



MARATHA QUOTAS: CM SHINDE SEEKS TO BUY TIME TILL FEB 2024, JARANGE-PATIL STICKS TO DEC 24 ULTIMATUM

Nagpur | Agencies

In a major announcement, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday said that a special session of the Legislature would be convened in February 2024 where the Maratha reservation will be announced without affecting the quotas of any other community and within the legal framework.



state and society and the natural right for their quotas cannot be ignored for the community's progress, and all the political parties were unanimous on this.

HC asks Delhi govt about safety measures for women, suggests cameras on DTC buses

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the Delhi government to provide information on the feasibility of installing cameras on DTC buses and alert buttons on the driver and conductor's seats to enhance the safety of women.



The bench of Justices Kameswar Rao and Anoop Kumar Mendiratta questioned the government's counsel about the presence of cameras in DTC buses, the installation of push-to-talk buttons on CCTV poles, the preservation duration of CCTV footage, and whether any audit is conducted on the functionality of installed CCTVs.

NewsClick row: Delhi Police seek more time for probe, court posts hearing for Dec 22

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi Police on Tuesday moved an application before a court here seeking more time to complete the investigation in a case lodged under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act regarding allegations that the NewsClick portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda.



ing the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Without the court's permission, the investigating agency would have three months from the arrest to conclude the investigation, after which the accused may have a statutory right to bail.

the matter. Recently, the court had dismissed an application moved by Purkayastha seeking release of his electronic devices seized for probe in the matter.

NO 'SUNBURN' ON DEC 31, SAYS GOA TOURISM MINISTER

Panaji | Agencies

Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte on Tuesday reiterated that 'Sunburn Music Festival' will take place from December 28 to 30 in North Goa and not on the last day of the year.



Khaunte has also refused to grant permission for the music to be played beyond 10 p.m. "We have given provisional approval to organise Sunburn from December 28 to 30. They should stop taking us for granted. They should

not expect that we will dance to their tunes," Khaunte said, adding Sunburn will be held only for three days.

the time from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. He said that the issues have been also discussed with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Sawant had earlier said that if people don't want the 'Sunburn Music Festival' to be held on December 31,

India tops global remittances list for 2023 with \$125 bn inflow

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The inward remittances to India in 2023 increased by 12.3 per cent to \$125 billion from 111.22 billion in 2022, according to the latest data released by the World Bank.



South Asia (7.2 per cent) and East Asia and the Pacific (3 per cent). The main factor behind rising remittances to India was declining inflation and strong labour markets in high-income source countries, which boosted remittances from skilled Indians in the US, UK and Singapore.

contributed to the increase, especially the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which accounts for 18 per cent of India's total remittances, the second-largest after the US.

MINOR BOYS RAPE 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL AT KNIFE-POINT, RECORD ACT

Kalaburagi, (Karnataka): A disturbing incident of two minor boys raping a 10-year-old girl at knife-point and making a video of the act, has been reported from Kalaburagi district on Tuesday.



Excise policy case: ED issues second summon to Kejriwal for Dec 21

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Spelling more troubles for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ahead of his planned 10-day Vipassana session (December 19 to 30), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday asked him to appear before the agency on December 21 in connection with the alleged excise policy scam.



to ensure that I am unable to go for election campaigning in four states. The ED should withdraw the notice immediately," the AAP leader had said.

"Smart India Hackathon" at Poornima Institute, Jaipur

Jaipur | Agencies

In a momentous event for technology enthusiasts and aspiring innovators, Poornima Institute of Engineering and Technology (PIET), Jaipur is hosting two days' grand finale of the "Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023" in the software category.

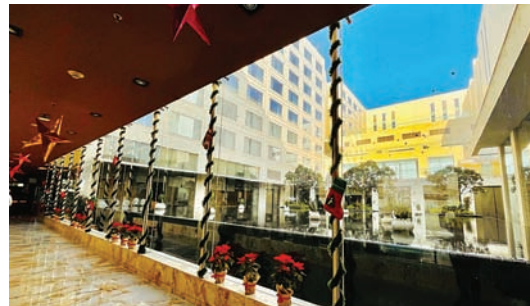


of Education and immediately after the same 36 hours of ecstasy of technology will be showcased by youth travelling from various parts of the Nation. The event will culminate with five winner teams who shall be awarded Rs. one lakh each as prize money.

Discover Christmas and Ring in the New Year in Grandeur at Jaipur Marriott Hotel

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

This festive season, Jaipur Marriott Hotel invites you to immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas and celebrate the dawn of the New Year in opulent style.



the room is booked for the 31st of December 2023) from 20:00hrs to 00:00hrs. On the 30th of December 2023 and the 1st of January 2024, guests can enjoy a buffet dinner at Okra. Dedicated to family fun, the hotel offers a special kids' section with their favorite food and games.

STUDENTS STRIPPED, BEATEN UP BY TEACHER AS PUNISHMENT IN K'TAKA; ACCUSED ARRESTED

Bidar: The Karnataka police arrested a physical education teacher attached to a private school under the POCSO Act on Tuesday for allegedly making the students strip and then beating them.





EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP 'unhappy' with K'taka leaders

The BJP high command is reportedly displeased with the Karnataka BJP unit for not addressing the issue of a horrifying incident in which a mother was paraded on the streets after being stripped naked, according to sources. This incident occurred following the elopement of her son with a local girl when the winter Assembly session was being held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi city. The incident had shocked the state and proved to be a significant embarrassment for the Congress government, as it happened in a place located close to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The BJP high command criticized its state leadership for not raising the issue during the session and for not holding the Congress government accountable for the failure in law and order system and protection of women. Sources state that BJP national President J.P. Nadda criticized the state leadership for not effectively addressing the issue during the state Assembly session. The incident occurred on December 10 when Kamalavva, a resident of Vantamuri village, was dragged outside and stripped naked. She was paraded naked and tied to an electric pole and assaulted after her son eloped with a girl from the village. The family members of the girl, infuriated by this, unleashed terror on the boy's mother. The Karnataka High Court strongly criticized the Congress government for the failure of the police department to prevent the incident. The bench, headed by Chief Justice P.B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, remarked on December 14, "What will be the fear among other women? She will feel unsafe in the country. It did not even happen in Mahabharata. Draupadi had Lord Krishna who came up to help her, but in the modern world, no one came to help her. Unfortunately, this is a world of Duryodhanas and Dushyasanas."

They Call It Marketing!

Vinod Mirani

What we need in the film industry is writers who can turn out a decent script that appeals to all classes of the audience. That has not happened, so the makers have to keep devising new gimmicks to promote a film. Isn't the star power good enough? Really speaking, films never needed marketing because they have a ready and keen viewership and, still, new-generation whizkids try to deviate from the traditional and foolproof promotion strategies and come up with complicated ideas to promote a film that serve no purpose. The recent one is about how the promos or trailers are released on digital platforms before a film's release. As if calling these trailers promos or trailers was not enough, now they are named in a manner that they coincide with a film's theme or title! Oh, yes, they were also called teasers for some time. The trailers of 'Dunki' starring Shah Rukh Khan, for instance, are titled Drop 1, Drop 2 and so on! It seems the film is about illegal migration in countries such as the UK and the US and the activity is described as 'donkey flights' in the North. This is also known as 'kabutarbazi' in some sections. 'Dunki' is yet to release and the connection of naming or ranking the trailers as a series of 'Drops' with the film's story remains unclear so far. The tragedy is that those unaware of this bright idea but searching for promos of 'Dunki' on YouTube will still have to type in the keywords 'Dunki promo'! I don't know who thought of this idea because you may publicise a film, but how will you tell people that when you look for 'Dunki' promos, look for Drop 1 and so on! 'Dunki', though, is not the only one to have people with such grand ideas. There are quite a few other films being promoted this way. I have often mentioned 'bhed chhaal' in the film industry. If one filmmaker does or tries to do something different, others follow him and make it a trend. The 'Jawan' trailer was launched as a Prevue. The 'Pathan' trailer as 'Pathan ka conversation' and Tiger 3 as 'Tiger ka message'; for the 'Dream Girl' trailer the name was 'Pooja ka kiss'. Films such as 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', all followed and dubbed their promos as something or the other. Did it help? The thing is that the number of hits on promos released on YouTube are seen by many more people than those who watch the movie. So, hits on an online promo are not a measure of viewers attracted to the cinemas and, hence, nothing to



gloat about. What worked when there was no Internet and no social media? They relied on street publicity. Posters of varied sizes -- 30"x40" or six sheeters (5'x10') and so on -- were plastered all over the cities. There were no radio jingles yet, forget television. The big attractions in those days, though, were trailers played in the cinemas. These promos were so exciting that people going for a movie made sure they reached in time so as not to miss the trailer of the forthcoming film. They just about summed up an upcoming film in three minutes with onscreen captions such as Drama, Romance, Music, Emotions, Comedy and Action. The prospective viewers instantly decided if they were going to catch that film. The Internet and social media are not devised to spread lies or deceive. What good are these hits on an X post or YouTube promo because it is common knowledge that an army of bots are engaged to produce these hits. What are the cinema chains doing in the name of marketing? On Monday, the fourth day after the release of 'Animal', they took prospective spectators who came to the booking window by surprise when

the admission rates were hiked suddenly and arbitrarily from Rs 150 to Rs 300 out of the blue in a matter of minutes. By the way, the online booking site still claimed that Rs 150 was the rate and the booking chart showed an almost empty house. There were some unhappy people at the booking window and they made sure the video went viral. This was contrary to the normal practice of reducing admission rates on the Monday or Tuesday after a film's release. Now, is this any way of attaining the set target, which nowadays is anything between Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,000 crore? I think it is easier to fake figures on social media like it is done with the figures of all the major films lately, instead of cheating people with ad hoc admission rate hikes. Suppose a young lad had somehow put together Rs 300 for two tickets to take his girlfriend out on a movie date, but comes to the cinema to learn that he cannot afford the revised rates. It would be awkward for him and a real let-down! Now, PVR's newly acquired property at the Jio World Plaza in BKC, Mumbai, boasts of being

India's "first cinema with bar and lounge". So what? Multiplexes have food plazas and, if you order, the snacks are delivered to your seat. And they are located within the cinema lobby. As for the lounge and bar, it is not the same as a food plaza and can't serve alcohol at your seat. It is just another facility attached to the property. Publicising it as a multiplex with a bar is misleading. Airports have bars and lounges, but you cannot carry your drink to the flight. At least not in India. BKC is a purely commercial area with few residential buildings. More residential properties are still in the development stage and the present population of the area would not be more than 80,000. The area gets so deserted post office hours that even transport is hard to find. Being in a commercial area, lounges and bars may still attract patrons who wish to discuss business or unwind over an after-office drink or two! The same cannot be assured for this six-screen multiplex.

international

Military offensive in Gaza to continue: Israeli leaders to US NSA

Tel Aviv | Agencies Israeli leaders have told US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Israel will continue its military offensive in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza Strip, despite the international calls for a ceasefire. Sullivan was in Israel on Thursday for meetings with officials as the US voiced its concerns about the rising civilian casualties in the continued Israeli strikes on Gaza. Speaking to the press alongside Sullivan, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said that the war against Hamas "will require a long period -- it will last more than several months", Xinhua news agency reported.



The two met in the Israeli Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv to discuss the Israeli offensive in Gaza, its border conflict with Lebanon, and dozens of

on Israeli-linked ships as well as Eilat, an Israeli resort city on the shore of the Red Sea, Gallant said that Israel will support "international efforts in countering naval threats and will defend itself against any threat." Later, Sullivan met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thanked the US for its "support for Israel in the supply of munitions, in blocking the attempts at the UN to stop the fighting, and in the assistance in returning our hostages". Sullivan said that Israel has "the support of the United States as you take on this terrorist threat".

I don't think Trump is right person to be President right now: Haley

Washington | Agencies Indian-American Nikki Haley, who has emerged as a strong contender in the Republican presidential primary race, doesn't think her rival Donald Trump is the right person to be President at the moment. During the fourth Republican debate on December 6, Haley, the former South Carolina Governor, did not answer whether Trump is fit to be PPresident, but she told ABC News that it is not about fitness but rather Trump is just not the right person to be President right now. "It's not about fitness. I think he's fit to be President. It's 'Should he be President?' I don't think he should be President. I thought he was the right President at the right time," Haley said in an interview that was aired on Monday. "We've got to look at the issues that we're dealing with, coming forward with new solutions, not focusing on negativity and baggage of the past. So it's not about being fit. It's just I don't think he's the right per-



son to be President," she said. Trump maintains an unprecedented lead over his rivals in both early state and national polls, with 61 per cent of self-identified Republicans saying they would vote for the former President in the state-by-state nominating contest, according to a recent Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll. Haley, who served as Trump's UN ambassador for

his policies, but chaos follows him. Rightly or wrongly, chaos follows him. We can't afford four more years of chaos and survive it," Haley told CNN. However, at the first Republican debate, Haley had indicated that she would support her former boss as their party's nominee for the 2024 race even if he was convicted of a felony. "I'm not going to be 100 per cent with him. I'm not going to be 100 per cent against him. It's not personal for me. This is about what's right for the country," she told ABC. "This is about how we're going to lead. This is about the direction we should go. It's not about the personal thoughts of an individual. It's about the fact that we have a country to save." Haley recently got a big edge in the presidential race with an endorsement from New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu. He called her "the candidate with the momentum to win and get our party back on track to delivering conservative victories across the country".

Indian-origin hotel owners arrested in US for 'hiding' fugitives

New York | Agencies Two Indian-origin hotel owners have been arrested in the US state of Tennessee for allegedly lying to the police about the whereabouts of fugitives whom they hid inside their building. Dakshaben Patel and Harshil Patel, who own the Super 8 and Mountain Inn in Monteagle, were each charged with felony on Wednesday for making false reports to police officers during an investigation on July 18, Fox News reported. The Monteagle Police Department said their officers had been conducting surveil-



lance on the rear of the hotel due to "high drug transition" in the area. They spotted two individuals on the bal-

cony, and identified them as having felony warrants out of Franklin County. Officers chased the wanted suspects on foot and quickly took them into custody. After interrogation, investigators found that the hotel had a "hide out room on the corner of the building" and determined that was where the fugitives had been living, police said. "Both Patel subjects had been advised multiple times about the wanted suspects and had lied to officers about their residence at the hotel," the department said in a release.

Yemen's Houthi militia claims attack on Israel-bound cargo ship in Red Sea

Sanaa | Agencies The Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen has claimed a drone attack on an Israel-bound cargo ship in the Red Sea, amid increasing tensions in the region since the Israel-Hamas war erupted on October 7. "The military operation against the Mersik Gebrlater container vessel that was heading to Israel was precise and caused damage to the ship," Xinhua news agency quoted Houthi military spokesman Yehya Sarea as saying in a statement late Thursday. "The attack came after the ship's crew refused to respond to the call of our naval forces,"



he said. The spokesman claimed that Houthis had successfully prevented the passage of several other Israel-bound foreign ships during the past 48 hours.

Strip," Sarea added. This was the latest in a series of anti-Israel attacks claimed by the Houthis since October 7. On Tuesday, the militia group said they launched a missile at a Norwegian ship loaded with oil that was heading to Israel in the Red Sea. On November 19, the Houthi fighters hijacked a commercial ship, Galaxy Leader, in the Red Sea and brought it to the port city of Hodeidah. The Houthis have been in control of much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah since the Yemeni civil war broke out in late 2014. "Our forces will continue to prevent all ships heading to Israeli ports from navigating in the Arab Sea and the Red Sea unless food and medicine aid be allowed to enter into Gaza

Finland closes border crossing points with Russia again

Helsinki | Agencies The Finnish government announced that it will close the crossing points at its land border with Russia once again, from Friday evening until January 14, 2024. Following an earlier two-week complete closure, Finland on Thursday had opened two southeasterly crossings, reports Xinhua news agency. According to Minister of the Interior Mari Rantanen, the



arrival of asylum seekers resumed immediately, and the phenomenon was accelerating. She told reporters that the situation on the eastern border creates a national security risk. The two crossings that opened on Thursday, Vaalimaa and Niirala, will close on Friday evening at 8 p.m. All land border crossings to Russia will remain closed until January 14, 2024. Finland shares a 1,340 km border with Russia, Europe's longest.



Maha babu's son mows down girlfriend in pre-dawn murderous attack, Thane cops probing

Quaid Najmi | Thane

In a chilling incident, Ashwajit Gaikwad, the son of a top Maharashtra bureaucrat, allegedly mowed down his girlfriend with his SUV in Thane recently, seriously injuring her.

The victim, Priya Umendra Singh, 26, a professional beautician, has narrated her shocking ordeal of the murderous attempt on her life in a social media post on the incident and her injuries.

"Need justice... Culprit Ashwajit Anilkumar Gaikwad, son of Anilkumar Gaikwad, Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation," said Singh on her post.

She also named Ashwajit's friends, Romil Patil, Prasad Patil and Sagar Shelke, all Thane residents, in her post, plus her boyfriend's driver-cum-bodyguard, Shiva.

Singh has tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister Smriti Irani, Shiv Sena-UBT's Aditya Thackeray, in her post with an emotional header: "My boyfriend rammed his car over me and left me dying in pain on the street."

Despite several attempts by IANS, Anilkumar Gaikwad - who was recently elevated as the



MSRDC Vice-Chairman & Managing Director - was not available for comments on the serious allegations against his 34-year-old son, or the incident that happened in the CM's home district.

The alleged incident occurred on Ovala Road in the Ghodbunder area of the district, and Singh has suffered grievous injuries in the stomach, back, arms and her right leg is broken and in a cast.

Singh also detailed how she was allegedly abused by Ashwajit and his friends, how he invited her to the Courtyard Hotel around 3 a.m. on December 11. There, a bitter fight ensued, when Ashwajit assaulted her, and then his friends Romil, Prasad and Shelke also joined in the attack.

As the situation appeared to worsen, she went to take her bag and mobile from the SUV but the youths allegedly attempted to cause her grave harm by first bulldozing the SUV into her back near a divider, then returned and drove it over her right leg, before speeding away in the darkness.

Surprisingly, Shiva, the SUV driver, turned out to be a Good Samaritan, he left them and rushed to help the bleeding and crying Singh, and also informed her family about the assault. Later they alerted the Thane Police on the entire sordid drama.

The prime accused Ashwajit and his friends reportedly warned the woman against involving the police and even boasted that they would use the political clout of the Gaikwad family.

Meanwhile, based on the complaint of Singh - who is in the ICU of Titan Medicity Hospital - the Kasarvadavali police have lodged a complaint against Ashwajit, Shelke, and the Patil duo (said to be linked to a retired police official), but no arrests have been made so far, even as the victim's post went viral on social media.

Given the sensitive nature of the case, top Thane police officials remained incommunicado despite attempts to get their version.

Sonia, Rahul, Kharge to address rally in Nagpur on Dec 28



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi along with incumbent party chief Mallikarjun Kharge will address a rally in Maharashtra's Nagpur city on December 28, on the occasion of the grand old party's foundation day. A senior leader said on Friday.

A meeting of senior Congress leaders in Maharashtra is currently underway here in the presence of All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and senior leader Mukul Wasnik.

The meeting is being attended by Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, former state minister Balasaheb Thorat, Leader of Opposition in the assembly Vijay Wadettiwar, former chief ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan among others. Talking to reporters, Venugopal said, "On the

occasion of Congress's foundation day on December 28, party president Mallikarjun Kharge and its former chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi will address a huge rally in Nagpur."

The winter session of the Maharashtra legislature is currently underway in Nagpur. Meanwhile, opposition INDIA alliance leaders staged a protest near the Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex on Friday, a day after 14 MPs were suspended.

While Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was suspended from the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, 13 opposition MPs, including nine from the Congress and the DMK's Kanimozhi, were suspended from the Lok Sabha.

O'Brien joined the opposition MPs wearing a T-shirt saying he was on a 'silent protest'.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi also joined the protesters in their

demonstration.

The suspended MPs held placards saying they were suspended for speaking up, while the "culprit BJP MP" roamed free. The Congress has been demanding strict action against BJP MP

Pratap Simha who provided the visitor passes to the intruders. The protesting MPs also demanded that their suspensions be revoked. "Suspension and expulsion is nothing new for this government, last week Mahua Moitra got expelled. This week, the BJP MP from Mysore who issued the passes for the intruders is moving freely, and I and my colleagues have been suspended for raising the voice of the people of India, a very genuine demand that the home minister and the prime minister should speak in Parliament," said Hibi Eden, one of the MPs who was suspended from the Lok Sabha.

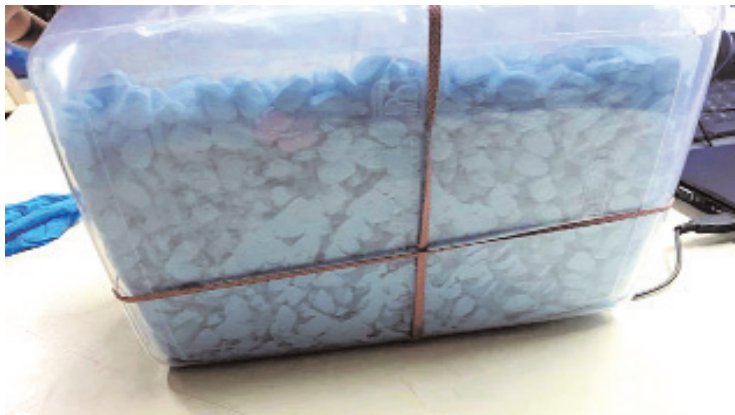
Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day amid opposition protests.

Drugs worth Rs 50,000 crore seized in Maharashtra in recent past: Minister

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The Maharashtra police have seized drugs worth about Rs 50,000 crore in the state in the recent past, said Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in the legislative assembly on Friday. He was replying to a question by Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Ravindra Waikar, who represents the Jogeshwari East constituency in Mumbai.

In a major haul, the Mumbai police recently seized 151 kg of mephedrone worth Rs 300 crore and arrested more than a dozen persons from several cities in an operation that also included a raid



in a factory in MIDC Shinde Gaon in Nashik district. "The police have seized drugs worth Rs 50,000 crore

in the recent past. The police discretely tracked 2,200 small shops (selling drugs) in

Mumbai and removed them to curb the menace of drugs," said Fadnis.

The deputy Chief Minister, however, did not specify the exact period during which the drugs were seized.

"The state government is keeping a watch on chemicals being imported which could be used to make drugs. We have also found that closed factory sites are being used for drug production," Fadnis added.

Following the Rs 300-crore drug bust by the Mumbai police, the opposition and ruling dispensation have targeted each other over key accused Lalit Patil.

'CID' actress accuses mom and brother of assault, lodges complaint with Thane police

Team Absolute | Thane

Television actress Vaishnavi Dhanraj has approached the Kashimira Police Station in Thane, accusing her close family members of allegedly abusing and assaulting her badly at home this morning, officials said on Friday.

She posted a video on social media from outside the police station showing several of her injury marks on the face, lips, right hand and wrist, and desperately appealing for help.

"Hi, this is Vaishnavi Dhanraj. I am talking to K. Himaanshu Shukla. I really need help right now. I am in Kashimira Police Station... And I have been abused by my family, I have been hit really badly. Please... I need everybody's help, right from the media, to the news channels and everybody in the



industry. Please come and support me," she said in her video post.

An official from the Kashimira Police Station confirmed to reporter that the actress has lodged a non-cognisable complaint against her family members this afternoon.

"We have summoned her mother and brother and warned them against indulging in such behaviour at home. Since it's purely a family dispute, we have filed a NC and allowed them to go," said the official.

Later, taking to social media, Shukla expressed his gratitude to the Thane Police, for helping her out in the crisis. Dhanraj, a divorcee, living with her parental family, is noted for her role in the long-running serial "CID" in which she played a cop, and "Laado" among other assignments.

Shreyas Talpade suffers heart attack, undergoes angioplasty

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Film actor Shreyas Talpade, who underwent an angioplasty late last night is in a stable condition and will be discharged in a few days, his wife Deepti said here on Friday.

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming concern and well-wishes following the recent health scare my husband experienced. I'm relieved to update everyone that he is now in stable condition and will be discharged in a few days," said Deepti.

She expressed gratitude to the medical team's expertise, exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time of medical crisis.

She said: "The medical team's exceptional care and timely response have been instrumental during this time, and we are grateful for their expertise.



We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has

been a tremendous source of strength for both of us."

"We kindly request respect for our privacy as he continues his recovery. Your unwavering support has been a tremendous source of strength for both of us," Deepti concluded. Talpade, 47, noted for his roles in films like 'Iqbal', the 'Golmaal' franchise and 'Poster Boys' among many others, had a major health scare when he suffered a heart attack after a grueling shoot. Talpade had been shooting throughout the day, was joking around with the crew on the sets, shot some sequences which had a bit of action, but after going home, he told his wife he was feeling uneasy. She rushed him to the city's Bellevue Hospital in Andheri West, but he collapsed en route but upon reaching the hospital, the medicos took charge. After various tests, Talpade underwent an angioplasty around 10 p.m., and the morning after was on the way to recovery.

Maharashtra govt announces SIT probe into violence in Beed district during Maratha quota stir

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis Friday announced that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be set up in the next two days to probe arson during the Maratha quota stir in Beed.

He was speaking during in the assembly during the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

During the Maratha Quota agitation homes of two Nationalist Congress Party MLAs were torched in Beed district. Fadnis vowed the government will not spare anyone involved in the violence.

The agitation seeking reservation for the Maratha community in jobs and education had turned violent as protesters torched the homes of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs Sandeep Kshirsagar



and Prakash Solanke in Beed, central Maharashtra, in October-end. Solanke's home was also vandalised. Fadnis, who is also the home minister, said

people involved in the incident will be prosecuted. He was responding to the calling attention raised by Kshirsagar whose house in Beed city was torched during the agitation.

Fadnis said, "Actionable evidence is available to prosecute suspects. Although the investigation (launched after the incident) has progressed, I will set up an SIT with the approval of the house."

NCP (Sharad Pawar group) MLA Jayant Patil, a former state home minister, said police could have fired in the air to stop arsonists.

"An accused person's name is Pappu Shinde. Why did the local police not arrest people who have criminal background? At least firing in the air (by the local police) could have deterred some of them (violent protesters)," Patil said.

Fadnis said no one involved in the unlawful act will be spared.

SC grants a 10-day extension, asks Maha Speaker to decide defection pleas in Shiv Sena split by Jan 10

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday granted a 10-day extension to Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar for deciding the pending defection petitions in the Shiv Sena split case.

Earlier, the top court had ordered the Speaker to announce his decision by December 31 on disqualification petitions filed by the two rival factions of the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray and CM Eknath Shinde against each other.

During the hearing, a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud was apprised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Speaker would conclude the proceedings on December 20 and considering the voluminous documents involved in the case, and thus, the deadline may be extended by three weeks. Opposing this, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhu, submitted that similar requests seeking extension of time have been raised by the Speaker in the past.

Thereafter, the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, ordered: "The Speaker has indicated that the proceed-



ings will be closed on December 20 and has sought a reasonable extension of time. Bearing in mind the time limit laid out earlier, we grant extension of time till January 10, 2024 for the Speaker to deliver judgment."

Following the split in the party, both the factions of Shiv Sena filed petitions against each other under the anti-defection law. Later, the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena moved the apex court against delay by the Speaker in deciding the disqualification proceedings filed against Chief Minister Shinde and his camp. Jayant Patil of the NCP-

Sharad Pawar faction also filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the delay by the Speaker in hearing the defection pleas following a split in the NCP.

The top court in October this year directed the Speaker to conclude the hearing in NCP defection petitions by January 31 next year.

Earlier in May, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had directed that the Maharashtra Speaker "must decide disqualification petitions in a reasonable time" against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including Shinde, who were accused of anti-party activities.



Jennifer Lopez, Jenifer Lewis sing together at her & Ben Affleck's holiday party



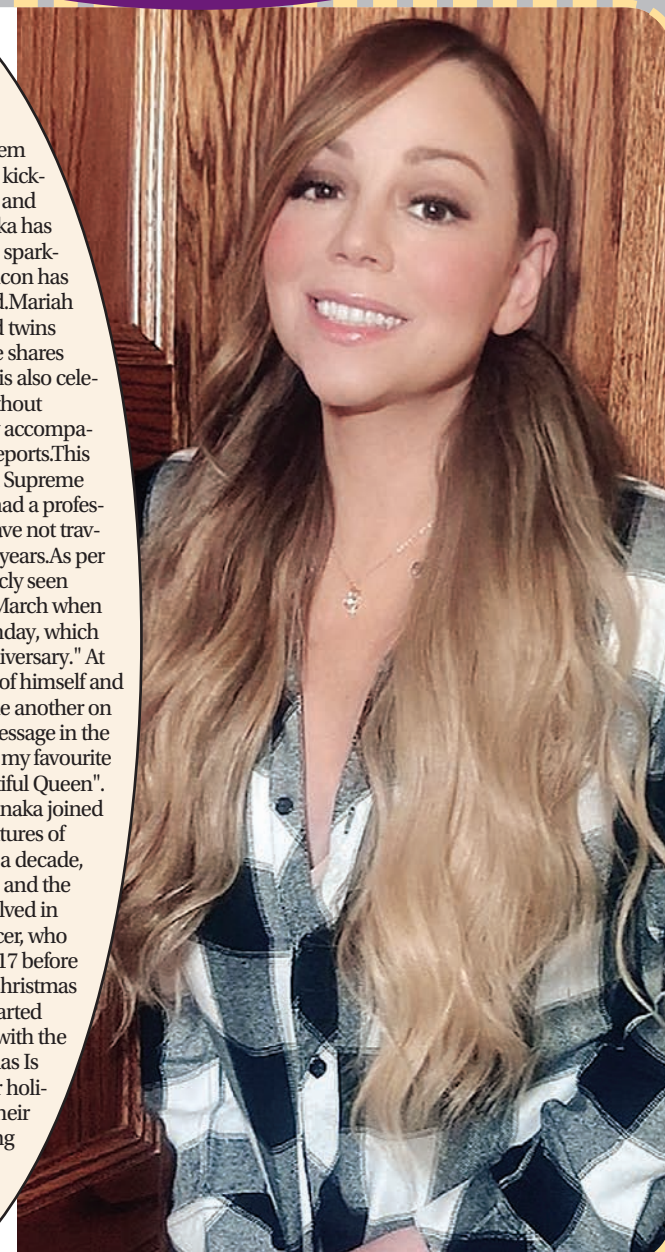
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez treated her holiday party guests with a sweet serenade. The Grammy winner, 54, was joined by party guest Jenifer Lewis for a special rendition of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'.
JLo and her husband, Ben Affleck, threw a star-studded Christmas bash at their home in Los Angeles, with Lewis, 66, Margot Robbie, Michael B. Jordan and Lily Rabe among the many guests in attendance, reports.
During the celebration, Jennifer sang the Christmas classic alongside the 'Hustlers' star. "There was so much love in the room," Lewis wrote on X (formerly known as Twitter) after a video of the performance circulated. "Great party baby girl. Happy Holidays Everybody." As per People, in the video, the two can be seen embracing behind a grand piano and a smaller keyboard. Lopez kept her arms wrapped around the Sister Act actress as the two sang together. "They threw a really fun party," a source said. The insider shared that JLo led the partygoers into singing Christmas carols late into the night. While Lopez and Affleck were meeting with friends separately while also hosting, the source went on to say: "They were both in such good spirits." The house was decorated in holiday decor with a huge Christmas tree at the entrance. "The kids were all there dancing and having a great time, especially the twins and Violet," added the source. This is Affleck and Lopez's second holiday season together after marrying in 2022. They were engaged in 2003 and 2004, and reconnected romantically in 2021.

Mariah Carey, Bryan Tanaka seemingly split after 7 years

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Mariah Carey and Bryan Tanaka seem to have called it quits. Since kicking off her Merry Christmas One and All! tour in mid-November, Tanaka has been absent from Carey's shows, sparking fan speculation that the pop icon has split from her longtime boyfriend. Mariah Carey, who's mom to 12-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe (who she shares with ex-husband Nick Cannon), is also celebrating the holidays in Aspen without Tanaka, 40, who has traditionally accompanied her to the snowy getaway, reports. This marks the first time the Songbird Supreme and creative director, who have had a professional relationship since 2006, have not travelled together for the holidays in years. As per People, the couple was last publicly seen spending time together back in March when the hitmaker celebrated her birthday, which she prefers to refer to as her "anniversary." At the time, Tanaka shared a photo of himself and Carey smiling and embracing one another on Instagram and shared a sweet message in the caption. He wrote: "This is one of my favourite pictures. Ever. Happy Anniversary my Beautiful Queen". The couple first connected in 2006 when Tanaka joined the superstar out on the road on her Adventures of Mimi tour. Then after working together for a decade, the 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' singer and the choreographer became romantically involved in 2016. "The 'Obsessed' singer and the dancer, who briefly broke up for a period in spring 2017 before reuniting, have toured and celebrated Christmas together in some capacity since they started dating. In 2017, Tanaka took the stage with the star during her All I Want for Christmas Is You shows and spent the December holiday with her and her children on their annual Aspen trip. Between hitting the slopes, Carey even took to Instagram to share adorable photos from their festivities together.



CHRISTOPHER NOLAN: 'OPPENHEIMER' IS LITERALLY THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FILM I'VE EVER MADE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Christopher Nolan explains why the Cillian Murphy-starrer 'Oppenheimer' is his most successful film to date.
He also talked about the movie business. The filmmaker struck box office gold with 'Oppenheimer' this year. Nolan is now looking back at the year and giving his take on the cinema landscape as of now.
"I've just made a three-hour film about Robert Oppenheimer, which is R-rated and half in black-and-white - and it made a billion dollars. Of course I think films are doing great," Nola said in an interview with

Empire. "The crazy thing is that it's literally the most successful film I've ever made." He continued: "I've been doing this for 20 years and in the United Kingdom, it's my highest-grossing film. So, I feel great about the state of the movie business based on my own experience. But also based on seeing other movies break out, seeing audiences come back." Nolan is frequently asked to give his opinion on the Hollywood industry. Having directed superhero movies in the past with The Dark Knight trilogy, he is often queried about the reliance on this genre in more recent years versus other types of films. Nolan feels the industry needs a good balance of all types of movies to keep it moving.

JONATHAN MAJORS DROPPED BY MARVEL AFTER FOUND GUILTY IN ASSAULT CASE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jonathan Majors is said to have been fired by Marvel after he was found guilty of harassing and assaulting his ex-girlfriend Grace Jabbari.
The 'Creed III' star, was being lined up as one of the future leading faces of the superhero movie studio, but has reportedly been dropped by bosses after a jury delivered the verdicts on Monday, December 18, reports. It was reported that just after the finding was reached in court that a "source close to the studio" said it had "parted ways with Jonathan Majors," as per Variety.
The actor had been cast to play Kang, the central antagonist in the Multiverse Saga of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
He has been convicted of two misdemeanor counts of harassment and assault of his ex-partner Grace. Majors was also found not guilty of one count of intentional assault in the third degree and one count of aggravated harassment in the second degree. The actor was arrested on March 25 on assault and harassment charges, after Grace accused him of assaulting her in the backseat of a private car after she took his phone to read a text message he had received from another woman. She reported the star forcefully took his phone back from her, causing an "excruciating" injury to her right middle finger. And she said when she got out of the car Majors hit her on the back of her head and then tried to force her back into the car, causing a



cut behind her right ear. Majors denied he assaulted Grace and his defense team alleged she was the aggressor when she took his phone. During the actor's nearly two-week trial, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office released a series of texts between him and Grace, as well as an audio recording that was used as evidence. It included messages in which Majors seemingly attempted to persuade Grace not to go to hospital following a head injury and another in which the actor threatened suicide. In the audio, Majors tells Grace she needs to act like Corretta Scott King and Michelle Obama, because he's "a great man" who is "doing great things, not just for me, but for my culture and the world."

ending, reports aceshowbiz.com.
The host asked: "(Your character) Maggie literally rides off into the sunset with Richard Gere after leaving four other men at the altar. What happens to her?" The actress then replied: "They stay together. He doesn't die in this one. They're going to stay together." Asked about her movie star character from 'Notting Hill', who fell for a bookstore owner played by Hugh Grant, Roberts said: "She's retired. She has six children and has maintained her waist size amazingly. Anna has also traded glamorous film sets for quiet days behind a shop counter." (William) runs the bookshop still and now there's a little knitting annex next to the bookshop that (Anna) runs."

Julia Roberts talks about her idea for 'Pretty Woman' sequel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Julia Roberts believes her 'Pretty Woman' co-star Richard Gere's character Edward died after the end of the film. Roberts in the 1990 film played a prostitute named Vivienne opposite Gere, who essayed a businessman called Edward. He falls in love with her and helps her get off the street. "I think he (Edward) passed away peacefully in his sleep from a heart attack, smiling. And now she runs his business," she said on CBS Mornings.
The actors reunited almost a decade later to film 1999's 'Runaway Bride' and Roberts said the couple in that movie get a happier



Taylor Swift booed by US football fans as she cheers on boyfriend

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Taylor Swift was booed by American football fans as she cheered on boyfriend Travis Kelce.
Swift was booed by New England fans at Sunday's Chiefs vs. Patriots game as she cheered on boyfriend Travis Kelce and she handled the situation. "Gillette Stadium is the most joyful place on Earth" - Taylor Swift, a message on the Jumbotron read, before a wave of boos poured out around the stadium, reports.
In response, Swift, 34, kept it cool by smiling, waving and blowing a kiss to the audience, according to a video shared on X, formerly known as Twitter.
In her Time 2023 Person of the Year interview earlier this month, Swift opened up about the impact she's made on the NFL and the newfound attention as she cheers on Kelce, also 34, at his games.
"I don't know how they know what suite I'm in. There's a camera, like, a half-mile away, and you don't know where it is, and you have no idea when the camera is putting you in the broadcast, so I don't know if I'm being shown 17 times or once," she said. But "I'm just there to support Travis," the 'Blank Space' hitmaker added. "I have no awareness of if I'm being shown too much and pissing off a few dads, Brads and Chads." Her appreciation for the game itself has also evolved since she and Kelce began dating. "Football is awesome, it turns out," Swift said. "I've been missing out my whole life."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lily James



IPL AUCTION 2024: AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN PAT CUMMINS BECOMES MOST EXPENSIVE PLAYER IN IPL HISTORY

Australia World Cup-winning captain Pat Cummins became the most expensive player in Indian Premier League (IPL) history after Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) secured his services for whopping Rs 20.5 crore during the second round of the IPL 2024 mini-auction, here on Tuesday.

Dubai | Agencies

Following an intense bidding battle involving Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad eventually secured the Australian captain for a record-breaking amount. Starting with a base price of Rs. 20.0 crore, Cummins became the center of a bidding war between IPL heavyweights CSK and Mumbai Indians. The fierce battle escalated the bid to 4.8 crore, led by CSK. Soon after, Royal Challengers Bangalore entered the fray with a bid of Rs. 5.00 Cr, joining Chennai and Mumbai in the pursuit. Sunrisers also stepped up, placing a bid at Rs. 8.00 Cr, marking Cummins as the day's first millionaire.

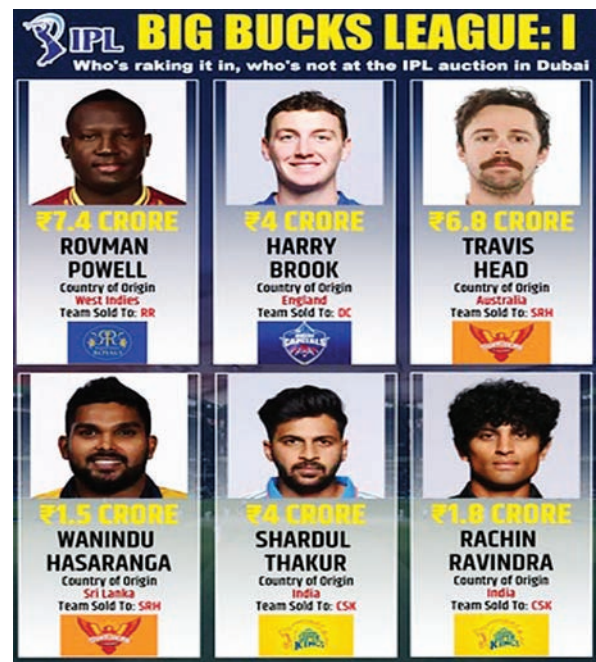


The bidding war intensified between SRH and RCB, with both pushing the bids to Rs. 12.00 Cr. As the bids surpassed the 15-crore mark, the competition heated up, prompting SRH to elevate their offer to 17 crore. Crossing the Rs 18.5 crore mark, Cummins claimed the title of the IPL's priciest player in history, surpassing Sam Curran's record sale of Rs 18.50 crore in the 2023 auction. Yet, the competition remained tight with RCB pushing the bid to Rs. 19.25 Cr. Eventually, SRH surged ahead, reaching Rs. 20 Cr. The bidding war escalated further to Rs. 20.50 Cr, securing Pat Cummins for the team. This marked the inaugural breach of the 20-crore barrier in an IPL auction.

IPL Auction 2024: Rachin Ravindra, Shardul Thakur sold to CSK, Hasaranga joins SRH

Dubai | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings bought New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra for Rs 1.8 Cr as Shardul Thakur comes back to CSK for Rs 4 Cr in the second round of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 mini-auction, here on Tuesday. The Kiwi youngster had a base price of Rs. 50 Lakh. CSK initiated the bidding, with Delhi Capitals stepping in, pushing the price beyond Rs. 1 Crore. Punjab Kings entered at Rs. 1.10 Cr. Eventually, CSK, leading the bid, secured Ravindra for Rs 1.8 crore. The India all-rounder Shardul Thakur came entered the auction with a base price of Rs 2 Crore. Chennai started the bidding, and Sunrisers Hyderabad later joined. Initially, SRH backed out at Rs 3.20 Cr but later re-entered the bid.



Chennai persisted and secured the player for Rs 4.00 Crore. Sri Lanka all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga, who was released by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) this year got signed by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 1.50 crore.

Messi's Inter Miami to meet Newell's in friendly

Washington | Agencies

Inter Miami and Newell's Old Boys will meet in a pre-season soccer friendly in Fort Lauderdale in February, a match that will pit Lionel Messi and Gerardo Martino against their former club. The game will be played at Inter Miami's DRV PNK Stadium in Fort Lauderdale on February 15, both clubs said late on Monday, reports. "I'm delighted to be able to welcome my beloved Newell's to our home in Miami," said Inter Miami manager Martino, who made a club record 505 first-team appearances with the Argentine outfit in the 1980s and 90s. He added: "It will be a special game because of everything that Newell's Old Boys means to me. It will also be a good opportunity to prepare for what is sure to be an exciting season." Inter Miami said tickets for the match would go on sale on Tuesday. In a separate statement, Newell's described the fixture as "unique" and "full of history", adding that it would connect to the football roots of Messi and Martino. Messi joined Inter Miami on a free transfer in July after parting ways with Paris Saint-Germain. He scored 11



goals in 14 games during his first season with the Herons, helping them win the 2023 Leagues Cup, the club's first ever trophy.

Maharashtra, AAI crown champions at Badminton Senior National Team Championships

Guwahati | Agencies

Maharashtra and Airport Authority of India (AAI) stamped their authority with power-packed performances to clinch the women's and men's team titles respectively in the 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championships 2023 at the RG Baruah Sports Complex, here on Tuesday. The prestigious national championships, organised by the Badminton Association of India (BAI), are being held in Assam after four years. The dominant AAI team appeared in both the men's and women's team finals and managed to clinch the title in the former category as they outclassed Karnataka 3-0. Tharun Manneppalli started AAI's challenge aggressively in the final when he thrashed Bhargav Somasundara 21-18, 21-18 in the opening singles match. Mainsam Meiraba then doubled the lead with a 22-20, 16-21, 21-11 win against Raghu Mariswamy in the second singles



contest which lasted nearly an hour. Later, the men's doubles duo of Alap Mishra-Ravikrishna finished things off in style for AAI as they defeated Prakash Raj-Ashith Surya 21-11, 16-21, 21-19. Meanwhile, in the women's team event final, Maharashtra dominated

AAI 3-0 with impressive displays from Shruti Mundada, Alisha Naik and the doubles pair of Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker. Mundada started the day for Maharashtra with a hard-fought win 23-21, 23-25, 21-18 over Tanya Hemant in the opening singles match that lasted for an hour and 23 minutes. The second match also saw an intense battle but Naik recovered well in time after losing the second set to secure a 21-18, 12-21, 21-19 victory against Mansi Singh. Singhi and Thaker then took just 42 minutes to ensure Maharashtra's position on top of the podium when the duo beat Tanya Hemant and Priya Devi Konjengbam comfortably with scores of 21-14, 21-18. The individual events will kick off on Wednesday with star shuttlers like BWF World champions bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, experienced Sameer Verma, Aakarshi Kashyap, and home favourite Ashmita Chaliha among many more vying for the coveted titles. Finals will be played on Sunday.

National shooting: Ramita, Swapnil, Anish win in national rifle/pistol trials

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's international shooters Ramita Jindal, Swapnil Kusale and Anish Bhanwala, emerged triumphant on day two of the national rifle/pistol selection trials 1, currently underway at the Karni Singh Shooting range. Ramita won the women's 10m air rifle trial 1 in a close encounter with Haryana state-mate Nancy. Paris quota-winner Anish, was a class apart in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP), while over at the only final to be played at the 50m range, Swapnil, yet another Paris quota-winner, halted a Haryana sweep, registering a facile win in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event. Ramita was behind in the qualifications to both Nancy, who topped with a sizzling 634.9 and third-placed Swarnali Roy of West Bengal. Her 630.4 placed her fourth, but she



was solid throughout the final, only losing the lead by 0.1 once to a late surge from Nancy after the 20th shot. That extended to 0.3 after the 22nd, but two solid 10.8 and 10.6 to close out, meant she clinched it by 0.5 in the end. There was no stopping Anish in the men's RFP however. After shooting a solid 588 over two days of qualifications to top it, he began Tuesday's final with four hits in the first of eight series of five rapid-fire shots in the final. That put him in joint lead with Uttar Pradesh's Ankur Goel.

None of the other five finalists including Olympian Gurpreet Singh, was able to match his consistency though as the ISSF World Cup Final bronze medallist, rolled out a couple more fours and two perfect fives to take the match with a score of 31. Gurmeet of the Army, was way behind with 25, while Ankur was third with 21 hits. In the men's 50m rifle 3 positions, Swapnil representing the Railways, made light work of a finals field which included Olympian Deepak Kumar, India international Niraj Kumar and Khelo India Youth Games Champion Adriyan Karmakar, among others. His final score of 463.0, was a huge 3.5 ahead of second-placed Nikhil Tanwar of Gujarat. Niraj of the Navy came third while Adriyan was fourth. Swapnil had earlier also topped the qualifications with a huge margin of four points, posting a score of 593.

IPL 2024 Auction: RR get Rovman Powell for Rs 7.4 crore, Travis Head bags 6.8 Cr deal with SRH

Dubai | Agencies

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 2024 mini-auction began a bidding war between Rajasthan Royal (RR) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), acquiring the services of West Indies batter Rovman Powell here on Tuesday. In the first set of the auction that features capped batters, first player up for grabs is West Indies T20I captain Rovman Powell with a base price of 1 crore. KKR opened the bidding for Powell as RR jumped in the fray and both the franchises engaged in a paddle war before the former bagged the services of the Windies batter for Rs 7.4 crore in the opening round. Powell, who also captained Barbados Royals in the CPL was later sold to by Rajasthan for Rs 7.4 crore, spending almost spent half of the pure money left for auction, out of 14.50 cr. ICC Men's ODI World Cup final hero Australian batter Travis Head, who entered the auction with a base price of Rs 2 crore sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 6.80 crore after an intense bidding war with Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Head has been part of DC and RCB in the past. On the other hand, England



batter Harry Brook with base price of Rs 2 crore sold to Delhi Capitals for 4 crore. South Africa Rilee Rossouw, India's Karun Nair and Manish Pandey along with former Australian captain Steve Smith remained unsold in the first set.

2nd ODI: India stumble to 211 despite Sudharsan, KL Rahul fifties against South Africa

Gqeberha (South Africa) | Agencies

B Sai Sudharsan struck his second successive half-century and skipper KL Rahul scored a fifty but India lost steam in the middle and were bowled out a poor 211 in 46.2 overs against South Africa in the second One-day International here on Tuesday. Sai Sudharsan scored 62 off 83 balls, hitting seven fours and a six, while Rahul contributed 56, coming off 64 deliveries and studded with seven boundaries, the rest of the batters failed to stay at the crease for long after South Africa won the toss and elected to field first. Raturaj Gaikwad (4) was the first to go, getting out off



the second delivery of the match, trapping lbw as the ball swung in past the inside edge to hit the pad in line. Gaikwad reviewed the decision but could not reverse the decision. From 4/1, India were down to 46/2 as Tilak Varma fell to a superb Nandre Burger bouncer, that cramped the batter and was caught at field leg. Sai Sudharsan and KL Rahul raised 68 runs for the third

wicket, with the former completing his half-century off 65 balls, hitting six fours and a six, in the process. For South Africa, left-arm pacer Nandre Burger 3-30 while another leftie Beuran Hendricks claimed 2-34. Spinner Keshav Maharaj claimed 2-50 as South Africa came up with a fine bowling display after their batters had failed to fire in a massive eight-wicket defeat to India in the opening ODI of the three-match series.

Brief scores

India 211 all out in 46.2 overs (B Sai Sudharsan 62, K.L Rahul 56; Nandre Burger 3-30, Beuran Hendricks 2-34, Keshav Maharaj 2-51) against South Africa.

Rakshith Dave bags creditable second in Malaysian SBK Championship debut

Sepang | Agencies

Indian teenager Rakshith Dave bagged two podium places in the third and final round to clinch a creditable runners-up spot, in his debut season, in the Malaysian Superbike Championship 2023, which concluded here at the Sepang International Circuit. Rakshith, who made his international debut in Round 1 with a stunning double victory in his class went on to bag the second place in the highly-competitive Championship in Malaysia. In Round 3, Rakshith won two podiums, a second and a third place in the MSBK 250 B Race category but had to be content with the second in the overall standings of his class for



the championship. In the in the 8-lap Race 1, he timed 20min, 53.558sec and later clocked 20:41.903 for a second place in Race 2. Earlier, astride a Honda CBR250RR, Rakshith won both the Round 1 races in his class in the Malaysia SBK 250cc category (B

category), at the famed MotoGP circuit, the Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur. Rakshith bagged the "Week-end Warrior Trophy" in the first round. Chennai's Rakshith, 15, a Class X student of Lady Andal, said: "I am very happy to take a second place in the prestigious Malaysian Super Bike Championship. I am really elated and this gives me a push to continue my dreams. I thank my family, my team and crew who have worked really hard for this season and I hope to launch a new and better season soon." Rakshith made his debut at the Madras International circuit in 2020 after he was selected for the Honda India Talent Cup and took a podium in his very first race. In the next two years, he scored many victories and podiums and graduated to NSF 250 class and went on to take part in the inaugural MiniGP India series in 2022. In 2023, he not only won the second place in the Idemitsu Honda 2023 Championship but also won the overall title in the teenage class of the MMSC Sprint Rally.



BIG B JOINS ISPL AS THE OWNER OF MUMBAI TEAM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was most recently seen in the Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon-starrer 'Ganapath: A Hero is Born', has now become the owner of Mumbai team in the first edition of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

The senior actor took to his social media to announce his association with the league. Sharing a picture of himself alongside Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, he wrote in the caption, "What an exciting and most noble, filled with

courage and care, concept, the initiation of the ISPL - the Street Premier league."

"An opportunity for them that exhibited their capacity on the streets, gullies and make shift home made pitches to play cricket, now to get selected for a team professionally and exhibit their talent in formal setups before the millions the world over. For me an honour and a privilege to be with Mumbai as Team Owner, and to be privy to the surge of talent erupt, for a grand visionary future (sic)," he added. The ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament that will be played inside a stadium. It will feature 19 matches, with a line-up of six

teams - Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar. Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar owns the Srinagar team in the league.



ARSHAD WARSI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF 'MUNNABHAI MBBS', SHARES INCIDENT FROM RECENT SHOOT WITH SANJU BABA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Arshad Warsi, who recently narrated the streaming series 'Choonaa', is celebrating 20 years of his iconic film 'Munna Bhai MBBS'. The actor shared a recent incident when he and Sanjay Dutt shot for a project and the whole unit was just in awe of them as they donned their iconic costumes of Munna and Circuit.

Arshad's character of Circuit has become a cult over the years and sets the biggest example of friendship goals as his chemistry with Munna is the stuff of legends. One could even feel a void when Munna and Circuit have a misunderstanding in 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai', and the scene where Munna reluctantly says sorry to Circuit brings tears in everyone's eyes.

Walking down the memory lane, Arshad said: "I cannot believe it has been 2 decades. Circuit is a very special character for me, it is very close to my heart." The actor also took to his Instagram to share an image from 'Munna Bhai MBBS' as he wrote in the caption, "20 years, wow, seems like yesterday... I thank you all for loving Munna & Circuit so much."

He even shared an incident: "After many years we went back on the sets of a project and it was shocking, the whole unit could not believe it, they wanted to take pictures with us because we were in our costumes as Munna and Circuit."

"It was flattering to see the new young generation and the old ones identify with us and take pictures. Guess, that's the magic this movie has created," he added.



KJo was 'traumatised' by Amrith Puri on the sets of 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood producer-director Karan Johar, who hosts the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan', shared that he was "traumatised" by the late actor Amrith Puri while working on the iconic film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'.

KJo worked as an assistant director on the Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol-starrer 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', and he was intimidated by Amrith Puri as the latter was very particular about detailing of the scenes.

The upcoming episode of the streaming show will see Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn and director Rohit Shetty gracing the couch.

During the course of the episode, Karan reminisced about the old times, as he said: "I have to tell you, my father and Amrith ji (Amrith Puri) come from the same village, so the first per-

son my father told me whose feet I had to touch was Amrith ji's."

Ajay Devgn said: "The only person whose feet I have touched is also Amrith ji because the first shot I took with him, I touched his feet."

Karan added: "So I used to be very scared of him. When I was an AD on 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', he was particular about detailing, he would come and say ki time kya hai? I gave the time of what the time was, I thought he was asking me the time. He said, London mein time kya hai? scene ka time kya hai? Taaki mein ghadi ko uss time mein set karu. About the continuity, he said, shawl kis tarah mein drape karun, I used to be traumatised by him. He was such a wonderful man." Talking about Amrith Puri, Ajay Devgn said: "They used to say, and it is a fact, that kisi ke ghar pe shaadi ho, kisi ke ghar pe koi death ho jaaye, he was the first man to be there."

AKSHAY KUMAR'S 'MISSION RANIGANJ' GETS NUMBER ONE SPOT AS MOST WATCHED FILM GLOBALLY THIS WEEK



Mumbai: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar's disaster-thriller film 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue', directed by Tinnu Suresh Desai, has got the global top position on Netflix.

The film is produced by Pooja Entertainment known for their commercial blockbusters at the box-office. It has claimed the number one spot in the globally most watched films segment on Netflix With an astonishing 5,700,000 hours viewed and a whopping 2,500,000 views. Talking about the same, actor Jacky Bhagnani said: "This film is a celebration of real-life heroism. Jaswant Singh Gill's courageous rescue mission story was waiting to be told. We at Pooja Entertainment, put all our creative might behind it to make this story come to life." The film is the retelling of the Raniganj coalfields collapse of 1989 in West Bengal, the film also stars Parineeti Chopra. The film is based on Jaswant Singh Gill, a brave and diligent mining engineer from IIT Dhanbad who rescued 65 trapped miners at the Raniganj Coalfields in 1989. Jacky added: "We are thrilled that the film continues to conquer the hearts and screens of audiences across the world. Its magnetic pull is a reminder that a great tale about heroism told well has universal appeal."

SONAM KAPOOR: BELIEVES WHATEVER IS MADE IN INDIA HAS GREAT VALUE

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor said that the West has finally realised how India can now contribute to fashion globally and she is proud to represent our country and its craftsmanship to the world.

Sonam, who was also the only Indian actor at the coronation ceremony of King Charles III, said: "I think the West didn't understand the power of our impact in this part of the world before."

"We are developing nations, but that is slowly changing, and we, as people here, have our voices as individuals and spending power as clients, making it difficult to be ignored anymore. Whenever I am at an international event, I make sure to wear from an Indian or South Asian designer."

She added: "Whenever represent India, I represent the diversity, resilience, and coexistence that the country enjoys."

Sonam strongly believes whatever is made in India has great value.

"The fact that we have such a strong cultural heritage and ancient civilisation means that whatever is made in India has great value. It's a multicultural place where people from many faiths live together in harmony, and representing that is of utmost importance."

She said: "Besides being the land of yoga and spiritualism, for which India is renowned in other parts of the world, it is also celebrated for its music and artisanal craftsmanship, the realms of jewellery and embroidery." Most notably, numerous haute couture and luxury houses have their clothing intricately embroidered in India."



Randeep Hooda hilarious birthday wish for wife Lin Laishram: 'Didn't have to run away'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Randeep Hooda, who recently tied the nuptial knot with Lin Laishram, shared a sweet message for his wife on the occasion of her birthday on Tuesday.

The actor took to his Instagram and shared heart-warming pictures of himself in the company of his wife.

In the 1st picture, he can be seen sitting on a bike with his wife. The second picture is from their reception. He wrote in the caption, "Phew, didn't

have to run away. From the highway to this way.. Happy Birthday. On a serious note, Didn't know then that life will change so much and that too for the better. I'm just grateful to you being in my life and giving it the steadiness and calmness it needed. Love always." The couple got married in a traditional Meitei ceremony in the presence of family members and a few friends on November 29 at Imphal.

Meanwhile, on the work front both Randeep and Lin are busy with their professional commitments.



Sonal Chauhan