

absolute india

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Manipur HC asks state govt to find ways to restore mobile internet services

A high court official said that a division bench comprising Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh and Justice A Guneshwar Sharma directed on Friday that "state authorities, especially the home department, should consider devising mechanism/methods for providing internet services through mobile phones by whitelisting the mobile numbers on case-to-case basis and in a phase-wise manner." "Accordingly, the state authorities are directed to consider this aspect and submit a report on the next date. The court will again hear the matter on August 31," the HC order said.

Team Absolute | Imphal

Responding to appeals filed by various quarters, the Manipur High Court has asked the state government to find ways to restore mobile internet services for the people of the state, court officials said on Saturday.

Mobile internet services have been snapped across Manipur since the ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3.

During the hearing, the state's counsel told the court: "In terms of the earlier directions given by this court, the authorities have conducted physical trial with regard to the opening of internet services through mobile phones by whitelisting certain numbers and as per the report submitted by the service providers, there is no data leakage to any other numbers which are not whitelisted."



The order said that state's counsel M. Rary submitted that the state authorities may be given two weeks' time to devise certain measures/mechanism for whitelisting mobile phones and the liberty to consider whitelisting of mobile numbers on case-to-case basis and in a phase-wise manner.

Meanwhile, responding to the demands from all sections of people, the Manipur government, after 84 days, had on July 25 partially lifted the ban on internet in the ethnic violence-hit state.

Home Commissioner T. Ranjit Singh, in an order, had said that the state government has made a considered decision to lift suspension in case of broadband service (Internet Lease Line and Fibre to the Home) conditionally in a liberalised manner subject to fulfillment of 10 conditions, including that connection has to be only through static IP.



In a first, UPSRTC gets 17 women bus drivers

KANPUR | Agencies

In a first in Uttar Pradesh, a group of 17 women are all set to start work as bus drivers in UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC).

In 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh had launched the examination and training of women driving at the Model Driving Training and Research Institute in Kanpur's Vikas Nagar.

The first batch of 17 women drivers have completed their training at this institute and will soon handle the responsibility of bus driving with their male counterparts.

Principal of Driver Training Centre S.P. Singh said that women have been given training under the schemes run by the government.

"It is the first batch of 17 women, who had undergone training at the institute, which is the first of its kind not only in the region but the country. We will soon make provision for imparting training to more such women," he said.

"With this effort of the Uttar Pradesh government, a new dimension will emerge, wherein for the first time, women will be seen driving heavy vehicles on the road," Singh added.

He further said that the group of 17 women first underwent training at the Kanpur transport office in light motor vehicle driving level-3 and commercial vehicle driver level-4.

"The applicants have been trained at Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) in Delhi where they were tested, and later a group of 17 women drivers were shortlisted," he added.

WORKING WITH THE BIGGEST DIRECTORS IN THE INDUSTRY WAS ALWAYS ON MY WISH LIST: MONA SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mona Singh is riding high on the success of her recent release, Made In Heaven Season Two. She said that working with Reema Kagti, Zoya Akhtar and Alankrita Srivastava have always been on her wish list.

Mona said: "The praise I'm getting for my performance in Made In Heaven Season 2 is just overwhelming. I am very grateful to be part of such a big franchise, and getting such an overwhelming response makes me happy."

"Working with such a stellar cast and with the biggest directors in the industry has always been on my wish list, and it's incredible to witness the amount of affection outpouring towards my character Bulbul, not only from the directors but also on social media."

"When I started shooting for the character, I was sure that once people started watching the show, it would resonate with them because she is rock solid and firm,



goes well with the narration, and finds its way in between such a big cast. I am thankful to everyone for pouring so much love into the much-anticipated show and making my character, Bulbul, a favorite."

"Made In Heaven" is a romantic drama web series. The series chronicles the lives of Tara and Karan, two wedding planners in Delhi running an agency named Made in Heaven. The series is Prime Video's fourth original fictional Indian series.

The season 2 is about Financial challenges, a depleted client roster, and a crumbling bungalow for an office force wedding planners Tara Khanna and Karan Mehra to adapt to a new uncomfortable status quo. With repercussions being felt in their personal lives as well, they continue to deliver fairy-tale weddings. But beneath the glitz and glamour of Delhi weddings lie prejudices as deeply rooted as its traditions.



Bundelkhand Expressway in UP to be solar-powered

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has started the process of illuminating the Bundelkhand Expressway with solar power.

The UPEIDA has issued a letter of Expression of Interest, setting August 17 as the last date for submitting applications. A state government spokesperson said that the project will be executed on public private partnership mode and UPEIDA has already prepared a detailed plan to set up solar panels. "As per directions of the UPEIDA CEO, a detailed action plan has been prepared to develop the 296-km Bundelkhand Expressway as a solar powered expressway. We have invited applications from interested parties to develop

this on PPP mode," the official said. He explained that out of the applications received, selected applicants will be called to give further presentations. Once a company is finalised, the process of installation of solar panels will be started. The Bundelkhand Expressway is a four-lane route with a main carriageway and service lane. Between these two, the area with a width of about 15 to 20 metres is currently vacant along the entire stretch of the expressway, which is used as a fence to separate it from agricultural land.

It is this land which will be used for installation of solar panels.

The project is part of the government's commitment to accelerate industrial growth and enhance facilities as well as maintenance in industrial corridors and on highways.

WhatsApp rolling out multi-account feature on Android beta

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out a new multi-account feature on Android beta.

Beta users will now be able to add additional accounts to the app, reports WABetaInfo.

Users can add a new account by selecting the arrow icon next to the QR code button.

On the same menu, users can also switch to a different account.

This feature will help users to keep their private chats, work conversations and other chats all in one application.

Users can switch between accounts without using multiple devices or additional apps as this feature keeps their chats and notifications separate.

The multi-account feature is currently available to some beta



testers that install the latest updates of WhatsApp beta for Android, and is rolling out to more over the coming weeks, the report said.

Earlier this week, it was reported that the messaging platform was working on a new passkey feature for account verification on Android beta. A passkey is a short sequence of numbers or letters that is used to verify users' identity.

Last month, the company had released new safety tools on Android beta for when users receive messages from

unknown phone numbers. The platform also rolled out a 'link with phone number' feature on Android beta, which allows users to link their account to WhatsApp Web by using their phone number.

In June, the Meta-owned platform had released a feature which allows users to send high-quality videos on Android beta.

While this feature preserves video dimensions, minor compression will still be applied to the video, thus sending videos in their original quality is not possible.

News about my social media earnings is not true: Virat Kohli

New Delhi | Agencies

Former Indian skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday rubbished reports suggesting that he rakes in a staggering sum of INR 11.45 crore from every post of his on the photo-sharing app -- Instagram.

"While I am grateful and indebted to all that I've received in life, the news that has been making rounds about my social media earnings is not true," Kohli wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, there were reports that Kohli is the highest-earning Indian on Instagram.

According to the same report, Ronaldo commands a massive fee of USD 3.23 million for every sponsored post, which roughly translates to INR 26.75 crore. His eternal rival Messi, who



came in second place earns USD 2.56 million per Instagram post which translates to INR 21.49 crore.

Kohli is currently on a break having been rested by the BCCI ahead of the Asia Cup 2023 which is set to start from August 30.

Punjab Police officer hosts tricolour on Mount Elbrus - the roof of Europe

Chandigarh | Agencies

Commemorating 76 years of Independence, Gurjot Singh Kaler, a senior police officer in Punjab, scaled and unfurled the tricolour on the top of Mount Elbrus -- the highest and most prominent peak in Russia and Europe.

Kaler, a professionally-trained mountaineer, was adjudged the best mountaineer during his Basic Mountaineering Course (BMC) at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) at Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.

His recent feat is noteworthy considering that the Caucasus' tallest mountain, Mount Elbrus, is 5,642 metres (18,510 feet) above sea level.

There were four others in Kaler's team, which reached the top of Mount Elbrus on August 11 at 7 a.m. after battling heavy snowstorms, thunderstorms and atmospheric lightning.

Mount Elbrus is covered in snow through out around and is home to 22 glaciers that feed three rivers -- Baksan, Malka and Kuban. Elbrus is part of the Caucasus mountain range, near the Georgian border in the south of Russia.

The Caucasus technically sits in Asia and Europe, although most geographers place it in Europe. It's a mountain range that spans two continents.

Committed to the spirit of combating climate change and global warming, the mission of Mount Elbrus was dedicated by Kaler to exhort the world community to preserve the environment and create awareness about depleting forest reserves across the planet and melting of glaciers.

"It took five days to successfully do the summit after acclimatisation hikes to Mount Cheget and Pastukhov Rocks. The weather was very turbulent on the day of the



summit and there was a lot of lightning and thunderstorms which made the climb very difficult," Kaler told IANS over phone.

At one point, it looked impossible but the sheer willpower, perseverance and determination served him in good stead throughout the adventurous expedition.

"It is only in tough circumstances

that we can test the real toughness of mind," he said.

Kaler has become the first Punjab Police officer to scale Mount Elbrus. Earlier, he had successfully climbed the summit of the highest mountain in the African Continent -- Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

The daredevil officer had also performed a skydive from 15,000 feet during the Covid pandemic to serve as a heartfelt tribute of bravery and courage to the corona warriors who had sacrificed their lives during the pandemic.

He's currently handling the charge of AIG (Excise and Taxation) and was awarded with the Chief Minister's Medal for outstanding devotion to duty in January 2023.

He was also conferred with the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Raj Yuva Puraskar by the government of Punjab in March 2023 for his fight against drug abuse in Punjab and for promoting the culture of sports.

Kaler feels that his efforts in terms of climbing Mount Ebrus will go a long way in awakening the world community to join hands for combating climate change.

He admits that global warming and climate change is a grim reality of "our times and every region on earth is impacted by our actions".

"Even the recent ghastly floods in Punjab and Himachal can be attributed to lack of ecological balance and disregard to the Mother Earth. Therefore, it's very important to understand the precarious situation through which the entire humanity is passing through right now and take concerted actions before its too late.

"Rather, the truth is that we are already quite late in combating global climate change and if we continue to ignore the warnings of Mother Nature, a day will come when everything will be simply lost forever," Kaler added.



DELHI: 73RD TRAIN LEAVES FOR DWARKADHISH UNDER PILGRIMAGE SCHEME

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 73rd pilgrimage train, organised under the 'Mukhyamantri Teerth-Yatra Yojna' by the Kejriwal government, set out from Delhi on Saturday.

There were 780 senior citizens onboard who embarked on the journey to Shri Dwarkadhish. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal handed over travel tickets and kits to the participants.

As part of the Teerth-Yatra Yojna, an evening of soulful devotion comprising Bhajan 'Sandhya' was organised at the Tyagraj Stadium. The CM met with each pilgrim and sought their blessings.

Kejriwal congratulated the pilgrims, at Tyagraj Stadium, on commencing their journey to the Shri Dwarkadhish for their 'Teerth Yatra'.

"We started this 'Teerth Yatra' scheme 2-3 years ago. When we used to go amongst the people, we saw that there are a lot many people who don't have money for the pilgrimage. In the Hindu Dharma, it's said that it's a ritu-



al to do at least one pilgrimage. For these people who don't have enough with resources, this scheme provides them an opportunity to do at least one pilgrimage in their lifetime. There are

many people who have enough resources but they cannot go on their own, they don't have any support. So, Delhi Government has initiated the scheme which helps them to take a

young one who can look after them", Kejriwal said.

Kejriwal further assured pilgrims of more pilgrimage opportunities to nearby pilgrimage sites via luxury buses.

So far 72 trains have been sent carrying 71,000 pilgrims under the scheme. "I want to send each elderly citizen of Delhi for the pilgrimage who is older than 60 years, I want to make sure that everyone has completed one round of the Teerth Yatra and then will start round two. But, due to the shortage of trains we are not able to do this as quick as we want to. We have asked for trains from the Central Government and they have granted us as much as they could but still, that is not enough. We will try to cover the pilgrimages near Delhi by Luxury Buses. At least till Ayodhya Ji we can arrange buses for the Teerth Yatra, we'll ensure luxury, Air Conditioned buses with due requisites so that pilgrims can travel to near pilgrimage sites such as Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura Vrindavan, Ayodhya, etc," Kejriwal said.

PM lambasts Trinamool Congress over 'bloodbath' in Bengal panchayat polls

Kolkata | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday attacked the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal over the 'bloodbath' in the recently-concluded panchayat polls in the state in which over 50 persons were killed.

Trinamool Congress leadership has vehemently criticised the comments of the Prime Minister and claimed that the latter has no right to speak of the situation in West Bengal considering the kind of violence unleashed both by both the ruling party and the state administration in the different BJP-ruled states.

While virtually addressing the eastern regional Panchayati Raj workshop, the Prime Minister accused the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal of "playing with blood" in the rural civic body polls.

"The entire country has



witnessed this game of blood by Trinamool Congress, where not just the BJP supporters and leaders but also the common voters became the onslaught of violence unleashed by Trinamool Congress," the Prime Minister said. At the same time, he complemented the role played by the BJP leaders and workers in West Bengal for constantly working to achieve a better state combating the onslaughts of the ruling party activists.

our winning candidates continue to face the onslaughts of the ruling party activists," the Prime Minister said.

PM doesn't have moral right to speak on violence, corruption: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata: In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scathing attack at the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal over the "bloodbath" in the recent panchayat polls in the state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that he does not have the "moral right" to speak on issues like violence and corruption.

"The Prime Minister has spoken about panchayat poll violence in West Bengal.

It was actually planned and unleashed by the state unit of BJP. The BI-backed goons killed about 17 persons during the rural civic body polls. The Prime Minister should first learn political courtesy before saying such things.

Bihar Shocker: Nurse stabbed to death in broad daylight in Patna

Patna | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a 25-year-old nurse was stabbed to death in Patna's Kankarbagh area, the police said on Saturday.

The incident took place at around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The victim has been identified as Soni Kumari, a native of Purnea district, who was associated with the Jay Prabha Medanta Super Speciality Hospital in Patna.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was attacked by a person known to her. As per the CCTV footage, the victim was walking with the accused when the latter stabbed her before fleeing from the spot. The reason behind the murder is yet to be ascertained," said Kamya Mishra, ASP of Patna Sadar. "The victim was badly injured in the attack and was



immediately rushed to the hospital by the passersby where she died during treatment," Mishra said.

The dead has been sent to the PMCH mortuary for post-mortem and the family members have been informed about the incident. To recall, a nurse at a pri-

ivate nursing home in Bihar's Motihari was found dead in an ambulance under mysterious circumstances in Muzaffarpur on Friday. The mother of the deceased has accused five persons, including a doctor of the nursing home, of raping her daughter before killing her.

JDU PM MODI FOR 'MISLEADING' PEOPLE OVER AIIMS DARBHANGA

Patna: JD-U President Lalan Singh on Saturday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'misleading' people over AIIMS Darbhanga.

Sharing a video post on his official twitter handle he asked PM Modi to take the correct information from Union Health Ministry and said that AIIMS Darbhanga is open for common people.

"Bihar government has allocated land in Darbhanga for the construction of AIIMS. The state government also allocated Rs 250 crore for filling clay at the earmarked site but your government is not ready to build AIIMS," Singh said in his tweet.

'Hanged before trial': BJP's deliberate design to throttle opposition voice, says Adhir

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two days after being suspended from Lok Sabha, Leader of Congress in the Lower House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday dubbed his suspension "a deliberate design by the ruling party to throttle the voice of the opposition" while remarking that he had been "hanged without trial".

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, the Congress leader said: "It is a new phenomenon we have never before experienced during our career in Parliament. As it has been issued by the Speaker Lok Sabha, I cannot disobey his order or direction or anything whatsoever. But very steadfastly and with all command, I said that I did not have a remote objective to disparage or tarnish anyone whatsoever in the Parliament."

Chowdhury explained that if anything is termed unparliamentary then the Speaker has the right to delete or expunge it.

"But I don't know why for one or two



words which were misunderstood by them as offensive, they may protest the Speaker according to the permission of the rules and procedures in the rule book and got those words expunged. But what I have experienced is that there is a deliberate design by the ruling party to throttle the voice of the opposition by resorting to various unfavourable instruments which should not be applied on

me," the Congress Lok Sabha MP said. He said that I have been hanged and thereafter I will have to face the trial.

"It is a very cruel situation, first of all I have to be hanged and then I have to go for the trial. Then again, I with all respect to the command of the House that I cannot contradict the direction of the Chair but if I find that this kind of situation could be resolved by court. I may try also," the Congress leader said, adding that because otherwise the essence of the Indian parliament will be done away.

"So naturally it is cruel and very precarious and as well as the retrogressive steps being taken by the government itself. So this kind of retrogressive steps will certainly undermine the spirit of Parliamentary democracy," Chowdhury said.

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his criticism of the INDIA alliance, Chowdhury said, "Why is Modiji opposed to the word INDIA?...There is no difference between India and Bharat."

Rahul Gandhi gets rousing welcome on his first visit to Wayanad after being reinstated

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Saturday got a rousing welcome in his Wayanad constituency in Kerala after Supreme Court reinstated his membership in the Lok Sabha, after a court in Gujarat convicted him in a criminal defamation case.

Thousands of people were eagerly waiting to see and hear him as this was his first visit to his constituency. In his speech, Rahul Gandhi slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his handling of Manipur crisis.

"Modi is not a nationalist and that is why he has not visited Manipur. No nationalist will ever do what Modi is doing to Manipur. We will bring back love to Manipur. It is this fight that the Congress and Modi is having," he said.

"They (BJP) are free to disqualify me not once but 50 or 100 times, but



they just cannot separate me from you because that's the love and affection you have bestowed upon me. We will work together even if we are from different political parties as I love and

respect the people of Wayanad," Rahul Gandhi said.

"Even though I am happy to be back but I am sad that Oommen Chandy is not here with us. He was

one leader who gave love to all and we will all miss him," Rahul Gandhi said. He also distributed keys of new homes to nine families which were constructed by MP funds.

Oil prices up in July by 16 per cent; highest since Jan 22

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The oil market witnessed a significant surge in prices by 16 per cent in July, the highest since January 2022, as per a report by Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company.

Silver and gold prices also rose by 8 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively.

The crypto market was an exception to the green wave, as Bitcoin & Ethereum fell by 4 per cent, followed by the collapse of FTX, one of the largest global cryptocurrency exchanges. Both emerging and developed markets delivered positive performance, with South Africa emerging as a standout performer, surging by an impressive 13 per cent. Within the US market, the NASDAQ 100 and S&P 500 indices recorded



gains of 4 per cent & 3 per cent, respectively. IT sector dominated S&P 500's gains, the report said. Nifty Smallcap 250 outperformed all major indexes clocked gain of 7.69 per cent, followed by Nifty Midcap 150 at 5.51 per cent. Realty, Metals & Energy led the charge, rising 9 per

cent each. On the flip side, IT lagged with a modest 1 per cent rise, the report said.

All sectors, excluding the Diversified sector, contributed positively to the NIFTY 500 returns, with the financial services sector making the most substantial impact.

DELHI METRO SERVICES TO START EARLY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

New Delhi: Delhi Metro services will begin early on August 15 to facilitate passengers attending the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, officials said on Saturday.

Besides, parking facilities will not be available at all the Delhi Metro stations from 6 am on Monday till 2 pm on Tuesday in view of the security measures taken for the 77th Independence Day celebrations, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said in a statement.

However, the Metro train services will run as per the normal schedule on Monday, the DMRC officials said.

"To facilitate the passengers to attend the Independence Day ceremony on 15th August, the Delhi Metro train services on all Lines will start from 5 am from all terminal stations," the DMRC statement said.

The trains will run with a frequency of 30 minutes on all the metro lines till 6 am, after which the trains will run as per the normal timetable throughout the day, it added.

The Lal Quila metro station is located on the Violet Line of the Delhi Metro, near the Mughal-era monument.

Apex militant body in Manipur gives I-Day boycott call

Imphal | Agencies

Amid the ethnic violence in Manipur, an apex body of seven militant outfits in Manipur on Saturday gave a call to boycott Independence Day programmes, besides calling for a 17-hour general shutdown on August 15.

In a statement, CorCom, an apex body of banned outlawed groups, said that the political status of Manipur declined abruptly with the "Indian annexation of Manipur on October 15 1949 by which sovereign Manipur was reduced to just a Chief Commissioner's Province".

"From Part 'C' State in 1950, Manipur was crafted into a Union Territory in 1956. Not only did the Indian colonial rule promulgate the notorious AFSPA, and several other draconian laws in the whole of Manipur, it continued to play a divisive policy among the several



ethnic groups intermittently, which has now resulted into wanton ethnic clashes."

The statement said that the illegal Manipur Merger Agreement, 1949 wiped out the sovereign history of Manipur that led to the "imposition of August 15 celebration among the ethnic groups of

Manipur".

"Now, the time has come for all the ethnic groups inhabiting Manipur since time immemorial to stand up as 'Manipur People' to resist this colonial regime and pave the way for the scientific political development of our oppressed people towards exer-

cising their inalienable right to self-determination.

"The present ethnic impasse resulted due to India's use of 'Hate Game and Hate Crime' as a part of Proxy War of the counter-insurgency operation. All the struggling and oppressed indigenous people of Manipur should now realise the Indian colonial policy of killing two birds with one stone and the impossibility of the restoration of the lost sovereignty of Manipur within the framework of the colonial Constitution of India under the guise of any peace talk," the statement stated.

The militant outfit under the CorCom included Kangleipak Communist Party, Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (Prepak), Prepak-Pro, Revolutionary People's Front, People's Liberation Army and United National Liberation Front.

Sudha Murty in NCERT's 19-member panel to develop new textbooks

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A committee of experts, including several noted educationists, economists etc., has been constituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to revise textbooks according to the new curriculum, officials said.

The members of the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee are Infosys Foundation Chairman Sudha Murty, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman Bibek Debroy, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council member Sanjeev Sanyal, and noted singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan, among others.

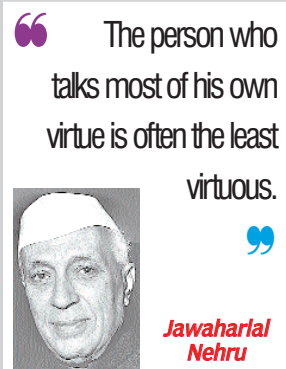
Mahesh Chandra Pant has been named the Chairman of the 19-member committee. Pant is the Chancellor of the National Institute of



Education and Planning in Administration.

The co-chairmanship of the committee has been assigned to Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University. Chamu Krishna Shastry, the Chairman of the Indian Languages Committee, a high-powered body for the promotion of Indian languages, has also been included in the committee.

The National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee will be an autonomous body whose task will be to prepare the syllabus for the students of classes 3 to 12.



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Asian Champions Trophy

INDIA SURGE BACK TO BEAT MALAYSIA 4-3 FOR RECORD FOURTH TITLE

Chennai | Agencies

Having struggled to make a mark in the event so far, seasoned forward Akashdeep Singh scored when it mattered to cap India's sensational fightback from a two-goal deficit to beat Malaysia 4-3 in the final to bag the Asian Champions Trophy title for a record-breaking fourth time here on Saturday.

This is India's fourth title in the event as they broke the record of three titles (two outright and one shared) with archrivals Pakistan. India won the title in the inaugural year in 2011 and then in 2016. In 2018, they had shared the title with Pakistan in Muscat, Oman as the match was rained off.

However, on Saturday, the hosts looked in trouble for some time before they fought back to seal a memorable victory, which is a big boost to the team's morale ahead of the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

India, who took the lead in the ninth minute through a penalty corner, committed a few defensive errors as Malaysia scored through Abu Kamal Azrai (14th), Razie Rahim (18th)



and Aminuddin Muhamad (28th) to take a 3-1 lead at half-time at the Mayor Radhakrishna Stadium here.

But just when Malaysia were looking forward to claiming their maiden Asian Champions Trophy title, India came roaring back to score twice within a few seconds to level the scores.

India made it 2-3 off a superb field goal when Sukhjeet Singh, who was set up by Nilkanta Singh after a quick exchange of passes to break the defence, was brought down inside the circle just when he was about to take a shot at the goal, earning India a

penalty stroke. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, the top scorer of the tournament with eight goals, stepped up and flicked a high shot into the net to bring India back into the game.

The comeback was complete within a few seconds when Gurjant levelled scores capitalising on a mistake by a rattled Malaysian defence, scored a field goal to make it 3-3.

Akashdeep scored the winner five minutes from the end of the match in a pulsating fourth quarter to seal a memorable victory for India.

JAPAN OVERCOME KOREA 5-3 TO BAG BRONZE MEDAL

Chennai: Asian Games gold medallist Japan scored twice in the final quarter to quell a superb fightback by the Republic of Korea 5-3 and bagged the bronze medal in the Asian Champions Trophy at the Mayor Radhakrishna Stadium here on Saturday.

Japan, who had lost to hosts India in the semi-finals on Thursday, came out with guns blazing, scoring twice through Ryoma Ooka (3rd min) and Ryosei Kata (9th min-pc) within the first 10 minutes in the playoff for the third-fourth place.

However, Korea scored through veteran Jang Jonghyun (15th min-pc) and Park Cheoleon (26th min). Japan dominated the second quarter and launched some superb attacks to earn four penalty corners but failed to make the most of the chances.

But they could not be denied for long and just before the end of the first half, Japan grabbed the lead once again as Kentaro Fukuda scored a field goal.

Korea fought back again in the third quarter when Jang Jonghyun, who will be turning 40 soon, came up with another brilliant penalty corner conversion to make it 3-3 early in the third quarter.

Japan exerted some pressure in the third quarter and earned two penalty corners but could not capitalise on them.

Akira Takahashi's side sealed the victory and bronze medal for themselves as they scored twice within three minutes. Shota Yamada put them ahead again by scoring a goal in the 53rd min and then Ken Nagayoshi converted a penalty stroke to seal victory for Japan.

20 suicides in Kota in 8 months: 'No more tests on Sunday'

Jaipur | Agencies

The authorities in Kota have directed the educational institutes not to conduct tests on Sunday. Though the directive was already issued earlier, it has been decided to implement it strictly after Rajasthan's education hub witnessed 20 suicides in the last eight months.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also expressed concern during a programme in Jaipur regarding the increase in suicides in Kota.

"Do not put pressure on the children, let them become what they want to be," he said.

A District Level Committee meeting was held in Kota on Saturday under the chairmanship of Collector OP Bunkar.

Many police officers, coaching institutes and hostel operators were present at this meeting.

The district collector said that the children study continuously in the coaching centres and in their hostel rooms, and they do not get any window to relax.

Instructions were issued earlier as well regarding holidays on Sunday.

On Saturday, during the meeting, Bunkar told the



operators of the coaching centers that there would be no test on Sunday.

Besides, the coaching centres have also been asked to organise "motivational sessions" every week.

A guideline has also been issued for hostel operators.

In cases of suicide by hanging, officials said that a security device should be installed in the fan.

Bunkar said: "If this device is installed in all hostels and PGs, children can be saved to a great extent."

In the meeting, he asked

the officials to issue separate orders for its immediate implementation.

The collector also said that there would be a "psychology test" of the children so that their mental condition can be known.

Along with the coaching centre operators, hostel and PG owners will also have to do this test every 15 days. If any suspicious case comes up in this test, it will be marked and their family members will be called and counselling will be done through experts.

MNF's support to BJP-led NDA only issue-based: Mizoram CM

Aizawl | Agencies

Mizoram Chief Minister and President of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), Zoramthanga, said on Saturday that the party's support to the BJP-led NDA is only issue-based.

While the MNF, one of NDA's oldest allies, is yet to pull out from the BJP-led alliance, it did support the no-confidence motion moved in the Lok Sabha by the grand opposition alliance INDIA criticising both the Centre and state government over the "wrong handling of the Manipur crisis". Addressing party workers here, Zoramthanga said the lone MNF Lok Sabha member from Mizoram -- C. Lalrosanga -- supported the opposition's no-confidence motion as the party is dissatisfied with the Centre's handling of the Manipur issue.



"We supported the NDA as we cannot be a part of the Congress-led alliance. However, our support to the NDA is only issue-based and we would oppose the alliance if and when it goes against the interests of the Mizo people as a whole," the veteran politician clarified. Stating that the MNF ini-

tially opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), but later supported it after Mizoram was exempted from its purview, the Mizoram Chief Minister announced that the party MPs in both the Houses of the Parliament will oppose the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) if it is introduced for legislation.

PORTION OF HILLTOP NALAGARH FORT IN HIMACHAL CAVES IN

Shimla: A portion of the 602-year-old hilltop Nalagarh Fort in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district collapsed on Saturday due to heavy rains and landslides.

Located around 300 km away from Delhi and 60 km from Chandigarh, the fort was built in 1421. Functionaries told the media that four rooms of the fort caved in. The rooms were vacated well in time as the retaining walls had developed cracks. Former Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Vijender Singh is the owner of the fort that has been converted into a resort.

His son, Jitendra Singh, was present in the resort when the disaster occurred. Fort Nalagarh comprises several structures that are mostly built in the Mughal style of architecture.

Govt's Parivahan website's source code, user data exposed on dark web

Team Absolute | New Delhi

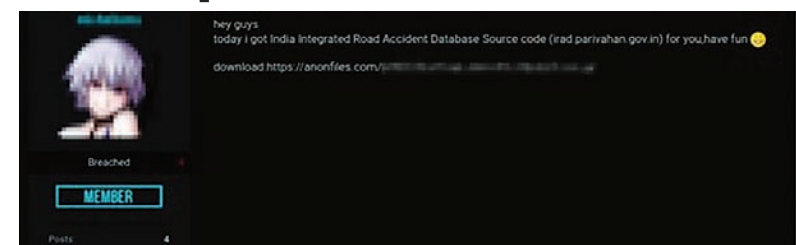
Cybersecurity firm CloudSEK has reported that the Parivahan website suffered a data breach, leading to the leak of its source code and user data on the Dark Web.

CloudSEK claimed that the breach exposed the source code of the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) website, an initiative by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

The breach, discovered on August 2, involved sharing the code on an underground cybercrime forum, potentially compromising sensitive information and security infrastructure.

"CloudSEK has notified the MoRTH about the breach. The firm urges immediate action to secure the iRAD website and safeguard sensitive user data," the firm said.

Detailed analysis of the leaked source code by CloudSEK uncovered alarming issues. "We discovered sensitive assets embedded within the code, including hostnames, database names, and passwords. The usernames and passwords found in the source code were quite



simple and susceptible to brute-force attacks when there's local access to the server," stated the cybersecurity firm.

The source code references sms.gov.in, a NIC SMS Gateway used by government departments to send SMS to Indian nationals. The embedded URL in the source code includes fields for usernames and passwords, which if exploited, might give unauthorized individuals the ability to send messages to recipients, CloudSEK noted.

The same threat actor, after exposing the source code, shared a sample dataset of 10,000 user records from a vulnerable API endpoint of the iRAD website on August 7. This data breach was achieved through an SQL injection, underscoring significant vulnerabilities. The leaked dataset contains sensitive information such as user IDs, names,

emails, mobile numbers, and passwords.

Upon verification, some mobile numbers and names from the sample dataset matched via Truecaller. The dataset also included email IDs and clear text passwords of government officials, according to CloudSEK.

Bablu Kumar, Cyber Intelligence Analyst at CloudSEK, explained: "The extraction of source code and an SQL injection wield a power that extends far beyond the surface. These breaches are not mere data breaches; they are gateways to understanding the very essence of a website's business logic. The threat is not limited to the data lost today; it encompasses the potential for more profound impacts, opening doors to realms of sensitive information that we cannot foresee."

I would have never passed NEET bill: TN Governor



Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Saturday said that he will never give his consent to pass the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) bill if the decision was upto him.

The Governor was responding to a question by the parent during a felicitation of students who had secured high marks in previous years NEET. The parent asked the Governor when he will clear the bill to ban the NEET. "I am telling you very frankly, I will never clear the NEET exemption bill if it was upto me. I shall never clear it

and be assured about it," the Governor said.

He said that the bill is with the President now and as it was subject on the concurrent list. The Governor said that the children of Tamil Nadu were victims of wrong propaganda by the vested lobbies. He said that medical admissions were a Rs 1000 crore business prior to the introduction of NEET. "An MBBS seat cost was Rs 1 crore for each seat. If a college had 150 seats, the management used to make Rs 150 crores," he said.

The Governor said that it was all about corruption and making money.

New rules under data protection law must empower Big Tech users: Experts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2023, experts on Saturday said that upcoming rules under the new law will empower Indian users about how Big Tech can or cannot use their data.

The long-awaited bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 7 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 9. As the data protection law has now been enacted, the government will soon begin the rule-making process.

"The Act aims to concretise the efforts that Big Tech, and data fiduciaries in general, must now undertake towards respecting the users' privacy rights and control over their personal data. This will now entail transparently informing the users about the specific purposes of data processing, while also obtaining clear and precise user consent that may be later withdrawn," said Harsh Walia, Partner at Khaitan & Co.

The users may also request erasure of their data. Moreover, the principle of data minimisation will require collection of only that personal data which is necessary for the specified



purpose. "Simultaneously, the government may prohibit cross-border data transfers to certain notified geographies, and stricter rules for data security measures are also expected. Most importantly, the law also bolsters the overall grievance and adjudication process, and imposes heavy penalties for contraventions by data fiduciaries," Walia noted. According to experts, the success of the data protection law will be determined by when and how new rules are made and how effectively they are implemented.

"It is also necessary to understand what will be the status of the old IT rules till the new rules are made. Also, we need to see how effective will be the practical mechanism for redressal of common people's grievances as per India's new law on foreign tech companies," Virag Gupta, Supreme Court lawyer and cyber law expert, told report.

With the ban on illegal data business, according to the new law, if tax is collected from the data business, then both the society and the economy will be strengthened, Gupta stressed.

Gujarat: Death toll rises to 12 in Bavla-Bagodara highway accident

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The toll in Bavla-Bagodara highway accident in Ahmedabad has risen to 12 after two more injured people succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital.

The fatal accident took place after a Tata Ace SCV, commonly known as Chota Hathi, was returning from Chotila temple, rammed into the backside of the immobilised truck.

Among the victims were five women, three children, and two adults while over seven people had also sustained injuries in the horrifying incident. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also expressed condolences over the tragic loss of lives and announced compensation for the affected families. The compensation includes Rs 2 lakh for the families of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has also conveyed his grief over the tragic incident, assuring that all necessary measures



would be taken to support the victims and their families.

Local authorities were quick to respond, with emergency services rushing to the site of the accident to provide immediate assistance. The injured were transported to Civil Hospital, where medical teams are working tirelessly to ensure their recovery. The highway remained closed for several hours as investigators examined the scene to determine the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest that the stationary truck was not adequately marked, leading to the collision.



INTERNATIONAL DRUGS SYNDICATE WITH LINKS TO US, UK BUSTED IN MUMBAI, 2 ARRESTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With the arrest of two accused, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) claimed to have busted an international drug trafficking syndicate with links to many countries including the USA and seized a large number of contrabands, the agency informed in a statement.

A total of 1.403 kgs MDMA (2917 tablets), 1.840 kgs Hydroponic Weed and 0.26 gms LSD (24 blots) were seized in three operations in Mumbai, the NCB said in the statement on Friday.

"Two people have been arrested while the other is already arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. The role of another person on bail in a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is being investigated," it said.

As per the NCB officials, the drugs were smuggled into Mumbai from countries- the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. During the investigation of all the cases, particular patterns of parcel movement finally destined for Pune were noticed, it said. The statement added that with the assistance of the Customs Mumbai department, the NCB sleuths sort out the suspected parcels.

"Further in-depth investigation pertaining to usage of dark web and cryptocurrency is being investigated to trace out remaining associates and other assets evolved from drug money is being done," the statement further



added. In the first case on May 23, a suspected parcel sourced from the UK to Pune was tracked and intercepted at Foreign Post Office (FPO), Mumbai. When the parcel was opened 100 numbers of blue-coloured MDMA tablets and 24 numbers of LSD blot papers were recovered which were carefully concealed inside the black-coloured portable audio system. After extensive investigation, one person

was identified by sleuths of NCB as S Kasjyap. During the preliminary probe, it came to the fore that the accused was procuring drugs from his foreign-based handler in exchange for commission and was also involved in sales in the Pune area, as per the NCB statement. In the second operation, it emerged that a Pune-based syndicate was procuring high-value party drugs from far-off countries. The information led to the interception of a sus-

pected parcel at FPO, Mumbai on July 7 which was outsourced from the USA.

"When the carton was opened, four numbers of similar tin cans were found. When one of the cans was opened, a greenish fibrous lumpy plant product was found which when tested, indicated to be Hydroponic Weed. Similar products were recovered from the other three cans also which collectively weighed a total of 1.840 kgs of finely curated Hydroponic Weed," the NCB statement read.

During the follow-up action, officials of NCB apprehended a person identified as Adnan F Soon, an associate of Adnan was identified. During the investigation, it came to the fore the accused was involved in multiple crimes including an NDPS Case registered against him in Mumbai. Further in-depth investigation is underway in this case, read the NCB statement.

In the third Operation, a parcel outsourced from the Netherlands to Mumbai was intercepted at FPO, Mumbai on July 21.

When the carton was opened, a total of 2817 numbers of MDMA tablets (1.363 kgs) were recovered. During the preliminary probe, a Palghar-based receiver identified as Arjun G was identified, as per the NCB statement. "During the extensive probe, it emerged that Arjun G was already placed under arrest by another agency in another NDPS case a few days ago. The accused had already procured a few more parcels before being arrested," it said. "Further investigation is on in the matter," the NCB said.

Man arrested for killing colleague over Rs 500 in Navi Mumbai

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

Navi Mumbai Police on Saturday said that they have arrested an accused for murdering his 30 year-old colleague over debt of Rs 500.

Police said that the incident occurred near Panvel railway station, where the victim, Vicky Chindaliya, a scrap collector, was found dead on August 8.

Inspector Anjum Bhagwan of the Panvel city police station said that investigations revealed Chindaliya worked and lived near the railway station with a colleague.

After analysing several leads and CCTV footage from the scene, the police identified the victim's colleague, Sachin Shinde, and arrested him from his hometown in Aurangabad district.

Upon interrogation, Shinde confessed that he and the victim had argued over a debt of Rs 500 while drinking alcohol on the day of the murder. The argument allegedly led Shinde to stab Chindaliya to death and flee the scene. The murder took place between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm on Tuesday, during which Shinde also attacked

the deceased man's friend, causing serious injuries.

The police arrested Shinde and two other accused individuals on late Tuesday night. A complaint was lodged by the injured man, Anil Jadhav (26), a laborer, detailing how four accused individuals took him and his 35-year-old friend Vinod Rathod to a shop, where they were held captive and assaulted.

They were accused of stealing iron rods and were thrashed with stumps, punched, and kicked. The attack resulted in Rathod's death and left Jadhav severely injured.

The accused were identified as shop owners Dinkar Pralhad Lavand (42), Abhimanyu Bihari Yadav (24), and Rajkumar Sriramdhani Yadav (27). The search for the fourth accused, Gulab Amarsingh Chavan alias Pintu Chavan, is still ongoing, the police added.

A case has been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including murder, kidnapping, wrongful confinement, voluntarily causing hurt, criminal intimidation, and common intention.

Court remands seventh accused held in ISIS module case in NIA custody

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On Saturday, a court remanded to the National Investigation Agency (NIA)'s custody the seventh accused arrested in connection with the Maharashtra ISIS module case.

Shamil Saquib Nachan, the seventh accused, was arrested from the Thane on Friday. Nachan was produced before a special court, which remanded him to the NIA's custody till August 18.

According to the NIA, Nachan was allegedly involved in promoting terrorist activities of the designated foreign terrorist organisation. It claimed that he was allegedly involved in fabrication, training and testing of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for commission of terrorist acts.

"Nachan had been working in collaboration with the other six accused - Zulfikar Ali Barodawala, Mohammed Imran Khan, Mohammed Yunus Saki, Simab Nasiruddin Kazi, Abdul Kadir Pathan and Aakif Ateeque Nachan, along with some other suspects," the



probe agency said. According to the NIA, Khan and Saki were members of the 'Sufa terrorist gang' and had been declared 'most wanted' by the NIA in a case relating to recovering explosives from a car in Rajasthan in April 2022. Investigations by the probe agency have revealed that the accused planned to commit terrorist acts with the aim to disturb peace and communal harmony of India.

Sanjay Raut records his statement in defamation case against BJP leader Narayan Rane

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Friday recorded in a court in Mumbai his statement in connection with a defamation case filed by him against Union minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane for allegedly making false remarks.

Sanjay Raut had filed a suit against Narayan Rane in April for allegedly making "defamatory, malicious and false" remarks about him at the Konkani Festival organised in suburban Bhandup on January 15, 2023.

The BJP leader had allegedly said Sanjay Raut's name did not exist in the voters' list and that he (Rane) had helped the latter get elected to the Rajya Sabha when he was in the Shiv Sena.

In February, Sanjay Raut had issued a legal notice to Rane demanding evidence to substantiate his claims.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader moved a local court after the Union minister didn't respond to his legal



notice.

Sanjay Raut appeared before the magistrate's court in suburban Mulund and recorded his verification statement in the case.

The matter was adjourned by the court to September 29 for examination of witnesses. Meanwhile, Sanjay Raut on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's criticism of the

Congress during his reply to the no-confidence motion shows the grand old party is growing stronger.

PM Modi on Thursday spoke for more than 130 minutes in the Lok Sabha in a reply to the debate on the no-confidence brought by opposition parties.

The Congress later hit out at the PM, saying he is gripped with a "Congress-phobia" and that is why he criticised the party throughout his speech. Talking to reporters, Raut said, "The Congress is still in the heart and brain of the prime minister even though he has won two elections (as a PM). Under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party has put up a challenge and the party is growing." Referring to Modi, he said, "You are in power for 10 years...forget the Congress and speak about your work." Raut said the no-confidence motion was moved to make the prime minister come to Parliament and give a statement on the Manipur issue and what the government is doing to restore peace there.

AFTER HC RAP, CIVIC CHIEF GIVES WARD OFFICIALS AUG 21 DEADLINE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Following the Bombay High Court's directive for physical inspections of manholes, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner I S Chahal has instructed all 24 ward offices to ensure that manholes within their jurisdiction are covered. A comprehensive report is to be submitted by 10 am on August 21. Expert advocates designated by the High Court, along with the respective assistant commissioners, will jointly conduct inspections starting August 21. A report, bearing their joint signatures, will be submitted to the court. Furthermore, instructions have been issued to fit protective nets on 6,308 manholes. A report on the manhole assessment is to be furnished to the Bombay High Court within three weeks.

Addressing the issue on Friday, the Bombay High Court emphasised that deaths resulting from poor road conditions, potholes, and manholes are not natural occurrences but



rather a consequence of human actions. The court underscored the constitutional obligation of both the Maharashtra government and civic bodies to uphold the responsibility of maintaining safe and functional roads. Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor of the division bench also criticised the state government's inaction regarding the transfer of road maintenance and

repair duties to the BMC, a suggestion made in court the previous year.

The court's scrutiny stems from a petition filed by advocate Riju Thakker, seeking contempt action against civic authorities for non-compliance with the court's 2018 orders to rectify potholes along major roads in Mumbai and surrounding areas. In response to the court's directives, commissioners

from Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan Dombivili, Navi Mumbai, Vasai Virar, and Mira Bhayander municipal corporations appeared in court.

Municipal corporations were directed to submit comprehensive affidavits detailing their compliance with the 2018 order to eliminate potholes. Chief Justice Upadhyaya firmly conveyed, "Every day there is some incident. These are man-made."

The cause of these deaths is not natural. It is man-made. You (government and civic bodies) have to stop this. It is your responsibility. You have a constitutional obligation."

BMC Commissioner Iqbal Chahal cited heavy rainfall as a contributing factor to the deteriorating road conditions. While efforts are made to repair roads as potholes emerge during the ongoing concreting process, the court remained unsatisfied. The state government and corporations were instructed to submit their affidavits, with a hearing scheduled for September 29.

Journalist bodies demand action against Shiv Sena MLA Kishor Patil

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Eleven journalist bodies from Mumbai on Friday met Governor Ramesh Bais demanding action against Shiv Sena MLA Kishor Patil under the state's journalist protection law, a day after a scribe from Jalgaon district was attacked by a group of persons.

They accused Patil of verbally abusing the journalist, Sandeep Mahajan.

A statement issued by the journalist bodies said the governor assured their delegation that he would look into the matter. They also demanded Mahajan, who is from a local daily at Pachora in Jalgaon district, be given police protection. Mahajan had reported about a case of rape and murder of a minor girl in Pachora area and criticised Chief Minister Eknath



Shinde over the incident. An audio clip recently went viral on social media wherein Pachora legislator Patil was purportedly heard abusing the journalist. Meanwhile, Voice of Media, an association of journalists from the

Marathwada region, sent a memorandum to CM Shinde demanding action against Patil and those behind the attack under the Maharashtra Mediapersons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act.

Man gets 20 years RI for repeatedly raping minor girl

Team Absolute | Thane

A special court in Thane sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for repeatedly raping and impregnating a minor girl.

Special POCSCO judge V V Virkar found the accused guilty on two counts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment on each count.

According to the court order, the accused Mohammed Islam will undergo both sentences of 20 years concurrently. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on the accused.

Further, the court ordered that the entire amount after realisation be given to the victim towards compensation.

The special public prosecutor informed the court that the girl and the accused lived in the same locality. The 13-year-old girl was a school dropout and helped her mother at their grocery shop.



"The accused used to frequently visit the shop and befriended the girl," the prosecution said.

"In April 2018, the accused lured the girl and took her to an isolated place near the shop and raped her. The abuse continued over a period of time and victim got pregnant in May 2019," it said.

Six prosecution witnesses were examined in the case.

Fake call centre busted in Andheri; police arrest 12, seize 40 mobile phones

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai police have busted a fake call centre from where a gang duped people across India on the pretext of offering cheap tour and travel packages.

The cops have arrested 12 people in the matter and seized 28 laptops and 40 mobile phones from the bogus call centre. The fake call center was operating from a commercial building at Andheri's Marol area.

"The police are yet to ascertain the number of victims in the case and the money they lost to the gang," the official said.

On Friday, the crime branch raided the call centre, which was being run at Mittal building at Marol.

The police found 12 men and a woman working there. Citing the



probe, the official said, "The gang would place advertisements on social media offering tour and travel packages at much cheaper rates. Once a

victim showed interest and made inquiries, they would shift the entire communication to WhatsApp." "In the name of tickets and other

bookings, the gang members would collect money from their victims. They would also send fake air tickets and payment receipts to the victims on WhatsApp to gain their confidence," the official said.

The official further stated that after extracting money, the gang members would block the victims' numbers or change their numbers. "Following the raid on Friday, the crime branch seized 28 laptops, 40 mobile phones, two routers and some documents," the official said. "While the 12 men were taken into custody, the woman was allowed to go after being served a notice to remain present before the police whenever required," the police official added. A case has been registered under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act. Further investigation is underway.



SANT RAVIDAS WILL BLESS ME TO INAUGURATE HIS TEMPLE, SAYS PRIME MINISTER MODI

Modi performs ground-breaking ceremony for the Sant Ravidas Memorial and Art Gallery in Sagar. Sant Shiromani Shri Ravidas was a symbol of social harmony. Kota-Bina double rail line dedicated to people



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Saint Shri Ravidas was a symbol of social harmony. He eradicated social evils and awakened society. India is progressing on the path of liberation from the mental slavery, following the path shown by him. Sagar is experiencing social harmony today. The foundation stone for the Sant Ravidas Memorial and Art Gallery has been laid, which will be grand and divine. A new era of social harmony is beginning in Madhya Pradesh for which he congratulated the Chief Minister Chouhan and the people of the state. Modi said that when it is completed in a year and a half, I will surely come for its inauguration. He was addressing a public gathering after the ground-breaking ceremony of the Sant Shri Ravidas memorial and Art Gallery at Sagar district's Badtuma at Dhaana. The Prime Minister dedicated to people the Kota-Bina double rail line. He also laid the foundation stone for two road projects costing over Rs. 1580 crores. The Prime Minister emphasized that the teachings of Sant Shri

Ravidas Ji will inspire the new generation through this memorial site. The spirit of harmony will prevail here. He praised the efforts of collecting soil from around 20 thousand villages and nearly 300 rivers bringing it to Sagar for this project, saying that this initiative represents social harmony and unity. The Samrasata Yatras concluding today in fact marks the beginning of a new era. Modi further explained that inspiration and progress go hand in hand, leading to beginning of a new era. Madhya Pradesh deserves praise for this. Madhya Pradesh is progressing fast. He said that Sant Shri Ravidas Ji was visionary. He was born in an era when the Mughal rule prevailed, and society was facing injustices. He worked for awakening of the society, fighting against evils, and guiding those entangled in caste distinctions. There were numerous constraints in society. He gave society a courage to fight. Prime Minister said that Sant Ravidas Ji's thoughts are inspiring to eradicate poverty and hunger in contemporary times. During the pandemic, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna



Yojana (PMGKAY) to provide free food to over 80 crore Indians who were vulnerable due to the pandemic. He highlighted that the maximum beneficiaries of the schemes for the welfare of the poor in the country are the socially and economically marginalized, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the downtrodden. He affirmed that the nation stands by them at every step of life, supporting their aspirations. He cited the example of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, which provides financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 to newborns and their mothers. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme ensures free healthcare for newborns and their vaccination. Efforts to control diseases, including sickle cell anemia have been launched. The government aims for a tuberculosis-free India by 2025. Similar work is being carried out to control other diseases that plague the marginalized and impoverished. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana ensures housing for every poor person. The Prime Minister said that the education facilities have been augmented by the establishment of 701 Eklavya Model Schools, provision of

textbooks, mid-day meals for students, and the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for the empowerment of the girl child. Scholarships are provided to economically weaker sections for higher education, and the Mudra Yojana fosters self-reliance among the youth. The Stand-Up India scheme has already provided financial assistance to over 8 crore beneficiaries. The Jan Dhan Yojana is benefiting millions of people. Modi reiterated that every poor person should have a house. For this, housing schemes and free electricity and water connections have been provided. The less fortunate sections of society are now standing on their own feet thanks to these initiatives. The temple of Sant Ravidas will be constructed in Sagar at a cost of Rs 100 crore to be provided by the state government. A Sangrahalay (museum) will also be constructed at the temple premises. Meanwhile, Modi also launched some other development projects in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, including the re-development of the Kota (Rajasthan)-Beena (Madhya Pradesh) railway line.

'Commission controversy': Congress, BJP trade barbs at each other

Bhopal: The alleged 'commission' controversy has also hit poll-bound Madhya Pradesh where both the Congress and BJP have accused each other of taking 'commissions' from the contractors. Congress leader Arun Yadav posted a letter on his social media account claiming that a Gwalior-based contractor has written to Madhya Pradesh High Court and has alleged that after completing the government project, he has been forced to pay 50 per cent commission to reclaim his payment. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who is leading the party's poll campaign in Madhya Pradesh, also wrote a long note on her social media account. "The Union of Contractors in Madhya Pradesh has written a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court complaining that payment is received only after paying 50 per cent commission in the state," read Priyanka's message. She further pointed out that the BJP government in Karnataka used to collect 40 per cent commission and that "In Madhya Pradesh, BJP has gone ahead by breaking its own record of corruption. The people of Karnataka ousted the government with 40 per cent



commission, now the people of Madhya Pradesh will remove the BJP government with 50 per cent commission from power." MP BJP unit Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra and the party's head for MP unit V. D. Sharma attacked Congress saying that the controversial letter is 'fake'. V.D. Sharma warned of action against Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi over her allegations. MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra also

responded to the allegations and accused Congress of playing politics "with a disgusting mentality" without any issue. "This is a conspiracy and BJP will take action for this tweet under cybercrime... She will have to tell from where did she get this letter. You (Priyanka Gandhi) misled not only Madhya Pradesh, but the country on the basis of a fake letter," V. D. Sharma said. "Congress leadership will have to give an answer on this. We will take legal action in this regard."

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted peepal, neem, mahua and kadamba saplings in the garden located in Shyamala Hills. Chief Minister Chouhan along with Manoj Panjwani, Om Prakash Meena, Anshul Gaur and Sonam Baghel planted saplings on her birthday. The family members Sarvshri Sanjay Singh Baghel, Surya Dev Singh Parihar, Anoop Singh, Ashish Bagri, Surendra Singh Rathore, Saurabh Mittal, Rajiv Jain, Upendra Singh Saurav Meena, Himanshu Gupta, Nandani Meena, Hemlata Panjwani were also present.



PRESIDENT MURMU ARRIVES IN BHOPAL

Bhopal: President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Bhopal on Thursday. The President was accorded a warm and heartfelt welcome at the airport. Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed the President by presenting a bouquet. Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra, Urban Administration and Development and Minister in-charge of Bhopal district Bhupendra Singh, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Mayor Malti Rai, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena along with senior officers of Army, Administration and police also welcomed the President at the airport on her arrival in Bhopal.

Kamal Nath hits back at BJP for questioning his religious belief

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday hit back at the ruling BJP, saying worried of losing the assembly polls, the saffron party has started questioning his "religious belief". In a series of tweets, Kamal Nath, the former chief minister, posted in Hindi: "Nowadays BJP people are more concerned about my faith and belief. The BJP leaders are coining new words like election worship and political hypocrisy and boast of breaking the spell of my magic. It suggest that nothing comes in the mind and heart of BJP people except me." "Instead of chanting my name, the government, its representatives and the BJP should chant the name of the people, worship people as in the country, public is 'Janardan'."



"In the interest of the public, the BJP government is requested to break the

spell of inflation, unemployment, corruption, 50 per cent commission and crime against women." Kamal Nath's remarks came days after the state BJP leaders, especially state Home Minister Narottam Mishra and state unit chief V. D. Sharma, launched scathing attack on him, saying that he organised four-day 'Ram Katha' by Bageshwar Dham chief Dharendra Shastri in Chhindwara last week, due to the upcoming elections. The saffron party charged that Kamal Nath becomes Hindu before elections. The BJP leaders alleged that the Congress wanted to cash in on the popularity of the controversial self-styled godman. Kamal Nath always say he had constructed a huge size temple of Lord Hanuman in his home district Chhindwara.

CM CHOUHAN SEEKS BLESSINGS FROM SAINTS IN SAGAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached the memorial site of Saint Shiromani Guru Dev Shri Ravidas Ji in Badtuma, Sagar, today and honored saints with shawls, shreefal and Safa. The Union Social Justice Minister Dr. Veerendra Kumar and Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah were present. The Chief Minister inspected the foundation stone-laying site,



observed the temple's model. A temple, art gallery, and memorial will be constructed on an 11-acre land at a cost of 100 crore rupees. It may be recalled that the Chief Minister had announced the construction of a grand temple here in February. The Chief Minister showered flowers on over 200 saints, presented shawls, safa, and shreefal, and sought their blessings. Saints of the Ravidas tradition expressed gratitude for C.M.'s gesture.

BJP leader Alok Sharma's controversial statement regarding Muslim voters: You will not vote for us, so don't go to vote

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP's State Vice President Alok Sharma has given a controversial statement regarding Muslim voters. Addressing the BJP workers conference in Ratlam's Javra, he said that I want to tell the Muslim brothers of Javra, because you will not vote for us, so don't go to cast your vote. Brother, do this much



friend, it will be yours as well as ours. Sharma further said that Mian, you will not vote for us, but you do believe that the house in which you are living

is built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. After saying this, he also asked to switch off the camera and then started his speech. Addressing the workers, Sharma said that the one who will not support the BJP will have gurgling in his stomach. Everyone started laughing at this statement. He made everyone raise their hands and take a pledge to support the BJP.

I may not have contested LS polls had Arjun Singh not insisted: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday said he had not contested the Lok Sabha election had the former chief minister (late) Arjun Singh not insisted him to contest the election. Kamal Nath said that Arjun Singh told him that he has already spoken to Indra Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi. "He told me I am not seeking your permission just instructing you to get ready to content Lok Sabha election," Kamal Nath said while launching a book titled 'Vindhya Ki Beti: Muhawaro Se Jhalakti Mamta'. The book is dedicated to Arjun Singh's wife Saroj Singh. The programme was organised by Arjun Singh Arjun Singh Sadbhavna Foundation at Bhopal's

Ravindra Bhavan. Kamal Nath recalled the political developments occurred during Arjun Singh's era, including the incident when he was appointed the Punjab governor and Motilal Vohra was appointed Madhya Pradesh chief minister. Kamal Nath also recalled how Arjun Singh's wife Saroj Singh stayed in Chhindwara for three weeks and worked hard to ensure his first Lok Sabha election in 1980. Kamal Nath has been elected nine times as MP from his home district Chhindwara. His son Nakul Nath is the only MP from Madhya Pradesh. The book 'Vindhya Ki Beti: Muhawaro Se Jhalakti Mamta' is collection of more than 150 proverbs in Bagheli dialect (Bagheli is local dialect in part of Vindhya region also called Baghelkhand-

Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Shahdol, Singrauli etc.) Saroj Singh was born in Rewa and lived with her maternal grandmother in Burma. According to her daughter Veena Singh, who is now the head of Arjun Singh Arjun Singh Sadbhavna Foundation, Saroj Singh often used to utter 'Bagheli Muhavras' while speaking to the people at home. "All the proverbs my mother used to say have been mentioned in the book with detailed meaning and explanation. People talk a lot about my father but my mother has played a prominent role. After coming back from Bruma at the age of six or seven, she lived in Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) to live with her Masi (sister of her mother). I therefore, decided to convert the collection of her proverbs into a book," Veena Singh said.

Financial statement table for WE WIN LIMITED showing consolidated financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2023. Includes columns for Particulars, Standalone, and Consolidated results for 30.06.2023 and 31.03.2023.



'Ready to date'

HELEN FLANAGAN IS 'BACK ON THE DATING SCENE AND ENJOYED A CASUAL ROMANCE' A YEAR AFTER SPLITTING FROM HER FIANCÉ SCOTT SINCLAIR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Helen Flanagan is reportedly 'back on the dating

scene' one year after her split from Scott Sinclair despite the fact she is still wearing her engagement ring.

It comes after the former Coronation Street star, 31, admitted that she was an 'absolute psycho' waiting for her ex-fiancé Scott to

propose in a candid chat. According to The Sun, she has been enjoying a string of dates with a secret lover but they soon departed ways. The source said: 'Helen's officially back on the dating scene - she's been seeing someone on/off

for a while but has said they're better off as friends, but she did really like dating him.

'Everything's really casual and she's taking things slow - she doesn't want anything serious.

Helen has continued to wear her

engagement ring despite splitting with Scott but on her right hand instead. The insider said: 'She's actually still wearing her engagement ring because it's just too nice to let go - she wears it on another finger'.



Stephen Amell joins WGA, SAG-AFTRA strikes weeks after criticising them



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Stephen Amell best known for his role in 'Arrow' as the superhero Green Arrow, has joined the picket lines of the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikers just weeks after protesting their stance, as the actor had earlier proceeded to call their strike as very harmful to the industry.

The 'Arrow' star was spotted alongside his wife Cassandra Jean Amell in Manhattan on Friday, holding a picket sign and wearing a SAG-AFTRA Strong T-shirt. The actor had been heavily criticised for his comments against the strikers, as he had labeled it an "ineffective negotiation strategy".

Since then though, Amell seems to have changed his stance, whether due to the high criticism he received or just a change of mind his unknown. As reported by Variety, the actor clarifying his stance said: "I support my union, I do. And I stand with them. I do not support striking. I don't. I think that it is a reductive negotiating tactic," he said.

"I find the entire thing incredibly frustrating. I think the thinking as it pertains to shows - like the show that I'm on that premiered last night - I think it's myopic."

After he criticised the strikes in July, Amell took to Instagram for damage control, writing: "I'm an actor and I was speaking extemporaneously for over an hour. I emot, but I certainly don't think these issues are simple. Our leadership has an incredibly complicated job and I am grateful for all that they do."

"Despite some of my terrible early acting work, I assure you, I'm not a robot. From an intellectual perspective, I understand why we are striking, but that doesn't mean it isn't emotionally frustrating on many levels for all involved."

He concluded by writing: "I'm simply sad that we don't have a chance to celebrate a show that all of us figuratively, and I literally, broke my back for... At least for the foreseeable future, I choose to stand with my union. When you see me on a picket line please don't whip any hard fruit."

But his other 'Arrow' partners were on the opposite end of the spectrum from the very beginning as they had fully supported the strikes, and had actively joined the picketing lines.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Kevin Costner took his daughter to a Taylor Swift concert amid his ongoing bitter divorce with wife Christine Baumgartner. Costner decided to shake off

some of the resulting stress from this divorce by taking his daughter to Swift's concert in LA, which resulted in him receiving a lot of praise for being an awesome dad.

Forgetting his stress, the 'Yellowstone' star danced the night away during a wholesome evening out with his 13-year-old daughter, attending the Eras Tour shows at the SoFi Stadium.

Taking to his Instagram account, Costner captioned: "My videos are blurry, but I had an amazing time with my daughter at the @taylorswift show. He continued: "I was absolutely blown away watching her art bring so many people together."

"I had a great view of her band and had a blast watching them, too. An inspiring night." The actor concluded the post by saying "I'm officially a Swiftie!"

Fans expressed their admiration for the actor for being collected enough to go to a concert, lay back, chill and take it easy while going through such a difficult period in his life. One netizen praising the actor wrote: "This is what we call a Dad win."

Another netizen added: "Oh I took my daughter to her concert too-we still talk about Taylor's performance & how much fun we had! You are creating wonderful father/daughter memories for your daughter!" Another user commended the actor for taking a step like this and his fatherly love: "Love that you took her. That will be a cherished memory for her."

Another user added: "You're an awesome dad!!!"

Why Margot Robbie wanted Gal Gadot in 'Barbie' title role?

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Gal Gadot was considered for the plum role of 'Barbie' in Greta Gerwig's film. In a new interview with Flaunt, Gadot praised Margot Robbie, who played the title role but was also a producer on the film, reports Deadline. "I adore Margot," Gal told the outlet. "Margot is one of those women who you just want to be friends with. She brings so much to the table. I would love to do anything with Margot and was very touched (by her comments)."



"She warmed my heart with everything that she said about me. I'm super excited for them, and I'm so excited for Barbie." Robbie told Vogue back in May that she didn't initially expect to star in the project. But director Greta Gerwig insisted. "She was like, 'No, I really wanna write this for you. And she wrote me an amazing part, so I'm very grateful,'" Robbie related. Why dark-haired Gadot for the quintessential California blonde? "Gal Gadot is Barbie energy," Robbie said. "Because Gal Gadot is so impossibly beautiful, but you don't hate her for being that beautiful because she's so genuinely sincere, and she's so enthusiastically kind, that it's almost dorky. It's like right before being a dork."

LIZZO SLAMS RUMOURS OF SPLIT WITH BOYFRIEND MYKE WRIGHT AMID ONGOING LAWSUIT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Lizzo amid her ongoing controversy for her behaviour and the nefarious lawsuit has denied all rumours of any kind of split with her boyfriend Myke Wright.

However, it was earlier said that their relationship had come to a bitter end, with Lizzo, deleting all traces of her boyfriend from her social media and even unfollowing Myke, who even travelled the world with her on tour.

As reported by Aceshowbiz: "Lizzo has taken the past few weeks very hard and her relationship has suffered," a source told The Sun. "They had a big falling out earlier in the week and she is really upset. Both of them have thought of themselves as soulmates, so it has been really hard on them."

The source at The Sun went on to further say that "those close to them are hoping they will make up." However, Lizzo's reputation as of now been horribly squashed after infamous lawsuit, despite the 'Big Grrl' claiming that the statements are 'falsified' and 'sensationalised'. She had also said that there is not an ounce of truth to them.

Rumors are that there's a trouble in paradise between Lizzo and Myke arrived amid Lizzo's sexual harassment scandal. The Grammy-winning singer was sued by her former backup dancers, Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez. In the suit, they claimed that they faced sexual harassment, as well as religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment, uncouth and inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power among other charges.

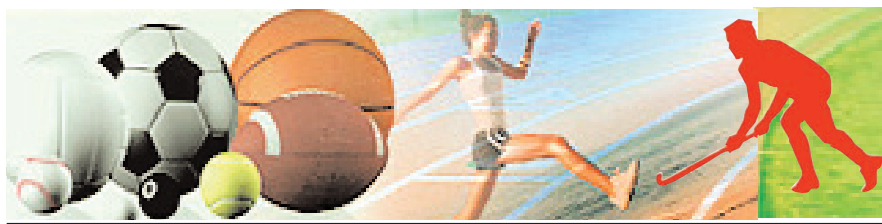
ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Zara Mcdermott



Kevin Costner is an 'awesome dad' as he takes daughter to Taylor Swift concert amid divorce



FIFA Women's World Cup

ENGLAND RALLY TO BEAT COLOMBIA IN QUARTERFINALS

Sydney (Australia) | Agencies

Leicy Santos's stunner for Colombia was not enough, as England fought back for a 2-1 victory here on Saturday, setting up a clash with Australia in the semifinals of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

England had edged past Nigeria on penalties in the Round of 16 and have reached the quarterfinals in all six of their Women's World Cup appearances.

The Lionesses were seeking to reach the semifinals for the third edition in a row, after defeating Canada 2-1 in the quarterfinals in 2015 and winning 3-0 against Norway at this stage in 2019, reports Xinhua.

Having beaten Jamaica 1-0, Colombia reached the Women's World Cup quarterfinals for the first time, becoming just the second South American side to achieve this feat alongside Brazil.

In an open game, both sides created chances, as Linda Caicedo blasted wide after a mazy run, while Rachel Daly headed straight at Catalina Perez before a second attempt went inches over the bar.

The first half culminated with Colombia tipping the balance bril-



liantly, as Santos gathered from Caicedo, before taking a few touches to unleash a curler that went over keeper Mary Earps and dipped into the England net. England got back on level terms on the stroke of half-time, as Perez surprisingly slipped an easy

save out of her hands, allowing Lauren Hemp to bundle the ball over the line. England would now play Australia in Sydney in the semifinals after the tournament co-hosts eliminated France after a thrilling penalty shootout.

AUSTRALIA STUN FRANCE IN PENALTIES TO CLAIM MAIDEN SEMIS SPOT

Brisbane: Courtney Vine scored the decisive penalty as hosts Australia made history in the FIFA Women's World Cup on Saturday by storming into their maiden semifinals, prevailing over France via penalties in a quarter-final clash here.

After holding the European giants goalless in regulation time, the Matildas came out victorious 7-6 in the penalty shoot-out.

Vine converted the decisive penalty in a heart-stopping shootout and clinched a tense and hard-earned victory, thus making the Matildas the first Aussie team, male or female to reach the semifinals of a FIFA World Cup.

Though they were second-best for the bulk of the match, France began brightly and should have moved in front inside 13 minutes, but Maelle Lakrar failed from inside the six-yard box, scooping the ball over from the closest of ranges.



WI v IND

Gill, Jaiswal star as India thrash West Indies by 9 wickets, level series 2-2



Lauderhill | Agencies

India's opening pair of Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal made the mockery of a chase of 179 by acing it with immaculate ease and star in thrashing West Indies by nine wickets in the fourth T20I at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium on Saturday.

After Shimron Hetmyer was breezy in his stroke play to slam a 39-ball 61 and take West Indies to a competitive 178/8 in 20 overs, Gill and Jaiswal absolutely bossed the chase to help India level the series at 2-2, with Sunday's game now a winner-takes-it-all decider.

Though Gill fell for 77 off 47 balls, laced with three fours and five sixes, Jaiswal went on to stay unbeaten on 84 off 51 balls, hitting 11 fours and five sixes, in just his second T20I game as India pulled off the highest successful men's T20I chase at the venue.

Though the pitch looked to have slowed down during the chase, Gill and Jaiswal combined power and timing to hit sizzling shots and find boundaries easily against a listless West Indies bowling line-up in their mammoth 165-run opening stand.

The association of 165 runs between Gill and Jaiswal is

also the joint-highest partnership for the opening wicket for India in men's T20Is, tied with the pair of KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma, who scored their runs against Sri Lanka in December 2017.

Jaiswal was on fire from the word go, pouncing on width from Obed McCoy for a boundary on the first ball and then hammered one past mid-off to end the over with another four. He took the attack to Jason Holder in the third over, smacking three boundaries through the off-side.

Gill joined the boundary-hitting party with his signature short-arm jab going for six off McCoy. Jaiswal continued to deal in fours, driving and scooping off Romario Shepherd. On the other hand, Gill smacked sixes down the ground and via a swivel-pull, before ending the power-play by driving Odean Smith through cover-point for four as India signed off with 66 for no loss.

Despite the field restrictions coming in, India's run rate continued to be healthy as Gill and Jaiswal dealt in boundaries off pacers and spinners, with the opening partnership reaching the century mark.

After recording three single-digit scores in the series, Gill got his fifty in 30 balls

while Jaiswal reached his first half-century in T20Is in 33 balls by shuffling across and lapping over backward square leg for four in the 11th over.

The carnage didn't end as Gill easily flicked Odean Smith for six while Jaiswal reverse-swept Akeal Hosein for a maximum. Jaiswal was more aggressive of the duo, tonking Smith over cow-corner for six before getting a thick edge off McCoy for four and hammering him over long-on for another maximum. Gill again brought the short-arm jab to hit Shepherd for a six, before miscuing a flick to deep mid-wicket, as West Indies broke the 165-run opening partnership.

But it was too little, too late for West Indies as Jaiswal slashed for four more. Tilak Varma fetched four runs via flick before two wides ensured India completed the chase with three overs to spare.

Brief scores

West Indies 178/8 in 20 overs (Shimron Hetmyer 61, Shai Hope 45; Arshdeep Singh 3-38, Kuldeep Yadav 2-26) lost to India 179/1 in 17 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 84 not out, Shubman Gill 77; Romario Shepherd 1-35) by nine wickets

Olympic champs Gong, Liu to lead China for World Athletics Championships

Beijing | Agencies

The Chinese Athletics Association has named a roster of 41 athletes for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary this month.

Gong Lijiao, 34, will be seeking her 3rd world title for women's shot put in her ninth world championships while Liu Shiyang aims for her first world title in the javelin throw, reports Xinhua.

The Olympic champion duo will be joined by teammates including men's long jump reigning champion Wang Jianan, defending champion in women's discus throw Feng Bin and the bronze medalist at Tokyo Liu Hong.

The 2023 World Athletics Championships will feature



49 medal events. More than 2,100 athletes from over 200 teams will compete at Hungary's new National Athletics Centre between August 19-27.

132nd Durand Cup

Nadhakumar's strike helps East Bengal to victory over Mohun Bagan

Kolkata | Agencies

East Bengal (EEB) dished out a performance for the ages, getting the better of archrivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 1-0 in a Group A match of the 132nd Durand Cup game at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK).

The Kolkata Derby is a rivalry for the ages and Saturday's pulsating clash lived up to that reputation.

In front of roaring fans, Nandhakumar Sekar nailed a left-footed pile driver on the hour-mark, to bring to a halt a run of eight consecutive derby losses for the red and golds.

The win takes EEB to four points from two games while



MBSG finish their group engagements with two wins and six points and will await the result of the EEB-Punjab FC game to understand their position in the group which they currently top.

However, East Bengal sprang a surprise by settling down nicely into the game with the best of their chances coming in the 17th minute

when Naorem Mahesh Singh's enterprise inside the box, found Souvik Chakrabarti in space, but his goal attempt was deflected away. The final few minutes were played in blinding rain, but nothing could wash away the joy of the EEB players as their team held on for a famous victory.

Leagues Cup

Messi on target again as Inter Miami reach semifinals

Washington | Agencies

World Cup winner Lionel Messi scored his eighth goal in five matches with Inter Miami as the Florida outfit reached the Leagues Cup semifinals with a 4-0 home win over Charlotte.

Josef Martinez put the hosts ahead with a penalty and Finland international winger Robert Taylor doubled the advantage by sweeping home a first-time effort after Deandre Yedlin's cross on Friday night.

Adilson Malanda gifted Inter Miami their third goal when he turned the ball into his own net before Argentina captain Messi latched onto



Leonardo Campana's cross to side-foot home from the edge of the six-yard box four minutes from time, Xinhua reported.

The result at DRV PNL stadium in Fort Lauderdale means Inter Miami will meet Philadelphia away on Tuesday for a place in the final. In other quarterfinal fix-

tures on Friday, Nashville won 5-0 at home to Minnesota, Philadelphia edged to a 1-0 home win over Queretaro and Monterrey prevailed 3-2 at Los Angeles FC. The Leagues Cup is an annual competition featuring clubs from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Canadian Open

RYBAKINA OUTLASTS KASATKINA IN MARATHON QUARTER-FINALS

Montreal (Canada) | Agencies

No.3 seed Elena Rybakina saved a match point while overcoming No.10 seed Daria Kasatkina in a nearly three-and-a-half-hour long thrilling quarter-finals at the Canadian Open, here.

No.3 seed Elena Rybakina saved one match point during a marathon late-night victory over No.10 seed Daria Kasatkina to reach the Omnium Banque Nationale semifinals.

Rybakina prevailed 5-7, 7-5, 7-6(8) over Kasatkina after 3 hours and 27 minutes of play in their quarterfinal classic on late Friday night. The match ended just five minutes before the clock struck 3:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

On a day where four of the five preceding matches were three-setters which lasted over two



hours, this final match of the day was the lengthiest by far. It currently ranks as one of the 10 longest matches of this season. With this, Rybakina has now won

all four of her WTA 1000 quarter-finals in 2023. She has won 22 matches at WTA 1000 events this year, which leads all players in 2023.

TOMMY PAUL UPSETS ALCARAZ, ENDS 14-MATCH WINNING STREAK

Toronto (Canada): Tommy Paul ended Carlos Alcaraz's 14-match winning streak when he upset the World No. 1 in quarter-finals at the Canadian Open, here.

The American struck the ball cleanly to down the top seed 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and reach his maiden ATP Masters 1000 semi-final on Friday night.

The 26-year-old, who defeated Alcaraz last year in Montreal, displayed all-court coverage and often looked for opportunities to move forward to earn his first win over a World No. 1. The 12th seed won 21 of 23 net points and rushed Alcaraz with aggressive returns throughout the two-hour, 20-minute battle, in which the Spaniard committed 17 unforced forehand errors.

Despite being broken while serving for the opening set at 5-2, Paul stayed focussed to close the set in the ensuing game. Alcaraz grew frustrated with his unforced errors, while the World No. 14 showed smooth transition from defence to offence to reach the last four.

Domestic cricket

Dhruv Shorey moves to Vidarbha from Delhi, Nitish Rana applies for NOC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's top-order batter Dhruv Shorey will be playing for two-time Ranji Trophy winning team Vidarbha in 2023/24 domestic season, confirmed Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) CEO Farokh Dastoor.

Apart from Shorey, left-handed batter Nitish Rana has also applied for the NOC to move from Delhi in the domestic cricket circuit, in what is seen as a huge double blow to the side who has won Ranji Trophy on seven occasions while winning Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed

Mushtaq Ali Trophy once.

In the last domestic season, Shorey scored 859 runs for Delhi while averaging 95.44 in the Ranji Trophy despite the side not qualifying for the knockouts. He was the fourth in the list of the highest run-scorers of the 2022/23 Ranji Trophy season after Karnataka's Mayank Agarwal (990), Saurashtra's Arpit Vasavada (907) and Bengal's Anustup Majumdar (867). Of late, Shorey had been in and out of Delhi's playing eleven in Vijay Hazare Trophy, while his last appearance in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy came way back in 2021.

INDIA MEET BAHRAIN IN INTERNATIONAL FUTSAL DEBUT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

August 12, 2023, is set to be a historic date for Indian futsal as the national men's team will play their first-ever international match -- a friendly against Bahrain at the Khalifa Sports City Hall in Bahrain at 8:30 pm IST.

The Indian squad consisting of 14 players, who have been selected based on their performances in the Futsal Club Championship held earlier this year, landed in the Middle Eastern island nation on Thursday evening. Led by head coach Joshua Vaz, India will take on hosts Bahrain in two friendly



matches on August 12 and 14. The matches are part of India's preparations for their debut in the AFC Futsal Asian

Cup 2024 Qualifiers, which will take place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from October 7-11. India have been clubbed with

Myanmar, Palestine and hosts Tajikistan in Group E.

Vaz and his boys are raring to go and create history on Saturday. "My first thoughts are those of excitement and hunger to go out there and represent our great nation in its first-ever futsal match.

I'm sure my coaching staff and the boys are well prepared and have the same hunger for the match against Bahrain tomorrow," he said on Friday. Bahrain are a mature side in the world of futsal, having first played in the AFC Futsal Championship in 2002. They also qualified for the previous two AFC Futsal Asian Cups in 2018 and 2022.

Hamstring injury rules out Ugandan favorite Kiplimo from World Athletics

Kampala | Agencies

Uganda's long distance star athlete Jacob Kiplimo has been ruled out of the forthcoming World Athletics Championships slated for August 19-27 in Budapest due to his hamstring injury.

"It is unfortunate the doctor told us on Friday that Kiplimo's hamstring injury cannot let him compete in Hungary. We have decided that he is withdrawn," Dominic Otchet, President of the Uganda Athletics Federation (UAF) told Xinhua. Kiplimo together with world champion Joshua Kiprui Cheptegei were



Uganda's medal hopefuls in the 5,000m and 10,000m races. "This is a very unfortunate development because this is a medal missed for Uganda. But we shall focus on the remaining 20 team members who will travel," added Otchet.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian Hip-hop icon and rapper Badshah says he's quite a "simpleton" in real life and people at home keep the reality check in place as no one cares about who he is. Talking about how he is in real life, Badshah told IANS: "In reality, I am just the opposite and quite the simpleton. I'm not bothered about materialism or possessions. In fact at home, everyone keeps the reality check in place, no one cares about who I am. It keeps me grounded!"

How does he perceive the role he has played as a multi-hyphenate in hip-hop's evolution, Badshah said: "Hip hop is a culture that extends beyond the art form and you need to build a foundation that allows the community to grow."

"When you look at icons like Jay-Z, Diddy, Beyonce, Rihanna and 50 Cent, those guys are geniuses who just kept getting better at their hustler ethos. They made something out of nothing."

"That business streak has been in me since I was a child. In school, I was selling comic books and in college, I was selling land."

Badshah has his own idols in the genre of hip-hop too. "Jay Z, Eminem, Drake, Kayne West," he said.

Badshah, who is known for songs like 'Jugnu', 'Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui Hai', 'DJ Wale Babu' and several others, has released his new single titled, 'Gone Girl'.

With the song, the rapper revisits the essence of his quintessential old school commercial



Badshah:
'At home, no one cares about who I am'



'JAILER'
SURPASSES RS 100 CRORE ON OPENING WITH LIFETIME GROSS ESTIMATED TO BE OVER RS 500 CRORE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Superstar Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' is doing wonders at the box office. While early estimates had shown that the film would gross over Rs 25 crore, the movie has surpassed that figure massively earning over Rs 100 crore in just two days, and is expected to gross over Rs 500 crore in its lifetime with the potential to earn more.

Discussing the film's potential, trade Analyst Ramesh Bala told reporter: "The Rs 100 crore opening was not a full out surprise as 'Jailer' was expected to explode in the five Southern states, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Telugu speaking states. Karnataka has also given a good contribution but it is primarily the Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu states."

Talking about the film's expected weekend collection, Ramesh Bala said: "See I am expecting that by the end of Sunday night, the number will reach Rs 275 crore by Monday."

Asked if the Tamil movie will keep this great momentum, he said: "Yes it will, Monday and Tuesday, particularly Tuesday since it's Independence Day. Then I expect it to slow down a bit on Wednesday, but it will pick up its pace again on Thursday and Friday, and keep this momentum for quite a while."

Queried about the reasons behind the movie's great success, he said: "Jailer has a massive market in the South, and even a huge international market in countries such as USA, Canada, Europe, UK, UAE, the Gulf states, Malaysia, Indonesia. Some of the other big markets include places like Hong Kong, China and some other Southeastern countries."

However, another big international market for the Superstar is Japan. About why doesn't Japan factor into the equation there, he said: "That is true, Rajinikanth is a big face in Japan, but the movie has not been released there as of yet. They have a delayed release, and will have limited screenings, but it will do quite well there."

On the film's lifetime collection, he said: "Lifetime collection I am expecting as of now based on the numbers to be around Rs. 500 crore, it could go even further, but how much I cannot say just."

When questioned about if the movie will be as big a hit as movies such as 'Pathaan' or 'RRR' and enter the Rs 1000 crore club, he said: "I doubt it. You see, these movies had appeal throughout the world, whereas 'Jailer' is mostly a Southern audience film with select international markets. These movies also have a level of spectacle with them which 'Jailer' doesn't have. But it does have the potential, so I am not ruling out that possibility."



Diljit Dosanjh-starrer dropped from TIFF line-up

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh's film 'Punjab '95', a potentially incendiary drama that was due to premiere as a gala presentation at the Toronto International Film Festival, has been removed from the line-up. The film is "a compelling story based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala," producer RSVP and the festival described the film as telling the story of Khrala "uncovering murderous corruption during Punjab's period of insurgency" in social media posts, reports Variety. 'Punjab '95' is directed by Honey Trehan who previously made 2020 Netflix thriller 'Raat Akeli Hai'. The cast of 'Punjab '95' includes popular musician and actor Diljit Dosanjh, Bollywood star Arjun Rampal and Suvinder Vicky, known for Cannes title 'The Fourth Direction', Venice selection 'Milestone' and recent Netflix hit series 'Kohrra'. Any mention of the film has been removed from the festival website. The festival had not responded to a request for comment from. In June 1984, the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered an army operation against militants at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, a holy place for Sikhs, that was criticised by many in the community. In October, Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards assassinated her, leading to anti-Sikh riots across northern India. During that time, the police were empowered to detain suspects. Khrala investigated the cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies in the northern Indian state of Punjab.



Daisy Shah, Sharib Hashmi to star in OTT series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Daisy Shah and actor Sharib Hashmi are set to star in the upcoming webseries titled 'The Ghost of Gandhi'.

The story will revolve around a female journalist played by Daisy while Sharib will be playing the role of a social activist.

The upcoming web series which will offer another perspective on Mahatma Gandhi, indulging in historical debate packing a good strong dose of entertainment, which will be coupled with strong social messages.

Other than Daisy and Sharib, the series also stars

Atul Shrivastava, Brijendra Kala and Deepak Kalra.

The series is helmed by writer-director Manish Kishore, who has written films such as 'Kashi In Search of Ganga', 'Raan' and even some episodes of 'C.I.D'.

Manish is also directing Swara Bhaskar's upcoming Film 'Mrs Falani' which is yet to release.

'The Ghost of Gandhi' webseries is produced by Sofia Agarwal, Three Arrows production and Seeta Films.

The teaser of the series will be unveiled on August 14.

40 yrs of timeless satire 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The cult classic 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro'

which was released four decades ago, in 1983, stands as an enduring testament to the power of satire and humour, coupled with social commentary on corruption and media, in the Indian cinema.

Directed by Kundan Shah, and starring an ensemble cast including Naseeruddin Shah, Ravi Baswani, Om Puri, Pankaj Kapur, Satish Shah, late Satish Kaushik, Bhakti Barve and Neena Gupta, the movie was a dark satire on the rampant corruption in Indian politics, bureaucracy, news media and business.

It still remains a timeless classic because of its razor-sharp wit and incisive take on corruption, politics, and societal hypocrisy.

Produced by National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), the film's narrative revolves around the misadventures of two bumbling photographers, Vinod Chopra (played by Naseeruddin), and Sudhir Mishra (played by Ravi). Vinod and Sudhir open a photo studio in the Haji Ali area in Bombay (now Mumbai), and hope to make enough money to keep it running. After a disastrous start, they are given some work by the editor of 'Khabardar', a publication that exposes the scandalous lives of the rich and the famous. They start working with the editor Shobha Sen (played by Bhakti), on a story exposing the dealings between an unscrupulous builder, Tarneja (played by Pankaj Kapur), and corrupt Municipal Commissioner D'Mello (played by Satish Shah).

Naseeruddin and Ravi's impeccable chemistry brings a genuine charm to their characters, allowing the audience to empathise with their plight even in the midst of chaos. The supporting cast, including Om Puri (who plays Ahuja, a corrupt contractor), Pankaj Kapur, Satish Shah, Neena (who plays Priya, Tarneja's secretary) are quirky, eccentric, and embody various archetypes which are prevalent in the Indian society, and contribute to the flick's comedic brilliance with their memorable, relatable and impactful portrayals.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aditi Budhathoki