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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02
Modi attacks Cong in Ajmer, says it does not discriminate ...

HOLLYWOOD > 06
'I feel surreal' Padma Lakshmi 'honoured' to be among World's ...

SPORTS > 07
Thailand Open: Kiran George upsets World No 9 Shi Yu qi ...



'INDIA'S GDP NUMBERS HIGHER THAN EXPECTED'

Team Absolute | Chennai

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for FY23 is estimated at 7.2 per cent, the National Statistical Office (NSO) announced on Wednesday.

According to NSO, which comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7.2 per cent as compared to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

The GDP growth during the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was at 6.1 per cent, NSO said. However, economists were of the view that the numbers were higher than what was expected earlier. The NSO said the GDP in the year 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 160.06 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimates of GDP for the year 2021-22 of Rs 149.26 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7.2 per cent as compared to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

Similarly, the GDP in Q4 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 43.62 lakh crore, as against Rs 41.12 lakh crore in Q4 2021-22, showing a growth of 6.1 per cent, the NSO said. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das, at the recent annual conference of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), had said there are chances of India's gross domestic product (GDP) for FY23 crossing the estimated 7 per cent growth going by the trends. He was confident that India's GDP growth rate for FY24 at



GDP forecast of 6.5% for current fiscal looks possible, says government

New Delhi: With the growth rate for 2022-23 estimated to be 7.2 per cent, the government on Wednesday said that the risks to the GDP forecast of 6.5 per cent for the current fiscal (2023-24) are now evenly balanced after a few months ago.

"We are now prepared to say that risks to our GDP growth forecast of 6.5 per cent for 2023-24 are now more evenly balanced than a few months ago when downside risks to the forecast were greater," Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran told reporters after GDP data for the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and for the entire fiscal was released.

According to official data, India posted a GDP growth of 6.1 per cent in the January-March period of 2022-23 as against 4.4 per cent in the preceding quarter. For the entire 2022-23, the growth rate was estimated at 7.2 per cent, which is higher than the advanced estimates of 7 per cent, but lower compared to 9.1 per cent recorded in 2021-22.

6.5 per cent. GDP growth at 7.2 per cent for fiscal 2023 indicates the economy has done better than expected. Importantly, this growth

comes on a higher base - due to upward revision of fiscal 2022 data, said Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist, CRISIL. "We expect the

Govt's fiscal deficit moderates to 6.4%

New Delhi: The government's fiscal deficit moderated slightly to 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71 per cent in the corresponding period, according to the revenue-expenditure data released on Wednesday.

The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said that the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was Rs 17,33,131 crore (provisional), which was marginally down from the amount projected in the revised estimates (RE) in the budget.

The CGA added that the government received Rs 24.56 lakh crore (101 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23.

This comprised Rs 20.97 lakh crore tax revenue (Net to Centre), Rs 2.86 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

economy to slow to 6 per cent this fiscal due to spillover to exports from a slowing world and some impact of interest rate hikes on interest sensitive segments. Even at 6 per cent, India will be the fastest growing G-20 economy this fiscal. As for agriculture output and prices, the eyes are riveted on monsoon," Joshi said.

Modi can even confuse God, says Rahul in US

Team Absolute | Imphal

San Francisco: Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying "if you sat him next to God, he would start explaining how the universe works".

Rahul Gandhi, who is on a six-day visit to the US, while interacting with the Indian diaspora on Tuesday, said, "I think if you sat Modi ji down next to God, he would start explaining to God how the universe works. And God would get confused about what I have created".

He further said that India is being run by a group of people who are "absolutely convinced" and have "disease" that they know everything.

Taking a jibe at PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi said that some groups in India have the "disease" of being under the impression that they know everything.

The Congress leader said this group of people believes they can explain science to scientists, history to historians, and warfare to the Army while adding that mediocrity is at the heart of it all and this group of people does not actually understand anything.

He also talked about his 4,000 km Bharat Jodo Yatra



that began from Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari on September 7 last year and concluded in Srinagar on January 30 where he raised the national flag.

"The Bharat Jodo Yatra carried the spirit of affection, respect and humility. If one studies history, it can be seen that all spiritual leaders, including Guru Nanak Dev ji, Guru Basavanna ji, Narayana Guru ji, united the nation in a similar way," Rahul Gandhi said in his address.

BJP HITS BACK

New Delhi: Hitting back at former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi for his statement given in America, Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said that it has become a habit of Gandhi to insult India during every foreign trip.

"During his foreign visits, Rahul Gandhi insults India. PM Modi met almost 24 PMs and Presidents of the world & held over 50 meetings during his foreign visit recently and when the Australian PM said that 'PM Modi is the Boss', Rahul Gandhi could not digest this," Thakur said.

Row over headscarf as part of Madhya Pradesh school uniform, probe ordered

Bhopal/Damoh | Agencies

The Madhya Pradesh government has ordered a probe after a controversy erupted over the uniform of a private school in Damoh district, with some claiming that a part of it resembles 'hijab' (headscarf worn by Muslim women), officials said on Wednesday.

Earlier, it was alleged that a poster of Ganga Jamuna Higher Secondary School in Damoh showed girls, including Hindu students, wearing headscarves that looked like hijab.

Asked about the row, state home minister Narottam Mishra told reporters in Bhopal that the matter was first investigated by the district education officer. "No complaint was received in this regard. In view of the seriousness of the issue, the superintendent of police has been instructed to thoroughly investigate it," he said.

Meanwhile, Hindu outfits staged a protest at the district collector's office and submitted a memorandum demanding cancellation of the school's registration. They alleged that the school is forcing Hindu girl students to wear a hijab.



Damoh Collector Mayank Agrawal said a probe was conducted earlier about the allegation of religious conversion but it was not found to be true. He also put out a tweet clarifying that the allegation had no substance.

Later, the collector said that after the home minister's instructions, a team comprising the tehsildar, district education officer and police officials was being formed to probe the matter.

School owner Mustaq Khan said that the uniform included the headscarf and nobody was forced to wear it.

Model accuses institute owner of love jihad

Ranchi: Model Manvi Raj has accused her institute owner of entangling her in love jihad by changing his name, and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to save her.

Manvi, a Bihar native, who worked in a modelling institute in Ranchi and is currently staying put in Mumbai, alleged that company owner Tanveer introduced himself as Yash and lured her into love jihad. On Tuesday, she also lodged an FIR against him at Versova police station.

Tanveer was forcing her for religious conversion and marriage, she claimed.

When she got to know that the owner's name is Tanveer, she came to Bhalgalpur and went to Mumbai to build her career. "However, Tanveer came to Mumbai and tried to kill me," she claimed.

Tanveer clicked her objectionable photographs and was pressing her for marriage, Manvi claimed.

Wrestlers' battle turning into face-off between khaps & seers in UP

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said on Wednesday that he would "hang" himself if allegations of sexual assault levelled against him by wrestlers are proven.

"I urge the wrestlers to be patient till the outcome of the investigation. They (wrestlers) should not take any steps that may cause harm to the sport or the aspiring wrestlers. We all are in favour of the sport and sportspersons."

Anurag Thakur, Union Sports Minister

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The ongoing battle between Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and the country's top grapplers is now turning into a face-off between Ayodhya seers and khap leaders of west-



ern Uttar Pradesh.

The khaps of Haryana and farmer outfits of western Uttar Pradesh led by Rakesh Tikait have extended their support to the wrestlers protesting against alleged sexual harassment by the WFI chief. He convinced them to hand over their medal to the President in protest against delay in action against Brij Bhushan. Meanwhile, a prominent seer in

Ayodhya said: "The only option left for Brij Bhushan to counter khaps and farmer outfits is by mobilising support of Ayodhya seers. Singh's association with Ayodhya, its seers and the Ram Mandir movement is more than enough for seers to come out in his support." The seers supporting Singh are also demanding amendment to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

► In those days, the train was quite short and modest with just six cars -- three for passengers with a total capacity of 96 and another three for mail and postal goods, but it ranked as the fastest train of British India -- which introduced the railways in India 170 years ago, on April 16, 1853.

► The Punjab Mail would cover places like Itarsi, Agra, Delhi, Lahore and terminate at the Peshawar Cantonment, unloading both its human and material cargo or mail at various points en route.

► After the Victoria Terminus - now the UNESCO World Heritage site, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - was built in 1888 and fully operational, the Punjab Mail started originating-terminating there from 1914 and also became a daily service.

Fastest Indian train of British-era, Punjab Mail completes 111 years

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The popular and reliable 'Punjab Mail' -- the fastest train to zip across the subcontinent from Bombay (now, Mumbai) to Peshawar (now in Pakistan), completed 111 years on Wednesday and will step into its 112th year of operations on Thursday, Central Railway officials said here.

Sixteen years 'senior' to the more glamorous Frontier Mail (now, Golden Temple Mail) plying almost on a similar route via the Western Railway, the Punjab Mail was originally known as 'Punjab Limited' and steamed out in a cloud of smoke from the erstwhile Ballar Pier Mole station in south Mumbai for its long journey to Peshawar in the north.

CR officials say that though the exact origins of the Punjab Limited are unclear, based on a Cost Estimate Paper of 1911 and a passenger complaint of October 12, 1912 about its few minutes 'late arrival' at



Delhi station, it has been concluded that the train made her maiden run on June 1, 1912. For the northern destinations it was mostly the Punjab Mail running on fixed days from Bombay to Peshawar via the GIP route, traversing the 2,496 km dis-

tance in 47 hours.

The train was immortalised in a Bollywood film, "Punjab Mail" (1939), with scenes shot in "Jab We Met" (2007), among many others in different languages.

Allahabad HC rejects Muslim sides' plea in Gyanvapi case

Prayagraj | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday dismissed the plea of the Anjuman Intezamia Committee, which represents the Muslim side in the Gyanvapi Shrinagar Gauri case, challenging the maintainability of the Hindu side's case. The Hindu worshippers requested permission for daily worship of Hindu deities in the Gyanvapi mosque.

The high court has rejected the mosque committee's challenge to the 5 Hindu women worshippers' suit pending before the Varanasi court. Last year in December, the bench of Justice J.J. Munir reserved its judgment after hearing counsel for both parties at length.

With this, the court has upheld the September 12, 2022 order of the Varanasi court, holding the said suit to be maintainable.

The Masjid Committee had moved the High Court in October



2022, days after the Varanasi court dismissed its plea (filed under Order 7 Rule 11 CPC) challenging the maintainability of a suit filed by five Hindu women (plaintiffs) seeking worshipping rights in the Gyanvapi compound.

In the order, Varanasi District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishwesha had observed that the suit of the plaintiffs is not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, The Waqf Act 1995, and the U.P. Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983 as was being claimed by the Anjuman Masjid Committee (which manages Gyanvapi Masjid).



MODI ATTACKS CONG IN AJMER, SAYS IT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE IN LOOTING

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress and presented his report card on the nine years of his government in front of the people.

Addressing a large gathering in Ajmer, he hit out at the Congress and said the Congress is a party that gets 85 per cent commission in development schemes. It does not discriminate against anyone in looting. Be it the poor, deprived, tribals, Dalits, minorities, it loots everyone equally.

Modi said the Congress played with the lives of crores of women and children. When the Congress was in power, vaccination in the country reached only 60%. Then there were 40 women and children out of 100 who could not get life saving vaccines. If there was a Congress government now, it would have taken 40 years to vaccinate everyone.

He added that the Congress had given a guarantee of waiving the loans of the farmers in 10 days. It has been in power in Rajasthan since 2018, yet till date the guarantee has



not been fulfilled. The guarantee given by it, if implemented, would lead to bankruptcy, so Rajasthan needs to be careful with the Congress.

He quipped that the Congress has

an old habit of giving guarantees. It gave a guarantee to remove poverty 50 years ago, it was the biggest betrayal with the country. Now the experts of the world are saying that India is very close to ending extreme

poverty. It is the Congress which has been betraying the soldiers in the name of One Rank One Pension for four decades.

The Prime Minister said that the nine years of the BJP-led NDA government have been dedicated to the service of the countrymen, good governance and the welfare of the poor.

Modi launched the BJP's month-long mass outreach programme to mark the completion of nine years of the NDA government. At the rally, he also presented the report card of the 9 years of his government. He said that before 2014, corruption was rampant in the country and terrorist attacks took place, adding that through the vote of the public, the atmosphere of extreme despair has changed into confidence in the last nine years. The Prime Minister said that there has never been a shortage of money for development work in the country. But the development of the country was being affected due to the corrupt system. The BJP government has blocked the avenues of looting the government in the last nine years and that is why the country is seeing development.

Congress chief Kharge, Venugopal to attend Oppn meeting in Patna

New Delhi | Agencies

As the proposed meeting of non-NDA opposition politicians is slated in Patna on June 12, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and several other top leaders of the party will be attending the meeting.

The first meeting of the Opposition parties will take place in Patna on June 12 to discuss a joint strategy for the 2024 general elections.

According to sources, more than 18 like-minded Opposition parties will attend the conclave.

Ahead of the crucial meeting, a Congress source said that Kharge, party general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, besides some more leaders will be attending the meeting.

The source said that former party Chief Rahul Gandhi is also likely to attend the meeting if he returns from the US trip by June 11.



Rahul Gandhi left for US on May 30 and he will be attending several programmes in US with the Indian diaspora, venture capitalists, tech executives, students, senior technology executives from Silicon Valley on artificial intelligence, to deliver a lecture at Stanford University, and on the same evening meet with the Indian diaspora besides many others.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been spearheading the campaign to unite all like-minded parties to forge

an alliance against the BJP-led NDA for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Nitish Kumar, along with his deputy and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had already met Kharge, Rahul Gandhi last month as well as this month.

According to sources, at least 16 Opposition parties like Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin-led DMK, AAP, JMM, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), CPI-M, CPI, Congress, TMC, SP, BRS and others have given their consent to attend the meeting to be held on June 12.

Siddaramaiah asks Shinde to release water for drinking needs

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday wrote to his Maharashtra counterpart Eknath Shinde asking him to release water from Warna/Koyna reservoir to Krishna River and from Ujjani reservoir to Bhima River for drinking water needs in his state.

"The north Karnataka districts of Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburgi, Yadgir and Raichur are facing acute shortage of drinking water due to severe summer

since March 2023. The earlier request of Government of Karnataka during this summer season, for release of 3 TMC of water from Warna/Koyna reservoir to Krishna river and 3 TMC of water from Ujjani Reservoir to Bhima River to meet the drinking water needs of human beings and livestock has been considered by the Government of Maharashtra and 1 TMC of water has been released to Krishna river in the first fortnight of May 2023. I hereby convey my sincere thanks to the Government of Maharashtra," he said in the letter.

"The severe summer situation in the northern districts of Karnataka is still prevailing and the humans and livestock are in need of water for domestic use. The monsoon in north Karnataka region is yet to commence. In view of the above, I request you to direct the concerned authorities to immediately release 2 TMC of water from Warna/Koyna reservoir to Krishna River and 3 TMC of water from Ujjani Reservoir to Bhima River to meet the drinking water needs of both humans and livestock of northern Karnataka," he wrote.

CHANNI'S NEPHEW DEMANDED RS 2 CR FROM CRICKETER FOR GOVT JOB: BHAGWANT MANN

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a bid to 'expose' former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channis relatives for allegedly seeking money from a cricketer in lieu of a government job, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday produced Jass Inder Singh, from whom bribe was reportedly sought, before media-persons here.

Mann claimed that Channi's nephew Jashan had allegedly sought a bribe of Rs 2 crore from the cricketer for giving him a job against an exam of Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) cleared by him.

However, Channi has denied the allegations. Mann claimed that there



was open sale of jobs during the tenure of Channi due to which the bright career of a cricketer was ruined.

Jass Inder and his father had met former Chief Minister Channi during a function in the presence of ex-Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu, Mann claimed.

Mann also said that Hussan Lal, the then Principal Secretary of the

Chief Minister, had apprised Channi about the entire case. He said Channi had agreed to bring the case to the Cabinet for approval but had asked Jass Inder to meet Jashan, probably for an 'understanding'.

Mann said when Jass Inder and his father met Jashan, he agreed to fulfil the word of Channi but demanded Rs 2 crore from him for the job.

However, when they expressed their inability to pay the sum, the job was not given, Mann claimed, adding that after this, even Channi had publicly reprimanded the cricketer and his father during a function. Mann said that due to this attitude of the former Chief Minister, the promising cricketer could not get a job which demoralised him.

The Chief Minister also announced that the state government will now give a job to Jass Inder as per the stipulated norms for which the case is being studied. He also said that legal action will be taken against those who ruined the youth of the state with their misdeeds.

Trial courts not to direct foreigners be sent to detention centre while granting bail: Delhi HC

New Delhi | Agencies

The Delhi High Court has said that the trial courts cannot direct foreign nationals be sent to a detention centre while granting them bail in cases lodged against them here.

A bench of Justice Anish Dayal was hearing a plea submitted by a Nigerian man, who was sent to a detention facility by a magistrate's court even while being granted bail in a criminal case brought under the Delhi Excise Act and the Foreigners Act in April 2021 as his visa had expired.

A sessions court then directed his release from the detention facility on the condition that he comply with a number of requirements, but the petitioner argued before the high court that he hadn't yet been released.

Justice Dayal said: "The petitioner once being enlarged on bail cannot be detained without due process of law. The fact that he is facing trial for offences under the Excise Act and the Foreigners Act cannot be held against him, considering he still is to be proved guilty post trial. Right now, is the issue of his freedom."

"A Magistrates Court or a Sessions Court cannot, as part of enlarging a foreign national



The court noted the petitioner has already been in de facto custody for two years, when the maximum punishment under the Excise Act may extend to three years and under the Foreigners Act for five years, and directed his release from the detention centre on a personal bond and surety bond of Rs 1 lakh each. Given that the petitioner's passport is valid, the court directed the Central government to take into account his

request for a visa and/or representation for an appropriate order within eight weeks, in accordance with natural justice principles.

The court said that while issuing such individuals a special permit, visa, or travel document would not legitimise the earlier offence of having overstayed in violation of the provisions of the Foreigners Act but would ensure they are not confined in a detention centre at state expense.

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Susan Sarandon thanks volunteers for planting over 100k saplings in Ladakh

Leh | Agencies

Acclaimed Hollywood actress Susan Sarandon on Wednesday thanked volunteers and the Young Drukpa Association for planting over 100,000 saplings in Ladakh this month, saying "what an accomplishment."

"Thank you for planting hope," she said in a video message to the non-profit humanitarian group, Live to Love International.

The humanitarian group serves the people and region of the Himalayas in becoming resilient.

After the devastating quake in Nepal in 2015 and the aftershocks, Sarandon stayed with the famed Kung Fu nuns from the Druk Amitabha Mountain nunnery, established by the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa, spiritual head of over 1,000-year-old Drukpa Order, located uphill Kathmandu and worked with them to offer medical services and acting as role model of women empowerment.



Lt. Governor Ladakh, Brig (ret'd) B.D. Mishra on May 17 officially launched the 'Trees for Life' campaign in Liktey.

An impressive 100,000 trees were planted on that day. The plantation covers a vast area of 19 acres, with a diverse selection of native trees, including Ladakhi willow, poplar, and local fruit trees such as apples and apricots.

This extensive greening effort aims to combat soil erosion, estab-

lish natural water-sheds, and mitigate the risks of flash floods and landslides.

The 'Trees for Life' campaign has garnered immense support from various stakeholders, with participation from over 5,000 people.

Nature lovers say Live to Love's 'Trees for Life' campaign

in Ladakh will undoubtedly mark a pivotal moment in the region's environmental conservation efforts. The transformative power of trees, coupled with the collective action of passionate individuals, promises to create a sustainable and greener future for all.

Back in 2012, Live to Love achieved a milestone by planting an astounding 99,103 Ladakhi saplings in Ladakh, setting a new Guinness World Record.

NIA raids 25 locations in 3 states, seizes incriminating material in PFI related case

New Delhi | Agencies

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided 25 locations in three states in connection with the Popular Front of India (PFI) conspiracy to radicalise and train its cadres and members for carrying out acts of terror and violence.

A NIA official said that searches were conducted at the premises of suspects in Kathar district of Bihar; Dakshina Kannada, and Shimoga districts of Karnataka; and Kasaragod, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala.

"A slew of digital devices, including mobile phones, hard disk, SIM cards, pen-drives, data cards, incriminating documents and materials related to the banned organisation were seized during the raids. Indian currency of the face value of Rs 17,50,100 has also been seized," said the official.

The NIA said that so far 85 locations have been raided during investigation in the case.

"Acting on a tip-off, the Bihar police had carried out a raid at the rented



premises of one Athar Parvez on July 11, 2022, and had seized incriminating articles related to PFI including a document titled "India 2047 Towards Rule of Islamic India, Internal Document: Not for circulation". Athar Parvez was arrested along with Md. Jalaluddin Khan, Arman Malik alias Imteyaz Anwer and Nooruddin Zangi alias Advocate Nooruddin," said the

official. The official said that a chargesheet was filed by the NIA against all the accused on January 7, 2023.

Later, ten more accused were arrested for promoting the unlawful and anti-national activities of the PFI and channelising illegal funds from abroad to the PFI members/accused persons.

The NIA also found that multiple channels were being operated on popular video platforms by persons suspected to be associated with the PFI. These channels were distributing content aimed at inciting communal violence and terror in India. The suspects, having international links, were also indulging in propagation of PFI ideology using the social media.

MUSLIM BODY IN MEGHALAYA SEEKS 4% JOB QUOTA

Team Absolute | Shillong

A local organisation in Meghalaya has demanded 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for the members of the Muslim community.

The Anti-Corruption League (ACL), representing the 'Desi' Muslims inhabiting the plains of Garo Hills region, has written to Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma demanding 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for Muslims in the state, which is dominated by Christians. The ACL letter was sent to the Chief Minister on Tuesday, the day when the Meghalaya government reconstituted a committee to chalk out a plan to implement the reservation roster system and the state reservation policy. A spokesman of ACL said on Wednesday that in the letter, it was mentioned that the state's non-tribal population was 20 per cent when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972. "Despite being a part of Assam and the Assamese culture for centuries, the Desi' Muslims extended their support for a separate hill state with high hopes that their rights and socio-economic aspirations will be protected and accommodated in the new state," the ACL said. The letter added: "It was also promised that our rights and aspirations, our growth and development will be given equal priority and importance as that of the tribal people of Meghalaya. But the assurances were never fulfilled."

According to the 2011 Census, Christians constitute 74.59 per cent of Meghalaya's 29.67 lakh populations, while Muslims and Hindus constitute 4.40 per cent and 11.53 per cent, respectively.

Meghalaya's 51-year-old job reservation policy entails 80 per cent quota for three matrilineal communities - Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia. The quota is divided equally between the Garos and the Khasi-Jaintia people together. Another 5 per cent is reserved for other minor tribes, while 15 per cent is reserved for people in the unreserved categories. The Garo tribals are educationally more backward and numerically lower than the Khasi-Jaintia people, and they have hardly been able to get the full benefit of the reservation of 40 per cent.

A person named Z.R. Marak had earlier approached the Meghalaya High Court claiming that other communities were using up the quota meant for the Garo people in violation of the relevant laws.

A local organisation in Meghalaya has demanded 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for the members of the Muslim community. The Anti-Corruption League (ACL), representing the 'Desi' Muslims inhabiting the plains of Garo Hills region, has written to Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma demanding 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for Muslims in the state, which is dominated by Christians.



MAHA CONGRESS' LONE MP SURESH DHANORKAR CREMATED WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thousands of people along with senior leaders from all major political parties bid a tearful adieu to the sole Congress MP from Maharashtra, Suresh alias Balu Dhanorkar, who was cremated with full state honours, here on Wednesday. Dhanorkar, 47, representing Chandrapur, passed away early on Monday at a private hospital in New Delhi following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife and Warora Congress MLA Pratibha Dhanorkar and their two sons. Dhanorkar's mortal remains were brought from New Delhi to his native town Warora on Tuesday afternoon to enable people pay their last respects. This morning, the funeral cortege was taken around the town to the Warora crematorium with thousands of Congress



workers from all over Maharashtra, leaders of all political parties and others paying their last respects to him. After the flower-bedecked body draped with the National Tricolour was brought to the crematorium in a long procession, the Maharashtra Police accorded him a gun salute as the crowds, many with tears in their eyes, watched the solemn ceremony braving the scorching heat. The Congress state President, Nana Patole, other top leaders like Balasaheb Thorat,

Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan, Mukul Wasnik, Manikrao Thakre, Dr. Nitin Raut, Vijay Wadettivar, Yashomati Thakur, were among those who remained present at the last rites, also representatives of all major political parties, including Anil Deshmukh and Sudhir Mungantiwar. Wreaths were offered on behalf of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party seniors Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, who is currently abroad.

MVA predicts joint polls for Maha Assembly-parliament in 2024

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has predicted simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly with the likelihood of a "coalition government at the Centre" in 2024. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Jayant Patil and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut both pointed to the probability of a combined elections in the state, while the Congress President Nana Patole and Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar have said that in such an eventuality, the MVA is "fully geared" to fight the polls unitedly. Raut went a step further to forecast that post-2024, the country will witness a return to the coalition-era politics, and challenged the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party regime to immediately announce the pending polls to various civic bodies in the state. "I challenge them to conduct the elections to 14 major civic bodies including Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and others it will make clear the claims of the ruling alliance on their strength" dared Raut. Reiterating that NCP President Sharad Pawar and Sena (UBT)'s former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will be attending the meeting of all major non-BJP Opposition parties in Patna on



June 12, Raut said that the endeavour would be to field single candidates against the BJP in at least 400 seats in the next Lok Sabha polls, as proposed by Congress leader P. Chidambaram. Patil and Raut also feel that given the current political scenario in the state there is a strong likelihood of the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly polls -- due in October 2024 -- being held simultaneously. To the Sena (UBT)'s demand for holding the civic polls, ruling Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Shirsat threw the

gauntlet back at Raut, challenging him to contest and win any election in the state. However, the leaders of the ruling alliance have dismissed the MVA contentions saying it is too early to speak on these things and ultimately all this (joint polls) will be decided by the Election Commission of India. Despite the continuous bickering among the three partners, the MVA leaders have reiterated that they will fight all the future elections together to save democracy and the Constitution.

Maha CM: Ahmednagar to be renamed as 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar'

Team Absolute | Ahmednagar

In a major announcement, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Wednesday that the name of Ahmednagar district shall be changed to 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar' in memory of the great queen of Malwa state who ruled from 1767-1795. The announcement came on her 298th birth anniversary celebrations at Chaundi, the village where Ahilyadevi was born on May 31, 1725, which was attended by Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. "We have taken a decision to change the name of Ahmednagar after Ahilyadevi Holkar... It's the desire of all the people here," Shinde said, as the large crowd roared its approval. Shinde said he was fortunate to earlier change the name of Aurangabad to 'Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar' and Osmanabad as 'Dharashiv', and now Ahmednagar will

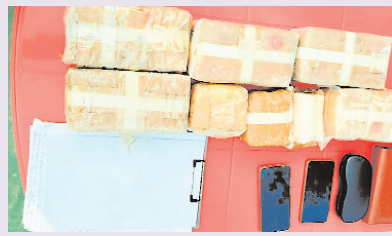


become 'Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar' on the birth anniversary of the great queen. Shinde said that Ahilyadevi's name is as tall as the Himalayas, and she did a lot for the farmers and workers of her kingdom, adding that this would be a fitting honour on her birth anniversary celebrations. A ruler of the Maratha Empire, Queen Ahilyadevi Holkar ascended the Malwa state throne after the deaths of her husband Khanderao Holkar, her father-in-law Malharao Holkar and her son Malerao Holkar, aged barely 22. During her 28-year long reign (1767-1795) - considered as the golden period of the Maratha Empire - she did a lot for the tillers and ordinary folks, built or restored temples, defended the state, its people, even led battles against the Mughals with her trusted team headed by her nephew Tukoji Holkar, to carved her own niche in history.

DRUGS WORTH RS 5 CRORE SEIZED PUNE, 4 ARRESTED

Pune: The Narcotics Cell of Pune Customs on

Wednesday arrested four people and seized over 1 kg of the drug worth Rs 5 crore in two separate cases, officials said. "The interception of one vehicle at a toll plaza near Pune led to the seizure of 850g, and a later follow-up seizure near Lonavala resulted in the confiscation of a further 200g," officials said. "Four individuals have been arrested and 1kg of Methamphetamine with an estimated market value of Rs5 crore has been seized by the Narcotics Cell of Pune Customs in connection with a drug trafficking racket," they added. A case was registered against the accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 Act. Further investigation is underway. Earlier on May 27, the Anti-Narcotics Cell of Worli Unit arrested a Nigerian drug peddler from near Mumbai's Mahim Railway Station and seized methamphetamine drugs worth Rs 22 lakh from his possession.



"Demoted to Constable from Commissioner" Sanjay Raut's dig at Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

After Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed 'dissatisfaction' in Shiv Sena (UBT) faction, the party leader Sanjay Raut hit back at him calling Fadnavis the most "dissatisfied" politician in the state. "Go and ask Devendra Fadnavis how satisfied he is. He was going to be Chief Minister but was stopped to take an oath of the post and was made Deputy of his junior in politics. Can such a man be satisfied? No, he was demoted to a constable from the commissioner," Raut said. The Rajya Sabha MP further said that Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister is a "sad" man. "Fadnavis ji is such a man who himself is dissatis-



fied, what can he say about other's satisfaction? Look on his face he is a sad man," Raut added. The Upper House MP Sanjay Raut further said that every leader in his party is satisfied under the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray. "We will see what is going on in our party. Those who wanted to go, have left, now they should live peacefully wherever they have gone. We are happy in our party, satisfied under the

leadership of Uddhav Thackeray," he added. Earlier in the day, Fadnavis said that the entire Thackeray faction is dissatisfied. While reacting to the Thackeray faction's claim that 22 MLAs and 9 MPs of the Shinde faction are in touch with them, Deputy Chief Minister said, "The entire Thackeray faction is dissatisfied. The kind of dissatisfaction which is there is nowhere else."

Indian stock markets go down after four days of uptrend 59 children rescued on Bihar-Pune train; five held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The two Indian stock markets - the BSE and the NSE - on Wednesday went on a downward trajectory after days of uptrend. The Sensex of the BSE opened at lower note at 62,839.97 after closing at 62,969.12 on Tuesday. After touching a high of 62,876.77 points, it closed at 62,622.24 points, down by 346.89 points. Similarly, the Nifty 50 of NSE opened at 18,594.20, after closing at 18,633.85 points on Tuesday. It touched a high of 18,603.90 and closed at 18,534.40 points. According to Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, the Nifty was pulled down by weak global cues. Volumes on the NSE were the highest since Nov 2020 due to the MSCI rebalancing trades. Jasani said Asian markets fell and European shares hit an over two-month low on



Wednesday as weak economic data from China fuelled concerns about a global slowdown and countered optimism from signs of easing inflation in some of the major euro zone economies. Global markets were also nervous ahead of a vote by the US Congress on a deal to avert a government debt default. The fact that the Nifty did not close at the intraday low was reassuring. Nifty could now remain in the 18,641-18,432 band for the near term, Jasani added. "Currently, Nifty is witnessing selling pressure from higher levels. Once it sustained 18,650 levels, we can expect a rally till 18,800-18,880 levels. However, the Nifty formed bearish pattern in the daily chart would be short term concerning," said Om Mehra, Equity Research Analyst, Choice Broking.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Central Railway and the Maharashtra police on Wednesday rescued 59 children from alleged human traffickers by conducting an operation on a Bihar-Pune train, and arrested five accused. These children were rescued from Danapur-Pune Special express train at Bhusawal and Manmad, located in Jalgaon and Nashik districts, respectively, in Maharashtra, they said. "On the basis of reliable information, the RPF along with the local police and members of an NGO rushed to the spot and conducted a check at the Bhusawal station. A total of 29 children aged between eight and 15 years were rescued. Later, another 30 children in the same age group were rescued from the train at Manmad. Five persons were arrested on the charge of human trafficking," an RPF official said. The exercise was carried out under 'Operation AAHT', he said. As per the preliminary information, these children were being brought from Bihar and sent to Sangli, the official said, adding that the five accused were booked under the anti-human trafficking laws. The



accused were produced in a court, he said. In a tweet, the RPF said, "PRAYAS with state police came together to bust a child trafficking ring, leading to the rescue of 59 children with arrest of 5 traffickers at Bhusawal and Manmad stations. A powerful collaboration making a tangible difference in the fight against exploitation." Meanwhile, in another operation last week, The police rescued a 17-year-old girl who went missing from her home in Maharashtra's Latur district more than a year ago, an official had earlier said. The teen, who was

reported missing from Nilanga in December, 2021, was traced to a village in Parbhani district, the official said. The local police and the anti-human trafficking cell (AHTC) had been searching for the girl since last year after a case of kidnapping was registered, he said. With the help of the police's cyber cell, the missing teen was traced to Parbhani and has been handed over to Nilanga police, he said. According to the police, the girl had eloped with a relative and got married, and has also given birth to a child.

NCP seeks police action against websites for 'slur' on Savitribai Phule

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A high-level delegation of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Wednesday called on Mumbai Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar demanding stringent action against two websites for publishing 'derogatory' articles on the legendary social reformer and India's pioneering woman teacher, Savitribai Phule. The delegation, comprising state NCP President Jayant Patil, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, senior leader Chhagan Bhujbal, MP Sunil Tatkare and others submitted a two-page memorandum to Phansalkar, listing the names of the websites and their offensive remarks. The memorandum said that a person claiming to be 'Bharadwaj' had made the objectionable remarks against Savitribai (1831-1897) -- considered the pioneer of women's education from the mid-1850s -- who is revered in the state and country. "The comments are so low that I can't mention them and feel embarrassed even to talk about it. We have requested the police to immediately book the two websites, the authors and



also remove the article from all media platforms," an irate Pawar said. Earlier, Bhujbal said he had shot off a letter to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the Phansalkar bringing to their notice the derogatory language used against Savitribai in its January 2022 articles, among other things, questioning her credentials as a teacher. Bhujbal pointed out that the NCP sought action and given enough time to the government and police but no action has been taken

yet. He said that the attempts to malign the legendary educator was "highly condemnable, outrageous and painful", with the websites seeking to rearrange and destroy Indian history. The articles have also stirred a raging debate on social media with many slamming the authors for the vituperative references and outrageous insinuations against the iconic social reformer, and questioning her historical contributions as an academic trail-blazer.

MMRDA TO START 24/7 CONTROL ROOM FOR MONSOON RELATED COMPLAINTS (ANCHOR)

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has started a control room that will take round-the-clock follow-up actions on complaints, and interact with various Disaster Control Agencies to exchange information and data. The control room will be operational from June 1, 2023, up to September 30, 2023. The MMRDA control room has been set up with a view to minimizing inconvenience to the vehicular and pedestrian traffic at various project sites being implemented by the Authority. People would be able to seek help from the control room on various aspects such as the uprooting of trees, water logging, accidents, traffic snarls, pot-holes, etc. The control room staff will be working in three shifts. Currently, MMRDA is carrying out the projects like Metro Rail, MTHL, the Extension of Santacruz-Chembur Link Road, Airoli-Katani Naka Tunnel cum Elevated Road project, Sewri-Worli Connector, Cheda Nagar Junction



improvement project and the works of roads and bridges in Mumbai Metropolitan Region under MUIP and OARDS. "The contractors have been asked to very strictly adhere to the safety measures. They are also instructed to stringently follow norms as far as barricading, reinstatement of the damaged road works, clearing and disposal of the muck on the roads is concerned, the contrac-

tors will also maintain dewatering pumps of adequate capacity where there is no connectivity to storm water drains and also at the water logging spots," said S.V.R. Srinivas, Hon'ble Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA. Service from the established Control Room will be available from June 1, 2023, on Helpline numbers 022-26591241, 022-26594176, 8657402090, and 1800228801.



EDITOR'S SPECS

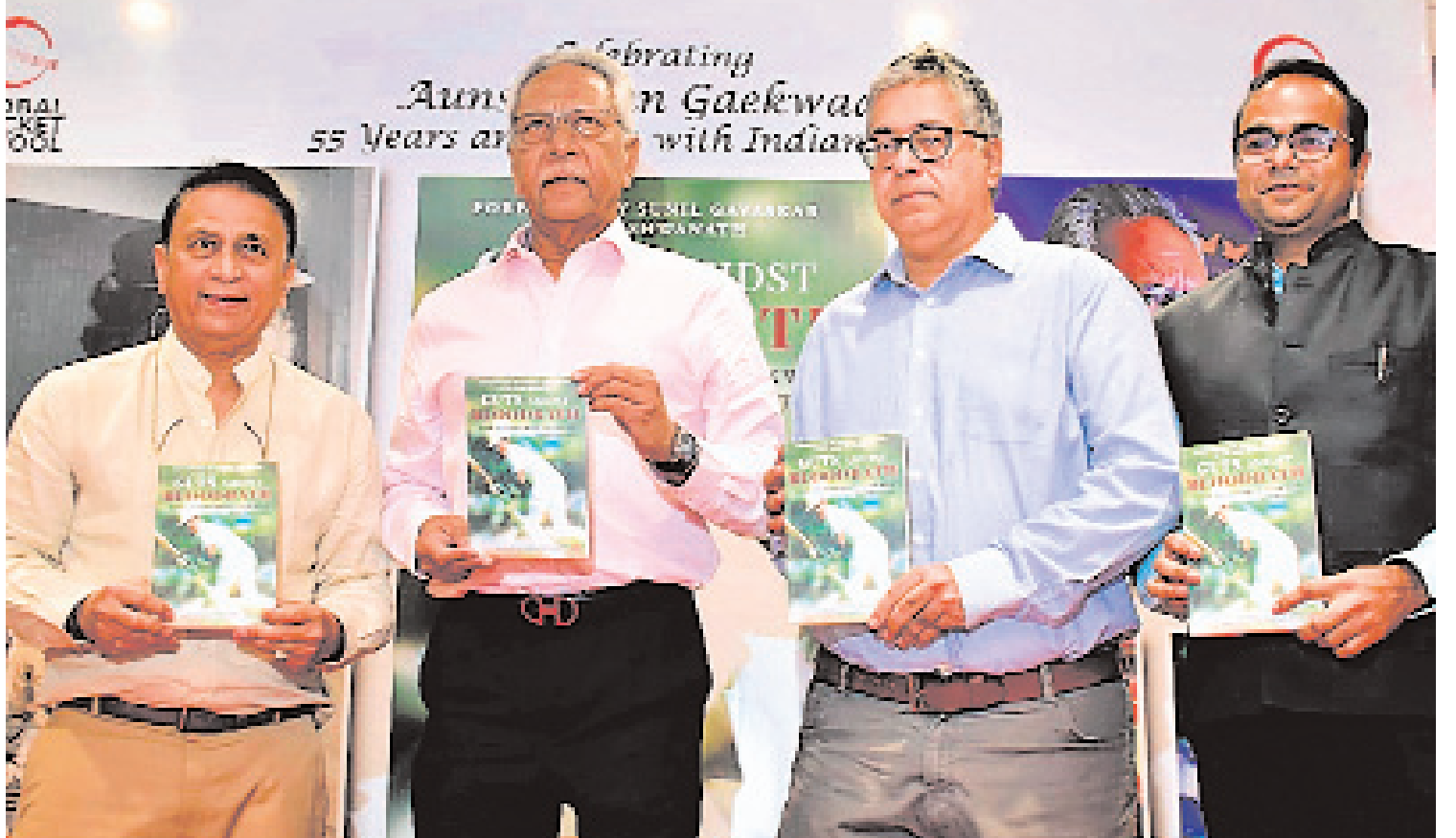
survey by Vallabhbhai Patel

A survey by Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute here has revealed that Class 10 pass students were the highest in numbers among the consumers of tobacco products. The institute stated on Wednesday that it had received a total of 71,39,473 IVR calls this year until April 30, based on which this conclusion was reached. On Wednesday, the institute observed World No Tobacco Day and presented this data. "Out of the total number of IVR calls received by this center this year until April 30, 20,43,227 calls were counselled, including 9,96,302 inbound calls, 26,80,657 outbound calls, and 3,91,160 registered by the call center. A total of 1,56,644 individuals have successfully given up tobacco use," it said. The institute further stated that the statistics revealed that most of these calls originated from Uttar Pradesh, with a total of 1,23,508 calls. The data also indicates that males make up the highest percentage at 98 per cent, followed by transgender individuals at 5 per cent of the total population, while females comprise the lowest percentage. Among the consumers of tobacco, the highest number is 1,74,097 individuals who have passed their Class 10 exam. The National Tobacco Cessation Service (NTQLS) was initially established in a single room with six counselor stations, and it was expanded in 2020 by then Union Minister of State for Health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

CRICKET HAS TRULY MELLOWED FOR THE BETTER

Yajurvindra Singh

A week ago at the launch of Aunshuman Gaekwad's book made one truly understand how cricket has mellowed over the years. The biography is titled "Guts amidst Bloodbath", referring to an occurrence that many cricketers had to face to play the game in the past. "Stand up and be a man" was a comforting retort when one got hit by the hard red cherry, the cricket ball. India's first Test captain, C.K.Nayudu, had a few of his teeth broken by a fast delivery while batting in an important match and after gargling, he continued to play his innings. He was an Army man, who believed in never giving in even an inch to his opponents or showing discomfort. This was considered to be the epitome of behaviour that one displayed if one wanted to play the game. Similarly, Aunshuman Gaekwad, when hit by a short delivery off Michael Holding directly on his ear while batting on 81 runs at Kingston, Jamaica in 1976, was coaxed to retire hurt, even though like a brave Maratha soldier he refused to leave. The hit on his ear was the final blow, culminating in a barrage of short bowling by the West Indian pace attack, making its mark on several parts of his body. The brave Indian opener still suffers from the aftereffects of the blow but looks at the bloodbath then as a part and parcel of the game. The history of cricket has many such incidents and bravery of players who have withstood pain, and broken bones and yet stood up to conquer it all through sheer willpower. Guts were what one required then to play cricket without the protection that the present-day cricketers are privileged to have. The game of cricket has gone through a major change since those days, it was not a game for the faint-hearted. Looking back, one may call the battle between the bat and the ball a tussle of foolishness. The reason was that the batter was risking his life playing a sport that did not necessarily need him to get maimed or marred or lose his life. Life is precious and fortunately, the new laws of cricket have taken a serious view on making the sport as safe as possible. The adrenaline that flows through one's veins in one's youth somehow overpowers any negative thoughts and calamities which may arise while playing a sport. A person is willing to do daredevil feats at that age. Recollecting my experience at fielding at forward short-leg without any protection in my cricket playing days, the hits that I encountered at the suicidal position, make me shudder to think as to how I came through it all alive. This takes one



back to the critics and connoisseurs of the game of cricket, debating, questioning and arguing or comparing cricketers and their performances over the years. Foolish thoughts, especially when the conditions, regulations and attitudes have altered over the years. The barrage of bouncers and batters that were faced by Sunil Gavaskar, Aunshuman Gaekwad and the other batters of the 1976 Indian team at Kingston, will never be understood by the youngsters of today. When the Indian team returned after this savage display of aggressive bowling, the diaspora saw them as players who lacked the skill and the heart to tackle it. England, thereafter, faced the same medicine of short balls and all hell broke loose. England under Douglas Jardine in 1932 employed the same strategy against Australia. The famous Bodyline series as it was called brought in restrictions of only two fielders who were allowed behind the popping crease on the leg-side. The bruised and battered English side of 1976, 44 years later, pleaded for restricting the number of short-pitch deliveries and succeeded in doing so. The beamer became unacceptable and the root of caring about the safety of the batter came to roost. The most interesting outcome, when players encounter the fierce and fiery, was that cricketers even after their furious tussles, respected each other and remained friends. The banter and laughter, thereafter, made one love the game even more. Unlike the cricketers of the past, cricket and cricketers of the present have mellowed

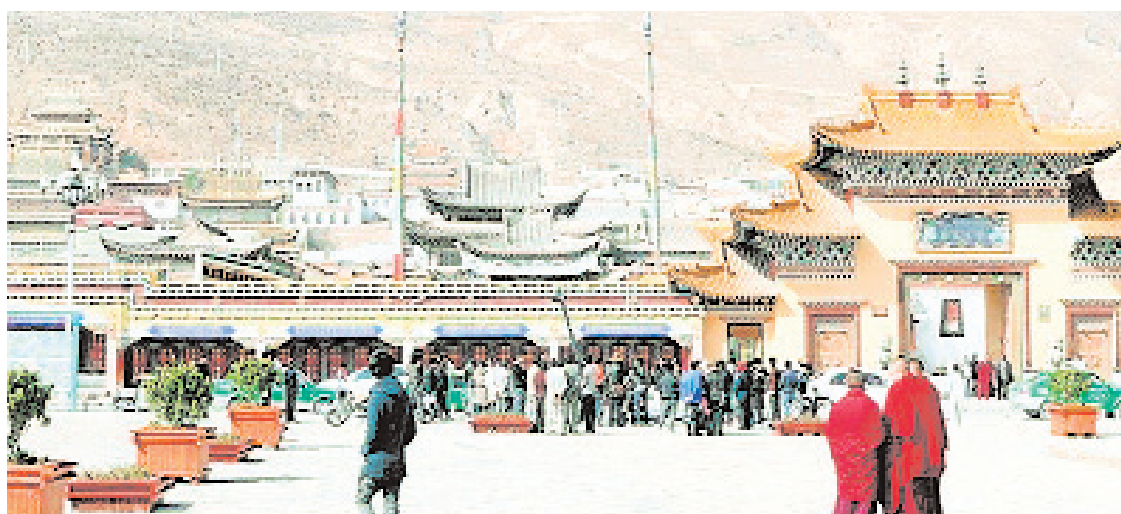
on the field. One can see such camaraderie amongst not only the Indian players but also amongst their international counterparts. The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been a great platform for bringing players together. The IPL'23 has moved to the home stretch with Chennai Super Kings, under the astute leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, having already consolidated their place in the final. Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans will play against each other for one of them to take the other spot. Predicting a winner is still difficult, with each of these teams playing superlatively to be there. The IPL'23 is already a resounding success. India have unearthed some exciting young talented cricketers. The international players have had the opportunity to play on the Indian tracks and experience the Indian conditions. This will benefit them when they come in October to play the World Cup which is being held in India. Cricket is becoming a far more pleasant game. There seems to be an air of friendship and bonhomie that never existed before. With protection and rules to safeguard a player, the words such as "Guts" and "Bloodbath" have gradually become obsolete. Cricket has mellowed for the better. (Yajurvindra Singh is a former India cricketer. The views expressed are personal)

international

TIBETANS IN WESTERN CHINA ORDERED TO VACATE LAND FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION

Beijing | Agencies

Chinese authorities have ordered Tibetans living in Rebgong county in western China to vacate their land for the construction of a hydropower dam, forcing them off the farmlands they need to make a living, media reports said. Authorities in Lingya village, about an hour's drive from Rebgong, issued the order on May 23, requiring residents of seven villages in the region to move so that the Chinese government can begin the first phase of construction 10 days after the notice's issue date, said a Tibetan from Rebgong who now lives in exile, RFA reported. "The land that is being confiscated by the Chinese government is farmland, which is the livelihood of Tibetans," said the source, adding, "The authorities have warned the Tibetans not to show any kind of condemnation." Rebgong, called Tongren in Chinese, is in Malho, or Huangnan, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, a Tibetan-



populated area in China's Qinghai province, RFA reported. Chinese authorities tightly control the residents of the restive Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan-populated regions of western China, restricting their political activities and peaceful expression of cultural

and religious identity. Chinese infrastructure and development projects in these areas have led to frequent stand-offs with Tibetans who accuse Chinese firms and local officials of improperly seizing land and disrupting the lives of local people. Many result in violent suppression, the

detention of protest organisers and intense pressure on the local population to comply with the government's wishes, RFA reported. Another Tibetan living in exile said authorities have begun confiscating land, but they have not discussed compensation for residents forced to move.

Sudanese Army chief threatens to use 'full lethal force' against rival RSF

Khartoum | Agencies

Amidst an ongoing ceasefire, Sudanese Army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan warned that he would use "full lethal force" against the warring rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) if the latter does not respond to the voice of reason. Al-Burhan made the remarks while inspecting some of the Sudanese army units on Tuesday, according to a statement released by the Military Media. "The army is fighting this battle on behalf of the people and has not yet used its full lethal force," Al-Burhan said, adding it will be forced to do so if the RSF does not obey or respond to the voice of reason, reports Xinhua news agency. "All army areas and divisions still maintain all their forces after they took control of all parts of the country," Al-Burhan was quoted as saying. He stressed that the armed



forces would remain ready to fight until victory. Meanwhile, Al-Burhan confirmed that the Sudanese army agreed to extend the ceasefire agreement to facilitate the flow of services for the citizens. On Monday, Saudi Arabia and the US announced in a joint statement that the Sudanese warring parties agreed to a five-day extension of the ceasefire agreement signed by the two sides on May 20. The extension will provide a lull for humanitarian assistance, restoration of essential services, and discussion of a

potential longer-term extension, the statement said. Sudan has been witnessing deadly armed clashes between the Sudanese Army and the RSF in the capital Khartoum and other areas since April 15. More than 800 people have been killed, and nearly 1.4 million people have been forced to leave their homes since the conflict began, with over one million people internally displaced and about 345,000 people crossing into neighbouring countries, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

SL SEEKS RAJINIKANTH'S SUPPORT TO BOOST TOURISM



Colombo: Sri Lanka has invited Tamil superstar Rajinikanth to visit the island nation in an effort to boost tourism. Sri Lanka's Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. D. Venkateshwaran met the world renowned actor at the latter's residence in Chennai invited him to visit the island nation "as his presence will enhance cinema-induced tourism as well as spiritual and wellness tourism". The envoy extended an invitation for Rajinikanth to explore the newly-arranged 'Ramayana Trail' that is exclusive to Sri Lanka and also other unique Buddhist sites in India's southern neighbour.

Trump vows to end birthright citizenship if he wins in 2024

Washington | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump has vowed to end birthright citizenship for children of unauthorised immigrants if he wins the 2024 election. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution, adopted following the Civil War, declares that all "persons born or naturalized in the United States" are "citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside", reports CBS News. In a video message on Tuesday, Trump said that he would issue an executive order during his first day back at the White House in January 2025 instructing the federal government to deny citizenship to children with parents who are not



American citizens or legal permanent residents. "My policy will choke off a major incentive for continued illegal immigration, deter more migrants from coming and encourage many of the aliens Joe Biden has unlawfully let into our country to go back to their home countries. They must go back," the former President said. Besides the US, Canada and Mexico also offer birthright citizenship. Trump had also brought up the issue while he was in

office. In a 2018 interview with Axios magazine, he had said that he would end birthright citizenship through an executive order, although he did not provide a timeline for doing so, reports CNN. Again in 2019, Trump had said he was "seriously" considering ending birthright citizenship despite the fact that such a move would face immediate legal challenge and is at odds with Supreme Court precedent.

PURPORTED N.KOREAN 'SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE' FALLS INTO YELLOW SEA AFTER 'ABNORMAL' FLIGHT

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired what it claims to be a "space launch vehicle" son Wednesday, but it fell into the Yellow Sea after an "abnormal" flight, the South Korean military said, in a botched launch that defied international criticism and warnings. The North confirmed the failure, saying its new "Chollima-1" rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite, "Malligyong-1", fell into the sea due to the "abnormal starting of the second-stage engine", according to its official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). It plans to conduct a second launch as soon as possible, Yonhap News Agency quoted the KCNA as saying. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from Tongchang-ri on the North's west coast at 6.29 a.m. and the projectile fell into waters some 200 km west of the South's southwestern island of Eocheong fol-



lowing its flight over the waters far west of the border island of Baengnyeong. The South Korean military identified an apparent part of the North's vehicle and retrieved it, the JCS added. The North notified Japan and the International Maritime Organization of its plan earlier this week to launch a satellite between May 31 and June 11 despite criticism that it would violate UN Security Council resolutions banning any launch using ballistic missile technology. The

reclusive regime last launched a rocket carrying what it called a "Kwangmyongsong-4" satellite in February 2016. On Tuesday, Ri Pyong-chol, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, had made the launch plan official, defending its pursuit of the satellite and other reconnaissance means as "indispensable" to cope with "dangerous military acts of the US and South Korea". The rocket launch marks the North's first such provocation since it fired what it claimed to be a Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missile on April 13. The North previously launched what it called a satellite-carrying rocket five times -- one each in 1998, 2009 and 2016, and twice in 2012. The country claimed to have put a satellite into orbit after its launch in December 2012 and 2016. But it remains unknown whether they have been functioning normally.



MAKE BHOPAL CLEAN AND GREEN, DO ADOPT ANY NOBLE CAUSE: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off the Bhopal Gaurav Daud (Bhopal pride run) from the statue of Raja Bhoj at Bhoj Taal VIP road this morning. The citizens of Bhopal, especially the youths, enthusiastically participated in this run. Large number of citizens participated in the Bhopal Gaurav Daud of about 3 kilometers from Raja Bhoj Statue to Bhopal Boat Club.



While congratulating the citizens on Bhopal Gaurav Diwas, Chief Minister Chouhan said that Bhopal did not become independent on August 15, 1947, at the time of the country's independence. At that time the then Nawab had refused to merge the princely state of Bhopal with the Indian Union. For this, the citizens had to struggle and Bhopal became independent on June 1, 1949 only after the sacrifice of many fighters as a result of the merger movement. Youngsters were also martyred in this movement in Boras of Raisen district. CM Chouhan paid floral tributes to the martyrs of the merger movement. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai, former Mayor Alok Sharma, Commissioner Bhopal Division Mal

Singh, Collector Bhopal Ashish Singh, public representatives and a large number of youths were present.

Make Bhopal number one: Chief Minister Chouhan said that today thousands of youths and citizens of Bhopal are participating in the Gaurav Daud with a sense of pride and enthusiasm. Bhopal has got the

status of the cleanest capital. Now Bhopal has to be made the cleanest city of India. Our Bhopal should be a clean and a green city, this should be the resolve of all of us. CM Chouhan said that he plants three saplings daily. The participation of citizens, especially the youth, in environmental protection is increasing. The city of Bhopal is the city of Raja Bhoj, the city of Queen Kamalapati and the city of all of us. Everyone together make Bhopal green and clean.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the immense enthusiasm of the youths is being seen in this Gaurav Daud on the Gaurav Diwas. It seems as if the whole of Bhopal is running. Let us all together take a pledge to take Bhopal forward. For this, every citizen has to adopt some noble deed. Do take the responsibility of doing at least one thing. These include cleanliness, planting trees, educating girls, conservation of energy, saving electricity, etc.

Newly Weds Among 4 Burnt Alive As Car Goes Up In Flames



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Four of a family, including a recently married couple, were burnt alive in Madhya Pradesh after their car crashed into a tree on Wednesday, police said. Videos show the totaled car engulfed in flames, smashed into a tree by the road.

Police said they were informed of the crash early this morning. When they reached the spot with the fire brigade, the car had already been badly burnt.

"Three men and one woman were burnt alive after the car sped into a tree in Harda district. They were returning from a wedding," a police official said. He added that a couple killed in the tragedy had been married six months ago. Police added that further investigation is underway.

Last week, four people were killed and 15 others injured when a sleeper bus collided with a trolley in Shajapur. The bus, en route to Ahmedabad, was carrying passengers when the deadly collision took place

2 Tiger Cubs Born In Panna Reserve

Team Absolute | Panna

A tigress has given birth to two cubs in Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve, an official said today.

The tigress, P-234, was spotted with two cubs recently in the Akola buffer area of the reserve, PTR's field director Brijendra Jha said. The cubs are around four months' old and healthy, he said.

In the first week of May, another tigress P-234 (23) -- the daughter of P-234 -- was spotted with two cubs, the official said.

"So, the birth of four cubs has been reported from the PTR this month," he said. According to the last census, the tiger count in PTR was 78,



the official said. Madhya Pradesh has a number of tiger reserves,

including Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura and Panna.

CRISP organized the Kareena-E-Zari craft workshop

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A Three Day long Kareena-E-Zari craft workshop was organized by Handicraft Department, CRISP for designer enthusiasts at its premises. The workshop was focused on learning the embellishment art of Zari Zardozi. More than 25 contestants participated in the workshop and learned the basic details of Zari and Embroidery work through ARI and Needlework. The first-day students got to understand the theory part as an introduction and designing of Zari Craft and hands-on khaka making and how to trace fabric on Khaka. On the second day, they learned about the understanding of different materials and did some practice on different types of zari craft. And day three students made



their articles/ product and learned about product management. It's amazing to attend this Zari

craft workshop at CRISP, I learned so much about Zari work and how to design different apparel.

Sanskriti Thakur, Apparel Designing Student Sage University I am very fond of designs and artwork, I want to become an interior designer and got to know about this opportunity via my school teacher so I enrolled myself in this workshop. I learned the basics of ari and needlework. And I made the sun with the ari work method on my last day of the workshop. Akshat Ojha, Class 9 students, DPS HOD, Handicraft Department CRISP said that we organized this workshop to teach students about the vast scope in Zari zardozi that how we can modernize this artwork through our imagination. Zari's work is all about royalty and old charm which adds richness to your attire but also anything you make out of Zari artwork.

Docs from Gandhi Medical College, NHM meet to address Thalassemia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

National Health Mission (NHM) Madhya Pradesh and Gandhi Medical College in collaboration with ECHO India, launched a capacity-building programme focused on the prevention and control of Beta Thalassemia and Hemoglobinopathies.

An initial batch of 50 doctors from various districts of Madhya Pradesh attended the first session of their capacity-building programme, which is aimed at improving their skills in the screening, early diagnosis, treatment, and overall management of genetic blood disorders. There is a need for awareness and screening of this disease, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, so that it can be identified, and possible treatment can be initiated in a timely manner. It is also necessary to improve the care of patients with Beta Thalassemia by utilizing the latest medical and scientific techniques.

Under the National Health Mission's Hemoglobinopathy Mission, a special action plan has been developed and implemented for genetic blood disorders such as Sickle Cell Anemia,

Thalassemia, and Hemophilia. Sickle Cell Anemia is prevalent in the tribal districts of the state, and Thalassemia is also widespread in other districts of Madhya Pradesh. Both diseases result in a decrease in the patient's lifespan due to blood deficiency and associated complications. Screening for Sickle Cell Anemia is already being conducted in the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh. The "World Thalassemia Day" is celebrated annually on May 8. This year, in commemoration of National Thalassemia Day, special training modules have been prepared by experts. Madhya Pradesh will be the first to implement these modules in collaboration with ECHO India, providing training to specialists and doctors working in health institutions across districts. A well-equipped telemonitoring hub has been established at the Gandhi Medical College (GMC) Bhopal, which will be used to conduct a wide range of capacity-building initiatives as part of this program. Post Graduate Institute of Child Health (PGICH) Noida serves as the national hub for this three-years long program, with NHM MP as one of the three regional knowledge hubs.

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan lays foundation stone of Devi Lok at Salkanpur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid the foundation stone for Devi Lok at Vijayasan Devi temple in Sehore, following the development of Mahakal Lok in Ujjain. Costing over Rs 200 crore, the project will educate devotees on the nine forms of the goddess and will establish 64 murals of Yogini. Chouhan said such development would promote religion and culture, and inspire the youth towards religion. An action plan of over Rs 211 crore has been prepared for the construction of Devi Lok. The project is estimated to cost over Rs 200 crore. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led state government has announced to develop at least half a dozen religious places in Madhya Pradesh. In a first, Mahakal Lok has been developed at Mahakaleshwar Temple, one of the Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva, in Ujjain. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022.

At the programme, Chouhan said, "The decision of developing Devi Lok was taken as Goddess inspired me to



do so. It will be one of its kind where devotees will learn everything about Goddesses. Nine forms of Goddess will be established with 64 murals of Yogini." Commenting on the promotion of religion and culture, the CM said many people feel that the work of the government is only to build roads, bridges, hospitals, and make arrangements for water. "Why did Shivraj start building the temple? Is it the job of the government or not? To

promote our religion and our culture... grand temples should be built and may the goddess bless everyone. If the temple is built then the youth will be inclined towards religion," he said. In Devi Lok, all the stories of goddesses will be described in the scriptures. An action plan of more than Rs 211 crore has been prepared for the construction of Devi Lok. Along with this, development and construction works are being done

for the convenience of the devotees coming here. The CM said if requires more funds will be released for the Devi Lok. Requesting anonymity, an officer of the tourism and culture department said, "The cost of the project will increase as we will not install murals made of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) after recent controversy over tumbling of the FRP statues due to gusty wind at Mahakal Lok."

E-rickshaw bursts into flames after short circuit in charging point at New Market

Bhopal: An e-rickshaw burst into flames triggered by a short-circuit in the charging point at New Market on Wednesday early morning. Fortunately, the e-rickshaw was vacant at the time of the incident and nobody was hurt.

Timely action by the firefighters prevented the flames to spread over a dozen vehicles parked around the e-rickshaw. The fire, which started around 5:00 AM, was quickly noticed by the on-site fire personnel who jump into action. They managed to prevent the fire, ensuring the safety of the surrounding vehicles.

Firefighter Ayaz explained that the fire originated from a short circuit in the charging point of the electric rickshaw, gradually covering the entire vehicle.

Will reprise case of Digvijaya-era 'irregularities' surrounding Indore mall, says BJP chief

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bharatiya Janata Party president V.D. Sharma on May 31 said that a case related to an alleged violation of rules over the construction of a shopping mall, which arose when Digvijaya Singh was MP's Chief Minister, would be reopened. He also attacked former Congress president Rahul Gandhi over the latter's comments in the United States, saying that genes which are symbols of "slavery" were still in his blood.

Talking to reporters, Sharma said: "The case related to the construction of Indore's shopping mall 'Treasure Island', in which Singh had got the clean chit [from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)], will be reopened soon. It will soon come to the fore how he



got a clean chit in this matter."

The BJP leader did not elaborate about whose orders the case would be reopened. Hearing a petition, the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court had in 2012

directed the CBI to probe into alleged irregularities in the construction of the shopping mall.

It was alleged that in 2002, at the behest of the then CM Digvijaya Singh, the proposal for the construction of this commer-

cial centre was approved by the State government in contravention of rules. In its final status report submitted to the district court in 2014, the CBI had said that ex-CM Singh, then Chief Secretary A.V. Singh and former housing and Environment Minister Chaudhary Rakesh Singh had not had any role in this case.

The Congress recently accused the ruling BJP of indulging in corruption after six idols installed on the 'Shri Mahakal Lok' corridor in temple town Ujjain fell and broke due to gusty winds.

Sharma targeted former Congress CMs Kamal Nath and Singh, claiming that the State Secretariat Vallabh Bhavan had been made a centre of corruption under their charge. The BJP leader said the

idols at the Mahakal Lok Corridor fell "due to a natural calamity", asserting that the State government was "sensitive" to the importance of the matter and would take appropriate steps.

Reacting to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statements in the U.S., Sharma said, "He will talk as much as he has intelligence. But Prime Minister Modi's leadership is being appreciated across the world. Rahul likes only America and Britain because the same genes which are symbols of slavery are still in his blood."

Sharma, who represents the Khajuraho constituency in the Lok Sabha, alleged that Gandhi stood by people working against the integrity of India, hence he was denigrating the PM.

3D hand sketch and 3D Google Sketch-up workshop organized by CRISP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP)

recently hosted a one-day workshop conducted by Interior Design Handicraft Department. The workshop focused on the topics of 3D hand sketch and 3D Google Sketch-up, two crucial skills in the field of interior design. The event was attended by numerous students from different institutions. Interestingly, the SAGE group was one of the participants in the workshop, and they even provided 30 entries from their students to attend the event. This not only showcased the group's interest in enhancing their students' skills but also indicated their trust in the CRISP's expertise in this field. The workshop began with an introduction to 3D hand sketching techniques, by young talented mural artist Shubhi Soni, where students were taught how to create a perspective drawing using traditional methods of hand sketching. This was followed by a session on 3D Google Sketch-up, under the guidance of expert 3D render artist Huzefa Ansari, where the students were given hands-on experience in using the software to



create 3D models of interior spaces. The workshop concluded with a discussion on how to integrate these skills into professional practice.

The attendees were ecstatic with the knowledge they gained during the workshop. They appreciated the opportunity to learn from experi-

enced professionals and the chance to network with their peers. The CRISP's commitment to providing top-notch training was evident throughout the event, leaving a lasting impression on the attendees. Furthermore, the SAGE group expressed their interest in collaborating with the CRISP to offer their students further training and opportunities in interior design. This partnership would undoubtedly give a boost to CRISP's already impressive reputation in the field. In conclusion, the workshop was a tremendous success, offering valuable insights into the world of interior design. The CRISP's dedication to imparting knowledge and skills to the next generation of designers is indeed commendable. It is hoped that this workshop will be the first of many collaborations between the CRISP and industry experts to shape the future of interior design."



'I feel surreal'

PADMA LAKSHMI 'HONOURED' TO BE AMONG WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE ON TIME 100

Los Angeles | Agencies

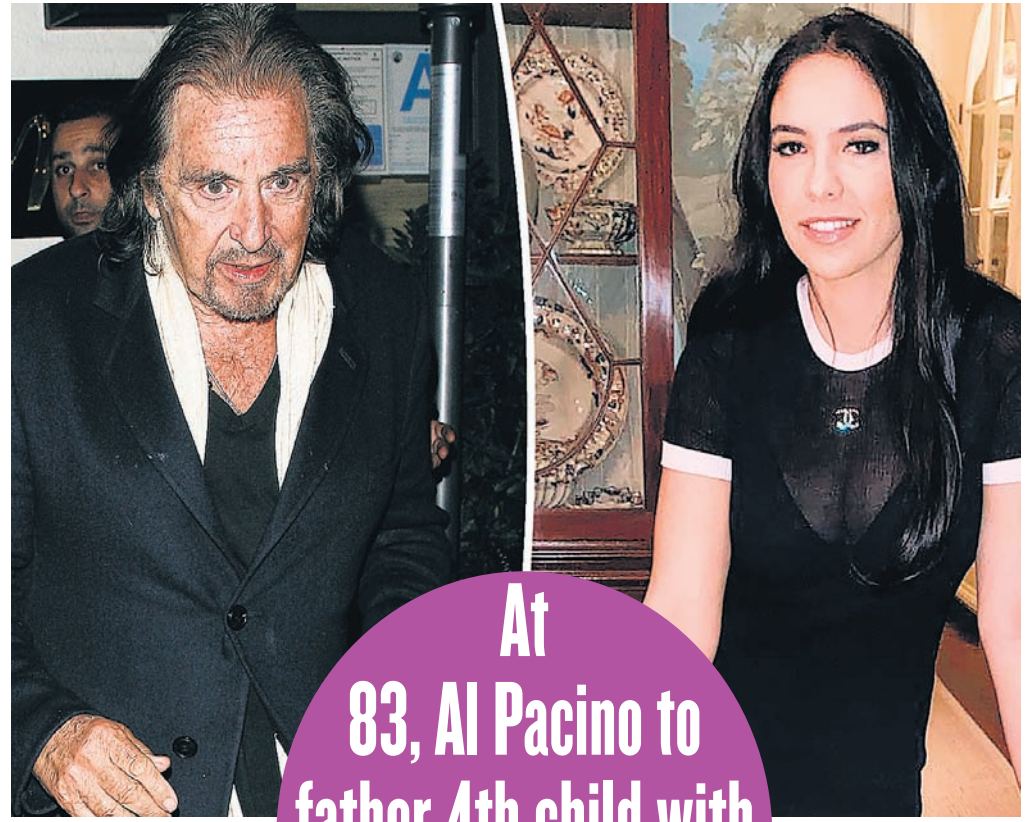
Indian American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi was among TIME 100's Most Influential People in the world earlier this year, and she also featured in the latest Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue.

"I feel surreal. I've just been so tired that I haven't really had time to process it. But I'm very thankful that people love the show and I'm really honoured about the Time 100 thing," Padma told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six Style column when reflecting on her success, reports aceshowbiz.com. The model says that she didn't see her success coming. She said, "You know, I could have never foreseen that. And Sports Illustrated is fun, you know?"

Padma previously claimed that immigrants are "the reason for America's greatness." The TV presenter - who was born in India but emigrated to the US during her childhood - is an advocate for immigrant rights and has stressed their importance in America's successes.

She told 'Us Weekly', "America is made of immigrants. America has been built by immigrants from different generations and different parts of the world. It is the reason for America's greatness."

"It is the reason for America's economic prowess and it is the reason and source for most of our popular culture. That's why immigrant stories are important because they're American stories."



At 83, Al Pacino to father 4th child with 29-yr-old girlfriend

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Scarface' actor, Al Pacino, 83, is expecting a baby with girlfriend Noor Alfallah, who is eight months pregnant.

He sparked romance rumours with Alfallah, 29, back in April 2022 when the two were seen leaving the Felix Restaurant in Venice, California, together, reports 'E! News'.

Previously, Alfallah dated Mick Jagger for over a year until their 2018 breakup. She was later spotted with Clint Eastwood in 2019, but clarified to the Daily Mail that there was "no relationship" between her and Clint.

As for Pacino, he and former girlfriend Meital Dohan called it quits in 2020.

'E! News' further states that Pacino's bundle of joy will join his three other children: He shares Julie Pacino, 33, with ex Jan Tarrant, as well as Anton Pacino, 22, and Olivia Pacino, 22, with ex Beverly D'Angelo.

The 'Godfather' star has maintained a close connection with his children, noting that he wanted to be different from his father, who left him and his mother when he was two years old.

"It's the missing link, so to speak," he told The New Yorker in 2014.

"Having children has helped a lot. I consciously knew that I didn't want to be like my dad. I wanted to be there. I have three children. I'm responsible to them. I'm a part of their life."

And when he can't be apart of their life, Pacino said it was "upsetting to me and to them. And I get a lot from it."

"It takes you out of yourself. When I do a movie, and I come back, I'm stunned for the first 20 minutes. These people are asking me to do things for them? Huh? I'm not being waited on? Wait a minute. Uh-oh, it's about them! That action satisfies. I like it", he added.

SIA REVEALS AUTISM DIAGNOSIS, CLAIMS SHE'S NOW SOBER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Sia Furler, who tied the knot with her boyfriend Dan Bernard earlier this month, says she is in "recovery" after she discovered she is "on the spectrum" and also reveals she is now sober.

"I'm on the spectrum, and I'm in recovery and whatever - there are a lot of things. For 45 years, I was like... I've got to go put my human suit on." And only in the last two years have I become fully, fully myself," she said during a conversation with 'Survivor' season 44 finalist Carolyn Wiger, 36, on 44-year-old former 'Survivor' contestant Rob Cesternino's 'Rob has a Podcast', reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Nobody can ever know and love you when you're filled with secrets and... living in shame, and when we finally sit in a room full of strangers and tell them our deepest, darkest, most shameful secrets, and everybody laughs along with us, and we don't feel like pieces of trash for the first time in our lives, and we feel seen for the first time in our lives for who we actually are, and then we can start going out into the world and just operating as humans and human beings with hearts and not pretending to be anything."

Sia did not disclose exactly when she was diagnosed with developmental condition autism, which can cause social anxiety and difficulty empathising with other people.

The singer - born Sia Kate Isobelle Furler - was criticised two years ago for casting Maddie Ziegler, 20, who is neurotypical, as a nonverbal autistic girl in her movie 'Music'. Several actors with autism spoke out against the film, condemning Sia's decision to cast a neurotypical actress in the lead role as well as the way 'Music' depicted autism.

The singer tweeted amid the backlash at the time that her "heart has always been in the right place" and urged her critics to "watch my film before you judge it."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Sydney Sweeney creates "character books" for every character she plays, listing their possible memories, relationships, and failures. The actress portrays Reality Winner, a former translator for the National Security Council (NSA) who was hailed for leaking information, in the drama film 'Reality', and though she was portraying a real person in the film - which is based on the genuine transcripts of her FBI interrogation - she tackled the project in the same way as anything else she works on, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told Big Issue magazine: "I approach all my characters in a very similar manner, where I build these character books for them. I build their entire life from the day they're born to the first page of the script. Their memories, a timeline of their life, relationships etc. I did that for 'Reality' as well, because I look at all my characters as real people that lie in a TV screen."

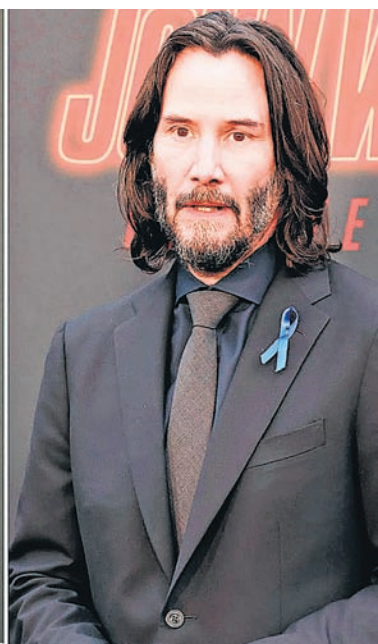
As per 'Female First UK', Sydney admitted that it was meeting the real 'Reality' that truly unlocked the project for her.

She said: "When I first read it, I felt like I was in this box. I was trying to figure out how to find the freedom within it, because I'm usually very free with my dialogue and characters. And then after I actually spoke with 'Reality', I went back and reread it and I saw so much of her in it. It just flowed and rolled off my tongue so much easier. I saw her humour, I saw where she was trying to completely redirect a conversation. It completely switched my mind."

Sydney Sweeney creates memories for all her movie characters



'Absolute legends'



Kate Beckinsale praises Keanu Reeves for saving her from Cannes wardrobe malfunction

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kate Beckinsale is the latest actor to offer up evidence that Keanu Reeves is the nicest actor in Hollywood.

The 'Underworld' star returned to the Cannes Film Festival this year, where she attended the annual amfAR charity gala among other events, which must've had her thinking about her first time at Cannes in 1993 for the premiere of Kenneth Branagh's Shakespeare adaptation 'Much Ado About Nothing', reports 'Variety'.

Following this year's festival, Beckinsale discovered a photo of herself on the 1993 Cannes red carpet

and revealed that her co-star Keanu Reeves jumped in to help prevent what could've been a huge wardrobe malfunction on her first Cannes carpet.

"I had bought the bodysuit in the Sock Shop at the airport and when I got in the car to drive to the premiere with Denzel and Pauletta Washington, all the poppers in the crotch popped themselves open and it flipped up like a roller blind," Beckinsale wrote.

"I didn't feel it was appropriate to go delving around in my undercarriage with all of us in the back of the car so I just quietly panicked."

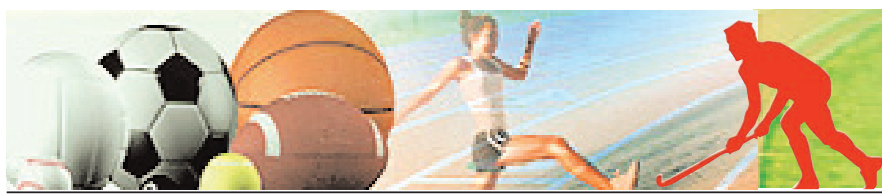
Beckinsale continued, "I walked out onto the biggest red carpet of my

life and whispered to Keanu and Robert Sean Leonard what had happened. In this picture I am holding the front gusset down and the two of them are holding the back gusset. Absolute legends who may not even have fully understood the physics of what was happening or even heard the word 'gusset' before but both jumped in to save me no questions asked." Reeves continues to have one of the best reputations in Hollywood. The actor recently headlined 'John Wick: Chapter 4', which earned nearly \$430 million worldwide to become the franchise's top-grossing entry so far. The sequel also propelled the 'John Wick' franchise to cross the billion-dollar mark at the global box office.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Megan Fox



THAILAND OPEN

Kiran George upsets World No 9 Shi Yu qi to enter pre-quarters

Bangkok | Agencies

India's Kiran George defeated World No. 9 China's Shi Yu qi in straight games in the Round of 32 clashes to enter pre-quarters at the Thailand Open 2023 badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Odisha Open 2022 Champion Kiran registered an impressive 21-18, 22-20 win over 2018 World Championships Silver medalist.

Earlier, Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod made the women's singles main draw at the tournament. Ashmita beat compatriot Unnati Hooda 21-16, 13-21, 21-19 in her first qualifier and then knocked out Kristin Kuuba of Estonia to seal a berth in the main draw.

The 23-year-old Ashmita will next face compatriot Malvika Bansod, who was scheduled to play in the qualifiers initially but got a direct entry into the main draw.



Meanwhile, in the men's singles qualifiers, Sameer Verma defeated Yeoh Seng Zoe of Malaysia 21-12, 21-17 to progress to the main draw after receiving walkovers against Indonesia's Christian Adinata and Spain's Luis Enrique Penalver in the opening couple of rounds. The 28-year-old will face Magnus Johannesen of Denmark in round 1 of the main draw.

B Sai Praneeth and Mithun Manjunath, who were scheduled to play in the qualifiers, were handed direct entry into the men's singles main draw, where they will join compatriots Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen.

In the women's doubles qualifiers, the Indian pair of Palak Arora and Unnati Hooda were ousted in the first round. Indian top shuttlers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will also be in action in the main draw of the Bangkok meet, later in the day.

WTC FINAL

Indian batters will have to work on bat speed, says Gavaskar



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar feels that the Indian batters will have to work on their bat speed control in order to make that transition from the fast-paced T20 format to the Test cricket as they are going to face Australia in the upcoming World Test Championship final from June 7 at The Oval. Gavaskar emphasised the need for batters to play as late as possible in English conditions, allowing for swing and avoiding the mistake of reaching out for the ball. "I think they are going to look at their bat speed. Coming from T20 where the bat speed is very fast to test cricket where the bat speeds have to be a lot more controlled,

that is something they'll need to do. They'll need to play in England as late as possible to allow for the swing to do its bit, not to reach out for the ball which often a lot of people make the mistake of having played on good pitches," said Gavaskar on Star Sports' 'Follow the Blues'. "Wherever you play on good pitches, you tend to play through the line, not necessarily half volleys, but in England those deliveries can move just that little bit. So, I think those are the things that as a batter you need to watch out for. As a bowling unit also you'll need to bowl a much fuller length for your new ball, for the bowlers to be able to get the movement in the air as well as after pitching," he added.

IPL 2023

'I COULDN'T SLEEP': MOHIT SHARMA ON HEARTBREAKING LAST OVER AGAINST CSK

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after IPL 2023 final, Gujarat Titans pacer Mohit Sharma has opened up on his heartbreaking last over, where star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja hit him for a six and boundary in the last two balls for a thrilling Chennai Super Kings victory, saying that he couldn't sleep and kept thinking what different could have been done.

"My mind was very clear about what I wanted to do. In the nets, I had practiced such situations and I have been in such scenarios before too. So I said let me bowl all balls yorkers and was backing my instinct," Mohit told Indian Express.

"They wanted to know what will be his plan of action. I said I will again try to bowl yorker. People are now saying this and that but frankly it has no meaning. I knew what I wanted to do," Mohit revealed.

"I ran and tried to bowl (yorker)



again. I just wanted to be focussed and back myself. Whole IPL I have done that. The ball landed where it shouldn't have and Jadeja got his bat. I tried, I tried my best," said Mohit.

"I couldn't sleep. Sochta raha kya alag karta joh match jeet jaate. What if I could have bowled this ball or that ball? It's not a nice feeling now. Somewhere something is missing but I'm trying to move on," he added.

Overall, Mohit had an outstanding IPL 2023 season, finishing with 27 wickets in 14 matches for runners-up Gujarat Titans.

FRENCH OPEN

Medvedev suffers shocking first-round defeat, Swiatek battles through

Paris | Agencies

World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, experienced a shocking defeat in the opening round at the French Open this year as the highest-ranked player to be eliminated so early when he fell to Brazilian qualifier Thiago Seyboth Wild, 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Before the clay-court major, Seyboth Wild had only competed in one Grand Slam tournament - the 2020 US Open - and hadn't yet claimed a main draw victory at a Tour-level event, reports Xinhua.

The 23-year-old made 69 winners and, after losing two set points in the second set tie-break, elevated his game in the final two sets to record the most significant victory of his career.

Medvedev arrived in Paris freshly triumphant, having secured his first clay-tournament title just a week prior in Rome, but his second Grand Slam title hopes were dashed at the outset.

The 27-year-old, who claimed the US Open championship in 2021, had won five titles this season, including two ATP



Masters tournaments, surpassing any other player on the Tour. In women's play, top seed Iga Swiatek

was initially challenged in the opening set against Cristina Bucsa. However, she swiftly found her momentum, dispatch-

ing the Spaniard 6-4, 6-0, setting up a second-round clash against American No. 102 Claire Liu.

American sixth seed Coco Gauff, the 2022 Roland Garros finalist, rallied from a set down to overcome Spain's Rebeka Masarova 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, avoiding an early exit. Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan triumphed 6-4, 6-2 over Brenda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic.

Earlier in the day, last year's men's finalist Casper Ruud returned to Paris in winning style. The Norwegian advanced to the clay-court major's second round for the sixth successive season, defeating Swedish qualifier Elias Ymer in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

The fourth seed struck 28 winners against 17 from his No. 155-ranked opponent, concluding the victory in two hours and seven minutes on Court Suzanne-Lenglen.

The 24-year-old is aiming for his maiden Grand Slam title after two consecutive final appearances last year, one at Roland Garros and another at the US Open where he was narrowly defeated by Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

Hazlewood reveals insights into Kohli's success ahead of WTC Final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of the World Test Championship Final, Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood, who has played alongside Virat Kohli on more occasions than against him in recent times, revealed what makes the India star so good at his craft.

Hazlewood has spent the past two years with Kohli by his side at Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the IPL and the experienced Australia quick has seen up close just why the India great continues to be rated as one of the best batters in world cricket.

While Hazlewood -- if selected -- will be doing everything he can to take the key wicket of Kohli and lead Australia to glory in the ICC World Test Championship Final, the pacer has spent the last



two years watching the India star closely and trying to work out why he is so good. The 32-year old Australian feels it is Kohli's

strong work ethic that puts the India batter ahead of the rest and allows him to remain one of the most prized scapals in Test cricket.

"I think it's probably how hard he works (that stands out). His fitness first of all -- and then his skill work and batting and fielding in particular," Hazlewood told the ICC.

"He is always out there (training) first and leaves last and the intensity he trains at all the time is at such a high level it drags everyone else along for the ride. That can lean on to the other players and improve them as well," he added.

Kohli isn't the only World Test Championship rival that has impressed Hazlewood at RCB, with in-form seamer Mohammed Siraj another one of the Australian's IPL teammates that he will be out to beat in the one-off Test at The Oval from June 7.

KIUG: WORKING HARD TO BREAK NATIONAL RECORD, SAYS 1500M RECORD HOLDER YOONUS SHAH

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Yoonus Shah, from Uttar Pradesh, won the 1500m race by creating a new Games record in the 1500m event at Khelo India University Games 2022, is working hard and aims to break the national record of 3:35.24 minutes that was set by Jinson Johnson in 2009.

The 21-year-old Yoonus created a new meet record of 3:51.61 minutes at Guru Gobind Singh Sports

College track in Lucknow. He improved upon the previous meet record of 3:52.54 minutes representing Mahatma Jyotiba Phule University, Bareilly.

"I can do even better. I achieved a timing of 3:45 minutes earlier. I am putting in a lot of effort to break the national record. Presently, my full focus is on the World University Games, with trials scheduled to take place in Bhubaneswar next month," said Yoonus in a media

release. Yoonus hails from the village Patihan in the Pilibhit district, dreams to represent India and win a medal in the Olympics.

"My dream is to win a medal for our nation. I compete in the 1500m and 800m races, but the 1500m race is my favorite. My father is a farmer. Besides my parents, I have a brother and a sister. Currently, I am training under Coach Vipin Lohit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi," he said.

ISL

FC Goa release seven first-team players



Team Absolute | New Delhi

FC Goa have announced the departure of seven first-team players --

Anwar Ali, Redeem Tlang, Makan Chothe, Hernan Santana, Marc Valiente, Lenny Rodrigues and Nongdamba Naorem -- following the end of their contracts with the Club on May 31, 2023.

"Once a Gaur, Always a Gaur! Wishing our departing Gaur's the very best of luck for their next chapters," said FC Goa in a tweet.

Ali returns to Delhi FC following the completion of his 18-month loan deal that saw him joining the Gaur's ranks in January 2022. The center-

back featured in all 30 of the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) games that the Men in Orange played since then, across two seasons.

Chothe and Tlang both registered nearly 40 appearances each for FC Goa, across the ISL, Durand Cup and the Super Cup. The duo was also a part of the team that played in the AFC Champions League in 2021, which was also the first instance of an Indian club at the apex of club football in Asia. Valiente joined FC Goa last summer, but saw his playing time come to a premature end due to an injury midway through the 2022-23 seasons. Santana, who was roped in by the Gaur's as his

replacement, featured for them in seven games since.

Rodrigues bids adieu to the Gaur's for the second time, having first played for them between 2018 and 2021 before rejoining the team in January this year. He has made 60 appearances overall for the Goa outfit, winning the Hero Super Cup and the Hero ISL League Winners' Shield with them in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Another former World Cupper, Naorem signed for the Gaur's in August 2021 following stints with Indian Arrows, Kerala Blasters FC and ATK Mohun Bagan. He made 12 appearances for the Men in Orange, in the 2021-22 season of the ISL.



Vicky reveals Sara 'scolded' her mum for buying a towel for Rs 1600

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Vicky Kaushal has disclosed a peculiar secret about Sara Ali Khan that involves a towel. Vicky and Sara will be seen on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' promoting their upcoming film 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke.' He reveals: "During the shoot of this film on one day, I witnessed Sara scolding Amrita Ma'am. I wondered what happened, so I asked her if everything was alright. She replied, 'no yaar, my mom bought a towel worth 1600 Rupees.'"

"I thought this couldn't be true; she must be faking it. So, I asked her again, and she reiterated that yes, it was indeed true. Who buys a towel worth 1600 Rupees and she was scolding Amrita ma'am for this." Sara further light-heartedly added: "Of course, why not use one of the free towels available in the vanity van? Why buy a towel worth 1600 rupees?"

'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.



I would love to do a movie with Kapil:

Aamir Khan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aamir Khan, who attended the trailer launch of the Punjabi film 'Carry On Jatta 3' in Mumbai, said he would love to do a film with comedian and TV host Kapil Sharma.

The superstar showed up along with the entire ensemble cast of 'Carry On Jatta 3' and, to evoke the Punjabi spirit, he also broke into a Bhangra. Kapil Sharma also attended the trailer launch.

When asked about why he never promotes any of his films on 'The Kapil Sharma Show', Aamir said: "Usually, I am busy during a film's release. I am travelling and promoting the film in different cities and overseas, and it has somehow never worked out with Kapil Sharma. I even told him that, when I am free, I will come to his show, we

don't have to worry about a film."

While on the subject of Kapil Sharma, a reference had to be made to the comedy drama, 'Andaz Apna Apna', starring Aamir and Salman Khan. When asked if he would like to pair with Kapil Sharma for another hit like this old comic caper, Aamir said: "Andaz Apna Apna" was a commercial failure, it was a flop, but later with the help of home entertainment it sort of picked up."

He then addressed Kapil Sharma and said: "Kapil Sharma and me, doing a film together? I would love that. Hey listen Kapil, let's do a movie. I would love to do a movie with Kapil."

'Carry On Jatta 3', helmed by Smeep Kang, stars Gippy Grewal, Sonam Bajwa, Binnu Dhillon, Jaswinder Bhalla and Gurpreet Ghuggi in lead roles. It is set to hit theatres this June 29.



Parineeti blushes when paparazzi quiz her about her wedding

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra was asked about her wedding date by paparazzi as she stepped out of a building. A video shared by celebrity paparazzi Viral Bhayani showed Parineeti dressed in an all white ensemble as she left a building when she was asked about her wedding date by the photographers.

They asked her: "Shaadi ki tareek kya hai? Kuch toh batao, chupao mat. (When is the wedding? Say something, don't be silent)."

Parineeti then pointed at her team member and said: "She knows."

When the photographers asked Parineeti to invite them to the wedding, she was seen blushing. Before leaving in her car, the actor smiled and said "bye."

Earlier this month, Parineeti and Raghav Chadha exchanged rings in New Delhi. The ceremony was attended by family members and politicians.

'IT WAS EMPOWERING AS AN ACTOR'

Sonakshi reveals her favourite scene from her streaming debut 'Dahaad'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her streaming debut in 'Dahaad', shared her favourite moment from the series.

In the crime series, Sonakshi essays the role of a cop, Anjali Bhaati who comes from a lower caste and has been facing discrimination since her childhood.

Speaking about her favourite scene from the series, Sonakshi said: "My favourite scene is the one where we go to raid Anand's father's house and he does not let Anjali enter because he says that she's from a lower caste and he won't allow such people into the house. The way that scene was written - the dialogue was so powerful, it was really moving. It was really empowering for me as an actor to be able to say those lines and stand up for myself."

She further mentioned: "I could feel the power of that one single line in my bones which said 'This is not your pushto ka time. It's Kayda-Kanun ka time, Samvidhan ka time (This is not the time of your ancestors, today things are judged and decided as per the law and Constitution). And as a cop, the Constitution has given me the right to enter your house. And if you try and stop me, I'll put a case on you for trying to stop my investigation.' So I think those were truly very powerful words written and the writers have done a fantastic job. And as an actor, for me, to execute it was extremely special." Directed by Reema Kagti and Ruchika Oberoi, 'Dahaad' is produced by Excel Media and Entertainment and Tiger Baby. The series is streaming on Prime Video.



WANTED TO TAKE A BIT OF HINDUSTAN WITH ME: ABHILASH THAPLIYAL ON CANNES DEBUT

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Abhilash Thapliyal has been one of the most popular names when it comes to radio jockeys. However, in the past few years, he has become more popular as an actor. His neo-noir flick Kennedy, directed by Anurag Kashyap, has become the talk of the town after it was screened at the recently held 76th Cannes Film Festival 2023. Starring Rahul Bhat in the titular role and Sunny Leone as Charlie, the film got a seven-minute standing ovation at its world premiere.

Post this surreal moment, the actor exclusively interacted with Absolute India News.

As we see the teaser of Kennedy, we barely get to see a stint of Abhilash. When asked about this being intentional and more about his role, the actor shared, "I can't talk much about my character as Anurag Kashyap will bash me (laughs). But all I can say is my character makes a big impact on Kennedy's life."

Sharing how surreal it was to receive a seven-minute standing ovation, the actor quipped, "I was gob smacked. After the end credits rolled, I thought people would get up and exit. That's what happens at our place. But to my surprise, no one stood up till the end credits rolled. That's the kind of respect they have for the craft of filmmaking. That's the moment I lived for, before that I was numb."

He further said, "The whole culture of film festival is amazing. I wish something like this happens in India as well



where people get a platform to showcase their films."

As the Blur actor walked the red carpet of the Cannes Film Festival 2023, he proudly carried a piece of his home state Uttarakhand through his all-black attire. Talking about why he opted for that traditional avatar, Abhilash said, "This was the first time I was walking on any red carpet. I haven't walked on any red carpet before Cannes. Such a red-carpet debut was a big thing for me. I categori-

cally told my designer that I won't be wearing any suit or Tuxedo as that is not me. I wanted to take a bit of Hindustan with me."

Talking about how he sees awards and recognition as a source of validation, the actor said, "I come from a lower-middle-class background. And so we are conditioned in a way that validation is the most important thing. But validation means nothing to me. So even though I know the futility of it, at the same time it also excites me when I get an award or someone praises me."

Abhilash also shared his thoughts on what he feels about people speaking about numerous Indian celebrities heading to Cannes for fashion and not films. He also opined whether the credibility of such a prestigious festival deters. He said, "I feel rather than a festival, the credibility of the individual using it for their sake gets deterred. If you are making sure that a social media influencer trends over Martin Scorsese, it shows what one is interested in. Also, there is no problem in decking up and putting your best fashion foot forward. But you go there to watch films. I had heard that celebs walk the red carpet and then leave without watching the film. They are disrespecting films. I would like to be known for my work rather than what I wear."

He further stated that the prestigious event had a dress code. He said, "They do have a dress code and people adhere to it because they respect that cinema. It's not for the red carpet. Sadly, even the media is not talking about films. It's our responsibility to talk about the films screened at the festival rather than the looks. But unfortunately, we are busy talking about the looks and who graced the red carpet."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Disha Patani