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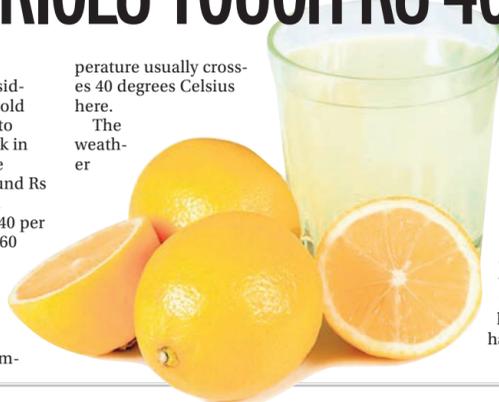
LEMON WATER BECOMES AN ELITE DRINK AS LEMON PRICES TOUCH RS 400 PER KG

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Lemon water, which is considered the common man's cold drink in summers, seems to have become an elite drink in the sizzling summer of the desert state as lemons sold for around Rs 400 kg in Jaipur on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the lemon's rate was Rs 340 per kg in Jaipur which increased by Rs 60 in 24 hours on Wednesday.

One lemon in Jaipur is being sold at Rs 30 which is giving nightmares to the middle class who are used to drinking lemon water in the afternoon when the tem-

perature usually crosses 40 degrees Celsius here. The weather



department has already given a heat wave warning for the next four days. The temperature here has been hovering at around 40 degrees. And in such hot weather, the lemons being sold at Rs 400 per kg has given us a major jolt, said Mukta Mittal who went to buy vegetables on Wednesday. Vegetable vendors said, "With the rising temperature, the price of lemons has jumped a lot. Till the last two weeks, the rate of lemons ranged between Rs 140-150 per kg which has suddenly shot up to Rs 220-400 per kg. Shopkeepers are giving one or two lemons worth Rs 30. The demand for lemons has increased for the last several days."

► THE LOCAL MANDIS TRADERS SAY THAT THERE IS USUALLY A JUMP IN THE PRICES OF VEGETABLES DURING THE SUMMER SEASON. BUT AT THIS TIME, THERE ARE MANY OTHER FACTORS TRIGGERING THE INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF LEMONS. THE BIGGEST REASON FOR THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF PETROL AND DIESEL. DUE TO FUEL INCREASE, THE COST OF TRANSPORT HAS RISEN AND THE PRICES OF VEGETABLES ARE ALSO SEEING AN INCREASE.

► IT'S NOT ONLY THE LEMONS GIVING A PAIN TO THE MIDDLE CLASS BUT ALSO GINGER, MOSTLY RECOMMENDED FOR TEA DURING THE PANDEMIC, IS BEING SOLD AT RS 80-100 PER KG.

► LADYFINGERS, BEANS ETC ARE EQUALLY HIGH PRICED AND AVAILABLE AT RS 120 PER KG.

INDIA'S FIRST COVID XE PATIENT FOUND IN MUMBAI, CAME FROM SA

'XE' is a mutant hybrid of the two previous versions of the Omicron variant, BA.1 and BA.2, which is spreading across the world. It was first detected in the UK on January 19 and since then a few hundred sequences have been reported and confirmed.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A woman costumes designer of South African origin has become the first person in India to test positive for the XE variant of Covid-19, the state health department and officials of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said here on Wednesday.

The 50-year-old fully vaccinated patient, whose identity has not been disclosed as per norms, was part of a film shooting crew which arrived here from South Africa on February 10.

She had no previous travel history and as per the protocols, she underwent the regular tests, and tested Covid positive on February 27. Her lab sample was referred to the Kasturba Hospital Central Laboratory here.

The BMC said that during a routine testing by Suburban Diagnostics, the woman - jabbed with both doses of Comirnaty vaccine - tested positive again on March 2.

She was immediately quarantined at the Hotel Taj Land's End in Bandra, where she recovered in a



WHO SAYS...

As per the World Health Organization's (WHO) notification issued last week, the new XE variant, first detected in the United Kingdom, is a mutant hybrid of two other Omicron versions, BA.1 And BA.2, and accounts for a minuscule fraction of cases globally. According to the WHO, XE has a community growth rate advantage of about 10 per cent as compared to BA.2 subvariant, which is already the most contagious. While XE only accounts for a small fraction of the cases, it's extremely high transmissibility could mean that it becomes the most dominant strain in the near future.

couple of days and another test conducted on her by Spice Health returned negative.

This was among the 230 samples tested by the health authorities as part of its ongoing sero-survey series in which the XE variant emerged, while another was detected with the Capa variant. The state health department said that on repeated RT-PCR testing, the woman has tested negative. The latest develop-

BMC'S EXPLANATION

Given her recent foreign travel, the BMC had sent this sample for genome sequencing along with 230 other positive samples of which one was XE variant, one Capa and the rest were Omicron BA.2 variants, informed BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal. After the woman was detected with the XE Covid variant, her condition was described as asymptomatic and without comorbidities. All her high-risk contacts have tested negative and there is no cause for worry, assured Chahal.

ment has caused concerns in the health circles as Maharashtra is on the path of recovery and in the final stages of the ongoing third wave which started in December 2021. Till date, the state has notched 78,74,690 Covid cases in the past over two years, along with 1,47,800 deaths, both highest in the country.

MUSKAN'S FATHER RESPONDS TO AL QAEDA CHIEF

"People say whatever they want... this is unnecessarily causing trouble. We are living peacefully in our country, we don't want him to talk about us, as he is not related to us... it is wrong, it is an attempt to create division among us. My daughter is a student, and she is interested in studies. Let the agencies conduct the investigation."

New Delhi | Agencies

The latest video message from al-Qaeda head Ayman al-Zawahiri that focuses on the hijab controversy in India is purely for propaganda and a bid to increase his support base in the country, intelligence sources told CNN-News18 on Wednesday. In the video, al-Zawahiri purportedly praised Muskan



VIDEO PROVES ROLE OF 'INVISIBLE HAND': K'TAKA HOME MINISTER

"This is a very serious matter and duly handled by the authorities. I have also mentioned about the presence of religious fanatic organisations behind the hijab row in the state. The video by Al Qaeda has now proven it. The issue is being discussed at international levels. The children's (girl students who started the protest) behaviour, their talks and non-cooperation were not normal."

Khan, a student from Karnataka, known for shouting "Allahu Akbar" against chanting "Jai Shree Ram". "...we must stop being deceived by the mirage of the pagan Hindu democracy of India, which, to begin with, was never more than a tool to oppress Muslims," he said in the Arabic video clip, with English subtitles pro-

vided by the American SITE Intelligence Group.

The message is an eye-opener for Indian Muslims to relook at their protest on the matter, they said. The intelligence sources said that al-Zawahiri is trying to tell the world that he is alive and is trying to regain his popularity by raising an emotive issue.

'But where are the schools?':

Supreme Court of India on against the backdrop of instituting Right to Education Act observed that the government should always bear in mind the financial impact, before developing any scheme.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Right to Education Act is a classic example where a right was created, but questioned where were the schools? A bench, told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre. It further added that various authorities, including municipalities, state governments etc., were tasked

to set up schools, but where do they get teachers from? Often, budget constraints are cited, it said. The top court was hearing a plea seeking adequate infrastructure to provide effective legal aid to women abused in matrimonial homes and also to create shelter homes for them, across the country. Bhati said substantial progress has been made and there were a lot of parleys and consultations with all states, and added that the

Central government needs to keep all states in the loop. The bench noted that revenue officers, in some states, are working as protection officers in terms of the Act. Bhati sought some time to place the details in the matter, as per court's earlier direction. Emphasising on evaluating financial impact, the bench said: "We don't want multiplicity of grievances... states' resources may not match up to what you require."

FUEL PRICES HIKE BY RS 10 PER LITRE IN 16 DAYS

In the US, during this period, the increase in petrol prices was 51 per cent. Similarly, in Canada, the increase was 52 per cent, while in Germany and the UK, it was 55 per cent, in France, it was 50 per cent, in Spain, it was 58 per cent, in Sri Lanka, it was 55 per cent, and in India, it is just 5 per cent."

Hardeep Singh Puri, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The fuel price on Wednesday witnessed another increase by 80 paise, with the cost of petrol and diesel in Delhi reaching Rs 105.41 per litre and Rs 96.67 per litre respectively. While in Mumbai, the fuel prices went up by 85 paise, the cost of petrol was hiked by 84 paise at Rs 120.51 and diesel prices per litre increased by 84 paise at Rs 104.77.

This is the 14th increase in fuel prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22, 2022. Additionally, with this fuel rate revision total increase now stands at Rs 10 per litre.



Meanwhile, CNG prices in Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat on Wednesday saw steep hikes after the government raised input natural gas prices to record levels. Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL)

raised compressed natural gas (CNG) price by Rs 7 per kg to Rs 67 per kg in Mumbai while Gujarat Gas hiked rates by Rs 6.5 per kg to Rs 76.98.

In the national capital, Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) raised CNG price by another Rs 2.5 per kg, taking the total increase in rates in the last one month to about Rs 10 per kg. CNG in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi now costs Rs 66.61 per kg. According to MGL, the price of cooking gas piped to household kitchens too has been increased to Rs 41 per cubic meter in Mumbai.

Diabetes, BP, asthma significantly high in India post Covid

According to Dr Tilak Suvarna, senior interventional cardiologist, Asian Heart Institute, Mumbai, correcting six lifestyle choices such as unhealthy snacking habits, excessive salt consumption, lack of physical activity, overindulging in alcohol, smoking and chewing tobacco, and excessive stress can help people live with not only a healthy heart but overall fitness and well being.

► THE HEALTH OF THE NATION 2022 REPORT, BY APOLLO HOSPITALS, INDICATED A NATIONAL PREVALENCE FOR DIABETES MELLITUS OF AROUND 7 PER CENT, OVER 8 PER CENT FOR HYPERTENSION, AND AROUND 2 PER CENT FOR CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE (COPD) AND ASTHMA.

► IN INDIA, NCDs KILL 6 MILLION PEOPLE EVERY YEAR OF WHICH AROUND 23 PER CENT ARE BETWEEN 30-70 YEARS OF AGE.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The prevalence and distribution of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, asthma, and obesity is significantly on the rise across the country after the two years of Covid-19 pandemic, according to a report, ahead of the World Health Day. World Health Day is a global health awareness day cele-

brated every year on April 7. NCDs pose devastating health consequences for individuals, families, and communities with socioeconomic costs that can derail India's achieving the target of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030 in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. He suggested addressing the NCD challenge through promotion of healthy

lifestyles, early diagnosis and management.

The increasing risk of NCDs such as diabetes, BP, and cardiovascular diseases in India are majorly the result of physical inactivity clubbed with genetic factors, revealed a report by Indus Health Plus. Regular preventive screening and a healthy

lifestyle with physical activities may help curb the NCDs in the country.



RS PASSES CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) BILL, 2022

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022. The bill seeks to enable investigating officers to collect certain identifiable information (fingerprints and footprints) of persons including convicts and arrested persons.

It was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 4.

A motion to refer the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha was rejected by a division with 59 voting in favour

and 97 voting against.

During a discussion in the House, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the concerns about human rights violations raised by the opposition MPs, were not correct and further said that the victims of a crime also have human rights. He also said that those caught by the law also have human rights.

Stating the conviction rate in the country, he said that there has been only 39 per cent conviction rate in rape cases, 38 per cent in theft cases, and 27 per cent in child abuse cases.



CURRENT HEAT WAVE SPELL NOT UNCOMMON, 2 DEGREES C RISE IN NW INDIA EXPECTED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The current spell of heat wave, especially across northwest India, for a longer duration is neither unique nor uncommon, as 2017 and 2019 too had witnessed similar phenomena, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

It also said that a rise in maximum temperatures by about 2 degrees Celsius is very likely over many parts of northwest and central India during the next three days.

The current heat wave spell started mainly over west Rajasthan and adjoining areas of Gujarat and west Madhya Pradesh from March 27. It further extended to east Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, south Haryana, Delhi and southern parts of Uttar Pradesh by March 29.

During this period of heat wave, maximum temperatures were recorded in the range of 40-42 degrees Celsius over most stations in these states, with a few stations mainly over western Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh recording in the range of 42-43 degrees Celsius.

Besides this persistent heat wave observed over northern plains and



central India, parts of western Himalayan region also reported heat wave to severe heat wave conditions with maximum temperature in the range of 25-33 degrees Celsius at higher ridges while at lower ridges, it has been 33-39 degrees Celsius - 6 to 9 degrees Celsius above normal.

"The immediate past heat wave data during 2017-2021 for the month of April shows this type of longer spell is not unusual. The spells of heat wave to severe heat

wave with 8-12 days duration were observed in April 2017 and 2019 over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Punjab and parts of Gujarat and of 6-8 days duration over parts of Western Himalayan region covering Himachal Pradesh and Jammu in April 2017," the IMD bulletin said.

The forecast warned of a rise in maximum temperatures by about 2 degrees Celsius, very likely over many parts of northwest and Central India during the next three

days and no significant change thereafter. However, a fall in maximum temperatures by about 2-3 degrees Celsius is very likely over Gujarat during next three days and no significant change thereafter.

No significant change in maximum temperatures is very likely over rest of the country during the next five days, the IMD said.

There would be heat wave conditions in most parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets very likely over west Rajasthan during next five days, heat wave conditions in some parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over east Rajasthan during next five days, and heat wave to severe heat wave conditions in isolated/some pockets over south Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh during next five days.

The IMD also warned that heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Vidarbha, and Bihar during next five days, over central Maharashtra and Jammu division during next 2-3 days, over Jharkhand till April 8, over south Punjab till April 10 and over Chhattisgarh on April 9 and 10.

New recruitment model proposed for Army services

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A recruitment model first proposed in 2020 with the initial purpose of reducing officers' shortage in the Army while tackling the growing defence pension bills is likely to be modified to recruit only soldiers on a short-term contract basis.

The recruitment process of soldiers in the Army was halted two years ago after the Covid-19 pandemic broke out in 2020. Aspirants looking to join the defence forces staged a protest on Tuesday at Jantar Mantar against the suspension of recruitment rallies, among other things.

Highly placed sources in the government told that the proposed recruitment model, called Tour of Duty (ToD), is in final stages and undergoing fine-tuning with a slew of meetings held on this over the last two weeks.

As per the sources, the present draft of the scheme states that all soldiers in the Indian Army would eventually be recruited under the Tour



of Duty model. Around 25% of them would serve in the Army for three years and 25% troops would serve for five years. As the draft stands now, the remaining 50% would continue to serve in the Army for the full term till they reach their retirement age, the sources added.

A top source in the government said that initial calculations show this could save a significant portion of the defence pensions bills, which will cumulatively grow every few years. It has also been proposed that 50% of soldiers who would be released at the end of three and five years be included in

the National Pension Scheme and be given certain medical benefits, applicable to Armed Forces veterans, for a fixed period. The source quoted above added that this proposed recruitment model may not be applicable to officers and only soldiers could be employed under it. The Army has a shortage of 7,476 officers as per data presented in Parliament in December last year. The exact time-frame of the launch of this proposal is not immediately clear, with the Army awaiting a nod from the Defence Ministry on the proposal. The scheme might later be extended to the Navy and IAF.

Meat shops open in Delhi's INA Market

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The meat shops here at the INA Market that remained briefly shut on Tuesday, were again opened by the vendors, saying there was no official direction to close them.

INA Traders Association member Ramesh Bhutani told reporter on Wednesday that "some mediapersons had come to the market on April 4, and asked the meat shop owners to down their shutters from Tuesday".

"It is because of this rumour, several shops remained closed till 3 p.m. but when the vendors contacted me, I told them that there is no written order from



the SDMC and they can open the shops," he said.

On April 4, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Mayor Mukesh Suryan had written a letter to the SDMC Commissioner, urging the latter to issue necessary directions for the closure of meat shops during the 9-day period of Navaratri

festival from April 2-11. However, no official order was given by the SDMC Commissioner after this.

On Tuesday, April 5, the shops remained shut for a brief period amid rumours of licence cancellation. However, the vendors opened it later in the evening.

Amid Azaan row, K'taka Police issue circular to take action against noise pollution

BENGALURU | Agencies

Amid the row over mosque loudspeakers, the Karnataka Police on Wednesday issued an internal circular to initiate action against noise pollution in religious institutions and other places.

Director General and IGP of Karnataka Praveen Sood issued the circular to all the Inspector Generals of Police (IGP), Superintendents of Police (SP) and Commissioners of Police in the state.

"With regard to the matter of noise pollution, you are directed to adhere strictly to the decision of the High Court of Karnataka. In this regard, you are directed to take action against religious institutions, pubs and any other institution and functions, if found violating The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000



as per the law," the circular reads. Reacting to the slew of developments in the state relating to religious

matters, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday had stated that all are equal before the

government and it would work without any bias or discrimination. "All steps would be taken to ensure peace by not letting any individual or organisation take law into their hands," he said. However, the circular follows the statement of the Chief Minister CM Bommai has again raised concerns over the use of loudspeakers during 'Azaan' in the ongoing Ramzan season. According to the statistics submitted to the court by the police department, a total of 301 notices have been issued in connection with the noise pollution in the state between 2021 to 2022 February. Among which 125 notices have been issued to mosques, 83 temples and 22 churches. Along with this, 59 notices are issued to pubs, bars, restaurants and 12 Industries have been given notices.

DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT FUEL PRICES, BUY E-VEHICLES INSTEAD: GOA MINISTER

PANAJI | Agencies

Instead of complaining about rising fuel prices, people should purchase e-bikes and electric cars, Goa's Law and Judiciary Minister Nilesh Cabral said on Wednesday.

Cabral also said that at least Indians are fortunate that "we can buy petrol and diesel, unlike the residents of Sri Lanka which is facing bankruptcy".

"Look at what is happening today. At least we get petrol and diesel, look at what is happening in Sri Lanka. We have to understand what the situation is. I also feel petrol should be priced at Rs 50. But it cannot happen practically," Cabral told reporters, when asked to comment on rising fuel prices.

In Goa, petrol is available at around Rs 106 per litre.

"So we have to make a change in ourselves.



I will advise people to buy electrical vehicles and start moving around with them so that you can save your money and save your environment also. They say prices have increased and yet they buy petrol. They must be in a position to buy an (e)-bike," Cabral told reporters at the BJP state headquarters in Panaji.

"If it (Petrol) is only 100 rupees (per litre), then why are you scared of buying it (at the price)," he also said.

Cabral further said that the state government already had a scheme in place for subsidised purchase of electric vehicles.

"Use electrical bikes and cars. The government is giving subsidy.

You will do two things. You will save environment of pollution by petrol and diesel vehicles. And (money in) your pocket will also be saved," Cabral said.

Nitish the CM face for BJP in Bihar, says Tarkishore Prasad

PATNA | Agencies

A day after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav mocked BJP for talking about the "Yogi model" but not having a Chief Ministerial face in Bihar, Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad on Wednesday said that the BJP was contesting elections in the state in the name of Nitish Kumar.

In remarks at the BJP state headquarters here on the occasion of the party's foundation day ceremony, he said that the partners of the entire



NDA had chosen Nitish Kumar as the CM face in Bihar.

"BJP top leadership has taken the decision to project Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister of Bihar," he said, without revealing the party's clear stand in the current circumstances where several BJP MLAs are seeking that the Chief Minister sh

Meanwhile, BJP sources said that the party's stand could change any time if a situation arises where the party would be able to form government on its own.

Heroin valued at Rs 10 cr seized in Delhi, Nigerian held



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 50-year-old Nigerian national was arrested along with 1,081 grams of heroin valued at Rs 10 crore in the international market, an official said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Adefowale Olaitan Adegoke, came to India on

a medical visa on December 10, however, his visa expired on February 23.

Adegoke was arrested by the Cell Against Illegal Foreigner and Narcotics (CAIFAN) of the Delhi Police. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka district) Vikram Singh said an information

was received on April 4, regarding an African national who is involved in supply of high quality contraband in the Uttam Nagar area. As per information, a police team was constituted which laid a trap near Holy Chowk, Hasthal, Uttam Nagar Delhi and apprehended the said foreigner.

AMU PROFESSOR PLACED UNDER SUSPENSION FOR HURTING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS

Aligarh (UP): An Assistant Professor of Aligarh Muslim University has been placed under suspension for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by a slide's presentation that included "mythical references" to rape. In view of the prima facie evidence of misconduct and seriousness of the matter, Dr Jitendra Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, J N Medical College, AMU) has been placed under suspension pending an inquiry. Further action will be taken depending upon his reply to the show cause notice. The varsity earlier in the day issued a show cause notice to the professor. The AMU directed Jitendra Kumar to submit his reply on the matter within 24 hours, after which he tendered an unconditional apology. A statement issued by the university said, "The Aligarh Muslim University and the Faculty of Medicine strongly condemn the content of a slide on the mythical reference of rape and has issued a show cause notice to Dr Jitendra Kumar for hurting the religious sentiments of the students, staff, and citizens." The AMU has also set up a two-member inquiry committee to probe the matter and recommend steps to ensure that the incident is not repeated in the future.

The slide in question sparked a massive row after it was shared on social media.

'2 terrorists killed in J&K were trying to revive terror folds'



Srinagar | Agencies

Two terrorists killed on Wednesday in an encounter between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district were attempting to revive terror folds, officials said on Wednesday.

The terrorists, identified as Muzaffar Sofi of Ansar Gazwatul Hind (AGuH) and Umer Teli of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in Tral area of Awantipora.

Both were involved in many terror crimes, and active in Srinagar before shifting to Tral in Pulwama.

The police said that based on a specific input generated by Ganderbal police regarding the

presence of terrorists in Tral area, a raid was conducted by Awantipora police. "During the raid, as the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter," police said.

"As per police records, both were linked with proscribed terror outfits AGuH and LeT, and involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on police/security forces and civilian atrocities. Before shifting to Tral area, both the killed terrorists were involved in several terror crimes in Srinagar city including recent killing of sarpanch (Sameer Ahmad) in Khanmoh,

Srinagar. Besides, Muzaffar Sofi was also involved in grenade throwing on a CRPF camp on March 19.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Savant Vikas Dattatray s/o Shri Dattatray, Resident-85, Vithal Nagar, Opp. Carewell Hospital, Lalghati, Bhopal. My son full name Parth Savant s/o Shri Savant Vikas Dattatray, which is true and correct is also recorded in Aadhar card and birth certificate. My daughter is a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya Bairagarh Bhopal class 5. My daughter's name Kashish Vikas Savant, D/O Shri Vikas D Savant has been entered in my daughter's TC, which has been entered by mistake. My daughter's TC daughter's name is Kashish Savant D/O Shri Savant Vikas Dattatray, correct name to be entered.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Savant Vikas Dattatray s/o Shri Dattatray, Resident-85, Vithal Nagar, Opposite Carewell Hospital, Lalghati, Bhopal. My son full name Parth Savant s/o Shri Savant Vikas Dattatray, which is true and correct Aadhar card and is also recorded in the service record. My son is currently a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya Bairagarh Bhopal class 2. TC I have registered my son's name as Parth Savant, s/o Shri Vikas Savant, in which father's name has been entered wrongly my son TC. My name is Savant Vikas Dattatray, please enter the correct name.



LACKING LEADERSHIP, CONGRESS TRIES TO COPY BJP: CM CHOUHAN

Youth will make Madhya Pradesh self-dependent: CM Chouhan

CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN ON WEDNESDAY SAID THAT THE CONGRESS LACKS LEADERSHIP AND IS COPYING THE BJP.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said that the Congress lacks leadership and is copying the BJP. Chouhan made the remark during a programme organised to mark the BJP's foundation day at party headquarters in Bhopal.

direction nor have policy. "There is no unity in the Congress and leaders have their own opinions. The Congress is scattering gradually because of the lack in the leadership quality, and on several occasions Congress leaders try to copy the BJP," Chouhan said while speaking to reporters. Replying to Chouhan's remark, the Congress' state general secretary (media), KK Mishra said, "I would say that people would laugh at his (Chouhan) statement. He is a senior leader of the BJP and must know that Congress was led by charismatic leaders like Jawaharalal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi,

and presently by the party president Sonia Gandhi. While in the state, Kamal Nath is the most experienced leader. BJP has grown up copying the Congress." Chouhan along with state BJP president V.D. Sharma and others listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the occasion of the foundation day. Apart from the party office in Bhopal, BJP leaders and workers assembled at their respective party offices and other places to listen the Prime Minister's speech. Meanwhile, the party workers also took out morning processions (prabhat pheri) at several places to mark the foundation day.

Self-confidence, clarity of goal, focused efforts and maintaining enthusiasm are the basis of success. No student of the state will be deprived of education due to lack of funds. State government is providing all possible help to the youth for self-employment. Youth should come forward to make a career in agriculture without hesitation. CM Chouhan launches Vivekananda Career Guidance Scheme and DigiLocker. CM Shri Chouhan resolves queries of students in 'Yuva Samvad

enthusiasm are the base of success. Every person has natural abilities, God has made everyone talented. Identifying and revealing your interests and abilities is essential. There is an overall positive environment for education, skill upgradation and skill enhancement of youth in the state. Youth should display their best and contribute in the making of a self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. Only youth can make Madhya Pradesh self-reliant. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the Yuva Samvad programme with students at Kushabhau Thackeray Auditorium in Bhopal. Chief Minister launched the programme by performing kanya-poojan and lighting the lamp amidst the reverberation of the song of women

empowerment. Madhya Pradesh anthem was presented by the students of Sarojini Naidu Girls College. All the districts of the state participated virtually in the state level programme. Students of more than 1300 government, non-

government, aided colleges and universities of the state joined the virtual and live broadcast.

Students asked Chief Minister Chouhan several questions. The first question was asked by Kritika Chaurasia, Betul, that - "The Chief Minister is a gold medalist, please guide what efforts we should make to get good marks in examinations?" In reply to her question, Chief Minister Chouhan said, Students, must set their goals and work with self-confi-

dence, enthusiasm and concentration, this is the basis of success. The spirit of moving forward has to be maintained while continuing our efforts without taking stress.

Chhatrapur's Kumari Khushi Karwaria asked Chief Minister Chouhan that - "I want to do MBA. What schemes does the government have, how can girls from poor families get help" ?

In a simple answer, Chief Minister Chouhan replied that - "Adequate arrangements have been made by the state government to ensure that no student of the state remains deprived of studies due to lack of funds.

Various schemes are being run at the school level. For assistance at the college level, assistance is being provided through Mukhya Mantri Medhavi Vidyarthi Yojana and Gaon Ki Beti Yojana. Under the Gaon Ki Beti Yojana, there is a provision to provide Rs 5 thousand as scholarship per year to the girl child who has passed with 60 percent marks in Class XII. In this direction, Mukhya Mantri Udyam Kranti Yojana has been started, which is a revolutionary scheme to provide employment.

Committee Constituted to Prepare Action Plan for Quality Power Supply Besides Other Subjects

MP has the highest number of Brucella vaccinations in the country

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A committee has been constituted to prepare an action plan to supply quality electricity to power consumers, issue electricity bills on the basis of meter reading and actual power consumption only, reduce line tripping, reduce transformer failure rate and increase consumer satisfaction. The chairman of the committee will be the Managing Director, MP Power Management Company Limited, Bhopal. The Secretary will be the Chief General Manager (HR & Administration), MP Management Company Limited, Jabalpur. The committee will complete all the proceedings and submit its report in two months.

Director East Zone Electricity Distribution Company Jabalpur, Central Zone Bhopal and West Zone Indore, Executive Director (Commerce) Manoj Jhanwar West Zone Indore, Anand Bhairav retired Chief Engineer (Generating Company) Jabalpur, retired Chief Engineer (Transmission Company) Indore Deepchand Jain, retired Chief Engineer East Zone AK Pandey Sagar, retired Addl. Chief Engineer Central Zone Ranveer Singh Gwalior, Secretary Chamber of Commerce Praveen Agrawal Gwalior, Electrical Engineer, Government Engineering College Madan Mohan Sharma Ujjain, Chief Financial and Corporate Affairs Tata Power Renewable VK Nori Mumbai, Deputy General Manager (Business Development)

Adani Power Limited Abhishek Tyagi, Organisation General Secretary Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Madhukar Sable Bhopal, Namoo Narayan Dixit Bhand and Advocate Alankar Vashishth Guna have been made members. The committee would submit recommendations to the Energy Department for adoption in the state to provide quality electricity for 24 hours to all non-agricultural consumers and for 10 hours to agricultural consumers, after studying all the subjects like issuing electricity bills on the basis of meter reading and actual power consumption, reducing the number of line tripping, reducing the failure rate of distribution transformers etc and best practices implemented by the power distribution companies of other states like Gujarat and

Maharashtra, for which two teams have been sent to these states. First of all, after detailed discussion with all the non-government members on the fixed points, the committee will obtain recommendations from them in writing. The recommendations and report will be prepared by the committee after studying the recommendations received from non-government members and the recommendations made by the team of officers after studying the best practices implemented by states like Gujarat and Maharashtra. The report of its recommendations will be presented by the committee through Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar to the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for final decision.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING MINISTER PREM SINGH PATEL INFORMED THAT BRUCELLA VACCINATION PROGRAMME WAS RUN IN THE STATE FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 2022 UNDER THE NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME. IN THIS, 4 TO 8 MONTHS OLD CALVES OF COWS-BUFFALOES WERE VACCINATED.

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Madhya Pradesh has registered 17 lakh 41 thousand 970 vaccination information on the INAPH portal, which is the highest in the nation.

Apart from this, UID tags have been put on 2 crore 76 lakh 63 thousand 968 bovine in the state.

Patel informed that 22 lakh 55 thousand Brucella vaccines have been made available to the state by the Government of India.

Brucella vaccination programme is being implemented in all the states under the National Animal Disease Control Programme in the country. Brucellosis disease is a

reproductive disease in the bovine caused by bacterium Brucellosis abortus.

Symptoms of the disease include fever, abortion in the later stage of pregnancy, infertility, delayed heat, obstruction in lactation, and decreased milk production.

By vaccinating 4 to 8 months old cow-buffalo calves once in their lifetime, they can be protected from Brucellosis disease. The disease also spreads from animals to humans.

The effect of this disease can cause fertility issue in both men and women. In the absence of any treatment, this disease can be prevented only by vaccination.

CM PLANTS SAPLINGS IN SMART CITY PARK

GOVERNOR DEDICATES & FLAGS OFF TWO REDCROSS AMBULANCES

Chief Minister Pays Tribute to Late Pyarelal Khandelwal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Mango, Karanj and Gulmohar saplings in Smart City Park on Wednesday. Shrawan Mishra, the convenor of the Sports Cell and the members of the Covid Patient Help Desk Santosh Kulaste, Milind Khare, Vipul Paribar, Aman Rathore, who were active in helping patients during Covid-19 period, also planted saplings.

Sports Cell provides necessary facilities and platforms to the youths deprived of sports facilities in rural areas. Chief Minister Chouhan released the sports calendar developed by the cell. There is a plan to organise sports competitions from village to state level on the basis of sports calendar. The sports cell will soon organise an annual sports competition in which 3,500 students residing in the hostels of the state will get an opportunity to

participate. Those who will be excellent players, will be given assistance to take up the game as a career.

Sagar Jain, Divya Indra Chatterjee, Abhishek Makwani, Shailendra Sharma, Sushri Shivani Thakur, Rishabh Sharma, Sonam, Naseem Raza, Yogesh Mehta and Megha Shrivastava of Covid Patient Help Desk also planted saplings. More than 150 saplings have been planted around Bhopal city by the Help Desk. During the Corona period, blood donation, blankets, injections, medicines were distributed by the organisation besides free medical guidance. In the honour of Chief Minister Chouhan, the comrades of the desk dedicated the song "Kisi ki muskurahatn par ho nisaar, kisi ka dard mil sake, to le udhar." Chouhan also hummed this song along with the group. The blood donation camp is also being organised by the Help Desk.



Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel dedicated and flagged off two ambulances of the Red Cross Society State Unit at Raj Bhavan today. One ambulance equipped with critical care and life saving equipment has been provided to Red Cross sub-branch Mhow and another to state branch Bhopal. Patel stressed on special attention to maintenance and operation of ambulances. He said that in any emergency situation, the importance of the work is only in its availability without delay. It was told that the ambulances are equipped with emergency, state-of-the-art medical services. The ambulances are equipped with ventilators, cardiac monitors, infusion pumps, suction pumps, oxygen cylinders, air conditioner autoloader, spin boxes, head immobilizers, wheelchairs, UPS and fiber interiors. Additional Secretary to the Governor Manoj Khatri, Dr. BK Srivastava, physician to the Governor and other Red Cross officials were present.

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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Late Pyarelal Khandelwal on his birth anniversary. Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence office. Late Pyarelal Khandelwal played important roles in the expansion of 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh' in Madhya Pradesh to the establishment of 'Bharatiya Janasangh' and 'Bharatiya Janata Party'. While fulfilling various responsibilities of the Sangh works, he inspired many volunteers to keep moving forward on the path of duty with dedication. He was born on April 6, 1929 in village Charmandali of Sehore district. He remained active in Praja Mandal in Indore and provided his firm leadership to the student movement. He played an



important role in giving direction to the politics of independent India. He was also a member of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. He taught the workers to

stand firm on the ideology while giving them lessons of restraint, patience and tolerance till the last moment. He passed away on 6 October 2009 in Delhi.

Armed men loot goods train carrying sugar in Morena

BJP, CONG INTENSIFY PREPARATIONS FOR 2023 MP ASSEMBLY POLLS

'Dead', 'retired' police officers among those transferred

A group of armed men in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district looted a goods train carrying sugar and ran away after opening fire. However, in retaliatory firing by the Railway Protection Force (RPF), one of the members got injured and later held by the police.

As per the Morena district police, the incident occurred in the wee hours on Wednesday when a goods train carrying sugar was heading toward Delhi. As the train slowed down briefly awaiting the green signal at the Sikroda station, armed members reached there and started offloading the sugar.

The RPF patrolling at the station noticed it and rushed towards them. Seeing the RPF approaching them, the robbers started firing, the police said. In retaliation, RPF personnel also opened fire on them and one of the gang members got injured and was later arrested. However, by the time the RPF reached the spot and chased away the robbers, they had offloaded over 40 sacks of sugar from the train. "One of the members of the gang was injured in retaliatory firing by police and undergoing treatment," said Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) AK Singh.

WITH JUST LITTLE OVER ONE-AND-HALF-YEAR TIME LEFT FOR THE ASSEMBLY POLLS IN MADHYA PRADESH, BOTH THE RULING BJP AND THE OPPOSITION CONGRESS HAVE TAKEN A PLUNGE INTO ELECTION MODE AND ARE GEARING UP WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE STRATEGIES TO WOO THE VOTERS.

change in leaderships before the Assembly elections.

While the state unit of the Congress, in a recent meeting, has unanimously decided that the party will contest the Assembly polls under Kamal Nath's leadership, the BJP unit has always maintained that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will remain the party's face for the next elections.

"Party has decided with consensus that 2023 Assembly elections will be fought under leadership of Kamal Nath," Congress leader Jitu Patwari has said after a meeting at Kamal Nath's residence on April 4, adding that the party will start a big movement from streets to the Assembly to raise people's issues. Similarly, the BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, during his recent visit to Bhopal, has hinted that Chief Minister Chouhan will lead the state in the Assembly elections.

Vijayvargiya's statement came on the very same day when Chouhan had taken his cabinet to Pachmarhi for a marathon meeting called - 'Chintan Shivir'. "Though the party is yet make an official announcement, but Chouhan is doing a good job and

therefore he should be the face of the party for the Assembly polls in the state," Vijayvargiya has said while responding to a query.

The Congress, which has been witnessing "intense" infighting within the party, with the presence of all senior leaders including dissidents, during a meeting at Kamal Nath's residence, tried to put an end to speculations regarding differences among the party leaders in the state. Subsequently, senior Congress leaders, who have been maintaining distance from the party office, have now started visiting and participating in meetings.

On the other hand, knowing that the Opposition will target the ruling BJP on key issues such as - unemployment, corruption, mafiyaraj, governance, reservation for OBC etc, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has already switched to action mode over such issues.

In the past one month, Chouhan has addressed 15 public rallies and chaired 17 meetings with officials to improve implementation of government schemes. The Chief Minister has warned officials of action if they fail to ensure proper delivery of the government schemes.

In a bizarre development, two officers -- one deceased and one retired -- of the Madhya Pradesh Police were transferred by the Home Department, which later cancelled the order, calling it a 'typographical error'.



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In a bizarre development, two officers -- one deceased and one retired -- of the Madhya Pradesh Police were transferred by the Home Department, which later cancelled the order, calling it a 'typographical error'.

The error was detected in the transfer/posting order under which the Home Department had transferred 167 Deputy Superintendents of Police

(DSPs) and Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs).

In the list comprising the names of officers, an officiating DSP, Jitendra Yadav, was transferred from the 26th Battalion Guna to Gwalior. Yadav had died of Covid-19 about six months back. Similarly, Shashibhushan Singh Raghuvanshi, who had retired about one-and-a-half years ago, was transferred from SDOP Kailaras in Morena district to the 18th Battalion of Shivpuri.

When the matter was brought to the notice of the Home Department, Under Secretary Annu Bhalavi issued an order cancelling both the transfers, calling them typographical errors.



EDITOR'S SPECS

'Meat scare' in UP

It is turning into a "meaty" issue and the scare over sale of meat in Uttar Pradesh is growing by the day. Even though the state government on Tuesday clarified that there was no order for the closure of meat shops during the ongoing Navratri festival (April 2 to 10), municipal bodies of various cities in Uttar Pradesh are imposing and then withdrawing ban orders, apparently to appease the majority community ahead of the municipal polls, scheduled to be held later this year. Navneet Sehgal, additional chief secretary, information, said, "No order has been issued by the Uttar Pradesh government for the closure of meat shops during the nine-day-long Navratri festival." However, reports coming in from various districts claim that meat shops are remaining closed, causing inconvenience to Muslim consumers during Ramadan. In Gorakhpur, Abdul Rehmani, a meat seller, admitted that he has not opened his shop since Saturday when Navratri began. "Anonymous callers claiming to be members of the Hindu Sena, have warned me against opening the shop during Navratri. I do not want any trouble and I am willing to suffer losses. I will open my shop after Ram Navmi next week," he said. In Lucknow, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia directed LMC officials to shift meat shops in narrow lanes to commercial areas on the city's outskirts. Kanpur mayor Pramila Pandey had said: "There will be complete closure of meat shops for nine days", ignoring the FDA order. Roohi Altaf, a young businessman, said that in any case, Hindus turn vegetarian during Navratri and everyone respects their sentiments. "In fact, most Hindus take off non-vegetarian dishes from their menu during this period but Muslims should be allowed to eat what they want during their festivals," he said. A number of cloud kitchens have become operational in Lucknow during the ongoing festive season.

TRUST VOTE IN PAKISTAN - CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Vikram Hegde

Sunday was a day of tumult for South Asia, with major political developments in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. While the resignation of 26 cabinet ministers of Sri Lanka was prompted by the economic crisis in the country, the crisis in Pakistan is a political one, and now also a constitutional one. Since independence, no Prime Minister of Pakistan has been able to complete a term of five years. Imran Khan, who became the Prime Minister in August 2018 had completed only a little more than three and a half years in office. The genesis of the current crisis was the requisition filed by the united opposition front for a no-confidence motion on March 8. This no-confidence motion looked ominous for the government as many of the ruling party members no longer supported the Prime Minister but instead sided with the opposition, and some parties which were hitherto allies of the ruling party withdrew their support. While the speaker of the Pakistan

Assembly failed to hold the session within 14 days, the executive government preferred a presidential reference to the Supreme Court of Pakistan under Article 186 of the Constitution of Pakistan, seeking interpretation of Article 63A which makes provisions against defection of members of National Assembly, from one political party to another. On the scheduled day for the no-confidence motion, the deputy speaker Qasim Shah Suri rejected the motion as being unconstitutional. He relied upon Article 5 of the Constitution, which mandates loyalty to the state. While the Supreme Court of Pakistan will ultimately take a view on this, it would seem far fetched to construe an official motion of no-confidence, well within the parliamentary rules, as an act of disloyalty against the state. Even if the preceding events demonstrate disloyalty to a leader or a political party, it could not amount to an act against the state. Though there was a vague hint at a "foreign power" seeking to topple the government, it was neither explained nor substantiated. Legal experts of Pakistan have



widely criticised the dismissal of the no confidence motion going so far as to say that the act of the deputy speaker was no mere misinterpretation of the provisions of the constitution but a mala fide act that deliberately subverts the constitution. Immediately after the dismissal of the no confidence motion, the Prime Minister advised the president to dissolve the Assembly. It is a norm in all parliamentary democracies that when a motion for no confidence has not been voted upon, no other business can be transacted. Article 58 of the

Pakistan Constitution incorporates this principle to situations like the current conundrum and specifically provides that while a Prime Minister would have the right to dissolve the National Assembly, such right would not be available when a motion for no confidence has been moved and not voted upon. Analogy has been drawn to the case of Anwar Durrani who successfully petitioned the Balochistan High Court for the restoration of the Balochistan Assembly after it had been dissolved in similar circumstances, i.e., with a no-confidence motion not having been put to vote.

Another principle commonly seen in parliamentary democracies, where the proceedings in parliament are kept outside the purview of the courts is also incorporated in the Constitution of Pakistan in Article 69, and will no doubt be relied upon heavily by the lawyers for Imran Khan when the Supreme Court considers the issue. However, in a twist of fate, it is in the case filed by Imran Khan against Nawaz Sharif that the Supreme Court had previously held that the protection from judicial scrutiny was only for procedural irregularities and not illegality or factual inaccuracies. Given the history of Pakistan, such a constitutional crisis is keenly observed across the world with some amount of trepidation. Instability, or weakness in the civilian administration has often resulted in Pakistan regressing into military rule. Collapse of constitutional government in Pakistan would not be good for the region or for the world.

(Vikram Hegde is an Advocate on Record. He is a gold medalist from the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)

EC MUST DISSECT MANIFESTOS, STOP PARTIES ASKING CENTRE TO FUND FREEBIES

Assembly elections are not natural calamities or disasters that require central assistance to meet the extravagant promises made by certain political parties in their manifestos just to lure voters and win these polls. It has become a trend for certain parties to make promises of free electricity, free water, free education, free travel, free cycles, free laptops, free scooters, cash credits etc in their manifestos for winning Assembly elections and once they win, then plead for funds from the Central government. If this is not bribing voters, then what is it? Under which act are such manifestos covered or is it that the lawmakers are above the law? Such political parties are very well aware of the financial condition of the state concerned but still they go ahead with their alluring promises - for they know they always have the option to blame the Central government for the fiasco, if it refuses grants. Promises by such political parties in their manifestos are nothing but propaganda. With



MPs and MLAs being unable to spend even their development fund in 5 years, expecting them to execute another ambitious plan only showcases our ignorance and raises questions on our own understanding and purpose of elections. Have we failed as a voter? Voting is our right, but who we vote for is meaningful too. The voters who are already under financial stress, due to rising prices of essential commodities, or those who care nothing about who comes to power but only that their interests are met, go all out to vote for such

parties. And political parties knowing such weaknesses of voters, are all out to capitalise on these factors. There is still some hope if the Central and State government belong to the same party - the manifestos then, at least, make some sense. But if not, why the Central government would want to fund such commitments of opposition parties, knowing that these were responsible for their own party's defeat in the Assembly elections? Recently, the AAP won the elections in Punjab on the very same basis, with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also AAP national convener, and his star campaigners, promising a number of freebies to the voters of the state. The truth is that the already debt-ridden Punjab has no money to fulfil AAP election promises. Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann himself announced the AAP plan to fund promises made in the manifesto, before the elections. And now, post elections, he is asking Central government to help by provid-

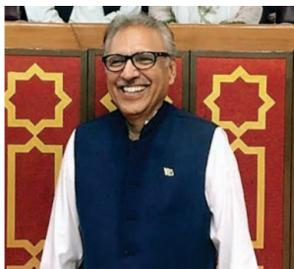
ing financial grant to the extent of Rs 50,000 crore. Some political parties have redefined the meaning of hypocrisy. The game of freebies by political parties seems to be seeing no end. Sensing the situation, the Supreme Court had to intervene and had issued notice to the Election Commission over political parties wooing voters with the promise of freebies ahead of the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, and Punjab Assembly elections. It had observed that the promise of freebies was a "serious issue". The day is not far when Election Commission would start dissecting the manifestos of all political parties and might embargo parties towards asking grants for at least 3-4 years from Central government to fund their promised freebies. Of course, natural calamities or disasters exempted.

international

Pak President Alvi, ex-ministers discuss appointment of caretaker PM

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan President Arif Alvi and former federal ministers discussed legal issues related to the appointment of caretaker Prime Minister following the dissolution of the National Assembly on April 3 on Prime Minister Imran Khan's advice, Express Tribune reported. The discussion took place during a high-level meeting held at the Presidency. The meeting was chaired by the President and was attended by Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan, former federal ministers Babar Awan, Fawad Chaudhry, Imtiaz Siddiqui, Asad Umar, Shafiqat Mahmood and Pervez Khattak.



Sources privy to the development said that the President wants to keep the way open for consultation with the Opposition. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif is considering sending two names in response to the letter, they added. The sources said

that Shehbaz aims to take the matter of nomination of the caretaker Prime Minister to the parliamentary committee so that the government does not take any unilateral decision. They said that the Opposition proposed the name of Justice Maqbool Baqir, who recently retired from the Supreme Court, for the post of caretaker Prime Minister. They added that in view of the haste in the appointment by the government, the Opposition leadership may take up the matter in the Supreme Court while it has already asked the Islamabad High Court to stop the appointment process. The meeting was briefed on the hearing in the Supreme Court and considered the government's strategy.

UKRAINE OPENS 11 HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS

Kiev: Ukraine on Wednesday created 11 humanitarian corridors to allow civilians to leave conflict-affected cities and deliver humanitarian aid, the country's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said on Telegram. The humanitarian corridors established safe exit routes from five towns in the southern Zaporizhzhia region and five towns and villages in Luhansk, Xinhua news agency reported citing Vereshchuk. One humanitarian corridor was set up to allow civilians to leave Mariupol in Donetsk, where there has been fierce fighting, via private transport. On Tuesday, some 3,800 people were evacuated from conflict-affected areas in Ukraine.

US chipmaker Intel suspends all operations in Russia

San Francisco | Agencies

Chipmaker Intel on Wednesday said it has suspended all business operations in Russia, a month after announcing to stop shipments to customers in Russia and Belarus in the wake of Ukraine invasion. Intel said it continues to join the global community in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine and calling for a swift return to peace. "Effective immediately, we have suspended all business operations in Russia. This follows our earlier decision to sus-

pend all shipments to customers in Russia and Belarus," the US tech giant informed. Other tech companies that have taken action in Russia are Apple, AMD, Adobe and General Electric. Spotify, along with media outlets like CNN, ABC and the BBC have suspended services in Russia. Intel further said that the company is working to support all employees through this difficult situation, "including our 1,200 employees in Russia. "We have also implemented business conti-

nity measures to minimise disruption to our global operations," it added. In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Twitter has also announced not to amplify or recommend government accounts in countries -- starting with Russia -- that limit access to free information and are engaged in armed interstate conflict whether Twitter is blocked in that country or not. "We will first apply this policy to government accounts belonging to Russia," said the company.

Transition team chief seeks China's cooperation for stability on Korean Peninsula

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea's Transition Team Chairman Ahn Cheol-soo on Wednesday called for China's cooperation for stability on the Korean Peninsula, as he met with Beijing's top envoy to Seoul. Ahn and Ambassador Xing Haiming met at the transition team's office and discussed bilateral relations at a time of heightened tension surrounding North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, Yonhap news agency reported. "One of my concerns is that North Korea (recently) test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile and signs are emerging that tensions will rise," Ahn said. "I ask for a lot of cooperation from you on these issues based on a common understanding that bringing stability to the Korean Peninsula will be of great help to the national interests of both South Korea and China," he said. On Xing's response,



Shin Yong-hyeon, the transition committee's spokesperson, said the ambassador conveyed North Korea's displeasure with the United States. "All I can say is that (Xing said North Korea) was unable to achieve what it wanted with regard to the U.S.," she told reporters of the part of the meeting that was held behind closed doors. "(Xing) repeatedly explained China's principle of denuclearization and keeping peace on the Korean Peninsula at all costs, and resolving the issue through dialogue," she added. When asked whether the two discussed the issue of THAAD, a U.S. antimissile system deployed to South Korea despite China's opposition, Shin said there was no mention of the related policy. But the ambassador

expressed his concern about the emergence of anti-China and anti-South Korea sentiment in the respective countries following the THAAD controversy and stated such issues should be "managed well," she said. The ambassador expressed his personal delight at meeting Ahn, saying he had heard many good things about the chairman. He expressed agreement with Ahn on the importance of developing a future-oriented and stable bilateral relationship, saying he will also work toward that goal. "As this year is the 30th anniversary (of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and China), I will work to make (the relationship) even better so as to allow it to expand in the future," Xing said. Ahn Cheol-soo, the chairman of President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol's transition committee, shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador to Seoul Xing Haiming at the committee's office in Seoul on April 6, 2022.

New S Korean govt needs 'forward-looking' policy on N Korea to prevent nuke testing

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea's outgoing top official on North Korea urged the country's incoming administration on Wednesday to adopt a "forward-looking" approach towards the latter, especially in order to prevent nuclear weapons testing amid heightening tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Unification Minister Lee In-young made the remarks during his last regular press conference in his capacity as the liberal Moon Jae-in government's top official on Pyongyang, Yonhap news agency reported. Earlier this week, Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, issued a statement warning that her country could use nuclear forces against South Korea to "take initiative at the outset of war." "The North has broken its moratorium on intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and there are many signs regarding nuclear tests as well. We must put an end to this right here," Lee said. A silver lining is that the North has



not crossed the "red line" yet in terms of the moratorium on nuclear testing, which is regarded as a far more serious strategic provocation than the test-firing of a long-range missile on a lofted angle. Even China and Russia did not conceal their uneasiness or anger over the North's previous underground nuclear experiments. Concerns have grown about the future of already soured inter-Korean ties, with Moon, who has endeavoured to advance the Korea peace process, set to be succeeded by Yoon Suk-yeol of the conservative People Power Party in May. The

minister said the Yoon administration needs to seek a "very forward-looking and active policy for peace" to stop the North from testing its nuclear weapons and create momentum for the resumption of dialogue. He raised the need for Yoon to take a "contrarian" approach amid the widespread view that conservative South Korean administrations tend to be more hawkish toward Pyongyang than liberal ones. Meanwhile, Lee's ministry said it has reached out to the North to confirm the fate of the South Korean-built facilities at the Mount Kumgang resort, after detecting signs of the North dismantling some facilities. "Last week, we asked the North via the inter-Korean joint liaison office to provide a full explanation on the dismantlement of facilities on Mount Kumgang, as it requires an agreement between the Koreans," the ministry said in a press release. "As of now, the North has not made any official announcement." A senior ministry official said on condition of anonymity that there has been "progress in the North's dismantlement work compared to

before," referring to a floating hotel in the resort known as Haegumgang. Pyongyang earlier announced that it would remove the facilities at Mount Kumgang, once regarded as a key symbol of inter-Korean reconciliation and economic cooperation, since leader Kim called for tearing down all "unpleasant-looking" facilities in 2019. Tensions have escalated recently on the Korean Peninsula after the North fired its first ICBM since November 2017, formally ending its self-imposed moratorium on long-range missile testing, last month. Observers here voice worries that the North could engage in additional provocative acts, like a nuclear test, on the occasion of the 110th birth anniversary of its founding leader Kim Il-sung on April 15 and the founding anniversary of the North Korean People's Revolutionary Army on April 25. They say onyang may try to use additional provocations to put more pressure on the new South Korean government to be launched on May 10 and the Joe Biden administration ahead of the mid-term elections in November.



NO TIE-UP WITH BJP IN MAHARASHTRA: SHARAD PAWAR

RAISES WITH PM MODI ATTACHMENT OF PROPERTIES OF SANJAY RAUT BY ED AND DELAYS IN NOMINATION OF 12 MEMBERS BY GOVERNOR IN THE STATE COUNCIL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

MVA govt is stable, will complete its tenure and will get re-elected after next assembly elections Amid central probe agencies initiating action against the Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday categorically ruled out tie-up between NCP and BJP. He criticised the alleged misuse of central probe agencies saying that ruling MVA partners are together taking on BJP. He also claimed that the MVA government is strong and stable and will complete its term and will be re-elected after the next assembly elections in Maharashtra. During his meeting with PM Narendra Modi, Pawar said he took up issue of the attachment of properties of Sanjay Raut who is Rajya Sabha member and also Saamana editor. He took up the manner in which ED

carried out attachment. He argued that an injustice has been meted out against Raut. Further, Pawar also took up with Modi the delays in the nomination of 12 members by Governor BS Koshiyari from his quota in the Maharashtra Legislative Council. The issue has been pending for last two and half years. Pawar said he hoped PM will seriously consider the issues that he raised at today's meeting. Meanwhile, Pawar said there will be no change from NCP in the MVA cabinet. No NCP Minister will be changed but he will discuss with the state leaders on filling up vacant posts. Pawar said he did not discuss with the PM the arrests of Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik. On G23 Congress leaders, Pawar said they are making a case for strengthening of the party. He added some of the leaders also discussed with him. Pawar reiterated that he was not keen to become UPA chief. He also criticised the demands by BJP and MNS over the ban on loudspeakers at the time of Azaan.

CBI TAKES CUSTODY OF ANIL DESHMUKH IN CORRUPTION CASE

Yesterday, the central agency had told the Special CBI Court that Anil Deshmukh was trying to evade CBI questioning in the ? 400 crore money laundering case and that is why he is citing health reasons.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation or CBI today took former Home

Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh into their custody from the Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai where he was lodged. The central agency had lodged a case of extortion against him. He will be produced before CBI Court shortly. Yesterday, the central agency had told the Special CBI Court that Mr Deshmukh was trying to evade CBI questioning in the ? 400 crore money laundering case and that is why he is citing health reasons.



CBI has taken custody of ex-Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze and two of the close aides of Deshmukh, Kundan Shinde and Sanjeev Palande. It has taken custody of these three to carry out further investigation into the alleged corruption and extortion case against Mr Deshmukh. These three accused were in judicial custody of the Special PMLA Court in the money laundering case against Mr Deshmukh. CBI on Monday took custody of these three after getting approval from the Special PMLA Court and special CBI Court. CBI was also allowed to take custody of Mr Deshmukh but because Mr Deshmukh was in the hospital the probe agency

could not take his custody despite Court orders. On Monday, CBI produced Sachin Waze and the other two in a Special CBI Court after taking them into custody. CBI sought ten-day custody of all the three people and also wanted to take Sachin Waze, Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde to Delhi for investigation but a special CBI court in Mumbai allowed CBI to take custody of the three till April 11 only and investigate the matter in Mumbai itself. While arguing their case in the special CBI court, the probe agency through its lawyer had argued, "The former Home Minister is trying to evade CBI questioning and that is why he is citing health reasons and is admitted to hospital." The lawyer of CBI also told the court that they are investigating the corruption case where prima facie over 400 crores corruption is involved. "There are so many shocking details of this case which cannot be discussed in open court," the CBI said. Arguing their demand to take all accused to Delhi for further investigation CBI lawyer said, "There is a need of confrontation of all these accused with each other and other witnesses of this case so they are needed to be taken to Delhi," but the Special Court refused CBI's demand and directed them to question these three accused in Mumbai itself. CBI objected to Anil Deshmukh's claim about his health and told the court that the agency had already taken orders of the concerned courts for taking Anil Deshmukh into custody last week but due to Gudi Padva on Saturday followed by a Sunday they could not take Anil Deshmukh's custody from jail and when they reached Arthur Road jail to take custody, they were told that Deshmukh is admitted to hospital. "So, it might be the case that Anil Deshmukh is playing tricks to evade the CBI investigation," the CBI said. CBI requested the special court to ask for a detailed medical report from JJ Hospital where Anil Deshmukh is admitted. Replying to CBI's arguments lawyers of Anil Deshmukh and the other three accused argued in court that the statements of these accused are already taken by CBI in this case. So there is no need for custody to CBI in this same case.

ED GETS CUSTODY OF ADOVATE BROTHERS HELD IN PMLA CASE

A Special PMLA Court in Mumbai has extended the custody of two advocate brothers Satish Uke and Pradeep Uke, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to usurping properties on the basis of forged documents till April 11.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Special PMLA Court in Mumbai has extended the custody of two advocate brothers Satish Uke and Pradeep Uke, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to usurping properties on the basis of forged documents till April 11. Their custodial remand expired on Wednesday after which they were produced before the court by ED. The ED official said that they

lodged a Money Laundering case on the basis of two FIRs filed by the Maharashtra Police against the accused. The two FIRs are registered at Ajni Police station, Nagpur. First FIR was filed by one Mohammad Jaffar, nephew of Late Mohammad Samad who was the owner of the land comprising five acres at Mouza Bokhara, Nagpur. Jaffar alleged in the complaint that the accused allegedly usurped his five acre land by creating fake documents. The second FIR was filed by one Shobharani Rajendra Nalode,

secretary of Aishwari Sahakari Grih Nirman Sanstha against Satish Uke, Pradip Uke and others alleging that they allegedly usurped her society's land comprising of 1.5 acres situated at Mouza Babulkhedra. The ED initiated investigation under the PMLA Act, and recorded several statements related to both the cases. "From the investigation conducted so far, it became evident that both the accused had resorted to fraud and forgery and created fake POA (Power of Attorney) in the name of Chandrashekhar Namdevrao Matte and Khairunisa and usurped the

lands from the original land owners illegally. The lands are still in illegal possession of the accused," said the ED official. The official said that they had also conducted a search operation at the premises of the accused on March 31. During the search, incriminating documents related to forgery, digital evidence was seized. The ED also recorded the statements of both the accused and placed them under arrest for commission of offence under the provisions of Section 3 of PMLA Act.

ISRO to check the objects that fell from skies in Maha village

Officials of the Indian space agency will visit Maharashtra to look into the objects that fell from the skies in Pawanpur village in Chandrapur district.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Officials of the Indian space agency will visit Maharashtra to look into the objects that fell from the skies in Pawanpur village in Chandrapur district. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), it has received formal communication from the District Magistrate and District Collector of Chandrapur in Maharashtra.

"It is reported that a metal ring and a cylinder-like object are found in an open field in Pawanpur village. As requested by the district administration, a team of scientists from ISRO is visiting Pawanpur for inspection and further scientific inquiry," ISRO said. Inputs from several sources were received on the mysterious flashing light seen in the sky during the evening hours on April 2 in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the space agency.

"Develop Panipat war memorial to create awareness about Maratha valour"

Maharashtra Legislative Council deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe on Wednesday demanded that Kaala Amb on the outskirts of Panipat, the place where the historic third battle of Panipat took place, be developed properly as a war memorial to spread awareness about Maratha

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maharashtra Legislative Council deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe on Wednesday demanded that Kaala Amb on the outskirts of Panipat, the place where the historic third battle of Panipat took place, be developed properly as a war memorial to spread awareness about Maratha valour. Gorhe put forth her demands to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Director General V Vidyavathi during a meeting earlier in the day. "Panipat in Haryana should be developed as a proper tourist place for facilitating the visitors to the war memorial at Kaala Amb. There is a lack of awareness. We need

tourist helplines, a detailed information board at the memorial, a light & sound show can be started, there should be proper security for the place, including CCTV cameras." Gorhe told mediapersons. Earlier on Monday, Gorhe had visited the Kaala Amb memorial - an ASI protected site - on the outskirts of Panipat city. "The place needs a regular development plan. ASI DG has promised to give immediate clearance for developmental work at Panipat war memorial and also keep us updated," Gorhe said. The leader from Maharashtra said that Panipat was part of greater Kurukshetra area of the past and hence its development needs to be aligned with the ongoing development of Kurukshetra. Gorhe also raised issue of several ASI protected sites in Maharashtra, including Ekveera Devi near Mumbai, with the ASI DG and demanded that the ASI regularly give a break up of work done and pending. "I have also invited Vidyavathi to come to Mumbai for a meeting to discuss all such issues," she said. Gorhe is in Delhi as part of the Maharashtra group of legislators who have come here for a two-day training with the Lok Sabha. She said, she had raised similar issues with Speaker Om Birla too.

Shiv Sena: BJP man siphoned Rs 58 cr raised to save INS Vikrant

In a serious allegation, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said that a Bharatiya Janata Party activist and ex-MP Kirit Somaia allegedly siphoned off Rs 58 crore that was crowd-funded to save the country's first aircraft carrier, the erstwhile 'INS Vikrant'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a serious allegation, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said that a Bharatiya Janata Party activist and ex-MP Kirit Somaia allegedly siphoned off Rs 58 crore that was crowd-funded to save the country's first aircraft carrier, the erstwhile 'INS Vikrant'. Raut said that the revelation has come out in RTI reply submitted by Maharashtra Raj Bhavan to an

activist Dharendra Upadhyay in March, and exposes the "treason" of Somaia and his supporters. The activist had demanded details of the funds raised from the public, retired and serving defence personnel and officials in an attempt to save the decommissioned 'Vikrant' from the scrapyard in 2013-2014. "Somaia had offered to help out with the fund-raisers and said the amount collected would be hand-

ed over to the Maharashtra Governor at Raj Bhavan. Finally, the Raj Bhavan has stated that no such money was received," Raut said. On his part, Somaia said Raut is indulging only in "time-pass" after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) took action against his wife and friends on Tuesday. "He had hurled so many allegations against my wife, my family and myself." If he has any evidence against me then he should

hand it over to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray" Somaia said. Labelling Somaia as "an insect" (Keeda) which would be set right, Raut said the Maharashtra government would enquire into the misappropriation of the funds to "Save Vikrant." He said that Somaia is a Chartered Accountant who knows how to "digest" such money and demanded that even the Central agencies conduct an impartial probe into the matter. It may be recalled that after INS Vikrant was decommissioned in 1997, it was preserved as a museum till 2012, after which there was paucity of funds to maintain. At that time Somaia had offered to help out by a series of fund-raisers and crowd-funding drives in which an estimated Rs57-58 crore was collected that was to be handed over to the Raj Bhavan. Now, Raut said after so many years it has come to light through RTI that the funds were never received by Raj Bhavan.

PROMINENT REALTOR SANJAY BIYANI SHOT DEAD NEAR NANDED HOME

Reputed builder Sanjay Biyani -- who enjoyed close connections with several top politicians -- was shot dead outside his home in Maharashtra's Nanded district, police said.

Nanded | Agencies

Reputed builder Sanjay Biyani -- who enjoyed close connections with several top politicians -- was shot dead outside his home in Maharashtra's Nanded district, police said. The incident occurred outside his home in Sharda Nagar when two unidentified motorcycle borne assailants came and fired around 8-10 bullets into Biyani. His driver present nearby was also injured during the daylight shootout that shocked the realty industry.

Locals rushed the injured duo to a nearby hospital where Biyani succumbed during treatment, said a police official. The motive behind the crime is not immediately clear and the Nanded police is probing from various angles, including possible business rivalries. Police teams which rushed to the crime scene, scanned CCTV footage outside his home and the entire approach route to the Sharda Nagar locality. Securing some leads, the Nanded police have unchained a man-hunt for the killer duo.

Maha Congress MLAs meet Sonia, complain about party ministers

About two dozen Congress MLAs from Maharashtra met party President Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to discuss issues of the party in the state, and share their grievances.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

About two dozen Congress MLAs from Maharashtra met party President Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to discuss issues of the party in the state, and share their grievances. Sources say that MLAs have complained that Congress ministers in the MVA government ignore them and party workers and apprised her that there is a strong resentment against the ministers due to this. Sonia Gandhi gave them a patient hearing and assured them of amicable solution within a week. A letter written by the MLAs over the "cold response" of the ministers



in the state. The party chief is likely to call ministers of the Congress along with the state in charge to address their grievances. The meeting comes on heels of after the Congress asked Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to now start implementing the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the three partners. In a letter to Thackeray, state Congress President Nana Patole said that the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress -- hailing from different ideological backgrounds -- had decided to run the government on the basis of a CMP. "Owing to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020, the CMP implementation was delayed, but now as the coronavirus threat is over, the CMP should be executed for the overall development of all sections of society," he said. Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi to campaign for Congress in Uttarakhand.

Gadkari, Sanjay Raut at dinner for Maha MLAs at Pawar's residence

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday also attended a dinner at NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's residence where scores of Maharashtra MLAs, cutting across party lines, were present.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday also attended a dinner at NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's residence where scores of Maharashtra MLAs, cutting across party lines, were present. Apart from Gadkari, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut was also at the dinner but sources say that politics was not on the menu as the dinner was for the state MLAs visiting



Delhi for training in the Parliament. The dinner party gains significance as on Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate had attached assets linked to Raut, amid the tussle between the Centre and the state over the ED. The ED on Tuesday slapped attachment orders on assets worth Rs 11.15 crore belonging to friends and wife of Raut in a money-laundering case -- hours after the Maharashtra government formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of corruption against the central probe agency. Gadkari, Sanjay Raut at dinner for Maha MLAs at Pawar's residence.



BRITNEY SPEARS IS IN AMAZING STATE OF MIND: DONATELLA VERSACE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Italian fashion designer Donatella Versace, who is Britney Spears' close friend, has revealed that the 'Princess of Pop' is currently witnessing a happy phase after her much controversial conservatorship battle with her father James Spears ended last year, reports 'Variety'.

As per 'Variety', Donatella was recently in Los Angeles for the Oscars, attending the Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards gala and the Vanity Fair party. She also caught up with her friend Britney Spears. Versace is designing a wedding dress for the newly liberated pop princess.

The fashion designer told 'Variety' at the Vanity Fair bash, "She's (Britney) on vacation now. She's doing well. I find her in an amazing state of mind. I know it's been such a long time. I'm very happy to see her like that."

'My sister is an alien!'

Elle Fanning reveals a psychic said her famous sister Dakota was from another planet as she poses for glamorous shoot, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Los Angeles | Agencies

As her new series *The Girl from Plainville* is garnering great reviews in the U.S., actress Elle Fanning has opened up about her life in a revealing new interview.

Speaking to PORTER the 25-year-old, who posed for a gorgeous photo shoot where she showed off her fantastic figure, revealed that she often telephones psychics.

Revealing that the psychic previously claimed her sister Dakota, 28, was from a different planet, Elle said: "I'll call them and... it's like a silly thing, but I use a different name. She was like, 'Your sister is an alien'."

In the latest cover story in NET-PORTER's digital title PORTER, the blonde beauty, went on to say that she herself is likely 'from the past'.

"Which makes sense... I don't really feel like I fit into this TikTok time, where everything is on display. I love the feeling of mystery."

Just before the pandemic, the star was due to start filming *World War Two* movie, *The Nightingale*, alongside her sister, the first time the duo will appear on screen together.



Team Downey to roll out two 'Sherlock Holmes' web series

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Sherlock Holmes' film universe is all set to bleed into the medium of series. HBO Max is currently housing the early development on two shows tied to the films, sources told 'Variety'.

The potential shows would be set in the world of 2009's *Sherlock Holmes* and 2011's *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* starring Robert Downey Jr. as the master detective and Jude Law as Dr John Watson, which were inspired by the books of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. According to the sources of 'Variety', the two shows would each focus on a new character that would be introduced in 'Sherlock Holmes 3.'

Robert Downey Jr. and Susan Downey will serve as executive producers on the

shows along with Amanda Burrell of Team Downey. Lionel Wigram of Wigram productions will also executive produce, with Warner Bros. Television taking the onus of production. As per 'Variety', the Downeys first discussed creating "Sherlock Holmes" spinoff shows in 2020, though no details about the characters the projects would focus on has come to light.

'Sherlock Holmes' has proven to be a massive hit for Warner Bros, with the film grossing over \$524 million worldwide against a reported budget of \$90 million. 'A Game of Shadows' went on to gross over \$543 million worldwide two years later. The third film was originally intended to be released in December 2020 but, due to unforeseen circumstances, it is not currently in production and does not have a specific release date.



SEX AND THE CITY



HBO Max International boss explains why streamers need to go global

Los Angeles: Johannes Larcher, Head of HBO Max International, the streaming service of WarnerMedia, has made a strong case for why growth for the global OTT platforms can now only come from markets outside the United States.

Speaking at the MipTV market in Cannes, Larcher pointed out that the international might of Netflix is a motivating factor for HBO Max's own growth beyond the U.S. In a number of slides dedicated solely to Netflix, reports 'Variety', Larcher highlighted the projected growth in Netflix's international subscribers from 2021 to 2026 (147 million in 2021 to an estimated 266 million by 2026). "Netflix is clearly reaching saturation in the domestic market. Where will growth come from? Only one place: outside the US," Larcher said, citing analyst estimates. He also pointed to Netflix's aggressive content spend, which he said was expected to grow from \$12 billion in 2021 to \$21 billion by 2026. "\$9 billion additional programming dollars buy a lot of content," Larcher pointed out. "That buys you almost 700 episodes of 'The Crown', 50 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' movies. That ability to spend more on content on behalf of fans drives the need to go global."



'Bridgerton' S2 shatters single-week record for most-viewed English-language series

Los Angeles | Agencies

The second season of period drama 'Bridgerton' has become the most-viewed show in a week among Netflix's English TV series, per the streaming service's newly released weekly Top 10 list, reports 'Variety'.

The second season of the show clocked 251.74 million hours viewed for the week of March 28 to April 3 - its first full week on the streaming service. However, as per 'Variety', 'Squid Game' still

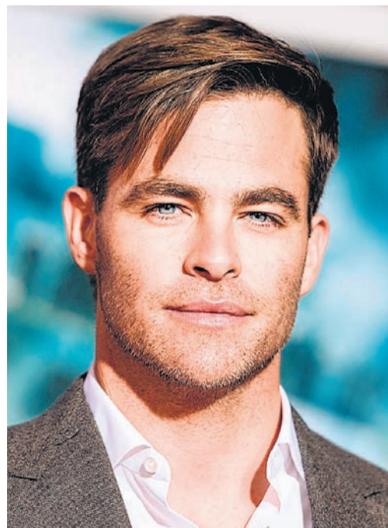
holds the overall record for most-viewed show on Netflix in general across a seven-day period, with 571.76 million hours viewed.

Both 'Bridgerton' season 2 and 'Squid Game' have surpassed the previous title holder, 'Inventing Anna', which earlier was the most-watched English-language series over a single week with 196 million hours viewed. Close behind 'Bridgerton' season 2 on the Top 10 was 'Bridgerton' season 1, which grabbed the second spot of English-language title on Netflix last week, with 53 million

hours viewed. In third place was the new competition series 'Is It Cake?' On the film side, as per a statement by Netflix (accessed by 'Variety'), "After four weeks, 'The Adam Project' stayed atop the English Films list with 17.72 million hours viewed and continued to steadily move up the Most Popular list, landing at #5 with 227.22 million hours viewed."

"'6 Underground' - another Ryan Reynolds hit - also jumped to the fifth spot in the Top 10 with 8.73M hours viewed," the statement said.

'All The Old Knives' script reminds Chris Pine of John le Carre's novels



Los Angeles | Agencies

American actor Chris Pine, best-known for playing Capt. James T. Kirk in 'Star Trek Beyond' and the action hero Jack Ryan, opines that the script of the thriller film 'All The Old Knives' reminded him of John le Carre's novels and classic spy films.

Chris, who plays a CIA agent in the film, said in a statement, "The script reminded me of John le Carre's novels and the classic spy films. 'All The Old Knives' has a cracking plot with great twists and turns and part of it took

place in Europe in the winter, which always strikes me as desperately romantic and a little bit sad at the same time.

"It also touched on frightening situations like terrorist attacks that are happening in the world at the moment, and I felt it treated that material in a way that was very truthful."

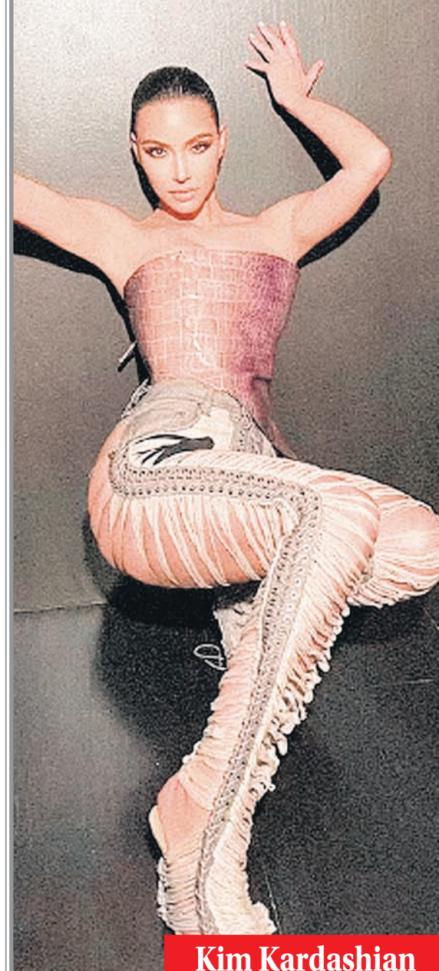
In the film, Pine's character has been tasked to interrogate an eight-year-old hijacking case.

Describing his character as a man highly adept at compartmentalising his feelings, he shared, "Like all great spies, he's emotionally closed off and very good at his job because of it." Pine added: "Part of that is because of what happened to him early in his CIA career, so he's carrying a heavy burden of guilt and shame within him at all times."

"But then he meets Celia (Thandiwe Newton), the love of his life. His heart starts to open up and he becomes a vulnerable human being, only to have it quickly shattered again."

The actor has also served as an executive producer on the film and was eager to collaborate with the director Janus Metz.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kim Kardashian



IPL 2022

CUMMINS' RECORD FIFTY LEADS KKR TO 5-WICKET WIN OVER MUMBAI INDIANS

Pune | Agencies

Ascentillating joint fastest half-century by Pat Cummins along with a gutsy innings by Venkatesh Iyer led Kolkata Knight Riders to a convincing five-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in an IPL 2022 match at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, here on Wednesday.

It was KKR's third victory in the four matches and they climbed to the top of the table with 6 points. On the other hand, Mumbai Indians' horror run continued as they slumped to their third successive defeat in the ongoing season.

Earlier, a brilliant fifty from Suryakumar Yadav (52 off 36) helped Mumbai Indians post 161/4 in 20 overs. With 55 for 3 in 11 overs, Mumbai were in trouble but Suryakumar added 83 runs for the fourth wicket with Tilak Varma (38 off 27) to rescue his side. Apart from Suryakumar and Varma, Dewald Brevis (29 off 19) also played an entertaining knock on his IPL debut while Kieron Pollard (22 off 5) gave the late flourish to Mumbai's innings.

Chasing a challenging total, KKR were off to a slow start and the pressure resulted in a wicket. Tymal Mills gave Mumbai their first break-



through by dismissing Ajinkya Rahane (7) in the 5th over. Shreyas Iyer (10) who came to bat couldn't last longer and got out to Daniel Sams, leaving KKR in trouble at 35-2 in 6 overs. KKR's attempt to stitch partnerships after the first six overs didn't yield great results either as Sam Billings (17) and Nitish Rana (8) both made starts but fell in successive Murugan Ashwin overs. Mills, who'd found great success with the short ball all evening struck gold when Russell (11) mistimed a short ball and Brevis took a catch to send him packing. Though KKR kept los-

ing wickets at the regular intervals, Venkatesh Iyer (50 off 41) stayed till the end and kept them in the game but it was Pat Cummins with his attacking knock that turned the game on its head. Cummins walked out to bat when KKR were on 101 for 5 in 13.1 overs, still needing 61 off 41 balls. He brought that down to 47 off 36 with a flick well over deep midwicket and cut placed between point and short third man. Cummins needed just six more of the available deliveries to complete the chase - smashing them all in an erroneous Daniel Sams over which included four sixes - all big clean hits - and two fours. A ball before he completed the chase with a six, he reached a 14-ball half-century.

He equalled KL Rahul's record for the fastest half century of all time in the IPL and ended the match unbeaten on 56 off 15 balls and powered KKR to win, with four overs to spare and five wickets in hand.

Brief scores:

Mumbai Indians: 161/4 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 52, Tilak Varma 38 not out; Pat Cummins 2/49) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 162/5 in 16 overs (Pat Cummins 56 not out, Venkatesh Iyer 50 not out; Murugan Ashwin 2/25) by five wickets

KOREA OPEN BADMINTON

Sindhu, Srikanth advance to second round

Suncheon | Agencies

Top Indian shuttlers -- PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth -- advanced to the second round of the 2022 Korea Open Badminton Championships after winning their respective matches at the Palma Stadium here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, ranked seventh in the BWF world rankings, defeated her 70th-ranked opponent Lauren Lam of the USA 21-15, 21-14 in 34 minutes, to progress to the second round of the women's singles event.

This was Sindhu's second win against Lauren Lam in as many matches. The two shuttlers had previously clashed at the Syed Modi International earlier this year. The 26-year-old, seeded third, will now face world No 26 Aya Ohori of Japan.

Meanwhile, Kidambi



Srikanth also made the second round in men's singles with a 22-20, 21-11 over Malaysia's Liew Daren.

The Indian shuttler, seeded fifth, had to come back from a three-point deficit to win game one but comfortably navigated the second game. He will now face Israel's Misha Zilberman, the world No 50.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, third seeds in men's doubles, got the better of South Korea's Tae Yang Shin and Wang Chan 21-16, 21-15 while B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa accounted for Jun Liang Andy Kwek and Juijia Jin of Singapore by a 21-19, 21-18 scoreline in mixed doubles. Earlier on Tuesday, Lakshya Sen and Malvika Bansod also won their respective first-round matches to make it to the second round.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool thrash Benfica; City overcome Atletico 1-0

Lisbon | Agencies

Premier League giants Liverpool have one foot in the UEFA Champions League semifinal after they defeated Portuguese club Benfica 3-1 in the quarterfinal first leg at Estadio da Luz here on Wednesday (IST).

Ibrahim Konate's maiden goal for the club -- a 17th-minute header -- was followed by a Sadio Mane strike to round off a superb passage of play during the opening half for the Reds. The Portuguese outfit was quick to clip the visitors' charge after the break, as Darwin Nunez curled the ball in on the 49th minute. But Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool held off increasing pressure

from Benfica and netted again late through Luis Diaz to ensure they will hold a huge advantage come the return leg at Anfield on April 13. Klopp's men managed to quell the pressure in the closing stages and then extended their lead for the second leg back on Merseyside next week.

The Spanish club defended resolutely and City kept attacking almost from start to finish, and finally managed to score in the 70th minute through Kevin De Bruyne. In 67 minutes of play gone, City manager Pep Guardiola brought Jack Grealish, Foden and Gabriel Jesus to try and find a breakthrough. And, within three minutes, the English club went ahead.

THAILAND OPEN

ASHISH, MONIKA, TWO OTHER INDIAN BOXERS ENTER FINALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian boxer Ashish Kumar continued his brilliant form at the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing tournament and entered the finals alongside country's three other pugilists in Phuket on Wednesday.

Monika, Govind Sahani and Varinder Singh were the other Indians to progress into the finals.

Ashish, who won gold medal in the last edition in the 75kg, lived up to the expectations and produced a flawless show to register an easy 5-0 win over Maikhel Roberdd Muskita of Indonesia in the men's 81kg semifinal.

The 26-year-old Monika, who upstaged the two-time World Championships medallist Josie Gabuco in the previous round, also looked solid against her opponent Tran Thi Diem Kieu from Vietnam in the women's 48kg Last-4 bout as she notched up an equally dominating win by unanimous decision without breaking a sweat.



On the other hand, Govind had to work hard against Vietnam's Nguyen Linh Phung in the intensely fought men's 48kg last-4 contest that saw heavy exchange of punches but the Indian took the charge of the match in time and tilted the result in his favour by a split 4-1 decision. In the men's 60kg semifinals, Varinder Singh was given a walkover against Palestine's Abdel Rahman Abunab. Meanwhile in the men's quarterfinals bouts played earlier in the day,

Amit Panghal emerged victorious while Rohit Mor (57kg) made exit with a 0-5 loss to Thailand's Rujakran Juntrong. Panghal, the silver medallist of the 2019 World Championships, won comfortably against Thanakon Aoanyaem of Thailand by unanimous decision in the men's 52kg contest. Bhagyabati Kachari also made her way into the women's 75kg semi-finals after outperforming another Thai opponent Pornnipa Chuttee in 5-0 win.

IPL: NATHAN COULTER-NILE RULED OUT FOR REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Mumbai: 2008 IPL champions Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday announced that Australian all-rounder Nathan Coulter-Nile will miss the remainder of IPL 2022 due to an injury.

Coulter-Nile featured for Rajasthan in their opening match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, conceding 48 off his three overs and couldn't complete his four overs as he had to go off the field due to injury. The franchise updated on Coulter-Nile's future in the tournament via a video posted on their social media channels where the team physiotherapist John Gloster addressed the team.

Though Rajasthan convincingly won their opening match by 61 runs, Coulter-Nile missed out on the next two matches with India pacer Navdeep Saini replacing him in the playing eleven. At the current moment, the nature of Coulter-Nile's injury has not been revealed yet and his replacement is yet to be known. Coulter-Nile was bought by Rajasthan for Rs. 2 crores in the mega auction.



Priyanka scores as India women defeat Egypt in friendly

Amman (Jordan) | Agencies

Young Priyanka Devi netted a goal in the 30th minute as the India women's senior football team defeated Egypt by a solitary goal in the first friendly match played at the Prince Mohammed Stadium in Zarqa.

In a late-evening match on Tuesday, the first half began with the Indian side pressing hard to seize the initiative. Captain Ashalata Devi tried to earn an early lead in the 18th minute via her shot from distance but Anju, who latched on to the ball, missed the opportunity.

A couple of minutes later, Manisha almost scored the opener through Dalima's pass from the right, but the ball was collected by the Egyptian custodian.

Before the opposition could settle into the game, a sudden strike by Priyanka in the 30th minute gave



India the lead. Dalima managed to pass the ball to Priyanka through

Manisha's brilliant cross from the left and eventually, the young mid-

fielder found the back of the net.

The second half was played out on similar lines with India creating more opportunities, as head coach Thomas Dennerby made his first change at the restart, replacing forward Renu with Pyari Xaxa.

Ten minutes after the resumption, Pyari came close to scoring in the 53rd minute as she got on the end of a cross from Manisha with an excellent run, but the shot was saved by the keeper. A couple of more substitutions followed as Sandhiya came in place of Anju Tamang, and Soumya and Ratanbala were introduced in place of Grace and Priyanka Devi, respectively. Egypt captain Engy Ahmed Sayed tried her luck from close range before the hour mark, but Sowmya stood tall to deny her. Hayam Abdellatif had the final effort for Egypt in the dying minutes but her effort landed safely into Sowmya's gloves.

Finch scores half century as Australia end Pakistan campaign on a winning note

Lahore | Agencies

Australia's limited-overs skipper Aaron Finch finally had some runs on the board as the tourists defeated Pakistan by three wickets with five balls to spare in the one-off T20 International at the Gaddafi Stadium here.

After losing the three-match ODI series 1-2, Australia ended their campaign on a winning note, first restricting the hosts to 162/8 despite skipper Babar Azam's polished 66 off 46 deliveries, and then scoring the required runs in the final over, with Finch contributing a half century.

In a repeat of last year's ICC T20I World Cup semifinal, Pakistan again batted



first and were off to a superb start, thanks to Azam's quick-fire 66. The Pakistan skipper equalled India's Rohit Sharma on 26 T20I half centuries, tied for second on the all-time list.

But Nathan Ellis pegged Pakistan back, returning figures of 4/28 in only his third T20I appearance for Australia. His incisive bowling saw the defending T20 World Cup champions well within reach of the target for a majority of their reply. Finch, after his miserable

form in the ODIs, top-scored with 55, while Travis Head (26), Josh Inglis (24), Marcus Stoinis (23) and Ben McDermott (22) played useful knocks as Australia wrapped up the win with five balls to spare.

The one-off T20I win adds to Australia's Test series victory under skipper Pat Cummins, with Pakistan having won the ODI series 2-1.

Brief scores:

Pakistan 162/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 23, Babar Azam 66, Khushdil Shah 24; Nathan Ellis 4/28, Cameron Green 2/16) lost to Australia 163/7 in 19.1 overs (Travis Head 26, Aaron Finch 55, Josh Inglis 24, Marcus Stoinis 23, Ben McDermott 22 not out) by three wickets.

FEDERATION CUP ATHLETICS

ASSAM SPINTER AMLAN BORGHAIN BREAKS 200M NATIONAL RECORD

Kozhikode: Amlan Borgohain of Assam scorched the track to set a new men's 200m National record by clocking 20.52 seconds on a rain-hit final day in the 25th AFI National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships, here on Wednesday. In the thrilling women's 200m final, Hima Das (Assam) held back a challenge from Aishwarya Kailash Mishra (Maharashtra) and Priya H Mohan (Karnataka). Hima Das stopped the clock in 23.63 seconds to win by one-hundredth of a second from 400m champion Aishwarya. Priya H Mohan, who did not compete in the 400m, settled for third place in a personal best time. The 23-year-old Amlan sank Mohammed Anas Yahiya's existing mark of 20.63 seconds in a race that saw the top three finish inside 21 seconds. However, it was only Amlan Borgohain who matched the Asian Games qualifying standard set by the Athletics Federation of India. Having run successive sub-21-second races in September and March, he gave proof of his progress. Avinash Sable, known to break national records in the Steeplechase, rewrote the men's 5000m meet record with a fine effort over 13:39.43.



I-League: Mohammedan Sporting defeat Rajasthan United, reclaim top spot

Kalyani (West Bengal) | Agencies

Mohammedan SC defeated Rajasthan United FC 2-1 in the I-League match at the Kalyani Stadium on Wednesday.

Two first half goals courtesy Azharuddin Malik and Nikola Stojanovic set Mohammedan SC on their way. A stunning free kick from Julian Omar Ramos in the second half set up a nervy final showdown, but Mohammedan SC held their nerve to see out the game and reclaim top spot in the Hero I-League.

Rajasthan United (RUFC) went into the contest boasting the meanest defence in the Hero I-League this season, conceding only three goals from their first eight matches in their debut campaign. Their opponents, on the other hand, posed a fearsome challenge with the likes of the dangerous Marcus Joseph, Nikola Stojanovic and Andelo Rudovic in their ranks.

Although there were no clear cut scoring opportunities in the first quarter of an hour, the alarm bells were ringing



for Rajasthan United as Mohammedan SC stamped their territorial domination on the pitch. Rajasthan United pulled one goal back in the 70th minute in truly spectacular fashion. The goal showed a way back into the contest for

RUFC. With RUFC feeling the wind in their sails, it was time for the Mohammedan SC unit to let their experience come to the fore and snuff out all attempts of finding a way back into the game for their opponents.



Want to be the first Indian club to win a game at AFC Champions League: Mumbai City's coach

Riyadh | Agencies

Mumbai City FC are set to make their debut in Asia's biggest club football competition, the 2022 AFC Champions League, when they take on Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab FC in their opening match on April 8 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Islanders are placed in Group B in the West Region alongside Al Jazira (UAE), Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia), and Air Force Club (Iraq).

Ahead of their match, Mumbai City FC head coach Des Buckingham and vice-captain Mandar Rao Dessai

spoke about a variety of topics including the team's ambition of creating history by becoming the first Indian club to win a game in the AFC Champions League. "This is only the second time a club from India has competed at this level after FC Goa last year. They picked up three draws, so three points across the period, and they showed what Indian players and what Indian teams can do at this level. So for me, we want to try and do something no other Indian club has done before, which is to win a game at this competition and we take it from there," head coach Buckingham stated.



Mrunal Thakur doesn't fear being typecast

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur, who will be soon seen in cricket drama 'Jersey' opposite Shahid Kapoor, believes that getting typecast in the industry should be the least of worries for an actor. For her, script selection rests on how relatable or interesting the role that's being offered is, the strengths of that character and most importantly the story being told.

Mrunal said: "For an actor to be cast in films with a great script and a great team backing it is of utmost importance. I don't fear being typecast because I know as an actor what and how I can differentiate the roles I'm essaying."

She explained: "I personally think that to play a similar character can actually pose a good challenge for me, because then it's my calibre as an actor to bring something fresh to the screen."

And she concluded: "I personally feel very blessed and fortunate to get all kinds of roles that come my way. It is about giving your 100 per cent on screen and leaving the rest for the audience -- and that is exactly what I do."

'Jersey', directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, is set to debut in theatres on April 14.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Choreographer Rajit Dev is well-known for his music videos. Beyond the viral 'Bijlee' song, Rajit is also known for his work on 'Pachtaoge', 'Tehas Nehas' and 'Baarish Ki Jaaye'. His latest one is with Guru Randhawa and Zahrah Khan for 'Tera Saath Ho'. How would you describe the experience of working for this song?

"This is the first time I worked with Guru Randhawa, Zahrah Khan and Karan Wahi. I had a blast working on this project. I had to make sure Zahrah looked her best while dancing. She rehearsed with me for 4 days. She's enthusiastic and energetic so it was fun choreographing her."

"Guru Randhawa came directly to sets and we taught him everything then and there. He is full of positive energy. Again it was a loving experience. Karan, who is a popular name in showbiz, also did a great job in the song." Speaking further about his style of choreography he says: "I always go with the instinct of what the song and beats demand and I just go with flow and design the choreography. This song has a particular style which is bollyhop mix of Bollywood

and hip-hop." It's flooding music videos now - what are the challenges you face as a choreographer while taking up a new song?" The first thing everyone wants is to have a great hook step. Karan, who is a popular name in showbiz, also did a great job in the song. "Speaking further about his style of choreography he says: "I always go with the instinct of what the song and beats demand and I just go with flow and design the choreography. This song has a particular style which is bollyhop mix of Bollywood

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PAYAL ROHATGI, MANDANA KARIMI GET INTO NASTY CATFIGHT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Lock Upp' contestant Mandana Karimi got upset with Payal Rohatgi as she misbehaved with Mandana and told her that "You are bitc**** behind your own mother."

Mandana also revealed that her parents have disowned her earlier but now things are fine in her family. Mandana feels that Payal is unnecessarily creating a hype about her relationship with her parents when everything is sorted in the family now. Mandana told Paayal that: "I told you the details of what happened. I told her that my mom did not talk to me for six years. Now she is ok, all is well with my family. She is not here but now she is okay with the work I do."

Mandana explained the reason behind her argument with Paayal and shared: "I have been disowned by my own father and mother's families."

Further, Mandana said what Paayal had told her: "She (Payal) is that kind of person that she told me 'You are bitc**** behind your own mother.'" Later, Mandana was seen crying on the show.



With time I'll find my niche in music videos: Himansh Kohli

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Himansh Kohli is undoubtedly a very popular face in the music video space. Whether it was 'Wafa Na Raas Aayi', 'Bewafa Tera Muskurana', 'Dil Galti Kar Baitha Hai', 'Chura Liya or Meri Tarah', Himansh has always shown his individuality in the music videos. His latest song is 'Mast Nazron Se' with one of his favourite singers Jubin Nautiyal.

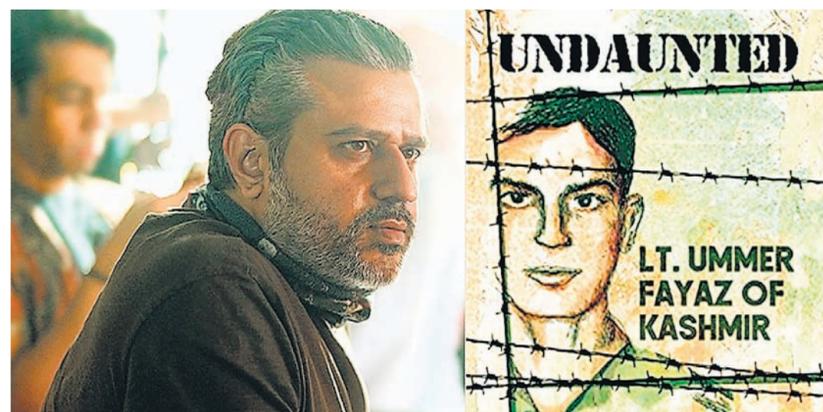
The song also stars Anushka Sen and Nikita Dutta. This song is Himansh's 10th music video. Talking about that he says: "I can't believe it. It's something I didn't plan but it has helped me be relevant. They say 10 times the charm, but wait till I celebrate more such events in life. I am thankful to all my fans and followers for their unconditional

love which they showered for my songs." Himansh also has a huge connection with the singer Jubin Nautiyal. When asked about the special bonding Himansh says: "I fondly call him Baba. He is like a brother to me. We have bonded a lot in the past few years and his presence has been nothing short of a miracle."

"As an actor, I don't restrict myself to just my piece, but also like to get involved with other aspects. I have an affinity for music. This is the reason I am seen with musicians and singers because they are like minded. Baba and I bonded over many such factors. Also, his level of craft at singing has been my go to choice for most occasions. His voice is such that it takes you to a different level. And luckily this association has been loved by our fans too."



Martyred Kashmiri Army officer Lt Ummer Fayaz's life to be depicted on film



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Undaunted: Lt Ummer Fayaz of Kashmir', the book by Bhaavna Arora, which chronicles the life of Kashmiri Army officer Lt Ummer Fayaz, will be adapted for the big screen.

Fayaz set an example for fellow Kashmiris to break the cycle of violence with his short-lived tenure in the Army. Brutally murdered by armed militants, his death shook the entire nation.

Commenting on the development, Bhaavna said, "Undaunted" is one of those books that is really

close to my heart. I could not have thought of anyone better than Jay Shewakramani to back the cinematic adaptation of the same. He is as versatile as a producer as I am as an author. I am really looking forward to watching Lt Ummer Fayaz come alive on screen!"

The rights for the screen adaptation of the yet-to-be-titled film have been bagged by producer Jay Shewakramani, who has produced films like, 'Jawaani Jaaneman', and is currently producing 'Freddy' starring Kartik Aaryan.

While talking about the project,

Jay Shewakramani, who will be producing the film under the banner of Northern Lights Films, said, "The moment I read 'Undaunted', I knew I had to adapt it for the big screen. The journey of hero Lt Ummer Fayaz is so inspiring that everyone needs to hear it and experience it. I am more than excited and proud to start working on Bhaavna Arora's book."

Apart from this, Jay Shewakramani is gearing up for another book adaptation, 'Devotion of Suspect X', starring Kareena Kapoor Khan in the lead with Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma.



ABHISHEK BACHCHAN WISHES LUCK TO STUDENTS AHEAD OF BOARD EXAMS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan who is all set for his upcoming film 'Dasvi', interacted with a bunch of students across the nation on a video call who are preparing for their Class 10 Board exams. The actor

said, "Wishing you all the very best, not only for your studies but also for your exams. I am going to pray for all of you and I hope that you all pass with flying colours." He wished the young aspirants for their exams and also asked them to watch his upcoming movie 'Dasvi' only after their exams are over. He added, "If you do, you all owe me a treat," as the foodie in him came out in this candid conversation, he asked a kid from Jaipur to treat him with 'Pyaaz Kachori', and from Gurgaon, he wanted a Chole Bhature treat. For the students based out of Mumbai, he asked for Misal Pao. One of the board exam aspirants from Gurgaon also said, "Top marke aana (Do well for 'Dasvi')," to which the actor replied, "Woh toh koshish karenge (Will try our best)." The film 'Dasvi' is produced by Dinesh Vijan and Jio Studios, directed by Tushar Jalota, also starring Yami Gautam and Nimrat Kaur.



Amyra Dastur