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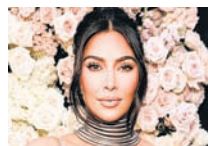
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ISHITA KISHORE TOPS UPSC, TOP FOUR SEATS BAGGED BY WOMEN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ishita Kishore has topped the Union Public Service Commission examinations, results of which were announced on Tuesday.

Interestingly, all the top four ranks in the examination have been bagged by women.

AS per UPSC, this time, a total of 933 candidates have been recommended for appointment, of which 183 are chosen as IAS officers.

Of the 933, 345 are from general category, 99 from Economic Weaker Sections, 263 from OBC, 154 from Scheduled Caste and 72 from Scheduled Tribe category.

Ishita Kishore topped the exam followed by Garima Lohia who secured second rank, Uma Harathi (third), Smriti Mishra (fourth), Mayur Hazarika (fifth), Gahna Navya James (sixth), Waseem Ahmed Bhatt (seventh), Aniruddh Yadav (eighth), Kanika Goyal (ninth) and Rahul Shrivastava (tenth).

How many marks the candidates have secured in the exams will be announced after 15 days.

The commission has also prepared a reserve list of 178 candidates. For appointment for IAS posts, 180 candidates have been shortlisted.

It had conducted interviews in three phases for 2,589 candidates.

The third and final phase of the interview was conducted on May 18.

The commission had announced vacancies for 1,011 posts in civil services.



Bus driver's son cleared exams

Bengaluru: A bus driver's son is among 25 young men and women from Karnataka who have cleared the UPSC exams. Siddalingappa K Poojar, son of a bus driver attached to the state-owned transport company, has attained 589th rank in the Civil Services Examination, 2022. Hailing from Annigeri town near Dharwad, Siddalingappa came from a poor background and wrote exams in Kannada medium. His mother Shantavva stated that she did not know anything about her son taking up UPSC exams. Siddalingappa has completed BE (Electronics) and is working at a private company in Bengaluru. He was married last year and is settled in Bengaluru.

"I was confident about qualifying, but topping the merit list came as a surprise. This was my third attempt. I worked really hard and it has been a long journey for me. The success is the result of my hard work."

Ishita Kishore, First rank

"I always think of doing something for the people who live in small cities and villages. It has inspired me to go for the civil service examination."

Garima Lohia, Second rank

"This exam process requires emotional support. Male or female, one can achieve this success with family support. Information, content and books all are freely available but emotional support and family support will not be available. That is important."

N. Uma Harathi, Third rank

Three from J&K selected, two in top 20

Srinagar: Three candidates from J&K made it to the prestigious Civil Service exams 2022, the result for which was declared by the UPSC on Tuesday. Waseem Ahmad Bhat from Anantnag district got the 7th rank. Bhat, who had figured at the 225th rank previously, told reporters that he is satisfied with his rank this time. He said he credits his achievement to family and friends who supported him unconditionally during the preparations. 24-year old Bhat did his B.Tech in civil engineering from National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar. Parsanjeet Kour from Poonch district has figured at 11th rank. Iram Choudhary from Rajouri district has secured the 852nd rank in the exam.



Long queues, confusion in banks across Delhi as exchange of Rs 2,000 notes begins

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the process for exchange of Rs 2,000 currency notes began on Tuesday, long queues were observed at various bank branches in Delhi as customers eagerly exchanged the currency notes for smaller denominations. However, at some places, people alleged that the banks were asking them to deposit the money instead and even demanded the ID proof. Amar Singh, standing in a long queue at ICICI Bank branch in Green Park, said that there has been length of the line was there since the morning and chaos and confusion rules as bank staff are refusing to exchange

the note and asking to deposit them. "Most of us want to exchange notes and if the bank is not able to do, then it is their fault if they haven't made proper arrangements to exchange the Rs 2,000 currency. Why should we deposit them," he said. "My wife had saved Rs 16000 and all of them are Rs 2000 notes," he added.

At some banks, there were even arguments between bank customers and staff.

"I came here at Lajpat Nagar's PNB bank in the morning and it has been more than two hours, I am still waiting for my turn to exchange the currency. They are working very slow," said Amresh Sharma, 68.

"Most of us are elderly and

(bank staff) do not care about us," he said.

Meanwhile, several people also complained regarding the fuel stations not accepting the Rs 2,000 notes.

"Instead of accepting Rs 2,000 note, the fuel station worker asked me to pay online as they are not accepting the notes, which are still legal tender," said 24-year-old Sahil, a resident of Malviya Nagar.

Chaos was also witnessed at Azadpur vegetable market, where the sellers alleged that most of the buyers coming to the market are using Rs 2,000 notes to buy items.

"The buyers are bringing only Rs 2,000 notes just get rid of them," a wholesaler said in the vegetable market.

Manipur violence: Over 7,700 tribals took shelter in Mizoram

Aizawl/Imphal | Agencies

Tribals from the ethnic violence-hit Manipur continue to move into Mizoram with over 7,700 people having taken shelter in the states (Mizoram) eight districts, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials in Aizawl apprehend that as the situation in many of the tribal-dominated districts in Manipur still remains tense with sporadic incidents of violence getting reported, more displaced people belonging to ethnic Zos, known as Kukis, may take shelter in Mizoram.

According to the officials, the highest number of around 2,690 people took shelter in Kolasib district, bordering Assam, followed by 2,386 and 2,153 people in Aizawl and Saitual districts, respectively, while the remaining took shelter in five



other districts.

Officials said that a large number of people took shelter at the homes of their relatives and friends in Mizoram, while many of the hapless people have been lodged in community halls, schools and vacant buildings.

Meanwhile, various organisations involving a large number of women have been organising sit-in demonstrations in the valley districts of Manipur for the past few days demanding that the Suspension of Operation (SoO) with Kuki militants be abrogated and action be

taken against them.

They also demanded that "illegal Myanmar immigrants" be deported, and poppy cultivation be stopped in the hilly areas.

These organisations also strongly protested against the demand of 10 tribal MLAs to create a separate state for the tribals by dividing Manipur.

Shops, markets and business establishments remained closed on Tuesday in the New Chekon area of Imphal East district, where some miscreants torched two houses after four armed people, including a former MLA, forced people to shut their shops on Monday.

The district administration and the security forces have asked the people to remain indoors.

Sporadic incidents of violence, including burning of houses, were reported from different districts.

Indian Navy's latest destroyer successfully intercepts supersonic target

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao successfully carried out an engagement of sea-skimming supersonic target.

The Navy said, "The missile accurately hit its target. The missile is capable of hitting its target up to a distance of 300 km."

Sea-skimming refers to a missile that flies as close as possible to the sea surface. It stays at a height of less than 10 feet.

INS Mormugao measures 163 meters in length and 17 meters in breadth. It is a warship constructed in India with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.

INS Mormugao is equipped with missiles



such as BrahMos and Barak-8. This modern Indian-made warship is equipped with Israel's MF-STAR radar, which can detect long-range air targets.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had dedi-

cated Mormugao to the Indian Navy in December last year.

On May 14, INS Mormugao successfully hit the target during its maiden Brahmos Supersonic cruise missile firing.

Mormugao has been designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau. It is the world's most advanced missile carrier armed with weapons. The warship can hit targets from a distance of 300 km.

Delhi HC allows Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy to fly abroad

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday allowed NDTV founders Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy to fly abroad from July 25 to August 15, albeit with certain conditions.

The application was moved by the duo in a plea challenging the lookout circular (LOC) issued by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in view of the registration of two FIRs dated June 2, 2017, and August 19, 2019 against the Roys.

A single-judge bench of Justice Pratibha M. Singh said: "Owing to the professional standing of the petitioners and their ties to India, they don't pose a flight risk. The petitioners are permitted to travel abroad."

The application was opposed by the respondent on the ground that investigations are pending against both of them.

The court imposed certain conditions such as providing details of their itinerary to the registrar of the court, and directed the Roys to furnish an undertaking stating that they shall return not later than August 15.

While disposing of the application, Justice Singh also said that other conditions will be added to the order.

Karnataka CM orders 'ruthless action' against provocative social media posts

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday gave clear-cut instructions to the state police to initiate "ruthless action" against provocative posts on social media in the state. Chairing the meeting of top police officers at Vidhana Soudha, he underlined that they should be more careful about maintaining peace and co-existence in the society. "Ruthless action must be initiated against those who disturb the peace and co-existence in the society. The police must also prevent the menace of drugs," Siddaramaiah reiterated.

He also asked the police to look into finding solutions to traffic problems in Bengaluru and reining cyber crimes in the state.

"The people have elected the government for a change with hope and the officers must respond to the problems of the people," he said. Siddaramaiah asked senior officers to visit the police stations and conduct inspections. The people who come to lodge complaints should not be treated as accused persons and police officers should behave cordially with them. Their woes would be addressed, he said.

"Our government will not tolerate goondagiri, unofficial club activities and drug mafia in the state. If these are encouraged, strict action would be initiated against the officers. We will compliment good workers and if there is dereliction of duty, we will initiate action without any hesitation," he warned.

World is on track for 2.7-degree C of heating and 'phenomenal' human suffering

■ The world is on track for 2.7-degree Celsius of heating with current action plans and this would mean 2 billion people experiencing average annual temperatures above 29-degree Celsius by 2030, a level at which very few communities have lived in the past, The Guardian reported.

■ Up to 1 billion people could choose to migrate to cooler places, the scientists said, although those areas remaining within the climate niche would still experience more frequent heatwaves and droughts.

■ However, urgent action to lower carbon emissions and keep global temperature rise to 1.5 C would cut the number of people pushed outside the climate niche by 80 per cent, to 400 million.

LONDON | Agencies

Global heating will drive billions of people out of the "climate niche" in which humanity has flourished for millennia, a study has estimated, exposing them to unprecedented temperatures and extreme weather, according to a media report.

The analysis is the first of its kind and is able to treat every citizen equally, unlike previous economic assessments of the damage of the climate crisis, which have been skewed towards the rich.

The idea of climate niches for wild animals and plants is well established but the new study, published in the journal Nature Sustainability, identified the climate conditions in which



human societies have thrived.

It found most people lived in places with mean annual temperatures spread around 13 C or 25 C. Conditions outside those are too hot, too cold or too dry and associated with higher death rates, lower food production and lower economic growth, The Guardian reported.

Professor Chi Xu at Nanjing University in

China, and also part of the research team, said: "Such high temperatures [outside the niche] have been linked to issues including increased mortality, decreased labour productivity, decreased cognitive performance, impaired learning, adverse pregnancy outcomes, decreased crop yield, increased conflict and infectious disease spread."

Rahul hitch-hikes truck while heading to Shimla

Chandigarh | Agencies

Just days after the party's landslide win in the Karnataka polls, a video on Tuesday went viral depicting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a holiday mood hitch-hiking a truck on the Delhi-Chandigarh national highway while heading to Shimla.

He was on way to his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's cottage, located amid forests of pine and cedar in the suburbs of the Himachal Pradesh capital where she was recently holidaying with her family, when he took a ride of the truck on the Delhi-Chandigarh national highway near Ambala in Haryana.

Rahul Gandhi took the truck ride in Haryana from Murthal to Ambala to speak to the drivers to understand their issues and problems, party sources said on Tuesday.

According to Congress sources, he arrived in Haryana's Murthal around 11 p.m. From Murthal, he took a truck



ride around 12 in the midnight and reached Ambala.

During his journey from Murthal to Ambala, the Congress leader spoke to the truck drivers about the issues and problems they face. He also spoke to them about other issues bothering them most and how they can be sorted out.

After reaching Ambala, Rahul Gandhi then proceeded towards Himachal Pradesh's Shimla via road route.

However, party leadership remained tight-lipped on the late night journey of Rahul Gandhi.



'DON'T DISTURB ME', SAYS SHIVAKUMAR ON ROW OVER FULL TERM FOR SIDDARAMAIAH

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Barely three days after the new government took over in Karnataka, the tussle over power-sharing between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar has come to the fore. When asked about the row, Shivakumar on Tuesday curtly stated 'Don't disturb me'.

"Let people issue statements on whatever they think. I am not going to talk about it. The AICC will take care of the matters relating to the power and other issues. Our national leaders are there too to handle such issues. Our priority right now is for the overall development of the state," he said.

Shivakumar looked disturbed and maintained a distance from media persons.

Minister M.B. Patil on Monday night claimed that Siddaramaiah will complete the tenure of five years. "There is no talk about power-sharing and Siddaramaiah will be the CM for next five years," he stated stirring a controversy.



When his statements triggered speculation in political corridors,

the issue so far. The party seniors are unhappy

Patil on Tuesday said that he has not made any personal comments over the issue. "I have reiterated what senior leaders announced in the press conference," he said.

Sources said that Shivakumar is upset over the remarks and his media statement 'don't disturb me' was aimed at M.B. Patil.

When asked about power-sharing between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal had remarked that the power was being given to the people of Karnataka. The high command has not given clarity about

about the development and feel that Patil's statement at this stage was unnecessary.

There was a cold war between Patil and Shivakumar when the former was inducted in Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet in 2013 and Shivakumar was kept out. Patil is equally resourceful as Shivakumar is and he is considered to be the blue-eyed boy of Siddaramaiah.

M.B. Patil had attacked Shivakumar that he had destroyed Congress in south Karnataka. He had also called Shivakumar tainted and maintained that in the 2018 elections this could also have worked against the Congress party.

After the Patil's fresh salvo, Shivakumar has not reacted to any of his statements. However, sources explain that he is preparing a parallel Lingayat leadership against Patil. Various Lingayat groups have already objected to the preference given to Patil, who represents a small sub-caste over sub castes with larger population.

Mamata assures Kejriwal of full support over Centre's ordinance on bureaucratic service

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday assured her counterpart in Delhi and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal of full support of the Trinamool Congress in the Rajya Sabha against the Union government's ordinance to negate the Supreme Court's order handing over administrative services in the national capital to the elected government there.

While the BJP is poised to get the ordinance passed in the Lok Sabha owing to its numerical superiority, the situation might turn tricky in the Upper House where the Trinamool Congress has 12 MPs.

Banerjee made this announcement after an hour-long meeting with Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here. Delhi Education Minister Atishi and AAP's Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha were also present at the meeting.

"If all the opposition parties unite against the BJP on this ordinance issue, the saffron party can be surely defeated. If that happens, it will be a moral defeat for the BJP before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. And if any miracle happens, the fate of the current Union government will be uncertain," Banerjee said.

Kejriwal, on his part, alleged that after any Assembly election, if the BJP does not get the



requisite majority, it first tries to capture power through the backdoor by twisting or pressuring the opposition MLAs.

"Even if that tactic is not successful, it tries to take control over the state administration through Governors. This practice of using Governors against any non-BJP ruled state government has become rampant in West Bengal, Punjab and Telangana," Kejriwal said. He also said that the Union government tactfully brought the ordinance on the day the Supreme Court was going on vacation.

"They were aware that had the Supreme Court been in session, the matter would have stayed on the very next day," he said.

Expressing gratitude towards Banerjee for extending support on the ordinance issue, Mann said that he is aware as to how the Governor is being used in West Bengal to disturb the functioning of the elected state government. Mann was also vocal about the use of central investigating agencies against the leaders of the opposition parties.

"I congratulate Mamata Banerjee for the manner in which she is fighting against the pressure of the central agencies," the Punjab Chief Minister said. All the three Chief Ministers also agreed on a united move by all non-BJP parties against the saffron acmp in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Manufacture, storage totally banned in Bengal's largest fire-cracker hub for two months



Kolkata | Agencies

Concerned over three consecutive blasts in illegal fire-cracker outlets in three different places of the state killing 17 persons in the last seven days, the West Bengal government has decided to put a blanket ban on manufacturing at the state's biggest fire-cracker hub, Champahati in South 24 Parganas district for two months.

A notice from Baruipur district police has been sent to the office of the local fire-crackers manufacturers' association on Tuesday asking them to honour and follow the ban imposed for the next two months.

District police sources said the two months ban has been imposed to totally clean up the area on this count during

the period.

"First we will conduct constant raids and search operations to identify, seize, and destroy illegal fire-crackers from this area. Secondly, we will identify the illegal manufacturing hubs in the area, where manufacturing of illegal fire-crackers has almost become a cottage industry with even domestic houses running such manufacturing and storing outlets in the backyards," a senior district police official said.

After the cleaning-up exercise is completed, he added, then only those with valid licenses will be allowed to start their respective businesses.

"However, henceforth the police will be strictly monitoring the entire process of manufacturing and storing of fire-crackers here," he

added.

Meanwhile, a high-level meeting chaired by the state DGP Manoj Malviya was conducted at the state secretariat Nabanna on Tuesday afternoon, which was attended by all the districts' Superintendents of Police.

In the meeting, some SPs, sources said, faced the ire of the DGP for intelligence failures about the illegal manufacturing and storing of fire-crackers in their respective districts.

"The DGP directed the district police Superintendents to activate their respective district intelligence units on this count. He also asked figures of the quantities of illegal fire-crackers seized from each district," said a state government official aware of the proceedings of the meeting.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE: RAHUL GANDHI MOVES DELHI COURT SEEKING NOC TO GET ORDINARY PASSPORT

New Delhi | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday moved a Delhi court seeking a No Objection Certificate in order to get a fresh "ordinary passport" after he surrendered his diplomatic travel document upon his disqualification as an MP.

Gandhi has moved an application in the National Herald case, filed by former union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party veteran Subramanian Swamy against him and his mother Sonia Gandhi, their companies and associated persons. On November 1, 2012, Swamy had filed a private complaint in the court alleging that both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have committed fraud and land grabbing



worth Rs 16 billion by acquiring publicly limited company called

Associated Journals Ltd (AJL) through their owned private company, Young

Indian.

The court had on December 19, 2015, granted bail to Gandhi and others in the case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta of the Rouse Avenue Court has sought Swamy's response on Gandhi's application.

"The applicant ceased to be a Member of Parliament in March 2023 and as such he surrendered his diplomatic passport and is applying for a fresh ordinary passport. By way of the present application, the applicant is seeking permission and no objection from this Court for issuance of a fresh ordinary passport to him," the application read.

The court has listed the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

KEEP THE PEOPLE OF INDIA FIRST, KHARGE URGES SUCCESSFUL UPSC ASPIRANTS

New Delhi: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday congratulated the successful UPSC aspirants and urged them to start working for social and economic change at grassroots and to keep the people of India first.

In a tweet, Kharge said: "Our best wishes to successful aspirants who cleared the UPSC Exams. Those who haven't, do not stop aspiring for public service. As you start working for social & economic change at grassroots, always remember to keep the people of India, first. All the best for a bright future".

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also congratulated the successful UPSC aspirants. "Many congratulations to all the aspirants who have been successful in this year's UPSC Civil Services Examination. It is heartening to see that the first 4 ranks have been bagged by women. You all have the responsibility to serve the country with dedication and devotion. My best wishes for the future," the Congress leader said in a tweet. Ishita Kishore topped the Union Public Service Commission examinations, results of which were announced on Tuesday. Interestingly, all the top four ranks in the examination have been bagged by women. As per the UPSC, this time, a total of 933 candidates have been recommended for appointment, of which 183 are chosen as IAS officers. Of the 933, 345 are from general category, 99 from Economic Weaker Sections, 263 from OBC, 154 from Scheduled Caste and 72 from Scheduled Tribe categories.

HC quashes Delhi Mayor's decision of MCD standing committee re-polling, asks to declare results

New Delhi | Agencies

The high court has quashed Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi's decision to hold re-election for six members of the standing committee of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The Mayor had on February 24 announced re-election for the standing committee on February 27 after chaos rocked the MCD House during polling for the body earlier.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav was hearing petitions by two BJP councillors -- Kamaljeet Sehrawat and Shikha Roy -- and said that decision of Oberoi, who is also a returning officer (RO), to reject the ballot of one of the persons was bad in law and that it should be counted.

Allowing the petition, Judge Kaurav said that the RO's decision was not based on any material and her actions were without any power or authority.

The court then ordered Oberoi to declare the election results as per the voting held on February 24.

Earlier, Oberoi submitted before the high court that no prejudice would be caused if polling was held again to elect the six members of the MCD standing committee.

During a special hearing on the petitions filed by the councillors, the high court had on February 25 put a stay on the notice issued by Oberoi.

Petitioners had alleged in the high court that Oberoi acted in a mala fide manner when she called



for re-election after finding the election results "politically unpalatable".

Appearing for Oberoi, senior advocate Rahul Mehra had underscored that the re-polling was essential to ensure free and fair elections following the "ruckus" in the House during the polls held on February 24.

"There is no prejudice in re-polling. Please test if it will cause prejudice to them (petitioners)," the counsel had said.

"What was the mechanism left? Was it so blatantly unfair? They did not allow re-counting. The BJP councillors created a ruckus. Ballot papers and calculation sheets exchanged hands," Mehra had added.

Another senior advocate appearing for Oberoi, Rajshekhkar Rao, had said that no case for court's interference was made out and the authority was only ensuring that the process is done as per the law.

He had claimed that even the note of the Municipal Secretary noted "discrepancy in counting".

Justice Kaurav had reserved his order after conclusion of the submissions by the parties. A ruckus was created after the Mayor had declared one vote invalid in the election to pick six members of the standing committee.

While staying the notice issued by Oberoi, the court had said that no purpose will be served by conducting fresh elections on February 27.

Jailed former SP MLA booked for rape of Dalit woman

Agra (UP) | Agencies

An FIR for rape and criminal intimidation has been registered against former SP MLA Rameshwar Yadav, who is currently lodged in jail.

The FIR has been lodged on the complaint by a 25-year-old Dalit woman, who was allegedly raped by former SP MLA, four years ago, on the pretext of giving her a job.

ASP Dhyananjay Singh Kushwaha, said, "The victim claimed that Rameshwar raped her while his younger brother Jogendra Yadav assaulted her. The latter has also been named in the FIR registered under IPC sections 376 (rape), 354-B (assault or use of criminal force to



woman with intent to disrobe), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and sections of the

fourth-grade employee in the education department. Initially, I was asked to work as a domestic help at his house. I agreed in the hope of getting a regular job. A day later, Rameshwar

attacked me while I was working and dragged me to his room. He raped me and then threatened to kill me and my family members, in case I disclosed the matter to anyone," the victim said.

"Four days later, I narrated the entire incident to Rameshwar's brother Jogendra. Instead of helping, he brutally assaulted me and stripped me. I somehow managed to save my life and gathered the courage to file a police complaint against the former MLA and his brother now after I came to know that he is lodged in jail and local authorities do not support them," she added. Rameshwar and Jogendra have over 70 cases pending against them. A majority of these were registered in the last five years.

WILD GAURS DON'T HAVE VOTING RIGHTS, KERALA BISHOP TELLS GOVT

Team Absolute | Thiruvananthapuram

Pullikkal.

Attacking the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala government, the Bishop of the Syrian Catholic Church's Kanjirappally Diocese Mar Jose Pullikkal on Tuesday warned it not to treat the killing of two elderly persons in Kottayam district by a wild gaur lightly.

On Friday last, three people were killed after being attacked by wild gaur.

While two were knocked down by the same wild gaur at Erumeli in Kottayam district, another life was taken at Kollam.

"Please note that wild gaurs don't have voting rights and the Forest Department appears to be seeing this as a one off incident. This is not a one off episode. Wish to know what will be done when a wild gaur enters the party offices or the Assembly. Will you just be an onlooker," asked a peeved Bishop



dead at Erumeli and for long he has been demanding appropriate laws to end the man-animal conflict.



MUMBAI SEA BRIDGE, INDIA'S LONGEST, WILL ALLOW COMMUTERS TO DRIVE PAST TOLL BOOTH AT 100 KMPH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's longest sea bridge, the under-construction Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), will be the first sea bridge in India to have an Open Road Tolling (ORT) system, allowing commuters to drive past the toll booth at speeds of up to 100kmph without slowing down to pay the toll charge.

Built at a cost of around Rs 18,000 crore, the MTHL, after completion, will cater to around 70,000 vehicles. We visited the 16.5 km long deck that will be completed by May 24. Around 95% of the work has been done, and the bridge will be completed before the year-end.

"Work on structures is almost complete. Tomorrow evening, at an event, we are going to connect the bridge to the mainland. The remaining work -- road laying, electrical, intelligent transport system (electronic tolling) -- will be done after the event. It is possible to achieve the target we set two years ago, to finish by December end



this year," SVR Srinivas, the commissioner of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, said. The bridge is not just an "engineering marvel", but also an engine of economic growth, he added.

This bridge will connect Mumbai

to the mainland with a commute time of 12 to 15 minutes, cutting down significantly from several hours it takes today, Srinivas explained, adding that it will facilitate ease of movement for raw materials, finished goods, and labour, creating a new supply chain

between Mumbai and the mainland.

MTHL aims to connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, the financial capital's satellite city, in order to mitigate traffic congestion and promote economic development. The bridge will begin in Sewri, South Mumbai, will cross Thane Creek north of Elephanta Island, and will terminate at Chirle near Nhava Sheva.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnis will visit the site on Wednesday evening. The MTHL was planned around 30 years ago to speed up the traffic between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and also facilitate the traffic from Mumbai to Pune and Goa.

The MMRDA awarded contracts for the project in November 2017, construction began in April 2018, and was scheduled to complete within 4.5 years. However, construction was delayed by around eight months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently expected to complete by December 2023.

"Not In PM Race": Sharad Pawar amid Opposition Unity Talks

Team Absolute | Pune

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar has said he is not in the race to become prime minister and asserted the Opposition wants a leadership that would work for the betterment of the country.

Speaking on Monday at a condolence meet for Ram Takawale, the Pune University's vice chancellor who passed away recently, Sharad Pawar said opposition parties might face a little task of projecting one person as the prime ministerial candidate if they come together.

"I am putting efforts to get the Opposition together. I am not in the race to become the prime minister as I am not contesting the next (Lok Sabha) election," he told reporters.

On seat-sharing with the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT), which are part of the



Maha Vikas Aghadi, Pawar said, "Recently, a meeting was held at my residence. Leaders from the Maha Vikas Aghadi will decide on it." "Uddhav Thackeray, Sonia Gandhi or Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, and I will sit together to discuss more about it," he said on seat-sharing. The

tenure of several civic bodies in Maharashtra got over early 2022, but polls were not held due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Lok Sabha elections are due in 2024, and the Maharashtra Assembly polls are also due in the later part of next year.

7 Dead As Bus Collides With Truck On Nagpur-Pune Highway

Team Absolute | Pune

Seven people were killed and 13 others injured after a bus collided with a truck on the Nagpur-Pune highway on May 23.

The accident took place in Maharashtra Buldhana district. The bus was travelling from Pune to Mehekar in Buldhana when it crashed with a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction.

The injured have been admitted to a nearby government hospital.

Visuals from the spot show the heavily damaged vehicles, suggesting how fast they were travelling at the time of the crash. The



truck, it appears, was working with a logistics firm. Local residents were seen helping out with the rescue work, trying to reach the survivors through the mangled remains of

the vehicles. Visuals from inside the bus showed heavy damage to the seats. The windshield and window panes were broken down to reach the survivors.

EX-LOK SABHA SPEAKER MANOHAR JOSHI RUSHED TO HOSPITAL, 'CRITICAL BUT STABLE'

Mumbai: Former Lok Sabha Speaker and ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra Manohar G. Joshi has been admitted to a private hospital for certain complications arising out of a brain tumour, official sources said here on Tuesday. Joshi, 86, was rushed to the P.D. Hinduja Hospital in Mahim and was taken to the ICU under the care of a team of senior doctors and neurosurgeons. A hospital medical bulletin said this afternoon that he was brought there in an emergency semicoma condition, but breathing on his own, and not on a ventilator. His condition was described as 'stable, but continues to need critical management', as per the statement. Former CM and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, wife Rashmi and other family members and party leaders rushed to the hospital to enquire after Joshi's health. Joshi was the first Shiv Sena CM for four years (1995-1999) when the party bagged power in alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party. Later, he served as the Speaker of Lok Sabha (2002-2004) during the tenure of the late Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, becoming only the second from the state after the Congress' Shivraj Patil (1991-1996) to occupy the august office.

MVA should first focus on 25 of 48 Lok Sabha seats: Ajit Pawar



Team Absolute | Maharashtra

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday said that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies should discuss on 25 of the state's 48 Lok Sabha seats since the Shiv Sena (UBT) had bagged 18 seats in 2019 elections. The MVA allies include the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), Congress and the NCP. Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Ajit Pawar said, "First we must discuss on 25 empty seats out of 48 seats, later the rest 23 can be discussed," adding that the final decision on seat sharing will be made by senior leaders of Maha Vikas Aghadi.

"The final decision will be made by senior leaders of MVA, and MVA will remain intact, strong and united and this I can give in writing on stamp paper," Ajit Pawar said. Previously, speaking about the seat-sharing

among the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners for the next year's Lok Sabha elections which is yet to be finalised, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar said that Shiv Sena leader (UBT faction) Uddhav Thackeray and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi or Mallikarjun Kharge and he himself will decide. "There has been no discussion on seat sharing yet. A meeting was held at my residence where it was discussed that leaders from all three parties (of MVA) will decide on it. Uddhav Thackeray, Sonia Gandhi or Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and I will sit together to discuss it," he said.

In the 2019 Assembly Polls, the then Shiv Sena-led by Uddhav Thackeray and the BJP fought elections jointly. BJP had won 23 seats and the then Shiv Sena 18 seats while Congress got 4 seats. The Shiv Sena had walked out of the NDA alliance to form a coalition government with the NCP in

November 2019. Meanwhile, responding to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioning of the NCP chief Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar said that investigation agencies have the right to investigate and he has not made any statement against anyone.

NCP chief Patil was on Monday questioned by ED in connection with the alleged IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited) scam.

Ajit Pawar said, "Investigating agencies have the right to investigate and I have not made any statements against anyone." Hitting out at the Central government on the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 rupee notes from circulation, Ajit Pawar said that the middle class don't have much of Rs 2,000 note so if they wanted to act on black money, then there was no need to give so much time to submit the currency in the bank.

Sameer Wankhede once again summoned by CBI for questioning on May 24

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede has been once again summoned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for questioning. The CBI has summoned IRS officer Sameer Wankhede and asked to appear before the agency on May 24. The CBI is likely to question him once again for allegedly framing Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in a drugs case and allegedly demanding a bribe. The CBI has already interrogated Sameer Wankhede twice.

Sameer Wankhede was on Saturday questioned by the officials of the CBI at the agency's Mumbai office for about five hours in connection with a corruption case that was registered by the CBI earlier



this month. The Bombay High Court had on last Friday asked Sameer Wankhede to appear before the agency for investigations in the case. The court had given Wankhede interim protection from arrest.

The court had last week passed an order saying, prima facie there is a legal bar under

17A of the PC Act and asked CBI to not to take any coercive action till Monday and asked Wankhede to appear before them on Saturday.

Sameer Wankhede was present during the court proceedings on Friday, and senior advocate Rizwan Merchant represented him, making extensive arguments about the alleged misuse of power.

Sameer Wankhede is accused of allegedly demanding Rs 25 crore from Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating his son Aryan in the Cordelia cruise 'drug bust' case, an official said.

MAN DETAINED OVER THREAT POST ON TWITTER TO "BLAST MUMBAI": REPORT

Mumbai: A man has been detained today for allegedly giving threats on Twitter to 'blast' the city, said the police. Mumbai police on Monday received a threat around 11 am after a person posted a threatening message on Twitter and said, "I am gonna blast the Mumbai very soon." After receiving the threat, the police swung into action and started an investigation into the matter. Later the police on Tuesday informed that one person had been identified and taken into custody. "The police have identified the person and have taken him into custody for interrogation," said Mumbai police. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

TRIBALS STAGE PROTEST OVER LAND RIGHTS

Thane: Tribals from Maharashtra's Thane district took out a protest march to the district collectorate on Tuesday to press for their demands regarding forest land rights. According to our reporter, forestors carrying banners, placards and flags shouted slogans against the government and marched from Chintamani Chowk till the collectorate.

Government to host 16 festivals in a bid to boost tourism in the state

Team Absolute | Maharashtra

In a bid to increase tourist footfall and explore tourism potential in different parts of Maharashtra, the state government is set to host 16 festivals over a period of one year, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The festivals will be organised in religious, historical sites and places studded with natural beauty, he said. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation's (MTDC) managing director Shradha Joshi said, "We have finalised a year-long calendar of festivals, which will be organised in different parts of the state. The step was taken so that tourists, stakeholders and people of these regions are aware about it well in advance."

The concept of each festival is yet to be finalised and work on it is underway, she said.

Some of the festivals on the MTDC's calendar are: Mahabaleshwar festival (May 27-28), Fireflies festival in Bhandardara (June 3-4), tribal tourism festival in Javhar (July 8-9), monsoon festival at Amboli, Sindhudurg and Bhandardara (August 12-16), Prabhushirram Mahotsav (August 12-13), tribal tourism festival in Dhule (August 25-27), Kas Pathar festival (September 2-3) and Ganesh festival (September 18-28).



The latter part of the year will see Mumbai international festival (November 2023), a tribal festival in Toranmal (November 18-19), Nagpur festival (December 23-25), Guru Mahotsav in

Nanded (December 25-26), Ellora festival (Jan 2024), Hindavi Swarajya Mahotsav (Feb 18-20, 2024) and Grapes festival in Nashik (February 24-25, 2024), it was stated.

Mumbai Court Says As Per Rule, Sex Work An Offence Only In Public: Report

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A sessions court in Mumbai has set aside a magistrate's order and directed a shelter home to set at liberty a 34-year-old woman sex worker detained there.

The court said, as per rule, sex work can be called an offence when only one engages in it in a public place causing annoyance to others.

The woman approached the sessions court after the magistrate's court on March 15 this year directed her to be detained at the shelter home in Mumbai for one year for care, protection and shelter. Additional sessions judge CV Patil set aside the magistrate court's order last month. The detailed order was made available recently.

The woman was detained in February following a raid at a brothel in suburban Mulund. Thereafter, an FIR was registered against the accused and she, along with two others, was produced before a magistrate court in Mazgaon.

After perusal of the medical report, the magistrate found she was a major and sent her to the Navjeevan Mahila Vastigriha, Deonar, for one year for care, protection and shelter from the



date of order.

In her plea before the sessions court, the woman denied indulging in any immoral activities.

The sessions court in its order held that the magistrate, only on the ground of antecedent of indulging in similar kind of offence, has detained the victim. The order is under challenge only on the ground of antecedent that the victim was found indulging earlier also in a similar act, but the victim is major. She has the right to do work, the judge said.

"As per rule, to involve in sex work is not itself an offence, but to do sex work in public place so as to cause annoyance to others can be called as offence," the sessions court said.

Further, it noted there was no allegation that the woman indulged in sex work in the public.

In such circumstances, detaining the victim only on the ground of one antecedent of the similar work is not proper, the sessions judge said.

The victim has two kids, they certainly need their mother, and if the victim is detained against her wish, it certainly curtails her right to move freely all over India, the court observed.

Hence considering the legal position, major age of the victim, the magistrate court's order dated March 15 needs to be set aside and the victim needs to be set at liberty, it said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Cong gearing up for next Assembly polls in 5 states

After achieving success in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the Congress has now started preparing for Assembly polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana. The Congress has convened a meeting of the party leaders on May 26 to work on the strategies for the upcoming Assembly elections, sources in the know of things said on Monday. A source said "the Congress does not want to waste the momentum" it has got with a thumping victory in Karnataka, where it defeated the BJP. The party wants to ensure the preparations are started at the earliest in the next poll-bound states for a good show, the source said. The party source said that a meeting has been called by the top leadership with the state unit chiefs, party state in-charges and top leaders of the state in the national capital. The source said that Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal will preside over the meeting to collect the overall ground report of the party's preparation in the five poll-bound states. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra besides other senior leaders would also attend the meeting. The source said that during the meeting, the top leaders will also discuss the situation in Rajasthan, where party leader Sachin Pilot has been "critical" of Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government. The Congress is looking for a good show in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Ahead of the assembly polls, the Congress has been promising guarantees in Madhya Pradesh, having resemblance to what the party has delivered in Rajasthan. The Congress on Monday also made several promises for Madhya Pradesh, taking a cue from Rajasthan, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

AFTERSHOCKS OF MANIPUR VIOLENCE FELT ALL ACROSS NE STATES

Sujit Chakraborty

The after-effects of the recent ethnic violence in Manipur, which claimed 73 lives, injured 250 and caused large scale damage to houses and various other properties, hit the other northeastern states. Several states in the country made special arrangements and brought out their citizens from strife-torn Manipur.

After widespread ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, so far 6,665 men, women and children have taken shelter in several Mizoram districts while over 3,000 people have sheltered in Cachar district of southern Assam.

Thousands of students and other people, belonging to seven northeastern and other states of the country, were rescued by their state governments after making special arrangements.

Hundreds of students of all the northeastern and other states have been studying in the Imphal based Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Central Agricultural University and other Central government run institutions.

Non-tribal Meiteis and the tribals belonging to Chin, Kuki, Mizo, Zomi, Chakma have been living both in Manipur, Mizoram and several other northeastern states leading to occasional violent reaction after an ethnic incident in a particular state.

The erstwhile princely states of Manipur and Tripura merged with the Indian Union in October 1949. The recent ethnic violence shocked not only Manipur but also other northeastern states due to the similarity among various ethnic people.

In 1993, Hindu-Muslim riots in Manipur claimed the lives of around 100 people and injured over 300 people belonging to the Meitei Pangals (Meitei Muslims) and the Hindu Meiteis.

Both the recent ethnic violence and the 1993 communal riots occurred in the month of May.

The 1993 riots broke out when Muslim gun smugglers could not deliver the promised arms consignment to Hindu "criminals" and then beat up some Hindus.

The ethnic violence in Manipur since May 3 has claimed the lives of at least 73 people and injured 250 others, while 1,800 houses were destroyed besides a large number of government and private properties along with religious installations.

Widespread ethnic violence leading to clashes, arson, vandalism, random destruction of government, private properties including temples and churches broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organised in the 10 hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, in a letter to his Manipur counterpart N. Biren Singh, had said that he is deeply pained by the violence that has flared up in Manipur and the underlying tension between the Meitei community and tribals there.

"At a time when our two states are already facing issues as a result of the political situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh



Further, the meeting decided to hold consultations on a wider scale at the earliest to arrive at a common political agenda with other groups.

The delegates at the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Mizoram government, NGOs, churches in particular and the people of Mizoram in general for providing humanitarian assistance to the displaced people and those affected by the violence.

Ruling Mizo National Front MP C. Lalrosanga had urged Army chief General Manoj Pande to gain the people's trust and confidence, especially of the tribal communities, to control the ethnic strife in Manipur.

The North East Students' Organisation (NESO), an apex body of eight major students organisations of seven northeastern states, condemned the Manipur government's action evicting the indigenous settlers belonging to the Zo community and the violent incidents that followed.

"The tribals were evicted on the pretext that they are settling on reserve forest whereas the fact is that these indigenous settlers have been residing in these areas for ages.

"The government of Manipur has to take into account that these are the indigenous communities of northeast and have inhabited these lands from their forefathers and they are not illegal immigrants from Nepal or Bangladesh," NESO chairman Samuel B. Jyrwa and general secretary Mutsikhoyo Yhobo said in a joint statement.

The Mizo students' Association, also known as Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), Mizoram's apex students' body, has accused the Manipur government of grabbing Zo ethnic tribals' land in the neighbouring state and evicting them.

"The origin of these problems is the Manipur government's attempts to evict ethnic Zo people from their various settlements so that their lands can be taken from them and these tribal lands can be declared reserved forest, protected forest, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands," the MZP had said in a statement.

and the lingering effects of Covid-19, including the prospect of a new wave with more and more cases being detected, such violence only makes things worse," said Zoramthanga, who is also the president of the ruling Mizo National Front.

Zoramthanga requested Biren Singh to exercise his leadership that the people of Manipur know he is capable of and reach out to all parties involved to try and bring an end to this senseless violence.

He assured the full cooperation of his government and the people of Mizoram as they pray for reconciliation and healing in the state of Manipur.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Meiteis, including a large number of students, held a protest in Guwahati in the wake of the violence that paralysed Manipur for many days.

Ten tribal MLAs belonging to the Kuki community have demanded a separate state for the Manipur tribals. The ten legislators, including seven ruling BJP MLAs, sent a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah in support of their demand.

The 10 tribal MLAs from Manipur, leaders of Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), Zomi Council, Hmar Inpi (HI) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Manipur unanimously resolved to unitedly face the present "ethnic crisis" in Manipur.

The meeting held at Aijal club in Aizawl, Mizoram on Thursday also resolved not to engage in any dialogue with the Manipur government.

international

MODI VISIT: A 'LITTLE INDIA' IN AUSTRALIA AND A NEW CONSULATE IN BRISBANE

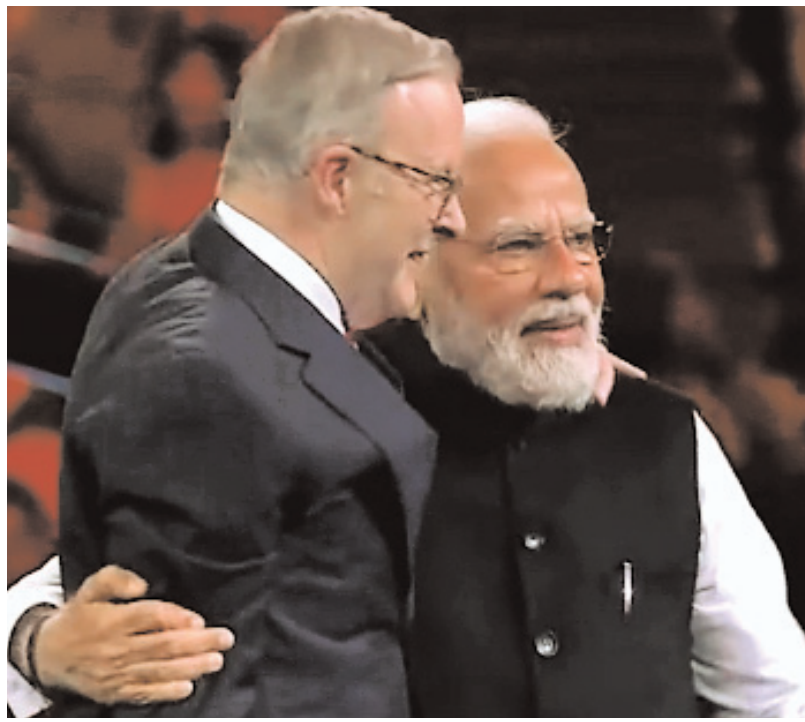
Sydney | Agencies

Visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced that a new consulate will be opened soon in Brisbane and thanked his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese for renaming Harris Park in Sydney as 'Little India'.

"Friends, now that I am here with you, I want to make an announcement. The long-standing demand of the Indian community in Brisbane will now be fulfilled by opening up a new Indian consulate soon," Modi said addressing the 20,000-plus strong Indian community gathered at the Qudos Bank Arena Stadium.

He also thanked his Albanese for renaming Harris Park in Sydney as 'Little India'. "Thank you my friend Anthony," Modi told Albanese as the latter made the announcement to declare Harris Park as 'Little India' at the community event.

"I had the opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister @AlboMP ji on



the Indian soil in Ahmedabad. Today he joined me in unveiling the foundation stone of 'Little India' here: @narendramodi," Prime Minister Modi tweeted earlier. Home to many popular Indian eateries and retailers, Harris Park is informally referred to as 'Little India' with 45 per cent of its 5,043 residents tracing their roots to India.

The diaspora community in the western Sydney suburb had renewed calls to officially declare their area as 'Little India'. The Indian business owners had first proposed officially naming the area Little India in 2015, believing that the title would benefit them.

As per the Australian government's website, Harris Park has a significant population of Indians and is widely known as an exceptional spot for Indian gastronomy and Indian-run small and mid-sized enterprises.

Pakistan's anti-corruption body grills Imran Khan for over 2 hours

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday sought the records of the funds related to the 190 million pounds settlement case, from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, who remains entangled in several legal cases, local media reported.

The former Pakistan prime minister appeared before the anti-graft watchdog's office in Rawalpindi, as per the commitment he made in response to the NAB summons and underwent questioning for over two hours, Geo News reported.

During the investigation, NAB officials grilled Khan over the records of correspondence with the National Crime Agency (NCA) in the UK and freezing orders from Khan regarding the 190 million pounds, sources said, Geo News reported.

Imran Khan - who is facing



a number of cases - had come with a legal team comprising Salman Saffdar, Khawaja Haris, Intezar Panjotra, and others at the NAB office. Meanwhile, the PTI chief's wife, Bushra Bibi who was accompanying him stayed in the car outside the office.

As per the sources, the former prime minister told the NAB officials that the watchdog had already received the "Al-Qadir Trust's records". He said that the record of orders related to the 190 million

pounds was with the cabinet division, and he did not have access to NCA's records.

Sources said that the team has asked the PTI chief to submit the records of all donors of the university as well as the donations he has made himself.

The NAB team, as per the sources, has also sought a record of the university's affiliation with Punjab Higher Education and the trust deed between the trust and company of all the accused, Geo News reported.

OVER 7 MN MAL-NOURISHED KIDS UNDER 5 IN HORN OF AFRICA: UNICEF

United Nations: Unicef has said that more than 7 million children under five in the Horn of Africa continue to suffer and face unprecedented crises, including displacement, water shortages and insecurity.

According to the UN body, 1.9 million boys and girls are at risk of dying from severe malnutrition, reports Xinhua news agency.

The region is slowly recovering from one of the worst droughts in 40 years.

As a result of insufficient rainfall over the course of the last three years, vulnerable communities have lost cattle, crops, and their entire livelihoods.

"The crisis in the Horn has been devastating for children," said Mohamed Fall, Unicef regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Nepal's Kami Rita Sherpa climbs Mt. Everest for record 28th time

Kathmandu | Agencies

Setting another record, Nepal's legendary climber, Kami Rita Sherpa, summited Mt. Everest for an unprecedented 28th time on Tuesday, just a week after he scaled the world's tallest peak for the 27th time.

The 53-year-old reached the summit of the 8,848.86-metre peak at 9.23 a.m., reports Xinhua news agency.

"Kami Rita Sherpa has made history by scaling Mt. Everest for the 28th time on Tuesday," reported Bigyan Koirala, an official at the mountaineering division of Nepal's Department of Tourism.

"His health condition is stable, and he is currently



descending to the lower camps," informed Migma Sherpa, the chairperson of the Seven Summit Treks, the agency with which Kami has been associated.

On May 17, Kami had ascended the mountain for the 27th time.

Another Nepali guide, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, also made it to the summit for the 27th time on Monday.

Kami Rita had scaled Mt. Everest for the first time on May 13, 1994.

Besides Everest, he has also climbed the K2 and Lhotse (one time each); Manaslu (thrice); and Cho

Oyu (eight).

He holds the record for 'most climbs over 8,000m'. His mountaineering journey began in 1992 when he joined an expedition to Everest as a support staff member.

Similarly, British mountain guide Kenton Cool also broke his own record as he stood on top of Everest for a record 17 times.

He has the most summits of the Everest by any foreign climber.

A record 478 climbers from 65 countries and regions have been granted permits to climb Mt. Everest during the spring climbing season.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the first successful ascent of the peak, according to the Department.

TIKTOK SUES US STATE OF MONTANA FOR BANNING THE APP

San Francisco | Agencies

Chinese short-video making app TikTok on Tuesday hit back at the US state of Montana with a lawsuit, after Montana Governor Greg Gianforte banned TikTok in the state last week.

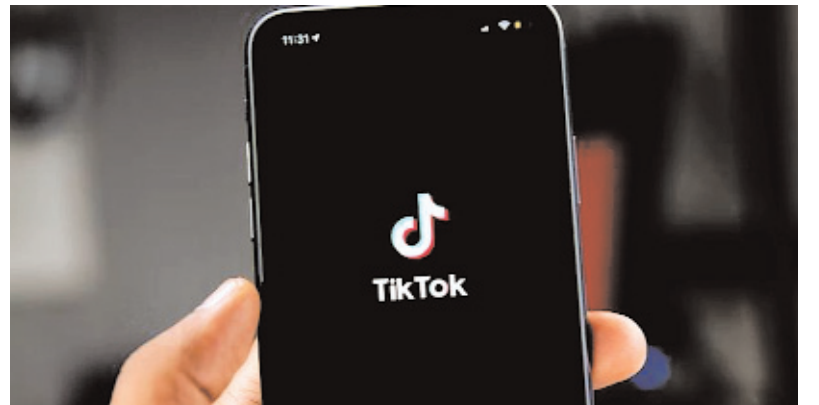
TikTok said in its complaint that Montana's ban violates the Constitution by "limiting the company's right to host and distribute user-created content".

"We are challenging Montana's unconstitutional TikTok ban to protect our business and the hundreds of thousands of TikTok users in Montana," the platform said in a tweet.

"We believe our legal challenge will prevail based on an exceedingly strong set of precedents and facts," it added.

TikTok has been facing immense pressure in the US in recent months, amid cries for a nationwide ban.

Last week, in an effort to protect residents from alleged Chinese intelligence gathering, Gianforte signed a bill ban-



ning TikTok in the US state.

It was the first US state to ban this popular short video app.

"To protect Montanans' personal and private data from the Chinese Communist Party, I have banned TikTok in Montana," Gianforte tweeted.

The bill prevents TikTok from operating "within the territorial jurisdiction of

Montana" and requires that its app be removed from Montana mobile app stores.

Not just TikTok, the Governor also banned Telegram Messenger, Chinese app WeChat, Temu, CapCut and Lemon8.

Montana's new policy will come into effect on June 1.



APPROVAL FOR CREATION OF POSTS FOR NEWLY FORMED NIWARI DISTRICT

Team Absolute | Saikanpur

In the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Mantralaya under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today, it was approved that out of total 12 posts of various cadres for the newly formed Niwari district, 9 posts would be made available through redeployment from Tikamgarh district and 3 new posts would be created.

Approval of amendment in the rule of Contract Appointment Rule-2017

The Cabinet decided to establish a proviso after Rule 11 (3) of the Madhya Pradesh Contractual Appointment Rules, 2017 on civil posts. According to the amendment, "Provided that the state government can relax the condition of giving one month's prior notice or one month's salary in lieu of it as mentioned above in specific cases." It is notable that according to the provision of Rule 11(3) of the Rules-2017 for contract



appointment on civil posts, during the contract appointment, there was a provision that either of the parties can terminate the contract appointment by giving one month's prior notice or depositing one month's salary. Extension of the post of Rehabilitation Commissioner till June

30, 2027 The Cabinet has decided to extend the tenure of one temporary post of Rehabilitation Commissioner from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027. Also, from the financial year 2023-24, the officers and employees working in the BCO Rehabilitation Commissioner's office will be merged into BCO 0709

of the Chief Revenue Commissioner Revenue Department. Other decisions The Cabinet approved the order issued by the General Administration Department on April 8, 2022, as per the instructions of the Chief Minister regarding the formation of Tribal Cell in Raj Bhavan.

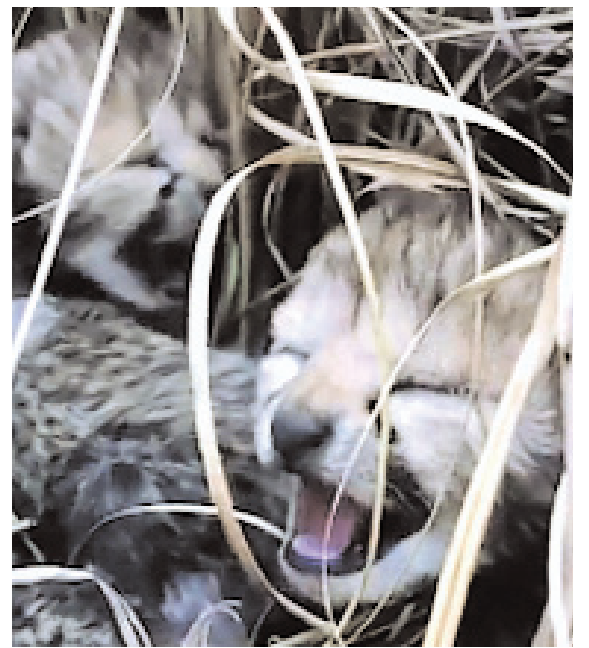
Female cheetah cub dies at Kuno National Park, fourth death in two months

Team Absolute | Bhopal

One of the four cheetah cubs born to Namibian feline Siyaya akka Jwala has died at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP), officials said on Tuesday.

A senior forest official said, "Our team is trying to ascertain the exact reason behind the two-month old female cub's death." Earlier, two cheetahs named Sasha and Uday - brought to India from South Africa - had died in March and April, respectively, while the third cheetah named Daksha died on May 9.

Namibian female cheetah Siyaya, who was later named Jwala by the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India (NTCA), the nodal agency for 'Project Cheetah', had given birth to four cubs at the KNP in March this year. The four cubs were born within a week after the first Namibian cheetah died in March. Since then, this was the fourth cheetah to die at KNP since March this year.



A total 20 cheetahs were translocated to India in two phases - eight from Namibia on September 17, 2022, and 12 from South Africa on February 18, 2023.

Government sends 32 senior citizens by air on free pilgrimage to Shirdi

Team Absolute | Indore

Thirty two senior citizens from Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday left from Indore for Shirdi in Maharashtra by air on a free pilgrimage under a scheme of the MP government, an official said.

This is the second batch of beneficiaries travelling by air under the Mukhyamantri Tirth-Darshan Yojana. The first batch of 32 senior citizens left for Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday from state capital Bhopal.

On Tuesday, the 32 senior citizens who travelled by air on government expense



through a regular flight included people in the age group of 65 to 76 years from Agar-Malwa district.

MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed the pilgrims before their departure through video conferencing and extended best wishes.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes that even a person wearing hawai-chappals (flip-flops) deserves to

travel by hawai-jahaz (aeroplane). Earlier, we used to send elderly people from the state on pilgrimage by trains. Now, we are sending them by air to various places of pilgrimage," Chouhan said. The CM said the previous Congress government led by Kamal Nath had allegedly stopped the Mukhyamantri Tirth-Darshan Yojana, which has been restored by the present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government.

Government officials claim Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to provide free air travel facility to senior citizens for pilgrimage under the scheme.

TENDU LEAF COLLECTION RATE WILL BE INCREASED TO RS 4,000 IF CONGRESS COMES IN POWER: KAMAL NATH

Bhopal: Former chief minister Kamal Nath said tendu leaf collection rate would be increased to Rs 4,000 if Congress formed government following Assembly elections to be held this year. "The present rate is very less," he said while addressing the one-day conference of office-bearers of MP Congress Forest and Environment Cell organised at MP Congress Committee office here on Tuesday. He added that the tribal and forest dwellers were not getting fair price for minor forest produce. "When Congress will form government, full care will be taken of this class," he added.

Digvijaya Singh accuses that corruption in the state is at an all-time high

Team Absolute | Dewas

Political fever grips the area with the nearing of state assembly elections. On Tuesday, Congress national general secretary Digvijaya Singh visited Dewas and launched a scathing attack on the BJP government in the state. Former Chief Minister Singh tried to corner the state government accusing the involvement of BJP leaders in various scams, including Dumper Scams, VYAPAM Recruitment Scams, and others.

Addressing media persons here at the Circuit House, Singh accused that corruption in the state is at an all-time high.

Raising questions regarding the dumper scam and irregularities in VYAPAM recruitment, Singh said that the government made new recruitment rules, but chose a blacklist company to take the exam.

On the other hand, in 2018, when the CM (Shivraj Singh) filled out the form, he declared assets worth Rs 9.5 crores. It should also be discussed where so much

wealth came from. There was not even a single dumper in Jait village till Shivraj became the CM, but today there are 200 heavy dumpers in the 125 village settlement.

The packy plot has been announced thrice, but orders are not issued so far. Regarding land pooling, it was said that the land of farmers around Dewas is worth crores of acres, but it is being bought under the collector's guideline. Questions were also raised on not changing the guidelines of the lands in Dewas.

Apart from this, he accused the PM of corruption for changing the two thousand notes.

On Deepak Joshi joining Congress, Singh said that there is no honest leader like Kailash Joshi. Joshi has a three-room house in Dewas. Earlier on Monday, Singh visited Joshi's residence.

After meeting Deepak Joshi, Digvijaya Singh spoke to the media and said that if you have any other example of someone who got the title of a saint by being in politics, then tell me. Kailash Joshi was a politician but a politician who was a role model. No one could compete with whose conduct, honesty, whose loyalty, and activism.

MPBSE to give bonus marks to Class 12 for 'wrong' questions

Team Absolute | Indore

Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) will allot marks for mistakes detected in class 12 board examination papers. As some questions were pointed out to be 'wrong', the state board will award four marks in various subjects.

As approved, students can expect extra four marks in Sanskrit, Physics and Mathematics. In the mistake found in Hindi, one mark will be allotted to the students.

Now, the question is... when do you get to see the full result? Most likely on the coming Thursday.

MPBSE is planning to

release the results of class 10 and class 12 board examinations on May 25, 2023. As per the plans, all district school centres including Indore will virtually attend the release of results on the coming Thursday, as State Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar declares the result through a press conference.

MPBSE class 10 exams were conducted from 1 March to 27 March 2023 from 9 AM to 12 PM. Further, class 12 exams were conducted from March 2 to April 5.

According to official statistics, cumulatively about 19 lakh students from the state had registered for class 10 and class 12 board examinations.

Congress refers to CM's son Kartikey as 'Yuvraj'; It's Congress culture, he hits back

Bhopal: Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's son, Kartikey Singh Chouhan seems to be gaining quite an interest in politics as he was recently seen indulging in a war of words

with Congress. Congress, in its latest tweet, addressed him as "Yuvraj" (prince), which apparently did not go well with the young man and the tale of tweets and retweet began!

Woman watches 'The Kerala Story', gets live-in partner who wanted her to convert arrested

Team Absolute | Indore

A 23-year-old man was arrested in Indore for allegedly raping his girlfriend and pressuring her to convert. The woman had filed an FIR against the man after watching 'The Kerala Story', police said.

The woman filed the complaint "after she fell into the trap of love under the pretext of marriage", according to police.

The complainant, who is highly educated and is employed with a private company, had befriended the accused, identified as Faizan, while studying in a coaching centre four years ago. The friendship slowly turned into love. Later, the woman started living with him. The accused, who studied till Class 12 and is unemployed, wanted to marry his girlfriend and coerced her repeatedly to convert to his religion. When the woman refused to budge, he allegedly raped and thrashed her several times.

One day, the woman asked her boyfriend if he wanted to watch 'The Kerala Story'. After much persuasion, the accused reluctantly agreed to watch the movie with her.

The duo watched the movie and it was when the woman decided to take a stand for herself. She gathered courage after watching the film and decided to file a complaint against her boyfriend, following a heated



argument with him.

Faizan, the accused, was arrested under provisions of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2021, which prohibits conversion by force or cheating, and the Indian Penal

Code (IPC), Khajrana police station in-charge Dinesh Verma told reporters.

"The woman said she and the man recently went to watch 'The Kerala Story'. After watching the film, the duo argued and the man left

her after assaulting her. She approached the police on May 19 and lodged an FIR," the police officer said.

"All the allegations are being thoroughly investigated," Dinesh Verma said.

All unauthorized colonies built till December 31, 2022 will be legalized: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that all unauthorized colonies built by December 31, 2022 will be made legal. Necessary funds will be made available for development of these colonies. All arrangements related to infrastructure will be made. Along with water and electricity, other arrangements will be ensured. Development fee will not be charged from the poor residents of these colonies. The built houses will be accepted and given permission in the same condition. He said that now if the illegal colony comes up, it will be the responsibility of the concerned officials. Officers must keep a close watch on this. Illegal colony should not come up at all. Chief Minister Chouhan made these announcements in the programme of regularization of unauthorized colonies and civil infrastructure development and building permission grant at Chief Minister's residence. The Chief Minister Chouhan said that the aim of the government is to make life easier for the



people. Chief Minister Chouhan gave necessary instructions for this to the Urban Development and Housing Department. Now the citizens of legalized colonies will be able to get bank loans. The amount of MLA and MP fund can be released for development. He said that resident associations should also be formed in the colonies. A public campaign should be started with the intention to ensure that the colonies do not lag behind in cleanliness. After the house is built, it is our

duty to keep the entire environment clean. All citizens should take care of cleanliness and hygiene.

Urban bodies should extend necessary cooperation to the resident association

Chief Minister Chouhan said that unauthorized colonies are being made legal. Here all the urban bodies should provide necessary cooperation to the resident associations. Attention should be paid to making the colonies

clean and beautiful. The Chief Minister said that our home is the most beautiful. It is the dream of every person to have a house of his own in life. Food, clothes and shelter are the basic needs of life. Life cannot be spent without a house. A house is not a building made of bricks and mortar, it is a holy temple. A house is a dream home for our children. In Indian culture it is believed that it is necessary to build a house for our children.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266
Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodunder 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 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:

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)
1	1. BRIJMOHAN KUSHWAH, Plot No. 427, Shanti Nagar Colony Ext., Gram-Mhowgaon, Tehsil Mhow, District-Indore, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453441. 2. SARASVATI KUSHWAH Plot No. 427, Shanti Nagar Colony Ext., Gram-Mhowgaon, Tehsil Mhow, District-Indore, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453441. 3. BRIJMOHAN KUSHWAH At Hari Nagar Colony, Mhow Gaon, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441. 4. SARASVATI KUSHWAH At Hari Nagar Colony, Mhow Gaon, Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453441. 5. BRIJMOHAN KUSHWAH Ge-39-B, Gyan Sheela Homes Indore Super City, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453771. 6. SARASVATI KUSHWAH Ge-39-B, Gyan Sheela Homes Indore Super City, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453771. 7. BRIJMOHAN KUSHWAH At Near Devi Mandir, Nalabag, Daudnagar, Bihar-814143. Loan Account No. LNINDOHL-12180016396, LNINDOHL-12180016399 & LNINDOHL-12180016400	11-05-2023	18.05.2023	Rs. 11,13,357.44/- (Rupees Eleven Lac Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Seven And Forty Four Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.05.2023.
2	1. HEMANT TETWAL, Plot No. 433, Silver Park Colony, Gram-Sukhliya Kshipra, Tehsil & District-Dewas, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455111. 2. KAMLA Plot No. 433, Silver Park Colony, Gram-Sukhliya Kshipra, Tehsil & District-Dewas, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455111. 3. HEMANT TETWAL 257, Sector B, Slice 1, Scheme No. 78, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010. 4. KAMLA 257, Sector B, Slice 1, Scheme No. 78, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010. 5. HEMANT TETWAL C/O AFU/ENT REAL HOME PVT. Lg-06, Princess Residency Plaza, Plot No. 5, Sch No. 54, Pu 4, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001. Loan Account No. LNINDOHL-12200078707 & LNINDOHL-12200078708	11-05-2023	18.05.2023 Old notice dated 22.08.2022 withdrawn. This publication to be treated as effective notice.	Rs. 12,88,055.00/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Eighty Eight Thousand Fifty Five Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.05.2023.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of House No. 427, Admeasuring 300 Sq. Ft. I. E. 27.88 Sq. Mtrs., Situated At Shantinagar Colony Extension, Village: Mhowgaon, Tehsil: Mhow, District: Indore (M.P.), And Bounded As:- East: Back Lane West: Colony Road North: Plot No. 428 South: Plot No. 426

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 433, Admeasuring 800 Sq. Ft., Constructed On Land Comprising Of Situated At Silver Park Colony, Gram Sukhliya Kshipra, P.H.N.26 (New 55), Tehsil & District Dewas (M.P.), And Bounded As:- East: Plot No. 436 West: Colony Road North: Plot No. 434 South: Plot No. 432

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 90 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s)together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto falling which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 24.05.2023
Place: INDORE

Sd/- Authorised Officer
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)

'Cannes in Flip flops'



Jennifer Lawrence wears flip flops on Cannes red carpet, defies unofficial dress code

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Lawrence made a statement with her choice of footwear at the Cannes Film Festival. Attending the premiere of 'Anatomy of a Fall', she broke the festival's unofficial dress code by wearing flip flops.

The actress turned heads in a cherry red, crepe silk gown by Dior Haute Couture which featured spaghetti straps and a soft ruffle at the bustline along with a matching red wrap. She wore an Archi Dior necklace made of white gold and diamonds as her accessory, reports aceshowbiz.com.

As she walked down the stairs at the Palais des Festivals, the actress lifted up her skirt, revealing a pair of black flip flops underneath her elegant dress. It was

a bold move since Cannes famously encourages women to wear heels on its red carpet. Back in 2015, a number of women were reportedly turned away from attending a premiere of 'Carol' because they were wearing flats.

Lawrence was joined by producers Daniel Angeles and Justine Ciarocchi when posing photographers. She also received their help as she navigated the stairs.

Although Lawrence opted for the comfy sandals for the special screening of 'Anatomy of a Fall', she changed into a more formal footwear for another premiere on the same day. The 'X-Men' star wore the same gown but paired it with red satin heels when attending the premiere for 'Bread and Roses', a documentary she produces, at Cannes. The project follows the lives of women living in Afghanistan after the Taliban's resurgence.

gence.

At another premiere held during the film festival in France, Natalie Portman wowed in a dazzling recreation of a 1949 Christian Dior gown. She wore a sparkling strapless gown that featured a voluminous, scalloped skirt with layers of ornate blue beading when attending the premiere of 'May December' on Saturday.

The 'Thor: Love and Thunder' actress' custom Christian Dior piece was inspired by the 'Junon' dress from the designer's 1949-1950 fall/winter collection. The original dress is part of The Costume Institute's collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, although it's not currently available to view.

Portman was joined by her co-stars Charles Melton, Julianne Moore and Cory Michael Smith at the special screening.

'I'll always be a hopeless romantic'

Kim Kardashian makes heartbreaking admission about love as Kanye West remarries

Los Angeles | Agencies

American media personality Kim Kardashian has said she will "always want to be in love" as she admitted she is a "hopeless romantic".

The reality star said she loves the idea of "creating a life with someone", but added that she is taking her time having finalised her divorce from rapper Kanye West six months ago, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The musician has since moved on from his relationship with Kim and married Yeezy architect Bianca Censori in an intimate ceremony back in January.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', Kim insisted she isn't lonely despite being single as she said she has "so much going on" during an appearance on Jay Shetty's 'On Purpose' podcast.

Asked if she would ever be in love again, Kim said: "I think I'll always be a hopeless romantic and always want to be in love and definitely love sharing my life with someone and love creating a life with someone."

She said, "I definitely will take my time and I think there's so many factors, especially when you have kids and being mindful of people who enter into your life. I'll always believe in love and I'll always want that, but I think I'm so comfortable taking my time to not rush it. There's so much going on that I'm not lonely."



Ashley Graham tapes her mouth shut to sleep

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Ashley Graham has shared an image of herself sleeping with her mouth taped shut. She took to her Instagram Story with a snap of herself sleeping with her mouth taped shut, which is a popular at-home treatment to combat issues such as snoring.

In a post shared to her Instagram Stories on Sunday, the 35-year-old looked sound asleep with pink earplugs as a tiny piece of tape was positioned atop her lips, reports mirror.co.uk.

"I started taping my mouth shut when I sleep and I have never slept better - and even better when I wake up. Don't knock it till you try it!" the mother of three captioned the image.

Mouth taping has become a popular home treatment over the last few years to encourage people to breathe through their nose, which in return can help with a whole host of problems such as snoring and bad breath.

Sleep is undoubtedly essential for Sports Illustrated model Ashley, as she is a mother to three young children.

This comes after Ashley showed off her weight loss at the Cannes Film Festival, as she took to the annual event's various red carpets in a slew of sensational outfits.

The brunette, who shares baby twins Roman and Malachi and three-year-old



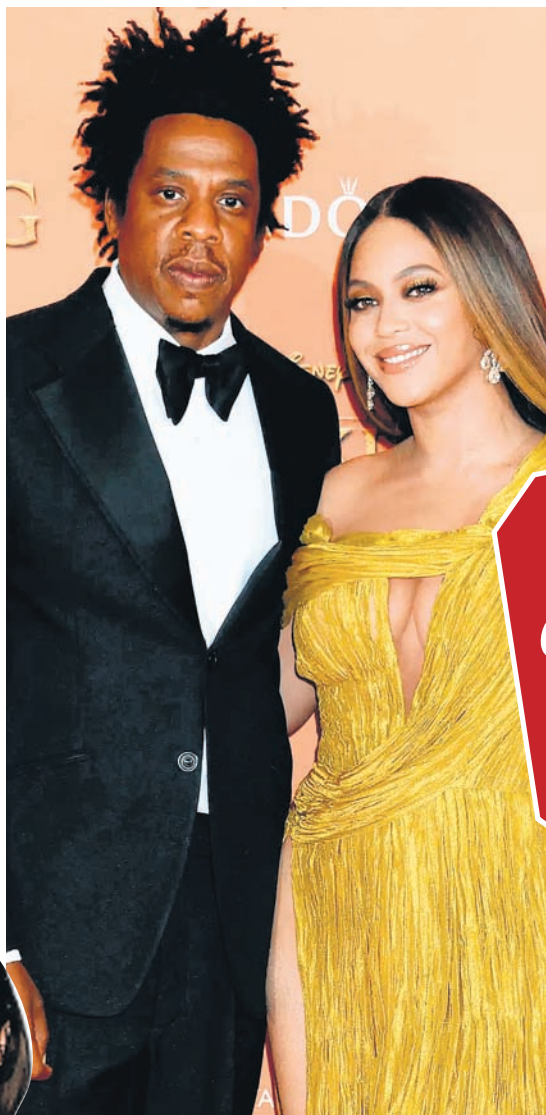
son Isaac with her husband, Justin Ervin, has a hugely successful modelling career where she promotes body positivity.

However, she recently noted that more has to be done in the fashion industry in terms of inclusivity.

While speaking at the 12th annual Women Making History Awards gala, Ashley said that she "never felt complete" despite being a successful model.

She said: "I have been working as a model for over 20 years, and I still am fighting to this day for equality of size diversity on the runway on the covers of magazines, film, and TV. And it's never felt complete."

"I think there's still a lot of work to do. And that's why I tell younger women and women who are also fighting for what things that they believe are just to keep going. Keep fighting, keep striving for what it is that you want to change," she added to 'People' magazine.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Star couple Jay-Z and Beyonce Knowles purchased their \$200 million mansion with cash.

They recently splurged on a 30,000 sq ft abode in Malibu from art collector William Bell, and insiders have told TMZ they don't have a mortgage on the property, reports aceshowbiz.com.

However, this may not come as a surprise as the '99

because the concert series is expected to generate more than \$1 billion.

It was revealed last week that the property deal was the most expensive home in the state of California, breaking the old record of \$177 million, and it is the second-highest ever real estate deals in the entire country, behind the 238 million pounds

Beyonce, Jay-Z opted to buy \$200 mn mansion with cash

Problems'

hitmaker is worth around \$2.5 billion, in part due to his alcohol brands Ace of Spades and D'Use, his fine art collection, and his own back catalogue, while his wife's music and movie career have seen her amass a fortune close to \$500 million, which is only set to increase with her ongoing 'Renaissance' tour

an apartment in New York. But Jay and Beyonce may think they have received a bargain because the property - which sits on an eight-acre property overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the Paradise Cove area - was listed for \$295 million. Former owner William took almost 15 years to build the all-concrete property, which was designed by Japanese master architect Tadao Ando.

JOAQUIN PHOENIX'S NEXT PROJECT TO BE AN NC-17 GAY LOVE STORY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Joaquin Phoenix is taking it up another notch after Ari Aster's 'Beau Is Afraid', teaming up with Todd Haynes for an NC-17-rated gay romance film.

Haynes spoke to IndieWire at the Cannes Film Festival following the Saturday premiere of his romantic drama 'May December', starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore. In the interview, Haynes teased an upcoming project he co-developed with Phoenix, reports 'Variety'.

"The next film is a feature that's an original script that I developed with Joaquin Phoenix based on some thoughts and ideas he brought to me," Haynes told IndieWire. "We basically



ate with him as a story writer. Me and Jon Raymond and Joaquin share the story credit. And we hope to be shooting it beginning early next year. It's a gay love story set in 1930s L.A."

Haynes added, "Joaquin was pushing me further and going, 'No, let's go further.' This will be an NC-17 film."

Phoenix is no stranger to intense roles that push past the expected limits of actors. As for Haynes, between 'Carol', 'Far From Heaven', 'Poison', 'Velvet Goldmine' and his latest, 'May December', the director is no stranger to the romantic period drama, nor the queer film.

"All I can do is just keep hunkering down and committing to each project," Haynes said. "I have more features planned. I have also episodic projects coming that are planned, that are really exciting. I'm going back to work with Kate Winslet with something she brought me for HBO."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maya Jama



IPL 2023

CSK beat GT to reach tenth final

Chennai | Agencies

Ruturaj Gaikwad's 60 off 44 followed by a commanding display by the bowlers guided Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to their 10th final with a 15-run win over defending champions Gujarat Titans (GT) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 Qualifier 1 at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Opener Devon Conway was struggling for rhythm but his partner Gaikwad was fluent as usual and stroked to his fourth fifty of the season. GT pulled things back nicely during the middle overs and seemed to have control of the proceedings. Towards the end, Ambati Rayudu, Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali chipped in with cameos as CSK managed to reach 172/7 in their 20 overs.

In reply, GT couldn't manage to build up any significant partnerships as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Rashid Khan's 30-run cameo did give GT a glimmer of hope but CSK bowlers were at their best and bowled out the Titans for 157 in 20 overs to book the ticket to finale.

Chasing 173, the Titans had a shaky start, losing two wickets in the Power-play. Deepak Chahar drew the first blood by dismissing Wriddhiman Saha. Then Maheesh Theekshana



Brief scores

Chennai Super Kings 172/7 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 60, Devon Conway 40; Mohd Shami 2-28, Mohit Sharma 2-31) beat Gujarat Titans (Shubman Gill 42, Rashid Khan 30; Ravindra Jadeja 2-18, Maheesh Theekshana 2-28) by 15 runs

struck in the sixth over and got the big wicket of skipper Hardik Pandya. Shubman Gill's couple of lovely shots took GT to 41 for the loss of two wickets at the end of Power-Play.

The spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Theekshana kept things tight in the next three overs before Shanaka hit a back-to-back boundary and a maximum in the 10th over, taking GT to 72/2.

In the next over, Jadeja removed Dasun Shanaka, who looked to reverse sweep over the point fielder but didn't get it off the middle of the bat. Theekshana at short third man moved to his right and took a fine catch. After Maheesh Theekshana's 10-

ball over, Jadeja struck again in the 13th over and cleaned up David Miller, finishing his spell with 2-18. In the next over, Deepak Chahar got the big fish Gill for 42, making the chase tougher as Titans were reduced GT to 88/5 and the asking run rate was over 12 runs per over.

Theekshana bowled the carrom ball and Rahul Tewatia was caught flat-footed deep inside the crease and was unable to tuck it away. The ball beat the bat and crashed into the stumps and, Gujarat lost their sixth wicket and 71 was needed in the next 30 balls.

Then, Rashid Khan and Vijay Shankar went for a few big hits and

collected 19 runs in the 17th over to shift some momentum. But momentum again turned in CSK's favour with two successive wickets. First Pathirana dismissed Shankar on the third ball of the 18th over, then Subhranshu Senapati's direct hit sent Darshan Nalkande back to the hut.

With 35 needed in 12 balls, Rashid Khan smashed a boundary on the first ball of the penultimate over but, a moment later, Tushar Deshpande dismissed GT's only hope, Rashid.

When 27 needed off 6, Pathirana conceded a boundary and picked up a wicket of Shami as GT was bowled out for 157 and CSK walked away with 15 runs.

MALAYSIA MASTERS 2023

Malvika, Ashmita advance to main draw; Sankar, Mithun crash out

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Indian badminton players Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chaliha advanced to the main draw of the women's singles event at the Malaysia Masters 2023 after winning their qualifiers at the Axiata Arena on Tuesday.

Malvika, 40th in the badminton rankings for women's singles, beat Hsiang Ti Lin of Chinese Taipei 21-12, 21-19 in 43 minutes in the qualification round of the BWF Super 500 event. The Indian badminton player was slow to get off the blocks and was trailing 3-6 in the first game before she turned the tables and took a 1-0 lead. With the momentum on her side, Malvika rushed to a seven-point lead at 9-2 in the second game. However, Hsiang Ti Lin mounted a stunning comeback to trail by just two points at the break.

The 21-year-old Bansod amped up her defence after the interval and despite a strong response from the Chinese Taipei shuttler, protected her two-point lead and advanced to the next round.

Malvika will now face China's world No.8 Wang Zhi Yi in the Round of 32 on Wednesday.

On the other hand, world No. 50 Ashmita recovered well from the drubbing in the first game to defeat Canada's world No.47 Wen Yu Zhang 10-21, 21-19, 21-17 in 45 minutes. She will face world No.9 Han Yue of China in the



round of 32.

In the men's singles, former junior world No.1 Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian and Mithun Manjunath crashed out after losing in the qualification round in straight games.

World No.82 Sankar lost to Chinese Taipei's world No.48 Chi Yu Jen 10-21, 14-21 in 36 minutes while world No. 44 Mithun went down to Chinese Taipei's world No.47 Chia Hao Lee 13-21, 19-21 in 35 minutes.

Meanwhile, two-time Olympic medallist PV. Sindhu will take on Denmark's Line Christophersen in the Round of 32 on Wednesday while India's top-ranked men's singles player H.S. Prannoy and world champion medallists Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen will also be in action.

Carlsen, Vishy Anand, Hou Yifan, & Ding Liren join Global Chess League

New Delhi | Agencies

The Global Chess League (GCL) on Tuesday announced a stellar line-up including current World Champion Ding Liren of China and his two predecessors and five-time Champions, Magnus Carlsen of Norway and Viswanathan Anand of India, along with four-time Women's World champion Hou Yifan for the inaugural edition to be held in Dubai next month.

The first season of the Global Chess League -- a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and the world chess federation, FIDE, to be played in team format -- will be held at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club from June 21 to July 2, 2023, in association with the Dubai Sports Council. The competition will be held in a one-of-a-kind joint team format at GCL, with each team consisting of six players a minimum of two women chess players per team.

To add to the thrilling level of competition, four more World Champions besides reigning Classical World Champion Ding Liren will be



competing in the Global Chess League. They are 2021 World Rapid Chess Champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov, 2008 Blitz Chess World Champion Leinier Dominguez, three-time Blitz Chess World Champion Alexander Grischuk, and 2018 World Rapid Chess Champion Daniil Dubov. It will also feature top female superstars, including Grandmaster Hou Yifan, a four-time Women's World Chess Champion and the second-highest-rated female player of all time.

Shotgun World Cup: Ganemat, Darshna claim historic silver-bronze finish in skeet at Almaty

New Delhi | Agencies

Ganemat Sekhon won silver and Darshna Rathore claimed bronze as India, for the first time, won two senior individual medals in women's skeet at an International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage at Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Local favourite Assem Orynbay of Kazakhstan won gold, through a shoot-off after both Ganemat and herself ended the 60-shot final with 50-hits each. Ganemat missed one out of the first two shoot-off targets after Orynbay had shot both down. It was Ganemat's second-ever individual world



cup medal and a first-ever for Darshna who appeared in her first-ever senior final.

Earlier on competition Day Two of the ISSF World Cup Shotgun, Almaty, Darshna qualified for the six-woman final in second spot equalling the national record with a score of 120 while Ganemat

was fourth, shooting 117. Orynbay topped the standings with 121 while among the other qualifiers was world number 10 from Cyprus Konstantina Nikolou.

The Cypriot, however, was the only shooter to miss three of her first four targets in the final, while the other five

missed one each. At the end of the first 10 targets, Orynbay was the most accurate with 8 hits with four others including Darshna and Ganemat following with seven. Nikolou was the first to be eliminated after 20-targets as Ganemat and Barbra continued to chase the Kazakh Orynbay, with Darshna trying to catch up, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a release on Tuesday.

After 30 hits, the field was down to four with Ganemat leading with 25, followed by Orynbay with 24 and Darshna and Barbra tied at 22. It was heartening to see the two Indians, in particular, Ganemat getting stronger as

the match progressed. The Czech was next to fall at the 40-target mark with 29 to her name, confirming a historic double medal for the Indians.

Then Darshna bowed out with 39 hits and Ganemat and Orynbay had to be eventually separated through a shoot-off. The third Indian in the field, Maheshwari Chauhan, ended 24th with a score of 108 in qualification.

In the men's skeet, none of the three Indians made the finals. Mairaj Khan was the best finisher with 119 for a 16th place finish, while Gurjoat Khangura shot the same score to finish 18th. Anantjeet Singh Naruka was further back with a score of 118.

Juventus slip to seventh after 4-1 defeat against Empoli

Rome |

Juventus encountered a disastrous setback, dropping to seventh place following a 10-point penalty and a 4-1 defeat against Empoli.

Juve had been previously docked 15 points for inflating transfer fees to augment profits in January. This penalty was temporarily revoked when they lodged an appeal. However, on Monday, the Federal Court of Appeal delivered its verdict, imposing a 10-point penalty on Juve.

This judgment seemingly unsettled Juve's squad on the pitch as they conceded three goals after the first half on Monday. Despite Federico Chiesa scoring a late goal in the 85th minute, Roberto Piccoli clinched a comfortable victory for Empoli in stoppage time, a Xinhua report said.

With the point deduction and the loss, Juve slid from second to seventh place, an outcome that also assured Lazio of a Champions League spot.

In other matches, Roma extended their winless streak, battling back twice to secure a 2-2 draw against Salernitana.



Junior Hockey Asia Cup: A big opportunity for us to prove our mettle: India captain Uttam Singh

New Delhi | Agencies

Indian junior men's hockey team captain Uttam Singh feels that the upcoming Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman, is a big opportunity for his side to prove its mettle and implement everything that they have worked on during training sessions.

The highly anticipated Junior Asia Cup, which is started yesterday and will run till June 1, 2023, will not only serve as a brilliant platform for the young players in Asia to display their skills, but it will also be crucial as the top three finishers in the tournament will qualify for the FIH Junior Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, which is set to be played in Malaysia in December this year.

The Indian team, which will be captained by Uttam and vice-captained by Bobby Singh Dhami, will



enter the tournament as defending champions and are also the most successful team in the title event

alongside Pakistan as both sides have won the Men's Junior Asia Cup three times each.

Notably, the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 will see 10 participating teams that have been split into two pools. India has been grouped in pool A of the tournament along with nemesis Pakistan, Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei, while pool B consists of hosts Oman, Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

"Junior Asia Cup is a big opportunity for us to prove our mettle and implement everything that we have worked on during training sessions. Given the good international exposure that we have gained in the last couple of years and the recent practice sessions that we had in SAI Centre, Bengaluru, where we also played against the Senior Team to hone our skills, we can say that we are well prepared to defend the title," said India captain Uttam, ahead of the start of the tournament.

Indian para shooters eye 100th medal, leave for Changwon World Cup



New Delhi | With their sights set on the 100th medal, a 27-member Indian shooting para sport team led by Paralympic champions Avani Lekhara and Manish Narwal left for Changwon for the first World Cup of the season. The team, which included 15 shooters, will also have the likes of seasoned stars Singhraj, Rahul Jakhar and Sriharsha Ramakrishna Devaraddi among the seniors besides promising Nihal Singh and junior Rudransh Khandelwal making a strong and balanced team. The Changwon 2023 World Cup is the season opener for World Shooting Para Sport season and will offer Paris 2024 Paralympic quotas, something the Indian team will be aiming for after clinching three quotas so far besides the milestone -- 100th medal.

Cuiaba beat Cruzeiro in Brazil's Serie A

Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

A first-half goal from forward Devyerson Acosta gave Cuiaba a 1-0 away victory over Cruzeiro in Brazil's Serie A championship.

Acosta put the visitors ahead by meeting Fernando Sobral's cross from the right wing and heading home at the near post on Monday.

Cruzeiro controlled 66 per cent of the possession, completed almost twice as many passes as their rivals and had eight shots on target compared to Cuiaba's two.

But the Belo Horizonte outfit was unable to capital-



ize on their dominance as they suffered their third league defeat of the season so far, a Xinhua report said. The result leaves Cruzeiro

fifth in the 20-team standings with 12 points from seven outings while Cuiaba is 14th, five points further back.

Shastri reveals combined India-Australia Test XI ahead of WTC final

New Delhi | Agencies

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has revealed his combined Test XI, selecting players from the two ICC World Test Championship finalists, India and Australia.

As the build-up to next month's WTC final between India and Australia at The Oval intensifies, Shastri faced the unenviable task of naming his best combined XI.

The 60-year old is a long-standing supporter of Rohit Sharma and said the India captain gets the nod as skipper over Australian counterpart Pat Cummins and wins a spot as one of the two openers as a result.

The decision on who would partner Rohit at the top of the order is a tough one, according to Shastri, with the likes of Australian duo David Warner and Usman Khawaja and emerging India right-hander



Shubman Gill all in the mix for the crucial position.

Only England star Joe Root scored more runs than Khawaja during the 2021-23 World Test Championship cycle and Shastri said the Australian left-hander deserves to get the nod.

The noted commentator said it was an easy decision as to who bats at No.3, No.4 and No.5, with the No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne and experienced duo Virat Kohli and Steve Smith the obvious choices to fill these vital spots.

Shastri is a massive fan of young Australia all-rounder Cameron Green, but thinks Ravindra Jadeja earns the spot to bat at No.6 due to his ability to act as a second spinning option. Australia keeper Alex Carey wins the spot as wicket-keeper and to bat at No.7 ahead of India's KS Bharat, while Shastri admitted he found it difficult to leave out India veteran Ravichandran Ashwin and opt for Nathan Lyon as the front-line spinner in his XI.

The former India skipper said the decisions on the pace attack was relatively easy to make, with experienced left-armed Mitchell Starc providing the variety alongside a pair of in-form right-armers. Ravi Shastri combined India-Australia Test XI: Rohit Sharma (c), Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, Ravindra Jadeja, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Mohammad Shami.



VIDYA STARRER GETS ITS SOUND WORK DONE AT LEGENDARY ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming film 'Neeyat', which stars Vidya Balan as the protagonist, had its sound work done at the famous Abbey Road Studios which has been a home to the likes of Beatles, Pink Floyd, Amy Winehouse and more recently Ed Sheeran, Adele and Lady Gaga.

The film is a suspense-thriller and revolves around the story of an unlikely detective (Vidya Balan) investigating inexplicable killings at a billionaire's party where nothing is as it seems and all suspects have a secret or two.

The film features an ensemble cast including Ram Kapoor, Rahul Bose, Prajakta Koli, Neeraj Kabi, Amrita Puri, Shahana Goswami, Niki Walia, Dipannita Sharma, Shashank Arora, Danesh Razvi, Ishika Mehra and Madhav Deval in pivotal roles.

Talking about the Abbey Road Studios, it is one of the world's premier destinations for film scoring with illustrious movies like 'Raiders of the Lost Ark', the 'Lord of the Rings' and 'Hobbit' trilogies, movies from the 'Harry Potter' series, 'Black Panther', '1917', 'Avengers: Endgame' including the Oscar winning scores of 'Gravity' and 'The Shape of Water'.

'Neeyat', produced by Prime Video and the Vikram Malhotra-led Abundantia Entertainment and directed by Anu Menon, will hit the theatres across the world on July 7.



Sheezan Khan

& Soundous Moufakir to be seen in stunt-based reality show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

From teleserial actor Sheezan Khan, who was arrested for alleged involvement in the suicide case of his co-actress Tunisha Sharma, to names such as Daisy Shah, Shiv Thakare and Archana Gautam, many more will be seen in the upcoming stunt-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13'.

Hosted by Rohit Shetty, this edition features a line-up of 14 daredevil contestants ready to face their fears in the jungles of South Africa. Rohit said: "Hosting Khatron Ke Khiladi each year is something that I absolutely enjoy. With season 13, we are going into the wild with a jungle theme and the ultimate rule of the jungle is - the survival of the fittest and the bravest."

"It will be exciting to witness the wilderness of South Africa as the stakes are going to rise and the magnitude of action will be greater than the previous seasons."

Others who will be a part of the show include, Rohit Bose Roy, Anjali Anand, Nyrraa M Banerji, Anjum Fakih, Ruhi Chaturvedi, Aishwarya Sharma, Arjit Taneja, Dino James and Rashmeet Kaur and Soundous Moufakir.

Pavithra KR, Revenue Head, COLORS, Viacom18 said, "We are glad to have a stellar line-up of contestants and wish them the best as they challenge themselves under the guidance of our host, Rohit Shetty." Shital Iyer, Head, Non-Fiction, COLORS, said, "Khatron Ke Khiladi has etched a remarkable place in the hearts of millions of viewers over the years, owing to its unparalleled fandom. The previous seasons garnered immense success with exceptional ratings, and it will be exciting to witness the upcoming edition scale up the danger quotient."

Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "It brings us immense pride to associate with 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' for the fifth time in a row."



Ram Charan talks about making Hollywood debut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Star Ram Charan has talked about his Hollywood debut and the kind of films he wants to work in the future.

The actor was at the Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation event at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

When asked about making a debut in Hollywood, he said: "I want to explore India more and I don't think I would want to travel anywhere else for my films unless the producer or director is from Hollywood. I want to stick to my culture."

He then spoke about the "strong culture" India has.

"I want to educate (people) that our Indian sentiments are so strong. Our culture is so strong. There's a lot of dignity in our stories. Nowadays, when you see it, it's not a South Indian or North Indian movie, it's about Indian mitti ka stories. These stories are finally coming out."

The actor, who gained global recognition with his power-packed performance in 'RRR', will next be seen in the Tamil-Telugu bilingual 'Game Changer', which also stars Kiara Advani. He also has yet-untitled project with director Buchi Babu Sana.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aditi Rao Hydari and Indian origin British actress Paige Sandhu will soon be seen sharing the screen in the upcoming film 'Lioness'. The film, an official Indo-UK co-production being made under the bilateral treaty signed by both countries in 2008, was announced on Tuesday at the India Pavilion (managed by FICCI under the aegis of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.

Written and directed by Kajri Babbar, the film will tell the story of princess Sophia Duleep Singh, the granddaughter of the great Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the Goddaughter of Queen Victoria. She was one of the key leaders of the suffragette movement in the UK and also advocated for the rights of women and children. Sophia's character will be essayed by Paige Sandhu. The actress said in a statement, "It's an honour and a dream come true to be playing Princess Sophia Duleep Singh. I am very humbled to be portraying someone with a legacy such as hers, the work that she did, the lives she helped and the family she came from. I truly hope to do justice to her incredible story."

While Sophia's story is rooted in history, the second story is a fictional tale of Mehak Kaur an educated, married immigrant woman living in 1990's Southall. Mehak uncovers a fascinating story of women's emancipation and empathy in contemporary times. The two stories play out in different eras, highlighting grit, determination and compassion. Aditi Rao Hydari will portray the character of Mehak Kaur in the film. She said, "I was instantly drawn to the story that brings to the screen, the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman; a story lost in history. While Princess Sophia is a heroine in the true sense of the word, Mehak is an equally strong character whose journey parallels the Lioness's in the present."

The film, inspired by the research of Peter Bance, the historian who discovered the story of Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, will be produced by Vivek Rangachari, Vaishali Paatil, Faraz Ahsan, Clare Cahill and Ajit Pal Singh (Executive Producer), and has been certified by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the British Film Institute (BFI). Peter is also one of the executive producers on the film.

In addition, English Heritage will be unveiling a plaque at Hampton Court, UK, in memory of the Punjabi Suffragette Princess on May 26. The London Blue Plaque scheme celebrates notable figures and the places they lived and worked in. The unveiling will be followed by a celebratory reception in the Palace hosted by Babbar Movies and the Anglo Punjab Heritage Foundation.

Aditi & Paige Sandhu to lead in an Indo-UK co-production movie



Palak Tiwari