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WRESTLERS AND DELHI POLICE FACE-OFF AT PROTEST SITE

CHAOS AT JANTAR MANTAR

Wrestlers protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar have alleged that they were manhandled by drunk policemen late Wednesday night. The wrestlers claim that they were assaulted by cops when they wanted to bring in folding beds to the protest site. Several wrestlers were hit on the head with two sustaining injuries. One person fell unconscious and had to be taken to a hospital for treatment.

ALL THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE (DCP) IN DELHI HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO BE ON HIGH ALERT, ESPECIALLY IN THE BORDER AREAS, AFTER INTELLIGENCE INPUTS SUGGESTED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD GATHER AT THE JANTAR MANTAR TO JOIN THE ONGOING WRESTLERS PROTEST, AN OFFICIAL SAID.

THE POLICE HAVE PUT UP BARRICADES AT SEVERAL PLACES, ESPECIALLY ON THE BORDER AREAS, AND VEHICLES ENTERING THE CITY ARE BEING CHECKED.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

According to the police, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Somnath Bharti reached the protest site with folding beds without permission. When the police intervened, a minor altercation broke out following which the AAP leader and two others were detained, police said. In a video that is now viral on social media, some protesters can be heard accusing police personnel of attacking wrestlers under the influence of alcohol. "A drunk policeman, Dharemendra, abused Vinesh Phogat and got involved in a scuff-



file with us," said former wrestler Rajveer. Olympian and Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Geeta Phogat has said that her younger brother Dushyant Phogat's head "was cracked open". Asian and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat broke down and said they were not criminals to be treated in such manner. "If you want to kill us, then kill us," Phogat said crying. Delhi Police have dismissed allegations of some policemen being drunk. The police said that no force was used against the protesters and that five police personnel sustained injuries in the altercation. Following the clash, heavy police force has been deployed at the protest site and the whole area has been barricaded, not allowing media personnel to reach the

SC closes proceedings on wrestlers' plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday closed the proceedings on a petition filed by the protesting wrestlers, on whose complaint FIRs have been registered against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The apex court noted that security has been provided to the wrestlers and also turned down a plea by their counsel for monitoring of the investigation by a former justice. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said that "having due regard to the ambit of the petition and registration of FIRs, we close the proceedings at this stage. The petitioner can move the jurisdictional magistrate or the high court concerned for suitable reliefs."

protesting wrestlers. Congress leader Deepender

Protesting wrestlers offer to return medals

New Delhi: Offering to return the honours, Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia said, "When they (policemen) were manhandling and abusing us, were they not able to see that the wrestlers are also Padma Shri (awardees)." "If this is how the wrestlers will be treated, what will we do with the medals? It was not just me. Sakshi (Malik) was also sitting there. Rather we will live a normal life and return all the medals and awards to the Indian Government," he added. Asked whether their offer related to the medals that they won in the international arena, Asian and Commonwealth Games medalist Vinesh Phogat butted in to say, "Saare le jao. Itni beizzati toh kar di hamari. Kuch bhi chhoda nahi (Take away all.

Singh Hooda who reached the protest site late at night claimed that he was detained by Delhi Police and taken to Vasant Vihar police station.

India's top wrestlers are protesting against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over sexual harassment allegations. The six-time MP has denied all allegations leveled against him.

DCW chief detained at night, met wrestlers in the morning

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Thursday morning again reached Jantar Mantar to meet with the protesting wrestlers, after a scuffle broke out between the wrestlers and Delhi Police personnel last night.

Maliwal expressed concern for the wrestlers' safety and questioned why Delhi Police were protecting Brij Bhushan and not arresting him.

Last night, Maliwal was forcefully taken away from the protest site by Delhi Police when she had arrived at Jantar Mantar after the alleged scuffle.

Wrestler Geeta Phogat, husband detained at Singhu border

New Delhi: Wrestler Geeta Phogat, who won India's first ever gold medal in wrestling at the Commonwealth Games in 2010, was taken into police custody at Singhu border, as per Delhi Police sources. She, along with her husband Pawan Saroha, were on way to Jantar Mantar to join the grapplers who have levelled sexual harassment charges against Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Saran Singh.

According to sources, she, along with Saroha, who represented India at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and won the bronze medal, were taken to Bawana police station after being detained.

Patna HC puts an interim stay on caste-based survey



Team Absolute | Patna

The Patna High Court on Thursday put an interim stay on the caste-based survey being conducted by the Bihar government. A division bench of Chief Justice Vinod Chandran and Justice Madhuresh Kumar, after hearing the writ petition, passed the interim order and directed the government to stop any further survey.

The state government has also been asked to preserve the data related to caste-based census and not distribute it to anyone.

As per the order, the bench said: "We are of the considered opinion that the petitioners have made out a prima facie case against the continuation process of the proposed caste-based survey as attempted by the state of Bihar. There is a question raised on data integrity and security which has to be more elaborately addressed by the state."

"We also have the opinion that the state has no power to carry out caste-based surveys in a manner it is fashioned

"Our fight for the caste-based survey will continue in the state. The people of Bihar are in favour of caste-based survey. It is in the interest of common people. The decision of caste based survey was taken unanimously by all political parties of the state. It is not for any particular caste. It is for all. As the interim order has come, the state government will analyse it and take the decision accordingly."

Tejashwi Yadav, Dy CM, Bihar

now. It would amount to a census thus impinging upon the legislative power of the Parliament.

"In such circumstances, we have directed the state government to immediately stop the caste-based survey and ensure that the data already collected are secured and not to share with anybody till final orders on this writ petition," the bench said, listing the next hearing on July 3.

NCLT reserves order on Go First's insolvency plea

Crew stranded at various locations as flights suspended

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday reserved its order on the cash-strapped airline Go First's plea seeking voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings. A two-member bench headed by President, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar after a day-long hearing, reserved its order as the airline's lessors opposed its request

for initiation of insolvency resolution proceedings, reports said. The lessors opposed the airline's plea, saying that insolvency proceedings cannot be initiated without hearing them, as per the reports. Meanwhile with Go First having suspended its flights till May 5, several of its crew members, both pilots and cabin crew, are learnt to be stranded at different locations within the country as well as abroad.

Several flights scheduled for locations in South-east Asia and Middle East have been suspended by Go First, which led to crew members being left stranded in places like Bangkok, Phuket and Muscat, reports quoting sources said. They further said that the situation for these crew members is all the more pressing as they cannot step outside airports, since they don't have the necessary permissions.

Only Akashvani from now, Prasar Bharati drops all references to All India Radio

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharti has decided to drop all references to its radio service as 'All India Radio' and substitute it with 'Akashvani', as mentioned in the law. An internal order issued by Akashvani Director General Vasudha Gupta on Wednesday seeks "compliance with immediate effect" to the statutory provision which had replaced the name of AIR (All India Radio) to Akashvani. "This is a very old decision of the government which was not operationalised earlier. We are now operationalising it," Gaurav Dwivedi, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati said. The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, mentions that 'Akashvani' means the



offices, stations and other establishments, by whatever name called, which, immediately before the appointed day, formed part of or were under the Director-General, All India Radio of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Prasar Bharati Act came into force on November 15, 1997. "The aforesaid statutory provision which has replaced the name AIR to the 'Akashvani' may be brought to the notice of all so that names and titles get in tune with the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act of 1990 passed by the Parliament," the internal order said.

All India Radio was referred to as 'Akashvani' by renowned poet Rabindranath Tagore in a poem he had written for the inauguration of the Calcutta shortwave service in 1939. The Prasar Bharati website states that a private radio station named Akashvani Mysore was set up on September 10, 1935. Akashvani's home service comprises 470 broadcasting centres located across the country and broadcasts in 23 languages and 179 dialects, covering 92 per cent of the country's area and 99.19 per cent of the total population.

Army chopper makes emergency landing in J&K, one crew member dies

Jammu: A flight technician was killed and two pilots were injured on Thursday after an Indian Army helicopter made a precautionary landing in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district following a snag, officials said. The flight technician, identified as Craftsman (Aviation Technology) Paballa Anil, succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, and all ranks of the Northern Command offer tribute to supreme sacrifice of CFN (Avn Tech) Paballa Anil, in the line of duty during operational flying of ALH MK III near Kishtwar and offer deepest condolences to the bereaved family, the army's Northern Command said in a tweet. The two pilots injured in this accident are being treated at the Army's Command Hospital in Udhampur town.

Govt issues 'shoot at sight' order in violence-hit Manipur districts

Imphal | Agencies

The Army and the Assam Rifles were continuing to conduct flag marches in violence-hit Manipur on Thursday while additional soldiers were airlifted to the northeastern state, where the situation turned volatile after thousands turned up for the 'Tribal Solidarity March' on Wednesday to oppose the demand for inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. Meanwhile, in view of the prevailing situation, the Manipur government authorised all District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and all Executive Magistrates to issue "Shoot at sight orders" in extreme cases. A defence spokesman said that Army and Assam Rifles personnel conducted flag marches and aerial reconnaissance in areas of Khuga, Tampa, and Khomaijanbba areas of Churachandpur district, Mantripukhri, Lamphel, and Koeirangi area of Imphal West District, and Sugnu in Kakching districts.



"Total 55 columns of Army and Assam Rifles have been deployed for restoration of law and order so far. Additional 14 columns were also kept on standby for deployment on short notice," the Defence PRO told reporter. He said that around 10,000 villagers of different communities were given shelter in Army and Assam Rifles camps in different districts.

MAHA GOVT CANCELS PROHIBITORY ORDERS AGAINST 8 ANTI-REFINERY ACTIVISTS

Mumbai: In what is viewed as a softening of stance, the Maharashtra government on Thursday informed the Bombay High Court that it will immediately withdraw prohibitory orders against 8 activists banning their entry to the villages where the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd project is being planned. By two orders of April 22 and April 25, the state government had barred the 8 activists from entering their villages till May 31 and also restricting them from social media posts against the proposed Rs 3 lakh crore RRPL project to come up with Arab help. The activists are strongly opposing the project with support of hundreds of other villagers and farmers since the past 10 days after the soil-strata testing started there. The 8 activists had filed their joint plea on April 29, challenging the state orders, on various points, how their rights were affected and other grounds.

PART OF 2 GLACIERS BREAK AWAY AGAIN, FALL ON KEDARNATH TREK ROUTE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The trek route to Kedarnath temple was closed again after a part of two glaciers broke and slid down from the mountain, blocking the route again. This is the second incident since yesterday when part of the Bhairvi and Kuber glaciers broke and fell on the trekking route. Yesterday, the snow from the glacier slid down about 5 km below the temple, and the pilgrimage was put on hold to clear snow from the area. The glacier broke again today in the afternoon, completely blocking the route. "We appeal to the pilgrims to not trek to the Kedarnath temple until the route is clear and stay at a safe place," District Officer Mayur Dikshit said. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the police, and other rescue teams have been deployed on the glaciers for rescue efforts and are told to ensure their safety as well, the officer said. Pilgrims can still avail of helicopter services to the Kedarnath temple, the officer added. Yesterday, four Nepali porters, who were stranded on the route, were rescued unhurt by the State Disaster Response Force personnel, SDRF head constable Santosh Rawat said. The yatra to Kedarnath was put on hold Tuesday evening due to heavy snowfall in the higher reaches, and pilgrims were asked to wait at places like Rishikesh, Shrinagar, Fata, and Sonprayag.



'BALD AND VAGUE ALLEGATIONS', SC JUNKS PETITION CHALLENGING DMK LEADER KANIMOZHI'S ELECTION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday junked an election petition challenging the election of DMK MP Kanimozhi from Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi constituency in 2019.

Kanimozhi's election was challenged by a voter, A Sanathana Kumar, on grounds that she failed to mention her husband's Permanent Account Number (PAN) in her election affidavit disclosing family assets.

A bench comprising justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M. Trivedi allowed the appeal filed by DMK leader against the Madras High Court order, which refused to dismiss the petition against her election. "In that view of the matter, election petition...filed by the respondent-election petitioner deserves to be dismissed, and is accordingly dismissed. The impugned judgment of the High Court is set aside. The appeals stand allowed accordingly," said the top court.

The top court noted that at the time of scrutiny of the nomination paper and the affidavit in the Form 26 furnished by the appellant-turned candidate, neither any objection was raised, nor the returning officer had found any lapse or non-compliance of Section 33 or Rule 4A of the Rules (Rule 4A of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961).

The bench said if according to the respondent-election petitioner, the appellant-turned candidate had suppressed the PAN of her spouse and



also about the non-payment of income tax of her spouse in the foreign country, it was obligatory on the part of the election petitioner to state in the election petition the PAN of the spouse of the returned candidate in India which was suppressed by her. Also, how the other details furnished about her husband in the said Form No. 26 were incomplete or false, it added. Justice Trivedi, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said: "Mere bald and vague allegations without any basis would not be sufficient compliance of

the requirement of stating material facts in the election petition. As well settled not only positive statements of facts, even a positive statement of negative fact is also required to be stated, as it would be a material fact constituting a cause of action."

The bench observed that assuming that the election petitioner did not have the opportunity to see the Form No. 26 filled in by the appellant-turned candidate, when she submitted the same to the returning officer. It continued assuming that the returning officer had not properly scrutinised the nomination paper of the appellant, and assuming that the election petitioner had a right to question the same by filing the election petition under Section 100(1)(d)(iv) of the Representation of the People's Act, 1951, then also there are no material facts stated in the petition constituting cause of action under Section 100(1)(d)(iv) of the RP Act.

"In absence of material facts constituting cause of action for filing election petition under Section 100(1)(d)(iv) of the said Act, the election petition is required to be dismissed under Order VII Rule 11(a) CPC read with Section 13(1)(a) of the RP Act," said justice Trivedi.

The bench stressed that the respondent has made very bald and vague allegations without stating the material facts as to how there was non-compliance of any of the provisions of the Constitution or of the RP Act or of the rules made.

Save dignity of my post, bring Congress to power in Karnataka: Kcharge

Raichur | Agencies

Congress President Mallikarjuna Kcharge on Thursday made an emotional appeal to the people of Karnataka saying that he belonged to the state and he should be supported like Prime Minister Narendra Modi is supported in Gujarat.

Addressing a huge public rally in Raichur, he said: "I went to Gujarat. There PM Modi used to claim that he is 'bhoomi putra' (son of the soil here). Today I am saying I am the son of the soil here. This is my birth place. I am telling PM Modi that this is my district. I have been elected from here for 50 years."

"Today I am in the position of Congress President. Sonia Gandhi and other top leaders have chosen me for the post. This post of AICC President is not available to all. (Mahatma) Gandhi, (Pandit Jawaharlal) Nehru, (Sardar Vallabhbhai) Patel and Maulana Azad were in this position.

"With your blessings I am in this position now. You (people of Karnataka) should save the respect of the position. The Congress candidate must win. I am the son of your soil. Now I have rights too. We have self-respect.

"If you have self-respect, elect Congress to power like how people of Gujarat supported PM Modi and helped his party to win. You should respect me by ensuring the victory of the Congress party," he said.

"The 371 J special status to this region was



given due to my efforts. The seven districts of this region got the status by the Congress led government at the Centre after amendment to the Constitution. Because of this, people of this region are in top posts," Kcharge said.

"The BJP government has only changed the name of the region as Kalyan Karnataka and didn't help much. Amit Shah has come to campaign in this state. What is his contribution to the state? No new industry is being set up. People are not given jobs. What is the achievement of this double engine government?" he questioned.

"In our state the most backward districts are Kalaburagi and Yadgir. But, developed Gujarat has more backward districts than in Karnataka. We have brought the airport to Kalaburagi, but they have not given money. The people of this region are treated with a step-motherly attitude," he alleged.

Gujarat: FIR lodged against three agents in illegal immigration tragedy

Mehsana: Gujarat Police on Thursday lodged an FIR against three agents allegedly involved in an illegal immigration racket that resulted in the death of four members of a family from Mehsana district while they were trying to cross into the US from Canada.

The agents allegedly took Rs 60 lakh from the kin of the deceased and compelled the four victims to take a boat ride to cross the St Lawrence river on the US-Canada border amid turbulent weather, which ended in tragedy as the boat eventually capsized.

The deceased - Pravinbhai Chaudhary, his wife Daksha, their son Meet and daughter Vidhi - were natives of Manekpura-Dabhal village in Mehnsana district. The Canadian police had found their bodies on the banks of the St Lawrence river between Quebec and New York on March 30.

The case has been registered against Nikulsinh Vihol, Sachin Vihol and Arjunsinh Chavda. As per the FIR, which has been registered based on a complaint by Pravinbhai's younger brother Ashvinbhai, the Chaudhary family went to Canada on visitors' visa on February 3, claiming they were going there on



vacation. Upon learning that Pravinbhai was in Canada, Nikulsinh, who knew him for some time, called him and offered to send the family to the US using his 'connections'.

Pravinbhai had asked Ashvinbhai to arrange for Rs 60 lakh in cash and give it to Nikulsinh. The complainant took loans and borrowed money from his rel-

atives and friends to make the payment. Despite their apprehensions, Sachin convinced Pravinbhai and his family them to sit on a boat, claiming that they would reach the other side in just five to seven minutes, and there was no need to worry.

Further investigation in the matter is underway.

ED freezes Rs 143 cr of Manappuram Finance Limited

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it recently conducted searches at six premises in Thrissur, Kerala, belonging to Manappuram Finance Limited and its Managing Director V.P. Nandakumar and froze Rs 143 crore lying in various accounts.

The searches were conducted as part of an investigation under the PMLA into the allegations of money laundering from the illegal collection of deposits from the public.

The ED searches resulted in the detection of evidence regarding money laundering and large scale cash transactions in the form of public deposits, done by Nandakumar through his proprietary firm, Manappuram Agro Farms (MAGRO) without RBI approval.

The deposits were illegally collected by him at various branch offices of MFL which is a Public Listed Company, through some of its employees.

"The outstanding illegally collected deposits which is the Proceeds of the Crime have been detected to be Rs 143 Crore. When RBI detected the same and



directed to return the amount to the depositors, the accused have responded to RBI that they have returned the money to the depositors but the ED investigation revealed that there is no proof of repayment or no KYC of the depositors," the ED said.

The ED said that Rs 53 Crore of deposits are shown to have been

returned in cash, but with no proof of repayment or KYC.

During the course of searches, it was found that the proceeds of crime have been diverted and invested by Nandakumar into immovable properties in his name, and the names of his spouse and children and in the shares of MFL.

Excise policy case: Delhi HC adjourns hearing on Sisodia's interim bail plea to May 10

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing on former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's interim bail plea in the 2021-22 excise policy case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to May 10.

Appearing for the probe agency, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju submitted before the bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma that "the change from 5 per cent to 12 per cent in the interest rate was made to get the kickback money. He (Sisodia) made the policy in such a way that guaranteed return in form of kickbacks came". "Sisodia con-



cealed legal experts' opinion given by eminent personalities as well. He hadn't men-

tioned it anywhere. It was ignored completely. They (members of AAP) did not include it in the policy," the ASG added.

He also said that there was a draft note prepared by a person named Rahul Singh on the instance of Manish Sisodia, which can be proved from their WhatsApp chats.

"The original is missing. Only a part of the draft has been retrieved from the phones," he said.

Taking note of the submission, the judge adjourned the matter for further submissions to May 10. Notably, Sisodia had moved the high court on Wednesday seeking interim bail in the case on the ground of his wife's illness.

Chilling CCTV footage of Tillu Tajpuria's murder inside Tihar Jail surfaces

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A chilling CCTV footage has surfaced showing the shocking murder of gangster Tillu Tajpuria allegedly by the members of the notorious Jitender Gogi gang inside the high-security Tihar Jail on May 2.

In the CCTV footage, which has been accessed by IANS, an undertrial prisoner can be seen climbing down from the first floor to the ground floor using a bedsheet. After climbing down, he first locks the ward floor.

Meanwhile, a man wearing a red t-shirt can be

seen rushing towards a cell and closing its door. The door was open for head count. Two more men then climb down using bed-sheets and forcefully enter the cell, where a scuffle breaks out.

The men then drag Tajpuria out of the cell and stab him repeatedly on the head and the body.

An old man tries to intervene, but in vain.

A man wearing a green t-shirt is also stabbed, and blood could be seen on his hand. Tajpuria was stabbed around 50 times by the assailants, who are reportedly members of the Jitender Gogi gang.



AMRITPAL'S WIFE MEETS HIM AT DIBRUGARH JAIL

Dibrugarh: Kiranpal Kaur, the wife of pro-Khalistan leader and 'Waris Punjab De' chief Amritpal Singh, met him at Dibrugarh Central Jail where he is currently lodged, said a police officer. According to police sources, Kiranpal Kaur was accompanied by family members of Amritpal's aide Daljit Singh Kalsi, who is also lodged in the same jail.

Kalsi's wife and daughter met him at the Dibrugarh jail. They meet the inmates after receiving approval from the jail authority. Earlier, last week, members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and relatives of a few associates of Amritpal Singh came to Dibrugarh central jail to meet the arrested men.

Rajasthan records four times more rains, no signs of loo yet

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan, which is also called the desert state, has received four times more rain than normal from March 1 to May 3 this year, Met department officials have confirmed.

The Met department also said that there will be no heatwave till the second week of May, but there is a possibility of a cyclone forming in the south-east of the Bay of Bengal by May 9.

The Director General of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, said that the route of the cyclone will be predicted soon.

According to experts, like cyclone 'Tauktae' in 2021, this year's cyclone 'Mocha' may affect some parts of Rajasthan as well. However, an official announcement has not been made on this yet.

Stating that the cyclone is likely to move northwards, Mahapatra said that on May 6, a low pressure area will form in the Bay of Bengal. The cyclone has been named 'Mocha' by Yemen after a port city on the Red Sea.

In March and April, the average rainfall in the whole of Rajasthan is 10.1 mm, but that much rain lashed the

state between May 1 and May 3 alone. A Met official said, "This series of rain and storm will continue for two-three more days. The Meteorological Centre in Jaipur has issued a yellow alert for many cities in the state till May 6."

Looking at district-wise report, the average rainfall was more than 50 mm in 10 districts, including Rajsamand, Alwar, Nagaur, Bundi, and Jaipur.

Due to the rains accompanied by hailstorm, the temperature in Rajasthan did not touch 40-degree Celsius for the past one week. On April 27, the maximum temperature in Churu was recorded at 40-degree Celsius, after which the mercury did not touch 40-degree Celsius in any city across the state.

In some cities, the day temperature went below 30-degree Celsius for the past two-three days, an unusual development in this time of the year.

Rajsamand district in Udaipur division received heavy rains over the last two weeks. The average rainfall between March 1 and May 3 in the district is 7.8 mm, but this year it received 71.1 mm rainfall during this period. Similarly, Dungarpur received 900 per cent more than the average rainfall for this time of the year, from 2.6 mm to 26 mm.

CONGRESS WRESTS SHIMLA CIVIC BODY FROM BJP, GETS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

Shimla: The less than five-month-old Congress government in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday wrested control of one of India's oldest civic bodies, the Shimla Municipal Corporation, from the BJP, winning 24 out of 34 wards and reducing the opposition councilors to nine from the previous 17.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh, who started his political career as a councillor from Shimla, aggressively campaigned for the civic body that was won by the BJP for the first time in 2017 in 32 years. Amidst a bipolar contest between the archrivals, the Congress and the BJP, the CPI-M won a lone seat. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) failed to open an account. The CPI-M won the Summer Hill ward, the stronghold of its student wing the Students' Federation of India (SFI).

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. JC 383779W SUB SANTOSH KUMAR (Retd) s/o Late Ramsewak Mishri presently residing at SHIVGANJ, PO - ARA, Distt-BHOJPUR (Bihar) PIN 802301, have changed my daughter's name and Date of Birth from Shreya Kumari to ANANYA KUMARI SAINI and Date of birth from 06 JULY 2011 to 25 March 2013 vide affidavit No. DBAA 103420.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SONAM CHOUKSEY is legally D/O LATE Mr. SANTOSH CHOUKSEY presently residing at 421, Bhawar nagar colony, behind BMHR, New 80 Feet road, BHOPAL [MADHYA PRADESH] Pin: 462010 have changed my name from SONU CHOUKSEY to SONAM CHOUKSEY vide affidavit No. BF 723113.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, INDU SURESH NIKALJE is legally mother of No. 4589905W SEP NIKALJE AMBADAS SURESH presently residing at Post- Aland ta- deulgoun raja dist- buldhana st- Maharashtra Pin:443206 have changed my name from INDUBAI to INDU SURESH NIKALJE vide affidavit No. 75AA 781752.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. 4581268W SEP KUKADE SUMIT SURESHRAO s/o SURESHRAO presently residing at ward no. 01, MU Kurali, PO Surali, Kurali, Amravati, Maharashtra Pin:444906 have changed my daughter's name from PRISHA to PRISHA SUMIT KUKADE vide affidavit No. 75AA 781751.



CONGRESS ACCUSES BAJRANG DAL MEMBERS OF VANDALISING ITS JABALPUR OFFICE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Thursday claimed that a group of Bajrang Dal members barged into its Jabalpur district headquarters and ransacked the property.

Senior advocate and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, who belongs to Jabalpur district, texted a message on his Twitter handle claiming that Bajrang Dal members vandalised the district office and misbehaved with the office-bearers.

Tankha has appealed to the Jabalpur district administration and the police to take immediate action against those involved in vandalising the Congress office.

"The anti-social elements of Bajrang Dal have proved by vandalising the city office of the Congress party that they are not the devotees of Maha Bajrang Bali, the symbol of Hinduism, courage, service and loyal-



ty to Lord Ram, although they tarnish the name of God. Unwanted criminals," Tankha tweeted.

Former Chief Minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath condemned the incident and accused the ruling BJP of being behind it. He charged the police and the adminis-

tration of acting at the behest of the BJP.

Nath also asked Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to take strict action against the vandals.

"I want to know from the Chief Minister whether his government and the BJP have abandoned all demo-

cratic methods and have made up their mind to attack the Congress party directly after being completely uprooted among the public," Nath said in an official statement.

Hitting out at CM Chouhan, Kamal Nath said, "Chief Minister, if you have any faith in democracy, then take strict action against the vandals and also ensure that such incidents do not recur in Madhya Pradesh. I also want to tell the Congress workers that they should be ready for a peaceful democratic struggle for their democratic rights."

After the incident, police reached the spot and controlled the situation. Reporter made several attempts to get information from the Jabalpur police, but was yet to get any reply.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra wrote to Kamal Nath requesting him to clarify his views on the Karnataka Congress' proposal for a ban on the right wing Bajrang Dal.

Silence of BJP stalwarts on rebellious attitude in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Rebellious voices of many Bharatiya Janata Party leaders are being heard in Madhya Pradesh. People associated with power and organization are talking to them, but many veteran leaders of the state have kept silence.

All the leaders associated with BJP and Congress in the state are waiting for May 6 because on this day former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi's son and former minister Deepak Joshi can join the Congress. BJP's organization head Vishnu Dutt Sharma discussed with Joshi and it is believed that the organization will be able to stop him from joining Congress, but the situation is still complicated.

On one hand, where Joshi is facing trouble in front of the party, on the other hand, another leader Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat is also seen in a rebellious mood, apart from this, a statement has also come from senior leader and poet Satyanarayan Sattan, which is going to express his displeasure. Shekhawat and Sattan are not leaving the party, but their statements are bound to increase trouble. Efforts are on for dialogue with both the leaders. State President Sharma and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan are trying at their level to paci-



fy the rebellious voices rising in the state, but other big leaders of the state are keeping mum on this whole issue. Whatever rebellious voices are being heard. He is known to be close and supportive of veteran leaders of the state.

Political analysts believe that many big leaders are angry for not getting enough stake in power and organization, but till now they have never openly expressed their displeasure in public, if anywhere, expressed their displeasure on the party platform. Suddenly all this is not being heard just like that, but the hand of many big leaders is also visible behind it. This is the same leader who not only wants to increase his status in the upcoming assembly elections, but it is also a part of his strategy to get tickets for his supporters.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of Guava, Khirni and Maulshri



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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of guava, khirni and maulshree in the Smart Garden located at Shyamala Hills. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, folk singer Manya Pandey of Sidhi district planted

saplings. Manya specially sings Bagheli folk songs and is active in the rural areas of Sidhi district for the promotion of Ladli Laxmi Yojna and Ladli Bahna Yojna. Satyendra Singh and Nem Singh Chauhan planted saplings on their birthdays. Nem Singh's sons Udit and Rudra also planted saplings.

"SHRI RAMCHANDRA PATH-GAMAN TRUST" WILL BE FORMED

One new tehsil and 2 new subdivisions will be formed. Approval of the development of "e-municipal 2.0" portal. Decisions of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at Mantralaya under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today. The cabinet has approved formation of "Shri Ramchandra Pathgaman Trust" for the development of Shri Ramchandra Pathgaman areas. There will be 33 members in the trust. It will have 28 ex-officio trustees and 5 non-official trustees. The maximum tenure of non-official trustees will be 3 years. Expert committees can be constituted from time to time to conduct the activities of the trust. The culture department will be competent for the institutional arrangement of the trust. A project management unit will be constituted for the smooth functioning of the trust. There will be a total of 7 posts of officers and employees in the unit. Approval has been given for the creation of 32 new posts, including the Chief Executive Officer, for conducting

the activities of the trust, on which the annual financial burden will be more than one crore 57 lakh.

Increase in financial assistance to meaningful literary and artists and their dependents

In continuation to the announcement made by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the cabinet approved the increase in the amount of assistance to the well-meaning scholars, litterateurs/artists and their dependents by the Directorate of Culture under the Culture Department. The monthly assistance amount per family artist/writer has been increased from Rs.1500 to Rs.5000. Along with this, on the death of the artist/writer, approval has been given to give an assistance of Rs 3500 to the family.

Medical College Sagar offers 150 MBBS seat growth

The cabinet approved the opening of 150 M.B.B.S. Increase in seats approved. At present,

100 MBBS approved for graduation course. Increase in seat intake capacity to 250 M.B.B.S. The seat is done. For this, administrative approval of Rs 200 crore 31 lakh was given.

Approval of the scheme "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)"

The cabinet approved the new state funded scheme "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)" with the aim of encouraging the formation of at least 2 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in every development block in the state. decided to implement. Such FPOs will be encouraged in the scheme which have not been formed with the help of any other organization. Handholding will be provided to these FPOs. This will help the FPO members to use quality inputs, advanced agricultural machinery, post harvest techniques. Also, they can be linked to the market. The scheme will be implemented in the entire state through the Director, Farmers'

Welfare and Agriculture Development.

Approval of development of "e-municipality 2.0" portal

The cabinet approved the development, implementation and implementation of the second phase of the e-municipality project, "e-municipality 2.0", with the aim of continuing all the citizen services and departmental works being provided through the "e-municipality portal" through digital means. Operation approved. E-Municipality 2.0 portal will be developed in 2 years. Its operation and maintenance will be done for 5 years. This project will be of 7 years. The new system will include 16 modules and 24 citizen services. Project IT The infrastructure and hardware will be based on cloud technology. The estimated expenditure on the entire project will be Rs 200 crore. With this, citizens will get services through quick and online medium and departmental works can be implemented with transparent and better management.

Government service is not for oneself but for loved ones: Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that government service is not for oneself but for one's own and all the residents of the state are one's own. If we work for their welfare, welfare and progress, then the state will progress. Government service gives the assurance of a permanent job, but at the same time the responsibility of doing better work for the common man is also vested in it. The work done dutifully in government service is marked as your contribution in the building of society, country and state. Chouhan was talking to newly appointed managers, assistant quality controllers and sub-engineers of Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation after giving them appointment letters. The Chief Minister gave appointment letters to 24 officers. In the program held at the



residence office Samatva Bhawan, the President of the Corporation Rahul Singh. The work of storage and manage-

ment of fertilizers, seeds and produce is sensitive.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the work of Warehousing Corporation is related to the farmers. The state government is making constant efforts to make farming a profitable business. This will be possible only when the fertilizers, seeds required for farming reach the farmers properly and proper storage and management of the crop grown by the farmers is ensured. The employees and officers of the Warehousing Corporation have an important role in all these works. Your work is very sensitive. The newly appointed employees and officers should discharge their responsibilities with a sense of service and joy. We should be aware that we are building a nation, let us do our work with pride and dignity. Chief Minister also shared a story about having a positive attitude towards work.

Doctors call off strike after big High Court order

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Nearly 15,000 doctors of government hospitals, who went on an indefinite strike over various demands, have returned to work after the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed them to resume work with immediate effect.

Doctors across government hospitals in Madhya Pradesh went on an indefinite strike on Wednesday morning to press for various demands, including facilities for their colleagues posted in rural areas and put an end to alleged bureaucratic interference. A division bench of Chief Justice R Malimath and Justice Vishal Mishra later on Wednesday said the doctors shall not go on even a token strike without seeking the court's permission as a



Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the issue has been pending before it.

Madhya Pradesh Shashikiya Swashasi Chikitsak Mahasangh, the umbrella body of different medical associations, in a statement on Wednesday night said following the HC's order, the doctors withdrew their strike.

The federation asked the doctors to return to work immediately, it said. The PIL was filed in the HC

by Inderjeet Kunwarpal Singh, a former corporator of the Jabalpur Municipal Corporation, in February 2023 when the doctors planned to go on indefinite strike, his lawyer Sanjay Agrawal earlier said.

But they had called it off later. From April 12 to May 2, 2023, the doctors observed two hours' strike every day, and on Wednesday they went on indefinite strike, the lawyer said.

MAN KILLS WOMAN AFTER SHE BLACKMAILED HIM WITH VIDEO CLIP

Beul: A 26-year-old man from Madhya Pradesh's Beul district has been arrested for allegedly killing a woman who apparently was extracting money from him and trying to dissuade him from marrying another woman through blackmail, an official said on Thursday.

The body of Simran Sheikh (26) was found in a pool of blood on Wednesday night on Naka Road at Gandhi ward of Multai police station area, about 50 km from the district headquarters. A sharp weapon wound was found on her neck, Superintendent of Police Sidharth Choudhary told media. After scanning the footage of CCTV cameras installed near the scene, police took one Sanif Malik into custody, he said. Sheikh was on a scooter when she was attacked, he said. Police recovered a few audio and video clips from her phone, suggesting that she was blackmailing Malik, who was to marry another woman, said the official. Malik told the police that he first met Sheikh on Facebook and they soon became friends and met in person. She then started blackmailing him into paying her money by using their private clips.

She had demanded Rs 5,000 on Wednesday, Malik told police, said the official.

Investigations also suggested that Sheikh was trying to stop Malik's marriage with the other woman, the SP said, adding that Malik has been booked under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder).

Stereotactic Radio surgery performed at AIIMS Bhopal- First in MP and neighbouring states

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The spread of tumors to the brain is a common complication in several cancers like breast, lung, and ovarian cancers. The primary treatment method is Radiotherapy which is delivered in 10-15 fractions and commonly takes 2 to 3 weeks to complete the whole of the brain is irradiated traditionally, which later on leads to several long-term side effects like the cognitive decline in patients undergoing Radiotherapy to the whole brain.

Yesterday department of Radiotherapy, under the guidance of Professor & Head & support and motivation from Director Professor Ajai Singh, treated a case of ovarian cancer with single metastasis with



stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) where the entire dose of Radiotherapy was delivered in a single fraction (24 Gy). Although AIIMS Bhopal has been practicing SRT since last year, this was the first time such a high dose was delivered for treating brain metastasis. This SRS radiation treatment is critically focused only on the tumor. It requires sub-millimeter precision and several quality checks so that no radia-

tion goes out of the tumor and none to the normal brain. It is akin to surgery, where the entire treatment is done in a single sitting. This facility till now was available in big metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai only, and none of the government set up except AIIMS Delhi and PGI Chandigarh. Even in these centers, sporadic cases get such high doses in a single sitting, although this is a worldwide standard.

Digvijay Singh, the encyclopedia of hate speech: Narottam

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ever since the announcement of NCP President Sharad Pawar to step down, the rhetoric in Maharashtra politics has intensified. There is a war of words between NCP and Congress leaders. Meanwhile, Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Narottam Mishra has described Congress national president Mallikarjan Kharge as Khadau president.

Narottam Mishra said, where has Sanjay Raut said wrong! Someday Kharge ji is also going to say the same thing. The whole country knows that Khadau is the president. Whatever decisions have to be taken, only Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Vadra, Sonia Gandhi take them. If it is not so, then Kharge ji should refute Sanjay Raut's statement.

Narottam Mishra said on Digvijay Singh's statement - We talked about the farm, he came to the barn. My question was on Bajrang Dal, they came on hate speech. When did the Supreme Court say this about Bajrang Dal? As Kamal Nath ji is saying. In between you bring Digvijay Singh. The whole country knows that Digvijay Singh is a walking encyclopedia of hate speech.

Digvijay again attacked Bajrang Dal Digvijay Singh again tweeted yesterday and



wrote - Bajrang Dal is neither a religious organization nor a political party, then what is it? Shivraj ji Narottam Mishra ji please check your police record. How many Bajrang Dal people are there among those who instigate riots, extortionists and those who fight with the police.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP leaders to join Bajrang Dal in Hanuman Chalisa recital across K'taka

BJP on Thursday announced to launch a movement against Congress's proposal to ban Bajrang Dal, ahead of the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls. The manifesto promise by Congress has been turned into a launch pad for BJP in the last phase of the election campaign which will end on May 8. According to Bajrang Dal workers, the event has been organised across the temples especially in Hanuman temples on Thursday between 1 p.m and 7 p.m. The BJP has declared its support and also officially stated that its leaders will participate in the event. Earlier in the day, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje dared the Congress leaders to attend the event. "Today evening across Karnataka, in all regions, we will take part in the event with the public. Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, who accused BJP leaders of not knowing Hanuman Chalisa, should attend the event," she said. The people have observed childish and anti-Hindu statements of Randeep Singh Surjewala. He doesn't know who is father and mother of Lord Hanuman and spoke incorrectly. On Bajrang Dal's relationship with RSS, she claimed that RSS is the mother root and its political outfit is BJP. Bajrang Dal is another wing which will take care whenever the young generation is in crisis and sentiments are hurt, they take care of it. The student wing is ABVP and for Adivasis, Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram is formed. As per sources, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal and Hindu organisations have extended their support to Hanuman Chalisa recital programme at temples condemning the proposal of Congress manifesto to ban Bajrang Dal.

BUDDHA PURNIMA SPECIAL

THE POWERFUL MESSAGE OF BUDDHA FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

Lalit Garg

Gautama Buddha is an illuminator, his birth anniversary is celebrated as Buddha Purnima, his attainment of knowledge was fulfilled on the full moon night and his Nirvana Day' was also accomplished on the full moon day. That's why Buddha has lightened up the human race. It was the day when Buddha was born, got knowledge, sacrificed the body and attained salvation. Buddha is also called 'Tathagata', which means to attain the ultimate truth through the practice of enlightenment. Two and a half thousand years ago, the knowledge which he imbibed, the preaching of that knowledge which he shared among his followers, the relevance of that message still has significance in today's time. For this, he gave the mantra of 'Appo Deepo Bhava', that is, to become light yourself, one cannot reach the destination through the other's support. Self realization is important. Buddha Purnima is an important day not only for the followers of Buddhism but also for the entire human race. Buddha became the most popular Indian spiritual saint, social-reformer, spiritual teacher with his high values and knowledge. He touched the hearts of not only many effective personalities but also the common people and brought positive changes in their lives. We can also call him the person and ideologue along with the spiritual revolution. His ideologies are not only a reflection of his revolutionary personality, but also an inspiration of intense sarcasm and change on religious, social distortions and blind people, which changed the life direction of innumerable human beings. He preached about 'sorrow prevention'



and said that this world is full of sorrows, but the end of sorrows is possible; which he called Nirvana. Siddhartha was the prince of Kapilavastu before becoming a monk. In search of peace, he left home at the age of 27, leaving the royal life. While traveling, Siddhartha reached Sarnath near Kashi, where he converted into a monk. Here he meditated hard under the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya. After rigorous penance, Siddhartha attained enlightenment, and he came to be known as the great monk Gautama Buddha. With his knowledge he lit up the whole world. When Buddha saw the people of his era engulfed in ignorance about religious-social, spiritual and other sacrificial rituals, found ordinary people in ignorance in the name of religion, saw women being humiliated, and atrocities against Shudras, he felt pity. He himself took the fast for the attainment of the first knowledge and, after wandering in the forests for years, did penance and enlightened the soul with knowledge. The enlightenment and light with which he has lived each moment of his life is an important chapter in the history of the Indian sage tradition. He himself received the light of truth, lived an inspiring life and then raised the voice against the evils in the public. The efforts he made to

elevate folk life are amazing and surprising. Expressing the essence of his knowledge, he said that there is a reason for every grief. The most important reason for the Human problem being so widespread on the world stage is human ignorance, indulgent lifestyle, indiscipline and perverted food. Buddha says that in the core of the things in which people seek happiness, sorrow ultimately comes out of grief. Presently, even in the transition phase of the crisis, the person who finds himself drowned in pleasures, convenience and narcotics in search of happiness, the end of it is sure to be more sad and painful. Therefore, it is important for a person to make his lifestyle eco-friendly and intoxicated. In this way, by becoming a monk, Gautama Buddha paid more attention to social welfare than to get himself trapped in the fruitless disputes of the soul and the divine. His teachings became the means of liberating human beings from sorrow and suffering, as well as inspiring the solution of social and worldly problems, which have their own special place in making life beautiful and transmitting honorable values in public opinion. This is the reason that his words started coming into the understanding of the people easily. While Mahatma Buddha propagated the ten pupils

with non-violence while adopting the middle Way, people found them easily connected to his words. He believed that if a man conquers his desires, he can attain nirvana. Thus he attacked the priesthood and established the importance of the person. Gautama Buddha practiced Buddhism and very efficiently organized Buddhist monks and developed a sense of unity among them in a democratic form. Its doctrine of non-violence and compassion was so intriguing that after two thousand years, Emperor Ashoka, influenced by it, accepted Buddhism and stopped the wars. In this way, Buddhism crossed the boundaries of the country and spread its light to every corner of the world. Even today, the humanistic, intellectual and populist hypotheses of this religion cannot be denied and through them a strong system of discrimination can be attacked. This Buddhism is able to provide peace and well-being to the griever, afflicted and restless humanity. It is developing religious unity in the mind of the people by attacking high, low, discrimination, casteism. It has an important role in paving the way for the development of art, literature and culture by creating an environment of world peace and mutual brotherhood. Mahatma Buddha was the pinnacle of the social revolution. His philosophy is not only a philosophy of non-violence and compassion, but a philosophy of revolution. Not only did he enforce the pilgrimage culture but he also created new values and standards for an advanced and healthy society. He not only gave the right direction to progressive ideas, but he broke the stagnation in them and heralded a new revolution. Buddha said - hurry up and do great deeds as soon as

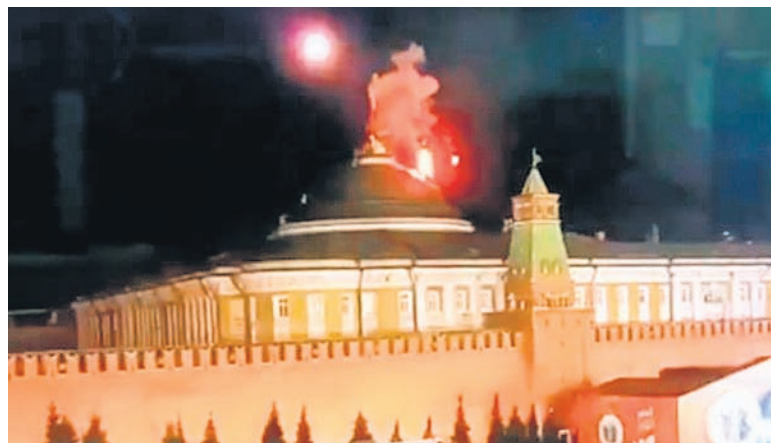
possible, otherwise sins overlap the good deeds. It is a great expectation of the present era to highlight his contribution in the context of social revolution. Only by doing this will we be able to build a healthy society. The Buddha preached an egalitarian society. Asymmetry arises where there is attachment and malice. A person wanders in the corridors of inequality to nurture his selfishness, display ego, degrade others, and grab power and property. The Buddha made himself alone, empty, before coming among the people, before sharing his life experiences, before performing rigorous penance and knowing the truth of life. Then he said, do not let anything inside you pollute the inner world. Look neither bad, nor listen bad, nor say bad. This is the message of emptiness, the path to happiness, peace and good health. He spoke of 'Appo Deepo Bhava' - becoming your own lamp. Because, surrounded by day-night resolutions-choices, happiness-sorrow, joy and sorrow, scorching in the anxiety of tomorrow, carrying the load of stress, how can the mind be empty in such a situation? How can it be balanced? How can it be grasped? The practice of living in the present is necessary to cope with these conditions. Neither the memory of the past nor the worry of the future. One, who learns to live today, must understand that he has attained the meaning of human life and only a society made of such human beings can be balanced, healthy and equitable. It's a need of time to establish Buddhism qualities among the masses. Do not limit Buddha in only preaching, but make Buddha a part of life, shape your life with Buddhism culture.

international

We did not attack Putin, says Zelensky

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has denied that his country carried out an alleged drone attack on the Kremlin, which Russia says was an attempt on President Vladimir Putin's life. Zelensky, who is currently on a trip to Finland, told reporters in Helsinki late Wednesday night: "We are not attacking either Putin or Moscow; we are fighting on our own territory, defending our villages and towns. We don't even have enough weapons to do that... That's why we didn't attack Putin; we'll leave that to the (international) tribunal." The President further stressed that Russia has had no victories at the front and that Putin can no longer motivate Russian society and send soldiers to war for no reason, reports Ukrayinska Pravda. "So it is in his (Putin) interest to accuse Ukraine of committing some crimes. He needs to do something drastic: either 'assassination attempts', drones, or some 'geese that bombed them'. They will come up with something or other every day. "But the solution is simple: no need to intimidate anyone, no need to use weapons; you need to leave our territo-



ry," he added. On Wednesday evening, the Kremlin press service said that Ukrainian drones had "attempted to strike" at the residence of Putin. The Kremlin called the so-called attack a "planned terrorist action" and an "assassination attempt on the Russian President". In response, Serhii Nykyforov, spokesman for President Zelensky, said that Ukraine had no information about the attack on the Kremlin. "What happened in Moscow was clearly a Russian escalation of the situation," he added. Unverified footage circulating online

showed smoke rising over the Kremlin, reports the BBC. A second video shows a small explosion above the site's Senate building, while two men appear to clamber up the dome. Earlier on Wednesday, Russian strikes on Ukraine's southern Kherson region killed 21 people. According to Zelensky, the shelling had hit "a railway station and a crossing, a house, a hardware store, a grocery supermarket and a gas station". The victims included supermarket customers and employees of an energy company who were performing repairs, officials said.

Drone attack causes fire at Russian oil refinery

Moscow | Agencies

Just hours after the alleged drone attack on the Kremlin residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, an oil refinery in Krasnodar region was attacked by a drone, prompting a fire at the facility, state media reported on Thursday. The incident occurred at the Ilsky Oil Refinery in the Seversky district, causing no casualties, Xinhua news agency quoted Krasnodar Governor Veniamin Kondratyev as saying. "Firefighters and emergency workers are already on site," Kondratyev posted on social media, adding there was no threat to nearby residents. This is the second drone attack on an oil facility in Krasnodar this week. On Wednesday night, another drone attack took place at an oil reservoir in Volna village in Temryuk district, causing a fire that



covered an area of 1,200 square metres. On Wednesday evening, the Kremlin press service said that Ukrainian drones had "attempted to strike" at the residence of Putin. The Kremlin called the so-called attack a "planned terrorist action" and an "assassination attempt on the Russian President". But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denied that his country carried out the alleged attack, saying that "we are not attacking either Putin or Moscow; we are fighting on our own territory, defending our villages and towns".

US FDA approves first respiratory syncytial virus vaccine

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine. The vaccine, named Arexvy, was approved on Wednesday for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in individuals 60 years of age and older, Xinhua news agency reported. RSV is a highly contagious virus that causes infections of the lungs and breathing passages in individuals of all age groups. In older adults, RSV is a common cause of lower respiratory tract disease, which affects the lungs and can cause life-threatening pneumonia and bronchiolitis, according to the FDA. Each year, RSV leads to approximately 60,000 to 120,000 hospitalisations and 6,000 to 10,000 deaths among adults 65 years of age and older in the US, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Today's approval of the first RSV vaccine is an important public health achievement to prevent a disease which can be life-threatening and reflects the FDA's continued commitment to facilitating the development of safe and effective vaccines for use in the United States," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Hindu activists in Pakistan express anger over mass conversions

Islamabad | Agencies

Hindu activists in Pakistan have expressed their grief and anger over the mass conversions in Sindh. Faqir Shiva Kuchhi, a Hindu activist who raises his voice against the practice, said that "it seems the state itself is involved in these conversions", The Express Tribune reported. He added that local community members have been demanding the government to initiate legislation against the practice for several years. "The conversions in Sindh are a serious issue and instead of taking measures to stop it, the federal minister's son is part of the conversion," he said. "It is a matter of great concern for all of us (Hindus). We feel helplessness," he said. Kuchhi added that most of the converts were economically underprivileged and the local religious leaders take advantage of the fact. "They offer them financial support and convert them easily," he alleged, Express Tribune reported. At least 50 family members from ten families residing in different areas of the



Mirpurkhas division have converted to Islam, The Express Tribune reported. Mohammad Shamroz Khan, son of Minister for Religious Affairs Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, attended the ceremony held at a local seminary -- Baitul Iman New Muslim Colony. Qari Taimur Rajput, one of the caretakers of the organisation, confirmed that 10 families have converted to Islam. "They all willingly converted to Islam. No one has forced them," Rajput claimed quoting Khan. He also reportedly inquired from the new converts whether they willingly took the step during the conversion ceremony which was also attended by several local residents, The Express Tribune reported. Rajput added that 50 people converted, including 23 females and a year-old infant. The converts will stay in a local facility specially established for the new Muslims converts in 2018. During their four-month-long stay at the facility, the new converts will study and learn their new religion and the organisation will provide for their needs, including clothes, food and medicine, The Express Tribune reported.

Sudanese army agrees to 7-day truce extension, but fighting continues in Khartoum

Khartoum | Agencies

Amid continued fighting in Khartoum, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced an agreement to a regional initiative proposing a one-week ceasefire to stop the violent armed clashes between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). "As part of its initiative to deal with the country's current crisis, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) offered a new proposal including extending the current truce for a week and naming a representative from each side to discuss the truce," the SAF statement said. "The SAF expressed acceptance of the proposal based on



the principle of African solutions to the issues of the continent, and in consideration to the humanitarian aspects of our citizens, taking into account the ongoing American-Saudi initia-

tive," Xinhua news agency quoted the statement issued late Wednesday as saying. The army stressed that it hopes the other party would abide by the requirements of the proposed truce. However, the RSF has not yet commented on the IGAD initiative. Earlier on Wednesday, fighting continued in central Khartoum. The Sudanese police said in a statement that the RSF ambushed one of its patrols in central Khartoum and killed five of its personnel. In response, the RSF said it had repulsed an attack by an army force dressed in uniforms of the central reserve police forces, which attempted to attack its posts in central

Khartoum. Meanwhile, given that clashes have pushed the country to the edge of a humanitarian crisis, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths arrived in Sudan. "Just arrived in Port Sudan to reaffirm the UN's commitment to the Sudanese people," Griffiths tweeted on Wednesday. He expressed gratitude for the unwavering dedication of the humanitarian community and local volunteers doing their best to help. Regarding the local endeavours to end the armed conflict in the country, Khalid Omer Yousif, spokesman of the political process in Sudan, welcomed in a statement on Wednesday any efforts to ensure a ceasefire.



'FINAL DECISION IN 1-2 DAYS': SHARAD PAWAR KEEPS SUSPENSE ALIVE ON RETIREMENT MOVE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar - who decided to step down from his post on May 2 - on Thursday said that he will take his final decision in "one or two" days.

Coming down specially to meet the protesting NCP activists outside the Y.B. Chavan Memorial Auditorium, he said that he has the highest regards for the sentiments of his party workers.

"I respect your emotions... I should have discussed my plans with all of you. But I knew you wouldn't have permitted me to take the decision," said Pawar in a soft tone.

"Tomorrow (Friday) is the meeting of the committee and they will discuss the matter. I will take the final decision after consulting all and inform you. After two days, you will have no reason to continue this agitation," he added.

Earlier, his daughter and MP Supriya Sule again met the workers and with folded hands, urged them to call off their agitation and hunger



strike for the past 48 hours, which they undertook rejecting calls by the party's senior brass. State Party President Jayant Patil, who has cate-

gorically ruled himself out as the contender for the NCP top post, appealed to the protestors to withdraw their protests and wait for the panel meeting's outcome on Friday.

Party activists and workers, along with their leaders have continued their agitation in different parts of the state demanding that Pawar should take back his decision to retire as party chief after 24 years.

Almost the entire party has unanimously stood solid on this demand, though Ajit Pawar has adopted a differing stance, saying that Pawar Sr. has taken the decision on his own and keeping in view his age and health all must respect it.

The NCP and state political circles are rife with speculation - in the event of Pawar not relenting on his step - who will be elected as the new party national President.

Some of the obvious names are Supriya Sule, plus Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel (who have already opted out of the race), ahead of the discussions by a mini-bus committee named by Pawar to choose his successor.

Days before K'taka polls, 'Tipu' film announced; to show 'dark side' of Mysuru sultan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days before the Karnataka Assembly polls, where the name of Tipu Sultan keeps getting invoked by his right-wing critics, the makers of 'Tipu', the film, have announced that their feature will present a "different side" of the king of Mysuru.

Tipu Sultan, till the BJP questioned the narrative, was known as a freedom fighter, an able administrator and the man who introduced India to rocketry. For some years now, the BJP in Karnataka has made a political issue out of Tipu's record of forced conversions, which is exactly what the film seeks to highlight.

The BJP's north-east strategist, adviser to the Manipur Chief Minister and well-known author and TV commentator Rajat Sethi has done the research for the film. The film's director, Pawan Sharma, said: "What we are taught in school about



Tipu Sultan is gross misinformation. I stood absolutely shaken and disillusioned to know his reality as a bigoted king. Through my film I am daring to show a brutal reality that has been manipulated just for us to take him to be a warrior hero."

He added: "Tipu Sultan's Islamic fanaticism was much worse than that of his father Hyder Ali Khan's. He was a Hitler of that era."

Sethi added: "While history has been unkind to many heroes, it has mischievously ignored the tyranny of many others. Tipu is one such historical figure whose adula-

tion and admiration is over-rated, while his cruelties have been neatly concealed in our textbooks. "Not only history, but popular culture - movies, theatres, etc. - have also systematically ignored a realistic and balanced portrayal of Tipu. This movie is a humble attempt to initiate a course correction on his narrative."

Producer Sandeep Singh, who has been behind films such as 'PM Narendra Modi', 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar', 'Atal' or 'Bal Shivaji', said: "This is the cinema I personally believe in. My films stand for truth... I was brainwashed into believing him to be a braveheart as shown in our history textbooks. But nobody knows his malevolent side. I want to expose his dark side for the future generation."

Backed by Eros International, Rashmi Sharma Films and Sandeep Singh, 'Tipu' will have a multilingual release in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil Telugu and Malayalam.

Conspiracy to break Mumbai from Maharashtra: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday alleged that there was a conspiracy to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra, and said those plotting it were trying to weaken the city at all levels by subjecting it to constant attacks.

Talking to reporters here, he said his party will not let anyone harm Mumbai or turn it into a Union Territory. "Be is my party or past chief ministers of Maharashtra belonging to the Congress - from Vasantdada Patil to Vasantrao Naik - all tried to protect Mumbai," the Rajya Sabha member said.

But attempts are on even today to make Mumbai a slave of capitalists, he alleged.

"Even in the past, the industrialists were from Gujarat and now it can be



noticed very prominently because those who are ruling are from that state," Raut said in an apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"There are constant attacks on Mumbai to weaken it economically, geographically and socially. This is a conspiracy to break Mumbai from Maharashtra," he

added. "This means that Mumbai should not be a part of Maharashtra in future, and even if it remains in the state, then it should be very weak," Raut said.

He claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) neither played any role in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement nor in the freedom struggle.

FRUIT SELLER WITH DISABILITIES ASSAULTED OVER 4 BANANAS

Mumbai: Police have registered a case after a streetseller with disabilities was assaulted by a man over four bananas in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Thursday. A video of the incident had gone viral on social media.

In his complaint to Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar police, Saddam Hussain (29) said he was attacked on May 1 when he was out on the street in Bhayandar to sell bananas.

Hussain said a man picked up four bananas from his cart and moved on. When Hussain asked him to pay for the fruits, the man turned violent, said the official.

A video of the incident shows an unidentified man kicking Hussain and viciously pushing him down to the ground. The video also shows a few passersby rushing to save the differently-abled banana seller. The man also used abusive language, the complainant told the police, adding that he lost Rs 3,000 in the fight. Police are investigating the matter and no arrest has been made yet, said the official.

5 arrested for killing man, kidnapping 80-year-old woman in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Five people were arrested for allegedly killing a man and kidnapping an 80-year-old woman over a property dispute in Maharashtra's Mumbai, the police said on Wednesday.

Hunt for two others is still on, they said.

According to the police, the man, son of the kidnapped woman who was later rescued by the police, was identified as Vishal and the woman as Rohini Kamble.

Giving details, the police said that both victims went missing on April 4. After almost 15 days, on April 21, when their relatives were not able to contact them, Rohini's sister lodged a missing complaint for both of them at Chembur police station.

Upon receiving the information, the police swung into action and started the search operation for the victims. "As a part of the investigation, call records of both the victims were analysed. After getting the



details, we tracked down a few suspects," the police said.

During interrogation, the police said that it was revealed that the mother-son duo were in touch with the accused persons for property dealing, but the dealers wanted to grab their property against their will. The police further informed that the accused kidnapped the mother-son duo on April 5 after taking them to Panvel under the

guise of showing them some property." The suspects revealed that they had killed Vishal but the police are yet to trace his body and Rohini was taken to a flat located at Powai in Mumbai to forcibly obtain her signatures on property documents," the officer added. The police have rescued Rohini from Powai and arrested five people including a woman who is the mastermind of the entire incident.

Maharashtra BJP leader creates ruckus in election counting room, case filed

Latur | Agencies

Police have registered a case against former Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Vinayakrao Patil for allegedly creating a ruckus in an election counting room at Ahmedpur in Latur district of the state, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on April 30 after voting for the Ahmedpur Agriculture Produce Market Committee got over and the counting of votes was taken up at 5 pm at a Zilla Parishad school. Assistant registrar Vasant Ghule was the returning officer. Only officials concerned, registered repre-



sentatives and designated police personnel were allowed into the counting room, he said.

Around 8 pm, former state minister Patil along with some other persons entered the counting room and allegedly manhandled Ghule as well as the counting officer. He also threatened the staff, the police said.

Based on the complaint filed by Ghule, a case under Indian Penal Code sections, including 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 332 (voluntarily causing), was registered against him and others, assistant inspector Vitthal Dhurpade said.

"Won't Impact MVA": Uddhav Thackeray on Sharad Pawar's resignation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Uddhav Thackeray, who heads a faction of the Shiv Sena, today expressed confidence that Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as the party chief will not dent the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance.

Addressing a press conference here, the former Maharashtra chief minister said he will not do anything that hurt the opposition's unity.

Uddhav Thackeray also said he was not opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but was against dicta-



torship. "The developments in NCP won't dent the MVA," Thackeray said.

He, however, declined to comment on Pawar's decision to step down as the party chief. Pawar on Tuesday announced his decision to step down as the NCP

president, which has jolted his party and the opposition alliance.

The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), NCP and Congress are partners in the MVA. The government headed by this alliance ruled Maharashtra from November 2019 to June 2022.

Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway becomes a 'killer' with 95 deaths in 5 months

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The partly-completed Mumbai-Nagpur Super Expressway has emerged as a "killer" - reporting at least 195 big and small accidents that claimed 95 lives and left many more injured in less than 5 months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, on December 11, 2022, inaugurated the 'Hindu HridaySamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg' Phase I, running 520 km from Nagpur to Nashik.

The total planned project, costing Rs 55,000 crore, encompasses 701 km linking the Maharashtra capital and the second capital, passing through 10 districts, halving the travel time from 16 hours to just 8 hours.

However, the Council for Protection of Rights (CPR) has said that the present stretch has already become deadly for vehicles and their occupants using it since the past nearly five months.



The VNIT report, prepared by the Traffic Engineering Department students, has claimed that after long hours of driving without break, drivers tend to develop "highway hypnosis" leading to such accidents.

"Highway hypnosis" is a condition when a driver zones out while driving, unable to remember what occurred in

that specific period, just keeping driving without absolute control over the steering, and paying no attention to anything happening around him/her.

It is the outcome of tiredness among the driver, long hours of driving, monotonous highways, drowsiness with inattentive brain, etc.

The TED students studied a 100-km

stretch of the Nagpur-Nashik section that was thrown open and in over one-third of the instances, "highway hypnosis" is believed to be responsible for the crashes, said the Head of Department V. Landge.

The Super Expressway has three lanes in each direction, so there are no head-on collisions, but more than 50 per cent of the trucks do not adhere to the "no lane change" rules.

The traffic on the Super Expressway comprises 30 per cent small vehicles, 20 per cent small goods carriers, and 50 per cent trucks, with the last category blatantly flouting the lane-change rules that result in big and small crashes, as per the report.

Besides, passenger vehicles plying on expressways in developed countries are required to take a compulsory halt of 10-15 minutes after every 90-100 minutes to prevent onset of "highway hypnosis", especially during night travel, he added. He called upon

the CM and DGP and CS to make immediate provisions for suitable halts at every 40-50 km on the Nagpur-Nashik (520 km) stretch, and also on the upcoming Nashik-Mumbai (181 km).

Tiwari said that many activists and traffic experts have questioned the wisdom of throwing open incomplete highways, expressways, roads, and other projects without providing all necessary amenities/facilities, eyeing short-term electoral gains.

"The CPR demands that the road should be closed at every 100 km for traffic and give a short break to the drivers to prevent their brain from lapsing into 'highway hypnosis' that will curb accidents not only on the Super Expressway but also all other highways in the country," he urged.

Taking cognisance of the CRP plea, the CMO has sent it to the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, for further action in the matter.

CAR CRUSHED AFTER COLLISION WITH BUS IN SATARA, 4 KILLED



Mumbai: Four people were killed in Maharashtra's Sangli when the car they were travelling in collided with a bus, police said on Thursday.

The horrific accident occurred on the Vita-Newri road in Sangli district.

The two vehicles collided head-on, and four people in the car died on the spot. One person survived thanks to the airbags.

Visuals from the accident site, showed the car, a Ford Fiesta crushed after crashing into the bus.



BLAKE LIVELY JOKES SHE TOOK HER VOLUMINOUS 'HAIR OUT ON A DATE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Blake Lively took to Instagram on Wednesday to share sultry snapshots from her night out at the reopening of the Tiffany & Co. flagship store in NYC. The actress - who has joined her husband Ryan Reynolds in Wrexham - looked gorgeous in brown leather Brandon Maxwell dress. She teamed the ensemble with extra voluminous, springy curls that swelled around her head, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Blake joked on social media, 'tiffanyandco givin' me a reason to take my hair out on a date. We're goin' steady now.' The long-sleeved, clinging look featured buttons down the front and a matching belt that accentuated the star's slim waist.

In another snapshot posted in her Instagram Stories the mother-of-four shared a blurry image of herself flipping her blonde locks.

She wrote over the outtake: 'For anyone wondering how to get the look...'

The photo showed the bombshell against a gray wall as she modeled her stunning outfit. Blake left the top portion of her dress unbuttoned, making it a plunging look that exposed her cleavage. And on the lower end she also left the garment unfastened, making it an even sexier look as she flaunted her legs.

The silver screen siren rounded out the presentation with a pair of chunky, brown, open-toe heels.

Lively wrote in a caption to her 39.6 million fans, 'My kinda breakfast spot. Thank you for having me & my mama. What. A. New. York. Moment.'



PAUL DANO, BRIE LARSON, MARYAM JOIN RUBEN OSTLUND FOR CANNES JURY

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Cannes jury class of 2023 has finally been unveiled. The festival has rounded out its jury - led this year by 'Triangle of Sadness' director and 2022 Palme d'Or winner Ruben Ostlund, reports Variety. The jury includes a star-studded roster of actors and directors like actors Paul Dano and Brie Larson, Moroccan director Maryam Touzani, French actor Denis

Menoche, British-Zambian screenwriter and director Rungano Nyoni,

Afghan author Atiq Rahimi, Argentinian director and screenwriter Damian Szifron and director Julia Ducournau, who won the Palme d'Or in 2021 for her film 'Titane'. As per Variety, the jury will award the Palme d'Or to one of the 21 films playing in competition. The awards will be revealed on May 27 at the festival's closing ceremony.

Ostlund's selection as jury president was announced by Cannes on February 27, leaving a considerable gap of just over two months before the full jury reveal. As in past years, most jury mem-

bers have helmed or starred in films that have played at the festival.

'Variety' further states that Touzani's acclaimed first feature film, 'Adam' screened in Un Certain Regard and was short-listed for an Oscar, while Menoche broke out in Quentin Tarantino's 'Inglourious Basterds' which played in competition in 2009. Nyoni's first feature film 'I Am Not a Witch' also played in Cannes, while Rahimi's book 'Earth and Ashes' was adapted for the screen by the author and played at the festival in 2004.

Szifron's 'Wild Tales' made waves in Cannes in 2014, while the same can be said for Ducournau's surrealist drama 'Titane' in 2021.

Poppy Delevingne to star in 'The Gun on Second Street'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Poppy Delevingne will star in 'The Gun on Second Street', a new drama from the Emmy-nominated Indian American writer, producer and director Rohit Karn Batra, reports 'Variety'.

The film is described as "an allegory of the gun crisis in the United States". Its plot follows two Pittsburgh police partners and best friends who are called to an uneventful domestic violence dispute on Second Street. This, according to 'Variety', quickly escalates to a violent confrontation as Officer TJ Meadows III shoots and kills his partner, Officer Kevin Cooper, with his backup gun. Years later, no longer a cop and still traumatised, Meadows moves back to Pittsburgh and finds his way to his partner's widow, Kacie (Delevingne). They slowly fall in love as Kacie confronts the history she's been avoiding, including telling her 15-year-old son, Ralph, TJ's back-story.

The film, adds 'Variety', is produced by Guy J. Louthan of Ransom Films with Rikin Shah serving as one of the executive producers. It will be introduced to buyers at the Cannes Film Festival this month. Casting is now underway. Batra directed (his first film), wrote, and -- together with Louthan -- produced the 2019 international crime drama 'Line of Descent' starring Brendan Fraser, Abhay Deol, Neeraj Kabi, Bollywood veteran Prem Chopra and Gopal Datt. Previously, his 'Roundabout' won the Jury Prize at the Palm Beach International Film Festival for Best Short Film.

I've never done a series that has this kind of scope & complexity: Stanley Tucci

Los Angeles | Agencies

Citadel's third episode premieres on Prime Video today. Prime Video's global spy series Citadel has become the most talked about series, all across the globe. Touted as one of the most intricately planned series, the global spy drama is being applauded for its unique concept of an interconnected universe, a stellar ensemble cast, mind-blowing action sequences, and edge-of-your-seat thrill. From Amazon Studios, and Russo Brothers' AGBO, Citadel boasts of an eclectic cast including - Richard Madden, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Stanley Tucci, and Lesley Manville in lead roles.

Stanley Tucci, who has starred in many global franchises, including The Transformers, The Hunger Games, and Marvel's Captain America, and many more; essays the role of an exceedingly smart, tech-genius, shrewd yet funny, elite Citadel spy - Bernard Orlick.

During a recent interview, he divulged details on his experience of working on Citadel, a series of such magnanimous scale.

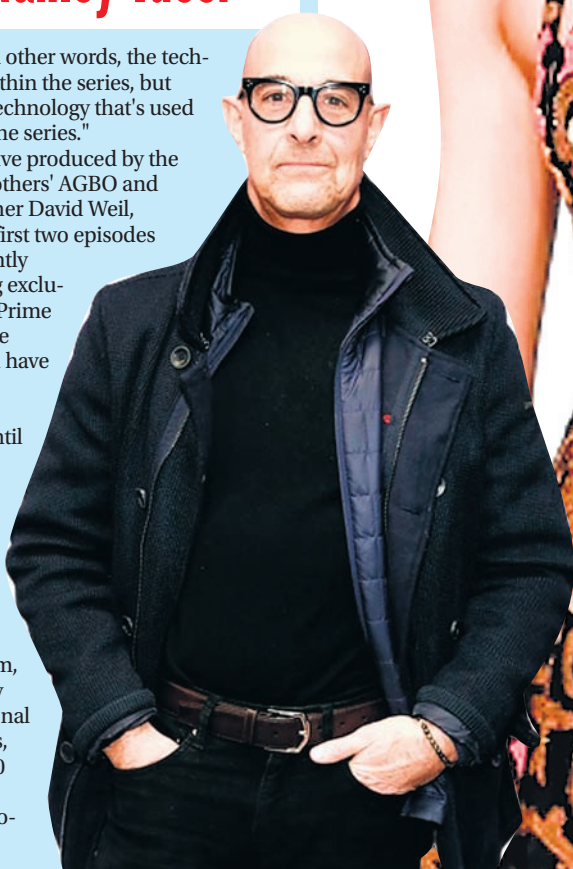
He said, "I think Citadel is probably the largest-scale project I've ever done. I've done big movies, but I've never done a series that has this kind of scope and com-

plexity. In other words, the technology within the series, but also the technology that's used to make the series."

Executive produced by the Russo Brothers' AGBO and showrunner David Weil, Citadel's first two episodes are currently streaming exclusively on Prime Video. The series will have a weekly episodic release until May 26 in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu,

Kannada,

Malayalam, and many international languages, across 240 countries and territories.



'Growing together is wise'

Jon Bon Jovi responds to criticism over son's engagement to teen Millie Bobby Brown

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jon Bon Jovi has reacted to criticism of his son Jake getting engaged to Millie Bobby Brown. The 'Enola Holmes' and 'Stranger Things' star announced boyfriend of three years Jake had got down on one knee last month.

Sharing their happy news with a snap of them cuddling, Millie told her 67 million Instagram followers: "I've loved you for three summers now, honey, I want 'em all."

But not everyone was here for it, with some fans saying the couple were 'too young' to walk down the aisle and should wait a bit longer, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Now Jake's singing legend dad has hit back at criticism of his son's proposal saying he doesn't think age matters - as he met his own wife Dorothea when he was in high school.

The 'Livin' on a Prayer' hitmaker gave his thoughts on the matter during an interview on American radio.

As per Mirror.co.uk, it comes as Jon revealed three out of his four kids are now engaged, so the family has a lot of weddings to plan.

Speaking to host Andy Cohen on 'Radio Andy' show, Jon shared: "I don't know if age matters. You know, if you find the right partner and you grow together. I think that would be my advice really, growing together is wise. So I think that all of my kids have found the people that they think they can grow together with, and we like them all."

Mirror.co.uk further states that Jon went on to call future daughter-in-law Millie "wonderful," adding "her whole family is great." More importantly, he confirmed that the couple are very much in love saying: "Jake is very, very happy."

The singer met his own wife Dorothea Hurley as a teenager and they were childhood sweethearts. But the pair waited until they were in their late 20s to tie the knot - shunning a big wedding to elope to Vegas in 1989.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Megan Barton Hanson



IPL 2023

KKR REGISTER THRILLING FIVE-RUN WIN OVER SRH, KEEP THEIR HOPES LIVE

Hyderabad | Agencies

Spinner Varun Chakravarthy held his nerve to defend nine runs in the final over as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) registered a thrilling 5-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in an IPL 2023 match at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, here on Thursday.

Riding on Nitish Rana's 42 off 31 and Rinku Singh's 46 off 35, KKR posted 171/9 on the board in front of SRH clinical bowling display. In reply, SRH seemed to be struggling to execute their plans as they lost the rhythm after middle overs and suffered a loss in another game at home.

After a crucial win in their campaign, KKR have managed to keep their qualification hopes alive with their fourth win in 10 games this season.

Chasing 172, SRH opening duo Abhishek Sharma and Mayank Agarwal got off to a solid start before Hyderabad managed to draw first blood and it was Harshit Rana who dismissed Agarwal in the third over. Agarwal went for a pull but got beaten by the extra pace. He gloved



the ball toward the keeper and Rahmanullah Gurbaz had the easy one. Shardul Thakur joined the party in the next over as he removed Abhishek cheaply for 9, reducing SRH to 37/2.

Rahul Tripathi took Andre Russell

to the cleaners in the sixth over as he got 4,6,4 before falling on the next ball. Tripathi tried to ramp it over the fine leg boundary but holed out to the deep fielder and Vaibhav Arora took a fine catch. KKR reached 53/3 at the end of the powerplay.

The next over, Anukul Roy trapped Harry Brooks lbw for a duck. KKR kept SRH at bay with an impressive bowling show as the hosts went boundary-less in the next three overs and were reeling 75/4 in 10 overs. Then, Heinrich Klassen and skipper Aiden Markram shifted gears, and the duo stitched a crucial 70-run partnership.

Mayank Markane removed Russell in the 15th over for 24 and half of the KKR side headed back to the hut in 15 overs. And soon Bhuvneshwar dismissed Narine, who was beaten by the lack of pace and chipped it towards extra cover where Agarwal ran to his left to complete an easy catch.

Brief scores:

Kolkata Knight Riders 171/9 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 42 off 31, Rinku Singh 46 off 35; Marco Jansen 2/24, T Natarajan 2/30) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad (Aiden Markram 41 off 40, Heinrich Klaasen 36 off 20; Shardul Thakur 2/23, Vaibhav Arora 2/32) by 5 runs.

World Boxing Championships

Narender storms into pre-quarters, Govind & Deepak also move to next round

Tashkent (Uzbekistan) | Agencies

Putting on a commanding display, Narender Berwal registered a stellar victory and advanced to the pre-quarter finals of the IBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2023 while Govind Sahani and Deepak Kumar entered the next round to ensure India dominated proceedings, here on Thursday.

With a quarter-final finish at the previous World Championships under his belt, Narender (+92kg) began his quest for a medal at the ongoing edition by defeating Muhammad Abroridinov of Tajikistan in a closely-contested encounter by 4-1. Both pugilists who won bronze at the 2022 Asian Championships went all out in the neck-and-neck bout from the word go.

Narender landed powerful punches and dodged his opponent's attacks from close range to have the upper hand in the first round. In spite of a stern fight put up by Abroridinov, the Hisar-born



pugilist continued to attack on the front foot in the next two rounds and prevailed in the bout. He will face the 2021 World Youth Championships bronze medalist Fernando Arzola of Cuba in the next round.

Earlier in the day, the 2022 Thailand Open champion Govind (48kg) and 2019 Asian silver medalist Deepak (51kg) kicked off their respective campaigns with identical victories. Govind, who has had an outstanding year so far with gold at the Nationals Championships and a silver at the 74th Strandja Memorial, continued his rich vein of form as he made

lightwork of Mehron Shafiev of Tajikistan to secure a 5-0 win.

Deepak, on the other hand, was also at his attacking best as he hosted Luis Delgado of Ecuador with his supreme technical ability to seal an emphatic victory by unanimous decision.

Following their emphatic victories, Govind will face the top-seeded Sakhil Alakhverdovi of Georgia who won bronze at the last World Championships while Deepak will take on the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist and reigning World Champion Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan.

Premier League

Man City goes back to top as Haaland breaks league's goals record

London | Agencies

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland broke the Premier League scoring record in a single season in his side's 3-0 win at home to West Ham United, which takes them back to the top of the Premier League.

Haaland scored his 35th league goal of the campaign to beat the record, jointly held by Alan Shearer and Andy Cole, after a pass from Jack Grealish put his side 2-0 ahead in the 70th minute of the game. City needed to win to go back to the top after Arsenal's 3-1 win over Chelsea. West Ham offered stern resistance in a close first half, but Coach David



Moyes will have been disappointed at the defenders that allowed a fit-again Nathan Ake to nod City ahead in the 50th minute from a Riyad Mahrez cross, reports

Xinhua. Phil Foden added a third goal for Pep Guardiola's side with five minutes left to play after his volley from the edge of the area took a big deflection on its way to the back of the net.

Liverpool moved a step closer to ensuring at least places in next season's Europa League, with a narrow 1-0 win at home to Fulham. Mohamed Salah's 39th-minute penalty after a foul on Darwin Nunez separated the two sides and gave Liverpool their fifth consecutive league win.

Jürgen Klopp's men are now seven points behind fourth-place Manchester United, but five points clear of sixth-place Tottenham.

2023 Diamond League

REIGNING CHAMPION NEERAJ CHOPRA RETURNS TO ACTION IN DOHA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Neeraj Chopra, India's first Olympic gold medalist in track and field and first Indian ever to win a Diamond Trophy, will start the defence of his javelin throw title in the first event of the 2023 Diamond League at the Qatar Sports Club in Doha today.

Chopra will be among a host of champions to feature in one of the most prestigious athletics events of the season. The Doha meet will also see Commonwealth Games triple jump champion Eldhose Paul compete in a field including reigning Olympic champion Pedro Pichardo from Portugal and reigning Diamond League winner Andy Diaz Hernandez from Cuba.

For the first time, Chopra will be seen in action since his sensational 88.44m throw that clinched the 2022 Diamond Trophy in Zurich. His title



defence will have a familiar cast of competitors in the season-opening meet. Reigning world champion and 2022 Doha meet winner Anderson Peters from Grenada (PB: 93.07m), Tokyo Olympics silver medalist

Jakub Vadlejch from the Czech Republic (PB: 90.88m), European champion Julian Weber from Germany (PB: 89.54m), and former Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott from Trinidad and Tobago (PB:

90.16m), will be Chopra's biggest competitors this season, the broadcasters informed in a release on Thursday.

Apart from Chopra, several other Olympic and World champions will be part of the season opener in Doha. The women's 100m will feature five-time Olympic medalist Shericka Jackson from Jamaica, former 200m world champion Dina Asher-Smith from Great Britain, and a talented American quartet featuring Melissa Jefferson, Abby Steiner, Twanisha Terry, and Sha'Carri Richardson.

The 200m men's race will feature reigning Olympic 200m champion Andre De Grasse from Canada, 400m world champion Michael Norman from the USA, 100m world champion and Olympic silver medalist Fred Kerley from the USA, and Olympic and world 200m silver medalist Kenny Bednarek from the USA in a competitive field.

NZ vs PAK 3rd ODI

NZ blunder their way to series defeat after Imam, Babar fifties lift PAK

Karachi | Agencies

Debutant allrounder Cole McConechie made a bold unbeaten 64 and Tom Blundell (65) top-scored but their efforts went in vain as a series of errors cost New Zealand to a 26-run defeat in the third ODI, giving hosts Pakistan an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match ODI series.

Chasing Pakistan's 287/6 builds on superb fifties by opener Imam-ul-Haq (90) and skipper Babar Azam (54) at the National Stadium here; the Black Caps were dismissed for 261 in the last over and suffered their third successive defeat in the series.

After skipper Tom Latham won the toss and elected to field first, Tom Blundell, in his first appearance of the series, top-scored but was one of two unnecessary run-out victims as the tourists made a mess of their run chase. The opener/wicketkeeper cruised to 65 from 78 balls before taking on the arm of Mohammad Wasim when attempting a second run and falling short. Blundell struck seven boundaries in his 112-minute stay at the crease.

Blundell and Will Young put on 83 for the first



wicket in 15.3 overs before Young was run out for 33 from 41 deliveries when guilty of ball-watching. Babar Azam, the world's top-rated ODI

batter, and Imam ul-Haq put on 108 for the second wicket with the Pakistan skipper making 54 from 62 balls. But it took them 20.1 overs to do so as the visitors kept the run rate in check throughout the innings. Imam top-scored with 90 from 107 deliveries while Shadab Khan's 21 from 10 balls set the Black Caps a target of 288.

With Fakhar Zaman back in the hut early, left-handed opener Imam took over the responsibility of setting the platform, hitting seven fours and a six and batting until the 38th over. Babar provided him good company as they repaired the innings and helped Pakistan set a target that proved enough in the end.

Brief scores

Pakistan 287/6 in 50 overs (Imam ul-Haq 90, Babar Azam 54; Matt Henry 3-54, Adam Milne 2-56) beat New Zealand 261 all out in 49.1 overs (Tom Blundell 65, Cole McConechie 64 not out, Tom Latham 45; Naseem Shah 2-41, Mohammad Wasim 2-50, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-52) by 26 runs.

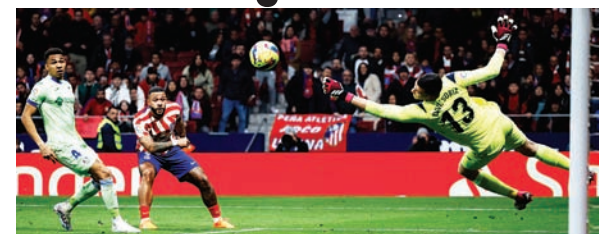
La Liga

Atletico Madrid move second in standings; Getafe remain in relegation zone

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

Atletico Madrid climbed above neighbours Real Madrid into second place in La Liga thanks to a 5-1 win at home to Cadiz.

Antoine Griezmann opened the scoring in the second minute after taking a pass from Yannick Carrasco before scoring with a shot to the far post. Griezmann doubled his tally for the night in the 27th minute with another excellent goal, scoring at the near post from the edge of the penalty area after exchanging passes with Thomas Lemar, reports Xinhua. Alvaro Morata netted Atletico's third of the game at the start of the second half on a pass from Mario Hermoso, and Carrasco scored a penalty in the 56th minute -- the first penalty Atletico have



been awarded all season. Lozano pulled a goal back for Cadiz with 19 minutes left to play, but Nahuel Molina quickly re-established Atletico's four-goal lead.

Jose Bordalas' return to Getafe saw his side claim a vital 1-0 win at home to Celta Vigo, thanks to Enes Unal's second-minute penalty after he had been clipped in the Celta penalty area. Joseph Aidoo was sent off in the 76th minute to leave Celta with 10 men for the closing minutes of the game. With the win, Getafe are level on points

with Valencia, who drew 1-1 at home to Villarreal, but stay in the relegation zone due to goal difference. Nicolas Jackson continued his scoring run by opening the scoring for Villarreal in the 62nd minute, and after Edinson Cavani saw an effort ruled out for offside, Samuel Lino took advantage of some poor defending to equalize with 18 minutes left to play.

The game leaves Valencia out of the relegation zone, but with plenty of work still to do in the last five games of the season.

Spain tour

India U-17 fight back to hold Real Madrid U-17 to 3-3 draw

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Substitute Thanglalsoun Gange scored in the last seconds of the match as the India U-17 boys continued with their superb performance and played out a hard-fought 3-3 draw against Real Madrid U-17 in a training game in Madrid.

The India U-17s are currently in Spain, where they are playing a series of practice matches as part of their preparation for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-17 Asian Cup 2023, which will take place in Thailand in June, this year. In the training



match on Wednesday night, Madrid took the lead in the 37th minute through Arevalo, but the Blue Colts only took a minute to level the score when Shashwat found the back of the net off a cross from skipper Korou, who had a good day in office, the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) informed in a release on Thursday.

India surged into the lead when Ralte found the target three minutes after the break. Shashwat had set it up perfectly for Ralte to slot it home, but the home side scored two quick goals through A. Sanchez (52', 69'). However, it was Gange's 90th-minute strike off a Korou cross that brought the equaliser.

The Indian Colts held the upper hand in the match as they availed themselves of several attacking opportunities from the start and in the 14th minute, Shashwat's shot was cleared by Real Madrid's Borja inside the 6-yard box.

Spain tour

INDIA U-17 FIGHT BACK TO HOLD REAL MADRID U-17 TO 3-3 DRAW

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Substitute Thanglalsoun Gange scored in the last seconds of the match as the India U-17 boys continued with their superb performance and played out a hard-fought 3-3 draw against Real Madrid U-17 in a training game in Madrid.

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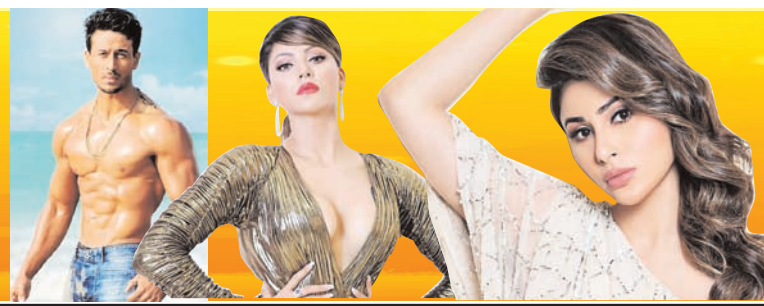
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As India continued to attack, Ralte and Ricky looked lively throughout the first half and weaved their way past a multitude of defenders to create chances for India.

Changing over, the Indian boys started to show more intent as the game resumed. India had the best chance to take the lead when the score was 2-2, but Shashwat's rebound shot from a free-kick hit the crossbar.



'I went into deep depression'

Priyanka Chopra discusses botched up nose job, losing 3 films during dark phase

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is receiving good response to her recently released streaming spy series, 'Citadel', has revealed that she went through a rough patch during the initial phase of her Bollywood journey and the reason behind the same was a botched up nose job.

The actress, who has been making

startling revelations of late, recently appeared on the 'Howard Stern Show' on Sirius XM and shared how she fell into depression and lost three films after the nose surgery went wrong.

She said, "This thing happens, and my face looks completely different, and I went into a deep, deep depression." As per her claims, the surgeon accidentally shaved the bridge of her nose which led to its collapse. This resulted in her losing three movies. The actress further mentioned that

during that period it was difficult for her to leave her home. Her late father, however, encouraged her to go under the knife again for corrective surgery.

She said her father held "my hands through it and helped me build back my confidence."

Anil Sharma, the Bollywood director, who has helmed 'Gadar 2', was also lauded by Priyanka for giving her an acting role after she lost three different movie projects as a result of surgery.

SUSHMITA SEN LEARNT EVERY DIALOGUE BY HEART, TO PORTRAY GAURI SAWANT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sushmita Sen, who is set to play transgender activist Gauri Sawant in the web series 'Taali', took 6 months for the project but she learnt every dialogue by heart. It was Gauri Sawant's PIL (public interest litigation) that led to a landmark Supreme Court judgement in 2014, recognising the transgender community as the third gender.

The creative duo behind 'Taali' Arjun Singh Baran and Kartk D. Nishandar revealed that the actress did her homework quite well.

The creative duo recalled the passion with which Sushmita immersed herself into Gauri's life. They said: "She took around six months to say okay to the script and she knew it by heart. So in tune with the script she was by then that during the shoot, if we added or changed a line, she would tell us instantly that it wasn't there originally. She does her homework very well."

The duo said that Sushmita had read the script at least four to five times and literally lived with the character till she became one with it. They further mentioned: "Acting coach Atul Mongia helped her to finetune the transformation and director Ravi Jadhav guided her to get the nuances of the Marathi diction right. She also worked very hard on her voice modulation. She put her heart and soul into 'Taali' and today we cannot imagine anyone else playing Gauri other than her."

Helmed by the national award-winning filmmaker Ravi Jadhav, 'Taali' will explore the momentous life of Gauri from her childhood, her transition, and her contribution to revolutionising the transgender movement in India.



Anupam Kher to play sexagenarian triathlete in his 537th film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Award-winning actor Anupam Kher, who is known for his roles in films such as 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', 'Tridev', 'Lamhe', 'Special 26' and several others, will headline the upcoming streaming film 'Vijay 69'. This will be Kher's 537th film. The film will follow the life of a sexagenarian man, played by Kher, who decides to compete in a triathlon contest at the age of 69. It will be directed by Akshay Roy, who has previously helmed 'Meri Pyaari Bindu'.

Making the announcement, Kher tweeted: "It's good to be 69 years young! Super excited to be starring in yrfentertainment's, Vijay69 in the lead: a quirky slice-of-life film for OTT about a man who decides to compete in a triathlon contest at the age of 69. Let's put the show on the road! Jai Ho! My 537th."

'Vijay 69' is being produced by YRF Entertainment and Maneesh Sharma, who has directed 'Band Baaja Baarat' as well as produced 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' and 'Sui Dhaaga: Made In India' in the past. He is now also helming YRF Spy Universe's next offering 'Tiger 3' starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif.



Our job is to create content that resonates with audience: Dimple

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actress Dimple Kapadia, who plays a drug lord in the upcoming streaming series 'Saas, Bahu aur Flamingo', feels that the audience is now open to badass female characters on the screen and that the cinema in India largely has evolved for the good.

The series will showcase women taking the charge of the show with guns, drugs and badassery at their disposal.

Talking about the changing attitude of the audience, Dimple Kapadia said: "I think while these themes have always been present in cinema, it seems that audiences are becoming more accepting of them and seeking out content that pushes the boundaries. It's important to recognise that cinema is a reflection of society, and that society itself is becoming more accepting of these themes." She added: "We cannot ignore the fact that there is a growing appetite for content that explores darker and more taboo subjects. As artists, it's our job to navigate this landscape with care and sensitivity, while still pushing the boundaries and



exploring new grounds. Ultimately, it's up to the audience to decide what they want to watch, and as artists, our job is to create content that resonates with them."



Aparshakti Khurana once 'went home and cried a little'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor and Ayushmann Khurrana's brother Aparshakti Khurana is currently ruling the headlines as a result of his stellar performance as Binod Das aka Madan Kumar in the Prime Video series Jubilee. But things were not always smooth for the Stree star. In an exclusive chat with India Today, Aparshakti recalled the time he broke down in tears after being told that he will find it difficult to climb the ladder in the entertainment industry because he is "too approachable." Elaborating on the worst advice he got in his career, Aparshakti said, "I was discussing with someone on how to take life a little ahead. He told me, 'Bada mushkil hoga tere liye (it's difficult for you). I asked why so he said that I am very approachable. He advised me not to talk to everyone. I went back home and cried a little because I thought this was my one plus point in life. I got emotional. I always thought being a people's person and being present in a

conversation physically and mentally is my plus point. I don't want to be the person who is just physically here but mentally somewhere else. This was the most important thing for me." Aparshakti continued, "If I am sitting with somebody, that's the most important conversation for me at that point of time. I can talk to the security guard of a building and discuss life with him and I love doing it. It is not a personal agenda that makes me a better actor. I don't have any selfish motive here. It is just the fact that I found that person interesting and good at heart. I found them simple and innocent enough to learn a thing or two so I spoke to him for two hours. So that particular person told, 'Aise kaise aage badhega (How will you move ahead)."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif