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Export demand, yield loss fears due to heatwave buoy wheat flour, bread prices

▶ The monthly average retail price of wheat flour (atta) has risen nearly in the past one year period to Rs 32.3 per kg. The current prices are the highest since January 2010.

▶ The current wheat price in India, at around Rs 2,400 per 100 kg, is well above the Centre's assured Minimum Support Price, which in itself is a rare phenomenon.

▶ Along with wheat flour, the prices of bakery bread too have reportedly registered a sharp increase in recent months.



the data maintained by the Price Monitoring Division (PMD) in the Department of Consumer Affairs. Atta prices have been rising as both production and stocks of wheat have fallen in India. Demand from overseas markets have risen in Ukraine and Russia, currently involved in a raging war, are some of the major producers of the commodity. Riding on a possible supply disruption of wheat as the tensions between the two countries simmered, export demand for the food-grain got a fresh push.

The Minimum Support Price for wheat for the 2022-23 marketing season was fixed at Rs 2,015 per 100 kg. It is important to note that prices of wheat remain on

the lower side during this time of the year as freshly harvested rabi crops make their way into the physical markets or mandis. Reports also suggest that early onset of summer followed by severe heatwaves in key wheat growing regions is likely to reduce crop yields. Excessive heat typically shrivels grains in the maturity stage. Among the four metros, the average wheat flour retail price was the highest in Mumbai at Rs 49 per kg, followed by Chennai at Rs 34, Kolkata Rs 29, and Delhi Rs 27. Rising fuel prices too have a bearing on the increasing wheat flour rates. Wheat flour is widely used in the preparation of bread.

SCORCHING HEAT CONDITION IN MP, RATLAM SIZZLES AT 46 DEGREES CELSIUS

Bhopal: Heat wave conditions prevailed in five districts in Madhya Pradesh on Monday, with Ratlam recording the highest maximum temperature of 46 degrees Celsius in the state. This was the third highest maximum temperature in India after Barmer and Bikaner which sizzled at 46.3 degrees Celsius and 46.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Madhya Pradesh is unlikely to see a let up in the sultry weather soon with the Met department forecasting that heat wave conditions may prevail in some parts of the state for four more days.

A trough was running from Punjab to northwest Madhya Pradesh across Haryana and Rajasthan, a senior meteorologist with IMD's Bhopal office said.

He said that heat wave conditions prevailed at Ratlam, Rajgarh, Guna, Khargone and Khandwa. The maximum temperature of the four major cities in MP - Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior was recorded at 42.9 degrees Celsius - two notches above normal, 42.8 degrees Celsius, also two degrees above normal, 42 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, and 42.4 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, respectively.



SL PM Quits, home set on fire amid clashes

MP Amarakeerthi Athukorala opened fire and critically wounded two people blocking his car in Nittambuwa, and was later found dead after trying to take refuge in a nearby building, officers said.

COLOMBO | Agencies

Sri Lanka was placed under curfew as loyalists of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and anti-government protesters clashed today. A ruling party MP died and many were injured. Rajapaksa has resigned, leading to the collapse of the government.

The hugest clashes since the economic crisis hit the island nation, started this morning when supporters of the Rajapaksa family went on the rampage. The loyalists attacked unarmed protesters camping outside the President's office in downtown Colombo since April 9.

By evening, the protesters hit back, setting fire to buses, destroying the memorial built for the parents of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa and setting ablaze their family home in Hambantota, around 250



km from Colombo. The houses of three former ministers and two MPs were also torched. The police fired tear gas shells and water cannon and declared an immediate curfew in Colombo, which was later widened to span the country of 22 million people. At least 100 injured people have been hospitalised. President Rajapaksa said the curfew will be in place till 7 am on Tuesday.

In a first, the riot squad was called in to reinforce the police. Earlier, soldiers were pressed into service to protect deliveries of fuel and other essentials but never to prevent clashes. Mahinda Rajapaksa, 76, had sent his letter of resignation to his younger brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, clearing the way for a "new unity government". At least two cabinet ministers have also stepped down.

Rupee hits all-time low against US dollar, more depreciation likely

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian rupee extended its losses and touched an all-time low of 77.42 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday.

The Indian currency is weighed by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and continued foreign fund outflows. Further, rupee slipped on surge in crude oil prices

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 5,517.08 crore, as per stock exchange data. They have been selling equities constantly in the recent months. Rupee has been under-pressure after global central banks started normalising policy and last week RBI too started raising key interest rates.

On Friday, the rupee had slumped 55 paise to close at 76.90 against the US dollar.

"Local units are also hit by haven dollar flows, higher global rates due to rising inflation and risk-off sentiments. Weakness in Chinese yuan, which fell to its



weakest level since November 2020, also weighing on regional currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Retail Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. So far this year, foreign institutions have withdrawn a total of nearly \$19 billion from domestic equities and debt markets, Parmar said.

Parmar sees near term depreciation in rupee could continue for a few more days with lower side limited in the range of 77.70

to 78. In the event of unwinding, the rupee could see levels of 77 to 76.70. Also, hardening crude oil prices as the EU is moving ahead to impose an embargo on Russian oil are roiling the sentiments, leading to worries about the widening current account deficit and exacerbating the pressure on the domestic currency.

Going ahead, as the Indian rupee has breached the previous

all-time lows of the 77.14-mark, it seems poised to witness further depreciation towards the 78-mark in the near term.

After petrol, it is Rupee's turn to breach the 100-mark: Congress

New Delhi: After Rupee plummeted to an all-time low against the US Dollar, the Congress on Monday attacked the government, saying that it is now time for the rupee to march towards the 100-mark.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Rupee has fallen to an all-time low to 77.4 to a Dollar. The Prime Minister has already achieved his target of 100+ in petrol and diesel, and of 1,000 in LPG. Now it's the Rupee's turn to march towards 100." He alleged that India is in the middle of a huge economic crisis, which will worsen further and turn into something that Indians never witnessed before.

BLAST IN PUNJAB'S HIGHLY-GUARDED IB HEADQUARTERS

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

A blast, caused by a rocket-like object, reportedly occurred in Punjab's highly-guarded Intelligence Bureau headquarters in upscale Sector 77, Mohali, near here on Monday evening. However, no casualty was reported.

It is learnt that it was an attack on the third floor of the building, an official said.

The area around the Intelligence Bureau office has been sealed and investigation is in progress. A bomb disposal and forensic squads have been positioned at the spot.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann spoke to Director General of Police V.K. Bhawra and sought details about the incident.

As per the press communique, a minor explosion was reported at the Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters at around 7.45 pm.

No damage has been reported. Senior officers are on the spot and investigation is being done, it added. The attack came four days after arrest of Pakistan-backed terrorists in Haryana's Karnal by the state police following inputs from the Punjab Police.

Describing the arrest of four Pakistan's ISI-backed terrorists and preventing a major terror attack as a well coordinated operation, Punjab Police on May 5 said they successfully averted a possi-



ble terrorist attack.

However, police officials refuted claims of attempts by the ISI to revive terrorism in the state, saying such acts were part of its nefarious designs.

The arrested accused were identified as Gurpreet Singh, Amandeep Singh and Parminder Singh, residents of Vinjoke village in Zira, Ferozepur; and Bhupinder Singh of Bhatian village in Ludhiana. DGP Bhawra had told the media here that a Central agency earlier shared an input that some suspects, who may be carrying explosive material and weapons are moving in the border

districts of Fazilka and Ferozepur. During preliminary interrogation, the accused had revealed that they were working for Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Harwinder Singh, alias Rinda.

Rinda, a notorious gangster active in Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra and Haryana, is a history-sheeter and is wanted by the Punjab Police in heinous crimes, including murder, contract killing, robbery, extortion and snatching.

Also this blast occurred came almost a fortnight after the recovery of an explosive device near the high-profile Burali jail in Chandigarh.

NIA raids D-Co men in Mumbai-Thane, detains top Dargahs trustee

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In one of the biggest operations in recent times, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday raided 29 locations in Mumbai and Thane linked with associates of absconding mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, detained at least 8 persons including a top trustee of two famed Dargahs, besides recovering a cache of arms and large amounts of cash.

Those detained include businessman Suhail Khandwani, a trustee of Haji Ali Dargah and also a Mahim Dargah Managing Trustee, who allegedly had some business dealing with the family of Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, currently in judicial custody since over two months.

Another is Salim Qureshi alias Salim Fruit - a relative of dreaded underworld gangster Chhota Shakeel, who was detained from his home south Mumbai and others including hawala operators and gang-

land sharpshooters. The NIA started its raids around dawn at 24 locations in Mumbai and 5 places in Mira Road-Bhayander (Thane) in separate cases registered in January and February this year.

The probe pertains to terror/criminal activities of the D-Gang including his key aides like Chhota Shakeel, Javed Patel alias Javed Chikna, the dreaded Abdul Razzaq Memon alias Tiger Memon who carried out the March 12, 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts. Monday's raids at various premises of the suspected D-gang associates resulted in the seizure of incriminating materials like electronic devices, documents of real estate investments, large amounts of cash and arms cache, the quantities of which has not been disclosed. NIA teams along with local police swooped at multiple locations in Nagpada, Dongri, Bhendi Bazar, Mahim, Bandra, Santacruz, Goregaon, Borivali, Mira Road, and Bhayander.

60% OF CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CONTAIN TOXIC PFA CHEMICALS: REPORT

About 60 per cent of children's clothing, including fabrics used in pillows, bedding and furniture, often with green certification, contain toxic PFA substances known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment.

- The team tested 93 different products often used by children and adolescents. These products include bedding, furnishings, and clothing. The researchers specifically chose products that were labelled "stain-resistant", "water-resistant", green or "non-toxic".
- They first used a rapid screening method to test the products for fluorine - a marker of PFA. It detected PFAS in 54 of 93 products, including 21 with labels such as "eco", "green" or "non-toxic". The chemicals were most widely used in products labeled "water-" or "stain-" resistant.
- PFAS are a class of more than 9000 chemicals that companies add to a wide variety of consumer products to make them non-stick, waterproof, and stain-resistant. PFAS are also used in everyday items such as non-stick cookware, food packaging, cosmetics, and even dental floss.

LONDON | Agencies

A study published in the journal 'Environmental Science and Technology' showed that many children's products, including those labelled as "waterproof", "stain-resistant", or "environment friendly" contain harmful PFA chemicals that are not mentioned on the label.

"Children's bodies are still developing and are especially sensitive to chemical exposures," said Dr. Laurel Schaidler, senior scientist at Silent Spring Institute, a UK-based public health advocacy.

"These chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disorder, decreased immunity, hormonal disruption and a range of other serious health problems. PFAS are dubbed 'forever chemicals' as they do not break down naturally and accumulate in the human body." "These are products that children come into close contact with every day and over a long period of time. Given the toxicity of PFAS and the fact that the chemicals don't serve a critical function, they should not be allowed in products," says co-



author Kathryn Rodgers, a doctoral student at Boston University School of Public Health. "The findings highlight the need for green certifiers to include PFAS in their criteria and to conduct a more thorough review of the products they certify," Rodgers said.

AMIT SHAH ANNOUNCES E-CENSUS BY 2024

Guwahati: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the upcoming Census would be e-Census with 100 per cent accuracy, and it would be completed by 2024.

Inaugurating the new office building of the Directorate of Census Operations in Assam at Amingaon in Kamrup district, the Home Minister said that with the electronic process and enumeration of people, the Census would be updated automatically after every birth and death in the country.

The digital Census would shape the 'policies of the country for the next 25 years', he added.



DEMOLITION DRAMA IN DELHI'S SHAHEEN BAGH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The national capital on Monday yet again witnessed a high-voltage demolition drama in the Shaheen Bagh area of the city, nearly 20 days after a similar drive was carried out in the communal violence-hit Jahangirpuri area of northwest Delhi. It was officially learnt on May 4 that the South Delhi Municipal Corporation had planned a major drive against illegal encroachments in the south Delhi area and the illegal structures at Shaheen Bagh will be demolished on May 9.

The day began with the presence of several mediapersons at Shaheen Bagh, however, this time, unlike Jahangirpuri, there was minuscule presence of the police before the demolition drive. The locals were anxious about what was going to happen.

Gradually, the corporation officials began arriving at the place where the proposed demolition was to take place. A JCB bulldozer and around 2-3 trucks also reached the spot to pick up the debris that would accumulate after the demolition. But as the drive was about to begin around 11.30 am, local leaders, including the workers of



political parties, began protesting against the Municipal Corporation's proposed demolition. The protestors stood atop a part of the JCB bulldozer. Delhi Police personnel along with para military forces also arrived at the site in heavy numbers and removed the agitators who sat in front of the JCB bulldozer. Women agitators were removed by women security personnel. The police also detained several people, including political party workers, who were not allowing the Municipal Corporation staff to conduct the demolition drive. As the agi-

tation was quelled, the JCB moved forward to demolish the illegal encroachment, an iron structure in front of a building. It was at this juncture that Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan reached the spot and was speaking to the officials. The 'illegal encroachment' i.e. an iron structure or a shuttering or formwork in front of the building was then manually removed by the people even as a JCB bulldozer stood by. The whole iron casing fell on the road with a loud thud and the encroachment was removed.

The locals said that the iron structure installed in front of the building was not an 'illegal encroachment' but a shuttering. "It has been installed for the renovation of the building," a local told reporter.

While speaking to media persons, Khan expressed strong resentment against the SDMC over the demolition drive. The AAP MLA said he had himself inspected the whole area and spoken to every official, including the traffic police. "I had myself with my own JCB removed a toilet that was illegally constructed outside a mosque. This is just vendetta politics. Just tell me where the encroachment is. Tell me, I will remove it myself. I am the local MLA," said the AAP leader. Even the residents told reporter that all the illegal structures in the area had already been removed by the people a few days back. The JCB bulldozer left the Shaheen Bagh area at around 1.15 pm marking the end of the demolition drive there.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta has strongly reacted to the development and demanded legal action against those who became a hurdle for the SDMC to discharge its duties.

Party has been good to each one, its time to repay: Sonia message to CWC



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of his Chintan Shivir, Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi told the Congress Working Committee meeting on Monday that there is no "magic wand" and only "selfless work" will revive the party.

"There is no magic wand. It is only selfless work, discipline and a sense of consistent collective purpose that will enable us to demonstrate our tenacity and resilience."

She also gave a strict message on speaking to the media. "The party has been good to each and every one of us. Now is the time to repay that debt in full measure. Self-criticism is of course needed in our party forums. But this should not be done in a manner that self-confidence and morale is eroded and an atmosphere

of gloom and doom becomes all-pervasive."

She said that in Udaipur on May 13, 14 and 15 around 400 Congress leaders will participate in the Chintan Shivir. "The vast majority of them hold or have held one position or the other in the organization or in the Union government. We have made every effort to ensure balanced representation and 'balance from every angle,' she said. She highlighted the outline of the session -- the deliberations will be in six groups and will take up political, economic, social justice, farmers, youth and organizational issues. Delegates have already been informed about which group they will be expected to participate in.

"On the afternoon of May 15 we will be adopting the Udaipur Nav Sankalp after it has been approved by the CWC there," she said.

Gandhi sought full cooperation in ensuring that the single over-riding message of unity, cohesion, determination and commitment to the party's accelerated revival goes forth loud and clear from Udaipur.

She cautioned that the Chintan Shivir should not become a ritual that has to be gone through.

"I am determined that it should herald a restructured organization to meet the many ideological, electoral and managerial challenges we confront."

"I had set up coordination panels to set out the broad agenda for each of the six groups. These panels have met. I will now request the convenors of these panels to brief us on the broad subjects that have been identified for discussion within each of the groups," she added.

Heat wave to return to NW Indian plains from Tuesday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as heat wave conditions were observed at some pockets of west Rajasthan and at isolated places over west Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha on Monday, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heat wave conditions in north-west Indian plains, including Haryana and Delhi from Tuesday. Highest maximum temperature at 46.2 degrees Celsius was reported from Bikaner in Rajasthan. Akola in Vidarbha recorded 45.8 degrees Celsius.

Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are very likely in isolated/some pockets over west Rajasthan till May 13 and heat wave conditions in isolated/some pockets over Gujarat on May 10, east Rajasthan, Vidarbha, and



Madhya Pradesh till May 13, and south Haryana and south Punjab during May 10-13 and over Delhi during May 11-13. "Heat wave conditions in some parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are very likely over west Rajasthan, heat wave conditions in some parts over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and in isolated pockets over south Punjab, south Haryana, Delhi, east

Rajasthan and Gujarat," the IMD bulletin said. Similar heat wave/severe heat wave conditions would continue on May 11 and 12, it said.

Thanks to Western Disturbance earlier in the month, the NW Indian plains received a respite from the massive back-to-back heat waves since March and April. The current spell would continue till pre-monsoon showers.

WILL OPPOSE CAA IF IT SEEKS TO KNOW DATE OF BIRTH OF PARENTS: NITISH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said that he will not support any bill of the Centre which requires people of the country to mention the names and the date of birth of their fathers and mothers.

He was responding to a question from media persons on the CAA and the NRC after his Janata Darbar.

"We have replied to the Centre in 2010 that if any bill would have the compulsory provision of mentioning the names and date of birth of fathers and mothers, it would not be easy for all. We are sticking to our old stand. There is no question of supporting bills having those provisions," he said.



UP officials don't respect court orders, must face the music, says SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that Uttar Pradesh officials approaching it against the Allahabad High Court orders has become a routine affair.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, observed that UP officials do not respect orders of the court when counsel mentioned a plea by senior IAS officer and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NOIDA, seeking urgent hearing against non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued by the Allahabad High Court in a contempt case in connection with a land acquisition matter. As the bench added that bureaucrats are increasingly defying orders, counsel submitted that the NBW has been issued against a woman IAS officer, for late appearance.

The bench said "Let her appear... Let her understand."



It added that the court often sees breach of orders issued by the Allahabad High Court, and this has become a routine practice.

"What is this? You do not respect orders of the court," the bench said, adding that if an official does not obey orders, then he/she must face the music.

After a brief hearing in the matter, the bench asked counsel to circulate the papers, then it will list the matter before the appropriate

bench. The high court issued the order in response to a contempt plea filed by Manorama Kuchhal and another person whose land was acquired by Noida in 1990, but were not given fair compensation. They moved the high court against this land acquisition. The high court issued the order, as the officer could not appear in time.

The court directed the police to produce the NOIDA CEO before it on May 13.

Indian regulator set to grill Ola, Uber over surge in customer complaints

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As thousands of commuters find themselves at the mercy of Uber and Ola drivers via ride cancellations, cancellation charges, random surge pricing and long waiting times, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was set to grill cab aggregators over their algorithms on Tuesday.

The regulator, under its Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, was set to ask cab-hailing platforms to showcase their algorithms related to ride cancellations and surge pricing, along with questioning them over other issues. The CCPA has received numerous complaints of unfair trading practices, such as cab drivers forc-



ing riders to cancel trips that result in the customers paying the cancellation charge. The authority is of the view that old customers are being charged exorbitant rates while new riders are being wooed by low fares for the same distance. Despite the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines 2020, 71 per cent customers say that ride cancellation issues by drivers continue to, according to a survey by community-based social media platform LocalCircles last month.

Over 45 per cent of app-based taxi consumers stated they were charged more than 1.5 times in surge pricing despite the threshold being set by the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines 2020.

Cyclone 'Asani' impact: Flight operations hit at Vizag Airport

VISAKHAPATNAM | Agencies

Bad weather at Visakhapatnam under the impact of severe cyclonic storm 'Asani' in Bay of Bengal hit the flight operations at the airport in the Andhra Pradesh coastal city on Monday.

Flights from Kurnool, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad could not land at Visakhapatnam Airport due to bad weather and had to be sent back. Flights of various airlines from Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, and Vijayawada were cancelled.

With 'Asani' moving closer to the Andhra Pradesh coast, parts of the coastal region are experiencing gusty winds

and rains. High tidal waves were seen in some coastal villages in the Uppada area of Kakinada district. Fishermen have been warned by authorities not to venture into the sea and those already at sea have been advised to return.

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has asked people to remain alert in view of the forecast of heavy rains in coastal Andhra from Tuesday evening. Gusty winds with speed of 40-60 kmph are likely along the coast. The State Disaster Management Authority has advised people of north coastal Andhra to be on high alert. Fishermen have

been advised not to venture into the sea till Thursday. Disaster Management Authority Director B.R. Amebdkar said State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were on alert as a precautionary measure.

IAS Pooja Singhal to be questioned by ED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will on Tuesday question IAS officer Pooja Singhal in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to illegal mining in Jharkhand.

The ED had on Sunday recorded the statement of her husband Abhishek Jha.

Chartered Accountant Suman Kumar, who works for the IAS officer and her husband, was placed under arrest on Saturday following several raids.

Kumar was then sent to five days ED's custody. The ED had on Friday recovered Rs 19.31 crore and a few incriminating documents from the premises of Kumar.

Kumar, a CA of the IAS official and mining secretary of Jharkhand Pooja Singhal, came on the radar during the course of Investigation. Kumar also handles the accounts of Singhal's husband. The



Enforcement Directorate (ED) had on Friday morning conducted raids at more than 18 places. The raids were conducted in Ranchi, Chandigarh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Noida, Mumbai, Kolkata, Muzaffarpur, Saharsa, and in several parts of NCR, including Faridabad and Gurugram. It is important to note that Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren also holds the charge of mining.

ALLAHABAD HC DENIES BAIL TO 4 ACCUSED IN LAKHIMPUR CASE

LONDON | Agencies

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday denied bail to the four prime accused in the October 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

The bench of Justice D.K. Singh, while rejecting bail of Ankit Das, Lavkush, Sumit Jaiswal and Shishupal, observed that the incident might not have occurred if the Union Minister of State for Home did not make alleged utterances threatening farmers to chase them out of the district.

The court said political persons should not make irresponsible statements because they are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with their status and the dignity of the high office they hold.

It also emphasised that lawmakers cannot be seen as lawbreakers, and it is difficult to believe that the Deputy Chief Minister of the state was unaware that provisions of Section 144 Cr.P.C. were clamped and any assembly or gathering



was prohibited. Notably, the court praised the Special Investigation Team for conducting a free, fair, impartial, and scientific investigation into the crime. The bench noted that the charge

sheet revealed overwhelming evidence against the accused-applicant and co-accused for the commission of the heinous, diabolic, brutal, barbaric, depraved, gruesome, and inhumane crime.

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना
मेरे पति के आर्मी रिकार्ड में मेरा नाम SUBHADRA गलत दर्ज है। मेरा सही नाम SUBHADRA DEVI है। पति का आर्मी नं. 6495362H HAV अशोक कुमार 509ASC BN मेरठ केन्ट।

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना
मेरे पुत्र के आर्मी रिकार्ड में मेरा नाम SUNDARLAL गलत दर्ज है। मेरा सही नाम SUNDARLAL TIWARI है। पुत्र का आर्मी नं. 6495362H HAV अशोक कुमार 509ASC BN मेरठ केन्ट।

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना
मेरे पुत्र के आर्मी रिकार्ड में मेरा नाम MUNNE BAI गलत दर्ज है। मेरा सही नाम MUNNI BAI है। पुत्र का आर्मी नं. 6495362H HAV अशोक कुमार 509ASC BN मेरठ केन्ट।



I am overwhelmed after reading letters full of love from Ladli Laxmis: CM

More than 50 thousand Ladli Laxmis write letter to thank Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

More than 50 thousand there in Ladli Laxmis of the state have written a letter to thank Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, stating that their educational journey has been smooth due to the benefits of Ladli Laxmi Yojana. Chouhan said in a tweet that- 'I got emotional after reading the letters full of love of the state's beloved Laxmis. He said that I want to tell my beloved daughters that this Mama of yours is always with you. Do not worry, every dream of yours will be fulfilled. Chouhan while giving best wishes said that daughters, "You study, go ahead, my blessings are always with you."



government will pay the full admission fees of girl students in medical, IIT, IIM or any institute. Rs 25 thousand will be given separately in two installments to the Ladli Laxmis who take admission in the college after passing class 12th.

Chouhan announced that gram panchayats where Ladli Laxmis are getting respect, where there will not be a single child marriage, there will be cent percent admission of Ladlis in school, where no Ladli will remain malnourished and no crime will be committed against any girl child, will be declared as Ladli Laxmi Panchayat.

Due to 42 lakh Ladli Laxmis today i am successful as Chief Minister: Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that when daughter smiles, my life becomes successful. Today my life became fruitful and becoming a Chief Minister became meaningful. There are 42 lakh 14 thousand Ladli Laxmi daughters in the state today. Chouhan appealed to the daughters to always respect and honour their parents. He told them never to forget their mother. We owe our existence to our mother. The Chief Minister said that it is due to Ladli Laxmi Yojana that the sex ratio of daughters in the state has increased to 956. Chouhan was addressing the state level programme of Ladli Laxmi Utsav at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal where he launched the Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0.

Chief Minister said that to become a doctor, a fee of Rs 7-8 lakh is charged in a private medical college. The state government will pay the full admission fees for medical, IIT, IIM or any institute. Rs 25 thousand will be given separately in two instalments to the Ladli Laxmis who take admission in college after passing Class 12th. Chouhan stressed upon the girls to worry about their studies instead of worry

ing about their fees. He said that my Ladlis should never weep, this is my wish. Ladli Laxmi Utsav will be celebrated every year from May 2 to May 12. Chouhan said that Swami Vivekananda had said that a person becomes what he thinks. Daughters will bring glory to the name of their parents, country and state by getting higher education.

Chief Minister said that we have created Ladli e-Samvad app, so that daughters can communicate directly with me when needed. This is an attempt to change the lives of Ladli daughters. Chouhan said that in a Panchayat where there will be respect for the Ladlis, where there will not be a single child marriage, where cent percent Ladlis will get admission in the school, no girl child will be malnourished and no crime against the girl child will happen, such Gram Panchayats will be declared as Ladli Laxmi Panchayat. The Chief Minister said that our country is progressing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. May our state move forward, my Ladlis move forward. I want to tell the Ladli Laxmis of the state that do not worry, Mama is with you.

Chouhan inaugurated the programme by performing puja of

girls and lighting the lamp at the launch of the state level programme. Around 7,500 Ladli Laxmi daughters were present at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal. Ladli Laxmis and public representatives were virtually connected to all the districts, development blocks, gram panchayats and urban bodies. Chief Minister met Ladli Laxmis before reaching the stage in the programme and welcomed them by showering flowers. Chouhan also dedicated Ladli e-Sawad App. Released Ladli booklet and brochure of Ladli Laxmi Yojana published by Public Relations Department. A short film focused on Ladli Laxmi Yojana prepared by the Public Relations Department was screened.

Initially a Ladli Laxmi girl gave welcome address in the programme. Additional Chief Secretary Women and Child Development Ashok Kumar Shah gave detailed information about the programme. Chouhan symbolically distributed learning driving licenses to three Ladli girls. He also released the Ladli song. Three Ladli Laxmis were honoured for their outstanding achievements. Chief Minister Chouhan and Ladli Laxmis released colourful balloons in the sky.

CM Planted Peepal and Neem Saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Peepal and Neem saplings in the Smart City Garden. BC Ambadkar, Jaswant Singh and Jaiprakash Choudhary of Awantika Rahvasi Kalyan Samiti also planted saplings. While taking special care of cleanliness in the colony, tree plantation work is also done for environmental protection by the Samiti. Along with this, the works of making the residents aware about giving garbage separately from house to house and cleaning the streets and drains etc. of the colony are being done with public participation. Peepal planted today is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Rich in antibiotic elements, neem is known as the supreme medicine.

Sarang inspected transfer arrangements of Sultania Hospital in Hamidia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang on Monday inspected the arrangements for the transfer of Sultania Hospital to the newly constructed building of Hamidia Hospital. He observed the arrangements in all the wards of the Pediatric Department and expressed displeasure pointing out the shortcomings. Sarang said that the people of Bhopal would be benefited a lot by having treatment at one place. Till now there was a distance of about 4 to 5 kilometers between the pediatric and maternity ward. Now the maternity ward is also being shifted to the new building of Hamidia. Sarang said that along with shifting the maternity ward to Hamidia, beds are also being increased. He said that at present there are 200 beds in the maternity ward, which is being increased to 300 beds. Sarang said that even the newborn



babies would be able to get treatment at the earliest in the pediatric department of the new building. It is being ensured that the entire hospital is now operated with HIMS system. All the arrangements are being computerized, from preparation of registration form to distribution of medicines and visits of doctors will also be recorded in the computer. He directed to start HIMS system in 15 days for computerization of medical history along with treatment of children. Sarang inspected various wards of the Pediatric Department and

instructed the officials of PIU to conduct a survey and prepare a check-list to speed up the work. The details of the remaining work and the person responsible will be given in the check-list. He said that he would review again after 15 days. Instructions were also given to get all the arrangements checked from the contractor and PIU before hand-over take-over. Sarang said that there should also be arrangement for chairs and water coolers in the waiting area. He said that signage should be used for the convenience of

patients and their attendants in the new building. Mr. Sarang also got the sound system installed in the new building checked. He instructed to complete the furniture work in one month. Sarang took stock of the Patient Help Desk in Hamidia's new building. During this, he instructed to computerize the records of children coming for treatment. Sarang interacted with the parents who came for the treatment of the children in the play-therapy room and SNCU ward in the new building of Hamidia Hospital and inquired about the well being of the children. He inquired about the service being provided by the doctors in the hospital, on which the parents expressed satisfaction. Sarang, while inspecting the SNCU ward of Hamidia Hospital, reprimanded the supervisor for the dust. He also directed to impose fine on the company for negligence in the cleanliness system.

COUPLE FOUND DEAD

Bhopal: The police on Monday recovered the bodies of a married couple from a rented room here.

As per the police, Jitendra and his wife Ranjeeta from Khandwa were staying at their relative, Kaluram's rented accommodation in Shahpura area. Ranjeeta had filed for divorce in Khandwa. A senior police official in the Shahpura police station said that a team has been sent to Khandwa. While the woman's body was found on the bed, Jitendra was found hanging. Prima facie, it appeared that the man must have committed suicide after killing his wife, but the doctors ruled out any strangulation marks on the neck of the deceased, police said. Kaluram was also present in the house when the incident took place, police said. The police said the couple had come to Kaluram's place on Saturday and both seemed normal. After Jitendra and Ranjeeta did not come out of their room for a long time, Kaluram left for his work but his son waited for the couple to come out.

Families of bride and groom clash over 'sherwani' in MP

A squabble over a groom wearing 'sherwani' instead of the traditional attire, took a violent turn with the families of the bride and groom clashing and pelting stones at each other in a Madhya Pradesh village, police officials said on Monday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A squabble over a groom wearing 'sherwani' instead of the traditional attire, took a violent turn with the families of the bride and groom clashing and pelting stones at each other in a Madhya Pradesh village, police officials said on Monday. As per locals, the incident in a village of Dhar district took place on Saturday night after a tribal groom



reached the bride's home in a 'sherwani' instead of the traditional 'dhoti-kurta'. The bride's family took an objection to it which led to a heated argument which turned violent. "The groom (Sundarlal) was wearing a 'sherwani', while the bride's relatives insisted that the marriage rituals be performed in 'dhoti-kurta', which led to a heated argument between the two sides and then a violent clash," the officials told IANS. Members from both the sides later lodged police complaints, based on which a case was registered against some persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 294 (obscene act), 323 (voluntarily causing

hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation). Groom Sundarlal later told reporters that there was no issue with the bride's family, but claimed some of her relatives were involved in assaulting people. "The dispute started over the attire. I only want action against those who were involved in assault and stone-pelting," groom Sunderlal was heard saying to the press on Sunday. After the incident, a large number of people, including women, reached Dhamnod police station and staged a protest. Some women at the police station alleged that stones were hurled at them by the bride's relatives, causing injuries to some.

"AMBARI" Is Second Exhibit of the Week of the month of May

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the Latest and popular online series of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya entitled 'Exhibit of the Week' the 'AMBARI' (A colourful wooden image of an Elephant) collected from 1998 is at display. The Community of Folk, Kondapalli, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. It's Measurement Length - 38.5 cm., width- 13 cm, Height-47.5 cm, displayed in the audience as the second Exhibit of the month of May, 2022 through official website, Facebook, Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS. In this regard Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that The Ambari Elephant, with its canopied and saddled pavilion, is one of the most distinctive handcrafted Kondapalli toys. Handmade wooden toys have been made for generations in Kondapalli village of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh by artisans passing down their skills from generation to generation.



Local species of softwood like Punkli or Tellaponki (Jiuotia rotteri formis) found in the adjacent Kondapalli hills are used to make Kondapalli toys. Each part of the toy is carved out separately. Makkur - a paste of tamarind seed powder and sawdust are used to join the pieces together. The last step is colouring with oil paint or natural dyes employing a unique traditional technique. The use of contrastingly vibrant colours and lightweight softwood is an age-old tradition of production. With the rich tradition of making world-famous Kondapalli toys, artisans create figures based on mythology, rural life, and animals. Those interested can see this object from home through the Official site (https://igrms.com/wordpress/?page_id=8657) and Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumMankind>), Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

MAN, TODDLER DEAD, WIFE INJURED IN BIKE ACCIDENT

Rajgarh: The victims' motorcycle collided with a speeding multi-utility vehicle on Mumbai-Agra highway near Taraganj, said an official. A 24-year-old man and his one-and-half-year-old son were killed and his wife seriously injured on Monday when their motorcycle collided with a speeding multi-utility vehicle on Mumbai-Agra highway near Taraganj in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district, a police official said.

The family was coming from Padana when the accident happened, leaving Saddam and his son dead on the spot, while his wife is being treated in a hospital in Shajapur, said Sarangpur police station in charge Ashutosh Upadhyay.

Indore fire tragedy: Woman slaps accused in police station

The accused in Indores shocking fire incident in which seven people were killed and nearly a dozen injured was slapped by a woman at a police station in Indore on Monday. As per reports, the woman who slapped the accused is the elder sister of the woman whose refusal for a relationship made him set the building on fire.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The accused in Indores shocking fire incident in which seven people were killed and nearly a dozen injured was slapped by a woman at a police station in Indore on Monday. As per reports, the woman who slapped the accused is the elder sister of the woman whose refusal for a relationship



made him set the building on fire. A video of the incident surfaced on social media showing the accused Subham Dixit being slapped by a woman when he was taken out of the police station on Monday. In the video, the woman is also heard saying, "Kya Mila Tumko ye Sab Karke" (What did you get out of this). However, a police official controlled the situation. Dixit was arrested by the Indore police on Sunday. The police stated that Dixit was angry over a dispute with a woman who lived in the building. "Late on Friday night, he called the woman for money. The conversation that took

place near the building soon turned into a bitter argument and he threatened her. Subsequently, he came to the parking area of the building, took out petrol from a bike, poured it on the woman's scooter and set it ablaze," the police told the press on Sunday. As per the police, during interrogation, Dixit said that he just wanted to set the scooter on fire because the woman cheated him. Dixit (28) is a resident of Jhansi. He was arrested from Lohamandi in Indore and was produced in a district court which sent him to custody for three days, police said. He had allegedly torched the scooter of the woman residing in the residential building in Vijay Nagar locality after she rejected his marriage proposal. Meanwhile, a video surfaced on social media purportedly showing Dixit having blood on his hands and legs, lying on a stretcher in a hospital here, writhing in pain. The police said he had tried to flee from the spot after committing the crime and in the process fell on the road in the Lohamandi area and got injured.

Governor Patel unveils Rani Durgavati statue in Paraswada

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that organizing AYUSH fairs in tribal dominated areas would prove useful for the rural people. He said that continuous efforts are being made by the centre and state governments to improve the standard of living of tribal families in remote areas through welfare schemes like pucca houses, electricity, and Ujjwala. The Governor said that the forest wealth of Madhya Pradesh provides ample medicine. Governor Patel was addressing the inaugural ceremony of AYUSH Health Fair in Paraswada on Sunday. He also appreciated the AYUSH fairs and yoga practice demonstration by the students of Government Ayurveda College, Jabalpur.



our forests. Patel also visited the stalls and exhibition put up by the Department of AYUSH. In his address, Minister of State Ramkishore Kanwe said that through these fairs will provide for marketing of forest medicines of tribal dominated areas. He said that the state government is providing pension facility to

the families suffering from sickle cell disease in the state. To boost immunity among the general public, Trikatu churna was distributed to about 4 crore people in the state. 362 wellness centers have been developed in the state. A many as 1500 people have been employed as yoga instructors. He informed that in AYUH Gram of the state, health card of every member of each family is being made after conducting health check-up. Chairman Backward Classes Welfare Commission and MLA Gaurishankar Bisen, MP Dhal Singh Bisen also addressed the programme. Samaru Singh and Shri Bajari of Baiga special backward tribe were honoured for cultivating vegetables with modern method. Governor Patel reached Lachhitola of Dongria gram panchayat during his stay at Paraswada and interacted with the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The Governor said that the dream of the poor is being realized through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana launched by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He also mentioned the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme. Governor Patel had food at the house of Devsingh Uike, a beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Lachhitola. Devsingh and his wife accorded a warm welcome to Governor and other guests accompanying him and served them lunch.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE MAHARANA PRATAP AND FREEDOM FIGHTER GOKHALE



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap and freedom fighter Gopal Krishna Gokhale on their anniversary and paid floral tributes by garlanding their portrait. Chouhan remembered the great warrior, Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap's valour, unrelenting patriotism, love for his people and constant struggle for national honour. Chief Minister also remembered the works of freedom fighter Gokhale dedicated to building a prosperous, educated and awakened India.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP ON A WAR FOOT IN GUJRAT

The Bharatiya Janata Party's preparations for the December-end Assembly polls in Gujarat are on a war footing. For the last six months the party's seniors at the national level have been paying visits to the state to assess the situation on the ground and taking feedback on the party's preparedness. Party General Secretary B.L. Santhosh was on a two-day visit to the state and met RSS pracharakas. Before Santhosh, party's national president J.P. Nadda visited the state for two days, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has addressed four public rallies and three government events in a span of 30 days. Uttar Pradesh Governor and former Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has addressed gatherings in major functions. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah's visits to the state have also increased. In the last six months the party has held many programmes, including 'Yuwa Yatra' by the Youth Morcha and meetings by the party's women cells. The party's media cell is trying to reach out even to the smallest media houses not only in major cities but also in small towns to increase the party's reach to every citizen. The biggest challenge the party faces is rising inflation, unemployment, and anti-incumbency. Realising the hurricane tasks, the party gave the organisational reins to C. R. Patil in July 2020 and changed the entire government in September 2021. Hoping that this will cool the anti-incumbency feelings, the party cadres will be encouraged and boosted, and will work with energy and enthusiasm. The entire exercise is aimed to ensure that the blunder it faced in 2017 is not repeated in 2022, and it gets more seats. Gujarat not just being the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but it being close to his heart, he can't afford to lose the state, is the observation of the political analyst Dilip Patel.

INDIA'S THRUST AT THE GLOBAL STAGE

D.C. Pathak

A nation's strategic approach is by definition meant to take care of the security and economic interests of the country and it is truly remarkable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy on international relations has stood its ground amid a festering Ukraine-Russia military conflict, deepening geopolitical alienation between US-led West and the Russia-China camp and the progressively hardening regime of economic sanctions imposed by the US and its allies against Russia. That India's foreign policy -- again a product of the nation's security and economic concerns and hence a strategic instrument -- has remained consistent through these turbulent times, speaks volumes of the wisdom of following bilateral relations that were mutually beneficial and consistent with world peace, the line of 'positive' non-alignment that the largest democracy of the world is able to put forth before the world and above all the rare political will that a strong leader like Prime Minister Modi has been able to demonstrate in the intrepid exercise of India's sovereignty, by him. Never before had India risen so fast on the global stage as an advocate of universal peace, a promoter of economic advancement of the world and a strong voice for renewable energy, environment and poverty elimination -- all in the interest of the larger good of the humanity. When the Ukraine-Russia conflict broke out in February-end with Russia launching what it called 'a military operation' to protect the interest of the Russian speaking population in the eastern part of Ukraine, India was the first country to show an understanding of Russia's security concerns in a situation where the US-backed NATO had been egging on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to confront Vladimir Putin, in an avoidable replay of the Cold War tussle. In reality, the sensible thing for the West was to work for peaceful coexistence of the East European neighbours with Russia after the USSR had been dismembered and a Unipolar world order had been established. Significantly, Prime Minister Modi became the first world leader whom the two warring sides favoured as the peacemaker and responding upfront to this situation, Modi called for immediate cessation of military offensive in Ukraine and return to exploration for a negotiated solution. The strength of Modi's political will was rooted in his belief in doing what was right and this led India to abstain from voting on resolutions moved in the UN Security Council -- first by the US and then by Russia -- on the Ukraine imbroglio. India has not condemned Russian



military action in Ukraine but has also lost no time in demanding immediate stoppage of hostilities and resumption of talks for peace. On his three-nation tour of Europe last week, Modi underscored the Indian view that on the present going, there would be no winner in the Ukraine-Russia armed conflict and -- again without taking sides -- warned that the entire world would suffer because of the impact of this confrontation on the people in the affected zone and the economic consequences that it would produce globally. To the extent the military conflict in Ukraine is becoming an unending phenomenon, among other things, because of supply of arms and ammunition to Ukraine by the US and its allies, India is counselling both Russia and the Western supporters of Ukraine -- the former to stop military action and the latter to abstain from adding fuel to the fire -- and implicitly calling for peace on a minimal give and take. Significantly there is no criticism of India by President Joe Biden of the US -- beyond the appeal from his administration for India's support for economic sanctions against Russia. There was in fact an expression of understanding for India's impartial stand on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, from Quad. Prime Minister Modi has kept up India's commitment to this multilateral forum that was meant to safeguard the Indo-Pacific against any aggressive moves by China and at the same time, maintained friendship with Russia for preserving India's enlightened self-interest -- all of this was broadly understood by the democratic world. It is a tribute to Prime Minister Modi's grasp of the current geopolitical situation that all through the turbulence created by Ukraine-Russia military confrontation over the last two months and the threat of escalation held out by both sides, India has steadily worked its way up in building mutual cooperation with other major powers, in the sphere of trade and economy. From free trade agreement with Australia to long-term economic pacts with UK and Japan and strategic partnership on energy and envi-

ronment with Germany, all of this was facilitated by the personal cord of friendship struck by Prime Minister Modi with his counterparts in these countries, including Scott Morrison of Australia, Boris Johnson of UK, Fumio Kishida of Japan and Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, not to forget Emmanuel Macron, the re-elected President of France. Prime Minister Modi made a short stoppage at Paris on his way back home to specially congratulate Macron in person and became the first world leader met by the French President on his fresh election. Modi has opened into Nordic region by striking a green alliance with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen, at Copenhagen, besides participating in the summit of Nordic countries at the Danish capital. India has thus pushed ahead with consolidating economic ties with Europe -- steering clear of the sanctions US had placed on Russia in the wake of the military intrusion in Ukraine. India is somewhere giving a message to the world that the issues of economic development and betterment of the people should not be allowed to be drowned into the negative fallout of military conflicts howsoever serious they might seem to be. In what will prove to be of far-reaching advantage for India in future, the Modi regime has succeeded in proving to the world that the Indian model of post-Covid economic recovery built on a bottom-up restoration of market and demand supported by the 'vocal for local' campaign, coordination from the top of all efforts to make India the global hub of production of vaccines and a sustained push towards making India the preferred destination for foreign investment, particularly in manufacture, has delivered. The political executive of the nation headed by Modi has produced a bench mark in integrity, dedication and macro-vision that is enabling the country to move towards becoming self-dependent in defence, security and economic growth. No narrative built against it by a desperate opposition would cut much ice. It is, however, extremely impor-

tant that the nation remains totally alert against the concerted mischief of the two prime adversaries of India on our borders -- Pakistan and China -- which might indulge to create internal destabilisation here for which they do have a potential as India's next-door neighbours. In recent times, India has reached out to Southeast Asia, countries of the Gulf and the Central Asian Republics to expand the areas of interest in both security and economic cooperation. Following the return of Taliban Emirate in Kabul with active collusion and support of Pakistan, the NSA of India invited his counterparts from Russia, CARs and even Iran to a conference in Delhi where a consensus was reached on the need to counter the danger of spread of radicalisation from Afghanistan. This was a timely initiative that has kept in check the doings of Sino-Pak axis in Afghanistan and thus helped to maintain the security of this region. Modi has brought the UK, Germany, France and the Nordic region on a grid of lasting economic relations with India -- notwithstanding the differential that existed on their approach to the current Ukraine-Russia conflict. If anything, Modi's initiatives have enhanced the stature of India as a counsel for global peace. This strengthens the claim of India on a permanent seat in UN Security Council and certainly establishes India's position as a star of the democratic world that deals with international situations on merit and leads the world towards multipolarity to avert the return of Cold War. India lends a powerful voice to the collectively of democratic nations against the dictatorial and fundamentalist regimes. In all his interactions abroad, Modi has given a call for united action against terrorism and elicited endorsement of India's consistent policy towards Pakistan based on the principle that 'talks and terror did not go together'. India under Prime Minister Modi has universally established this country's civilisational wisdom of upholding what is right and opposing what is violative of political morality and human values. This honesty of purpose will carry India ahead on the mission of becoming the sane voice of the world. It is already creating a world consensus in favour of India getting actively involved in the mediation for restoring peace between Russia and Ukraine.

(The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau. The views expressed are personal)

international

IMRAN'S LONG MARCH TOWARDS ISLAMABAD TO CHOKE PAK'S MAJOR CITIES

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was ousted from power through voting on a no-confidence motion by the opposition parties in the Parliament, has launched a serious political offensive against the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government through massive public rallies across the country, and is gearing up to gather at least two million people to march towards the capital Islamabad, choking major cities of the country, until his demand for immediate elections is met.

Islamabad | Agencies

Imran Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has been staging massive public rallies in major cities, gathering wide-spread support of the masses, calling them on to be ready to march towards Islamabad to stage a protest sit-in, creating intense pressure on the government to announce early elections. PTI sources said the party plans to choke major cities and arteries leading to the federal capital. As per details shared by sources, PTI has finalised its plans to lead its anti-government long march, which include

blocking routes leading to and from the capital Islamabad. "As soon as the call for the long march is announced, various cities will be jammed. The points of convergence have also been determined for the demonstrations to bring the city to a complete halt," a PTI source stated. Tactics are also being finalised to escape possible arrests. "In case the key leaders are arrested, a stand-in leadership will fill in for the central leadership to issue guidelines to the workers in the long march and a call will be given to intensify the protest against the forced arrests," the source maintained. While inside plans

of PTI seem ready to resist any use of force against them, PTI's Vice President and former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry insisted that the long march will remain peaceful. "It will be a peaceful protest by millions of people. Our protest rallies have been completely peaceful till today," he said. "Millions of people came out to show solidarity with the PTI and not even a branch of a tree was damaged. This protest will also be in the same mode," he added. It is pertinent to mention that Imran Khan has been holding massive public gatherings where tens of thousands of his supporters have

been present, giving a clear and strong signal to the ruling government that his political acceptance exists strongly among the people along with his narrative that he was ousted from power through a well-planned 'conspiracy' of a regime change, led by the Joe Biden administration in the US and implemented through Khan's opposition. Khan has said that he will give a call for the long march by the end of May and before that, he will be holding public rallies in different parts of the country and strengthening the momentum for the long march, where he claims to bring at least two million people.

Amid violence, SL PM Mahinda Rajapaksa hands over resignation

Colombo | Agencies

Amidst violent clashes and unrest in Colombo, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Monday resigned from his post. He handed over his resignation to President and his younger brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Mahinda Rajapaksa's resignation following violent clash between pro-Rajapaksa supporters and anti-government protesters which has injured over 100. The violence started when pro-government protesters attacked the anti-government protesters who had occupied entrance to the President's Office and Prime Minister's residence for nearly a month demanding the government to step down. Pro-Rajapaksa supporters met Mahinda Rajapaksa in the morning

and insisted he not step down. They later armed themselves with clubs and attacked the anti-government protesters who had been in front of PM's house first and burnt the huts. Later, they marched to the main anti-government protest site near President's House and attacked the protesters there too. Main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who visited the site, too was attacked by pro-Rajapaksa supporters. However as the attackers who were going back in buses, public on various locations attacked them and some of them were thrown into rivers. As the violence was continuing, curfew was imposed across the entire island. Soon after, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie J. Chung, in a tweet, condemned the violence in Colombo. "We condemn the violence against peaceful

protesters today, and call on the government to conduct a full investigation, including the arrest & prosecution of anyone who incited violence. Our sympathies are with those injured today and we urge calm and restraint across the island," the Ambassador said. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and PM Mahinda Rajapaksa too later tweeted condemning the violence. Condemning the attack, doctors at all government hospitals are to stay away from work on Tuesday. With severe shortages of many essentials including food, medicine, fuel and cooking gas, people have been protesting on streets for months and on Friday, trade unions, both private and government, launched a major strike demanding both President and PM Rajapaksa to resign.

5.8-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS INDONESIA

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's North Maluku province on Monday, according to authorities. The quake struck at 4.51 a.m., with the epicentre at 72 km northwest of Halmahera Barat (West Halmahera) district and the shallow of 10 km under the seabed, Xinhua news agency reported citing the authorities as saying. The quake did not trigger a tsunami, they added. There were no immediate information on damages or injuries.

AUS OPPN INCREASES POLLING LEAD AHEAD OF MAY 21 ELECTION

Canberra | Agencies

Australia's opposition Labor Party has increased its polling lead over the incumbent government less than two weeks before the May 21 general elections. According to the latest Newspoll, 39 per cent of voters now intend to vote for the Labor Party as their first preference, up from 38 per cent at the start of May, and 35 per cent for the governing Coalition, down from 36 per cent, reports Xinhua news agency. It represents the biggest lead the Labor Party has held over the governing Coalition since the start of the election campaign and would mark a 12-point swing in the opposition's favor after losing the primary vote 41-33 at the 2019 election. As a result, the Labor Party now leads the governing Coalition 54-46 on a two-party preferred basis compared to 53-47 on May 1. While the election day is not officially until May 21, pre-polling stations across the country opened on Monday, offering Australians the opportunity to vote early. The poll was conducted after the central bank, the Reserve Bank of Australia, increased the target cash rate for the first time in 11 years to 0.35 per cent in a major



blow to Prime Minister Scott Morrison's campaign, which has largely been built on economic austerity. Newspoll found that Morrison's personal approval rating has fallen, with the portion of voters choosing the incumbent as their preferred Prime Minister falling from 45 to 44 per cent. In comparison, Labor Party

leader Anthony Albanese's rating increased three points to 42 per cent, closing the gap to the narrowest it has been in a month. Responding to the figures, Finance Minister Simon Birmingham said polls can be "very wrong." "Australia should want a prime minister that knows what he is doing and not some-

one who stumbles and fumbles around policy questions," he told local media on Monday. "We have managed to come out in a strong position in trying times and that is a testament to Scott Morrison's leadership." The Newspoll data was published during the second leaders' debate between Morrison and Albanese. The leaders clashed over who is better prepared to tackle rising energy costs, cost of living concerns and manage the economy. It was declared a tie, with Morrison and Albanese receiving 50 percent of the vote from participants in a poll run by host broadcaster Nine. Forty-six per cent said they expect the Labor Party to win the election and 39 per cent the governing Coalition. Morrison was widely criticised early in 2021 for suggesting that the vaccine rollout was "not a race" amid a nationwide supply shortage. "We had our setbacks, but we came back, we got the vaccines and we now have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, as well as one of the stronger economies and one of the lowest death rates from Covid," he said on Sunday night.

6.2-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS WATERS OFF TAIWAN

Taipei: A 6.2-magnitude earthquake jolted the waters off Taiwan's Hualien county on Monday. According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC), the epicentre was monitored at 24.01 degrees north latitude and 122.51 degrees east longitude, reports Xinhua news agency. The earthquake struck at 2.23 p.m. at a depth of 16 km, the centre said. Tremors were strongly felt across the region. The island's meteorological agency said that five earthquakes above 6-magnitude have rattled the island this year, and aftershocks of 4 to 5 magnitude might occur in the next five days. Subways in Taipei slowed down, and the city of Kaohsiung had a power failure, according to local media reports. No casualties have been reported so far.



WILL APPROACH PM AGAINST OUR "ILL-TREATMENT": MAHARASHTRA MP-MLA COUPLE

Describing Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut as a "parrot", Navneet Rana alleged that he had talked about "burying the couple."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA-husband Ravi on Monday said they will approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to raise the issue of their alleged ill-treatment by Maharashtra authorities when the couple was in jail recently.

Talking to reporters, Navneet Rana said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, "who back-stabbed the BJP", should not talk and teach the Ranases about principles.

The Ranases also dismissed the allegation that they committed contempt of court by speaking to the media.

On May 4, a special court here while granting bail to the couple said the duo shall not commit a similar offence while on bail, and not address the press on any subject related to the case.

The couple was arrested on April 23 by the Mumbai police after they announced that they would recite 'Hanuman Chalisa' outside Chief Minister Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshree' here, which had angered workers of the Shiv Sena,

Thackeray's party, leading to tension.

They walked out of jail on May 5 following which Navneet Rana was admitted to a private hospital here. Her lawyer had then said she had complaints of high blood pressure, body-ache and spondylitis.

She was discharged from the hospital on Sunday.

"We are going to Delhi today and meet all the leaders who respect women. I am going to meet the prime minister, (Union) home minister and Lok Sabha Speaker and tell them how we were ill-treated from a lockup to jail. I am going to complain about it," said Navneet Rana, who was flanked by her husband.

Describing Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut as a "parrot", Navneet Rana alleged that he had talked about "burying the couple".

"We had filed a complaint against it here, but no action was taken. So, I am going to Delhi to raise the issue," she said.

The Ranases also categorically denied having committed any contempt of court by speaking to the press.

"We did not talk about the

offence, how it was registered against us, reciting 'Hanuman Chalisa' and Matoshree. We spoke about how I was ill-treated from the lockup to jail and how my health issues were avoided (ignored)," she said.

The Lok Sabha member from Amravati wondered would be the fate of common people if a public representative like her could be treated "in such a manner" in Maharashtra.

"So, it was important for me to speak up and the Constitution has given me the right as a public representative. Nobody should snatch my rights from me," she said.

She said CM Thackeray should learn how to run the state from his predecessor and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis.

"Devendra Fadnis ji also ran the government for five years, but he was not this shrewd. Thackeray should learn from Devendra sahab how to run Maharashtra (government) and with what sentiments," she said.

She further said that Thackeray, "who back-stabbed the BJP", should not talk and teach the Ranases about principles.

Ravi Rana, the MLA from Badnera in Amravati, also hit out at CM Thackeray over the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation issuing a notice to the housing society where they live in suburban Khar here following a complaint of illegal construction.

"Thackeray should inspect our flat online since he worked only through the online platform for the past two-and-half years," he quipped.

"You (the CM) can send Raut and (another Shiv Sena leader and state minister) Anil Parab, your right and left (hands), who are sitting idle. You can send them to take the measurements (of the house) if there is any problem. We will welcome them," the MLA said.

To a question, Ravi Rana said Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar should take information on how the couple was allegedly ill-treated when they were in the lock-up and jail.

"We were treated worse than a criminal," he alleged, while responding to Pawar's reported remark that the duo was served tea when taken to Khar police station before their arrest.

MP Navnit Rana's MRI scan or 'scam?' - Shiv Sena 'dissects' Lilavati Hospital!

In an unprecedented development, a team of senior Shiv Sena leaders trooped to the Lilavati Hospital on Monday to ascertain the exact medical details and certain irregularities that later emerged when independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana was admitted there for three days last week after getting bail.



electric or electronic devices allowed in the MRI room when it is banned as per the hospital rules for such sensitive locations," shot out Pednekar. Kanal and Kokil also fired searching questions on certain 'unauthorised persons' allegedly allowed entry to the VVIP patient's room and even posing for selfies with the MP.

Dr Kayande and Pednekar wondered how the lady MP - who had complained of severe back pain and spondylitis - was made to lie on her back and how she lifted her head when being rolled inside the MRI machine.

"When she was rushed to the hospital, she appeared in great distress... then all these pictures/videos came out and on Sunday when she was discharged, she was absolutely fit and fine from her severe medical condition... We have raised our doubts," Dr Kayande added.

Stunned by the volley fired by the aggressive Sena group, the Hospital management and some doctors were mumbling their replies, nodding silently or hanging their heads in embarrassment. The Sena submitted a letter to the Hospital COO & Senior Consultant, Lt.Gen.(retd) Dr V. Ravishankar seeking replies to the purported irregularities perpetrated during Navneet's sojourn there.

Referring to a January 2018 incident in which a 32-year-old man who entered a MRI scan room with a gas cylinder, was sucked inside an MRI machine and killed, the Sena asked: "Would the hospital management have taken responsibility for putting the Hon' MP's life at risk? We want a written reply to all these issues."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an unprecedented development, a team of senior Shiv Sena leaders trooped to the Lilavati Hospital on Monday to ascertain the exact medical details and certain irregularities that later emerged when independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana was admitted there for three days last week after getting bail.

Simultaneously, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s H-West Ward Office slapped a show-cause notice to the Hospital seeking an explanation on several alleged violations of medical norms that have come to light, a day after Navneet was discharged (May 8).

The delegation led by Sena Spokespersons - medico Dr Manisha Kayande, former Mayor and nurse Kishori Pednekar, plus Rahul N. Kanal and Anil S. Kokil - was warmly 'admitted' to the hospital conference room by the management, along with a battery of the media. In the ensuing 'public hearing', the Sena team called out for details of the MRI scan report of Navneet's stint at the hospital and pointed out 'wrongdoings' as seen in photos/videos circulated on social media in the past few days. "How was this kind of 'shooting' blatantly permitted inside the MRI room, under what circumstances and who authorised it, Dr Kayande grilled the hospital.

"Why were mobiles, cameras with metallic,

Maharashtra SSC, HSC Results 2022 Date: Officials share June dates for 10th 12th results, reasons for delay

Maharashtra SSC, HSC Results 2022 date updates from MSBSHSE Officials are here. They have said that Maharashtra State Board 10th 12th results will be released in June on the official website - mahresult.nic.in. MSBSHSE officials have also shared that why Maharashtra state board result got delayed this year. Read here to know more.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, MSBSHSE Officials have shared Maharashtra SSC, HSC Results 2022 Date for this year's board exams. As per the information shared, Maharashtra Board result for classes 10th and 12th is expected to release in June, 2022. Read on to know the exact tentative dates and why MSBSHSE, Maharashtra Board Result has been delayed. Maharashtra SSC, HSC Results 2022 Date is as per the officials who have been overlooking the Maharashtra Board Result

evaluation process. According to that, Maharashtra SSC Result is likely to release by June 20, 2022 and Maharashtra HSC Result is likely to release by June 10, 2022. Once released, students will be able to check their Maharashtra Board 10th 12th results online on the official website(s) - mahahsscboard.in, mahresult.nic.in. Like every year, MSBSHSE is expected to release 12th result first and only then the 10th result. MSBSHSE Officials have informed that Maharashtra State Board is almost completed the evaluation work of Maharashtra 10th 12th board exams 2022. The result preparation is underway and is expected to be completed very soon. Maharashtra State Board officials have also shared that MSBSHSE received some reports where some teachers allegedly boycotted the SSC, HSC paper evaluation. Since the checking of 10th 12th papers didn't complete on time, the result preparation got delayed. But now since things are back on track, MSBSHSE 10th 12th result is expected in June, though with some delay.

Maharashtra SSC, HSC Results 2022 are usually declared by 1 pm on the MSBSHSE 10th 12th result date. This year, the SSC exams were held from March 15 to April 4, 2022 and HSC exams from March 4 to 30, 2022. Students must keep a check here for latest updates on Maharashtra State Board Result news.

Kolhapur village bans rites associated with widowhood, dist admin asks other villages to adopt resolution

The sarpanch said that widows in the rural hinterland are still forced to lead a life of seclusion and even her own relatives often shun her during social or religious functions. "This makes widows feel guilty for no fault of theirs," he added.

Team Absolute | Pune

The Herwad gram panchayat in Shirol taluka of Maharashtra's Kolhapur district Wednesday passed a resolution banning rites associated with widowhood.

The resolution passed unanimously by the gram panchayat stated, "Henceforth in our village no woman would have to undergo the painful rite of widowhood. In case her husband dies, the woman is forced to remove her mangalsutra, shatter her bangles and remove the sindoor from her head. This process is painful for her and a widow is also not allowed to attend any religious or social programme. This cruel and redundant process is hereby banned from our village." Sarpanch Shrigonda Patil said that the decision was taken as the village experienced a lot of untimely deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Young men as young as 25 years lost their lives and their wives were forced to observe customs associated with widowhood. The fate of these young widows and the social ostracization they had to bear made us take up the resolution," he said.

Shrigonda Patil said Pramod Zingade, the founder of Mahatma Phule Social Foundation, first mooted the idea of the resolution. "Every family has witnessed the pain of these girls, so this proposal was passed unanimously in the panchayat meeting," he said, adding that while widow remarriage is not a taboo, most women with young children do not remarry and they suffer the most owing to the customs.

He said the rites of widowhood adds to the



trauma of the woman who has just lost her husband. "As soon as the final rites are performed, the woman is forced to remove all signs of marriage. The process is heart-breaking..." Shrigonda Patil said.

The sarpanch said that widows in the rural hinterland are still forced to lead a life of seclusion and even her own relatives often shun her during social or religious functions. "This makes widows feel guilty for no fault of theirs," he added.

Notably, the district administration has commended the village for taking up the resolution.

Welcoming the move, Minister of State for Home Satej Patil said, "Hervad village has made Kolhapur and the whole of Maharashtra proud through its heartening initiative. In the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, women have always been given the pride of place... The move is a befitting reply to those trying to polarise the masses and set

a fake narrative in order to vitiate the atmosphere of the country. The initiative is also significant as it has come during the death centenary year of social reformer Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj." "I will ask the administration to encourage villagers in the district to take similar initiative and free our womenfolk from traditional shackles. There is a need to create awareness about this initiative not only in Kolhapur but across Maharashtra. I will take up the issue with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and urge him to discuss it in the ensuing cabinet meeting," he added.

Kolhapur Zilla Parishad CEO Sanjay Chavan said, "The people of Hervad village have set a unique example. It is a progressive step and comes at a time when we are observing the death centenary year of social reformer Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj." Chavan said they will try to replicate the initiative taken by Hervad village across the district. "We will urge other villages to pass a

similar resolution in a bid to free widowed women from age-old shackles. If there is unanimity among villagers, then it is possible to ban the custom. Hervad village has shown the way and we hope other villages will follow suit," he said.

The zilla parishad administration Sunday issued a directive to officials in all the talukas to create awareness about the initiative in their respective jurisdictions. "Villagers should be urged to take the progressive step through positive leadership. If the progressive steps through people's movement is implemented, it will be a true tribute to social reformer Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj," the directive said. Admitting that the execution of this noble idea at the ground level will not be easy, Shrigonda Patil said they would rope in anganwadi sevikas and Asha workers to spread awareness among women. "We have made our intent known and now it is for the people to accept it," he said.

NAVNEET RANA DARES CM THACKERAY, SENA QUESTIONS HER 'AUKAAT'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana again dared Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to an electoral challenge, the Shiv Sena on Sunday contemptuously asked her to first prove her 'aukaat' (standing).

Navneet Kaur-Rana, challenged Thackeray to go before the masses, contest and win any seat of his choice in the state as she would stand against him in the upcoming elections.

An amused Sena leader Kishore Tiwari wondered why she was so keen to take on the CM instead of concentrating on her Lok Sabha constituency and the peoples' problems there.

"What's her 'aukaat' here? She should be challenging some national level Bharatiya Janata Party leader instead to prove her worth. Does any of the remaining 47 MPs from Maharashtra talk like this? She's clearly misguided and acting at the behest of some frustrated BJP leaders," he said.

Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande said the 'Bunty-Babli' (Rana) couple was arrested, and Babli (Navneet Kaur-Rana) was cribbing and crying in jail and hospital, but now after her discharge, she has suddenly become so energetic.

"Make her MRI report also public, let the people know what exactly was wrong with her... She was seen today standing and talking for hours with the media, flouting the court orders," Kayande said, raising doubts on here claims and contentions.

Ex-Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar hit out at Navneet Kaur-Rana saying she's "itching to get back to jail" with her statements, though barred by the courts and the (Rana) couple is deliberately trying to foment riots in Maharashtra, but they won't succeed.

On Navneet Kaur-Rana's gauntlet, Pednekar dismissively asked: "What's her 'layakee' to talk like this? They just want to ignite disturbances through their backdoor supporters who give them energy." Tiwari added that if she was so confident, then Navneet Kaur-Rana should contest the next elections from an open constituency as even her caste certificate was proved fake last time.

"The Ranases know very well that without dragging in Thackeray or Sharad Pawar, they will not get any mileage in media... They have violated the court orders and the govern-



ment will take appropriate action against them," he said.

Kayande advised that instead of resorting to such dramatics, the Ranases must speak on inflation, unemployment and other problems.

"They just want to go back to jail. They must realise that these are the Thackerays. Many like her have come in the past and gone into oblivion," she said.

Pednekar said that Navneet Kaur-Rana is a MP and should behave like one instead of attacking the CM in such a manner just because there's freedom of speech here.

"We thought our Babli would have grown up... But no, she's still immature," said Pednekar in another swipe at the former actress-turned-politician. Earlier on Sunday, Navneet Kaur-Rana announced plans to campaign for the ensuing BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections to

uproot what she alleged was the "Lanka of corruption" built by the Shiv Sena which is ruling it for over two decades.

"What was my crime.. If chanting Hanuman Chalisa is a crime, then why only 14 days, I am ready to go to jail for 14 years," she asserted.

The reference was to the arrest of her husband and herself on April 23 after they planned to go to the private residence of CM Thackeray in Bandra east and recite Hanuman Chalisa. Special Public Prosecutor Pradip Gharat said that the Ranases' media interactions on Sunday apparently violate the court's order granting conditional bail to the politician couple. "I have examined the conditions again and watched the media clips. It clearly violates the court orders. Hence we are duty bound to inform the court of these developments," he said. Stepping out on bail after 12 days in jail, Kaur-Rana had to be admitted to a private hospital for treatment and was discharged on Sunday. Since her release, her video clips of weeping on her husband's arms and her MRI scan went viral, while a string of senior BJP leaders visited her in hospital or at home including Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis, Kirit Somaiya, Ram Kadam and more.

Pointing out that she is a 'Mumbaichi mulgi' (daughter of Mumbai as she was born here), Navneet Kaur-Rana vowed to campaign in the BMC elections for like-minded parties to "throw out the Shiv Sena and its corrupt rule" from the country's biggest and richest civic body.



PARIS HILTON SLAMS UNREALISTIC BEAUTY STANDARDS AND 'TOXIC' FILTERS

Hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton has spoken out about the unrealistic beauty standards seen on social media and said using filters on pictures can be harmful for youngsters.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hilton gave her thoughts on platforms like Instagram which have picture editing tools and said she is worried about the impact they have on the youth of today, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking on US TV show 'The Sunday Project', Paris told host Lisa Wilkinson: "I can't imagine being 12, 13-years-old and seeing these beauty standards that are not real, and using the filters all the time. I think in some ways it can be very toxic. It's just... I don't know. I think it's not really good for someone's mind at that age."

Hilton, who has 18 million followers on

Instagram, also spoke about her ditzy blonde persona which she has insisted is just a character she has been putting on since starring in reality TV show 'The Simple Life' back in 2003.

When asked if people "underestimate" her, she replied: "If they don't know me, definitely. I played that character from 'The Simple Life' for so long in the public eye... I always love being underestimated. I love proving people wrong."

"I'm not a dumb blonde, I'm just very good at pretending to be one."

Liam Gallagher quits partying for a month ahead of solo shows

Los Angeles | Agencies

The former Oasis singer Liam Gallagher is giving up alcohol for a month to prepare for his huge solo shows at Knebworth.

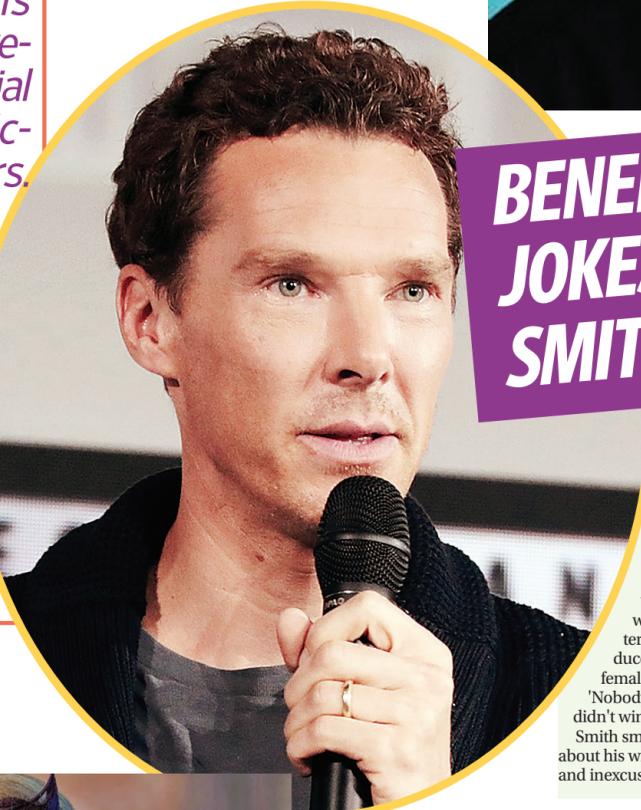
Gallagher is known for his wild partying ways but ahead of his two huge solo shows at Knebworth House in Hertfordshire on June 3 and 4, he's determined to "stay out of trouble" and be in the best shape possible for the gigs, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Gallagher said: "I've got a month to prepare for Knebworth so I'm going to stay out of trouble, stay in the house, chill out, eat well, do some exercise, and not drink alcohol or do any of that nonsense. As you get older you've got to prepare right for these gigs." "You can't be going there like you're 20 otherwise it'll sound s*** and people pay a lot of money, so I've got to prepare right." The 49-year-old singer reassured fans he

isn't changing his lifestyle for good and will have "plenty of time" to celebrate once the gigs are over with.

He added to The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "There's plenty of time to get p**** and get high, do that later on."

Gallagher "can't wait" for the two headline shows and thinks it is "amazing" he can still attract such huge crowds so far into his career. He said: "It's amazing that I'm still doing that stuff at 50 and that people still want to come and see me. It's going to be different, it's going to be amazing, it's going to be biblical, the weather is going to be amazing." "Obviously it's not Oasis but I'll be playing Oasis songs, we're going to come at it from a different angle and I can't wait, man. If people want it, then they're going to get it, it's as simple as that. People bought the tickets so you've got to do the gigs. I can't wait, it's going to be mega."



BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH JOKES ABOUT WILL SMITH'S OSCARS SLAP

Los Angeles | Agencies

British star Benedict Cumberbatch joked about Will Smith's Oscars controversy with Chris Rock in his 'Saturday Night Live' monologue.

The 45-year-old star was nominated for the Best Actor gong at the Academy Awards for his performance in 'The Power of the Dog'.

Cumberbatch said during his monologue: "I really am thrilled to be back hosting 'Saturday Night Live'. It's been a really fun, great week." "I have to be honest, though, because most of the sketch writers pitched me sketches every day, and most were about 'Doctor Strange' - which is great, I love the guy, I love playing the character... but I have been in other films." He joked that Lorne Michaels - the executive producer of 'Saturday Night Live' - asked him what other films he'd appeared in, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The actor added: "I said, 'Well, like 'The Power of the Dog.' And he said, 'Nobody saw it.' I said, 'Come on, man, I was nominated for an Oscar for that.' I mean, I didn't win. I was beat by Will Smith." He then added: "No, not physically! Not physically!" Smith smacked Rock during the Oscars ceremony, after the stand-up comedian made a joke about his wife. The Hollywood star subsequently described his behaviour as "shocking, painful, and inexcusable".

'Doctor Strange 2' mints record \$185 mn at US box office; \$265 mn overseas

Los Angeles | Agencies

English star Benedict Cumberbatch-starrer 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' has raked in \$185 million at North American movie theaters over the weekend, reaffirming the box office dominance of Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) after a shakier, pandemic-battered year for the sprawling franchise.

According to 'Variety', "The timeline-bending 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' represents a return to form for Disney's MCU after Covid-era releases 'Black Widow' (\$80 million debut, plus \$60 million on Disney Plus), 'Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings' (\$75 million debut) and 'Eternals' (\$71 million debut). Due to the pandemic and other extenuating circumstances, those installments failed to live up to their franchise predecessors in terms of ticket sales." Those box office returns mark the 11th biggest opening weekend in history. Given the anomaly of reaching those heights, 'Doctor Strange 2' easily deliv-



ered the biggest opening weekend of 2022, as well as the second-biggest debut in Covid times.

Overseas, the film earned \$265 million from 49 territories, taking the global total to \$450 million.

Since 'Doctor Strange 2' is not likely to play in China, Russia or Ukraine, the film will rely on repeat viewings from audiences around the globe to push ticket sales past the coveted \$1 billion

mark. Only 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' has been able to cross that threshold since Covid took hold. At the domestic box office, the 'Doctor Strange' follow-up outgrossed its predecessor's entire opening weekend tally in a single day.

'Multiverse of Madness' made \$90 million on Friday alone, while the 2016 adventure 'Doctor Strange' brought in \$85 million between Friday and Sunday.

RWANDAN REFUGEE CHILD WHO BECAME 'SEX EDUCATION' STAR IS THE NEW 'DOCTOR WHO'



Los Angeles | Agencies

The new 'Doctor Who' has been unveiled, and it's 'Sex Education' star Ncuti Gatwa.

Gatwa takes over from Jodie Whittaker, who has played the iconic role since 2017, reports 'Variety'.

The actor's departure was revealed in July 2021 and there's been widespread speculation ever since around who will be replacing her, with rumoured names including 'It's a Sin' stars Olly Alexander and Lydia West, and even Michaela Coel. The BBC confirmed

Gatwa's casting on Sunday afternoon, local time, just hours before the taping of the BAFTA TV Awards, suggesting there could be some reference to 'Doctor Who' during the ceremony.

Gatwa is expected to be in attendance, according to a list of expected guests provided by BAFTA last week. The 29-year-old Scottish actor was born in Rwanda and broke out in Netflix comedy 'Sex Education,' where he plays Eric Effiong, best friend to Asa Butterfield's Otis.

He is the second Black actor to portray a doctor, following Jo Martin, who played 'Fugitive Doctor' Ruth Clayton in a 2020 episode.

In a statement, Gatwa told the BBC that he was "deeply honoured, beyond excited and of course a little bit scared."

"This role and show means so much to so many around the world, including myself, and each one of my incredibly talented predecessors has handled that unique responsibility and privilege with the utmost care," said Gatwa.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Charlotte Hawkins

Priyanka, Nick share first picture of their daughter

Los Angeles | Agencies

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and her American pop-star husband Nick Jonas have shared the very first glimpse of their daughter, Malti Maria Chopra Jonas, on the occasion of Mother's Day.

In the picture, Priyanka can be seen holding her baby in her arms while her Nick is looking at the little one. The actress did not reveal the face and added a heart emoji on the baby's face. Priyanka wrote in the caption: "On this Mother's Day we can't help but reflect on these last few months and the rollercoaster we've been on, which we now know, so many people have also experienced. After 100 plus days in



the NICU, our little girl is finally home.

"Every family's journey is unique and requires a certain level of faith, and while ours was a challenging few months, what becomes abundantly clear, in retrospect, is how precious and perfect every moment is."

"We are overjoyed that our little girl is finally home, and just want to thank every Doctor, nurse and specialist at Rady Children's La Jolla and Cedar Sinai, Los Angeles, who were there selflessly every step of the way. Our next chapter begins now, and our baby is truly a bada**. Let's get it MM! Mommy and Daddy love you."



IPL 2022

KOLKATA DEFEAT MUMBAI BY 52 RUNS, PLAYOFFS HOPES ALIVE

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

Kolkata Knight Riders kept their slim hopes of reaching the IPL 2022 playoffs alive with a 52-run win over Mumbai Indians at the DY Patil Stadium on Monday. After Jasprit Bumrah's sensational 5/10, including 18 dot balls, was instrumental in restricting Kolkata to 165/9 in 20 overs, Mumbai were never in the reckoning to chase the total, crashing to 113 all out in 17.3 overs.

Barring Ishan Kishan's 51, none of the Mumbai batters in a line-up minus Suryakumar Yadav could get the big runs as Pat Cummins and Andre Russell shared five wickets between themselves, using the short balls to good effect. Kolkata drew first blood in the opening over when Sheldon Jackson flew to his right and pounced a catch on his right glove of Rohit Sharma off Tim Southee.

Given not out by the on-field umpire, Kolkata went for review and ultra-edge showed multiple spikes when the ball was passing before and after hitting the bat. But the third umpire was convinced that a middle spike showed ball's connection with the bat, enough to over-



turn the on-field decision, leaving Sharma furious while walking off the field.

Tilak Varma, promoted to three in the absence of Suryakumar Yadav, couldn't make much use of the opportunity and nicked a short ball outside off to first slip off Russell.

Ramandeep Singh never looked to be settled at the crease before mis-cuing a pull to backward point off Russell.

Amidst all this, Kishan slammed five fours against pace as well as spin and found support from Tim David, who hit the ground running

with a hat-trick of fours through square leg, mid-on, and mid-wicket off Russell. But Varun Chakravarthy separated the duo, forcing David to miscue a slog-sweep to long-on.

Kishan continued to hang on at the crease, pulling Sunil Narine fiercely over deep mid-wicket, and took a single to bring his 12th IPL fifty in 41 balls. But in the very next over, Kishan couldn't get on to the top of a bouncer from Cummins, top-edging a pull to deep backward square leg.

That started Mumbai's slide as Cummins bounced out Daniel Sams in the same fashion and ended the over with Murugan Ashwin ramping straight to third man. Kolkata took out the last three wickets, including an off-colour Kieron Pollard, for just one run to keep their playoffs hopes alive.

Briefscores:

Kolkata Knight Riders 165/9 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 43, Nitish Rana 43, Jasprit Bumrah 5/10, Kumar Kartikeya Singh 2/32) beat Mumbai Indians 113 all out in 17.3 overs (Ishan Kishan 51, Kieron Pollard 15; Pat Cummins 3/22, Andre Russell 2/22) by 52 runs

Thomas Cup: India outplay Canada 5-0 in Group C

Bangkok | Agencies

The Indian men's team continued its superb run in the Thomas Cup Finals with another thumping 5-0 win, blanking Canada in a Group C match here on Monday.

India had started their campaign with a 5-0 win against Germany and on Monday continued the good work despite the absence of World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen.

The Indian team think tank decided to rest Lakshya Sen and brought in Priyanshu Rajawat for the third singles.

Kidambi Srikanth took the court for the first singles match but went down in the close first game against Brian Yang before recovering to win the next two games easily, giving India a 1-0 lead with a 20-22, 21-11, 21-15 win.

Srikanth took an early lead in the first game, going ahead 4-1 before Yang caught up with him at 4-4. Scores went neck and neck till 12-12 before Srikanth went ahead at 16-14 but the Canadian again caught up at 18-18 again and went on to win 22-20.

Yang took an early lead at 3-0 before Srikanth caught up with him at 8-8. Srikanth then won seven consecutive points and went on to win the game 21-11 to make it 1-1. In the decider, Srikanth took lead but Yang caught up with him at 5-5 and then at 8-8 before surging ahead to 14-9 and 20-14 before sealing victory at 21-15.

The doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made it 2-0 for India by beating Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Kevin Lee 21-12, 21-11 in just 29 minutes. H.S Prannoy then made it 3-0 for India when he defeated B.R Sankeerth 21-15, 21-12 in 42



minutes as India sealed the tie. The second doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala beat Adam Dong and Nyi Yakura 21-15, 21-11 and Rajawat completed the 5-0 victory when he beat Victor Lai in three games, 21-13, 20-22, 21-14. The second victory in the four-team Group C in which Chinese Taipei is the other team. India and Chinese Taipei will now clash to decide the group topper after both teams registered identical 5-0 victories against both Germany and Canada.

Sr women's hockey nationals

Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra win league matches on Day 4

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hockey teams from Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, and Maharashtra won their respective matches on Day 4 of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2022 here on Monday.

In some closely-contested hockey action, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Chandigarh 5-1 in Pool A match. Manisha Chauhan (20'), Savita (26'), Neelu Dadiya (30'), Jyoti Pal (57'), and Captain Neeraj Rana (60') scored for Hockey Madhya Pradesh. Priyanka (35') scored the sole goal for Hockey Chandigarh.

In the second game of the day, Hockey Haryana faced off against Assam Hockey in the Pool B match and picked a solid 7-1 win. Jyoti (8', 19') and Soni (34', 52') starred for Hockey Haryana in the match, with both players



scoring a brace. Tannu (27'), captain Priyanka (49'), and Bharti Saroha (53'), all struck a goal each, while Sakshi (23') scored the sole goal for Assam Hockey.

In the third game of the day, Hockey Punjab picked a 6-0 win over Chhattisgarh Hockey. Captain Navpreet Kaur (5', 26'), and Navjot Kaur (32', 40') scored two goals each, while Kirandeep Kaur (36'), and Sarabdeep Kaur (48') also scored a goal each as they helped Hockey Punjab get the comfortable

win. The fourth match of the day was a Pool D contest between Hockey Maharashtra and Hockey Rajasthan. Ankita Sapate (39') and Chaitrali Gawde (41') put Hockey Maharashtra in the lead. Manashri Narendra Shedage (51') scored the third goal and then Pooja Bhanudas Shendage (57') added the fourth goal in the fourth quarter as Hockey Maharashtra beat Hockey Rajasthan 4-0.

Atletico win Madrid derby to move closer to next season's Champions League

Madrid | Agencies

Yannick Carrasco's first-half penalty gave Atletico Madrid an important win over neighbours Real Madrid in the city derby.

The Belgian slotted home from the spot five minutes from time after Matheus Cunha had been caught by Jesus Vallejo to give his side three points on Sunday night, which takes them closer to assuring a place in next season's Champions League.

With nothing to play for, Real Madrid made seven changes to the side that beat Manchester City on Wednesday night and it showed, especially in a disjointed first-half performance.

Jordi Alba scored a volley in the last minute of injury time to give FC Barcelona a 2-1 win away to fifth-place Betis that strengthened their second place in La Liga, dealing a blow to Betis' chances of finishing fourth.

Granada climbed out of the bottom three with a 6-2 win away to Mallorca, who drop into the relegation zone.

Luis Suarez struck for Granada in the sixth minute although Salva Sevilla's excellent goal levelled the score before halftime.

Sergio Escudero and Antonio Puertas made it 3-1 before Antonio Rallo pulled a goal back for Mallorca, but two goals from Jorge Molina and



one from Myrto Uzuni rounded off the rout. Valencia frustrated Athletic Club Bilbao with a

0-0 in the San Mames Stadium. Thanks to Valencia keeper, Giorgi Mamardashvili, who twice denied Inaki Williams while Asier Villalibre rattled the crossbar in injury time. Villarreal missed a chance to strengthen their place in seventh as they were held 1-1 at home to Sevilla with Jules Koukue cancelling out Giovanni Lo Celso's 85th-minute opener for Villarreal with the virtually the last action of the match in the fifth minute of injury time.

The result leaves Sevilla needing just one point to assure a place in next season's Champions League, while Villarreal will think they deserved a lot more for their efforts.

Levante kept their survival hopes alive with a 2-1 win at home to sixth-place Real Sociedad, thanks to goals from Jorge Miramon and a Gonzalo Melero penalty in injury time.

That result leaves Alaves bottom after they were hammered 4-0 away to Celta Vigo, with Iago Aspas scoring twice, along with Thiago Galhardo and a Ximo Navarro's own goal. Alvaro Negredo, Ruben Sobrino and Choco Lozano scored three goals in the last 10 minutes to give Cadiz a vital 3-0 win at home to Elche. Espanyol and Osasuna drew 1-1 with Nico Melamed cancelling out Kike Barja's opener for the visitors, who saw how Chimy Avila's powerful shot hit the Espanyol crossbar in the last minute of play.

Australia's Alyssa Healy and SA's Maharaj named ICC Players of the Month for April

Dubai | Agencies

Australia opener Alyssa Healy has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for April following her exploits at the ICC World Cup in New Zealand last month.

The 32-year-old wicketkeeper-batter stood out by scoring 170 from just 138 deliveries in the World Cup final to guide Australia to the title and in the process ensure she beat England batter Nat Sciver and Uganda all-rounder Janet Mbabazi for the monthly ICC award. Healy's innings during the World



Cup decider was high on skill and class as she scored at will against a world-class England bowling attack. The right-handed opener put on 160 for the first



wicket with Rachael Haynes and then another 156 with Beth Mooney for the second wicket as Australia amassed a sizeable score of 356/5 with the bat in 50

overs. South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj was on Monday rewarded for his excellent recent form by being named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2022. Maharaj was at his brilliant best during the Proteas' recent two-match Test series against Bangladesh as he beat fellow South African Simon Harmer and Oman opener Jatinder Singh for the monthly award. It was a well-deserved award for Maharaj, who contributed 16 wickets for South Africa during the Test series and claimed the Player-of-the-Series award in the process.

Surya kumar Yadav ruled out of IPL due to injury

Mumbai | Agencies

Mumbai Indians' middle-order mainstay Suryakumar Yadav on Monday has been ruled out of rest of IPL 2022 due to a left forearm muscle injury. The news comes as a blow for Mumbai, who were looking to finish the tournament on a high after being officially eliminated from the race to playoffs.

"Suryakumar Yadav has sustained a muscle strain on the left forearm and has been



ruled out for the season. He has been advised rest, in con-

sultation with the BCCI medical team," said a statement by the franchise ahead of their match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the DY Patil Stadium.

According to the advisory issued by the tournament, Yadav sustained the injury during Mumbai's thrilling five-run win over Gujarat Titans at the Brabourne Stadium on May 6. Yadav was one of the four retained players by the five-time IPL champions ahead of the 2022 IPL Mega Auction.

Man City react to Champions League exit by going three clear in Premier League

London | Agencies

Manchester City recovered from their painful Champions League exit to Real Madrid in style to open a three-point gap at the top of the table by defeating Newcastle 5-0 and improve their goal difference with Liverpool.

If there had been any doubt over how Pep Guardiola's men would react to the midweek heartbreak in Madrid, it was dispelled after a lovely move ended with Raheem Sterling putting City ahead in the 19th minute in a late Sunday match.

Liverpool lost ground when they were held 1-1 by Tottenham in a result which helps neither side.

The result did neither side any favour and Arsenal took advantage of Tottenham dropping points to open up a four-point lead over their neighbours ahead of Thursday's North-London derby with a 2-1 win at home to Leeds United.

Manchester United's Champions League



hopes ended with a humiliating 4-0 defeat in Brighton, with another poor performance.

Watford's relegation to the Championship was certified by a 1-0 defeat away to Crystal Palace, with Wilfred Zaha's 31st-minute penalty sending down former Palace coach, Roy Hodgson's current side. Burnley's survival hopes were rocked by a 3-1 defeat at home to Aston Villa, who led 3-0 through goals from former Burnley striker Danny Ings, Emiliano Buendia and Ollie Watkins before Maxwell Cornet netted an injury-time goal for the home side.

RUPINDER PAL TO LEAD INDIA HOCKEY TEAM IN ASIA CUP IN JAKARTA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Experienced drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh will captain the India team while seasoned Birendra Lakra will be his deputy during the Men's Asia Cup hockey tournament scheduled to be held in Jakarta from May 23 to June 1 this year.

Hockey India on Monday named a 20-member squad for the tournament, which is a World Cup qualifier. India are clubbed with Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in Pool A, while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh are in Pool B.

Defending champions India have included 10 new players, who will be making their senior debut. They include FIH Men's Junior World Cup players Yashdeep Siwach, Abhisek Lakra, Manjeet, Vishnukant Singh and Uttam Singh. Also new in the team will be Mareeswaren Sakthivel,



Sheshe Gowda BM, Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev and S Karthi.

Junior World Cup players Maninder Singh and Nilam Sanjeev

Xess have been named as replacement players while Pawan, Pardeep Singh, Ankit Pal and Angad Bir Singh have been named as standbys.

Squad:

- Goalkeepers:** Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Suraj Karkera.
- Defenders:** Rupinder Pal Singh (Captain), Yashdeep Siwach, Abhisek Lakra, Birendra Lakra (Vice-Captain), Manjeet, Dipsan Tirkey.
- Midfielders:** Vishnukant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Mareeswaren Sakthivel, Sheshe Gowda BM, Simranjeet Singh.
- Forwards:** Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev, SV Sunil, Uttam Singh, S.Karthi.
- Replacement Players:** Maninder Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess.



I LIKE WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME 'DEHATI': GANESH ACHARYA

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Ganesh Acharya, a veteran dancer, created some of Bollywood's most iconic dance sequences. Ganesh Acharya is a film director and actor who has acted in several films and music videos. Dehati Disco, his most recent picture, is set to hit theatres on May 27, 2022. Ganesh Acharya spoke exclusively to Absolute India News about his film, what dance means to him, and much more.

Excerpts:

Was it a conscious decision to launch the trailer on International Dance Day?

Yes, since I don't think there's a better day to debut the dance-themed music teaser than International Dance Day. I had asked thousands of dancers and celebrities to be a part of it, so it was also introduced on a huge scale.

Why did you name the movie Dehati Disco?

The reason I made this movie is that I love being called Dehati. I like people recognising me for what I am. My soul and my style have given birth to the movie 'Dehati Disco'.



Indian classical dances have taken a back seat due to the invasion of western dance culture. Your Comment.

See, I think western culture has a lot to offer. We accept their dancing and

style with open arms, but it will never be able to replace Indian culture. Classical, Punjabi, and Bhanga we have it all and I have no reason to not promote them.

What are some values that dance instilled in your life that kind of stay with you to date?

It is a divine gift. My father was a well-known dancer who dreamed of becoming a choreographer. He died when I was ten years old. Since childhood, I've been fascinated by Bollywood dancing. I've studied various types of dance, but I can't give up my Indian dance style. The Indian dance form is my soul. It has also not been easy for me to establish myself as an independent choreographer in Bollywood.

How do you feel seeing yourself on the big screen?

An artist, after all, is always an artist. It is enough for us if an artist's work is acknowledged. To be honest, on-camera and off-camera don't concern me, yet working onscreen indeed receives more appreciation than working behind the scenes and it has its charm.

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif shell out major couple goals and how!

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are undoubtedly one of the most loved couples of B-town. Everytime the two, share a picture of them on their social media handle, netizens just can't stop gushing over them.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Well, seeing these pictures of the two spending quality time in New York, surely made our Monday Morning blissful. An elated Katrina Kaif, shared pictures from her favourite restaurant in New York and captioned it, "The Home of EVERYTHINGGGGGG, my favourite place ever Bubby's." While Vicky Kaushal too shared a picture with his wife Katrina Kaif as they walk down the streets of New York. He captioned the picture as, "Sugar Rush." The two are dressed in the casual best in the pictures. While Katrina wore a green shirt, fur jacket and jeans, Vicky was seen in a white tee-shirt, denim jacket and pants. For the unversed, the two lovebirds got married at Ranthambore last year. On the work front, Katrina Kaif has films like Tiger 3, Jee Le Zara and Phone Booth in the pipeline. While Vicky Kaushal will next be seen sharing screen space with Sara Ali Khan. The film is yet to be titled.



Initially I was hesitant to play a 60-year-old mother: Divya Dutta

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As her latest released Punjabi film 'Maa' is winning many hearts, the protagonist Divya Dutta says even though initially she refused to do the film, eventually she realised it would have been a big mistake to let go of a unique female-centric Punjabi film which is a rare opportunity.

The story of the film revolves around Manjit Kaur and her journey from a young bride to a mother of two sons and a series of incidents, ups and downs in her life she deals with till the age of 65.

In conversation with reporter, Divya shared why more than portraying a certain age bracket on-screen, the perspective of the narra-

tive was important for her. Divya told reporter:

"Honestly speaking, initially, I refused to play a mother, that too aged 65 with wrinkled skin and grey hair; but then Gippy (Grewal, producer and actor of the film) came in. He wanted me to hear the whole script before taking the decision. With 15 minutes of narration, I made up my mind to do the film."

"It was a complete story of the transformation of a young bride into an older lady and how the duty and love of a mother changed everything in her. It is her story. In a Punjabi film, a story entirely based on a woman's journey does not happen often. Manjit Kaur (her character) is the face of the film."



Is Sonakshi Sinha Engaged?

Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha's daughter Sonakshi Sinha shared some pictures on her social media that left fans amazed.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the pictures, the actress can be seen flaunting her massive diamond ring while posing with a mystery man. Well, the face of the mystery man is yet to be revealed.

Sharing the pictures Sonakshi Sinha wrote, "BIG day for me!! One of my

biggest dreams is coming trueuuuu... and i cant wait to share it with YOUUUU

Cant believe it was SO EZII!!!" Well, is she all set to take the plunge or is it a gimmick as she will be announcing her next project?

On the work front, Sonakshi Sinha will soon be making her OTT debut with series Dahaad.

ARJUN KAPOOR IMMENSELY PROUD OF HIS FITNESS JOURNEY



Mumbai: Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who has struggled with obesity since childhood, on his 15th month on the road to fitness has said that he is proud of this journey.

Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared a before and after picture. The latest photograph shows the actor flaunting his perfect abs and well-chiselled body in a mirror selfie. The actor, who is dating diva Malaika Arora, wrote alongside the images: "15 months of being #workinprogress! Felt cute and definitely won't delete later because I'm immense proud of this journey. Feb 2021 to May 2022 - it's been a tough one and I'm only glad that I could stay on track." "Must admit that it was very tough to stay on course, it still is, but I'm loving that state of mind that I'm in for these past 15 months. I hope it stays the same. My #mondaymotivation is now me and not others on the gram themselves. It's been a while since I have felt this way!! This is who I am (chest hair included)," he added.

Arjun is currently in Manali shooting for his next 'The Lady Killer', which also stars Bhumi Pednekar.

Sad that history books today have just one paragraph on Prithviraj Chauhan: Akshay Kumar

Yash Raj released the trailer for Prithviraj on Monday, on Maharana Parap's birth anniversary. In attendance were principal actors Akshay Kumar and Manushi Chillar, as well as director Dr Chandraprakash Dwedi, at Yash Raj's studio.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A projection mapping programme had been set up. Background music was created using Shri Chandra Bardai's original words.

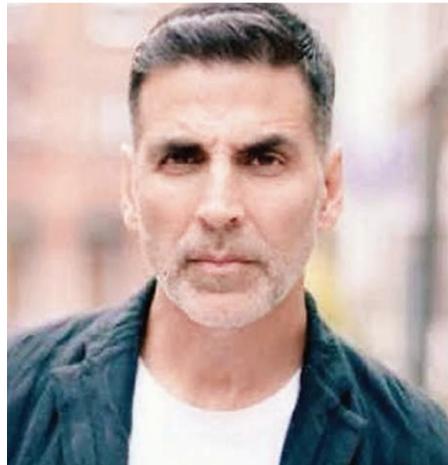
While speaking with a people present at the press conference, Akshay stated that he will request the government to exhibit this film in every school since it is important for the youth to understand our country's past.

When asked why he cast Akshay and Manushi, Dr. Chandraprakash Dwedi said, "I chose Akshay because of his punctuality and discipline, and the language command that Manushi has on Hindi is extraordinary."

It's known fact, historical films have been targeted by various undesirable elements in society since their inception. Be it Jodha Akbar, Padmaavat, Bajirao Mastani or Akshay Kumar's latest release Prithviraj. They have all encountered difficulties at some point.

Where Bhansali altered Padmaavati's name to Padmaavat. Dr. Chandraprakash Dwedi made the decision to stick to his stand and not show the movie to anyone before its release.

"Samrat Prithviraj has been addressed as Prithviraj in almost all the books written about him," the writer director said in a press conference held shortly after the release of the Prithviraj trailer. "If you are recalling a hero with pure heart and respect, these things really don't matter. I am sure after watching this movie, all those who are upset, will appreciate the work."



The film Prithviraj is based on the life of Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan and will be released on June 3rd, 2022. The movie is marked as a debut picture of miss world 2017, Manushi Chillar.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Samantha Ruth Prabhu