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Govt sources say Railways spent over Rs 1L cr of RRSK funds on ...



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SAKSHI, BAJRANG REJOIN DUTIES IN RAILWAYS, REFUTE CLAIMS OF WITHDRAWING FROM PROTEST

Majority support protesting wrestlers

An exclusive survey for reveals that a majority of Indians stand behind wrestlers who have accused BJP MP and the president of the Wrestling Federation of India Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment and molestation. Among the many FIRs filed against him, one is under the stringent POCSO Act that covers crimes against minors. The sample size of the survey is 1,816.

"The news is completely wrong. None of us has backed down. We will continue our fight for justice and meanwhile, I am fulfilling my responsibility in Railways."

Sakshi Malik, Protesting Wrestler

"The news of withdrawing the movement is just a rumour. This news is being spread to harm us. We have neither retreated nor have we withdrawn the movement... The fight will continue till justice is served."

Bajrang Punia, Protesting Wrestler



Charges not withdrawn: Minor wrestler's father

trio stopped short of immersing their international medals in the Ganga.

On Monday, Sakshi confirmed the news. She meanwhile, denied rumours that she has withdrawn from the agitation.

Bajrang Punia too echoed Sakshi's words and denied the reports of wrestlers withdrawing from the protest and said their fight will be continued till justice is served.

New Delhi: The father of a 17-year-old wrestler, who levelled sexual harassment charges against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, on late Sunday asserted that he has not withdrawn the charges.

Speaking to IANS, the father of the victim asserted that whatever is running on social media regarding the "withdrawal" of their statement (on the charges) is fake.

"We stood by our statement and I am out of the station and neither in Delhi nor Haryana," he said, seeking to end the spreading speculations on the issue.

want to drop their medals in the river Ganga. With many people requesting them, they decided to hand over the medals to the farmers' leaders to take a call.

The wrestlers will soon take a call on where to resume their protest.

OVERALL, TWO THIRDS OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE WRESTLERS WERE SPEAKING THE TRUTH WHILE JUST ABOUT 18 PER CENT FELT THE BJP MP WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH.

SIGNIFICANTLY, MORE THAN 54 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT AND VOTE FOR THE NDA WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE WRESTLERS WERE SPEAKING THE TRUTH WITH MORE THAN 20 PER CENT HAVING NO OPINION.

CLOSE TO 56 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS AGREED WITH THE DEMAND WHILE A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER 27 PER CENT DISAGREED WITH THE DEMAND TO ARREST SINGH.

MORE THAN 68 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS WANT PRIME MINISTER MODI TO PERSONALLY INTERVENE WHILE JUST 19 PER CENT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE SHOULD NOT INTERVENE. THREE OUT OF EVERY FOUR SUPPORTERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES THINK THAT PRIME MINISTER MODI SHOULD INTERVENE; THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER FOR NDA SUPPORTERS IS ABOUT 58 PER CENT.

CLOSE TO 59 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS STATED THAT THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED BY THE ACTION TAKEN SO FAR BY THE DELHI POLICE WHILE INVESTIGATING THE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT LEVELLED BY SOME FEMALE WRESTLERS AGAINST BRIJ BHUSHAN SINGH. IN CONTRAST, A SHADE LESS THAN 30 PER CENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE DELHI POLICE. SIGNIFICANTLY, CLOSE TO 47 PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS, WHO SUPPORT AND VOTE FOR THE NDA, EXPRESSED DIS-SATISFACTION AGAINST DELHI POLICE.

OVERALL, ABOUT 47 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS THINK IT WILL SUFFER VERY MUCH WHILE ANOTHER 17.6 PER CENT THINK IT WILL SUFFER TO SOME EXTENT. IN CONTRAST, LESS THAN 23 PER CENT THINK THE WRESTLERS' PROTEST WILL HAVE NO ELECTORAL IMPACT. CLOSE TO 54 PER CENT OF THE NDA SUPPORTERS THINK THE BJP WILL SUFFER ELECTORALLY.

Odisha train tragedy

SIGNS OF 'DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE' IN ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEM LED TO CBI PROBE RECOMMENDATION

The accident in which a speeding Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary goods train on the loop line instead of travelling on the main line, indicated issues with the electronic interlocking system which changed the route of the train leading to the collision. The source said, "Unless there is deliberate interference in the system, it is impossible that a route set for the main line is switched to the loop line."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Under fire from the Opposition, including the Congress, for recommending a CBI probe into the Balasore train accident that led to the death of 275 passengers, government sources on Monday indicated that it was a case of "deliberate interference" in the system that came to the fore during the preliminary investigation, thus necessitating an investigation by a professional agency.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had on Sunday said that the Railway Board has recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into Friday's horrifying accident which left 275 people dead and over 800 injured.

A government source on Monday here said that the need for a CBI probe even when the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) was already probing the incident, as the officials who were part of the preliminary investigation indicated the need for a more thorough investigation by a professional agency having expertise.



Loco pilots of Coromandel Express alive, under treatment

Bhubaneswar: Three days after the tragic triple train accident in Odisha's Balasore, it was revealed that the loco pilot and assistant loco pilot of Coromandel Express that met the severe accident on June 2 are alive, stable and under treatment.

Coromandel Express loco pilot Gunandhi Mohanty and assistant loco pilot Hajari Behera have suffered injuries and are under treatment in a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. Their health conditions are stated to be stable and out of danger, South Eastern Railway's Chief Public Relation Officer (CPRO), Aditya Kumar Choudhury said.

Both the loco pilot and assistant loco pilot have given their preliminary statements about the incident, Choudhury said.

Security forces, mobs destroy militant camps in Manipur

Imphal | Agencies

Security forces and mobs destroyed camps of Kuki militants in different districts even as sporadic incidents of violence were reported from different parts of violence-hit Manipur, officials said on Monday.

Police in Imphal said that the angry villagers set fire to an abandoned camp of United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) on Sunday night at Sugnu in Kakching district.

The UKLF cadres have been using the strategically important camp before they move to their intended destinations on operational missions.

Irate villagers were venting their anger after Kuki militants burnt down a large number of abandoned houses, including the residence of former minister and Congress MLA K. Ranjit at Serou in Kakching district on Saturday midnight.



Though the security force was able to flush out the suspected Kuki militants from the camp, the extremists managed to escape during the gun battle. A search operation is underway in the mountainous areas by the security force.

Meanwhile, reports said that at least three people, including a woman, were killed following the attack of a mob in Imphal West District.

50% chance that AI will wipe out humanity: American physicist

NEW YORK | Agencies

There is a 50 per cent chance that artificial intelligence (AI) will wipe out humanity, according to Max Tegmark, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Tegmark said that humans, known as Earth's smartest species, are responsible for the extinction of 'lesser' species such as the dodo. Likewise, when AI will become smarter than humans, we could meet a similar fate, he said, DailyMail reported.

Tegmark is among a growing number of industry experts who are warning of the dangers of AI.



Last month, leaders from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Anthropic and other AI labs warned in an open letter that future systems could be as deadly as pandemics and nuclear weapons.

nuclear war," reads a one-sentence statement released by the Center for AI Safety, a nonprofit organisation. The open letter was signed by more than 350 executives, researchers and engineers working in AI.

Gary Marcus, a New York University professor said AI is a "threat to democracy, not to humanity", TechCrunch reported.

He said AI's potential threat to democracy ranges "from misinformation that is deliberately produced by bad actors, from accidental misinformation. You can also use these tools to manipulate other people and probably trick them into anything you want".

THE BRIDGE IS NOT BEING CONSTRUCTED PROPERLY: NITISH KUMAR

New York | Agencies

A day after the collapse of an under-construction bridge over the Ganga river in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said strict action would be taken against those found guilty in the incident.

He also said the bridge that collapsed on Sunday had also caved in last year.

"The bridge is not being constructed properly and that is why it collapsed twice since April 2022. It's a serious matter. The department concerned has already initiated a thorough probe into it. Strict action will be taken against those found guilty," Kumar said, while talking to reporters.

He also wondered why the



bridge construction work that started in 2014 has not been completed so far.

"Why is it running behind the schedule? I have asked the department concerned to probe this also. The Deputy Chief Minister is also monitoring the developments," Kumar said.

The 3.16-km bridge being built since 2014 collapsed twice in 14 months - first on the Bhagalpur's Sultanganj side in April 2022 and the second time on Sunday evening on the Khagaria side.

Oppn unity meet in Patna likely to be rescheduled to June 23

Patna: The Opposition unity meeting originally scheduled for June 12 is likely to be deferred to June 23 owing to unavailability of senior party leaders -- Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. According to sources, the consensus of all the like-minded parties are being taken before finalising the date. This comes as a huge jolt to the efforts of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav.

The sources said that the biggest reason for the postponement of the meeting is Rahul Gandhi's absence from the country. Even Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge has expressed his reluctance for a meeting in Patna. After the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi contributed to the grand success in Karnataka assembly election, the morale of Congress party is high.

Reliance Foundation announces 10-point relief measures for Odisha train accident victims

Team Absolute | New Delhi



"It is with immense sorrow and a heavy heart that I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of Reliance Foundation to the families who have lost their loved ones in the tragic train accident in Odisha. As soon as we learnt about the accident, our specialized disaster management team was immediately deployed to facilitate the rescue effort on ground. Our team continues to provide round-the-clock aid and assistance to the injured." Nita Ambani, Founder & Chairperson, Reliance Foundation (RF), said.

"While we cannot undo the suffering caused by the tragedy, we are fully committed to helping the bereaved families rebuild their lives and prepare for the future. With this as our solemn mission, we are announcing a 10-point programme to offer our unwavering support to those affected by this unfortunate incident. Our Foundation, along with the extended Reliance family, stands in firm solidarity with the affected communities during this difficult time", Nita Ambani stated.

Below are the 10-point relief measures that will support the people affected by the tragedy, both immediately and on a long-term basis:

1. Free fuel for ambulances dealing with the disaster through Jio-BP network.
2. Provision of free ration supplies, including flour, sugar, dal, rice, salt and cooking oil, for the next six months to affected families through Reliance stores.
3. Free medicines for injured to support their immediate recovery needs; medical treatment for those needing hospitalization due to the accident.
4. Counselling services for emotional and psychosocial support.
5. Providing employment opportunities through Jio and Reliance Retail to one family member of the deceased, as needed.
6. Provision of support aids to people with disabilities, including wheelchairs, artificial limbs.

7. Specialist skill training for those impacted to find new employment opportunities.
 8. Microfinance and training opportunities for women who may have lost their sole earning family member.
 9. Provide livestock such as cow, buffalo, goat, poultry for alternate livelihood support to rural families impacted by the accident.
 10. Free mobile connectivity to a family member of bereaved for a year to enable them to rebuild their livelihood.
- Present at Balasore since the accident took place, Reliance Foundation's specialist disaster management team closely coordinated with the Emergency Section, Collectorate, Balasore, and National Disaster Response Force.

Mukhtar Ansari gets life term in 1991 murder case

Varanasi: Jailed gangster Mukhtar Ansari was on Monday sentenced to life imprisonment in the 32-year-old Avadesh Rai murder case.

Earlier in the day, the MP/MLA court in Varanasi had convicted Ansari in the case. A five-time MLA, Mukhtar Ansari has been charged with the murder of Avadhesh Rai, Congress leader and brother of former MLA Ajay Rai, who was shot dead outside the latter's house in Varanasi on August 3, 1991.

The case was unusual since the case diary had gone missing which delayed the trial.

Ansari has been convicted in several criminal cases in the past.

The Varanasi MP MLA court had concluded the hearing after arguments on May 19, reserved its order, and fixed June 5 as the date to deliver it.

Ansari is already serving a 10-year jail term in another kidnapping and murder case. He was convicted in April.



GOVT SOURCES SAY RAILWAYS SPENT OVER RS 1 L CR OF RRSK FUNDS ON SAFETY IN FIVE YEARS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Following the horrific train accident in Odisha's Balasore on Friday evening that claimed 275 lives, an official document showed that the national transporter did not have lack of funds, as it "spent over Rs 1 lakh crore" between 2017-18 and 2021-22 from its Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) funds.

The Railways has announced a high-level probe as well as an independent inquiry by the Commissioner of Rail Safety, which comes under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that "all the empty safety claims" of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw have been "exposed".

He also said there is serious concern among people about the deterioration in safety standards of the Railways. An official government data showed that capital expenditure on all projects of Indian Railways, including safety related works, is funded from three major sources -- gross budgetary support (GBS), internal generation of Railways, and external borrowing.

The document said that RRSK was introduced in 2017 after recognising the importance of ensuring adequate funds for railway safety



with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to be utilised over a period of five years starting 2017-18 for critical safety related works.

"Contrary to the statements being made, the Railways has ensured that this fund was fully utilised," a government source said.

"From 2017-18 to 2021-22, Railways spent more than Rs 1 lakh crore on RRSK works," the source said, adding that the government also extended the validity of RRSK for another five year from 2022-23," the data stated.

Showing the expenses made by the Railways on track renewal in the last five years, the data said, "Track renewal is an important component of safety and expenditure on track renewal during 2017-18 to 2021-22 has reflected a steady growth."

It said that from Rs 8,884 crore in 2017-18, the expenditure on track renewal increased to Rs 13,522 crore in 2020-21 and to Rs 16,558 cr in 2021-22.

In total, Railways spent Rs 58,045 crore on track renewal during this period, the data showed.

It also highlighted that the CAG report of 2022 on "derailment in railways" was laid on the floor of the House on December 21 last year.

"The coverage of RRSK utilisation, in the report, is limited to three years - 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hence, it gives a partial picture on actual expenditure that has been undertaken on both track renewal as well as safety related works by the Indian Railways," the source said.

The source also said that as per the practice, a detailed reply on all

issues raised in the CAG report will also be sent shortly.

"The factual position on expenditure, therefore, is completely contrary to the figures being quoted in some sections of the media. The actual trend of expenditure on track renewal has increased from Rs 47,039 crore during 2004-05 to 2013-14 to Rs 1,09,023 crore during 2014-15 to 2023-24, reflecting an increase of more than double," the source said.

The remarks from the government sources came after the Congress cited several reports that included the CAG report on derailment, claiming less amount was spent on track renewal and even non-utilisation of RRSK funds for safety works.

The Congress said that as per the latest audit report, between 2017-18 and 2020-21, almost seven out of the 10 train accidents happened due to train derailment. It also said that from 2017 to 2021, there was zero testing of rails and welds (track maintenance) for safety in East Coast Railway and asked why was it sidelined.

The Congress also asked why 79 per cent funding work was done in RRSK, while Rs 20,000 crore was to be made available every year. It asked why has there been a huge decrease in the amount for track renewal works. The government source also stated that the expendi-

ture on safety related works, which include track renewal, bridges, level crossings, ROB or RUBS, signalling works etc. has increased from Rs 70,274 crore during 2004-05 to 2013-14 to Rs 1,78,012 crore during 2014-15 to 2023-24, reflecting more than two-and-a-half fold rise. The source further said that even the GBS for railways in the last nine years has increased almost five times as compared to the GBS between 2004-05 and 2013-14.

The data showed that from 2004-05 to 2013-14, the Railways had a GBS of Rs 1,64,743.45 crore, which in the last nine years (from 2014-15 to 2023-24) stands at Rs 8,26,323.48 crore. The Congress has been demanding the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw following the horrific accident in Balasore. To a question about the February 8 letter by the Principal Chief Operating Manager of South Western Railway Zone urging and warning to repair the signalling system citing a tragedy in Mysore in which two trains were saved from collision, the source said, "One unsafe incident was reported on February 8 this year and during our inquiry, human error was found. So that was pointed out and the deficiency was rectified."

He also said that the kind of error in the February 8 incident was completely different as compared to the latest train accident.

WOMAN, LOVER ARRESTED FOR KILLING HER CISF HUSBAND, FABRICATING ELECTRIC SHOCK DEATH STORY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The wife of a CISF constable and her lover have been arrested for killing her husband and then fabricating a fake story of death due to electric shock, a Delhi Police official said on Monday.

The accused were identified as M.K., 32, a native of Haryana's Jhajjar district and Rahul Yadav, 24, a resident of Haryana's Mahendergarh district.

According to the police, on May 31, a PCR call was received at the Vasant Kunj South police station, informing them that a 38-year-old Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) constable had been declared dead after allegedly falling down in his rented accommodation in Ghitorni area of south Delhi.

The injured, identified as Rajiv, was taken to Safdarjung Hospital. Police learned that he had been declared dead upon arrival at the hospital, and his wife claimed that he had suffered an electric shock. No visible injury marks were found on the deceased's body.

"The crime scene was inspected by the Crime Team, and statements of family members were recorded. The post-mortem of the deceased was conducted,



and the body was handed over to his family for the last rites. On June 3, we received the post-mortem report, which revealed that he had been strangled," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southwest, Manoj C. said.

During the investigation, the police team assigned to crack the case analysed CCTV footage, which showed a suspect entering and leaving the building twice at the time of the incident.

"After sustained interrogation, the wife of the deceased revealed the name of the suspect as Rahul Yadav. During the investigation, Rahul and M.K. were arrested, and later confessed to being in a relationship. On May 31, a scuffle occurred between Rajiv and Rahul, resulting in Rajiv being strangled," said the DCP.

After discovering Rajiv's death, both Rahul and MK devised a plan to fabricate the story of an electric shock.

Seven women killed as tractor overturns in Andhra Pradesh

Team Absolute | Guntur

Seven people, all women, were killed and over 20 others injured when a tractor in which they were travelling to a wedding overturned in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district on Monday, police said.

The accident occurred in Vatticherukuru village when a group of 40 people in the tractor were heading for Jupudi in Chebrolu mandal (block) to attend a wedding.

Police said the tractor overturned in an agricultural field by the roadside after the driver lost control apparently due to high speed. While three women died on the spot, four

others succumbed at the hospital. The injured have been admitted to Government General Hospital at Guntur.

The deceased were identified as Nagamma, Meramma, Ratnakumari, Nirmala, Suhasini, Jhansi Rani, and Saleema. The all hailed from Kondepadu village of Prathipadu mandal.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed shock over the accident. He announced ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh each to critically injured, and Rs 25,000 each to those who sustained simple injuries. He directed officials to ensure best possible treatment of the injuries.

Chhattisgarh coal scam: 'Rs 540 cr proceeds of crime used for political expenditure'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said a special PMLA court in Raipur has taken cognizance of two prosecution complaints filed by them in connection with a case pertaining to illegal levy on the movement of coal and iron pellets in Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh CM's Deputy Secretary Saumya Chaurasia, IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi and others are under the lens in the matter. Vishnoi and Chaurasia were earlier arrested by the ED in the matter.

The ED said that their investigation has established that proceeds of crime worth Rs 540 crore were acquired in this extortion racket and was utilised for political expenditure, creation of benami assets and bribing officials.

The ED has attached assets worth more



than Rs 220 crore in this case. The ED said that they were conducting money laundering investigation against coal businessman Suryakant Tiwari and Chaurasia who were extorting illegal levy on the movement of coal, iron pellets, etc. in Chhattisgarh.

The ED has conducted multiple searches, and has arrested nine accused as of now. All the accused are in judicial custody. The ED has also filed two prosecution complaints in the matter before a special court in Raipur against Suryakant Tiwari, Saumya Chaurasia, Sameer Vishnoi and others.

Now, the Special Court (PMLA) Raipur has taken cognizance of ED's prosecution complaints.

Further investigation into the matter is going on.

DAUGHTER DECLARED 'DEAD' FOR DEFYING DISCARDED ALLIANCE

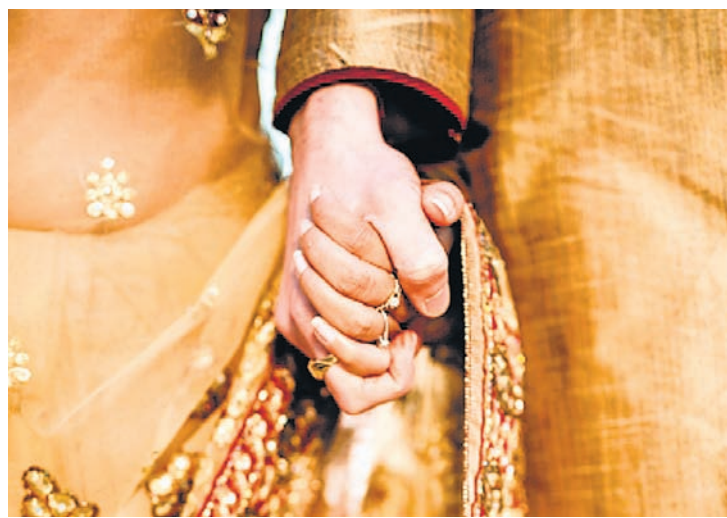
Jaipur | Agencies

Hurt and upset after their daughter eloped with her lover and married him, her parents have declared her 'dead', got cards with a condolence message printed and distributed, and also scheduled a 'Mrityu Bhoj' on June 13.

This invitation card sent out to attend the condolence prayer meeting of the 18-year-old girl who is still alive, has gone viral on social media.

The incident has been reported from Ratanpura village in Rajasthan. It has been learnt that the girl, a resident of Ratanpura village, got married to a youth from Dantahl village with whom she was in a relationship. It is being said that when she was a minor, the family decided to get her married to the same youth.

However, due to a dispute between



the two families a few months ago, the pre-planned alliance was called

off. The girl has been missing from

home since May 17. Her mother lodged a missing complaint at the Hamirgarh police station.

On June 1, the girl, along with her husband, approached the police. She told the police that she turned 18 on May 27.

She told the police that on June 1, they got married according to the Arya Samaj rituals, and she wishes to live with her husband.

Later, when the girl's parents also reached the police station, she, however, refused to identify them.

The youth and the girl then left, and they are still living together. Angered and upset over the developments, her father decided to organise 'Pihar Gaurani' (a feast that's arranged following the death) even as she is alive.

From June 1 to June 12, twelve days have been marked for mourning.

CAR DRIVERS HACK TOLLGATE STAFF TO DEATH ON MYSURU-BENGALURU EXPRESSWAY

Ramanagar | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a group of car drivers hacked a tollgate staff to death on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Ramanagar district, the police said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as 26-year-old Pavan Kumar, a resident of Bengaluru South taluk.

The police said that the incident took place on Sunday night following a scuffle between the deceased and the attackers over paying toll.

"The police have formed two special teams to nab the accused persons, who are



absconding," said Ramanagar SP, Karthik Reddy.

The police said that Kumar worked at the Sheshagirihalli Toll Plaza and there was an argument between the accused and the deceased in the presence of other people.

The locals intervened and pacified both sides. However, the accused waited near the toll plaza and when Kumar went for a dinner break, the accused fatally attacked him with hockey sticks.

The incident took place near the Bidadi police station.

Assam Police seize drugs valued at Rs 6 crore, one held

Guwahati:

Narcotic substances, valued at Rs 6 crore, were seized in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Monday, officials said.

A person was also arrested on the charges of drug peddling. A senior police officer said that they had got a tip-off about probable drug peddling and a joint team of police and the CRPF launched an operation near Nambor Forest bridge that comes under Barpothar police station.

"A vehicle that was coming from Nagaland was stopped by the joint team there and recovered narcotic substances of 1.10 kg from 89 soap boxes. The soap boxes were kept hidden in the car's door panel," the officer said.

Paresh Malik, who was driving the vehicle, was arrested. As per police, the contraband was coming from Dimapur in Nagaland.

"The market value of seized drugs should be around Rs 6 crore," police said.

Pan-India online cheating gang busted, dubious loan app scam worth crores exposed

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the arrest of six persons, the Delhi Police has busted a gang of online cheats who had duped over 1,900 people across the country on the pretext of loans through app 'Cash Advance', a senior official said on Monday.

The gang was extorting and blackmailing the public at large on the pretext of providing instant loans by getting access to their mobile data illegally through an app, the official said, adding that suspected transactions of Rs 350 crore and dubious crypto exchange of the gang have come on record.

The gang members were identified as Mustajab Gulam Mohammed Naviwala, 32, Anisbhai Ashrafbhai Vinchhi, 51, both residents of Gujarat's Surat, Gokul Biswas, 53, a resident of West Bengal's Nadia,



Nitin, 24, of Mahulpur, Ashok, 36, and Balwant, 39, residents of Sultanpur, (all Delhi residents). The officials said that they

have also recovered seven mobile phones, one laptop while 60 lakhs in various bank accounts have been frozen.

According to police, Jai Goyal, a resident of Model Town, alleged that some persons were extorting and blackmailing the

public at large on the pretext of providing instant loans by getting access to their mobile data illegally through loan app Cash Advance.

"Further, on search of the NCRP portal, a total of 102 complaints from Delhi region and 1,977 from all over India were found lodged against the same app," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO), Prashant Gautam said.

The DCP further said that a team, led by sub-inspector Sonam Joshi, consisting of SIs Karamvir and Harjeet, and ASIs Neeraj Pandey and Surender Rathi among others was constituted to crack the case and apprehend the culprits.

During investigation, relevant details from various banks and ROC about the accounts, alleged companies and proprietorships were collected by the police

team. "It came to notice that companies were registered at the addresses of Delhi, Surat, Kerala and Kolkata. However, the directors of these alleged companies were not traceable," he said. Hence, the police team conducted comprehensive analysis and carried out an exhaustive field investigation and finally succeeded in tracing the accused persons from different locations. "Thereafter, simultaneous raids were conducted on these locations and accused persons were apprehended," said the DCP.

Divulging the details about the modus operandi of the gang, the DCP said that the gang used to offer short term loans to users at "very low interest rates" through a mobile application called Cash Advance and would get the access of personal data of victims at the stage of installation of the application.



4 HAVE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE AS MUMBAI METRO PILLAR ROD PIERCES THROUGH CAR ROOF



Team Absolute | Mumbai
In a freak accident, four Mumbai passengers including a driver had a miraculous escape when a long and thick iron rod fell on their moving car passing below a Metro pillar in Thane, officials said here on Monday. It was around 12.15 p.m. Jitendra Yadav was driving in the heavy traffic from Bhandup, past the Teen Hath Naka area of Thane city to Kolsheet, with three other passengers.

Suddenly, near the BPCL petrol pump, an iron rod apparently slipped from the hands of some labourers working above and crashed vertically on the roof of Yadav's car. So powerful was the impact of missile-like fall that the rod spiked through the metal roof of the car and landed barely inches away from the petrified Yadav's seat and also the co-passengers but fortunately all were unharmed. The car and other vehicles stopped

on the road even as the Wagle Estate Police officials and a disaster management team rushed to the spot to inspect the 'rod accident', which was several feet long and a few inches thick and of considerable weight. As videos of the hair-raising incident went viral on social media, the vehicle was moved aside, while the potentially killer rod was yanked out of the roof, and further probe is underway, said an official.

Shiv Sena-BJP seal package deal for alliance in all future state polls



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's ruling allies Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party have agreed to a package deal of jointly contesting all future elections in the state, right from local bodies to assembly to parliament, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said here on Monday. Shinde, who is also the Shiv Sena President, made the announcement after he and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis had a late-night meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday. "It was also

decided in the meeting that Shiv Sena-BJP will jointly contest all upcoming elections in the state (including elections to Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and local bodies)," he tweeted. Shinde added that the alliance is going strong since the past 11 months for the state's development and will win with a majority to make Maharashtra the No. 1 state in the country in all fields, and continue the race for development. The duo also discussed other issues with Shah, including agriculture, cooperation, the work going on for women empowerment and farmers, and how they had

cleared various stalled developmental projects here. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always guided us for various projects in the state. We took this meeting with Shah for his guidance on the issues pertaining to the cooperative sector," said Shinde on their New Delhi trip. The duo's visit comes barely three weeks ahead of the first anniversary of the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance which came to power on June 30, 2022 after toppling the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of former CM Uddhav Thackeray, and against the backdrop of the upcoming civic polls in the state.

Antilia case: SC grants 3-week interim bail to ex-cop Pradeep Sharma

Team Absolute | New Delhi/ Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Monday granted a three-week interim bail to retired high-profile police officer and encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma, arrested in connection with the sensational Mansukh Hiran murder case. Sharma moved the apex court challenging the Bombay High Court order, which rejected his bail application. A vacation bench headed by Judge Aniruddha Bose said Sharma would be released on bail to take care of his ailing wife on the terms and conditions as fixed by the trial court. Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, representing Sharma, claimed that his client's wife's health is deteriorating each passing day and she needs immediate surgery. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhat, representing the NIA, opposed Sharma's bail plea and asked the court to direct him to produce medical records. After hearing submissions, the bench has fixed the matter for further hearing after three weeks. A document filed by Sharma in the court, said: "Petitioner's mother is 93 years old and the wife of the Petitioner is her primary caregiver.



Due to the current medical complications of the wife, there is nobody to look after the wife and mother of the Petitioner. The Petitioner is the only male member to take care of his wife and old aged mother. "It is further submitted that if Petitioner is not released on bail/interim bail, the same can have a debilitating effect on the health of his wife". On May 29, the apex court had asked Sharma to file a proper petition and deferred the hearing on his interim bail plea to June 2. The special leave petition filed by Sharma said: "Petitioner is a decorated police officer, who has retired from service since 2019. Retired police officers do not have the same clout as when they were in service. prime witness in this case is a protected witness and thus the possibility of witness tampering does not arise. Moreover, a mere apprehension of tampering with evidence, without any material, is not a ground for denial of bail as is held by this Hon'ble Court in P. Chidambaram v Central Bureau of Investigation 2019." Sharma has been in custody since June 17, 2021. The Maharashtra government was represented by advocate Aaditya Pande, standing counsel and advocate-on-record for the state.

SHAKUNI MAMA FROM 'MAHABHARAT' 'GUFU' PAINTAL PASSES AWAY AT 78



Mumbai: Veteran actor and film-maker Sarabjeet Singh alias 'Gufu' Paintal - the elder brother of the noted comedian Kanwarjit Singh Paintal - passed away due to old-age related problems

here on Monday, Bollywood sources said. Gufu was 78 and is best remembered for his role as the cunning 'Shakuni Mama' in the mega-teleserial by the late B. R. Chopra, 'Mahabharat' (1988-1990) which was a rage on Doordarshan. Born on October 4, 1944 in the pilgrim town of 'Tarn Taran in Punjab, he also worked in films like 'Rafoo Chakkar', 'Dillagi', 'Des Pardes', 'Suhaag', and more, besides nearly 18 teleserials in various genres and roles. Last week, his nephew and actor Hiten Paintal had told mediapersons that his uncle Gufu was serious and had been rushed to a private hospital in Andheri for heart and kidney related problems. After an unsuccessful battle for life, Gufu breathed his last this morning, a second major Bollywood tragedy a day after legendary actress Sulochana Latkar died on Sunday, shocking the film industry.

YouTube accounts of Tanmay Bhat, Aishwarya Mohanraj, Abdu Rozik under cyberattack



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The accounts of popular YouTubers Tanmay Bhat, Aishwarya Mohanraj and former 'Bigg Boss' contestant Abdu Rozik have come under cyberattack. Tanmay, whose Gmail account too was hacked, features US automotive company Tesla's picture on his YouTube page, the channel even live streamed the company's event. His channel still had 473 videos. The channel, which has over 4 million subscribers, has no content on its page now. Tanmay has claimed the two-factor authentication was breached in his case. Similarly,

Aishwarya Mohanraj's channel which has more than 70,000 subscribers features Tesla's picture with 2 live streams of a Tesla event. Given Elon Musk's online popularity, hackers have impersonated him in the past to perpetrate various types of scams. Even posing as a business account of Musk-owned Tesla isn't entirely new. The live streams being run by these hackers carry superimposed messages that aggressively nudge users to scan a QR code on the screen. Abdu, who has over 1 million subscribers on YouTube also faced the attack from hackers. His channel too has been flooded with videos of tutorials on crack softwares.

Men pose as Delhi cops to rob Mumbai jeweller, arrested in Rajasthan

Team Absolute | Jaipur

The Rajasthan Police has arrested two men accused of robbing a jeweller in Mumbai by posing as Delhi Crime Branch officers, and recovered diamond jewellery, gold biscuits and Rs 18 lakh from the vehicle they were travelling, officials said. Mahendra and Manoj were arrested near Derajsar on the Rajasar-Bikaner road, they said. Police said Mahendra told them that he along with his accomplices Kishan Nath, Manoj and Ashok posed as Delhi Crime Branch officers to rob Hariram. Jewellery worth about Rs 1.10 crore, one kg gold biscuits and Rs 18 lakh in cash have been recovered, they said. They had robbed Hariram of Rs 27 lakh, 20 gold biscuits weighing two kg (worth around Rs 1.10 crore) and 15 pieces of diamond jewellery (worth Rs 1.25 crore), police said. They said that a case was registered at Sion police station in Mumbai and the total loot amount was put at Rs 2.62 crore.

Maharashtra Cabinet expansion soon, says Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said the state cabinet will be expanded soon and the timeline will be decided by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. He also said Shiv Sena, led by Eknath Shinde, and BJP will fight all elections together, which was discussed during their meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. "Maharashtra cabinet will be expanded soon. CM Shinde will decide when it will happen," he told reporters. On August 9 last year, 18 ministers were inducted in the Shinde-Fadnavis government after it came to power in June, while as per rules the council of ministers in the state can have a maximum of 43 members. However, neither Shinde nor Fadnavis had given a specific timeline for the expansion of the council of ministers. Earlier, Shinde in a tweet informed that he and Fadnavis met Shah in Delhi on



Sunday night. "Yesterday, we (Shiv Sena and BJP) discussed fighting all elections together and planning the joint strategy. We have also discussed coordination between the two parties in talukas and districts," Fadnavis added. Queried on Congress leader Nana Patole and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut criticising his Delhi visit, Fadnavis shot back saying, "In Patole's party (Congress), one needs permission from the high command even to attend a prayer meeting. BJP is a national party. What is wrong if we go to Delhi?" When asked about the purported display of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's photo in a procession in Aurangabad city, Fadnavis, who holds the Home portfolio, said such an act would not be tolerated.

Content posted against Covishield vaccine prima facie defamatory: Bombay HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Monday said content posted by two individuals and their organisations against vaccine manufacturing major Serum Institute of India (SII) was "prima facie defamatory" and directed them to delete it. The SII filed a defamation suit in December 2022 seeking damages to the tune of Rs 100 crore from two individuals and their organisations for allegedly posting erroneous content against the company and its Covid-19 vaccine Covishield. The company had filed an interim application seeking the court to direct the defendants to delete their posts and to restrain them from posting such content pending final disposal of the suit. The High Court, in its interim order on Monday, said it was of the prima facie view the SII has satisfied the contents and accusations made by the two persons were defamatory. A single bench of Justice R I Chagla noted that SII and its CEO and owner Adar Poonawalla have been considered to have saved four million lives in India with their vaccine. "I am of the prima facie view that the contents are per se



defamatory. The vaccine is not banned. No case is made out by the defendants," the judge said in the interim order. The court will at a later date take up the company's suit for final hearing. The HC directed the defendants to delete all their posts and content against the company and temporarily restrained them from posting any such content further until the suit is heard and decided. The bench noted that a perusal of the contents posted by the defendants show there are words used against SII claiming it has "murdered millions by their vaccine", that the company and Adar Poonawalla are consequently "murderers and criminals" and that the company should be shut down and Poonawalla should be arrested and put in jail. "It was necessary for these defendants to produce material to justify these allegations against the

plaintiffs (SII and Poonawalla)," the court said in its order. "Far from the plaintiffs being 'murderers' and 'criminals', the plaintiffs have been considered to have saved four millions lives in India," HC said relying on an affidavit submitted in November 2022 in the Supreme Court by the Union government in another matter. The bench also directed the defendants to issue an unconditional apology stating the defamatory contents were baseless, unsubstantiated and unwarranted. The SII in its suit claimed the defendants -- Yohan Tengra, his organisation Anarchy for Freedom India, and Ambar Koiri and his organisation Awaken India Movement -- had been posting and circulating defamatory content against the company and its Covid-19 vaccine Covishield. The suit said the defendants had also been posting incorrect information that implied the Covishield vaccine was the cause of deaths of multiple persons due to side-effects. The posts were not only targeting the SII, but also its Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla, it said. The plea sought the HC to restrain the defendants from publishing, circulating any content against the SII or its employees.

DRI SEIZES GOLD VALUED AT RS 6.2 CRORE; 4 HELD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered around 10 kg gold valued at Rs 6.2 crore in two separate seizures, an official said on Sunday, adding four persons were also apprehended in this connection. An official said the first case involved three air passengers who were apprehended with 8 kg of gold at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. "The passengers arrived at Mumbai Airport from Sharjah on an Air India Express flight. They were intercepted based on profiling. During the examination, officials recovered eight gold bars with foreign markings, weighing eight kg, valued at Rs 4.94 crore, concealed inside their clothes around their waist. Later, their associate was also apprehended," the official stated. In the second case, an Indian national who arrived at Mumbai Airport from Dubai was found in possession of 2 kg of gold. "The gold valued at Rs 1.23 crore was recovered from the individual," the official said. The official added the second seizure



involved a well-educated individual who was directly involved in planning and executing the gold smuggling.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Rajasthan: BJP has a long line of chief ministerial aspirants

Assembly polls 2023 are scheduled in December this year and all eyes are set on faces who can emerge as the next Chief Minister for the state. While Congress has two major leaders, namely Ashok Gehlot and deputy CM Sachin Pilot, the BJP in fact has a long list of CM faces. The first and the foremost leader in Rajasthan BJP is Vasundhara Raje, the former CM who has led the state twice and has a strong mass base among people. However, there are reportedly some differences between her and the top leadership. Next in line is Gajendra Singh Shekawat, the Union minister for Jal Shakti, who is considered to be in good books of Modi and Shah. There is another charming and strong leader, Diya Kumari, who is yet another face to watch out for. Coming from an erstwhile royal family, the Jaipur princess has silently shown her work both as an MLA in Sawai Madhopur and MP in Rajsamand. Arjun Ram Meghwal is yet another leader who has joined the fray after being anointed as the Union law minister recently. His strong point is that he comes from Dalit background and has a strong fan base too. He too is close to Modi and Shah. Next in fray is Rajendra Rathore, who is the leader of opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly and has been MLA seven times. Besides these tall names, there is a dark horse C.P. Joshi, who was made the state president recently. Among the Congress, Gehlot is already making news by announcing new schemes and touring new locations each day. Similarly, all eyes are on Pilot also. Whether he stays with Congress or makes his own party, is something to be watched for.

NOT CRIMES OF PASSION, BUT TWISTED MASCULINITY

Deepika Bhan

WAlmost 15 years ago, in a residential society in Noida in the National Capital Region, a Class VIII boy invited seven-eight girls, all up to nine years of age, and took them to the rooftop of a block. There he gave them some toffees and asked them to dance as he played music on his music deck. When they danced, he set his father's video camera rolling. When one of the girl's mothers found her daughter missing, she frantically searched around and another child told her about the 'Bhaiya' taking small girls with him. The distraught mother rushed up the floors and found the girls dancing and the Class VIII 'Bhaiya' recording them. Furious at the sight, she switched off the music and hit the boy's hand hard and severely reprimanded him. After some time, the father of the Class VIII boy came to the girl's apartment and fought with her mother, saying there was nothing wrong in what his son was doing and he would do it again because he was a boy. The shocked woman then spoke with the mother of other girls and all of them then met the boy's mother, who is a working professional. Sense prevailed and the same 'Bhaiya' is doing well in his personal life and profession. An incident that could have been ignored, but it was dealt with seriously by the community in that residential society, and the boy and his father were sensitised about the act. In one of his early Independence Day speeches from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a message on sons and good parenting. He said that while the concern for girl children was understandable, parents must focus on what their sons are up to. "Even when they are only 12, young girls are always being asked so many questions by their parents, like 'Where are you off to?', 'Whom are you meeting?'. But do these parents ask their sons where they are going?" "Women can progress only as fast as men can change. You can give women better protection, but real protection lies in how we bring up our sons." The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of parenting sons, and he said, "This is where we are failing as a nation." Perhaps, the failure became horribly evident yet again when Sahil brutally murdered a 16-year-old girl in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy, and a father stabbed his daughter 25 times because he was reportedly upset over her sleeping on the terrace at night. The videos shook the nation because of the brutality involved of those who once 'loved'. Boys will be boys ... that is the age-old notion. India's cultural obsession with sons is no hidden fact. There is a presumption that sons don't need much supervision and it is only girls who need to be inspected, supervised and guided. Even when parents realise that their sons may be straying, there is a kind of helplessness on how to tackle the matter. Sometimes, such instances are ignored with the comment that "they are boys and so it is so." Globally, India has one of the largest numbers of young males. In 2020, the sex ratio of the total population in India was 108.18 males per 100 females. The percentage of the female population was 48.04 per cent, compared with 51.96 per cent males. Could the gender equation have a crucial bearing on violence against women? The answer is somewhere in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. In 2021, the data for the year being released in August 2022, 1,36,234 cases of violence against women were registered across the country, including cruelty by husbands or relatives, which formed the largest chunk of cases. The rate of crimes against women as



proportion of all crimes rose by 15 per cent in one year - from 56.5 per cent in 2020 to 64.5 per cent in 2021. The root of the problem could be that moral education for children is not given that much importance. Whether it is the home or schools, the formative years are vital, wherein sensitisation can be hammered in. It is important to incorporate notions of respect for the different genders from a young age. Schools are essential to any child's development and ideas formed at this stage shape them as they grow up, so it is important that gender sensitisation happens at this age. Whether it is in behaviour or language used, the notion of zero tolerance for gender discrimination has to be drilled in at an early age. "We must address issues of harassment, ill behaviour towards women," said Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud while speaking at a Women's Day Function organised by the Supreme Court's Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) in March. In fact, Chief Justice Chandrachud admitted, according to media reports, that he had heard ghastly stories from women colleagues and friends regarding the behaviour of lawyers and even judges. He therefore stressed the need to ensure zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour. To ingrain appropri-

ate behaviour and the right thought process, it is important to work on children from an early age. Their understanding of gender roles is influenced by their experiences within their own family, culture and lifestyle, and their environment. It is essential therefore to start from the home and school, and address the perception of masculinity. Times are changing. More women than ever are proving their mettle. Addressing the age-old perceptions is the need of the hour. Girls are doing exceptionally well across sectors. This is the second year in a row when women have secured the top three positions in one of India's most prestigious competitive exams -- the UPSC Civil Services Exam. And similar results are also being reported from other professional exams. It is important that sensitisation happens as gender roles in a patriarchal country like India are stereotypical and strongly ingrained. Change is also gradual. India needs to fix the twisted masculinity problems, and slowly and silently, it is happening. Hope is there.

international

INDIAN NURSES HOPING TO WORK IN IRELAND STUCK IN VISA 'LOGJAM': REPORT

London | Agencies

Up to 850 highly-qualified nurses from India and other countries hoping to work in Ireland are stuck in a visa application 'logjam' due to delays in processing their applications, according to a media report. With the waiting times for visas going up, nurses have missed their exam slots, making them wait for the next exam, pay the fee again and seek a new three-month visa. The Irish Times reported, quoting the owner of a health recruitment agency. "Since the new year, candidates are being refused their temporary visa to sit the exam for bizarre and random reasons such as the type of software used to submit their documentation or the middle name not being included in one document," the recruiter told The Times requesting anonymity. In order to work in Ireland, the nurses have to first qualify the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) exam for



which they have to come on a temporary visa costing 250 euros (Rs 22,000), in addition to 3,000 euros (Rs 2.6 lakh) examination fee. An Indian nurse with 20 years' work experience told The Irish Times she has been waiting 76 working days for a decision on her visa application. Currently employed in the Middle

East, she was due to appear for the RCSI exam in late May but was unable to travel to Ireland due to the lack of a visa, and one of the documents she had photocopied was deemed illegible. "I wanted to work in Europe and chose Ireland because friends said it was peaceful and the salaries were good. But I have been

waiting a long time. I have resigned from my job, which ends in July. I will have to go to India then if this is not sorted out," she said. She further said that many of her colleagues are now turning to countries like the UK and New Zealand for they process applications swiftly. "These nurses will have had to give several months notice in their current positions and will have quit their jobs in expectation of sitting their exams and beginning their new careers in Ireland. They have upended their lives and gambled their life savings on a bureaucratic process that is not fit for purpose," the nurse told The Irish Times. The RCSI said it refunds exam fees in most circumstances, including when a candidate is unable to travel. At present, the average processing time for applications is approximately 35 working days, according to the Department of Justice website, which advises applicants to expect processing to take at least 20 working days.

US fighter jets cause sonic boom in Washington while chasing aircraft

Washington | Agencies

US F-16 fighter jets while chasing an unresponsive aircraft that ultimately crashed in Virginia, caused a sonic boom across the Washington D.C. area, officials said. According to a statement issued on Sunday by the Continental US North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, the pilot of the civilian aircraft, a Cessna 560 Citation V, was unresponsive as the F-16 fighter jets attempted to make contact, reports CNN. It is typical for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to call in jets if someone is flying unsafely. The F-16s were "authorised to travel at supersonic speeds", which resulted in the sonic boom heard in the Washington, D.C., area, the statement said, adding the fighter jets used flares "in an attempt to draw attention from the



pilot". The Cessna was finally intercepted by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) jets at around 3.20 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. In a statement, the US Capitol Police said the Capitol Complex was placed on "an elevated alert" when the small aircraft flew near the area on Sunday afternoon. "This afternoon, our officials were working closely with our federal partners to monitor an unresponsive pilot who was

flying an airplane near the National Capital Region. The US Capitol Complex was briefly placed on an elevated alert until the airplane left the area," CNN reported citing the statement as saying. The US Secret Service said they did not alter their posture for keeping President Joe Biden secure after the incident. Biden, who was golfing at the Andrews Air Force Base golf course near Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, has been informed.

CHINA MOUNTAIN COLLAPSE TOLL RISES TO 19



Beijing | Agencies : At least 19 people were killed and five others injured following a mountain collapse in Leshan City of China's Sichuan province, local authorities said. The collapse took place at around 6 a.m. in a forest farm in Yongsheng Township, Jinkouhe District of the city, Xinhua news agency reported. More than 600 people rushed to the site for rescue and search with the help of professional rescue equipment. The rescue operation ended at 8 p.m. on Sunday. An investigation into the cause of the mountain collapse is underway.

Russia claims of thwarting Ukrainian offensive

Moscow | Agencies

The Russian Defence Ministry has claimed of thwarting a major offensive by Ukraine in the separatist Donetsk region which led to the deaths of some 250 Ukrainian troops. Neither the Ministry's claim has been independently verified nor has the Ukrainian government commented on the development, the BBC reported on Monday. In a statement on the social media platform Telegram, the Ministry said that "on the morning of 4 June (Sunday), the enemy launched a large-scale offensive in five sectors of the front in the South Donetsk direction" using six mechanised and two tank battalions. It further said



the Ukrainians tried to break through Russian defences, but the "enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success". A video posted on the platform showed military vehicles being attacked from the air. Besides the 250 troops, the Russian Ministry also claimed that Ukraine lost at least 16 tanks on Sunday. For months now, Ukraine has been planning a count-

er-offensive for months. But officials in Kiev have warned against public speculation over the measure, saying it could help the enemy. "Plans love silence. There will be no announcement of the start," the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said in a video on Sunday. The footage featured masked and well-armed troops holding their fingers against their lips.

Washington | Agencies

US National Security Adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden will "at some point" meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping as the world's two biggest economies work to resolve strained bilateral ties. In an interview with CNN on Sunday, Sullivan said: "We will, I hope, soon see American officials engaging at senior levels with their Chinese counterparts over the coming months to continue that work. And then, at some point, we will see President Biden and President Xi come back together again. "There is nothing inconsistent with, on the one hand, competing vigorously in important domains on economics and technology, and also ensuring that that competition does not veer into conflict or confrontation. That is the firm conviction of President Biden." The NSA's remarks came just hours after Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu accused the US of trying to destabilise the Indo-Pacific region after warships from the two countries were involved in a near collision. In an address to the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore,



Li blamed Washington of "provoking bloc confrontation for self-interest" and said the US and its allies were making up rules to assert dominance over the region, reports CNN. Any "severe confrontation" between the US and China would be "an unbearable disaster for the world", the Defence Minister added. On Saturday, the US had accused a Chinese warship of cutting in front of an American vessel that was taking part in a joint exercise with the Canadian navy

in the Taiwan Strait, forcing the American vessel to slow down to avoid a collision. The incident marked the second time in two weeks that Chinese military personnel have engaged in aggressive maneuvers in the vicinity of US military personnel near China's border. Last week, a Chinese fighter jet conducted an "unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" during an intercept of a US spy plane in international airspace over the South China Sea.



WE WILL HAVE TO BE CONSCIOUS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Take a pledge to plant trees, save electricity and water and not to use single use plastic. Prime Minister Modi showed the direction to the world by giving the mantra of Mission LiFE. Forest Department honoured for conducting more than one lakh programmes on Mission LiFE theme. Chief Minister inaugurates state level programme on World Environment Day



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that exploitation of resources increased due to blind desire for materialistic progress and it has disturbed the natural balance. Due to this, the adverse impacts of climate change are coming to the fore. By the year 2050, the temperature of the earth's surface is likely to increase by 2 centi-

grade. This will make life very difficult. The use of excessive chemical fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture is resulting in the spread of cancer. Mothers and sisters of India have been sensitive to nature for thousands of years, their respect for nature was expressed in the worship of trees and mountains. The present generation will also have to develop consciousness for environmental

protection, if we do not make meaningful efforts in this direction, then we will not be able to leave the earth livable for the coming generations. For environmental protection, every person has to take a pledge to plant trees, save electricity, not to waste water and not to use single-use plastic. By changing these habits, we can serve the earth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown the direction to the world for environmental protection by giving the mantra of Mission LiFE (lifestyle for the environment). Chouhan was inaugurating the state level programme of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) at Ravindra Bhawan for public awareness towards environmental protection and conservation on World Environment Day. All 52 districts of the state were connected virtually with the programme.

State climate change action plan released

Chief Minister Chouhan offered water on the Tulsi plant and inaugurated the programme by performing Kanya Pujan and lighting the lamp. The CM released the State Climate Change Action Plan and Climate Action Plan booklets of seven smart cities of the state, Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna and Sagar. Along with this, certificates of three new Ramsar sites of the state, Sirpur Wetland Indore, Yashwant Sagar Indore and Sankhya Sagar Shivpuri were also given to the concerned officials. Chief Minister Chouhan gave acceptance letters of Climate Change PhD Fellowship to 5 research scholars.

NIA probes HuT terror module in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrived in Bhopal to interrogate the arrested members of the terror module Hizb-ul-Tahrir (HuT). According to sources in the NIA, they had recently lodged an FIR in this connection and have started an investigation. The NIA is working together with Madhya Pradesh Police ATS to probe the matter. "We are trying to ascertain what was their possible future course of action and determine the number of states they have targeted," said an NIA source. Earlier, eight persons connected to this terror module were held from Bhopal by the Madhya Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad (ATS). Later, as per order of the Union Home Ministry, the NIA took over

the probe. "Members of Hizb-ul-Tahrir (HuT) are trying to build its cadres in Madhya Pradesh clandestinely by recruiting Muslim youth into the organisation with an aim to overthrow the constitutionally formed government in India in order to establish Sharia law for which they are also collecting a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives and planning to attack various religious leaders and places," read the FIR accessed by reporter. The MP ATS probe had also revealed that the eight arrested accused had held several secret meetings in multiple states in 2022 during which they radicalised innocent youths. The sources said that this group has been active since 2022. "This module has been inciting the youths of a particular religion to take up arms against the Indian government.

2 CRPF jawans injured in Chhattisgarh IED blast

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast on Monday in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said. The police said the attack near the Tekameta hill was planned by a group of Naxals. The blast occurred at around 10.30 a.m., occurred when a team of the CRPF's 85th battalion was out on an area-domination operation from Pusnar camp. The incident



spot is located around 400 km from state capital Raipur. In an official statement, the Chhattisgarh Police said the injured jawans were being airlifted to Raipur after being given primary treatment. They were taken to the dis-

trict hospital and will be sent to Raipur for further medical assistance, it added. Monday's incident came after 10 District Reserve Guard jawans were killed in an IED blast in April in Dantewada district.

Congress Leaders spar over Kamal Nath's leadership for Madhya Pradesh poll

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two senior Congress leaders sparred over the choice of Madhya Pradesh unit president Kamal Nath as the party's chief ministerial face for the state Assembly polls likely to be held at the end of the year. The war of words between Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Govind Singh and Kamal Nath loyalist MLA Sajjan Singh Verma took place after a meeting on Madhya Pradesh poll preparations was held in Delhi on May 29, which was attended by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. After attending the meeting, Govind Singh had said,



"The Congress is a democratic party. It is not the Congress tradition to announce the CM face in advance. The public will elect the MLAs, who will further choose the CM." Hitting back, Sajjan Singh Verma said, "Govind Singh ji sometimes forgets whether MLAs have elected him as the leader of the opposition? No, he

and party leaders want Kamal Nath as the state's CM, adding that Govind Singh should behave the way in which he expects others to do with him. "All 22 present (in Rahul Gandhi's meeting) had accepted Kamal Nath as their leader. This is on record. All leaders accepted that the 2023 polls will be fought under

Kamal Nath's leadership," Sajjan Singh Verma asserted. Meanwhile, on Sunday, Sajjan Singh Verma issued a video statement claiming his comment had been wrongly interpreted by the media. "It is true all the senior leaders have decided to contest Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls under the leadership of Kamal Nath... I have said several times he is our party's leader," he said. Govind Singh, however, maintained the chief minister is selected after the elections and in the legislature party. Meanwhile, Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh also said party leaders want the polls to be fought under Kamal Nath's leadership.

2 dead, 35 injured as bus with students collides with truck in Shivpuri

Team Absolute | Shivpuri

Two persons were killed and 35 others injured when their bus overturned after a collision with a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district this morning, a police official said. The bus was carrying students, all artists belonging to Narmadapuram division, who were on way to Agar town from Gwalior after performing 'Laxman Leela' play as part of the Vanvasi Leela programme, Shivpuri rural police station in-charge Vikas Yadav said. The accident took place at around 5 am near a factory on the outskirts of Shivpuri, he said. Prima facie, it appears the speeding truck hit the bus from the side after one of the tyres of the truck suddenly burst and the driver lost control over the wheels, the official said. The people who died have been identified as artist Aman and bus driver Karan Yadav, police said, adding their age is yet to be ascertained.

Planting trees should not be a ritual, it should be a vow: CM Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that planting trees should not be a ritual but a resolution. By planting trees, we save the earth and also make arrangements for our oxygen. The Chief Minister called upon the citizens to plant saplings and also take the responsibility of taking care of them. Chief Minister Chouhan said this after planting saplings on World Environment Day near Raja Bhoj Airport. Chief Minister Chouhan said that injustice has been done to Mother Earth for materialism. The

weather cycle has changed as a result of indiscriminate exploitation of Mother Earth. We can improve the health of the earth by making a little change in our lifestyle and by planting trees. We have to make it a habit to plant saplings on our birthdays, marriage anniversaries, family memories and our achievements. Along with this, by taking a pledge to save electricity, water and use single-use plastic, we can also contribute to environmental protection. Chief Minister Chouhan said that with enthusiasm and positive thinking it is necessary to maintain continuity of work for environmental protection.

Dr. RK Vidua Awarded Highest Fellowship by Indian Academy of Medicolegal Experts

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Dr. Raghendra Kumar Vidua, Additional Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at AIIMS Bhopal, has been bestowed with the highest honor of the Indian Academy of Medicolegal Experts (IAMLE) at NEIGRIHMS Shillong in the IAMLECON-2023. The prestigious fellowship recognition was announced during IAMLECON-2023, held at NEIGRIHMS in Shillong. IAMLE, the scientific association of the Association of Medicolegal and Forensic Experts, comprises esteemed professionals from various allied branches across India and international representatives as well. The award acknowledges Dr. Vidua's exceptional contributions to the field of clinical forensic medicine. Dr. Nalin Mehta, Director of NEIGRIHMS, Dr.



Adarsh Kumar, Honorary President of IAMLE, and Dr. AJ Patowary, Organizing Secretary of IAMLECON-23, commended Dr. Vidua's invaluable contributions to the field while presenting him with the prestigious award. Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Raghendra Kumar Vidua dedicated this honor to AIIMS Bhopal. He acknowledged the

institution's exemplary performance and the platform it provides for professionals to excel in the discipline. Dr. Vidua specifically acknowledged the dynamic leadership of Prof. Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal after receiving the fellowship award. The IAMLECON-2023 served as a platform for medical and forensic experts to exchange

knowledge and expertise, fostering collaborations and advancements in the field. The event witnessed participation from renowned professionals from across the globe. Dr. Vidua's achievement not only brings pride to AIIMS Bhopal but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring professionals in the field of Forensic medicine and Toxicology.

Upcoming ATC tower to equip Bhopal's Raja Bhoj airport for flights 24 hours

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The only airport in Madhya Pradesh's capital city Bhopal, Raja Bhoj Airport is getting ready for round-the-clock air services. The induction of several new generation technologies is in the process. A newly constructed 32-meter tall air traffic control (ATC) tower will become operational from October 1. According to Raja Bhoj Airport director Ramji Awasthi, it would be the highest ATC tower in Madhya Pradesh, which will cover the entire runway area besides catering to the need of handling more flights and modern facilities. The primary purpose of the ATC is to prevent collisions, organise and expedite the flow of air traffic, and provide information



and other support for pilots. "The new air traffic control tower, which is facilitated with modern technology and auxiliary structures such as a fire station and cargo complex, will be ready for operation from October 1. It will be the highest ATC tower in Madhya Pradesh. It will enable air traffic controllers to have a 360-degree view of the airport and operational area. Indore airport has a 27-meter high ATC tower," Awasthi told correspondent. He informed that

the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has given it's nod for 24-hour flight operations. A proposal for deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been sent to the Centre for its approval, which hopefully will be granted soon. The deployment of the CISF will strengthen the security at the airport. With this decision, airlines will be encouraged to make Bhopal a base station. Night parking arrangements for aircraft are also made at airports with 24-hour flight operations. Earlier, flight movement used to start at 8 a.m., which has now been rescheduled from 6 a.m. "At present, flight services at Raja Bhoj Airport are avail-

able in two shifts - between 6 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. The services of non-scheduled flights and red eye flights will start soon once the new ATC tower gets operational and the CISF is deployed," Awasthi said. Now, there will be no time constraints for the airlines. It is believed that with this decision companies will give priority in making Bhopal a base station. At present, Bhopal airport has a base for 17 aircraft including four in the old part of the airport. Besides these, Bhopal airport is also preparing to ensure smooth movement of flights even during bad weather. For this, Raja Bhoj airport has decided to facilitate a higher version of the Instrument Landing System (ILS CAT-II). Presently, the airport is equipped with

the ILS CAT-I facility. Regular fliers and aviation experts have been demanding the ILS CAT-II facility. The CAT-I facility was installed in 2013 and the glide path relocated at the runway to 50 feet from 45 feet to facilitate safe landing during poor visibility. The ILS CAT facility is a ground-based instrument approach system that provides precision guidance to an aircraft approaching and landing on a runway, using a combination of radio signals to enable safe landing during instrument meteorological conditions. "The 24-hour flight service will help in the growth of Bhopal in various ways. It will increase the mobility of passengers. Late night flights will boost the hotel business and tourism in the state," Awasthi added.

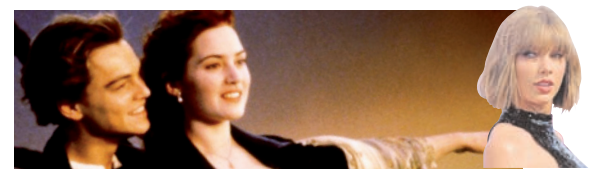
World Environment Day Celebrated at RMNH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) inaugurated Temporary Exhibition on "Millets - A Healthy Lifestyle" under LiFE Mission on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June, 2023. Tanvi Sundriyal, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal was the Chief Guest and Dr. H. V. C. Chary, Scientist-E & Head of the Office from Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, Bhopal was the Special Guest of the occasion. Millet-Crops of the future, Millets- History and origin in India, Distribution of millets in India, Classification of Millets, Types of Millets in India, Health benefits of the super food, Need to promote millets, Millet dishes - a healthy choice etc. are displayed through the panels in this exhibition. The Programme began with the lecture cum powerpoint presentation delivered by Dr. H.V.C. Chary on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution". Dr. Chary told that we have to



promote Environment Science and Environmental Science Oriented Community to under the energy consumption. He informed that the temperature on global bases is increasing due to the green house gases, thus glacier melting rates are increased. He also told that Mangrove trees are the highest capacitor of the Carbon Dioxide gas. Dr. Chary detailed about the "Panchamrit" which was introduced by India in COP-26. During the lecture, he detailed the objects & aims of Mission LiFE -Lifestyle for environment. The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Manik Lal Gupta, Scientist-C & Coordinator of the programme.



Lily-Rose Depp 'avoided' The Weeknd while filming 'The Idol' due to method acting

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lily-Rose Depp has admitted she "would steer clear" of The Weeknd while on set of their controversial new show "The Idol".

The 24-year-old actress, daughter of Johnny Depp, said she would avoid her 33-year-old co-star when he verged on method acting as he often got "in his zone" while channelling his

character, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The new HBO drama, which has been described as "nasty and vulgar" by critics, sees Lily-Rose portray a derailed pop star named Jocelyn who is trying to regain her status as "the sexiest pop star in America."

As per Mirror.co.uk, her dreams see her connect with nightclub promoter and cult leader Tedros (The Weeknd). Ahead of the show's debut, Lily-Rose has opened up about the atmosphere on set.

She explained: "I don't think anybody went full method - nobody lost their

minds. Well, sometimes when Abel would get - I don't want to reveal too much about where Abel's character goes, but when he would be in full Tedros mode sometimes, I would steer clear of him, I'd be like, 'He's in his zone right now'."

However, the actress praised the atmosphere on set, despite a report being released in March which described the behind-the-scenes filming for the show as something which went "wildly, disgustingly off the rails."



Arnold Schwarzenegger reveals he fathered a child with housekeeper

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger has opened up about the affair he had in 1996 - with his housekeeper - while he was still married to Maria Shriver.

The actor, 75, is set to "tell his own life story" in the upcoming three-part docuseries 'Arnold', which is scheduled to be released on June 7, reports Mirror.co.uk.

And now it has been revealed that in the tell-all docuseries, Arnold will recall the moment Maria confronted him about the affair. In 1996, Arnold had an affair with housekeeper Mildred Baena, who fell pregnant and welcomed a child nine months later, which happened to be just five days after Maria and Arnold's son Christopher was born.

Mirror.co.uk further states that at the time, nobody knew that Mildred's son was actually Arnold's child, or that Christopher was his half-brother.

But as Mildred's son Joseph grew up, she noticed that he looked a lot like the famous actor she had an affair with months prior to welcoming her son.

It wasn't until 2010 when Joseph was 13 that he learned who his biological dad was, which came when the media announced it. Arnold has now spoken about the affair and how his "heart stopped" when Maria confronted him about the affair in a counselling session, as per US Sun.

"One day, the counsellor said, 'Today Maria wants to be very specific about something. She wants to know if you're the father of Joseph!'"

"I thought my heart stopped. And then I told the truth," he says in the new docu-series.

He then went on to reveal how he was honest, admitted that Joseph was his son and that Maria was "obviously crushed by that."

Speaking about his son Joe in the docuseries, Arnold added: "In the beginning, I really didn't know, but the older he got, the more it became clear to me. It was then just a matter of, 'How do you keep this quiet?'"

Arnold then admits that the affair he had with the housekeeper was his biggest "failure", adding that he has "caused enough pain" for his family and noting how "everyone had to suffer."

"Maria had to suffer, the kids had to suffer, Joseph, his mother, everyone. I'm going to have to live with that for the rest of my life," he added.

'Barbie' soundtrack fits perfectly into the film: Margot Robbie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Margot Robbie thinks the soundtrack to "Barbie" fits "perfectly" with the upcoming film. The 32-year-old actress will star as the titular doll opposite Ryan Gosling as Ken in the upcoming movie and now that "Levitating" hit-maker Dua Lipa - who also has a part in the film - has released "Dance The Night", says that Dua has "totally nailed it" with the dance record, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told 'The Sun': "There are movies where you hear a song on the soundtrack and just think, 'Wow, that fits perfectly'. That is what Dua has achieved with 'Dance The Night' - she has totally nailed it."

In the lyrics, Dua sings: "I'll still keep the party runnin', not one hair out of place".

As per 'Female First UK', the "Bombshell" star went on to add that the song will make fans want to "get up and dance" and joked that perhaps she and her co-stars will be out partying to the track following the London premiere.

"It not only fits the movie perfectly, but when you hear it, you will just want to get up and dance. Maybe after the London premiere, we can have a few drinks and cut a few shapes to it on the dance floor. I am always down for that," she added.

Earlier this week, Dua's co-writer Mark Ronson said that the whole prospect of teaming up with her for the film started with a DM and believes the movie will be "incredible".

He said: "(I said to her) I only have the track so far, as they started rehearsals, but I would f***** love it if you would consider co-writing and starring in it. I honestly think the movie's going to be incredible."

"Barbie" will be released in cinemas on July 21, 2023.



Greta Gerwig hopes to revive the culture of musicals like 'The Wizard of Oz'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-director Greta Gerwig has compared the 'Barbie' movie to disco music.

The 39-year-old filmmaker was inspired by musicals such as 'The Wizard of Oz' when it came to her tale about the beloved Mattel doll, and she hopes it gives audiences a fun, communal experience in the same way as the popular 1970s musical style, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told 'Total Film' magazine: "Basically, the assumption of disco is that when people get together, what they want to do is dance. I feel like that's really optimistic for a musical genre. And I feel like 'Barbie' is the same way".

The movie was shot on the Warner Bros. lot in Leavesden and lead star Margot Robbie was amazed at how many people working on site would "gravitate" towards their studio in the hope of catching a glimpse at a scene.

She said, quoted by 'Female First UK': "You've never seen so many grown men find excuses to come to set. Everyone would gravitate towards it. I mean, 'Fast + Furious' was shooting at the same studio and they would all come over to look. Our crew was made up of extraordinarily talented people who've seen the greatest sets in the world and they would tear up. Everyone was so excited".

Greta previously admitted she feared making the film would end her career.

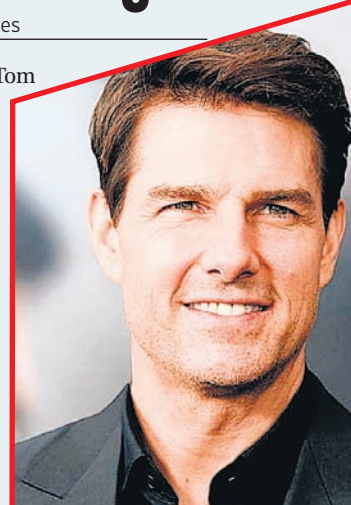


Tom Cruise 'would love to meet someone special' after three failed marriages

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Tom Cruise has been married to Hollywood stars Mimi Rogers, Nicole Kidman and Katie Holmes, with the actor most recently being romantically linked to Shakira.

The unlikely pair met at the Formula 1 Grand Prix and while it seems Tom was "very interested in pursuing" the singer, she wasn't so keen, reports mirror.co.uk. A source has revealed Tom's friends have now given him some dating advice as he searches for "the one." The comments come after it was revealed Shakira "begged" Tom to "stop flirting with her" as the situation became "too much" for her following her painful split with Gerard Pique. The 46-year-old singer and Barcelona defender, 36, announced their shock breakup in June last year after 12 years together. Gerard has since moved on with Clara Chia Marti, 24. "She doesn't want to embarrass or upset him, but there's no attraction or romance on her part - she was just being friendly. She's flattered but not interested," an insider told Heat Magazine. The insider added that Tom has been searching for the right woman for years and said he has "the highest standards" and won't settle for "second best" in a potential lover.



Karen Gillan



WTC FINAL

INDIA HAS A GOOD BOWLING ATTACK, GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY WELL AGAINST THEM: SMITH

Team Absolute | London

Australia vice-captain Steve Smith believes the Indian bowling attack is a good one despite the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and added that his batsmen will have to play well against them in the World Test Championship (WTC) Final starting at The Oval from June 7.

"They have got a good mix of quality seam bowlers, with Shami and Siraj probably their two main guys. They have really good skills and the Dukes' ball will suit them nicely."

"And then obviously their spinners as well, who bowl well in all conditions. So I think they have a good attack and we are going to have to play well against them this week," said Smith in a press conference at The Oval.

With fast bowler Josh Hazlewood ruled out of the WTC Final due to his ongoing left Achilles and left-side issue, Australia have to make a decision between Scott Boland and Michael Neser to pick in their playing eleven.

Smith feels Neser has all the skills to make a big impact if picked in the playing eleven. Neser has scored 311 runs and taken 19 wickets, with scores of 123, 86 and 90 so far being a standout from his time in the ongoing county championship with Glamorgan.

"(I've got) so much faith, he is a quality performer. I faced him against (County side) Glamorgan a couple of weeks ago and he bowled beautifully. He has got great skills and he's added some of the inswingers we have seen him bowl when the wicket is a bit flatter."

"So he has got loads of skills and is batting nicely as well, so he is a great package. If he gets an opportunity he will certainly do a very good job," he added.



"The team that plays good cricket over five days will win. I fully believe if we play good cricket - we have the players, we have the ability - if we take 20 wickets and make runs, we can win this match."

Rahul Dravid, Head coach, Indian cricket team



"It's like a World Cup final, for a Test match. These two teams have over the last two years have earned the right to be out here, in a couple of days time, in a one-off game, to be able to hold that thing (mace) at the end."

Ricky Ponting, Former Australian skipper



Junior World Cup Shooting: Dhanush Srikanth wins India's third gold medal at Suhl



Team Absolute | Suhl (Germany)

Dhanush Srikanth won the Men's 10m Air Rifle on competition Day 3 of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Junior, giving India their third gold of the competition so far.

Dhanush posted 249.4 in the 24-shot final to leave silver-winning Swede Pontus Kallin, a clear 1.3 points behind in a clinical display. Frenchman Romain Aufrere won bronze.

India also picked up a bronze in the Skeet Mixed Team competition, when Harmehar Lally and Sanjana Sood defeated Swedish opponents once again, the pair of

David Jonsson and Felicia Ros, whom they had to take out in a shoot-off for bronze.

India now lead the medal tally with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals, ahead of the USA which has two gold medals and one silver thus far. Late in the day, the women's 10m Air Rifle final is also scheduled.

Three Indians made the final of the Junior Men's 10m Air Rifle. Besides Dhanush, who qualified sixth with a score of 628.4, Pratham Bhadana finished above him in fifth with 628.7. Abhinav Shaw, who won the Air Rifle Mixed Team gold on Sunday, also grabbed the eighth and final spot with a score of 626.7.

French Open: Jabeur races past Pera to make maiden Roland-Garros quarterfinal

Team Absolute | Paris

Ous Jabeur of Tunisia secured her maiden berth in the French Open quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Bernarda Pera, here on Monday. Roland-Garros was the sole major at which the Tunisian had not reached the last eight, but that hoodoo was finally lifted following her fourth-round triumph.

Jabeur will next face either No.14 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia or Sara Sorribes Tormo as she bids to reach a third Grand Slam semifinal. Through the first half of the match, Jabeur was able to find some of her trademark magic when it mattered: a trio of drop shots to break for 3-0, a pair of sumptuous passes to break for 5-2. In the second set, she found her rhythm with her forehand



and was able to power through the home stretch.

The No.7 seed has now completed the full set of Grand Slam quarterfinals in her career.

DJOKOVIC GETS PAST NADAL RECORD, ALCARAZ SET UP TSITSIPAS CLASH

Team Absolute | Paris

Paris: Novak Djokovic moved past long-time rival Rafael Nadal after dispatching Peru's Juan Pablo Varillas in straight sets on Sunday, seizing sole ownership of the quarterfinal appearance record at the French Open with 17 appearances. The Serbian, victorious with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 triumph against Varillas, is also vying to surpass Nadal by clinching a record 23rd Grand Slam men's title at Roland Garros, reports Xinhua. World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, Djokovic's main title contender, cruised past 17th seed Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, setting up a quarterfinal clash against fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece. The US Open champion extended his Grand Slam winning streak to 11 matches, having missed the Australian Open earlier in January due to



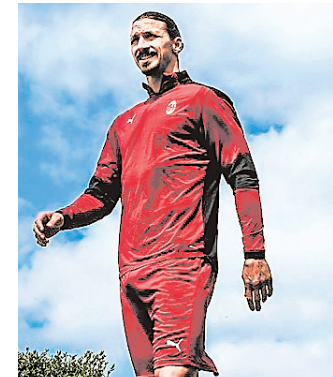
Ibrahimovic announces retirement from football

Team Absolute | Rome

Emotions ran high at the San Siro when Zlatan Ibrahimovic, also known as Ibra, announced his retirement after AC Milan's final match of the 2022-2023 season.

Ibrahimovic, set to turn 42 in October, decided to depart Milan as his contract drew to a close. Before the kick-off of Sunday's game, the fans in the stands energetically chanted his name and displayed a banner reading "Godbye," a sight that brought Ibra to tears, reports Xinhua.

The Swedish veteran player, whose previous teams include Malmö, Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United and LA Galaxy, began his second spell



at Milan in January 2020, making substantial impacts both on and off the pitch. However, injuries beset the striker and limited him to just four appearances this season, during which he mostly made cameo appearances and scored only one goal.

'KARTING SUPERSERIES' UNEARTHS INDIA'S NEXT RACING STAR IN A THRILLING FINALE

Hyderabad: Racing Promotions Private Limited (RPPL) announced the successful conclusion of the 'Karting SuperSeries' at the Chicane Circuit here. The exhilarating five-legged competition spanned across Chennai, Bengaluru, Kerala, Mumbai, and Delhi before culminating in a pulsating finale, won by Rachit Singhal. Aimed at identifying and nurturing the next racing talent in India, the four-stroke SuperSeries showcased the incredible skills and determination of the participating drivers (aged 14 and above) who captivated audiences and ignited their passion for motorsports.

Rugby India kicks off its National championships

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 8th Junior and 10th Senior Rugby National Championships are all set to kick off on Monday with 27 states and over 1500 athletes vying for the top spots in the juniors and senior's category.

The championship starts with the junior girls and senior women's category with the juniors playing on June 5 and June 6 and the seniors playing on the June 9 and June 10 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex Stadium, Balewadi, Pune.

"2023-24 will be the biggest year as yet for Indian rugby. Our Indian teams will travel abroad for 9 tournaments this year. The squads that will be selected for these Nationals will be on the basis of these Nationals at



Pune from 5th to 18th of June 2023. Rugby India is delighted to hold these

national championships at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex Stadium. "Our spe-

cial thanks to Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Maharashtra & Directorate of Sports and Youth Services, Government of Maharashtra for partnering with us and supporting our road to the 2028 Olympics," said Rahul Bose, president, Indian Rugby Football Union.

The defending champions, Bihar, are looking to repeat their unbeaten record from last year in both the juniors girls women's category but will come up against strong competition from Odisha, Maharashtra, and West Bengal who will be looking to topple them off their top spot.

The junior girls and women's championship will be followed next week by the junior boys and men's event from the June 14 till June 18.

Valladolid down, Osasuna into Europe on dramatic last day of La Liga season

Team Absolute | Madrid

Valladolid were relegated from La Liga to the Spanish second division, Liga Smart Bank, in a dramatic finale to the season.

Valladolid ended with a 0-0 draw at home against Getafe. Coupled with other results, this led to their relegation, despite spending parts of the second half out of the relegation zone, as Almeria momentarily trailed away to Espanyol, reports Xinhua.

However, a foul on Largie Ramazani three minutes from the end gave Embarba the opportunity to level from the penalty spot. He made no mistake, keeping Almeria afloat and relegating Valladolid.

Elsewhere, Gabri Veiga likely made his final appearance for Celta memorable with a brace in their 2-1 win at home against Barcelona.

Barcelona, the league champions, appeared to have started their holidays early, though Ansu Fati did manage a late consolation goal in what might be his last game for the club.

Two second-half goals from Ante Budimir secured Osasuna a spot in European football next season, with a 2-1 win at home against Girona.

Real Madrid announced earlier in the day that Karim Benzema would leave the club at the end of the season. Benzema bid farewell with a goal, scoring from the penalty spot with 18 minutes left to play. He left the pitch to a standing ovation, with Marco Asensio also



receiving applause from the crowd in his last game for the club.

Real Madrid's draw earned them second place in La Liga, following Atletico Madrid's 2-2 draw away to Villarreal. Jorge Pascual's 91st-minute goal saved a point for Villarreal.

Mallorca ended the season with a 3-0 home win against Rayo Vallecano (who started the day with a slim chance of finishing seventh). Second-half goals came courtesy of Vedat Muriqi, Jose Copete, and Angel Rodriguez.

Lastly, Real Sociedad capitalised on Sevilla's Europa League hangover to end the season with a 2-1 win, thanks to goals from Brais Mendez and Mohamed Ali-Cho in a game with nothing at stake.

Women's Jr Asia Cup: India register thrilling 2-1 win against Malaysia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team came from behind to defeat Malaysia 2-1 in their second game of the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, Japan on Monday.

After Dian Nazeri (6') scored a goal for Malaysia, Mumtaz Khan (10') and Deepika (26') netted a goal each to help India win the game and remain on top of Pool A.

While Malaysia focused on keeping possession, India



were on the attack from the get-go and that helped them win a couple of penalty corners early in the game but couldn't capitalise on them. Malaysia switched to counter-attacking a few minutes into the game, and it paid off immediately as Dian Nazeri (6'), who was standing unmarked in the D, scored a field goal to give her team the lead. However, a few minutes later, India bounced back in the game as Mumtaz Khan (10') scored an equaliser through a penalty corner as the opening quarter ended with the score tied at 1-1.

Desperate to take a lead, India came out all guns blazing in the second quarter and the plan worked as Deepika (26') won a penalty stroke and easily converted it to put her team in front. Notably, the Indian team kept on attacking in their bid to extend the lead but the second quarter didn't see any more goals as India went into the half-time break with a 2-1 lead.

However, neither India, nor Malaysia were able to find the back of the net. The India will next play against Korea in their third Pool A game on June 6.



Sushmita Sen wraps up Season 3 of a series' with a dance and a hug

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sushmita Sen has wrapped up the much-awaited third season of the much-loved web series 'Aarya'. She has shared a BTS video to mark the occasion. The actress took to her social media profile and dropped a video from the sets. She wrote: "And it's a wrap!!!! #Aarya3, Here's to @amitamadhvani @madhvaniram #kapilsharma #Shradha @disneyplushotstar @officialrmfilms @endemolshineind & the MOST AMAZING CAST & CREW EVER!!! Thank you #aaryafamily. Warmest hug ever Daulat @sikandarxher, I love you guys!!! #duggadugga." In the video, she can be seen doing a dance with director Ram

Madhvani and also giving a warm hug to her co-star Sikandar Kher.

The series 'Aarya' marked Sushmita Sen's on-screen comeback and her digital debut. In the series, the actor plays a tough woman, who goes beyond all boundaries to protect her family from the world of crime.

Directed by Ram Madhvani, the series also stars Namit Das, Manish Chaudhari, Sikandar Kher and Vinod Rawat in pivotal roles.

The second season of the show was released in December 2021. The release date of the third season hasn't been revealed by the makers yet.

The series will stream on the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar.

Apart from 'Aarya', Sushmita is all set to play the role of transgender activist Gauri Sawant in a new web series titled 'Taali'.



Mouni Roy chills with friends at her new Andheri restaurant

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after winning an IIFA award for her role in "Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva", Mouni Roy, together with her entrepreneur husband Suraj Nambiar, opened the doors of her newly minted restaurant Badmaash to spend the evening with industry friends.

Badmaash is a new multi-outlet restaurant chain owned by the Bengaluru entrepreneur, Dawn Thomas.

Mouni is the co-owner of the Mumbai restaurant located in

Andheri. Its food offering is described as Progressive Indian Cuisine and its wildlife-inspired decor and prices look definitely upscale.

From exotic takes on street food, such as Parsley and Kaffir Lime Kanda Bhajiya, Togarashi and Jalapeno Sabudana Vada, and Bird's Eye Chill and Crispy Avocado Bhel, to cocktails with imaginative names, notably 'Pushpa 3 The Cocktail', 'Sharmile Nakhare', 'Genda Phool', 'Rolex Ka Maa', and of course, 'Mounilicious', a concoction of gin and elderflower juice with a whiff of curry leaf flavour.

Among all the dishes on the menu, Mouni's favourite is the southern-style mushrooms stir-fried with milagu (black pepper) and served with crisps made with shimeji (a mushroom variety that has become very popular). The less adventurous could choose between Awadhi and Lakhnavi biryani, but the menu is stacked with Progressive Indian surprises.

Mouni keeps describing herself as a small-town girl, but her taste buds are avowedly global.

AMEY WAGH CALLS ARSHAD WARSI A 'CHAMELEON'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Amey Wagh, who is playing the antagonist in web-series 'Asur 2', expressed how magical it was to see actor Arshad Warsi changing moods in an instant. Amey said: "There's a scene where Rasul speaks a lot. I remember the whole set being silent that day. It was one take, and we got it. I didn't talk much on this set because it is a crucial character. I was starstruck by Arshad Sir. He is a chameleon." "He'll be cracking jokes one minute, and the moment he hears "action," he immediately gets into his character. On the other hand, I stayed in my zone throughout," he added.

Amey stated how difficult it was for him to get out of his dark character.

"I didn't allow my character to mess with my head. But yes, I did stay in the zone because it is a challenging character."

"A very cold-blooded character, he is not an innocent or good person. But instrumental music pieces helped me during the shooting. It helped me in a way that playing such a dark character didn't hinder my inner peace", he said.

Helmed by director Oni Sen, 'Asur 2' also features Barun Sobti, Ridhi Dogra, Anupriya Goenka, Amey Wagh, Meiyang Chang and Gaurav Arora.



Chahat Vig to make web debut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chahat Vig shared about playing a Punjabi character without stereotyping her as a loud or over-emotional Punjabi woman in 'Rafuchakkar' starring Manish Paul.

Chahat, who was last seen in Aditya Roy Kapur and Mrunal Thakur's 'Gumraah' is all set to make her web debut through web show Rafuchakkar. It also stars Aksha Pardasany, Sushant Singh, Trupti Khamkar, Priya Bapat which is set to drop on June 15 on JioCinema.

Chahat said: "While I was thrilled to make my film debut, I believe Rafuchakkar offered me an important entry into the OTT space. I'm very excited about the potential this OTT space has to democratise the content produced by our industry, and to create shows that reflect the grounded, lived experience of real Indians."

"Playing Preeti gave me the opportunity to play a character that was not larger than life, but one that may very well meet on the streets of Chandigarh or Amritsar. I'm very excited to immerse myself in similar, granular roles in the future."

The actress will be seen playing a character named Preeti Gogia, originating from Chandigarh.

Speaking about how she prepped for the role, she said:

"When getting ready for a role, I prefer to envision the wider existence of my character, going beyond the words written in the script."

"This often entails exploring the emotional and psychological requirements of the character, understanding the factors that drive their reactions, delving into their relationships, and comprehending the intensity of their emotions towards others."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

FRIENDSHIP GETS TESTED AS IT NAVIGATES ROMANCE IN UPCOMING SERIES TRAILER

The trailer of the upcoming streaming series, 'Jee Karda', which stars Tamannaah Bhatia in the lead, was unveiled on Monday. The trailer of the series takes the viewers on a ride filled with fun, drama and emotions, capturing the life of seven childhood friends who are different from each other yet deeply connected.

The trailer, which is 2 minutes in length, shows how two best friends, who decide to turn their friendship into marriage, realise the complexities and repercussions of the same. The series also stars Aashim Gulati, Suhail Nayyar, Anya Singh, Hussain Dalal, Sayan Banerjee, and Samvedna Suwalka as seven childhood friends alongside Simone Singh and Malhar Thakar playing pivotal roles.

From experiencing life together, falling in love, making mistakes and even having their hearts crushed, they learn that even the finest friendships and relationships cannot be flawless. The trailer shows Rishab (Suhail Nayyar) proposing to Lavanya (Tamannaah Bhatia), his longtime girlfriend. Their school friends join the wedding celebrations, but complica-

tions arise and relationships take an intriguing twist.

Talking about the show, Tamannaah Bhatia said: "I had an absolutely incredible time working on 'Jee Karda', for me, this show was the closest I've ever played a character that resonated with my own persona. Being a true Mumbai girl, having grown up in this vibrant city. The friendships I formed in school were unlike any other, and I believe those kinds of bonds are irreplaceable. This show truly captures the essence of nostalgia, reflecting the dynamics and experiences I understand so well from the city I belong to."

Writer and director Arunima Sharma shared that the show explores the difficulties and intricacies of navigating romance, friendships and adulthood.

She said: "I feel that the audience will relate to it. Rather than presenting an idealised vision of adulthood, we wanted to create a drama that depicted the messy realities of life. I believe that audiences will identify with the characters and their journeys, and will find solace in knowing that they are not alone in their feelings."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Taapsee Pannu