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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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MASSIVE DATA BREACH REVEALS 26BN RECORDS FROM LINKEDIN, SNAP, X, MORE: REPORT

Cybersecurity researchers have warned that a database containing over 26 billion leaked data records has been discovered, which include users' data from LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), Snapchat, Weibo, Tencent, and other major platforms.

- ▶ AS PER THE REPORT, TENCENT QQ, A **CHINESE INSTANT MESSAGING APP, HAS** THE MOST RECORDS -- 1.4 BILLION.
- **▶ THERE ARE, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RECORDS ON** WEIBO (504 MILLION), MYSPACE (360 **MILLION), TWITTER (281 MILLION), DEEZER (258 MILLION), LINKEDIN (251** MILLION), ADULTFRIENDFINDER (220 MILLION), ADOBE (153 MILLION), CANVA (143 MILLION), VK (101 MILLION), DAILY **MOTION (86 MILLION), DROPBOX (69** MILLION), TELEGRAM (41 MILLION), AND **MANY MORE.**

Team Absolute New Delhi

he researchers referred to this massive data leak as the 'Mother of All Breaches' (MOAB), saying it was the biggest data leak found to date.

This data leak, which contains 12-terabytes (TB) of information, was discovered by security researchers from Security Discovery and Cybernews.

The researchers claimed that while the majority of the data in the stolen dataset comes from previous data breaches, it most likely contains previously unpublished new material as well.

The leaked data includes more than just login credentials. Much of the leaked data is 'sensitive', making it 'valuable for malicious actors', according to the report.

There are 3,800 files in the MOAB that hold 26 billion records total, with each folder rep-



resenting a different data breach.

"The dataset is extremely dangerous as

threat actors could leverage the aggregated data for a wide range of attacks, including identity theft, sophisticated phishing schemes, targeted cyberattacks, and unauthorised access to personal and sensitive accounts," the researchers said.

"We are working to fully investigate these claims and we have seen no evidence that LinkedIn's systems were breached," LinkedIn said in a statement. In addition, the leak includes records of various government organisations in the US, Brazil, Germany, Philippines, Turkey, and other countries.

"If users use the same passwords for their Netflix account as they do for their Gmail account, attackers can use this to pivot towards other, more sensitive accounts. Apart from that, users whose data has been included in supermassive MOAB may become victims of spear-phishing attacks or receive high levels of spam emails," the researchers stated.

Differences surfaces in INDIA bloc as

TMC, APP SNUBS CONGRESS



Kolkata Agencies

aking the intention clear again for Trinamool Congress to contest alone in West Bengal in the Lok Sabha polls this year, party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that she has made up her mind on these lines since Congress leadership rejected all her proposal in the grand opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc.

Speaking to the media persons before attending an administrative review meeting at Burdwan, the Chief Minister also launched a scathing attack against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly not informing her about his schedule of Nyay Yatra

in West Bengal. "For the sake of alliance, I could have been informed about the schedule of Nyay Yatra in West Bengal. But I was informed nothing," the chief minister said.

She said that she gave a proposal to Congress to contest from 300 seats while leaving the rest for the other regional parties. "Now we the regional parties will take further decisions only after the Lok Sabha polls are over. The regional parties will remain

united," she said.

Recent hints regarding going alone in West Bengal was given by the Chief Minister at an administration review meeting of the party on January 19 at an organizational meeting of Trinamool Congress when she said that her party is ready to field candidates from all the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state if not taken seriously in the opposition I.N.D.I.A.

NO ALLIANCE WITH CONGRESS IN PUNJAB: MANN

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) would go alone is the next Lok Sabha elections and would contest on all 13 seats in the state with no alliance with the Congress.Predicting a clean sweep, Mann said, "It's going to be 13-0 in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. AAP is poised to secure victory in all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab and would emerge as the hero in the country.'

also contest alone on the lone seat Chandigarh.'

He was categorically clear in saying that there would be no alliance with the Congress in the state. On being asked about the party's alliance with the Congress for the Chandigarh mayoral poll, Mann, without mincing words, told the media here, "The party would

MAMATA BANERJEE **SUSTAINS INJURY** AFTER HER VEHICLE **BRAKES SUDDENLY**

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Wednesday afternoon suffered a minor injury on her forehead when the driver of the car she was travelling in slammed the brakes suddenly.The incident took place while Mamata Banerjee was returning to Kolkata after an administrative eview meeting at Burdwar

Sources aware of the development said when the driver slammed the brakes of the car suddenly the Chief Minister's head hit the back of the drivers' seat. However, the injury was minor and the Chief Minister returned to Kolkata by the same vehicle.Meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee did not rule out "sabotage". The Chief Minister suffered a minor injury on her forehead in the incident.

How can you not accept Parliament amendment, SC asks Centre in AMU minority status case

Team Absolute New Delhi

The Chief Justice of India (CJI), DY Chandrachud, on Wednesday expressed surprise over the Centre's stand that it does not accept the 1981 amendment inserted by the Parliament to confer minority status on the Aligarh Muslim University

Presiding over a sevenjudge Constitution Bench hearing a clutch of pleas concerning the minority status of the AMU, the CJI stressed that the "Parliament is an eternal and indestructible body under the Indian Union.'

"How can you not accept an amendment by the Parliament?" the CJI asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the second-highest law officer of the Co

"Parliament is an eternal and indestructible body under the Indian Union irrespective of which government represents the cause of the Union of India. I cannot hear the government of India saying that it does not stand with the amendment made by Parliament. You will have to stand by this (1981) amendment," the CJI



The law officer said that he does not abide by what the al questions" before a sevenjudge Constitution Bench.

Further he said, "As a law officer, it is my right as well as my duty to say that the view taken by the Allahabad High Court declaring the amendment in question as unconstitutional is correct.'

To this, CJI Chandrachud said, "This will be radical because a law officer would be then telling us that he

ought to stand by what the Parliament has done.'

Mehta submitted that he was supporting the 2006 view taken by the High Court. "How can you say that I do not accept the validity of an amendment?" the CJI asked

Responding to the query, Mehta said, "It is not my stand. There is an affidavit filed by the government."

Myanmar Army flies back remaining 92 soldiers from Mizoram

Aizawl Agencies

vanmar Army authorities on Nednesdav took back their remaining 92 soldiers, a day after Myanmarese Air Force aircraft, which came to Mizoram to evacuate them, skidded off the tabletop runway of the Lengpui airport here, injuring eight of the 14 crew members.

Officials said that an ATR aircraft of Myanmar Air Force, in two sorties, evacuated the



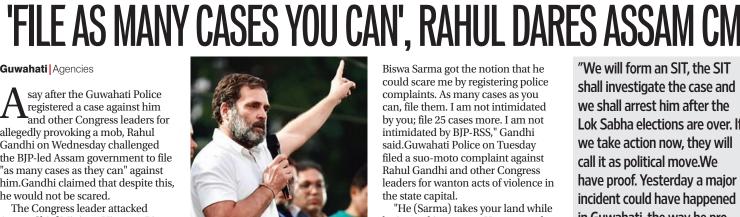
92 Myanmar soldiers and 14 crew members of Tuesday's plane. "All necessary formalities including collection of biometric details of the Myanmar military personnel have been conducted. Necessary medical support was also given to the soldiers

and the eight injured crew members," an official said. The 276 Myanmar Army personnel took refuge in Mizoram's Lawngtlai district on January 17 after their camps were captured by the Arakan Army militants. The Myanmar soldiers, with their arms and ammunition, reached Bandukbanga village situated on the Mizoram-Myanmar-Bangladesh border trijunction, in Lawngtlai and were taken to Assam Rifles' Parva camp in the district.

say after the Guwahati Police registered a case against him and other Congress leaders for allegedly provoking a mob, Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday challenged the BJP-led Assam government to file "as many cases as they can" against him. Gandhi claimed that despite this, he would not be scared.

The Congress leader attacked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at his first public address on the seventh day of Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the Barpeta district.

He called Sarma the "most corrupt



"I have no idea where Himanta

CM" of the nation and brought up a number of accusations pertaining to land and betel nut business.

Biswa Sarma got the notion that he could scare me by registering police complaints. As many cases as you can, file them. I am not intimidated by you; file 25 cases more. I am not intimidated by BJP-RSS," Gandhi said.Guwahati Police on Tuesday filed a suo-moto complaint against Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders for wanton acts of violence in the state capital.

"He (Sarma) takes your land while he is speaking to you. He corners the supari business while you're chewing betel nuts. He has also taken land in Kaziranga National Park," Rahul Gandhi claimed.

"We will form an SIT, the SIT shall investigate the case and we shall arrest him after the Lok Sabha elections are over. If we take action now, they will call it as political move.We have proof. Yesterday a major incident could have happened in Guwahati, the way he provoked people."

Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM,

MAHA ATS NABS MAN WITH LINKS TO GLOBAL TERROR OUTFIT ISIS

Nashik: The Maharashtra Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) swooped down on a person allegedly having links with the banned global terrorist organization ISIS, officials said here on Wednesday. The Maharashtra ATS said that the arrested accused was in continuous touch with the ISIS, showed signs of radicalisation in recent years and provided funds to the foreign terror

The ATS said that during the raids, it recovered electronic devices like mobile phones, laptops, pen-drives and some incriminating documents from the premises of the accused. They added that several of his associates were also under the radar and were being probed in other states across the country. The accused was produced before a Special Court which has remanded him to police custody till January 31, and further investigations are underway, said the ATS.

CM, ministers, MLAs, MPs jointly assure Manipur body to take up issues with Centre

Imphal | Agencies

n a latest development in Manipur, 37 MLAs belonging to the majority Meitei community, including Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and two Parliament members including Union MoS Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, reportedly assured the 'Arambai Tenggol', a powerful radical Meitei organisation in the state, to take "appropriate action" to resolve their demands, which include abrogation of Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the Kuki militant outfits.

Amid the deployment of huge contingent of state and central paramilitary forces, the leaders of the 'Arambai Tenggol' met the Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs and MPs



during a crucial meeting at the famous Kangla Fort in Imphal City on Wednesday. A source close to the Chief Minister said late on Wednesday night that N. Biren Singh did not physically attend the Kangla Fort meeting but he signed the resolution paper. After the decisive meeting, 'Arambai Tenggol' leaders said that the Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs and MPs have assured them that

they would take up their demands with the Central government and to act on these demands within 15 days. The demands include abrogation of the SoO signed between the Central and state governments and 23 Kuki militant outfits in 2008, implementation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), replacement of Assam Rifles and removal of illegal Kuki immigrants from the Scheduled Tribes list. "If the Centre does not resolve our demands, the ministers, legislators along with the other organisations would launch a massive movement to protect Manipur's territorial integrity and the lives and properties of the people," a leader of the 'Arambai Tenggol' told a gathering after the Kangla Fort meeting.

Monkey visits Ram temple, people say it is Hanuman

Ayodhya Agencies

he Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust has claimed that a monkey allegedly entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, where the idol of Ram Lalla resides, on the day the temple was thrown open to the public.

In a post on X, the trust said that around 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday, a monkey entered the temple through the southern gate and made its way to the vestibule. It then approached the Utsav idol, an older idol of Ram Lalla



was built.Security personnel stationed nearby, concerned about the idol's safety, rushed towards the monkey. However, the monkey

calmly retreated and moved towards the northern gate, which was closed. It then exited through the eastern gate, passing through the crowd of devotees without causing any harm.



AFTER MIZORAM, NSCN-IM OPPOSES CENTRE'S MOVE TO FENCE INDIA-MAYANMAR BORDER, SCRAP FMR

fter the Mizoram government, the NSCN-IM has opposed the Centre's move to fence the India-Mayanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between the two countries.

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) on Wednesday said that they are totally against boundary fencing "in our lands that violates our rights as one

"Simply put, the NSCN will not allow the proposed boundary fencing that further divides the Naga family as a nation," the Naga outfit said in a statement.

It said that the recent move of the Centre to abolish the time-honored FMR has come as a rude shock to the NSCN, in particular, and to the whole Nagas, in general.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while addressing the passing out parade of Assam Police commandos in Guwahati on January 20, said that the Centre has decided that India-Myanmar border would also be fenced on the lines of India-Bangladesh border, and is reconsidering the existing agreement between Myanmar and India for free movement. Considering the vulnerability and threats of the 1,643 km unfenced India-Myanmar border spanning Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram,



the Union Government has decided to fence the entire border and to scrap the FMR, which allows citizens residing close to both sides of the border to move 16 km into each other's territory without passport or visa, he said. The NSCN-IM said that the Nagas are indigenous people with a high level of political consciousness, cultural and social cohesion. Saying that as one family, Nagas need free movement from both sides, the NSCN-IM observed that ironically, the nature of the boundary demarcation was so cruel that it runs right through the house of Longwa King in Mon district.

Nothing can be crueler than this while dividing the Naga family, it said. "They (governments) are also fully aware of the irrefutable historical narratives of the Naga nation that transcend the international barriers, oppressively created by the Indian and Myanmar governments without consulting the Nagas. Such manner of injustice and wrong conduct

against the Nagas continues to haunt

the Nagas till today.' The statement said that the Naga political movement came into existence with the avowed stand to defend the historical and political rights of the Naga nation and put to an end the hegemony of the government of India and Myanmar in the manner that is acceptable and honourable."It reminds us of the treacherous division of the Nagas by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the

1953. However, the fact remains that the Nagas have never accepted the arbitrary international boundary demarcation set up by these two Prime Ministers and the Nagas living on either sides of the so-called international border have remained as one family defying all the odds," the statement said. The NSCN-IM said on the issue of illegal immigrants, the Nagas themselves would control any illegal immigrant on Naga soil.

"We will not allow any illegal immigrants in our territory.

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, hours after the Home Minister's announcement on January 20, said in Aizawl, that his government does not have the authority to stop the Central government from erecting border fencing along the India-Myanmar border and scrapping the FMR but would oppose both the moves.

He said that the border with Myanmar in Mizoram was "unilaterally imposed" by the British without consulting the people and the Mizo-Zo-Chin community people living on both sides of the border do not accept the boundary.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, however, earlier thanked the Union Home Minister for his announcements, saying that these assurances are the biggest gifts for the people of the state.

On Chhatrapati's 350 years of crowning, Tricolour to be unfurled atop 350 Maha forts on R-Day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

arking the 350 years of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Coronation, the Akhil Maharashtra Giryarohan Mahasangh (AMGM), has organised a unique commemoration - unfurling the Tricolour on 350 forts in the state on Republic Day, a top official said here on Wednesday.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630-1680) was, 350 years ago, crowned in a grand and historic ceremony held in his capital, the hilltop Raigad Fort, on June 6, 1674.

MGM President Umesh Zirpe said that more than 100 mountaineering organisations and over 5,000 climbers from across the state will join the initiative to climb and unfurl the national flag on each of the 350 forts on R-Day on Friday. "We have segregated them according to

the district in which they work and a coordinator has been appointed for each to carry out the flag hoisting ceremony," Zirpe said. The preparations for the activity are in full swing at each fort by the mountain-lovers and admirers of Chhatrapati, in coordination with Zirpe, Hrishikesh Yadav, Rahul Warange, Rahul Meshram and Deepali Bhosale. Each participating organisation has been given a Tricolour, a saffron flag, and a statuette of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj which they will take to the pinnacle of each fort and plant there as per the plans. Maharashtra has a total of over 450 recorded forts, including some on hilltops, in the coastal region, around half-a-dozen in the Arabian Sea, river banks, some in forests, towns and cities, built by different rulers



from various dynasties and even by the foreigners who ruled in the past.

Last year, in a befitting tribute Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and creating awareness on conservation plus the environment, the Indian Army Southern Command along with AMGM had hoisted the Tricolour on 75 forts in India, including 47 in Maharashtra, to mark the 77th Independence Day on August 15, 2023. Some of the organisations which will participate in the January 26 event are: Ajinkya Hikers, Mumbai Trekshitij, Borivali Giripremi, Pune Ba Raigad, Mumbai, Killekari Parivar, Vasai YHA, Badlapur Girikujan, Pune Basalt Foundation, Badlapur Sahyadrimitra, Mahad Young Zingaro Trekkers, Mumbai Vainateya, Nashik Giridurg Bhatkanti, Shivshambhu Durg Pratishthan, Mumbai Firasta - Hikers and Adventurers, Mumbai Pinnacle Club, Mumbai Raje Pratishthan, Ratnagiri Shivrohi Trekkers, Ratnagiri Jiddi Mountaineer, Chiplun Durg Mavla, Solapur Nature lovers, Ahmednagar Saad Mountaineers, and Ahmednagar Eagle Wing Trekkers.

Four cubs borne to Jwala at Kuno, not three, says Union Environment Minister

Mumbai | Agencies

nion Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Wednesday said that Namibian cheetah Jwala has delivered four cubs and not three at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park

The fourth cub was noticed after frontline wildlife warriors spotted the cheetah and her leader from very close distance on Wednesday and found another cub, he said."Wildlife wonders! as frontline wildlife warriors managed to get closer to Jwala, they found she has given birth to four, not three, cubs. This has increased our joy several times over. Congratulations all. We pray the cubs thrive and prosper at their home in India," Yadav said in a social media post.

With the new cub spotted, the number of big cats at



Kuno rose to 21, including 13 adult cheetahs transported from Namibia and South Africa and as many as eight

Yadav on Tuesday had announced on X that the Namibian cheetah had delivered three cubs.

Even some Madhya Pradesh wildlife officials, associated with the 'Project Cheetah' at Kuno, told different news organisations that three cubs were born.

Jwala had delivered four cubs in March last year - the first time a cheetah cub was born on Indian soil in 70 cubs borne on Indian soil. years since the fastest-moving animals were declared

extinct in the country. However, three out of four cubs died in June last year due to heat stroke, and only one survived.

At that time, Jwala was known by her Namibian birth name Siyaya.

Farmers' Body Calls For Bharat Bandh On Feb 16 Over MSP, Other Issues

Noida | Agencies

armer leader Rakesh Tikait on **∀** Wednesday said farmers would observe a 'Bharat Bandh' on February 16 over several issues in the country including non-implementation of a law that guarantees MSP for

Besides farmers' groups, traders and transporters have also been asked to support the cause and observe a work strike that day, said Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU).

"We have called for a 'Bharat bandh' on February 16. Several farmers' groups are part of it, including the Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). Farmers should also not go to their farms on that day and strike work. Earlier also farmers skipped the day of 'Amavasya' from working on the fields. Likewise, February 16 is



'Amavasya' only for farmers. They to 'agriculture strike'. This will send a should not work that day and resort big message in the country," he told

"We are also appealing to traders (for support) and people should also not make any purchase that day. We appeal to shopkeepers to keep their shops closed in support of the farmers and labourers," he said.

reporters in Muzaffarnagar.

On the objective for the strike call, Tikait said there are several reasons for it. "The chief among reasons is the law on MSP Guarantee, unemployment, the Agniveer scheme, pension scheme is also a big issue in the country for the people retiring from service," Tikait said.

He added that this is not going to be a farmers' strike alone as other organisations are also going to participate in it. He said the transporters' community, which recently protested the new stringent law against drivers of vehicles involved in road accidents, has also been asked to strike work on February 16.

U'Khand: Villagers stage protest over damage to houses due to tunnel construction work

Dehradun Agencies

number of families in Baldiyakhan village of Uttarakhand's Nainital district affected by the cracks developing in their houses due to tunnel-construction work have been staging a protest since January 21, urging authorities to intervene and look into the problems faced by them.

Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway tunnel construction work which also involves the process of conducting controlled blasts, their houses have developed cracks, while they have also been dealing with water scarcity for the last two years. Another person who is a part of

A protester said that due to the

the agitation said: "We have been



protesting for the last four days, but to date, no official or anyone from the administration has come to

The villagers have been demand-



ing compensation for the damages caused to their houses. Besides, they also sought employ-

ment for at least one member of the affected families."The dharna will

continue till our demands are met,' another protester said, warning of blocking the Rishikesh-Badrinath

Telangana official trapped with assets worth Rs 100 cr

Hyderabad Agencies

elangana's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has trapped a government official with alleged assets worth about Rs 100

The sleuths of ACB on Wednesday con-

ducted simultaneous raids at the premises of S. Balakrishna, Secretary, Telangana State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TSRERA), and Planning Officer in Metro Rail. He earlier worked as the director of town planning in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA). The searches by 14 teams of the anti-graft body continued throughout

the day and are likely to resume on Thursday. The simultaneous raids were conducted at Balakrishna's house, offices, premises of his relatives, which yielded recovery of assets worth over Rs 100 crore. About Rs 40 lakh cash, 2 kg gold, documents of movable and immovable assets, 60 expensive wrist watch-



es, 14 mobile phones and 10 laptops have been seized so far.

The official's bank lockers are yet to be opened. The ACB has identified lockers in at least four banks.

The ACB officials have reportedly found cash counting machines at the residence of the official. He had allegedly amassed wealth ever since he served in the HMDA. The continued searches are likely to unearth more

Nitish Kumar targets Lalu over dynasty politics

Patna | Agencies

ihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday targeted Lalu Prasad Yadav over dynastic politics during a rally held at Patna Veterinary College ground to celebrate 100th birth anniversary of former chief minister of the state Jannavak Karpoori Thakur.

"Karpoori Thakur was the biggest socialist leader of Bihar but did not promote any of his family members. He always thinks about the common people of Bihar and the country but some people are promoting only the family members and making them leaders," Nitish Kumai said in an apparent jibe at Lalu Prasad Yaday.

He said that he has learnt from Karpoori Thakur not to



promote any of my family members in politics.

"I always promoted other people in the party. It does not bother me about what other people say about it,' Kumar said while addressing the gathering.

He said that Karpoori Thakur was the veteran leader of Bihar but did not

promote his family members. "I promoted his son Ram Nath Thakur and made him cabinet minister, general secretary of the party and now he is a Rajva Sabha member of JD-U," the Chief Minister



Team Absolute New Delhi

he India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said that under the influence of two feeble western disturbances, light isolated rainfall/snowfall is likely over Western Himalayan region from Thursday to January 30. The IMD further said that dense to

very dense fog conditions are likely to continue to prevail over North India during the next five days while cold day to severe cold day conditions are likely to continue to prevail over North India during the next two days and decrease in intensity thereafter. In its daily, bulletin, the weather forecast agency further said that minimum temperatures are in the range of 3-6 degree Celsius over most parts of Punjab, in isolated pockets of north Harvana, northwest Uttar Pradesh while 7-10 degree Celsius



over many parts of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar. "These are below normal by 2-4 degree Celsius over many parts of Punjab, north Haryana; some parts of Madhya Pradesh, East Uttar Pradesh and in isolated pockets of Rajasthan and Bihar. Today, the lowest minimum temperature of 3.4 degree Celsius reported at Ambala (Haryana)," said the IMD. The IMD predicted that dense to very dense fog conditions are very

likely to prevail for a few hours in the night/morning over some/many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh during Wednesday night to Sunday morning. "Dense to very dense fog conditions are also very likely to prevail for a few hours in

night/morning in some parts of Bihar during till Sunday," said the IMD. "Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh on

Wednesday and cold wave conditions in isolated pockets for subsequent two days," said the IMD.The IMD also said that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh on

Wednesday. "Ground frost conditions are very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Wednesday and Thursday," said the

ASI report to be given to both sides in Gyanvapi case: Court

Varanasi Agencies

Varanasi district court, on Wednesday, agreed to make the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) scientific survey report on the Gyanyapi Mosque complex available to both the Hindu and the

The concerned parties will have to submit an affidavit in this regard. The development comes over a month after the ASI submitted its report on the Gyanvapi Mosque complex before the Varanasi District Court in a sealed cover on December 18, After the report was submitted in the court, Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side in the Gyanvapi survey case, filed a petition before the court to make the ASI report public, arguing that

the report "cannot be filed in a



However, the ASI had sought the postponement of the release of its Gyanvapi Survey report to the public domain. The panel had urged a Varanasi district judge to delay the disclosure, fearing that the report's content to the public would be inappropriate and fuel rumours and misinformation. The ASI carried out a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of

a Hindu temple.

SAINTS HAVE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION IN PRESERVING SANATAN CULTURE - CM DR. MOHAN YADAV

Visits Dutt Akhada and Shri Hanumanth Ashram to seek blessings

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav visited Dutt Akhada on Kshipra bank in Ujjain and sought blessings of Sundarpuri Maharaj Ji. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also visited Hanumant Ashram and offered prayers at Hazari Hanuman Temple and Gau Mata, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav wished for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the state.

Talking to media representatives, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Ujjaini is a city of gods, saints and mahatmas. Humanitarian services have been taken up by the community of seers and saintsin Ujjain. The contribution of saints in safeguarding Sanatan culture is valuable. With the blessings of Sant Samaj, the state government will establish new parameters of public development.



Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has extended congratulations on the

selection of Dewas Civil Line Police Station by the Home Ministry of the

Government of India among the 10 best police stations across the country. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said in a message released on social media that this achievement is a matter of pride for all the people of Madhya Pradesh including Dewas.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the selection of Madhya Pradesh police station in the entire country is a good example of good governance and better law and order. Congratulations to all the police officers and employees of the police station dedicated to public service and their duties. Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena honoured Dewas Superintendent of Police Sampat Upadhyay and Police Station Incharge Ajay Channa at the Police Headquarters by presenting them a certificate and memento on behalf of the Union Home Ministry.

Opposition leader demands Shivraj Singh Chouhan's bunglow

In a letter written to the

Chief Minister, he has said

Opposition. Apart from

being a leader of the tribal

Team Absolute Bhopal

he residence of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, is known as 'Mama's house'. Now the leader of opposition in the assembly Umang Singhar is keeping an eye on this uncle's house. He has written a letter to the Chief Minister requesting him to allot this residence. Actually, Shivraj Singh Chauhan held the post of Chief Minister of the state for 18 years and now he is a B.Sc. in 74 Bangla area. Live in 8-9. B 8-9 were two bungalows which have been combined into one bungalow.

The former Chief Minister has named this residence 'Mama's house'. Senior Congress MLA and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly

community, she was also my aunt and since childhood. in letter to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav requesting this B-9 government house, I him to allot B-9 house. have seen her engaged day

am also emotionally that government residence number B-9 has been allotattached to this government ted to Jamuna Devi, the first house. woman Deputy Chief Umang Singhar has Minister from the tribal comrequested the Chief Minister munity of Madhya Pradesh, that being the leader of the for years as the Leader of opposition, he should be

and night in the service of

the proletariat of the state. I

allotted the said government



Stray dogs become enemies of life in Bhopal

Team Absolute Bhopal

he terror of these two stray dogs is at its peak in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. More than 50 dog bite cases are being reported every day. Even two children lost their lives in a fortnight.

Stray dogs have become a source of trouble in the capital. In the Mishra area here, a 4-vear-old child was bitten by a dog about 15 days ago. He was treated at Hamidia Hospital and then died due to sudden deterioration in his health. Earlier, a 6-month-old innocent boy was mauled by dogs near Minal Residency.

Every day, more than 50 people are coming to all the hospitals of the capital for treatment after dog bites. In the last fortnight, incidents of dog bites have increased and have even put the lives of



It is being claimed by the Municipal Corporation that the campaign is going on from catching stray dogs to sterilizing them. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Frank Noble says that sterilization and vaccination of dogs is the only solution. Besides, the capacity in the

dog center is also being increased. Whenever a complaint is received, the dogs are sent to the centre.

Even though the Municipal Corporation is claiming to stop these incidents, in reality the increasing incidents of biting by stray dogs every day

Digvijaya continues to raise questions about EVMs, says Cong agrees with him

Team Absolute Bhopal

Teteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh continued to press his demand to stop the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) to ensure transparency in elec-

During a press conference at his residence in Bhopal, the former Chief Minister on Wednesday claimed that the Election Commission of India (ECI) wasn't taking decisions independently, but on the directions of the ruling BJP. Singh alleged that the "BJP forming governments was not because of voters' votes but because of 'machine

Singh said the Congress had sought information through RTI related to the software and hardware of EVMs, but the ECI passed the question to the companies instead of providing an answer.

A demonstration was also conducted by a technical expert, Atul Patel, who claimed that the EVMs and VVPAT can be manipulated. In the demo, 10 votes were cast for three symbols: Banana, Apple, and Watermelon.

Four votes were given to Banana, five to Apple, and one to Watermelon. However, when the VVPAT slips were counted, Apple received eight votes, Banana received three votes, and one vote went to



Watermelon. He claimed that votes can be manipu-

"The future of 140 crore people in our country cannot be entrusted to those hands that are using power for their own benefit. I will continue to

Singh claimed that any machine with a chip can be hacked and said that he has been opposing voting through EVMs since 2003. He mentioned that it took a long time to convince the Congress party about the manipulation being done through the EVMs, but now the party has agreed with his point that manipulation can occur through EVMs.

After the Congress suffered a massive defeat against the BJP in the state assembly election held in November last year, Digvijaya had blamed the EVMs for the results. The BJP had won 163 of the total 230 assembly seats while the Congress was reduced to 66 against its tally of 114 in 2018.

After the assembly election result, when the Congress high command, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi reviewed the party's loss in Madhya Pradesh, Digvijaya Singh raised the issue of the EVMs. Sources aware of the matter told reporter that Singh wanted Rahul Gandhi to raise his voice against EVMs, however, the latter had then said that "it's a separate issue".

Now, with the Lok Sabha elections getting closer, the Congress has started raising its voice over the accountability of the EVMs. Digvijaya Singh held a demonstration just a day before Sam Pitroda, who was also an advisor to former PM Manmohan Singh, is set to organize a two-day conference for discussing the EVM issue and the VVPAT system.

Daughter thrown into Chambal river

Team Absolute Mandsaur

In Mandsaur district of Madhya husband and wife increased so much that the husband threw his four-year old innocent daughter into Chambal. The operation to search for the

girl is going on. The police have taken the accused into custody.

Police said that Raghunandan Meena, living in Kotri Tank of Bhanpura police station area, had a dispute with his wife Sohan Bai on Monday. The wife threatened to leave him.

Angered by his wife's threat, Raghunandan took four-year-old daughter Chetna with him and threw her in the Chambal river.

It is reported that the police started the search operation on Tuesday evening but it was



stopped after it got dark. The search for the girl continues. The police have taken the accused into

custody. The accused has mentioned about mutual dispute during interrogation.

RAJ BHAVAN TO OPEN FOR GENERAL PUBLIC FROM JANUARY 25 TO 27

Bhopal: Following instructions of being opened for the general public from January 25 on the occasion of Republic

Citizens can visit the Raj Bhavan from 25 January to 27 January 2024 from 2 pm to 7 pm On Republic Day, January 26, public can visit the Raj Bhavan from 11 am to 2

A photo exhibition based on Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra by Central Communication Bureau, Bhopal, Hamara Sankalp Vikasit Bharat and Madhya Pradesh Freedom Fighters is being organized at Raj Bhavan. Cultural programmes and puppet shows will also be performed and 3-D selfie booths showing country's achievements will be installed. Quiz programmes will also be organized for the visi-

Voters will be administered oath at 64 thousand places in state

Team Absolute Bhopal

n Madhya Pradesh, 14th National Voter's Day will be celebrated on Thursday 25th January at all 64 thousand 523 polling centers of the state. On this occasion, oath will be

administered to the voters. Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that a state level program will be organized at Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center in Bhopal under the chief hospitality of Governor Mangubhai Patel. It will start from 11 am.

Rajan said that on the 14th National Voters' Day, programs will be held in all 55 districts of the state. Along with this, voter oath will be administered to the students studying in all the educational institutions of the state and the officers and employees working in government offices. Chief Electoral Officer Rajan said that the message of the Chief Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of



India will be broadcast in the programme. The Chief Guest will distribute EPIC cards and release coffee table books to young voters and voter oath will be administered on National Voters' Day.

BHOPAL GAS AFFECTED CANCER PATIENTS WILL NOW GET FREE TREATMENT IN AIIMS

Bhopal: On the initiative of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah, cancer patients from families affected by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy will now get the facility of free testing and treatment at AIIMS Bhopal. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the concerned parties in this regard. Through this MoU, free testing and appropriate treatment for possible or established cancer will be provided to gas victims and their children at AIIMS Bhopal.

Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation, Rakesh Kumar Srivastava said that for this, a separate 'Medical Social Welfare Officer' has been deployed in the Cancer Department by AIIMS Bhopal. To get free testing and treatment, the applicant will have to prepare a 'referral form' for cancer testing or treatment from the doctors of any hospital/clinic/dispensary under the Gas Relief Department and submit it to AIIMS Bhopal, where they will be given complete testing and appropriate treatment. Free facility will be provided. He told that such tests or treatments which are not free in AIIMS Bhopal or are not even covered under Ayushman Yojana. Their payment will be made by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department. For this, effective arrangements will be made at a separate registration counter in AIIMS Bhopal for registration of cancer patients and their children for treatment. It is noteworthy that Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Dr. Shah had told the departmental officials a few days ago that all the gas victims and their children will be provided free facilities for testing and treatment of possible or established cancer at AIIMS Bhopal. Let it be done. On the instructions of Minister Dr. Shah, an MOU has been signed between

the Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation

Department and the Executive Director (ED) and CEO

AIIMS Bhopal on 20 January 2024.

Will MP Govt follow NMC's recommendation to scrap 'seat-leaving bond' policy?

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

he National Medical Commission's (NMC) recent recommendation to states and Union Territories to scrap the 'seatleaving bond' policy in medical colleges is a ray of hope for medical students pursuing their MBBS or PG degrees in Madhya

The concept of seat leaving bond, a common practice for medical students especially PG students, was started to secure commitment, discourage abrupt resignations, and address the issue of seat blocking and wastage of medical seats

Notably, the Madhya Pradesh Government has fixed a bond amount of Rs. 30 lakh for students who wish to leave their course midway. This policy is prevalent in both governmentrun and private medical colleges

Medical students including junior doctors in Madhya Pradesh have been demanding scrapping of the decades-old 'seat-leaving bond' for several years as it has affected the lives of medical students in Madhya Pradesh.

For instance, in January last year, a 24-yearold doctor Akanksha Maheshwari, who was pursuing her PG in paediatrics, and wanted to quit mid-session committed suicide at her hostel room in Bhopal's Gandhi Medical College (GMC) as she was unable to pay the



bond amount of Rs 30 lakh. In her suicide note on WhatsApp, Dr. Maheshwari wrote to her father, "Sorry Papa, If I had money, I could have left the seat.

Before that unfortunate incident, correspondent had learnt that one male doctor, who was also pursuing post-graduation in the paediatrics stream, left the seat after paying

the Rs 30 lakh bond to the state government. Following the death of Dr. Maheshwari, a junior doctor association of Madhya Pradesh had staged a protest to press for their demand

for scrapping the bond policy. Following the three-day-long sit-in by doctors and medical professors across the state, the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP Government had promised to review the policy. The NMC made this recommendation during a recent meeting to the States and UTs to do away with the bond policy considering numerous complaints relating to alarming levels of stress, anxiety and depression faced by medical students across various institutions. Dr. Akash Soni, a junior doctor, who is pursuing his PG in Gandhi Medical College (GMC), said, "It's a muchneeded step by the NMC. Let's see how the state government responds to it. Health is completely a state issue and the state government is free to decide on its own. We hope the MP Government takes the right step."

The MP Government, however, is yet to make any announcement in this regard.

Talking to IANS, Dr. Soni added, "In April 2023, we submitted our recommendation to the state government saying that students should be given ample time to decide after first counseling. Now, let's see what the state government decides.

EDITOR'S SPECS

Pakistan, Iran to restore full diplomatic relations

ays after Pakistan and Iran were on the verge of a major conflict, the two countries decided on Monday to restore full diplomatic relations with the return of ambassadors to their respective capitals later this week, a medis report said. "Following the telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has been mutually agreed that ambassadors of both countries may return to their respective posts by January 26," said a joint statement simultaneously issued by Tehran and Islamabad. Also importantly, at the invitation of Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Minister of Iran, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, will undertake a visit to Pakistan on January 29, the statement added, the report said. The two countries would decide the future course of action and work on a new mechanism to prevent the recurrence of events of the last week. Pakistan and Iran may often boast about the "friendly and brotherly" relations, but underneath does exist certain issues that cause suspicion in both the capitals. At the heart of the problem are the concerns both sides often expressed privately about the use of each other's soil by certain terrorist groups. Pakistan has longstanding concerns that Baloch terrorist outfits find refuge across the border in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran. Tehran, on the other hand, pointed a finger at anti-Iran militant groups such as Jaish al-Adl having hideouts in Balochistan province in Pakistan. Iran gave the same justification for carrying out crossborder missile strikes under the pretext that it was aimed at Jaish al-Adl hideouts. Pakistan, in retaliation, conducted strikes and pounded with bombs what it said were the sanctuaries of Baloch terrorists. Iran admitted that those killed in Pakistani strikes were not Iranians.

Can Nikki Haley give Trump a run for his money in one-of-a-kind NH primary?

ensions run high in the camp of ex South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who is putting all her efforts and hopes on moderate conservatives and independents to vote for her in the first in the nation primary ballot for GOP nomination against the former president Donald Trump, whom all polls predict could be outright winner to seal the republican race for 2024.

New Hampshire's long-celebrated, first-in-the-nation primary could have the last word on the 2024 Republican nomination battle, media reports said.

Voters are preparing to plough through heavy snow fills to trudge to polling booths as former President Donald Trump is poised for what could be a decisive win over former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Notwithstanding the mounting criminal charges and fierce opposition from old-guard Republicans, Trump has built a formidable lead in a Granite State race that has boiled down to a one-onone contest with the former United Nations ambassador. It's a win-

ner take it all in this state now. Trump's decisive vote in the Iowa caucus edging out rival Florida /Governor Ron DeSantis by a whopping 30-point and Haley by 32 points, has paved the way for what his voters believe his victory in New Hampshire by a resounding margin over Haley.

DeSantis dropped out of the presidential race after his humiliating drubbing in Iowa where he spent a fortune on Ad campaigns hoping to score a win over Trump.

The last week has been tumultuous with three ex-challengers -Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy - all falling by the wayside and endorsing Trump for the GOP's ticket for the 2024 Presidential race to the White House.

"They're all coming with us," Trump told supporters Sunday night at the historic opera house in Rochester, N.H.

Haley: " 'We don't do coronations'. Despite polls showing Haley trailing Trump, she has still vowed to challenge the Republican frontrunner in New Hampshire. However, a bad Haley loss would increase the pressure on her to join DeSantis and withdraw from the 2024 race for the White House, handing the nomination to the former president, a USA TODAY columnist wrote

Haley told FOX News Monday: "I know the political class wants to say that this race is over," but voters may have different ideas. "We don't do coronations,' Haley said. "A democracy is about giving people options. We're in this. We're going to keep on going.' Haley is aiming to build momentum for the February 24 pri-

mary in her home state of South Carolina - if she can sustain the Trump onslaught and wave that long, media reports said.

Trump is expected to garner over 54 per cent of the New Hampshire vote, according to an average of recent polls compiled by Real Clear Politics. Haley is averaging just under 37 per cent in those surveys, placing the former president firmly ahead of the former South Carolina governor in Tuesday's pivotal primary.

This year's New Hampshire primary may be remembered as the final chapter for Trump's 2024 GOP challengers, after approximately a dozen Republican rivals dropped out in recent months., media reports commented.

DeSantis ceded the race to the frontrunner on Sunday, abruptly announcing by video that he was exiting the race and endorsing



The real estate mogul who became popular with his TV show The Apprentice, who lost the 2020 election to President Joe Biden, announced his latest bid unusually early, in November of 2022.

After Trump's announcement, a series of Republicans challenged him, including Haley, DeSantis, Scott, Ramaswamy, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, former Vice President Mike Pence. former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and North Dakota Governor. Doug Burgum. All of them were betting on the court's cases against Trump to reduce his popularity. Instead, Trump turned a martyr, and his supporters were literally blindsided by the serious charges or crimes and came out in large numbers to sup-

But over the past several months, political observers have watched as Trump's challengers have dropped out one by one, either because of low poll numbers, failure to qualify for Republican debates or poor performances in Iowa, the USA TODAY columnist observed.

It's a head-to-head faceoff: Trump vs Haley in New Hampshire. None can deny that Trump's trials cast a shadow in New Hampshire, though his supporters are blindsided to the trials, but independents may think differently, and Nikki Haley may run an outside chance. Trump is on the verge of winning the crucial primary despite the fact he was indicted four times last year and faces a cluster of criminal trials and civil lawsuits in 2024. His voters are least bothered and believe in Trump that it's a democratic "witch

It all boils down to the fact that Trump could be fighting accusations of trying to steal an election as he seeks another term in office. Trials scheduled in Washington and Georgia involve Trump's efforts to overturn Biden's victory in 2020 ahead of the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021. Trump asked the Georgia republican head to find 11,000 votes to make him win, allegedly inciting supporters such as

proud boys, three percenters and oath keepers, militant outfits, to attack Capitol in DC. Trumps legal woes provide a rather unusual common campaign venue: A courtroom in New York City, at a defamation trial brought by writer E. Jean Carroll, who has accused Trump of sexual assault. The judge in the Carroll case postponed the proceedings Monday because of an ill juror, but the Carroll trial will resume Wednesday, just hours after polls close in the Granite

It's low key in New Hampshire as of Monday night due to the inclement weather. Voter turnout is a gamble, but Trump's votes brave all odds to come out, but will independent voters do the same for Haey is the big question.

Despite Trump's unprecedented criminal charges, 2024 has marked a more subdued New Hampshire primary, given the dearth of candidates. Two debates set for earlier this month were canceled, and Trump wasn't going to participate anyway as he has skipped all of the GOP primary faceoffs, media reports said.

This year marks a departure for the democrats. The Democratic incumbent president won't even appear on the ballot. The Democratic Party has pushed New Hampshire later on the primary and made South Carolina the nation's first contest, bumping over the regular polling timeline.

As New Hampshire officials and national Democratic leaders clashed, Biden didn't even register for the primary. Instead, his supporters are conducting a write-in effort on his behalf against little-known challengers Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn. and author Marianne Williamson., reports said.

As New Hampshire prepares to vote, the nation will watch whether Trump and Biden will simply sail to victory - or whether their opponents force an upset.

international

3 Indians win UK's prestigious Blavatnik **Awards for Young Scientists**

London Agencies

hree Indian scientists are among the nine recipients of this year's Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the UK for their pioneering work in the fields of

Professors Rahul R. Nair, Mehul Malik, Dr Tanmay Bharat, and others will be honoured and receive grants totaling 480,000 pounds at a black-tie gala dinner and award ceremony in London, on February

"Providing recognition and funding early in a scientist's career can make the difference between discoveries that remain in the lab and those that make transformative scientific breakthroughs," said Sir Leonard Blavatnik, Founder and Chairman of Access Industries and Head of the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

"We are proud that the Awards have promoted both UK science and the careers of many brilliant young scientists and we look forward to their additional discoveries in the years ahead.'

Professor Nair, a materials physicist at The University of Manchester, was named Laureate in Physical Sciences & Engineering for developing novel membranes based on two-dimensional (2D) materials that will enable energy-efficient separation and filtration technologies.

Using graphene and other 2D materials, his research aims to study the transport of



nanoscale, exploring its potential applications to address societal challenges, including water filtration and other separation technologies.

He will receive 100,000 pounds in unrestricted funds for his research that has provided valuable insights "into the movement of water and other molecules in nano-capillaries, as those movements differ from their behaviour on the macro scale," the award statement said.

A Quantum physicist and Professor of Physics, Professor Mehul Malik, is advancing quantum communications at Heriot-Watt University through revolutionary techniques that harness high-dimensional entanglement -- a complex quantum physics phenomenon.

His innovations enable the normally fragile entanglement to survive long distances and harsh conditions, laying the foundation for noise-robust and highcapacity quantum networks that securely water, organic molecules, and ions at the transmit large amounts of information

encoded on individual photons.

Dr Bharat, a structural microbiologist and programme leader in the Structural Studies Division at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, has developed and applied cutting-edge cryo-ET techniques to create atomic-level pictures of cell surface molecules on microorganisms.

work has important biomedical implications, since most pathogenic bacteria infect humans by forming multicellular, antibiotic-resistant, biofilm communities In addition, his work is also vital for the

According to the award committee, his

fundamental understanding of the dynamics of cell-to-cell interactions that led to the historical evolution of multicellular life on earth, a statement read.

Both Bharat and Malik will receive a grant of 30,000 pounds for their research.

The 2024 Awards received 84 nominations from 40 academic and research institutions and this year's laureates were selected by an independent jury of expert scientists across the UK.

Now in its seventh year, the awards -instituted by the Blavatnik Family Foundation and The New York Academy of Sciences -- have donated 3.3 million pounds to scientists across UK academia since their inception. A day after the award ceremony in London, the honourees will present their research with a series of short, interactive lectures at a free public symposium at the RSA House in London.

'N.Korea fires several cruise missiles into Yellow Sea'

▼orth Korea fired several cruise missiles toward the Yellow Sea on eday the South Ko military said.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the North's launch took place around 7 a.m., but did not elaborate, citing an ongoing analysis, Yonhap news agency reported.

"While strengthening our monitoring and vigilance, our military has been closely coordinating with the United States



to monitor additional signs of North Korea's provocations, the JCS said in a text message sent to reporters.

cruise missile launch since September 2023, when it testfired two long-range strategic cruise missiles with mock nuclear warheads toward the Yellow Sea. The latest launch comes 10 days after Pyongyang test-fired a solid-fuel intermediate-range ballistic missile carrying a hypersonic warhead into the East Sea in its first missile launch this year.

UN chief warns of spillover of war in Gaza

United Nations Agencies

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned of the spillover risks of the war in Gaza. War and misery in Gaza are fueling turmoil far beyond, he told a high-level open debate of the Security Council on the Middle East on Tuesday, including the Palestinian question.

"We are seeing dangerous developments across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where tensions are off the charts, with a dramatic increase in casualties," he was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

Dozens of Palestinians are being arrested daily. Over 6,000 Palestinians were detained since Oct. 7, with many subsequently released. Settler vio-



lence is also another major concern. The demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned houses and other structures

The risks of broader regional escalation are now becoming a reality, warned Guterres. Daily exchanges of fire

across the Israeli-Lebanese border, including strikes on civilian areas, have killed six Israelis and 25 Lebanese civilians and driven tens of thousands from their homes on both sides, he said. "The risk of miscalculation is dangerously high. I urge all parties to refrain from aggressive rhetoric, and to immediately end activities that could further inflame tensions." The situation in the Red Sea is also deeply worrying,

severe movement and access

restrictions across the West

Bank are all contributing to

soaring unemployment and

poverty, he said.

Israel-Hamas war: Mediatory talks on for a two-month-long ceasefire to release hostages

Tel Aviv Agencies

ectic parleys are on in Doha, Cairo and Washington for a two-month-long ceasefire between Israel and Hamas for elease of hostages. Arab and Qatari media have reported that the Hamas leadership wants a permanent truce on the release of hostages

Sources in Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office told reporter that Israel was not agreeing to such a truce.

IANS had earlier reported that the latest round of mediatory talks commenced on December 28 and is continuing. However, Israel side may agree for a one month ceasefire for a phased release of hostages in exchange of Palestinian prisoners who are in Israel's

The agreement, if done, would have a phased release of hostages commencing from civilians to soldiers and reservists who

The Hamas side also wants Israel to agree for the relocation of its top leaders including Mohammed Deif and Yahya Sinwar to be relocated to other countries, which according to sources, Israel has

Israel is facing mounting pressure back home with the families of Hostages upping their ante with various protests inside the country and abroad for the release of prisoners.

Meanwhile, former Hamas head Khaled Mashaal has rejected the proposed two nation theory of Israel and Palestine.



Speaking to an Arabic media, Mashaal said: "After the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, liberating Palestine from the 'river to the sea' is a realisitc idea.

The Hamas and other Palestinian movements are for liberating the land stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean sea. This would mean the West Bank, Gaza and the whole of Israel.

With the mediatory talks on its peak, the possibilities of a one month ceasefire to the war is likely.

Six killed in Ghana bus shooting

Accra | Agencies

t least six people were reportedly shot dead and seven others wounded by a group of unknown gunmen on a bus in Ghana's Upper East Region.

The victims came under attack on Monday while travelling from Bawku, an urban community in the Upper East Region, to a market centre in a nearby community, Hamza Amadu, Municipal Chief Executive for Bawku confirmed to Xinhua news agency on Tuesday. Amadu said that the dead included two men and four

women, and the wounded are receiving treatment at two nearby

"Security has been beefed up with military and police patrols, while a curfew is also in place to control movements at night," the official said. A combined police-military operation is underway to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the heinous crime, he added.

Located a few kilometres from the border with Burkina Faso, Bawku has recently been enmeshed in armed unrest due to a protracted chieftaincy dispute and other criminal activities.















significant portion of

Palestinian tax revenues, the

continued prohibition on near-

ly all Palestinian workers enter-

ing Israel since October 7, and



NCP(SP) flexes muscles as MLA Rohit R. Pawar goes for date with ED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SP) put up a huge show of strength as its prominent MLA Rohit R. Pawar honoured the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons for a probe into an alleged money-laundering case here on Wednesday. Rohit R. Pawar touched the feet of his granduncle and NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, Working President and MP Supriya Sule and shook hands with other senior leaders just before stepping into the ED office in south

A huge number of party activists from his constituency Karjat-Jamkhed (Ahmednagar), Pune and Mumbai gathered near the ED office where tight security was deployed to prevent any untoward

Supriya Sule joined the workers in clapping, cheering and boosting Rohit R. Pawar's morale as he entered the ED office -- with no certainty of his fate -- as was experienced by many in the recent

"This is a struggle for 'satya' and ultimately truth will triumph," said Sule.

Senior NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh flayed the ED and the government for deliberately hounding all Opposition parties and their leaders.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray said that there is no rule of law in the country and those who speak against the government are trapped in false cases, typical of an authoritarian regime.



"Are we in India or some place like Pakistan... We appeal to the judicial system to uphold the rule of the law," urged Thackeray Jr.

MP Sanjay Raut slammed the central probe agency saying "ED has become a branch of the Bharatiya Janata Party" which is targeting the Opposition leaders in Maharashtra and other Opposition-ruled states in the country.

Sule referred to a report stating that around 95 per cent of all the 'I.C.E.' cases (IT-CBI-ED) are filed against the Opposition in the country and said this portends danger to democracy.

Prior to keeping his date with ED, Rohit R. Pawar appeared unruffled and calm, bid goodbyes to his family members at a five-star hotel in Nariman Point, paid respects at the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a plaque on the Constitution and bowed before the Maharashtra Legislature.

Later he reached the NCP office, which is just across the road from the ED, advised his excited and aggressive supporters to maintain cool, and promised to cooperate fully with the ED probe.

Supriya Sule gave him a file folder that had pictures of all great leaders and reformers of Maharashtra, and also presented him a book on the late S.B. Chavan, as he left for the ED office.

The CEO of Baramati Agro Ltd., Rohit R. Pawar faces a Mumbai Police FIR of August 2019 on purported money-laundering charges arising from the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam, and the ED's allegations of illegal 'diversion of funds' to a company that bid to buy an ailing sugar cooperative factory.

However, he has consistently denied all the charges and claimed there was no wrongdoings in the matters alleged by the police and ED, which had raided the company recently.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Allies (MVA) Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders have termed the ongoing action as 'political vendetta and witchhunt' of the rivals by the government through misuse of central investigation agencies by the BJP.

The NCP (SP) has also alleged that Rohit R. Pawar is being targeted as he did not succumb to political pressures to support his uncle, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's breakaway NCP faction after the split in July 2023.

However, the NCP (AP) state President Sunil Tatkare and others have rubbished the charges saying the agency may have found something incriminating in its probe, but he (Rohit R. Pawar) had nothing to fear if he has not committed any wrongs.

6 women drown in river in Gadchiroli,

I rescued, probe ordered

Team Absolute Gadchiroli (Maharashtra)

n a major tragedy, six women farm labourers were missing and feared drowned and one was rescued when a boat in which they were sailing suddenly capsized in the Wainganga River in Chamorshi on the Gadchiroli-Chandrapur district border in Maharashtra on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred around 11 a.m. when the seven women from Ganapur village of Gadchiroli took their routine boat ride to the chilli farms on the opposite shore falling in Chandrapur dis-

According to the District Disaster Management Officer Nilesh Teltumbade, the boat suddenly overturned throwing the women and boatman into the waters, running more than 8 feet deep in some sections.

"The boatman managed to rescue one of the victims, and brought her ashore safely. After an intensive search downstream, we have recovered two bodies so far. The remaining four bodies are still untraced and we will resume the search tomorrow at dawn,"

Teltumbade told reporter. Soon after the incident local village youths who could swim and dive rushed

to the rescue operations and later the Chamorshi Police's expert divers also joined the efforts till dusk, even as a pall of gloom fell over the small village. Teltumbade said that many of the Ganapur villagers take the boat both ways to go to work in the agriculture farms on the opposite bank of the river and return home in the evening as a daily routine. The identity of the women victims is awaited and a district official said that the tragedy will be probed to ascertain the causes, tentatively believed to be strong underwater currents that may have sent the boat out of control and

95% cases filed by central probe agencies are against opposition leaders: Supriya Sule

NCP leader Supriya Sule's reaction came after her party leader Rohit Pawar appeared

Team Absolute | Mumbai

CP leader Supriya Sule on Wednesday claimed that as per the government data presented in Parliament, 95 per cent of the cases filed by the central probe agencies are against leaders of opposition parties.

She accused the government of misusing the probe agencies and asserted that truth shall ulti-

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP was speaking to reporters outside her party office in south Mumbai after accompanying MLA Rohit Pawar till the entrance of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office located nearby

Pawar appeared before the agency for question-

into the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam this morning.

"Satyamev Jayate (truth shall prevail). This is a period of struggle for us. There will be challenges in future, but we will overcome them. We will struggle, but continue to tread on the path of truth. This fight is for the pride of Maharashtra," Sule

"We will continue to walk on the path of truth.

without formal invite: VBA

As per the data presented in Parliament by the government, 95 per cent of the cases filed by the central probe agencies are against the opposition leaders," the Baramati MP said.

So it was not surprising that Rohit Pawar was summoned for questioning by the ED. He recently took out a state-wide 'Sangharsh Yatra' to highlight the plight of farmers and youth, and it was getting a huge response, she said.

"It is said that the summons to him could be political vendetta," the NCP working president

When asked if the party workers gathered outside the NCP office as a show of strength, she said, "It is not a show of strength, but love and affection for him (Rohit Pawar)." Sule said the prevailing situation was a struggle for them.

"Challenges will come and we will overcome

them by being firm and committed to truth," she Mira Road, Mira Will not attend MVA seat-share talks issued an order on

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) on Wednesday led by Prakash Ambedkar has said that it will not go as an 'uninvited guest' to the seat-sharing talks of the Opposition alliance here on Thursday.

VBA Spokesperson Siddharth Mokale said that his party has "not yet received a formal invite" for the discussions among the MVA allies, Congress-Shiv Sena (UBT)-Nationalist Congress Party (SP).

"We have not received any letter or invitation so far... we will not go there until we get an official invite signed by the leaders of all the three (MVA) parties," Mokale told the mediapersons.

The statement came hours after Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut told the media on Wednesday morning that the VBA has been invited to join the



MVA's seat-sharing talks for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Mumbai on Thursday.

A Congress leader said that the VBA is an ally of Shiv Sena (UBT) and the latter must have invited them for talks, to which the grand old party had no

Frowning at the goings-on, Mokale said that though the VBA-Shiv Sena (UBT) are allies, "Raut should not exploit the situation".

Mokale made it clear that the VBA is keen to be a part of the MVA as well as the national opposition INDIA bloc but so far it has been kept out of both. Ambedkar recently wrote to the Congress on the

issue which has not responded yet, prompting the VBA to warn that it would contest all the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. "Raut must explain why the Congress is avoiding

direct talks with the VBA. Has the Congress given its Power of Attorney to Raut to negotiate with us on behalf of MVA-INDIA groups," asked an irked

He reiterated the VBA's stance that in order to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "it was imperative for all the Opposition parties to unite" for the 2024 Parliament polls but the Congress seems to be 'killing time with new excuses each time'.

Mira Bhayander Police issue order to maintain communal harmony after clashes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

fter the stone-pelting incident in Mumbai's Bhayander Vasai Virar police Wednesday asking all group administrators to take note that no forwards, jokes or videos related to clashes should be forwarded on social media to maintain

communal harmony. The police are directed to take action against group administrators if this order is

A case was registered at regarding the incident that took place on January 21 in the Nayanagar Police Station area of Mira-Bhainder, Vasai-Virar Police

Commissionerate area, said the police.

A day after a clash was reported from Mumbai's Mira Road, bulldozers razed illegal structures and encroachments in the Naya Nagar area of Mira Road on

"An investigation is going on in the matter and the accused are being arrested based on evidence. The atmosphere is calm in the area and some people are



about the incident through various media. Due to this, misunderstandings are spreading in the society. However, no offensive text, video, photo, status, etc., which may hurt the religious sentiments of people of any caste religion regarding the incident, which may create law and order problems and disturb social peace, such as offensive information, post, on WhatsApp," the police further said. "Illegal structures and encroachments were razed by bulldozers in the Naya Nagar area of Mira Road where Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha celebrations instructions from the Maharashtra government, action is being taken by the Municipal Corporation with the help of the police," the Maharashtra government Meanwhile, three persons

were arrested in Mumbai and an FIR was filed against unknown individuals after at least four cases of outraging religious sentiments were filed in the city

All four incidents were reported on January 22, the same day when the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla was performed in Ayodhya's Ram Temple.

Case against hotel chef for molesting woman colleague

Team Absolute Thane

olice have registered a case against a 36-year-old chef working at a hotel in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township on charges of molesting and stalking a woman colleague, an official said.

The 26-year-old victim joined the hotel located in the Turbhe area as a pasty supervisor four months back.

The accused, who worked as a junior chef at the hotel, tried to get close to

her, claiming he was having a dispute with his wife, and allegedly touched the victim inappropriately, the official said on Tuesday quoting her complaint. The victim approached the local unit of a political party and later filed a

Based on the complaint, the Turbhe police on Tuesday registered a case against the accused under Indian Penal Code sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354D (stalking) and 506 $\,$ (criminal intimidation), the official said. A probe was on into the case.

6 dead in Bus-Tractor-Car collision in Ahmednagar

Team Absolute Ahmednagar

ix people have been killed after a bus collided with a car and a tractor in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district in the early hours today, police said. The accident took place around 2:30 am at Kalyan road of the district when a state transport bus collided with an Eco car and a tractor.

A tractor carrying sugarcane had toppled and another tractor was brought to offload the sugarcane from it.

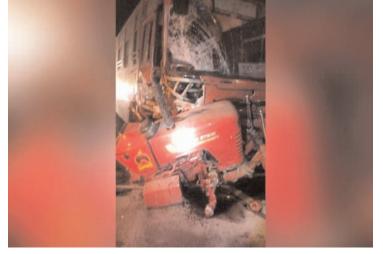
The driver of a car also halted and was helping the people in the off-loading work, an official from Parner police station said.

"As the tractor took a turn on the road, a state transport bus approaching there collided with the tractor and the car.

Six people, including some labourers, died on the spot," the official said.

After receiving information about the incident, a police team reached the spot and helped the victims reach hospital.

The identities of those who died are being ascertained, said police, adding that further probe into the incident is going on. The cause of the accident is not



Mumbai's ex-Mayor Kishori Pednekar set to appear before ED on Thursday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Mayor of Mumbai has been summoned on Thursday by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a probe into the alleged money-laundering scam arising out of the purchase of body-bags by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the relevant time, Pednekar, 61, was the high-profile Mayor of Mumbai, a trained nurse, who led the war against Covid-19 from the front, while the Chief Minister was Uddhav Thackeray, heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi regime till it was ousted in June 2022.

Following a complaint by BJP ex-MP Kirit Somaiya, the Mumbai Police had booked Pednekar and two other BMC officials of the Central Purchase Department for their involvement into the alleged scam, and the ED later entered to probe the money laundering part of the fraud.

The ED has contended that there was massive inflation in the rates of body-bags to carry dead Covid-19 victims, while the company supplied it for around Rs 2,000 apiece to its distributors, it was giving the same bags to the BMC for around Rs 6,800 per piece.

The ED -- which launched investigation in the money-laundering case in September 2023 -- had summoned and grilled her for over six hours in November, amid contentions that the contract for purchase of the body bags was allegedly given at Pednekar's behest.



A staunch Thackeray family loyalist and a grassroots Shiv Sainik, Pednekar proved her mettle as a good administrator during the Covid-19 pandemic, with Dharavi proving to be a major success for the BMC earning glob-

A four-time BMC Corporator from Worli, she was visible in streets, slums, skyscrapers and bylanes of Mumbai, also boarded local trains and inspected railway stations, to reassure the people during those harrowing days.

On several occasions, Pednekar donned her nurse' uniform and went around public and private hospitals to boost the confidence and morale of health care workers as well as nursing students.



DWAYNE JOHNSON CONFIRMS RETURN TO WWE, TO TAKE 'FULL OWNER-SHIP' OF 'THE **ROCK' MONIKER**

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star and wrestling icon Dwayne Johnson has officially joined the board of directors for TKO, which was formed by parent company Endeavor as part of the UFC and WWE merger in September, 2023.

Johnson will now bring "decades of experience in live entertainment and sports to the board."

"My grandfather, High Chief Peter Maivia, and my dad, Rocky 'Soulman' Johnson, would've never thought this day would come. Which is why I'm very humbled to have a seat at the table that has decades of history and family legacy for me. A table that my family helped to build," he said in a statement.

The deal also sees the star take "full ownership" of The Rock moniker, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He continued: "Being on the TKO Board of Directors, and taking full ownership of my name, 'The Rock', is not only unprecedented, but incredibly inspiring as my crazy life is coming full circle.

"At my core, I'm a builder who builds for and serves the people, and Ari is building something truly game changing."

"I'm very motivated to help continue to globally expand our TKO, WWE, and UFC businesses as the worldwide leaders in sports and entertainment - while proudly representing so many phenomenal athletes and performers who show up

every day putting in the hard work with their own two hands to make their dreams come true and deliver for our audiences. I've been there, I'm still there and this is for them.'

Vince McMahon, who serves as executive chairman of the board at TKO, is "proud" to have 'The Rock' involved.

He added, "Very few people on the planet understand the convergence of sports, entertainment, media, and business like Rock. We are proud to have him join the TKO board to help take our company to new heights.'

The move comes amid rumours that 'The Rock' is preparing to return to the ring in the coming months to face his cousin and current world champion, Roman Reigns, in a dream match.

Mark Ruffalo hid brain tumour diagnosis from wife until treatment

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star Mark Ruffalo's wife believed he was joking when he told her he had a brain tumour. The actor told the news of his poten-

tially fatal condition to his partner Sunrise 'Sunny' Coigney a few days after she gave birth to their first child in 2001.

"When I told Sunny about it, at first she thought I was joking, and then she just burst into tears and said, 'I always knew you were gonna die young,' " he told the 'Smartless' podcast, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Ruffalo discovered he had a tumour 23 years ago when actress Sunrise, 51, was around nine-and-a-half months pregnant with her and actor's son Keen, who is

now 22 and arrived in June 2001. Ruffalo added he made the decision to news of his condition.

He said, "I was just like, 'I can't,' she's already like, 'Oh God, him again, does everything gotta be about him?' And so I just couldn't.'

Ruffalo also said a week after his baby arrived he had to meet a neurologist and figure out a plan for his treatment, so he told Sunrise the night before his appoint-

He found out he was suffering a benign vestibular schwannoma in 2001 after he had an "intense" dream that he had a brain tumour.

Ruffalo said, "I woke up probably around 3 am, and I just had this crazy dream, and it wasn't like any other dream I ever had.

"It was just like, you have a brain tumour, and it wasn't even a voice it was just pure knowledge - you have a brain

Angeles | Agencies

with it immediately."

Ruffalo had no symptoms except for an ear infection before the tumour was diagnosed when he went to the doctor for a CT scan.

He added, "The nurse calls the doctor up, I could hear them talking in the other room. She comes in, she's kinda like a zombie and she says, 'You have a mass behind your left ear the size of a golf ball, and we don't know what it is. We can't tell until it's biopsied.' "

Even though the tumour was benign, Ruffalo had a surgery to remove the mass that left him deaf in his left ear.

He said, "(I am) completely deaf in one ear, and when I woke up, the left side of my face was totally paralysed. I couldn't even close my eye. I was talking out the side of my mouth."

Chris Young falls over table as he gets shoved by TABC agent prior to arrest



Los Angeles | Agencies

inger-songwriter Chris Young stumbled backward and fell over a table after being shoved by a Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) agent at a bar in

A video shows the country singer, 38, at the DawgHouse Saloon shortly before his arrest, reports 'People' magazine.

He is seen reaching out to the TABC agent, who reacts by shoving the musician, causing him to lose his footing and fall backward over a table and chairs. As per 'People', the 'Raised on Country' singer then stands, puts his hands up and backs away. Shortly after, Young was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct,

assaulting an officer and resisting arrest following the altercation. An arrest affidavit, accessed by 'People' says the country star initially conversed with the TABC agents at the bar, where officers verified his ID and then worked with the bar staff to check the establishment's ABC cards, at which point Chris Young began filming

The agents then moved on to neighbouring bar DawgHouse Saloon, with the singer and multiple friends allegedly following and speaking with its staff. As the TABC agents looked to exit the location, Chris reached out and, according to the affidavit, "struck"

one of them on the shoulder. Unaware of Young's identity, the agent pushed the singer away, and another bar patron intervened, reads the affidavit. The 'Drinkin' Me Lonely' singer then allegedly "began yelling and screaming", refusing to follow the directions of an agent speaking to him. Footage of his arrest shows the singer calmly requesting clarification.

Margot Robbie collaborates on 'Barbie' fashion book



n a project with her stylist, Hollywood star Margot Robbie has collaborated on an

upcoming 'Barbie' fashion book. The 33-year-old, who played the blonde doll in Greta Gerwig's smash 'Barbie' film, worked th her stylist Andrew Mukamal on the proj ect, which has been announced on Instagram.

Mukamal said he had collaborated with the star actress on a fashion book chronicling the 'Barbie' movie's press tour and its style

moments, reports femalefirst.co.uk. 'Barbie: The World Tour' is set to hit bookshelves on March 8.It is two days before the Oscars, which snubbed Robbie by not giving her a best actress nod in the 2024 Oscars nominees, which were announced Tuesday (January 23),

for her titular role in 'Barbie'. The book's cover shows the actress dressed in a pink tweed Chanel skirt suit and a sequined top and lying flat in a doll-like pose while she's surrounded by pink Chanel bags and other acces-

Mukamal, who was behind

John Stamos, wife Caitlin McHugh recreate 'Barbie', slams Margot Robbie, Greta Gerwig Oscar snub

Los Angeles | Agencies ctor John Stamos has shared his support movie following director Greta Gerwig and star Margot Robbie's Oscar snubs. "This one goes out to Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie who crafted a film that was both a critical success and a cultural phenomenon, delving into feminist themes through the lens of Barbie and

challenging patriarchal

norms," the 'Full House'

Instagram video upload,

'This movie not only resonated

actor captioned an

reports 'People' magazine.

deeply, but also grossed OVER a billion dollars," continued Stamos. 'Yet, in a twist of irony, both women were snubbed by the Academy. Everyone go rewatch 'Barbie' tonight". As per 'People,' in the video, Stamos and his wife, Caitlin McHugh, recreated a scene from the 2023 blockbuster. Caitlin, 37,

took on the role of Ryan Gosling's Ken. The video pulls dialogue from the scene when Barbie asks Ken to make himself scarce during their journey to the real world. In Stamos and McHugh's recreation, The Vampire Diaries actress tends to their garden as Stamos relaxes on the sidelines and tries to occupy himself.

portrayed Robbie's

Barbie, while Stamos

all of Margot's looks as she promoted director Greta's doll blockbuster, said the book was 'an idea I had in my living room when I started dreaming about Margot's wardrobe for the 'Barbie' press tour in March 2023". He added he "never could have imagined" the book would take flight "just a few months later", and hailed it as a "once in a lifetime

Mukamal and Robbie worked together to chronicle her living doll outfits, with the book's publisher notdue to the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike, the duo made sure to include looks fans never got to see.

The images in 'Barbie: World Tour' were shot by legendary fashion photographer Craig McDean. It will also feature handwritten contributions from

the designers behind the looks as well as looks at

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY Gigi Hadid

SURYAKUMAR NAMED MEN'S T201 CRICKETER OF THE YEAR; MATTHEWS WINS IN WOMEN'S CATEGORY



Team Absolute New Delhi

ndia's maverick batter Suryakumar Yadav has won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award for the

second successive time. West Indies' all-rounder captain Hayley Matthews was named the winner of the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year

Suryakumar was also named the captain of ICC Men's T20I team of the year for 2023. In 17 T20I innings, Suryakumar scored 733 runs at an average of 48.86 and strike-rate of 155.95 to dominate run-scoring in the shortest format in 2023. He beat competition from New Zealand's Mark Chapman, Uganda's Alpesh Ramjani and Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza to win the coveted honour.

His first T20I knock of the year was a mere seven against Sri Lanka, but he shined in the next two matches with scores of 51 (36) and 112 not out (51) in Pune and Rajkot respectively. An innings of 83 (44) against the West Indies in Providence, Guyana, in August was followed by a knock of 61 (45) in Lauderhill, Florida, USA.

Suryakumar also went on to take the T20I leadership role of a young India side towards the end of the year. He made half-centuries against Australia (80 off 42 balls) and South Africa (56 from 36 balls), before posting a century off just 56 balls in India's final T20I of the year in Johannesburg.

"I am thrilled to win the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award for a second time. Winning back-to-back awards for my performances in this format is something I could only dream about when I made my international debut. I have put my heart and soul into playing for my country and to see my efforts rewarded with such a prestigious honour is very humbling.

"Congratulations are due to my fellow nominees on their excellent performances in 2023. I'd like to thank my teammates and support staff for giving me the platform to succeed, and I want to also extend my gratitude to fans and voters worldwide for allowing me to celebrate this accolade. "I hope that I can continue this success alongside my teammates for what will be a huge year of T20I cricket ahead, with the Men's T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies just around the corner," said Suryakumar in an ICC statement.

On the other hand, just like Suryakumar, Hayley also topped the

run-scoring charts for the year, racking up 700 runs in 14 matches at a strike rate of 132.32. She also picked up 19 wickets at an average of 16.21 through her off-spin bowling.

Her extraordinary unbeaten 99 in the first game of the series against Australia was overshadowed by her mind-blowing 132 in a run-chase of 213 in Sydney. Acing the worldrecord run-chase in women's T20Is saw Hayley break several records including that of the highest individual score in a women's T20I run-

Hayley staved off close competition from Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry and England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone. "I've been pretty blessed to have a good year wearing the West Indies colours, performing really well and helping the

"This is one of those awards that I'm going to cherish forever and knowing that it can make our West Indies fans home in the Caribbean and around the world happy is what motivates me to go out there and do my best," said Hayley.

Ravindra, Litchfield crowned **Emerging Cricketers of the Year**

Team Absolute New Delhi

Tew Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra and Australia opener Phoebe Litchfield have been crowned winners of the ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year in men's and women's category respectively. Netherlands allrounder Bas de Leede and Kenya captain Queentor Abel were named Associate Cricketers of the Year in men's and women's category respectively. Ravindra edged competition from India

opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, and fast bowlers Dilshan Madushanka and Gerald Coetzee of Sri Lanka and South Africa respectively. Ravindra, the left-handed batting all-rounder from New Zealand, made headlines in 2023 for his ODI exploits, a format he debuted in March. He showed glimpses early with a knock of 49 against Sri Lanka to begin, also chiming in with the ball, taking consecutive three-wicket hauls against Pakistan and England, both away from home. A fifty against England at Lord's followed, before showing maturity in his 123 not out off 96 balls in New Zealand's opening match of the Men's ODI World Cup against England. A knock of 51 against the Netherlands followed, before another half-century against India in a thrilling game in Dharamsala. Ravindra went on to smash 116 in a spirited chase against Australia at the same venue, before another century against Pakistan in Bengaluru, the hometown of his parents. Ravindra's 578 runs was the highest tally for a New Zealand player in a single edition



of the Men's ODI World Cup. "It's obviously a very special feeling. Whenever you are recognized by the ICC for something, it's always special. Reflecting back, it has been a pretty whirlwind last year or so. Having the opportunity to play so much cricket in so many different environments has been really special. Congratulations to all the fellow nominees, all of whom had an incredible year and performed brilliantly," said Ravindra in an ICC statement. In the women's category, Phoebe started the year in great touch as she smashed consecutive unbeaten half-centuries in her first two ODI matches at home against Pakistan. Despite narrowly missing out on selection for Australia's squad at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, Litchfield returned to international action with a Player of the Match performance by hitting her first century in international cricket with an

Australian Open: Zheng Qinwen becomes the fourth chinese women player to enter Grand Slam semis

Melbourne | Agencies

heng Qinwen, the 12th seed from China, etched her name into the annals of tennis history, overcoming a shaky start against the unseeded Anna Kalinskaya 6-7(4) 6-3 6-1, to secure her spot in the first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open 2024.

The match began with a stutter for Zheng, as a series of unforced errors in the first set hinted at the nerves that can accompany such monumental occasions. Kalinskaya, ranked 75th and appearing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, seized the

opportunity to break back after an early break by Zheng. The set unfolded with

exchanged breaks, but it was Kalinskaya who clinched the tiebreak, taking the lead 7-4. For a set and a half, the



spotlight seemed a bit too bright for Zheng, who, despite entering the match as the favorite, found herself making uncharacteristic mistakes. The tension in the air dissipated midway through the second set, as if a switch had been flipped within the 21-year-old's game.

Suddenly, Zheng's serve

found its rhythm, and her groundstrokes flowed with a newfound confidence.

Breaking Kalinskaya at a crucial moment, she unleashed her potential, finishing the set with an ace down the middle. The momentum continued into the third set, where Zheng's game reached

Its important to get youngsters in whenever there's an opportunity: Rohit Sharma

Hyderabad, Agencies

n the eve of the Test series opener against England, India captain Rohit Sharma expressed the importance of giving youngsters an opportunity in the longer format, adding that the team doesn't want to be in a situation where they are including a newbie in overseas conditions.

With Virat Kohli unavailable for first two Tests due to personal reasons, Rajat Patidar has been called into the squad, ahead of more experienced cricketers like Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane.

"We actually did think about going back to an experienced player (to fill Kohli's absence). But then when will the youngsters get their opportunity, and that's something we thought as well. Leaving an experienced player or not considering them is very hard because of the amount of runs they have scored, the kind of experience

they have had and amount of games they have won for us. It's very hard to ignore all of that."

"But sometimes you get certain players into the set-up as well, and you got to give them the favourable conditions, as you don't want to expose or bring them directly on foreign tours, where they have not played before. That's the thought behind all of that and it's important to try and get some of these youngsters in whenever there's an opportunity," said Rohit in the prematch press conference. Patidar was recently with India 'A' squad, currently playing against England Lions in Ahmedabad and made 151 off 158 balls in the first four-day match in a pressure situation. India also have to decide for their specialist wicketkeeper between an experienced KS Bharat and uncapped youngster Dhruv Jurel ahead of the first Test starting at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on January 25."Again, by no means the



doors are closed on anyone - as long as they stay fit and keep scoring runs, anyone will be welcomed back into the set-up. Having said that, it's important to look at some of the other players as we don't want to end up in a situation where seven to eight guys have barely 20-25 Test matches between themselves. So whenever you have the opportunity, give them some game time," added Rohit. The series has been billed as India aiming to defend its record of not having lost a Test series at home after the 2-1 series defeat to England. The visitors, led by Ben Stokes and coached by Brendon McCullum, are yet to lose a Test series since the duo took over the team leadership via their attacking approach of playing the game. "We will look to play our cricket.

I am not interested in looking at how the opposition is going to play and all of that. For us, it's important that we look into our cricket, focus on what we need to do as a team and then take it from there," added Rohit on countering the attacking plots from

'IF ENGLAND PLAY BAZBALL, THE MATCH MAY GET OVER...', SAYS SIRAJ

Hyderabad | Agencies

n the eve of the highly-anticipated Test series against England, India fast-bowler Mohammed Siraj believes the matches may get over in one-and-a-half or two days if the visitors' stick to their 'Bazball' style of play in the subcontinental conditions.

England last won a Test series in India 12 years ago, where Alastair Cook was the captain and spinners Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar, along with Kevin Pietersen played leading roles in the 2-1 triumph. In the 2021 tour, England had won the opening Test in Chennai, but lost next three games to lose the series 3-1 to India.

India are unbeaten in 16 home Test series after losing 2-1 to England in 2012. England, meanwhile, are vet to lose a Test series under the Ben Stokes-Brendon McCullum leadership group.

"If England play Bazball in Indian conditions, the match may get over within a day-and-a-half or two. It's not easy to hit every time here as the ball turns sometimes and straightens on other occasions. So, I think it'll be difficult to see Bazball here. But if they play it, it'll be good for us as the match may get over quickly," said Siraj to broadcasters JioCinema.

In India's last Test against South Africa at Cape Town, which is also the shortest match in the histo-



ry of the format, Siraj demolished the Proteas batters with an electrifying spell of 6-15. He was then rested from the T20Is against Afghanistan with an eye to prepare for the Tests against England.

"On their previous tour to India, the matches were getting over quickly. In that series (in 2021) I think I played two matches. In the first innings of one of these, I bowled five overs and took two wickets of Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow.'

"So, the aim will be to control runs in how many ever overs I bowl. If I get wickets fine, but I'll have to stay patient and continue building pressure on the batsmen. I am waiting for all our fans in Hyderabad to turn up for the game. We love them a lot and look forward to their support."

Siraj also credited consistency in his performances for adapting well in different conditions and formats of the game. "I bowl with the new ball, so my line and length remain the same. I don't change things whether it's the white ball or the red ball. You have to bowl that length of five-six metres, because with the new ball, you have to pitch it up to

get wickets." "If the ball doesn't swing, you have to adjust the length slightly. So, I try to find consistency and keep pitching the new ball at the same spot. That's what I focus on whether it's the new ball or the old ball. That consistency has helped me take wickets till now." Speaking about the contrast in his nature on and off the field, Siraj said: "As a fast bowler, I get angry when someone hits me for a boundary. I feel like breaking their helmet or getting them out off the next ball. So, I ensure that I am always fired up in the middle and make the batsman feel scared.

BBL: Brisbane Heat win second title after 11 years

Sydney | Agencies

n a spectacular display of power hitting and inspired bowling, the Brisbane Heat emerged victorious, claiming their second Big Bash League (BBL) title in 11 years as they defeated Sydney Sixers by 54 runs, here at Sydney Cricket Ground.

The hero of the night was none other than the explosive opener, Josh Brown, who not only backed up his record-breaking innings with another quickfire half-century but also played a pivotal role in delivering a 54-run demolition of the Sydney Sixers at the iconic SCG.Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Brisbane Heat's Josh Brown and skipper Nathan McSweeney set the stage with a formidable partnership. Brown, known for his big-hitting prowess, showcased his skills once again, contributing 53 to a total of 8-166 on a challenging surface. The Heat's innings received an extra boost from reserve Test squad batter Matthew Renshaw, who added a quickfire 40 off 22 balls. However, the real magic unfolded during the Heat's defense, as left-arm sensation Spencer Johnson put on a



bowling masterclass. His extraordinary figures of 4-26 not only stifled the Sydney Sixers but also secured the best-ever figures in a BBL final, surpassing the record set earlier in the evening by Sean Abbott (4-32).

Australian Open

ZVEREV ENDS ALCARAZ GLAND SLAM SEMIS RUN

Melbourne | Agencies

lexander Zverev showcased his resilience and determination, outlasting the Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-4 in a thrilling quarterfinal of the Australian Open 2024.

The German sixth seed delivered one of his most impressive Grand Slam performances to secure a hard-fought victory over the young Spaniard.

The match took unexpected turns as Zverev dominated the first two sets with a commanding scoreline of 6-1, 6-3, putting him in a seemingly unassailable position. However, Alcaraz, displaying his fighting spirit, clawed his way back into the contest, winning the third set in a tiebreak. Zverev, aiming to close out the match, faced a momentary setback as he failed to serve it out when leading two sets to love and 5-3 in the third. The young Spaniard seized the opportunity and forced a fourth set, extending the battle into the early hours of Thursday morning in Melbourne. Undeterred by the setback,



Zverev regrouped and steadied himself in the fourth set, eventually securing a hard-fought 6-1, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-4 victory. The result propelled Zverev into his seventh Grand Slam semifinal and his second at Melbourne Park. His opponent in the semifinal showdown will be none other than world No. 3 Daniil Medvedev

In an earlier clash that added to the night's drama, Medvedev triumphed over Hubert Hurkacz in a four-hour, five-set thriller. The intensity and drama of the quarterfinal battles at the Australian Open showcased the resilience, skill, and determination of the top players vying for a coveted spot in the final.

Tennis: Sumit Nagal to lead India's challenge at Bengaluru Open

Bengaluru Agencies

umit Nagal, who made his presence felt at the Australian Open by knocking out world number 27 Alexander Bublik, will lead strong Indian challenge at the Bengaluru Open, starting February 10.

Ranked 137, Nagal is the lone Indian to get direct entry at the ATP Challenger tournament where the cut off was set at a stiff 257. A total of 21 players from 11 different nations have qualified for the main draw at the ATP 100 Challenger tourna-

Benzamin Bonzi, the world number 106 from France, is the highest-ranked player to have entered the tournament. "This year, the competition is set to elevate further. With eight players ranked in the top 200, including four within the top 150, the level of tennis is such that distinguishing between players in the 100-200 range is challenging. We anticipate some outstanding



contests among the players and Bengaluru is excited to welcome them," said Priyank Kharge, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Minister for IT, BT & RDPR, Government of Karnataka, and Senior Vice President, KSLTA.

Nagal had won this tournament back in 2017 and backed himself to win another title after a strong show at the season's first major, where he qualified for the main draw and did not drop a set in first four matches.

"After the morale-boosting success at the Australian Open, I am brimming with confidence and anticipation as I return to my roots. This edition is expected to be high on challenges, there are many strong contenders, making this edition more challenging and definitely exciting to watch. "My journey continues, and I am enthusiastic about going back on court and making a lasting impact. I am eagerly waiting to be in action in Bengaluru and play infront of the wonderful crowd of Bengaluru. I have always enjoyed playing in the city and the Bengaluru Open is one of the nicest events on the challenger tour. Always onward and upward!", expressed Nagal.

Sunil Yajaman would continue as the Tournament Director for the sixth edition of the prestigious ATP Challenger event, which will be organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) at the KSLTA Stadium.



Anil Kapoor opens up on 'big fight' in past 45 years of working in cinema

Team Absolute | Mumbai who is awaiting the release of his uncoming action film 'Fighter', is a fighter for all seasons, rather for all decades in the past 45 years of him being in the business of cinema.

The actor recently interacted with the media ahead of the release of the film, and shared what all it takes to be a successful actor despite facng stiff competition.

The actor said, "After spending more than 45 years in this business", as his director Siddharth Anand prompted, "Hindi, The senior actor con-

tinued, "To be relevant, to sit here with Sid, Deepika, Hrithik, and to work with them, bada mushkil hota hai. I have to work harder every year.

He further mentioned, "I have to constantly change the gears so that the youngsters in the audience, the actors, the technicians, the press (consider my

work good). I'm excited and I'm enjoying working, and they are also enjoying working with me, speaking with me, ask-

ing me questions, and the audience is

excited to see me on screen. To do that

again and again for more than four

decades is a big fight.

made his debut in 1971 with 'Tu Payal Mein Geet' in which he played the younger version of the late actor Shashi Kapoor. The film was however unreleased. He then graced the silver screen with 'Hamare Tumhare' in which he played a supporting role.

SRK shoots for Rakesh Roshan's family docu 'The Roshans Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, who has had a great run at the box-office with his films like 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan', has shot for the documentary 'The Roshans'. Director Rakesh Roshan took to his Instagram recently and shared pictures of him

The director wrote in the caption, "Thank you Shahrukh for your love, warmth & contribution to 'The

The documentary will reportedly chronicle the journey of the Roshan family in the industry from the year 1948, when Roshan came to

Bombay for work and ended up being the assistant of music composer Khawaja Khurshid Anwar

Team Absolute New Delhi

to take place on Januar

SRK has done films like the iconic 'Karan Arjun' and 'Koyla' with Rakesh. The two locked horns at the boxoffice when 'Raees' and 'Kaabil' clashed back in 2017.

Fans reacted to the pictures as they took to the comments section and wrote, "Wish Kaabil & Raees hadn't

Another user wrote, "Krrish and Ra.one together?" Rakesh Roshan comes from a family artistes. His father Roshan Lal Nagrath (fondly known as Roshan) was a music director. Since the Roshans have an impressive legacy of nearly seven decades in the industry, they decided to tell the world about it by creating a documentary on it.

Meanwhile, Hrithik Roshan, the son of Rakesh, is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Fighter' which also stars Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor.

The film has been directed by Siddharth Anand, who has delivered a hat-trick of blockbusters including 'Pathaan', 'War' and 'Bang Bang!'

Tith Vicky Jain's elimination, the 17th season of 'Bigg Boss' has Ankita Lokhande. Munawat finally got its ron five contestants Ankita Lokhande. Tith Vicky Jain's elimination, the 17th season of 'Bigg Boss' has Ankita Lokhande, Munawar finally got its top five contestants Ankita Lokhande Arun Faruqui, Mannara Chopra, Abhishek Kumar and Arun ahshertv.

Mahshetty.
The season's final eviction took place on Tuesday night with Vicky
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The housemates were asked to come The season's final eviction took place on Tuesday night with Vicky
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When Vicky opened his scroll, it read: "Evicted".
The grand finale of the show hosted by Salman Khan is all set take place on January 28.



SARA ALI KHAN VISITS GRISHNESHWAR JYOTIRLINGA TEMPLE, PERFORMS RUDRABHISHEK

Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress Sara Ali Khan sought blessings as she visited the Grishneshwar Maha Jyotirlinga temple in Maharashtra, and performed the auspicious rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva.

Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga in Verul village of Sambhajinagar district, Maharashtra, is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

Sara took to Instagram and shared some divine glimpses from her recent visit to the temple. In the photos, we can see the 'Kedarnath' fame actress wearing a floral yellow coloured suit with a matching shawl.

She can be seen performing the rudrabhishek, and attended the shringar and aarti. The photos were captioned as: "Jai Bholenath". Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "Sara earned our respect". One

user said: "pure". On the professional front, Sara was last seen in romantic comedy

film 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', alongside Vicky Kaushal.

She also had a special appearance in the song "Heart Throb" from the movie 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in the lead.

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The grand finale of the show hosted by Salman Khan is all set

The grand finale of the show hosted by Salman Khan is all set. Bigg Boss 17': Ankita, Munawar, Mannara, Abhishek & Arun are the finalists





Deepika shares her experience of shooting the film at Tezpur airbase: Lived in quarters, played badminton

Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'Fighter', shared her experience of shooting the film at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.

"I remember we shot our first schedule in Assam for 15-20 days. That was a live active airbase. It was a great decision on Sid's (Siddharth Anand) part to start the film on that note. It gave us the tone and the pitch to carry the story forward. The real aircrafts, fighters and their families were there. We were eating in the same place as the officers and we were living in their quarters," she said.

She further mentioned, "We played badminton with them. It was all so surreal, we could literally hear a sukhoi aircraft taking off every five minutes. There's not much information beyond this that we can share given the protocols of the forces. Some fighters were also assigned to work with us. They gave us extremely valuable inputs in terms of the costumes, flying the aircraft, the body language, how to salute and flying a chopper. Not just as actors but also as human beings we all learned so much."

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