several articles of the Constitution of Pakistan".

The former premier appeared before the high court's larger bench headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi. The court directed Khan to join the investigation in the cases registered against him after deliberating with concerned quarters to decide whether he would appear before the investigating team or if the team would visit his Zaman Park residence.

The high court also rejected Khan's plea for interim relief and refused to restrain the authorities from registering new FIRs against him, The Express Tribune reported.

Israeli missiles hit airport, military sites in Syria

Damascus | Agencies

Israeli missiles hit the international airport and several military sites in the Syrian province of Aleppo, killing one soldier and injuring seven others, the army said in a statement on Tuesday.

The attack was carried out just before midnight, hitting the airport and a number of military positions in the countryside of Aleppo, it said, adding that two civilians were among the wounded, reports Xinhua news agency.

The international airport of Aleppo as well as that of the capital Damascus had been attacked earlier by Israel and went out of service for days.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported a number of explosions in the area of the Aleppo international airport and the al-Nayrab air base.

The Britain-based watchdog stopped short of giving more details but said the attack is the 16th of its kind since the beginning of 2023.

In March, Israel struck Aleppo's airport on two different occasions and put it out of commission for several days.

UK hit by fresh round of strikes by health workers

London | Agencies

Health workers in the UK staged fresh walkouts over pay and conditions, after unions rejected the government's pay offer last month.

Members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) began the strike at 8 p.m. on Sunday, which continue until Monday midnight, reports Xinhua news agency.

It is the third round of strikes by RCN nurses this year, amid the UK's raging cost-of-living crisis.

However, this is the first strike with no national derogations, meaning that "nursing staff working in emergency departments, intensive care units, cancer care and other services that were previously exempt", are taking part, according to the RCN.

Nevertheless, the RCN agreed on Sunday to accept some exemptions, to maintain essential services in the National Health Service (NHS). The strike action was originally



planned to last until Tuesday evening, but under a High Court decision it was cut short by one day.

Ambulance workers also went on strike in areas including London, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Birmingham, represented by the trade union Unite.

In mid-March, the UK government offered health workers a 5 per cent pay rise for 2023-24, and a one-off bonus to top up last year's salary.

However, both RCN and Unite members voted to reject the offer in April, and decided to continue their industrial action. Such applications beginning in September were supposed to be the first step toward households returning to the disaster-hit area permanently.

Dust storm in US kills 6 after dozens of vehicles crash

Chicago | Agencies

At least six people were killed and more than 30 others injured in a dust storm that caused dozens of vehicles to crash along a major highway in the US state of Illinois, police said.

State police troopers responded to numerous crashes at about 11 a.m. on Monday on both directions of I-55 in Montgomery County, south of state capital Springfield, Xinhua news agency quoted the police as saying.

About 20 commercial motor vehicles and 40 to 60 passenger cars were involved in the crashes, including two tractor-trailers that caught fire.

The crashes were caused by "excessive winds blowing dirt from farm fields across the highway leading to zero visibility", the police said.

I-55 is currently shut down in both directions as officials investigate and clear vehicles.

Illinois State Police Maj. Ryan Starrick said that the injured persons ranged in age from two to 80 years old.



Thirty patients were taken to Hospital Sisters Health System hospitals, a spokesperson told CNN on Monday evening.

Another four people were taken to Springfield Memorial Hospital.

Kevin Schott, the director of Montgomery County's Emergency Management Agency, said first responders had a difficult time responding to the scene due to the thick dust, noting everyone's "eyes are full of it".

"This is a difficult scene, something that is very hard to train for, something that we really haven't experienced locally," he said.

Over 20,000 Russian troops killed in Ukraine war since Dec 2022: US

Washington | Agencies

US National Security Council (NSC) spokesman John Kirby said that Russia has suffered more than 100,000 casualties in its ongoing war against Ukraine, including over 20,000 killed in action, since December 2022.

Kirby made the remarks during a press briefing on Monday and added that 80,000 troops have also been injured, the BBC reported.

"Russia's attempt at an offensive in the Donbas (region) largely through Bakhmut has failed," Kirby told reporters.

"Russia has been unable to seize any real strategic and significant territory. We estimate that Russia has suffered more than 100,000 casualties, including over 20,000 killed in action," he added.

"The bottom line is that Russia's



attempted offensive has backfired after months of fighting and extraordinary losses."

The NSC spokesman added he was

not giving estimates of Ukrainian casualties because "they are the victims here. Russia is the aggressor".

Russia however, has not responded to Kirby's estimates.

Moscow has been trying to seize Bakhmut since late last year, reports the BBC.

It currently holds most of the small city, but Ukrainian troops are still control a small portion of Bakhmut in the west.

Ukrainian officials have also said they are using the battle to kill as many of Russia's troops as possible and wear down its reserves.

The capture of the city would bring Russia slightly closer to its goal of controlling the whole of Donetsk region, one of four regions in eastern and southern Ukraine annexed by Moscow last September following sham referendums.



THE GAME OF DEFECTIONS IS GOING TO INCREASE IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, once again the possibilities of party change game have started increasing.

In Madhya Pradesh's neighboring state of Chhattisgarh, ever since Nandkumar Sai left the BJP and joined the Congress, the discussions about possible leaders of change of party in the state are in full swing.

Former Chief Minister of the state and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh is currently on a tour of different parts of the state. He is not only persuading the dissidents of the party, but during this time he is also contacting those leaders of BJP who are dissatisfied



and are ready to leave the party. Former minister Deepak Joshi is the biggest name in discussions these days among the leaders preparing to leave the BJP.

On the one hand, while the Congress is trying to make a dent in the BJP by dissuading the dissidents, on the other hand, the BJP is also trying to persuade its leaders. Recently, Jayant Malaiya, son

of former minister Jayant Malaiya, who has connections with Damoh, has been re-inducted into the party, while now the party is trying to pacify other dissidents as well.

Political analysts believe that the assembly elections to be held this year are important for both the political parties.

This is the reason why they are preparing to try every trick to win the election. If the dissidents of the other party can be a winning formula for them, then they will not hesitate to give tickets to new people even after defection.

Businessman looted at gunpoint, 3 students among 4 arrested

Team Absolute | Chhatrapur

Four persons, including three polytechnic students, were arrested for looting cash and jewellery worth over Rs 1 crore from the house of a local businessman in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district, a police official said on Monday.

The police have recovered the Rs 36 lakhs looted cash and jewellery worth around Rs 65 lakh.

The incident occurred at businessman Om Prakash Purohit's (47) house in Nowgong district around 9 pm on Sunday.

Soon after the incident, Purohit reached Nowgong police station and lodged a complaint. "On Sunday night, when the daughter of the complainant went to shut the door of the house after having dinner, the accused pushed her and four of them entered inside the house. They took Purohit, his wife and his daughter hostage, tied their hands with tape and locked them in a room," said Director General of Police (DIG), Chhatrapur Range, Lalit Shakyawar. The accused obtained the locker key at gunpoint and escaped with



Purohit's bike with the loot, he said, adding that the accused learned to tie hands with the help of tape from YouTube.

On getting the information about the incident, Chhatrapur Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Sanghi reached the spot, formed a team and started investigation into the matter, the officer said. hakyawar said four people were arrested in the matter so far and the looted valuables were recovered from them. Another accused is still on the run and a search is on to arrest him, he added.

FOUR CRUSHED DEATH AFTER CRANE RUNS OVER TWO-WHEELERS IN INDORE

Bhopal: At least four people died after a crane lost control on a busy road in Indore and ran over two bikes on Tuesday evening. An injured person has been rushed to the hospital where his condition is stated to be critical, officials said.

The tragic incident occurred in Badhganga area when a crane lost control and crushed the commuters travelling on two motorcycles. Indore SDM Ajay Dev said, "Four people were dead and one person was injured in the incident. Preliminary inquiry suggests that the driver lost control of the crane, which resulted in the accident. However, the police are trying to ascertain the exact cause of the mishap."

Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings with beloved daughters on Ladli Lakshmi Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with his daughters planted mango saplings at Ladli Vatika near Tatyia Tope Stadium on Ladli Lakshmi Day. Ladli Laxmi Zeinab, Naina, Khushi, Nandini, Priyanka, Renuka, Mehak, Simran, Vaishali, Priya, Anushka and Riya also planted saplings along with Chief Minister. Chouhan also discussed Ladli Laxmi



Yojana with the girls. Zainab explained about the incentives being given to the daughters under the scheme and the help they are getting to continue their school

Will Scindia's supporters increase BJP's trouble?

Before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the apprehension of the leaders leaving the Congress along with Jyotiraditya Scindia for the Bharatiya Janata Party has already started troubling.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

This is because the old BJP leaders are staking their claim from the places where Scindia supporters were defeated or won in the by-elections.

The assembly elections are going to be held in the state this year, the BJP is moving ahead in haste regarding these elections and it is not ready to anger its workers under any circumstances.

The BJP had lagged behind in the 2018 assembly elections in the state and the Congress had gained power, but the Kamal Nath-led government fell after Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 of his supporters left the Congress. In the by-election, the party fielded all 22 Scindia supporters, but seven of them had to face defeat. Now all these seven leaders are staking claim, while 15 other MLAs are also going to contest. In all these 22 seats old BJP leaders are already staking their claim as all of them had to switch parties in 2018 assembly elections. Had to face defeat at the hands of the MLAs.

Former minister Deepak Joshi, son of BJP's strong leader and former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi, is aggressive and is preparing to revolt. Joshi was an MLA from Dewas district and was defeated by Manoj Patel, but Patel, a defector, was given a ticket by the BJP in the by-election and is currently a BJP MLA. There are many other leaders like this who are in a rebellious mood along



with staking their claim. The BJP is aware of these conditions and is making every possible effort to pacify Rutho. Senior and responsible leaders are continuously continuing the process of communication and contact with their old workers and leaders, as well as leaving no stone unturned to persuade them. It will be clear in the coming days how successful the BJP is in persuading its angry and disgruntled people.

ONE LAKH 6 THOUSAND 870 VOTERS INCREASED IN THE STATE IN 3 MONTHS

Bhopal: One lakh 6 thousand 870 voters have increased in the state in three months. The voter list also includes 38 thousand 235 new voters, who have completed 18 years of age on the qualifying date of January 1, 2023 to April 1, and had applied in advance to add their names to the voter list. Voters whose names have been added to the list can check their names on mobile by downloading the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Madhya Pradesh website and the Voter Helpline app. Those citizens whose names were not included in the voter list got their names added online and offline.

The number of voters in the state has now increased to 5 crore 40 lakh 94 thousand 746. Earlier, according to the voter list published on January 5, 2023, there were 5 crore 39 lakh 87 thousand 876 voters in the state. The number of voters has increased by one lakh 6 thousand 870 in three months.

The number of male voters in the state is 2 crore 80 lakh 10 thousand 110, while the number of female voters is 2 crore 60 lakh 83 thousand 368. And there are 4 lakh 82 thousand 148 voters with disabilities and 1268 third gender voters.

INDORE'S KANH AND SARASWATI RIVER WILL BE RENOVATED WITH 511 CRORES

Bhopal: Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that Rs. 511 crore 15 lakh has been sanctioned for the renovation of Kanh and Saraswati rivers of Indore under the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

With the amount sanctioned by the Government of India, a 120 MLD sewage treatment plant will be constructed in place of the old 78 and 12 MLD at Kabitkheri in Indore, 35 MLD near Lakshmi Bai statue and 40 MLD sewage treatment plant in Kanadia area. Along with this, three main pumping stations, treated water reuse network, online monitoring system will also be prepared. Operation and maintenance will also be arranged for the next 15 years.

Deepak Joshi is BJP's Sr leader, we are with him: Narottam Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day after senior BJP leader and former Minister Deepak Joshi made it clear that he was ending his association with the saffron party and would shift to the Congress soon, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the party was with him.

On Tuesday, responding on the issue, Narottam Mishra, who has been given the task to convince rebels to remain in the party ahead of the elections, said, "Deepak Joshi has been my cabinet colleague. He is a very able leader. He is a senior party leader and we all are with him."

Mishra said he has learned politics from Joshi's father late Kailash Chandra Joshi, who served as the Chief Minister (1977-1978) of Madhya Pradesh. After the former CM died in 2019, his son Deepak Joshi was elected as an MLA from Bagli (2003), the constituency his father represented for years.

Later, Bagli seat was reserved for Scheduled Caste (ST) and Joshi contested three elections from neighbouring Assembly constituency, Hatpilpala and won twice in 2008 and 2013. Joshi lost the Assembly election 2018 and



since then he was sidelined from the party, as he claimed.

Sources said after Joshi had made his decision to shift to the Congress, a section of senior BJP leaders were planning to reach out to him soon. Sources also said the BJP leaders would try to convince him to change his mind and to remain with the party.

If the BJP leader, a three-time MLA Deepak Joshi joins the Congress, it would be seen as a major setback to the ruling outfit in the state, where Assembly polls are due by the year-end.

State government will pay the fees of Ladli Lakshmi daughters in educational institutions: Chief Minister Chouhan

The Chief Minister gave the tagline of "Haan Main Bhi Ladli Hoon" to Ladli Laxmi daughters. A special campaign will be run in the state from May 9 to 15 for Ladli Laxmi daughters. Ladli Laxmi Day became a celebration of daughters' smiles. Ladli Lakshmi festival celebrated for dialogue.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave the tagline "Haan Main Bhi Ladli Hoon" to the Ladli Laxmi daughters of the state and said that the Ladli Lakshmi daughters should get admission in medical, IIT, IIM, law institutes and other prestigious educational institutions. But their fees will be paid by the state government. For Ladli Lakshmi daughters, a special campaign will be launched in the city and panchayats in the state from May 9 to 15. In this, sports competitions on May 9, prize distribution to Ladli Laxmi friendly panchayats on May 10, program on financial and digital literacy on May 11, health check-up, dance and song competition on May 12, visit to government offices including



police station on May 13, On May 14 there will be a campaign for e-KYC and a painting competition and on May 15 there will be a program to visit regional tourist places and other places of interest.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Ladli Laxmi Yojana is completing 16 years. In the state, more than 44 lakh 85 thousand Lakshmi ladies have become a family, this is a big achievement for the state. Society's attitude towards daughters has changed. Girls are showing their talent in all fields. The Ladli Lakshmi Yojana was started 16 years ago with the

aim that there should be no second-rate treatment towards daughters, sons and daughters should be considered equal. The Chief Minister said that there used to be a lot of pain and anguish in the society and families considering the daughter as a burden. Chief Minister Chouhan said that several schemes have been started for the education of girls, their better health and training for self-reliance etc. Gone. The Chief Minister started the Kanya Vivah Yojana so that the daughter's marriage should not be considered a burden. The positive effect of all these efforts is visible in the state. 956 daughters are being born in the state for one thousand sons. This improvement in sex ratio is a reflection of the changed outlook of the society and it is a big achievement for the state government.

CHIEF MINISTER CONGRATULATED BHOPAL DISTRICT FOR GETTING FIVE STAR RATING

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated and congratulated Bhopal district for getting five star rating in the ODF+ model category at the national level under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. Chief Minister Chouhan tweeted that "Bhopal, the capital of the cleanest state of the country, has set another new record in cleanliness. He has congratulated and congratulated the citizens, sanitation workers and district administration team of Bhopal district for this record."

Office of Municipal Council Biaora District Rajgarh (MP) D.NO 196/2023 Biaora, Date 29.04.2023

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Notice Inviting e-Tenders Online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited from registered Contractors and firms of registered Contractors and firms of reputed fulfilling registration criteria. The following works and same will be received online at http://www.mptenders.gov.in. as per key dates.

Table with 6 columns: Tender No., Name of work, Probable Amount (In Rs), EMD Amount (In RS), Cost of Bid Document, Period of Completion (In Months). Row 1: 2023_UAD_272399_1, Selection of Contractor for the Work of Legacy Waste Dumpsite Remediation through Bioremediation, Biomining and disposal of Residual waste in Nagar Palika Parishad, Biaora, Dist-Rajgarh.

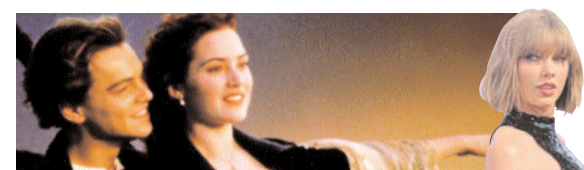
Table with 4 columns: Event, Date, Time, Web-Link/Venue. Row 1: Start of Bid Download, 01.05.2023, 10:00 AM, www.mptenders.gov.in. Row 2: Pre-Bid Meeting, 15.05.2023, 12:00 pm, Online, Meet web Link- Pre bid Meeting-Biaora, Wednesday, 3 May 12:00-1:00 Pm.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266 Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodunor Road, Thane -400607 (MH)

DEMAND NOTICE (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s.13 (2) of SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules).

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No., NPA Date, Date of Demand Notice, Amount due as per Demand Notice as on Date. Row 1: 1. BULI BAI NAGAR (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Lalit Kumar Nagar) Plot No. E-18, South Shanti Nagar, Gram-Mhowgaoan, Tehsil-Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001 2. BULI BAI NAGAR (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Lalit Kumar Nagar) Plot No. E-18, South Shanti Nagar, Gram-Mhowgaoan, Tehsil-Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001 3. BULI BAI NAGAR (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Lalit Kumar Nagar) 129, Gram-Chidlawaniya, Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh-465587 4. BULI BAI NAGAR (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Lalit Kumar Nagar) H.No. 55, Dhanad Sec-01, Ward No. 02, Pithampur, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454775 5. 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Met Gala 2023

Kendall Jenner
bares butt, Lil Nas X only wears thong

New York | Agencies

Supermodel Kendall Jenner opted for a daring look for the 2023 Met Gala as she bared her derriere while attending the biggest fashion event of the year in New York City. The 27-year-old beauty graced the red carpet at the Met museum in a black sequined bodysuit with floor-length sleeves and sparkly silver collar from Marc Jacobs. Kendall completed her sparkly look with black platform boots as she wore her hair in a sleek ponytail, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In addition to Kendall, rapper Lil Nas X brought sultry fashion to this year's Met Gala, which theme was 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty'. The Grammy-winning musician strutted his stuff as he wore nothing but a metallic thong and platform booties. The 'Industry Baby' hitmaker was covered in silver body paint and sparkly rhinestones all over his body and face. Over his thong, the 'Old Town Road' rapper donned a belt made out of pearls. Lil Nas X wasn't a stranger to taking a Met Gala theme to another level. Back in 2021, he wore a three-part Atelier Versace outfit that required him to strip down on the red carpet at the event. He first appeared on the steps engulfed in a dramatic regal cape. The artist later shed the outerwear to reveal a glistening golden suit of armor. Not stopping there, Lil Nas X wore a clingy bodysuit completely bedazzled with sparkling gold sequins underneath the armor.



Kim Kardashian working with acting coach to prep for 'American Horror Story' role

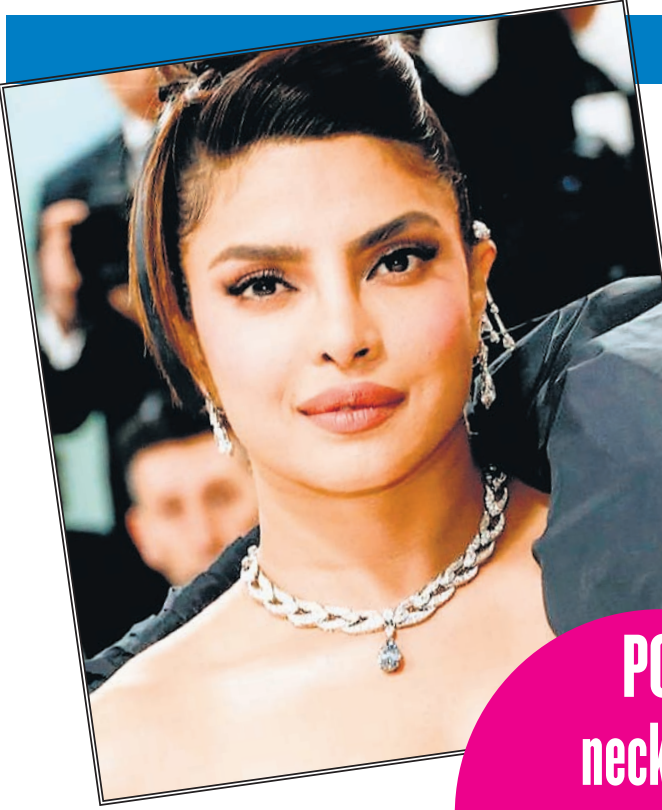
Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who was seen walking the Met Gala carpet in a bold pearl ensemble, talked about her upcoming role in 'American Horror Story: Delicate'. "We start shooting my stuff at the end of this month. But production has already started and I'm so excited," Kardashian said, reports 'Variety'.

Although she couldn't tease much about the role, she did say, "It's really fun to step outside of your comfort zone and try something new and grow. I'm so excited for the experience." Asked if she was taking acting lessons to prepare, she said, "I am, of course. It's a challenge. I like to challenge myself." 'Delicate' is the twelfth season of the anthology show, which also stars Emma Roberts, Matt Czuchy, Cara Delevingne, Annabelle Dexter-Jones, MJ Rodriguez and Odessa A'zian.

It's based on the upcoming novel 'Delicate Condition' by Danielle Valentine, and is said to be a scary tale in the vein of 'Rosemary's Baby'.

Outside of her extensive work in reality television, Kardashian has also acted for scripted fare such as 2008's 'Disaster Movie', 2013's 'Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor' and 2021's 'PAW Patrol: The Movie'.



PC's necklace values as much as an IPL team

New York | Agencies

Actress Priyanka Chopra, who walked the Met Gala carpet with her husband Nick Jonas, sported a diamond necklace worth Rs 204 crore. The 11.6 carat diamond statement piece from Bulgari has a Laguna Blu diamond - the largest in Bulgari - perfectly complementing her sexy black gown with thigh-high slit from fashion designer, Valentino. Priyanka and Nick Jonas opted for the colour black for their appearance. The theme was 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty', and the dress code was in honour of the late fashion designer, who was the creative mind behind Chanel from 1983 till his death in 2019. The statement piece is said to go to auction at Sotheby's Luxury Week in Geneva on May 12. On the work front, Priyanka has been garnering a lot of accolades for her recently released streaming series 'Citadel' in which she stars opposite Richard Madden.



Alia Bhatt makes debut in floor-sweeping 'Made in India' white gown

New York: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt made her debut at MET Gala 2023 in a white gown made with 100,000 pearls by Prabal Gurung. She said that she wanted to wear something that is 'Made in India'. Alia took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of pictures from the gala. The 2023 Met Gala is taking place on May 1 in New York City. It celebrates the opening of the Costume Institute exhibition, 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty'.

Alongside the pictures, Alia captioned: "Met Gala - Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty'. I have always been fascinated by the iconic Chanel brides. Season after season, the genius of Karl Lagerfeld shone through in the most innovative and awe-inspiring couture." "My look tonight was inspired from this and in particular by supermodel Claudia Schiffer's 1992 Chanel bridal look," she posted.



Jared Leto, Doja Cat unleash inner feline

New York: Hollywood star Jared Leto, who is known for 'Requiem for a Dream', recently stunned everyone at Met Gala when he donned a cat outfit.

The theme for this year's Met Gala is fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld. For the occasion, Jared slipped into an outfit which resembled Lagerfeld's cat, Choupette.

Dressed as the unofficial mascot of the event, Choupette, with white fuzzy paws and a massive cat head, Leto appeared to have Choupette's striking blue eyes. He removed the costume head to reveal himself after interacting with the media in the French language. He later swapped the literal catsuit for a monochromatic look with a studded cape.

American rapper Doja Cat too drew inspiration from Choupette as she wore a silver hooded Oscar de la Renta gown 'rounded up with cat ears' along with feline facial prosthetics. She even meowed during her interviews at the Met Gala carpet.

Choupette was expected by many to attend this year's event given how important she was to Lagerfeld, who died in 2019.

Hugh Grant feels negative character are more fun, delicious

Los Angeles | Agencies

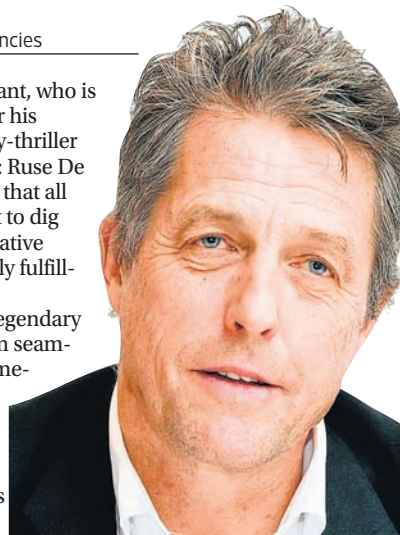
Actor Hugh Grant, who is gearing up for his upcoming spy-thriller 'Operation Fortune: Ruse De Guerre', has shared that all actors secretly want to dig their claws into negative parts as it's creatively fulfilling for them.

Directed by the legendary Guy Ritchie, the film seamlessly integrates comedy into its riveting storyline. It follows the story of the character Orsen Fortune, who learns about a deadly weapons deal by a billionaire arms broker, he puts together his best team of operatives to track it down.

Talking about his character, Hugh Grant said, "He's motivated by money. Greg Simmonds loves money! But he's also one of those billionaires who has come to regard himself as a good man, even though he sells arms all over the world. He even has a charity for war orphans, in a delicious irony."

He further mentioned, "Greg thinks he has values, and he loves life, people, and his team. I think it's important to enjoy the character you're playing, and I quite enjoyed being Greg. Almost every actor prefers being a bad guy. They're more fun, and more delicious."

The film, which also stars Aubrey Plaza, Jason Statham and Buzzy Malone, will drop on Lionsgate Play in India on May 5.



'Super Mario Bros. Movie' leaked on Twitter, gets reportedly over nine million views

Seoul | Agencies

Animated film 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' was leaked online on Twitter and remained on the platform for several days before it was removed.

According to The Verge, a Twitter user uploaded the full movie to the micro-blogging site on Friday, April

28, openly violating copyright laws. Over nine million people illegally watched the movie before it was removed, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The user was also suspended from Twitter for violating the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

While this isn't the first case of an entire movie being leaked online, the latest case brought more attention to Twitter, which amended laws

that have been blamed for enabling such copyright infringement.

According to aceshowbiz.com, since Elon Musk took over the company under a \$44 billion acquisition in October 2022, he increased the length of videos users can post to the platform.

Twitter Blue subscribers can upload videos up to 60 minutes long.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gigi Hadid





IPL 2023

DELHI CAPITALS BEAT GUJARAT TITANS BY 5 RUNS

Ahmedabad: Skipper Hardik Pandya's unbeaten fifty (59 not out) and Mohammed Shami's four-fer (4-11) went in vain as Delhi Capitals beat Gujarat Titans by five runs in Match No. 44 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 at Narendra Modi Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Seasoned pacer Shami's sensational four-fer helped Gujarat Titans restrict Delhi Capitals to 130/8 in 20 overs despite a fighting fifty from Aman Hakim Khan (51 off 44). Apart from Shami, Mohit Sharma (2-33) and Rashid Khan (1-28) were the other wicket-takers for Titans while Axar Patel (27 off 30) and Rival Patel (23 off 13) were the other main contributors with the bat after Aman. Chasing a small total, Delhi



Capitals also had a poor start as they lost three wickets inside the Power-play and scored just 31 runs. It was Khaleel Ahmed, who drew first blood for Delhi Capitals by getting Wriddhiman Saha caught behind for a duck in the last delivery of the very first over of the innings.

Skipper Hardik Pandya walked into the middle to give company to Shubman Gill, who started well by hitting a boundary off Ishant Sharma. However, Anrich Nortje was introduced in the attack soon and he dismissed Gill, who timed the ball straight to the cover fielder.

Vijay Shankar has been in good form this season and Gujarat had high hopes from him but Ishant bowled a brilliant knuckleball to get rid of the Tamil Nadu batter, leaving Titans in a precarious position at 26-3 after 4.6 overs.

Defending champions Gujarat needed a partnership to rebuild their innings but failed.

Brief scores:

Delhi Capitals 130/8 in 20 overs (Aman Hakim Khan 51, Axar Patel 27; Md Shami 4-11, Mohit Sharma 2-33) beat Gujarat Titans 125-6 in 20 overs (Hardik Pandya 59 not out, Abhinav Manohar 26; Ishant Sharma 2-23, Khaleel Ahmed 2-24) by 5 runs.

IPL 2023: Gambhir, Kohli fined 100% match fees after verbal spat

Lucknow | Agencies

Virat Kohli, Gautam Gambhir and Naveen-ul-Haq were involved in a verbal spat after Monday's match here, after which they were fined.

"Lucknow Super Giants' Mentor Gautam Gambhir has been fined 100 per cent of his match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 match against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow.

"Gambhir admitted to the Level 2 offence under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct," IPL said in a statement.

Royal Challengers Bangalore batter Virat Kohli



has been fined 100 per cent of his match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct. Kohli admitted to the Level 2 offence under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct, the statement read.

Bowler Naveen-ul-Haq has been fined 50 per cent of his match fees. Naveen-ul-Haq admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.21 of the IPL Code of Conduct," it added.

Indian Women's League (IWL) 2023

East Bengal pick up pace with consecutive wins

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Mamata Singh and Rimpa Haldar scored a goal each as first-timers East Bengal downed Mata Rukmani FC 2-0 in a Group A match of the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2023 at the TransStadia here on Tuesday.

This was the Kolkata team's second consecutive victory in three matches after losing the opening encounter against Gokulam Kerala FC.

Though the Red and Gold Brigade proved to be the better side in most parts of the match, the team from Chhattisgarh had a good opportunity to have a breakthrough in the 10th minute.

East Bengal took charge of the game thereafter and the



IWL debutants finally capitalised on an opportunity in the 25th minute from a corner. Mamata Singh's cross was headed in by forward Mousumi Murmu as East Bengal took a 1-0 lead.

In the 71st minute, Laxmi Podiyami of Mata Rukmani

managed to thwart Rimpa Haldar from a scoring position, but Haldar, however, found success two minutes later when she beat the goalkeeper and slotted home to make it 2-0. The midfielder was later awarded the Player of the Match.

BELGIAN BRECEL CROWNED SNOOKER WORLD CHAMPION

London: Belgium's Luca Brecel claimed the Snooker World Championship title after defeating four-time champion Mark Selby 18-15 in Sheffield.

Brecel, 28, had never won a match at the Crucible Theatre before this year's tournament but shocked seven-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan 13-10 in the quarterfinals, winning the last seven frames consecutively, reports Xinhua.

After coming from behind to defeat Chinese rookie Si Jiahui in the semifinals, Brecel established a final showdown with Selby and managed to hold a 9-8 overnight lead, even though his 39-year-old opponent made the first-ever 147 in a World Championship final last night.

The world No. 10 then claimed the first four frames on Monday, extending his advantage to 13-8. Selby fought back from 16-10 down to 16-15 in the last session, but Brecel secured the final two frames to become the fourth non-British winner at the season finale of the World Snooker Tour.



India overtake Australia to become No. 1 Test side ahead of WTC final

Dubai | Agencies

India pipped Australia to become the No.1 team in Men's Test Rankings following the annual update, that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020, released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday.

Australia's reign at the top of the Men's Test Rankings comes to an end after 15 months with India going past the Aussies ahead of next month's ICC World Test Championship Final.

India currently sits at the top of the ladder with 121 points, with Australia in the second spot with 116 points. Prior to the annual rankings update, Australia were at the top with 122 points with India trailing them by three points (119). England remain in third position but the gap between them and the second placed side is reduced from 13 to



two rating points owing to some consistent performances in recent months as well as reduced weightage of their 4-0 Ashes defeat and a 1-0 defeat in the West Indies. The annual rankings consider all series completed since May 2020, with series completed before May 2022 weighted at 50 percent and all subsequent

series weighted at 100 percent, according to the ICC release. India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as their 2-0 defeat to New Zealand in March 2020 no longer figures in the rankings, which assesses series completed prior to May 2022 at 50 per cent and subsequent series at 100 per cent.

Madrid Open

SABALENKA SURVIVES SCARE FROM SHERIF TO REACH SEMIS

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

The No.2 seed Aryna Sabalenka overcame a surging Mayar Sherif 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 in a two-hour-long quarterfinal at the Madrid Open to reach her fifth semifinal in seven tournaments this year, here on Tuesday.

Australian Open champion Sabalenka trailed the unseeded Sherif by a set and a break, but from 2-1 down in the second set reeled off 11 of the next 12 games to improve her 2023 record to 27-4. The 2021 winner in Madrid, this result marks the second time the 24-year-old has made the last four in the Spanish capital.

Sabalenka advanced to her 15th career semifinal at the WTA 1000 level or above, five of which she has converted into titles. Ten of those have been in WTA 1000 tournaments, four at Grand Slams and one at the WTA Finals.



She will next face either No.9 seed Maria Sakkari or No.31 seed Irina-Camelia Begu as she bids to return to the Madrid final.

The No.59-ranked Sherif, the first

Egyptian ever to reach a WTA 1000 quarterfinal, is guaranteed to return to the Top 50 in next Monday's rankings after a career-best run at this level.

KHACHANOV OVERCOMES RUBLEV TO SEAL QUARTERFINAL BERTH

Madrid (Spain): Karen Khachanov kept his cool and beat Andrey Rublev 7-6(8), 6-4 in the fourth-round clash to seal a quarterfinal berth at the Madrid Open, here on Tuesday.

The 10th-seeded Khachanov took control of a closely fought encounter by rallying from 4/6 to claim the first-set tie-break and he carried that momentum to a one-hour, 42-minute victory on Manolo Santana Stadium.

With his Madrid win, Khachanov moved to 19-0 in matches when he won the first set in 2023.

The 26-year-old will take on defending champion Carlos Alcaraz or 13th seed Alexander Zverev next at the clay-court ATP Masters 1000 as he attempts to reach his third tour-level semi-final of the year.

World Boxing C'ship

Ashish advances to pre-quarters; Harsh Choudhary makes exit

Tashkent (Uzbekistan) | Agencies

Tokyo Olympian Ashish Chaudhary came up with an impressive performance to advance into the 80kg pre-quarterfinals of the IBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2023 after recording an emphatic victory here on Tuesday.

Chaudhary secured a hard-fought 4-1 victory against the 2021 Asian Championships silver medalist Meysam Gheslaghi of Iran.

The 28-year-old dynamic pugilist from Himachal Pradesh displayed his attacking intent from the word go by landing powerful jabs to keep his opponent at bay in the first round.

The Indian, who has a



2019 Asian Championships silver medal to his name, utilised his smart movement and supreme technical ability to edge past the Iranian pugilist in the next rounds and eventually sealed the win. Chaudhary will now face a tough challenge from

the two-time Olympic champion Arlen Lopez of Cuba in the Round of 16. Meanwhile, debutant Harsh Choudhary exited the competition after suffering a 0-5 defeat against Billy McAllister of Australia in the 86kg category.

KL Rahul should have come out in middle overs: Tom Moody

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta and former Australia cricketer Tom Moody recently shared their thoughts on KL Rahul's late arrival to bat during the second innings of the match between LSG and RCB, after he sustained a thigh injury in the first innings.

In an exclusive interview with ESPNcricinfo, Dasgupta and Moody shared their differing opinions on when and why Rahul should have come out to bat and whether he would change the outcome of the game.

Deep Dasgupta spoke on when he felt KL Rahul should have come out to bat, after the LSG captain succumbed to a thigh injury during the first innings.

"See, top of the order, you would think, that you're



going to chase it, and your top order looks good. And you weren't even thinking of KL Rahul batting or needing him to bat. But obviously, looking at the last over, 23 off six, you never know, four

sixes, if it comes off. And you would expect that, he's got that ability. But obviously, it was going to be difficult. And anyway he wasn't running, so there was no chance of him getting runs like that," he said.

Meanwhile, former Australia cricketer Tom Moody also gave his opinion on why KL Rahul came in to bat so late in the innings.

"I can't really understand. If he was going to go in, he was supposed to go in during the middle of the game and see if he can hopefully hit you know three or four boundaries. Get a quick 12, 20, whatever it might be and hopefully cause no further damage to his injury. But walking out when he did, I think it was more pride than anything else, you know, he felt as captain he's got pride in his performance and his team."

Woman, grand-daughter among 4 win medals in Int'l Karate Championship in Dubai



Gurugram | Agencies

Four including 59-year-old Geeta Godara and her 13-year-old grand-daughter Aashka Godara won medals in different categories in an International Karate

Championship which was organised in Dubai on Sunday.

The team arrived in India on Tuesday along with referee Shihan Sunil Saini and coach Vikram Tihal.

The championship was attended by 22 countries which

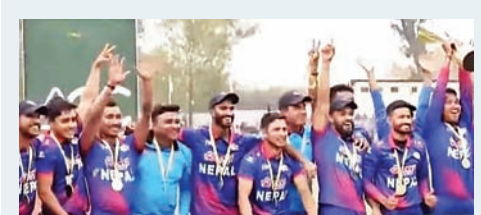
included Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Japan, Indonesia, Russia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, etc. More than 2500 players took part in this international competition.

"For this championship, players were selected from many states of India, namely Haryana, Delhi, Chennai, Karnataka and Rajasthan. About 30 players from India participated in this championship, out of which 4 players from Sai Karate Academy of Gurugram also won one gold medal," Saini said.

Durjoydhr Singh (6) won Gold and Silver Medals in 22 kg weight category, Aashka Godara (13) won Silver and Brown medals in 47 kg weight category; Atman Jain (11) won two brown medals in 40 kg category and Geeta Godara (59) won silver medal in 83 kg category.

All these four players are residents of the Gurugram district. All the winning players thanked their coach for learning the tricks of karate.

NEPAL BEAT UAE IN ACC PREMIER CUP TO QUALIFY FOR ASIA CUP 2023



Kathmandu: Nepal secured the Asia Cup 2023 spot after beating UAE by seven wickets in the ACC Premier Cup final here at Tribhuvan University ground on Tuesday.

After a win over UAE, Nepal will take the last spot in Group A, alongside India and Pakistan, with the Asia Cup slated to take place in September. The top three finishes of Nepal, UAE, and Oman at the Premier Cup mean they will also feature in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup in July, where they will take on 'A' Teams of five Full Members in the region.

Batting first, UAE managed to post 117 on the board. Asif Khan was the top scorer for the side with his 46 off 54 balls including seven boundaries and a maximum. For Nepal, Lalit Rajbanshi was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with figures 4/14 in. Leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane claimed 2/34 at the other end, moving to a 33-ODI match streak of wicket-taking outings.



Salman Khan, SRK to start shooting for upcoming on May 8

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to enter the 'Tiger' franchise through an adrenaline pumping action sequence. SRK and Salman Khan will be on the same set to shoot for 'Tiger 3' on May 8.

A source said: "The two Goliaths in the history of Indian cinema - Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan - are coming together again for Aditya Chopra's Spy Universe and the shoot date to witness them together again is set for May 8th! The energy on the sets of Tiger 3 will be palpable when these two

iconic megastars set foot on the shooting floor."

"They will be doing some insane action sequences in Tiger 3 and this SRK & Salman set-piece was planned for over six months to make it a massive talking point. This is Pathaan's entry in Tiger's timeline so this sequence will be something to watch out for!" the source added.

'Tiger 3' starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif as Zoya & Emraan Hashmi as Tiger's nemesis is set to release this Diwali.



Shehnaaz Gill on life: 'Agar Positivity nahi rakhungi, fir toh main barbaad ho jaungi'

Team

Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, who exudes positivity from every inch despite having gone through so much in life, said: "Agar positivity nahi rakhungi, fir toh main barbaad ho jaungi".

Talking to IANS, she said: "Positivity nahi rakhungi fir toh main barbaad ho jaungi na. Main na bahut emotional type insaan hun. Agar main positive nahi rahi, toh I think main toot sakti hun. (If I will not keep positivity in life, I will be ruined as I am an emotional person)."

"Toh mujhe apne aap ko positive rakhna hi padhta hai. Zaroori hai life main. (So I have to keep myself positive. It is important for life)," she added.

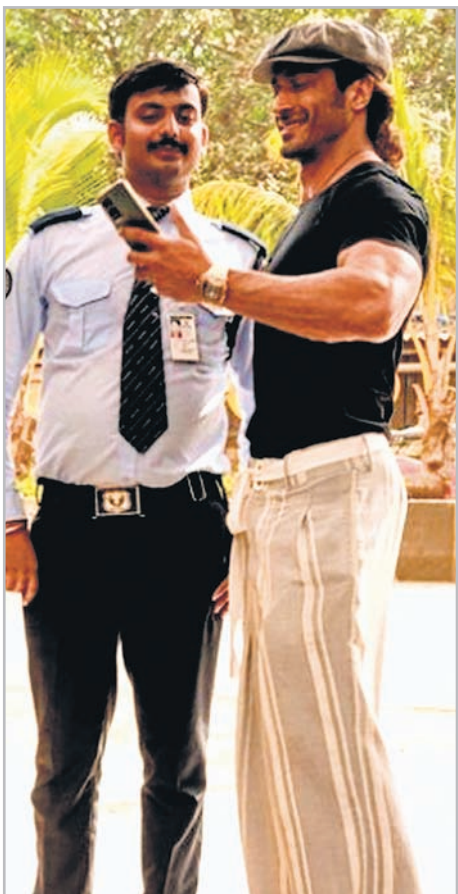
Shehnaaz, who was recently seen in Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', gained the spotlight after her stint in the 13th season of 'Bigg Boss'. Her strong chemistry with late actor Sidharth Shukla was loved by everyone. However, in 2021, he passed away after suffering a heart attack at the age of 40.

On love for her in abundance since her stint in the controversial reality show, she said: "I am enjoying. Till whatever time I have it, I am enjoying it."

Shehnaaz feels that it's her 'desi' persona that connects with her fans.

"I am desi and that is why people connect with me so much. I don't pretend to be someone else. I am what I am... That I think connects with people," said the actress, adding that she would leave it only if she has to play a character on screen.

"But if you talk naturally... I can't change my personality. It will always be the same," she concluded.



VIDYUT JAMMWAL BRINGS A SMILE ON SECURITY GUARD'S FACE WITH SELFIE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood's action star Vidhut Jammwal turned out to be a real hero as he brought a big smile on a building security guard's face after posing for a picture with him. Vidhut took to Instagram Stories, where he shared the picture. The actor, who currently awaits the release of his upcoming film 'IB 71', is looking dapper in a black T-shirt, paired with striped pants and a cap in the photo. The action hero is seen holding the phone as the security guard smiles as they get ready to take a picture.

In 'IB 71', Vidhut plays a master spy from Intelligence Bureau taking charge. The film, which is based on true events of the Ganga Hijack infamously called 'The hijack that never happened', uncovers India's top secret mission conducted by the Intelligence Bureau that made India win the 1971 war.

Presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Film and Reliance Entertainment, 'IB 71' is an Action Hero Films production stars Vidhut Jammwal, Anupam Kher and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles and is produced by Bhusan Kumar, Action Hero Films and Reliance Entertainment.

Produced by Vidhut Jammwal and Abbas Sayyed, co-produced by Aditya Shastri, Aditya Chowksey and Shiv Chanana, the story of the film is written by Aditya Shastri and the screenplay by Storyhouse Films LLP, and is slated for a theatrical release on May 12, 2023.

Wamiqa Gabbi is ecstatic after receiving validation from Zeenat Aman for 'Jubilee'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Wamiqa Gabbi is chuffed with the legendary actress Zeenat Aman's praise of her portrayal of Niloufar in the recently released streaming series 'Jubilee', directed by Vikramaditya Motwane. During a special chat with host Zakir Khan, Zeenat Aman said she wanted to play Niloufar from 'Jubilee'. Wamiqa, considers it a huge compliment, especially because Zeenat Aman, being a legend and coming from a different era of the industry, has acknowledged her work. Wamiqa said, "I remember watching her films and songs. She is one of the most confident, progressive and unapologetically sexy actresses of the times. She always stood out from the rest. She embodies the very term confident and redefines desire even till date. It was just so beautiful to be validated by an absolute diva who resonated with my portrayal of Niloufar."

She further mentioned, "It's overwhelming for me to just know that she's watched the series and she loved it and, if given a chance, she would like to play Niloufar. I am truly honoured and ecstatic. I hope that she likes my other performances in the future."

'Jubilee' is a period drama which also stars Prosenjit Chatterjee, Aparshakti Khurana, Aditi Rao Hydari, Ram Kapoor in pivotal roles.



Female characters today come with flaws: Dimple

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran star Dimple Kapadia is happy to see the female roles evolving as today's female characters have their own flaws.

Dimple said: "Firstly, it's high time that we stop calling films and series - male centric or female centric. These are stories in itself, irrespective of the gender of the lead cast, they are stories beyond gender, region and cultures that need to be spoken about and celebrated."

She added: "However, I am thrilled that stories with dynamic female relationships are evolving and we are seeing women in new characters in every form."

Moving beyond the quintessential heroine, today's female characters have their own flaws, they are much more layered and are now even doing action, just like men in Saas Bahu aur Flamingo!"

She finds it more important to tell stories that reflect the diversity of the country - whether it is women, cultures or regions and the current entertainment landscape is working towards that direction.

"I am super excited to see how this shapes out for me as an actor!"

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif