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BRACE FOR ANOTHER SPELL OF HEAT WAVE FROM WEEKEND: IMD



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday warned of yet another spell of heat wave across Rajasthan from May 7 to 9 and over south Haryana, Delhi, southwest Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha (Maharashtra) on May 8 and 9.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Brahmapuri in Vidarbha (Maharashtra) recorded the highest maximum temperature at 44.1 degrees Celsius. Most parts of the country experienced a slight respite from severe heat wave, but in isolated pockets over north centre Maharashtra, heat wave conditions

still prevailed on Thursday.

In Delhi-NCR, the maximum temperatures hovered comfortably around 35 to 37 degrees Celsius with only Najafgarh recording 38 degrees Celsius. Delhi's base station, Safdarjung recorded a maximum temperature of 37 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal.

The dip in the temperature was a result of rains - although trace for

many parts and light rain for some - in the Delhi NCR from Wednesday evening through the night. The met department has predicted partly cloudy sky with maximum temperature expected at 39 degrees Celsius.

From February 25 till May 3, the Delhi NCR witnessed a long dry spell with three back to back heat waves due to weak Western Disturbances breaking all heat records for March

and April.

However, under the influence of the current Western Disturbance, isolated light rainfall is very likely over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand during the next three days. This has an impact on the temperatures across north-west Indian plains.

WORLD LOST NEARLY 1.5 CRORE EXCESS LIVES DUE TO COVID - 19, SAYS WHO

INDIA@4.7 MILLION

In India, there were 4.7 million Covid deaths, it says - 10 times the official figures - and almost a third of Covid deaths globally. Egypt at the top with 11.6 higher, India second with 9.9 times higher and Pakistan third with the excess death toll eight times higher. Alongside India, countries with the highest total excess deaths included Russia, Indonesia, USA, Brazil, Mexico and Peru, the WHO figures suggest. The numbers for Russia are three-and-a-half times the country's recorded deaths.

- ▶ THAT IS 13% MORE DEATHS THAN NORMALLY EXPECTED OVER TWO YEARS.
- ▶ THE WHO BELIEVES MANY COUNTRIES UNDERCOUNTED THE NUMBERS WHO DIED FROM COVID - ONLY 5.4 MILLION WERE REPORTED.
- ▶ 57% MALE AND 43% FEMALE AS WELL AS MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES HAVING THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF EXCESS DEATHS AT 81%
- ▶ THE WHO SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE EXTRA 9.5 MILLION DEATHS SEEN ABOVE THE 5.4 MILLION COVID DEATHS REPORTED WERE THOUGHT TO BE DIRECT DEATHS CAUSED BY THE VIRUS, RATHER THAN INDIRECT DEATHS.



GENEVA | Agencies

Worldwide about 1.49 crore excess lives were lost due to Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, new estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed on Thursday. Excess deaths - the difference between the number of recorded deaths from all causes and the number expected based on past trends - are a key measure of the true full death toll of the pandemic.

While just 10 countries had 68 per cent of excess deaths, South-East Asia, Europe, and the Americas together accounted for most of the excess deaths (84 per cent). Of the total deaths, middle-income

countries accounted for 81 per cent, lower-middle-income countries for 53 per cent and upper-middle-income countries 28 per cent over the 24-month period. High-income and low-income countries each accounted for 15 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

"These sobering data not only points to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger health information systems," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, in a statement. In March, an analysis published in The Lancet

showed that the global Covid-19 death toll may be more than three times higher than what the official pandemic death records suggest.

According to official Covid death records, 0.59 crore people died between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021. But the new study estimated 1.82 crore excess deaths occurred over the same period, and India alone accounted for an estimated 22 per cent of the global total deaths. "Measurement of excess mortality is an essential component to understand the impact of the pan-

INDIA OBJECTS TO WHO METHODOLOGY

Despite India's objection to the process, methodology, and outcome of this modelling exercise, the WHO has released the excess mortality estimates without adequately addressing India's concerns. India had also informed the WHO that in view of the availability of authentic data published through Civil Registration System (CRS) by Registrar General of India (RGI), mathematical models should not be used for projecting excess mortality numbers for India," it said.

Based on reports submitted by states and UTs, Vital Statistics of India, based on the CRS, are published annually by the RGI and the last such national report for the year 2019 was published in June 2021 and for 2020, on May 3, 2022, a Ministry statement said. "The test positivity rate another key variable used by the WHO for Covid-19 in India was never uniform throughout the country at any point of time. Owing to its large area, diversity and a population of 1.3 billion which witnessed variable severity of the pandemic both across space and time, India consistently objected to the use of 'one size fits all', approach and model, which may be applicable to smaller countries but cannot be applicable to India."

demic. Shifts in mortality trends provide decision-makers information to guide policies to reduce mortality and effectively prevent future crises. Because of limited investments in data systems in many countries, the true extent of excess mortality often remains hidden," said Dr Samira Asma, Assistant Director-General for Data, Analytics and Delivery at WHO, in the statement.

Punjab-based terror suspects arrested from Haryana



Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Haryana Police on Thursday claimed to have foiled a major terror attack bid with the arrest of four 'highly radicalised' Punjab-based terrorists, who were in touch with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), from the Bastara toll plaza in Karnal in a joint operation with their Punjab counterparts and Central security agencies. A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives were seized from their possession. The accused persons were going to deliver the explosives at Adilabad in Telangana, the police said.

Besides key accused Gurpreet Singh, who had met Rajbir Singh, an associate of Pakistan-based handler Harjinder Singh Rinda, in jail, the other suspects have been identified as Bhupinder Singh, Amandeep Singh and Parminder Singh, all from Punjab. They were arrested from the toll plaza when they were on their way to Delhi in a white Toyota Innova.

As per the police, the four suspects were in touch with Rinda. Earlier, the terrorists supplied IEDs twice at Nanded in Maharashtra. Additional Director General of Police (law and order), Sandeep Khirwar, said the police have recovered three IEDs, one Pakistan-made pistol, 31 cartridges and Rs 1.30 lakh in cash from the arrested persons.

Officials said the weapons were air-dropped using a drone at the behest of Rinda in Ferozepur, Punjab. During interrogation, Gurpreet confessed that they received the explosives from across the border. Superintendent of Police, Ganga Ram

PREVENTED MAJOR TERROR ATTACK: PUNJAB DGP

Chandigarh: Describing the arrest of four Pakistan's ISI-backed terrorists and preventing a major terror attack as a well coordinated operation, Punjab Police on Thursday said they successfully averted a possible 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. Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab V.K. Bhawra 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. "The suspects took the national highway and started moving towards Ambala, when acting promptly, Punjab Police shared the development with Haryana Police, which managed to intercept the vehicle in Karnal and arrested the accused persons with IEDs," the DGP said.

Punia, told the media that the terrorists were in regular touch with their handlers in Pakistan who sent locations to them to deliver explosives and weapons. According to forensic experts, each box carried a timer, a detonator and a battery. The detonator and timer were connected to the IEDs but they were not power connected yet.

Subsidy on electricity to become optional in Delhi: Kejriwal

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the government would provide subsidy on electricity to only those citizens of the national capital who would want it. "The Delhi government will now ask people whether they want to avail subsidy on electricity. From October 1, only those consumers who opt for it will be provided the subsidy," he said at a briefing. He said citizens would be asked if they would want to continue with the subsidy and the exercise in this regard would begin soon. Recently, consumers get a zero power bill up to 200 units of electricity and a subsidy of Rs 800 on consuming 201 to 400 units of power per month in Delhi.

J&K Delimitation Commission recommends two nominated members to Assembly

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir has recommended two nominated members, including one female, from the Kashmiri migrant community to the Assembly on the lines of the Pudducherry Assembly.

The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday finalised the delimitation order and submitted it to the Election Commission of India wherein it recommended 43 Assembly seats for Jammu division and 47 seats for the Kashmir region.

For the first time, nine Assembly constituencies have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, out of which, six are in Jammu region and three in Kashmir. The constitution of the erstwhile Jammu and

Kashmir state had no provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly. As per the final delimitation order, out of the 90 Assembly constituencies in the region, 43 will be part of Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir region, keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the order said.

The six new Assembly constituencies in the Jammu region are expected to be carved out from Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Kathua and Samba districts.

The one new seat for the Kashmir Valley would reportedly be carved out from the Kupwara district. As of now there are 46 seats in Kashmir region and 37 seats are in Jammu division.

Famers' meet in Lakhimpur Kheri today to decide 'next move'

Lakhimpur Kheri | Agencies

Lakhimpur Kheri will once again become the hotbed of controversy on Thursday when representatives of 25 farmer unions from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, along with Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait, hold a key meeting in the district to discuss their "next move".

Farmers union members are also expected to meet local authorities seeking a speedy trial in the case.

Farmer leaders claim that MoS for Home Ajay Mishra continues to remain in office despite past assurances from government of looking into the matter. Teni's son Ashish Mishra



is the main accused in the Kheri violence case. He had allegedly moved down four farmers and a journalist.

Further, a maha panchayat is also expected to be held in Kheri on May 10 -- the day

that coincides with the next date of hearing in Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, when the court is expected to frame charges against Ashish and the other accused.

CASTE NOT ONLY FACTOR TO DECIDE FATE OF BIHAR PARTIES, SAYS PK

Patna: Political strategist Prashant Kishor on Thursday ruled out the caste factor as the key one deciding the fate of a political party in Bihar.

Giving the example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said: "At present, Narendra Modi is achieving the highest number of votes in Bihar but how many people belong to his caste staying in Bihar? I believe there are not many people of his caste staying in Bihar. That means, caste is not the only factor on which people can vote here."

"In every caste and community, some people vote above caste and community. Besides, if I form a political party, I would not be the only one to contest the election. People of every caste and community contest elections from my party," he added.

PK, as Kishor is known, also slammed the current Nitish Kumar government and the previous RJD regime. "Bihar is extremely backward compared to other states and current and previous governments are responsible for it," he said.





SC CANCELS BAIL OF RAPE ACCUSED WELCOMED AS 'BHAIIYA IS BACK' ON RELEASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled the bail of a students' leader -- accused in a rape of a friend on false promise of marriage -- after pictures surfaced on social media welcoming him with captions like "Bhaiyya is Back".

A bench, headed by Chief Justice NV. Ramana and comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, citing social media posts, said: "They amplify the celebratory mood of the respondent No.2 and his supporters on his having been released from detention in less than two months of being taken into custody for a grave offence that entails sentence of not less than ten years that may even extend to life."

The complainant's counsel argued that the accused bail order deserves to be set aside, as after his release photographs appeared on the social media with his snapshots prominently displayed on posters in the forefront with the faces of some influential persons of the society, welcoming him with captions like "Bhaiyya is back", "Back to Bhaiyya", and



"Welcome to Role Janeman".

Counsel for the accused argued that he is a student leader who belongs to a community that celebrates the festival "Maa Narmada Jayanti" and the posters in question have nothing to do with his being released on bail.

The top court, however, noted that captions referred with emojis of crowns and hearts thrown in for good measure, belie this version.

Justice Kohli, who authored the

judgment on behalf of the bench, said: "The captions tagged to his photographs on the social media highlight the superior position and power wielded by the respondent No 2 and his family in the society and its deleterious impact on the appellant/complainant. The emojis of crowns and hearts tagged with the captions quoted above are devoid of any religious sentiments sought to be portrayed by the respondent No.2."

The bench said the brazen conduct

of the accused has evoked a bona fide fear in the mind of the complainant that she would not get a free and fair trial if he remains enlarged on bail and that there is a likelihood of his influencing the material witnesses.

The bench set aside the Madhya Pradesh High Court order, granting relief to accused Shubhang Gontia, only on the ground of delay in lodging the FIR, and ignoring his alleged involvement in four other cases in Jabalpur.

The top court said: "In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, we are of the considered opinion that the respondent No. 2 does not deserve the concession of bail. Relevant material brought on record has been overlooked by the High Court while granting him bail." It directed the accused to surrender within a week.

In June 2021, the complainant lodged an FIR alleging that the accused induced her to develop physical relationship on the promise of marriage. She added that since July, 2019 after applying the vermilion, he convinced her that they were married. Later, he refused to solemnise the marriage.

UP claims air pollution down, first state to launch air shed based action plan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With a claim of reduced air quality index (AQI) over the last one year in several of its cities, the Uttar Pradesh government said it is all set to implement its air shed based action plan - first for any state in India - for combating air pollution with the help of World Bank.

Just like a watershed, an air shed is the geographic area wherein meteorological factors influence the air quality within that area and in turn, get influenced too. This approach has been first initiated with Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana etc. However, Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state to bring out the action plan.

The largest and most densely populated state in the Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP) has 17 Non-Attainment cities, those that did not qualify certain air pollution norms at the time of launching of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Its average PM10 and PM2.5 values were higher than the national average for five consecutive years. The average AQIs from April 2020 till March 2021 for Bagpat, Bulandshahar, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Meerut, and Noida changed from 221, 215, 221, 215, 197 and 203 respectively to 196, 184, 221, 190 and 185 in April 2021 till March 2022. Similarly, the average AQIs from April 2020 till March 2021 for Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Moradabad, and Varanasi changed from 179, 171, 187, 229 and 168 respectively to 138, 117, 135, 160 and 115 in April 2021 till



March 2022, the state government claimed.

"This means that the change is better in cities away from the heavily polluted Delhi-NCR air shed and those nearer to it are only slowly improving," state Environment Secretary Ashish Tiwari told a webinar.

"Our action plan involves 19 line departments and agencies for implementation," he said, adding: "Almost 30-40 per cent resources are available for implementation at city action plans level. Our clean air management project on air shed approach is supported by many agencies, including the World Bank."

Tiwari, however, suggested a paradigm shift from physical monitoring to virtual monitoring system, which will bring in more transparency and will be without human intervention. A surprise that Tiwari and his team encountered was that when they started looking at pollution sources, it was revealed that the application of fertiliser also adds to the air pollution.

Two arrested for honour killing in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Police on Thursday arrested two persons for the murder of a 25-year-old man, who had an inter-faith marriage recently.

Billapuram Nagaraju was hacked to death in Hyderabad on Wednesday night in front of his wife, who belonged to another community.

Announcing a breakthrough in the case within 24 hours, Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said Ashrin Sultana's brother Syed Mobin Ahmed and brother-in-law

Mohammed Masood Ahmed have been arrested.

Nagaraju, who was going with his wife on a motorbike, was waylaid and attacked by the duo near GHMC office under Saroornagar police station.

Nagaraju, who was working as a salesman in a car showroom, died on the spot after the attackers hit him with iron rods and stabbed him. The visuals of the brutal murder were recorded on CCTV in the area.

Sultana alleged that her brother and others attacked Nagaraju even as she pleaded with them to leave him.

Nagaraju, belonging to the Scheduled Caste and a resident of Marpally village in Vikarabad district, and Sultana of neighbouring village Ghanapur were in love for the last seven years. They were classmates in school and college. However, Sultana's family was opposed to the alliance and they warned her against continuing the relationship.

The girl eloped with Nagaraju on January 30, 2022 and the next day they married in an Arya Samaj temple in Lal Darwaza area. The girl had changed her name to Pallavi.

3,000 ILLEGAL SHANTIES DEMOLISHED IN GURUGRAM

GURUGRAM | Agencies

The enforcement team of the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) carried out a massive demolition drive in Saraswati Kunj colony located along the Golf Course Road on Thursday, in which 3,000 shanties out of 15,000 were demolished.

The DTCP officials said around Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 rent was also being extracted by the locals for these illegal shanties. They said the drive would continue for the next few days.

During the drive, the team also seized material which was used to develop illegal shanties.

The officials said the department had given 3-4 days to the encroachers and even announce-



ments were made to remove illegal constructions on their own.

RS Bath, district town planner, enforcement, said that an enforcement team including 20 officials supported by around 150 police personnel carried out the 6-hour drive in Saraswati Kunj. "The team demolished 3,000 shanties which were set up illegally. We had received several complaints from the residents following which the action was taken," said Bath.

Apart from this, 10 establishments were also demolished which were running illegally.

Bath said the issue was raised in the recently held grievance committee meeting headed by the chief minister where directions to remove the illegal hutments were given.

Gehlot dares Amit Shah to form panel to probe Ram Navami violence

JAIPUR | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to constitute a committee to probe the violence reported in Karauli and other states during Ram Navami.

The committee, he said, should be headed by a Supreme Court and a High Court judge, which would probe the "root cause" behind the violence.

He also accused the BJP-RSS of cashing in on young generations' innocence and promoting violence as "they are unaware of the history of our independence struggle". "We have seen Russia getting dismantled. However,



our country has stood strong during the last 70 years despite it having multiple



languages and religions. Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life but did not allow forma-

tion of Khalistan. Rajiv Gandhi too sacrificed his life for the country."

Those were the people who took the country to new heights in 70 years. However, the current generation is unaware of situation during independence struggle which is being cashed in on by BJP-RSS. They are setting agenda and triggering violence, he said, adding that "first, it was in Karauli, then Rajgarh (where temple was bulldozed), and now Jodhpur. Our timely action prevented riots in the state."

On the Ram Navami violence, the chief minister said once the reasons are figured out, such incidents can be checked in future.

Andhra Home Minister's comments on rapes sparks row

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Taneti Vanitha's comments on a recent gang rape incident at Repalle Railway Station have sparked a row. She stated that the accused had not come there with the intention to rape the woman.

AMARAVATI | Agencies

They were drunk and they attacked the man to rob him. When she tried to save her husband, they pushed and tied her and in the process, something happened," she said while talking to reporters.

Vanitha also remarked that certain incidents happen unwittingly due to psychological reasons or poverty.

Her comments came after a woman was gang raped at Repalle Railway Station in Bapatla district on the night of April 30. Three persons, including a



juvenile, attacked the man at the railway station and when her wife tried to save him, they pulled her aside and raped her. Police have arrested the accused.

This was the second gang rape in less than two weeks. A mentally challenged woman was gang raped at government hospital in Vijayawada on April 19-20. The victim was confined to a room in the hospital and sexually assaulted for 30 hours by three contract employees of the hospital.

The Minister's comments evoked strong criticism from the opposition parties.

BJP FIELDS DHAMI FOR CHAMPAWAT BY-POLL

New Delhi:

After announcing Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's candidature for the by-poll in Champawat assembly constituency in Uttarakhand, the BJP has started reaching out to the influential people from the state living in the national capital. On Thursday, the BJP officially announced Dhami as its candidate for the Champawat by-poll. In a statement BJP national general secretary Arun Singh announced the party's Central Election Committee's decision to field Dhami for the upcoming by-poll.

Polling in Champawat will be held on May 31 and counting of votes will take place on June 3.

National general secretary and election co-charge for the Champawat assembly constituency, Deepthi Rawat held a meeting with influential people of Champawat in Delhi at Uttarakhand Bhavan. The BJP has planned to reach out to all the people from Champawat residing in the national capital through the party's Delhi unit's Uttarakhand cell. Talking about the BJP's preparations for the by-poll in Champawat, Rawat said that the party is fully prepared and Dhami will win by a record margin.



No accused can be summoned orally to police station: Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court at Lucknow has directed the Uttar Pradesh government that no person, including an accused, can be summoned to a police station orally by subordinate police officials without the consent/approval of the station in-charge.

The bench comprising Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra and Justice Manish Mathur on Wednesday directed that in case a complaint is made at any police station that necessitates an investigation and the presence of the accused, a suitable course of action as prescribed under provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code is to be followed, which contemplates serving a written notice upon such a person, but only after a case has been registered. The bench emphasised that a person's life, liberty, and dignity cannot be jeopardised based solely on the verbal orders of police officers.

In this case, a letter petition was filed before the High Court in which a girl (Sarojini) claimed that her parents (Ram



Vilas and Savitri) were summoned to the Mahila Thana Police Station in Lucknow and did not return.

The petition was treated as Habeas Corpus and was heard on April 8 when the government counsel informed the Court that no such occurrence had taken place at the police station. On April 13, petitioners Savitri and Ram Vilas and their daughter appeared before the

Court and said that some police personnel summoned them to the police station, and when they arrived, they were detained and threatened by police personnel.

On the same day, the Inspector of the concerned police station informed the Court that the petitioners had visited the police station on April 8 around 12 noon in connection with a dispute over the

partition of ancestral property, and after recording their statements, they were allowed to leave the police station around 3.30 p.m. on the same day.

In light of the facts of the case, the Court emphasised that there is no provision in either the Indian Constitution or the CrPC that requires a police official to summon and detain a person even without the filing of an FIR, and that too orally.

ASSAM WOMAN COP ARRESTS OWN FIANCE ON FRAUD CHARGES

Guwahati: An Assam Police official in Nagaon district on Thursday arrested her own fiance on fraud charges, police said.

Police said that Junmoni Rabha, who is serving as a Sub-Inspector in Nagaon, came to know about alleged crimes committed by Rana Pogag, filed an FIR herself, and arrested him, a police official said, adding that the accused had reportedly falsely claimed to be a Public Relations Officer of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and allegedly duped many people of lakhs of rupees by promising them to provide jobs in the ONGC.

The police official said that they seized 11 fake seals of ONGC and many incriminating documents including fake identity cards from Pogag's home.

Rabha, while talking to the media, said that she and Pogag had ceremonially got engaged in October last year



and planned to hold the marriage ceremony in November this year. Rabha had hit the headlines in January after a telephonic conversation of her with Bihpuria MLA Amiya Kumar Bhuyan got leaked on social media.



MVA: GIVE LOUDSPEAKERS 'ULTIMATUM' IN YOUR HOME, BAN HITS HINDUS MORE

The Maha Vikas Aghadi government on Thursday slammed Maha Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray asking him to serve 'ultimatums' in his house and not to the state while arguing that the loudspeakers ban would hurt Hindus more than the Muslims.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maha Vikas Aghadi government on Thursday slammed Maha Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray asking him to serve 'ultimatums' in his house and not to the state while arguing that the loudspeakers ban would hurt Hindus more than the Muslims. "This is a state run on the laws and Constitutiona not on the basis of some deadlines given by someone. If they want, they can give such 'ultimatums' in their homes," Nationalist Congress Party's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said sharply.

that those flouting the laws on public address systems would face action. Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said there are at least 2,400 Hindu temples in Mumbai which will not be able to use loudspeakers for their prayers and other rituals and it has also affected the much revered 'kakat aarti' at the famed Saibaba Temple in Shirdi (Ahmednagar).

"Of the total 2,404 temples and 1140 mosques in Mumbai, only 20 temples and 922 mosques have taken police permission for loudspeakers. A majority of the mosques have already stopped relaying 'azans' on public address systems. However, some 2,200 temples and 222 mosques will not be able to use loudspeakers," Sawant said.

Shiv Sena's MoS Kishore Tiwari said that besides important temples like Shree Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai and others across the state, the loudspeaker restrictions would hit major Hindu festivals like the upcoming Ganeshotsav and Navratri. "With the MNS' warnings, event organisers of weddings and other social functions or conferences are complaining that they are scared of using loudspeakers or DJ music fearing reprisals from MNS activists," pointed out Tiwari.

Accordingly, Sawant and Tiwari said that Thackeray's 'selfish' agitation would hit and hurt Hindus more than the

Muslim community, and the MNS would face its repercussions from the non-Muslims. The Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, CEO Bhagyashree Banayat-Dhivare said contrary to certain media speculation, the Saibaba Temple has not discontinued the use of loudspeakers for its night and morning aartis.

On Wednesday night and Thursday morning (May 4/5), the Saibaba Temple night aarti which starts at 10 p.m. and the morning 'kakat aarti' which is held from 5.15 a.m. were conducted on public address systems, but with decibel levels tuned down to 45db, as per the Supreme Court guidelines, she added.

Sawant said that besides Hindu temples, it will also affect religious prayers, discourses, kathas, or other events, by other communities in Christian churches, Sikh gurudwaras, Buddhist Viharas, Jain derasars, et al.

On Wednesday - on the first day of its anti-loudspeakers drive - Raj had claimed 'success' with 90 per cent mosques in the city muting their public address systems, and demanded action against the remaining which he alleged flouted the Supreme Court norms.

Though the state remained peaceful, the MNS has decided to continue its agitation on a long-term basis maintaining it's a social and not a religious issue.

Maha local bodies polls: SC asks SEC to notify election within two weeks

THE SUPREME COURT ON WEDNESDAY DIRECTED THE MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION TO NOTIFY THE LOCAL BODIES ELECTION PROGRAMME IN TWO WEEKS.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Maharashtra State Election Commission to notify the local bodies election programme in two weeks.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said: "Accordingly, the election programme of such local bodies must proceed and the State Election Commission is obliged to notify the election programme within two weeks from today in respect of such local bodies including to continue with the process from the stage as on March 10, 2022, on the basis of the delimitation done prior to coming into force of the

Amendment Act(s) w.e.f. March 11, 2022."

The bench, also comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and CT Ravikumar, added that the delimitation as it existed prior to March 11 in respect of local bodies concerned be taken as notional delimitation for the conduct of overdue elections and to conduct the same on that basis in respect of each of such local bodies.

The top court was hearing a challenge to amendments passed by Maharashtra, taking over the process of delimitation and creation of new electoral wards.

In March, the Maharashtra government passed amendments to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, the Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats, Industrial Townships Act, 2022, allowing the state government to take over the power of delimitation, which was earlier with the SEC.

The bench, in its order, said: "We observe and hold that the process of delimitation, being a continuous exercise, may be continued by the state of Maharashtra, subject to the outcome of these petitions, but that would be relevant only for future elections after such exercise is completed."

On the aspect for reservation for other backward classes

(OBCs), the bench added that compliance of triple test as predicated by it in Vikas Kishanrao Gawali Vs State of Maharashtra (2021) must be adhered to. "Absent such compliance, no reservation can be provided in the local bodies for that category which may go for elections with immediate effect in terms of this order," it added.

The top court clarified that until the delimitation is done by the state government in terms of Amendment Act(s) of 2022, the SEC shall give effect to this order also in respect of upcoming elections in respect of local bodies which would become due by efflux of time. It scheduled the matter for further hearing on July 12 and sought a compliance report from the SEC. The top court sought explanation from the SEC, why the elections in a large number of local bodies (2,486) across Maharashtra, though overdue, and in some cases, even overdue for two years, have not been taken forward despite the peremptory direction given by the court vide successive orders.

The SEC contended that it had taken steps in right earnest until the amendment act(s) came into force; and further until the delimitation was done by the state government under the stated amendment act(s), it was not possible for it to proceed in the matter.

Bombay HC quashes case against Indiabulls, promoters

IN A MAJOR SETBACK TO THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED), THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT ON WEDNESDAY QUASHED A MAGISTERIAL COURT ORDER AGAINST INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (IHFL) AND ITS PROMOTERS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH ED WAS PROBING A CASE UNDER THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major setback to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Bombay High Court on Wednesday quashed a magisterial

court order and an FIR lodged against Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IHFL) and its promoters on the basis of which ED was probing a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Earlier in February, the ED had conducted raids in Delhi and Mumbai at the premises of Indiabulls and its promoters. The ED had also written to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in this connection.

Indiabulls had approached the Delhi High court, but no relief was granted to the firm. It then moved the Bombay High Court seeking quashing of the case and one magisterial court order passed against the firm.

The Bombay High Court after hearing a lengthy argument allowed both the prayers.

"The replies filed before the Delhi High Court at the instance of the RBI and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs also did not make any positive statement so as to hold that the petitioner company had played some mischief causing financial loss to this shareholder," the Bombay High Court noted in its order while allowing the plea of Indiabulls.

With this, the ED case will also come to a close because it was based on an FIR which has been quashed now.

"WISH TO SEE A BRAHMIN AS MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER." DANVE "So much of casteism has come into politics and that it cannot be ignored. But there should be a leader who can keep communities together," Union Minister Raosaheb Danve said

Aurangabad/Mumbai: Union Minister Raosaheb Danve has said he wishes to see a Brahmin as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Reacting to it, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said a transgender or an individual belonging to any caste can become the Chief Minister if the person has the backing of 145 MLAs in the assembly.

Danve made the comment on Tuesday night in Jalna while addressing a rally organised by the Brahmin community on Parshuram Jayanti.

A guest present in the rally demanded that Brahmins be given more representation in local governing bodies.

In response, Danve said, "I just don't want to see Brahmins as corporators or civic body heads, I wish to see a Brahmin as the Chief Minister of this state."

Danve said he campaigned in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh for the assembly elections. "So much of casteism has come into politics and that it cannot be ignored. But there should be a leader who can keep communities together," he said.

On Thursday, when a reporter asked Ajit Pawar in Mumbai about Danve's remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Anyone can become a Chief Minister. A tritipyanthi (transgender) or a person from any caste and religion or any woman can be a Chief Minister by securing majority of 145 MLAs."

NTT Ltd launches 2nd hyperscale data centre campus in India

GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES COMPANY NTT LTD ON THURSDAY LAUNCHED ITS SECOND HYPERSCALE DATA CENTRE CAMPUS IN INDIA, AS PART OF ITS \$2 BILLION INVESTMENT PLAN FOR SCALING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Global technology services company NTT Ltd on Thursday launched its second hyperscale data centre campus in India, as part of its \$2 billion investment plan for scaling infrastructure capacity in the country.

Spread across 400,000 square feet in Mahape, Navi Mumbai, the NAV1 campus is planned with the capacity for up to 4 data centres, reaching up to 150 MW of facility

load. The launch comes close on the heels of a new data centre going live at the company's Chandivali campus.

The company said that it now has a data centre footprint in the country to 12 facilities, offering more than 2.5 million sq feet and 220 MW of facility power.

"India is one of the fastest growing data centre markets in the world. NTT has invested \$2 billion to ensure access to world-class, end-to-end infrastructure for India's digital-first economy and this launch in Navi Mumbai is another step in that direction," said Masaaki Moribayashi, President and Board Director for NTT Ltd.

NTT is one of the world's largest data centre operators, with over 1,300 MW of data centre capacity, including a large development pipeline of a 25 per cent increase in capacity across more than 20 countries and regions globally.

"NTT is committed to building the connected future, delivering edge-to-cloud ICT solutions across hosted infrastructure, network, security, collaboration and managed services," said Sharad Sanghi, Managing Director, NTT Ltd. in India.

The company has also built a solar power plant in Solapur, Maharashtra and a wind and solar energy plant in Karnataka.

Former MSEDCL official sentenced to imprisonment in graft case

Thote was sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment and a collective fine of Rs 20,000 was imposed on him, while Pawar was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and was fined Rs 5,000.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court on Thursday sentenced a former employee of a state-run power company and a private individual to imprisonment in a case of graft in Vasai of Maharashtra's Palghar district.

District judge Sudhir Deshpande convicted Ashish Thote (51), a former junior engineer with the Maharashtra

State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL), and one Sakharam Chandusinh Pawar (65) of charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Thote was sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment and a collective fine of Rs 20,000 was imposed on him, while Pawar was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and was fined Rs 5,000. Additional public prose-

cutor Jaiprakash Patil informed the court that the complainant had submitted 60 quotations to the MSEDCL for installation of electric meters, which was to be cleared by the accused official, who demanded Rs 40,000 to do the job. Officials from the Anti-Corruption Bureau laid a trap on September 14, 2011 when the accused accepted the bribe amount through Pawar, following which the duo was arrested.

Driver Among 2 Held For Cooking Up Robbery Story; Stock Of Fans Recovered

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police have arrested a driver for allegedly cooking up a false story that his tempo loaded with fans worth over Rs 10 lakh was robbed between Navi Mumbai and Bhandup in Mumbai, although a probe later revealed that he himself had stored the stock, an official said on Thursday.

The driver, Ishtiaq Ahmed Arshadali Ansari (30) and his associate Tasmim Akhlah Ahmed Shaikh (23), both from Bhiwandi in Thane district, were arrested on Wednesday and the stock of fans was recovered along with the tempo from suburban Bhandup, senior inspector of the Crime unit- I, Anil Deshmukh (Thane police commissionerate), said.

On March 30, the stock of fans was loaded at

The crime branch officials examined the CCTV footage from the route between Vashi and Bhandup and later received a tip-off that the driver himself had stolen the fans with the help of his associates," Deshmukh said.

Vashi in Navi Mumbai for delivery. However, the driver of the tempo later complained to the Mumbra police that some unidentified persons waylaid them and robbed the vehicle loaded with the fans, he said. "Based on the complaint lodged by the driver, the Mumbra police filed an offence and initiated a probe. The crime branch officials examined the CCTV footage from the route between Vashi and Bhandup and later received a tip-off that the driver himself had stolen the fans with the help of his associates," Deshmukh said.

Acting on the tip-off, they arrested the driver and recovered the entire stock of fans valued at Rs 10,06,848 and the tempo valued at Rs 11.60 lakh, the official added. The accused had broken the GPRS system installed on the tempo and also the relay unit, before taking with the fans at some location in Bhandup for hiding, he said. "The accused driver then approached the police and cooked up a false story that four persons on two motorbikes had waylaid them and robbed them of the tempo and the stock of fans," Deshmukh said.

Rezangla Anthem celebrates valour of 1962 war heroes

The Rezangla Anthem was launched at the Rezangla War Memorial to pay a special tribute to the braveheart war veterans of the Indian Army at Rezang La as it marked the close of the first Ladakh International Music Festival that began on April 30.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Rezangla Anthem was launched at the Rezangla War Memorial to pay a special tribute to the braveheart war veterans of the Indian Army at Rezang La as it marked the close of the first Ladakh International Music Festival that began on April 30.

Conceptualised by Sushil Chaudhary and composed by music composer Joi Barua and his band, the anthem was sung by Joi Barua. The

anthem presents a heartfelt tribute signifying the courage of the Param Vir Chakra decorated officer Major Shaitan Singh and his men, who faced the Chinese army at the Rezang La Pass during the 1962 India-China war.

The anthem, shot in metaverse/VR format, was launched by Corps Commander Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta. Major Gen Akash Kaushik, Chief of Staff, Fire & Fury Corps, Major General Abhinay Rai, General Officer Commanding, Uniform Force and Bollywood actor Darshan Kumar and other dignitaries graced the event.

Addressing the crowd, Lt Gen Sengupta said "On behalf of Uniform force, 114 Brigade, 22 JAK RIF, the other units here, the brave jawans of the Fire and Fury Corps, JCO, respected officers and on behalf of the officers in and around Chusul and all those present here with us. I congratulate Joi Barua and his band for performing such a revered song on this precious land, based on the 60-year-old war."

He further mentioned, "This song is an honest composition that comes out straight from the



heart. We dedicate this entire festival to the 114 bravehearts who gave their lives 60 years ago. In their memory we conducted a programme in November last year as well, at the memorial which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Defence Minister." He shared that he is hopeful that the anthem will add to the spirit of the men in uni-

form who work tirelessly and with utmost diligence, "Today, 6 months later, here we are yet again on this sacred land, this time launching the anthem dedicated to the soldiers of the 1962 war who sacrificed their lives to protect the borders of the country. We are immensely proud and happy that even today we are protecting this

region with the same spirit of bravery and vigour like our ancestors did. And I am very hopeful that this anthem composed by Joi Barua and his band will add to this zealous spirit." The first Ladakh International Music Festival registered a humongous response as it brought together the Indian Army, rock bands such as Indian Ocean, Parashara and others and local music talent.

Bollywood actors Richa Chadha and Darshan Kumar were also the special guests during the festival held at Sonam Wangchuk Stadium, Leh.

Lt Gen Sengupta further added, "To perform and sing at such a high altitude, above 15,000 feet is not an easy task. Something like this has happened for the very first time in such a region. And I have to thank Picturetime, Sky2ocean and the whole team who made the entire festival (Ladakh International Music Festival) held in Leh and Rezang La a huge success. I have full faith that through such entertainment events and programmes, the story of our bravehearts will travel all the more and reach people's hearts."



EDITOR'S SPECS

Vaccine's efficacy

Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasised on Wednesday that vaccines are still highly effective against Covid-19, even new variants of the disease emerging in South Africa and the US. WHO data shows that global cases of Covid-19 are continually declining, with reported weekly deaths at their lowest level since March 2020. However, the Organization's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned at a press briefing on Wednesday that these trends don't tell the full story, Xinhua news agency reported. "Driven by Omicron sub-variants, we are seeing an increase in reported cases in the Americas and Africa. The South African scientists who identified Omicron late last year have now reported two more Omicron sub-variants, BA.4 and BA.5, as the reason for a spike in cases in South Africa," he said. "It's too soon to know whether these new sub-variants can cause more severe disease than other Omicron sub-variants, but early data suggests vaccination remains protective against severe disease and death," he added. According to Maria van Kerkhove from the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, BA.4 and BA.5 have been detected in a number of countries. The WHO is still evaluating the severity of the two new variants. However, van Kerkhove said it is not yet possible to confirm whether BA.4 and BA.5 have resulted in increased hospitalizations, as any rise in numbers could be due to a general spike in case numbers in South Africa. Nevertheless, she emphasised: "Vaccines still work incredibly well against preventing severe disease and death." She also called for monitoring of, and testing for COVID-19 to continue in order for the WHO to be able to provide the public with the most accurate information and advice possible.

WILL BRITISH GUJARATIS BE SWAYED BY BORIS' GUJARAT VISIT?

Ashish Ray

Boris Johnson attempts to wave goodbye to the Partygate row (the scandal of unlawful parties at his office-cum-residence during the COVID-19 pandemic) - for 48 hours at least - as he jets off to Gujarat," wrote the pro-Boris Daily Mail newspaper as he flew in to Ahmedabad.

In Gujarat, among other activities, he attired himself in a Gujarati style turban as saffron-clothed priests received him. Significant sections of British Gujaratis - mostly migrants from East Africa - are into Hindutva.

British Gujaratis are mainly settled in north-west London and Leicester.

In recent years, voters from this community have been drifting from the Labour party, now in opposition, to the ruling Conservative party. However, actual results in general elections in the former area have been mixed and still in Labour's favour in the latter city.

The polls on Thursday constitute the biggest local elections in Britain since 2017 and a major test of public opinion since Johnson led his Conservatives to an almost landslide victory in the snap general election in December 2019.

The polls take place amid months of calls for Johnson's resignation, because of him allegedly lying to parliament regarding violations of COVID-19 laws at his office-cum-residence during the pandemic and allegations of corruption against him and his government.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, therefore, came as a boon as he assiduously milked the development as if Britain itself had declared war.

Normally, local elections are fought on issues such as the quality and availability of children's schools, the rate of council tax, recycling of waste, repair of nearby roads, parking facilities and charges, the granting of planning permissions and other council services.

This time - as the political parties concluded their door-to-door campaigns on the eve of voting - the feedback seemed to be the high cost of living is uppermost in people's minds.

Shortages and higher prices brought about by slower and lower imports from European Union countries since Britain's exit from the

Whether British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's attempt to woo British Gujaratis by visiting Gujarat last month will pay off or not will be evident by Friday morning, when results of local elections in the four segments of the United Kingdom - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - are declared.



EU at the beginning of 2021, bottlenecks in the international supply chain and an extraordinary rise in electricity, gas and motor fuel prices have caused inflation to skyrocket to 7 per cent at the end of March 2022, when the Bank of England is mandated by the British government to control it around 2 per cent. Labour has been demanding a one-off windfall tax on mega energy companies to alleviate people's distress from the unprecedented increase in gas and elec-

tricity bills. However, Johnson felt he did not want to discourage energy companies from making long-term investments. This, on a day when the energy giant BP announced profits of 5 billion (Rs50,000 crore) for the first three months of 2022.

In an interview on breakfast television, it was cited to Johnson that a 77-year-old London pensioner Elsie has cut back on meals and uses buses to stay warm. He

responded: "The 24-hour freedom pass bus pass (or free travel) was actually something that I introduced (as mayor of London)."

Jon Ashworth, a shadow secretary on Labour's front benches, reacted: "Boasting about the London bus pass reveals just how out of touch this narcissistic prime minister is".

The left leaning Guardian daily reported: "Tories (Conservatives) are warning of as many as 800 losses out of more than 5,000 council seats being contested, and Labour suggesting they could make few gains."

BBC said: "Senior figures in the (Labour) party don't expect a dramatic increase in the number of councils they are in charge of, but instead are focussed on their projected national share of the vote." This will indicate if it's on course to regain power in the general election due in 2024.

On Wednesday, Johnson addressed the Ukrainian parliament by video. The timing of the impassioned speech betrayed a bid to divert attention from the cost of living and Partygate crises.

A bad result coupled with likely more convictions against him personally in the Partygate affair (he has already suffered one) and revelation of the full wording of the cabinet office inquiry's conclusions - expected to be quite damning - into the emotive episode could reignite demands for him to step down. The matter, though, is in the hands of his party, with 15 per cent of Conservative MPs required to ask for a leadership face-off for this to happen.

international

SHEHBAZ SHARIF GOVT APPOINTED AN 'ALLY OF TERRORIST GROUPS' AS INTERIOR MINISTER, CLAIMS OPPOSITION

Islamabad | Agencies

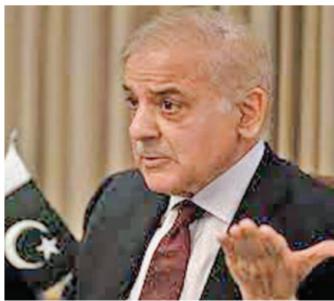
PTI leader and former Pakistan Minister Shireen Mazari, in a letter to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, has red-flagged the Shehbaz Sharif government's decision to appoint Rana Sanaullah as the Interior Minister, media reports said.

Mazari, who was the Human Rights Minister in the Imran Khan government, has claimed that the Shehbaz Sharif-led government has appointed an "ally of terrorist groups" and an alleged killer as the interior minister, The News reported.

The PTI leader has also claimed that Sanaullah, who is an "accused" in the Model Town case, is using the "religion card" against his political rivals.

State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, while commenting on the issue, said that Mazari had not written a letter but has sent an "appeal" to the UN to "save" the PTI, the report said. "US is conspiring and a request has been sent to the United Nations. Wow, what a conspiracy," said Malik. He also questioned on what basis the PTI leaders were "appealing" to the UN.

PM Shehbaz Sharif was sworn in last



month after Imran Khan was removed from office via a no-confidence motion.

Following his oath, PM Shehbaz had inducted 33 people in his cabinet, and among them was Rana Sanaullah.

After Sanaullah had taken oath, he was made the Minister for Interior.

Since his elevation to the office the PTI has claimed that the incumbent government would launch a campaign against them. However, PML-N, which is leading the coalition government, has denied that it would do so.

85 ANCIENT TOMBS UNEARTHED IN EGYPT

Cairo: A total of 85 tombs, dating back to the period from the Old Kingdom of Egypt some 4,500 years ago until the Ptolemaic dynasty spanning from 305 BC to 30 BC, were unearthed in the southern province of Sohag, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said.

An Egyptian archaeological mission in the Gabal El Haridi region, located about 350 km south of the capital Cairo, found beside the mummies 30 death certificates showing the dead person's name, job and age and their parents' names, written in old Greek letters and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying in a statement.

Some tombs were embedded in the mountain, and some have one or more wells with corridors leading to burial rooms, the statement said.

The mission also unearthed a mudbrick-made tower house dating back to the era of King Ptolemy III, the third pharaoh of the Ptolemaic dynasty ruling from 246 BC to 222 BC. The tower house was built to monitor the borders, levy taxes and secure the navigation traffic on the Nile River, the statement explained. The discoveries also include remains of a Ptolemaic-era temple built to worship the goddess Isis, measuring 33 metres long and 14 metres wide.

Russia practises nuclear-capable missile strikes in Baltic Sea enclave

Russia has carried out simulated launches of nuclear-capable missiles from an enclave of territory in mainland Europe, amid growing fears Russian President Vladimir Putin could press the button as the war in Ukraine goes against him, media reports said.

London | Agencies

War games currently taking place in Kaliningrad - a chunk of Russian territory sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea - involved "electronic launches" of Iskander ballistic missiles, the Russian Defence Ministry said, Daily Mail reported.

Iskander crews practised hitting targets including enemy missile systems, airfields, infrastructure and military command posts, the min-

istry added, before manoeuvring to avoid a retaliatory strike. The drills did not involve any actual missiles being fired. Drills also involved more than 100 soldiers rehearsing what to do in the event of a nuclear or chemical attack on them.

It came at the same time as Belarus - which supported Putin's invasion by allowing Russian troops to attack from its territory - staged its own war games, Daily Mail reported. Minsk announced the

'surprise' drill Wednesday to test the reactive capabilities of its army, the Defence Ministry said, while insisting it posed no threat to its neighbours. Belarus military units were testing their capacity to "go on the alert, move to predetermined zones and undertake combat training," the ministry said.

"The aim is to evaluate the readiness and ability of troops to react rapidly to a possible crisis," it continued, describing the manoeuvres as a "surprise" exercise.

S KOREA'S SPY AGENCY JOINS NATO CYBER DEFENCE GROUP

Seoul: South Korea's state intelligence agency on Thursday said it has joined a cyber defence group under the NATO as the first Asian member.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) was formally admitted into the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Center of Excellence (CCDCOE) based in Tallinn, Estonia, the same day and will represent South Korea in the centre's training and research activities, reports Yonhap News Agency.

"We plan to strengthen our cyber response capabilities to a world-class level by increasing the number of our staff sent to the centre and expanding the scope of joint training," the NIS said.

The centre was established in 2008 in response to a Russian cyberattack that crippled Estonia's state networks. South Korea's admittance increased the number of members to 32, including the 27 NATO states.

Majority of Aus voters want greater action on climate change

Canberra | Agencies

A majority of Australians voters want the government to do significantly more to reduce carbon emissions, a new poll revealed on Thursday.

According to data published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), 59 per cent of voters believe Australia should be doing "much more" to cut emissions and 20 per cent "somewhat more", reports Xinhua news agency.

Only 7 per cent of respondents said Australia should be cutting fewer emissions. The data was collected by the ABC's Vote Compass, which asks users a series of questions and tells them where they belong on the political spectrum in the lead-up to the general election on May 21.

Previously-released data from the tool found that voters



considered climate change the biggest issue in the election. The governing Coalition has promised to reduce emissions by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 and has committed to a 2050 net zero target. If victorious on May 21, the opposition Labor party has promised a 43 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030. However, the left-wing Greens and independent election candidates, who could hold the balance of power, have criticised both major parties' climate policies, calling for Australia to reach net zero

emissions by 2035 or earlier. The Vote Compass data found strong support for greater action on emissions reduction among voters regardless of their voting intention. Ninety-nine per cent of Greens supporters, 96 percent of Labor voters and 58 per cent of Coalition supporters said Australia should do much or somewhat more to reduce emissions.

About 10 per cent of Coalition and 2 per cent of Labor voters said the next government should do less to tackle emissions.

US helped Ukraine with intel to kill Russian generals

Washington | Agencies

The US has assisted Kiev's forces in killing Russian generals by sharing intelligence on their location inside Ukraine, a media report said citing senior American officials.

The US reportedly provided Kiev with information on Russia's mobile military headquarters, which are said to relocate frequently in the conflict zone, said The New York Times report. Kiev then combined this data with its own intelligence to carry out artillery strikes or other attacks that led to the deaths of commanding officers, sources told the paper, RT quoted the report as saying.

The US officials, however, declined to specify how many Russian generals exactly were killed with America's help. They also did not reveal the methods used by Washington to acquire data on Russian command headquarters over concerns that it could hamper further intelligence gathering.

The New York Times report pointed out that throughout the conflict between Moscow and Kiev, US agen-



cies have relied on a variety of sources, including classified and commercial satellites, to trace the movement of Russian troops. The reported assistance in targeting the generals was part of a classified effort by President Joe Biden's administration to provide real-time battlefield intelligence to Ukraine, the sources said.

National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson has rejected the report, insisting that American battlefield intelligence was not provided to the Ukrainian forces "with the intent to kill Russian generals".

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby acknowledged that the US supplied "Ukraine with information and intelligence that they can use to defend themselves", but refused to disclose any details of that data.

2 KILLED IN CALIFORNIA SHOOTING

San Francisco: Two people were killed and another injured after a shooting incident near a private university in California, local media reported citing police. Investigators said the incident took place at around 2.15 a.m. on Wednesday in Riverside city's the 11000 block of Pierce Street near the La Sierra University, reports Xinhua news agency citing the local KABC-TV as saying. At the site, police officers found two people with gunshot wounds, KABC-TV said.

One person died at the scene. The other was sent to the hospital. A few minutes later, officers were flagged down on a nearby freeway off-ramp and found another person shot several times, who was rushed to the hospital but later died, said the report. The circumstances surrounding the shooting were not immediately known.

Robbery and homicide detectives along with forensic specialists have begun their investigation, KABC-TV reported.



CM CONGRATULATES GAURANSHI

GAURANSHI SHARMA OF MP BADMINTON ACADEMY BAGS GOLD IN DEAF OLYMPICS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Gauranshi Sharma, a differently abled player of Madhya Pradesh State Badminton Academy, has won gold medal in team event in the ongoing Deaf Olympics in Brazil. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated and extended good wishes Gauranshi Sharma on winning the gold medal. Gauranshi has won a gold medal in the team event at the Deaf Olympics being organised in Brazil from May 1 to 15. Congratulating Gauranshi, Chouhan has tweeted that: "May you continue to illuminate the name of the country and Madhya Pradesh with such a wonderful game, keep climbing up the ladder of success."



The players of Madhya Pradesh and players from other states trained in various sports academies in Madhya Pradesh have also won medals in many national and international sports events.

Congratulating her on her victory, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia said that Gauranshi has proved that there is no dearth of talent in Madhya Pradesh. He said that

the credit for nurturing Gauranshi's talent goes to the best facilities and coaches of our academy. Also, I congratulate her devoted parents. Gauranshi's parents are also differently abled, but they never let this come in the way of their daughter's dreams.

Sports Minister Scindia said that when Gauranshi had come to attend the summer camp in the TT Nagar stadium, she was hardly seven years old. Due to her dedication and passion, she is representing Madhya Pradesh State Badminton Academy. An amount of Rs one lakh has been sanctioned by the Sports Department to provide better training and continue nurturing her talent.

Scindia said that Gauranshi has made us proud by winning gold medal in Deaf Olympics. I hope that Gauranshi will bring laurels to the state and the country by winning gold medal in the individual event as well.

Electricity Situation in Madhya Pradesh Is Better Than Other States



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three-day 'Manthan-2022' (brainstorming-2022) centred on introspection of engineers and employees of all power companies of Madhya Pradesh started from Thursday at Tarang Auditorium in Jabalpur. Inaugurating the three-day Manthan-2022, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar said that at present there is power crisis in the entire country due to shortage of coal, but the condition of Madhya Pradesh is relatively better than other states. In the cabinet meeting last day, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appreciated the better management by power companies. Tomar expressed hope that the nectar (good results) emanating from Manthan-2022 would benefit the electricity consumers of the state.

Tomar said that despite Corona, a record revenue of Rs 23,700 crore was collected by the power distribution companies in the last financial year. The thermal power

plants of the Power Generating Company also produced continuous power while performing exceptionally well. Some units of Power Generating Company have made a record of continuous power generation for 100 to 185 days. The Energy Minister said that the power distribution companies and power transmission companies of the state have controlled the tripping of lines by doing excellent maintenance. He said that the failure rate of transformers has come down in the state in the last two years.

Tomar called upon the power distribution companies to play an effective role in preventing loss and theft of electricity. He said that this work would be possible with the will power and hard work. He said that the electricity distribution companies of the state are trying to bill all the consumers on the basis of their actual consumption. In future, the bills being issued on the basis of estimated consumption will be completely stopped.

Tomar said that all the electrical engineers and personnel should reflect on the findings of 'Manthan-2022' workshop and also assimilate them theoretically and practically. He said that the findings of the Manthan should be reviewed continuously and if necessary, they would be accepted as a policy decision.

Principal Secretary Energy Sanjay Dubey said that the main objective of Manthan-22 is to bring a change in the mindset of the engineers and employees of the power companies of the state, so that they can work for the betterment of the companies and satisfaction of the consumers by recognising their capabilities. He said that introspection should be done to deal with the challenges of the future, so that the supply of electricity can be ensured round the clock as per the intention of the government. Dubey said that electrical engineers should adopt the information being given in the brainstorming workshop regarding new technology.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE LUNAWAT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has paid tribute to social worker Late Vijesh Lunawat on his first death anniversary. Expressing his feelings by tweeting, Chouhan has said that: "Late Lunawat was always devoted to his duty. He used to complete the toughest tasks in the stipulated time with a smile and with ease. He used to win the hearts of people with his easy-going, gentle personality. Chief Minister said that Late Vijesh Lunawat was a dedicated, diligent, capable worker and companion. He will always remain in our memories as a spirited, cheerful and friendly personality."

CM AND KERALA GOVERNOR TO TAKE PART

ACHARYA SHANKAR PRAKATOTSAV 'EKATMA PARV' ON FRIDAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vaishakh Shukla Panchami, the birth anniversary of Adi Jagadguru Shankaracharya, is being celebrated as 'Ekatma Parv' in the state. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest in the grand event of Acharya Shankar Prakatotsav 'Ekatma Parv' to be organized at the Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium in Bhopal on 6th May at 6 pm by Acharya Shankar Sanskritik Ekta Nyas. Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammad Khan will be the special guest. In the programme, Swamiji Paramatmanand Saraswati Sarawat of Rajkot will address on the life philosophy of Acharya Shankar. Also, in 'Shankar Sangeet', famous child singers of Carnatic style Suryagayatri and Rahul Vellal will sing stotras created

by Shankar.

Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism and Trustee Secretary Sheo Shekhar Shukla informed that this festival is being organized for wide publicity of Advaita Vedanta of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Students, youth, artists, journalists, litterateurs, theater artists and academicians from different regions of the country will take part in the programme. In addition, scholars of Madhya Pradesh who have contributed significantly in the promotion of Advaita Vedanta will also be honored. The programme will be telecast live on Acharya Shankar Nyas and CMO's YouTube and social media.

Swami Paramatmanand Saraswati is the senior disciple of Puja Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Swamiji has undergone a deep study of the Vedanta,

Sanskrit and Yoga under the guidance of his Guru. Convenor and Secretary of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, Founder Acharya of Aarsh Vidya Mandir, Rajkot; Acharya Shankar, head of Shivananda Ashram, Ahmedabad are the trustees of the Sanskritik Ekta Nyas. Swamiji has been teaching Vedanta to different sections of the society for the last 40 years all over the world including India. Recently Swamiji was conferred with an honorary degree of D.Litt by Gujarat University. Swamiji has a unique ability to communicate and train all sections of the society, devotees, youth, government and corporate officials, students and children. Swamiji, representing Sanatan Dharma and India in many national and international seminars, meetings and programmes, gives wide publicity to Vedanta.

Vijesh Lunawat had an excellent character: Kailash Vijayvargiya

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said here on Thursday late Vijesh Lunawat was such a rare personality who served society till his last breath.

Vijayvargiya was speaking in a programme organised to mark the first death anniversary of late Vijesh Lunawat at Ravindra Bhavan.

Home minister Narottam Mishra, former BJP national vice-president Prabhath Jha, state BJP general secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, former minister Rajendra Shukla, industrialist Dilip Suryavanshi, foundation secretary Smita Lunawat, Dr Shailesh Lunawat and members of different sections of society were present on the occasion. The program was conducted by Atul Kataria and the state BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal proposed a vote of thanks. On the occasion, 55 years of service and dedication was shown through a short film by Vijesh Lunawat Foundation member Muskan Lunawat.

Speaking at the programme Kailash Vijayvargiya said, "The personality of late Lunawat was such that he served the society till his last breath. He had excellent relationship with everyone. Whereas in politics there were people who believed in creating a rift among



people Vijesh Lunawat always worked to unite people. His strength was his positive thinking and attitude."

Former BJP national vice-president Prabhath Jha said Vijesh Lunawat was backbone of the BJP. He had excellent knowledgeable of management despite having no MBA degree. He was an expert in election management. He was a disciplined party worker too.

He said Vijesh Lunawat worked round the clock for the party. During the elections, he played a key role in

Chief Minister's Jan Ashirvad Yatra.

State BJP general secretary (organisation) Hitanand Sharma said there were many people who lived a successful life but there were few who lived a meaningful life. Vijesh Lunawat lived a meaningful life. Dr Shailesh Lunawat said foundation would work in several fields like education and medical service and would serve the poor and needy.

Village Jahanpur adopted by Vijesh Lunawat would be developed as a model village.

Bugle sounded for 2023 assembly elections

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Preparations have started for the Assembly election 2023 in Madhya Pradesh. After the old pension announcement for the employees-pensioners of Kamal Nath, once again the election announcements have started gaining strength. In the past, Kamal Nath had announced to implement the old pension scheme on the return of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. Now, Leader of Opposition Govind Singh has made a big announcement regarding contractual employees.

Factually, after Kamal Nath's election announcements, Leader of Opposition Govind Singh has said that if the Congress government comes to power after winning the assembly elections in 2023, then the contractual employees will be regularised. Not only this, Govind Singh said that outsourced employees

will also be given appointment on contractual posts.

During the discussion with the media, Madhya Pradesh Congress Legislature Party leader Govind Singh spoke openly about the 2023 assembly elections. During this, he said that if the Congress government is formed, then it will be beneficial for the contractual employees. Contract employees who complete 3 years in service will be regularised.

The same old pension scheme will be started again for the regular employees. Govind Singh did not stop here, he said that the outsourced workers are harassed by the contractors. In this case this practice will be stopped. Govind Singh said that the outsourced employees of the state would be given appointment as contract workers.

Let us tell you that a day before this, Kamal Nath had made a big announcement in view of the demand for old pen-

sion scheme in Madhya Pradesh. Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath had said that the old pension scheme would be restored in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of the Rajasthan government. In fact, Kamal Nath, who attended the provincial convention of Madhya Pradesh Teachers Congress, had said that if the Congress returns to Madhya Pradesh once again in the 2023 assembly elections, then the old pension scheme will be restored in the state and employees pensioners will get its benefit. The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee has called a meeting of the legislature party on May 21. This will be the first meeting under the chairmanship of Govind Singh after becoming the Leader of the Opposition. How much impact the election announcements will have on the election is a matter of doubt, but preparations have already started for the Madhya Pradesh elections to be held in 2023.

Energy Minister has heart-to-heart talk with technical personnel during lunch

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A wonderful expression was seen on the faces of the technical personnel of power companies when Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar had lunch with them in the traditional dona-pattal accompanied by aam ka pana and chaach (buttermilk) during this summer season. The Energy Minister had a heart to heart talk with the personnel regarding the problems being faced by them while at work. The technical personnel felt for the first time that their chief was dining with them in their style and sharing their joys and sorrows. This was the scene of the mid-day meal at Tarang Auditorium on the inaugural day of three-day 'Manthan-2022' focused on 'self-introspection' of the engineers and employees of all the power companies of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Tomar discussed in detail about the basic facilities, suggestions of technical personnel and how to strengthen power system and easily accessible. This characteristic of the Power Minister Shri Tomar is the reason behind his popularity also that he tries to reach out to those workers in the power generation, transmission and distribution sectors of power companies, who deliver electricity to the backmost consumer.



VEGETABLE SELLER'S DAUGHTER BECOMES JUDGE

Indore. Ankita Nagar, daughter of a vegetable seller from Indore, cracked the civil judge's examination. Ankita Nagar lives in Sitaram Park Colony of Musakhedi, Indore. While her father Ashok Nagar is a vegetable seller, her mother Lakshmi cooks food in others' homes. Becoming a judge was no less than a dream for Ankita, the daughter of this family going through a period of struggle, but she was determined that she would become a judge. Ankita did LLB from Vaishnav College, Indore and she passed the LLM exam in the year 2021, father took loan and deposited college fees and she started preparing for civil judge. Twice he took the examination but did not succeed, even after this his parents motivated him to prepare further. The rooms of the house where Ankita lives are very small and in the summer season, due to the heat, sweat drips like water inside the house, while rain water can easily enter her house. Ankita has a brother who collected money as a laborer and got a cooler installed one day, which made it easier for her to study. Ankita has told the media that she used to study for 8 hours every day and whenever the crowd at the cart became more in the evening, she used to reach to help her father. Sometimes she used to return home at 10 o'clock in the night and study after that. She was preparing for Civil Judge for the last three years.



Tribal community constitutes 17% of the state's population, and 47 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes

CONGRESS PUTS RULING BJP IN A SPOT OVER TRIBAL KILLING

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The murder of two tribal men purportedly by a right-wing group in Madhya Pradesh has set up a political storm when the BJP has been making concerted efforts to reach out to the community ahead of Assembly polls in Gujarat this year and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh next year. The police arrested nine persons after the two men from the tribal community died on Tuesday. They were assaulted allegedly by some persons belonging to the Bajrang Dal over suspicion of cow slaughter.

Going into a campaign mode over the incident, Congress legislator from ST seat Barghat, Arjun Singh Kakodia, staged a six-hour-long protest. On Wednesday, All India Congress Committee general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted, "Persons belonging to Bajrang Dal have beaten to death two tribals in Sivani in Madhya Pradesh. The agenda of BJP-RSS of hate towards the Constitution, Dalits and tribals

is fanning violence towards tribals. We will have to together check this hateful agenda [sic]."

The Madhya Pradesh Congress chose the occasion to flag a "clear difference" between the earlier Congress government in the state chaired by Kamal Nath and the incumbent BJP government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"Kamal Nath Lao, Madhya Pradesh Bachao (Bring Kamal Nath to save MP)," the party tweeted, citing "respect" versus "insult" to the tribals in the state, respectively.

Tribal community constitutes 17 per cent of the state's population, and 47 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. BJP had lost the 2018 polls to Congress in MP but came back to power in the state in 2020 after Jyotiraditya Scindia walked out of the party with his band of supporting MLAs and joined the saffron party.

While nationally, the BJP had won 31 of 47



Lok Sabha seats reserved for STs in the 2019 elections in MP, it could win just 16 of 47 Assembly seats in the 2018 state polls, two-and-half-times less than the 37 seats it had won in the 2013 Assembly polls. Congress massively won 31 seats in 2018, a three-time rise from its last state poll performance.

BJP is aggressively targeting the tribal seats to shore up its numbers in the state, besides attempting to increase its vote share to 51 per cent and above. BJP has chalked out plans to reach out to the tribal communities in the state and has held several events to honour the tribal leaders, including those who took part in the freedom struggle. Senior BJP leader Amit Shah addressed a Van Samiti Sammelan in Bhopal a fortnight back. He announced the conversion of more than 800 forest villages into revenue villages to augment their development.

Nine months back, Shah had kicked off a 'Janajatiya Abhiyan' (tribal campaign) after holding several programmes in various states to commemorate the Chota Nagpur tribal leader, Birs Munda.

In Madhya Pradesh, there was a difference of less than half a per cent votes between Congress and the BJP. Congress had won five more seats than the BJP despite the BJP getting slightly more votes. Unwilling to take any chance, BJP plans to raise its vote by more than 10 per cent in the state, so the tribal seats can come in very handy.

While Congress is projecting the tribal killings in a big way, asking the BJP government, "does it want to make a tribal free Madhya Pradesh," party leader Rahul Gandhi will be addressing 'Adivasi Satyagrah Rally' on May 10 in tribal-dominated Dahold in Gujarat, where polls are scheduled this year, and tribal votes can tilt results in 40 seats. Both parties are working on similar initiatives in Chhattisgarh, where the tribal population is 37 per cent.



AMBER RECALLS *first violent act from Johnny: I thought he was joking*

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard thought it was "a joke" when Hollywood star Johnny Depp reportedly slapped her for the first time when she asked about one of his tattoos. Heard is being sued for defamation by her ex-husband Depp over a 2018 op-ed she wrote about being a victim of domestic abuse and she took the stand at Fairfax County Circuit Court for the first time in the trial, when she recalled how the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' allegedly got violent after she questioned him about the 'Wino Forever' tattoo he has on his arm, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Heard, who is counter suing Depp, said: "It changed my life. We were sitting on the couch. We were having a normal conversation there was no fighting no argument no nothing. He was drinking. I didn't realise at the time but I think he was using cocaine. There was a jar of cocaine a vintage jar of it. I ask him about the tattoo he has on his arm."

"To me, it just looks like black marks. I didn't know what it said. I said 'what does it say.' He said it says 'wino.' I didn't see that. I thought he was joking. I laughed. And he slapped me across the face. And I laughed."

"Because I didn't know what else to do. I thought, this must be a joke. I didn't know what was going on. I just stared at him, kinda, laughing still, thinking he was gonna start laughing too."

He said 'You think it's so funny b****?' The 36-year-old actress said Depp then hit her again and she fell. She continued: "It was clear it wasn't a joke anymore. I stopped laughing. He slapped me for no reason. Second slap, I know he's not kidding. I just stared at him. I didn't move or freak or out defend myself. I just stared at him because I didn't know what to do. And he slaps me one more time. Hard. I lose my balance."

Heard said she knew straight away she "had to leave" her husband, but he cried and promised not to do her again.

Heard said she knew straight away she "had to leave" her husband, but he cried and promised not to do her again.



NIKOLAJ COSTER JOINS JENNIFER GARNER IN 'THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME'

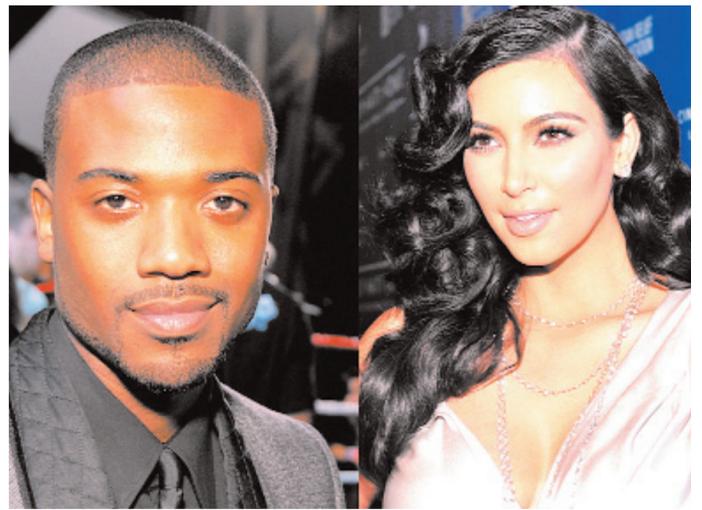
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau will be starring opposite actress Jennifer Garner in the limited series 'The Last Thing He Told Me'. The series is based on the Laura Dave novel of the same name. It was previously announced that Angourie Rice will also star in the series, reports 'Variety'. The show follows Hannah (Garner),

a woman who forms an unexpected relationship with her 16-year-old stepdaughter Bailey (Rice) while searching for the truth about why her husband has mysteriously disappeared. Coster-Waldau will star as Owen, Hannah's husband. Coster-Waldau is best known for playing Jaime Lannister in the megahit series 'Game of Thrones', for which he earned Emmy nominations in both 2018 and 2019.

On the film side, he recently co-wrote and starred in the drama 'Against the Ice', while he has previously starred in features such as 'Shot Caller', 'Gods of Egypt', 'A Thousand Times Good Night', and 'Oblivion'. Dave is adapting her novel for the screen alongside her co-creator and husband Josh Singer, with both also serving as executive producers. Garner will executive produce in addition to starring.

Reese Witherspoon and Lauren Neustadter executive produce on behalf of Hello Sunshine. Olivia Newman will direct and co-executive produce. 20th Television is the studio.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actor Ray J has confirmed that there is a second sex tape featuring him and reality TV star Kim Kardashian but he claims she is the only person who has a copy of the X-rated footage.

The 41-year-old singer-actor and his ex-girlfriend Kim, dated from 2003 to 2006, and in 2007, a year after their split, a sex tape was unveiled by Vivid Entertainment.

The reality star took legal action against the company and settled for \$5 million and the footage was released to purchase as the adult film 'Kim Kardashian, Superstar', and it is still available now, reports femalefirst.com

In new Hulu reality TV series, Kim has been seen discussing the possibility of there being more unseen footage in Ray's possession, suggesting he could have a clip which shows him "sticking a d**** in my a***" - a claim he vehemently denies.

Viewers also saw Kim thanking estranged husband Kanye West for obtaining a laptop from Ray which was alleged to contain all sexual videos that she ever filmed with her ex-lover and delivering it to her.

Ray has now hit back in an exclusive interview with DailyMail.com in which he claims there is another explicit home movie but says she has always been the only person in possession of it.

Ray claims that the final contract was for three videos including two sex tapes, one made at the Esperanza Hotel in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and one created in Santa Barbara, and a third tape that is listed as an intro to the Cabo footage.



DAVE CHAPPELLE 'REFUSES' TO LET ATTACK OVERSHADOW COMEDY SET

Los Angeles | Agencies

Streaming giant Netflix has issued a statement after comedian Dave Chappelle was attacked on stage while performing a comedy set during the streaming giant's 'Netflix Is a Joke' festival here. According to 'Variety', a spokesperson for Netflix said, "We care deeply about the safety of creators and we strongly defend the right of stand-up comedians to perform on stage without fear of violence."

Video footage circulated during Chappelle's comedy set showing a man rushing on to the stage and tackling the performer to the ground. Chappelle has been performing a number of dates at the Hollywood Bowl in the last month.

The attacker was seen getting up and trying to run off stage before he was caught and tackled by what appeared to be security personnel and members of Chappelle's team, reports 'Variety'. A spokesperson for Chappelle's production company also issued a statement in the aftermath of the attack: "Dave Chappelle celebrated four nights of comedy and music, setting record-breaking sales for a comedian at the Hollywood Bowl. This run ties Chappelle with Monty Python for the most headlined shows by any comedian at the Hollywood Bowl, reaching 70k fans of diverse backgrounds during the first 'Netflix Is a Joke: The Festival', and he refuses to allow last night's incident to overshadow the magic of this historic moment."

"As unfortunate and unsettling as the incident was, Chappelle went on with the show," the statement adds. "Jamie Foxx and Chris Rock helped calm the crowd with humour before Chappelle introduced the last and featured musical guests for the evening, hip-hop artists Yasin Bey and Talib Kweli, a.k.a. Black Star, who performed music from their new album - the first in nearly 24 years - which was released on Luminary. "Other special comedic guests last night included Earthquake, Leslie Jones, Jeff Ross, Sebastian, Jon Stewart and Michelle Wolf." Chappelle is fully cooperating with the active police investigation into this incident.

Masks, testing no longer mandatory in Cannes

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off on May 17, is significantly loosening its Covid health and safety protocols. The annual celebration of movies won't be testing attendees, as it did last year, and will not institute a mask mandate at screenings and events, reports 'Variety'.

Variety spoke exclusively with Cannes general secretary FranAois Desrousseaux, who has been hammering out protocols with the festi-



val's organisers, producers and Cannes regional authorities for the past two years. One big change compared with 2021 is that the health pass that made it mandatory for all attendees to show a proof of vaccination, immu-

nity or test results, has been scrapped since March 14. "Since the health pass is no longer in application in France, guests will not have to show a proof of testing or vaccination to enter the Palais," Desrousseaux said.



Kate Beckinsale

DANIEL RADCLIFFE BECOMES 'WEIRD AL' YANKOVIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Daniel Radcliffe channeled the frizzy-haired, mustachioed persona of 'Weird Al' Yankovic in the new teaser trailer for the Roku original film about the parody artist.

Roku released the teaser for 'Weird: The Al Yankovic Story', produced by Funny Or Die and Tango, at its 2022 NewFronts presentation on Tuesday, reports Variety.

Yankovic co-wrote the film's script with Eric Appel, who is also directing. The movie will stream on the Roku Channel this fall, with no release date set yet.

"Anyone got an accordion?" Radcliffe as Yankovic, says dramatically in the trailer, reports Variety.

The teaser also shows the 'Harry Potter'

star bare-chested on stage taking a swig from a bottle of something, and then spitting it into the air.

The movie is billed as a "untold true story" of Yankovic, documenting 'Weird Al's' rise to fame with early hits like 'Eat It' and 'Like a Surgeon' as well as his "torrid celebrity love affairs and famously depraved lifestyle".

It's really more of a scripted mockumentary, spoofing tropes that run rampant in self-important biopics. 'Weird' also stars Evan Rachel Wood as Madonna; Rainn Wilson as radio broadcaster Dr. Demento; and Julianne Nicholson and Toby Huss as Yankovic's parents, Mary and Nick. Yankovic, a five-time Grammy winner, is the best-selling comedy recording artist of all time.





IPL 2022

DELHI CAPITALS BEAT SUNRISERS HYDERABAD BY 21 RUNS

Team Absolute | Mumbai
Nicholas Pooran struck a half-century and Aiden Markram a 25-ball 42 but their efforts went in vain against a big score raised thanks to David Warner and Rovman Powell as Delhi Capitals defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 21 runs in Match 50 of the IPL 2022, here on Thursday.

Chasing a huge target of 208, Pooran (62 off 34 balls, 4x2, 6x6) while Markram scored a brisk cameo but in the end, their efforts were not enough as Sunrisers Hyderabad could manage only 188/8 in 20 overs.

Delhi Capitals had posted a big score of 207/3 in 20 overs thanks to an unbeaten 58-ball 92 by David Warner and 67 not out off 35 balls by Rovman Powell as they shared a brilliant 122-run partnership, complementing each other's efforts. While Powell was all power, Warner was sublime



and precise as he found the gaps easily to score 12 boundaries and three sixes.

In reply, Sunrisers Hyderabad got off to a poor start as they lost Abhishek Sharma (7) in the second over

with the score of 8. They were soon down to 37/3 with skipper Kane Williamson (4), who edged behind off Anrich Nortje, and Rahul Tripathy (22) wasted his start by picking out deep backward square with a

short-arm jab off Mitchell Marsh.

Pooran and Markram came together to raise 60 runs for the fourth wicket, both hitting some aggressive shots as they resurrected the innings. But Markram was out while trying to hit another big one and was caught by Kuldeep Yadav off Khaleel Ahmed as SRH fell to 97/4 in the 13th over.

Pooran tried to take the battle to Delhi Capitals as he completed his half-century off 29 balls. He was the seventh batsman to get out, caught by Powell off Shardul Thakur.

Brief scores:

Delhi Capitals 207/3 in 20 overs (David Warner 92 not out, Rishabh Pant 26, Rovman Powell 67 not out; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/25) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad 186/8 in 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 62, Aiden Markram 42, Rahul Tripathy 22; Khaleel Ahmed 3/30, Shardul Thakur 2/44).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REAL MADRID ENTER FINAL WITH MIRACLE WIN AGAINST MANCHESTER CITY

Madrid | Agencies

Real Madrid completed yet another miracle win to book their place in the final of the UEFA Champions League final with a 3-1 win at home against Manchester City.

Manchester City looked to have booked their ticket to Paris in the 90th minute of the game after Riyad Mahrez had put them ahead in the 73rd minute and 5-3 ahead on aggregate. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti replaced Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Casemiro with Eduardo Camavinga, Marco Asensio and Rodrygo, but it looked as if it was going to be in vain. Real Madrid had not had a shot to trouble Manchester City keeper Edinson before Karim Benzema hooked the ball across the face of the goal for Rodrygo to head home at the near post in the 90th minute, just before the referee signaled six minutes of injury time.

Ninety seconds later, Marcos Asensio got a touch on Dani Carvajal's cross from the right and Rodrygo was there again to head into the top corner to send the tie to extra time. From looking out for the count yet again in the tournament, Real Madrid were alive and kicking with the Bernabeu jumping.

Real Madrid got a penalty four minutes into extra time when Ruben Dias clipped Karim Benzema from behind and the referee pointed to the spot, reports Xinhua. Benzema took his time and sent Edinson the wrong way to put Real Madrid 3-1 up on the night and 6-5 on aggregate. It was the first time Madrid had been ahead in the tie. Until those chaotic minutes, it had looked as if Real Madrid were going to maintain their record of never having qualified after losing the first leg



of a Champions League semi-final and even in the closing minutes of regular time. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois cleared from Jack Grealish and Cancelo, while Eder Militao cleared off the line from Grealish just a minute before Rodrygo's first goal.

At the end of first-half injury time, Courtois tipped Phil Foden's header clear and Ferdinandinho missed the follow-up when it looked easier to score.

Chess Olympiad: Old rivals Anand, Gelfand to train Indian teams

Chennai | Agencies

Vishwanathan Anand and Boris Gelfand have fought many a battle on the chessboard including the World Championship Final match in 2012 in Moscow that the Indian maestro won in the tiebreak.

Now both of the five-time World Champion Anand and Israeli Grandmaster Gelfand have come together to mentor and coach the Indian chess teams ahead of the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai from July 28-August 10 this year.

To enhance the host's medal chances at the prestigious Chess Olympiad, the All India Chess Federation (AICF) has brought the two legends together for the home team's first coaching camp in Chennai from May 7-17.

The six-time World Championship Candidate from Israel, Gelfand has been roped in as the coach by the



AICF alongside mentor Anand and the first teams in both the Open and Women's section will take part in the camp to take place at Hotel Leela in Chennai.

Apart from winning the World Cup in 2009, Gelfand has competed in 11 Chess Olympiads. He was ranked in the top-30 in FIDE rankings from 1990 to 2017 during his 27-year-long illustrious career. The 52-year-old has

also trained some of the top international players in the past, helping them succeed in big events.

The former women's World champion in rapid chess, Koneru Humpy believes the decision to appoint Gelfand in addition to mentor Anand, will motivate the players ahead of the Olympiad, which will be conducted in India for the first time

TOPS APPROVES EXTENSION OF NEERAJ CHOPRA'S INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN TURKEY

New Delhi | Agencies

Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Division has approved a proposal by Neeraj Chopra and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to provide financial assistance of Rs 5.5 lakh approximately for extension of the Olympic gold medalist's training camp at Gloria Sports Arena, in Antalya, Turkey.

Chopra and his coach, Dr. Klaus Bartonietz have been in Turkey since the end of March 2022 and will now continue their training at the Antalya camp for another 14 days as Chopra prepares for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and Athletics World Championships.

The financial assistance with cover Chopra's training cost at Gloria Sports Arena along with his and Dr. Klaus's accommodation, travel, food, and Medical Insurance expenses among others. It will also include a daily allowance of 50 dollars each for both Chopra and Dr. Klaus Bartonietz for any other expenses they might require during their stay.



Murray withdraws from Madrid Open due to illness

Madrid | Agencies

Andy Murray of Britain has withdrawn from the Madrid Open ahead of his match against world number one Novak Djokovic citing an illness, tournament organisers said in a statement on Thursday.

Murray defeated Denis Shapovalov of Canada 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 to reach the third round at the Madrid Open, an ATP 1000 tournament. This is the first time the 34-year-old Murray, the winner of three Grand Slams who has had major hip surgeries, has won consecutive matches since January in Sydney, where the 46-time tour-level titlist reached the final.

Following five wins against two former top-10 players, Dominic Thiem of Austria in the opening round and Shapovalov in the second round, Murray was up against world No.1 Djokovic of Serbia but the organisers informed his inability to play.

"Unfortunately, Andy Murray is unable to take to the Manolo Santana Stadium due to illness," tournament organisers said in a statement on social media.

"Instead, Andrey Rublev and Daniel Evans will open the day's play on centre court." Djokovic advances to the quarterfinals with



a walkover victory where he will face the winner of Poland's Hubert Hurkacz and Dusan Lajovic.

Definitely needed the win just for the confidence in the group: du Plessis

Pune | Agencies

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis was a happy leader after his side broke their three-match losing streak with a 13-run win over Chennai Super Kings at MCA Stadium in Pune on Wednesday, saying that the much-needed victory will work wonders for the confidence of the unit with the race for playoffs intensifying. The win means that Bangalore are now at fourth place in points table.

"We definitely needed that, just for the confidence in the group. The guys have been doing some good things behind the scenes but you have to do it out in the middle. To put up a decent total on a wicket with a bit of challenge towards it, I think we're definitely moving in the right direction with the batting lineup and confidence the guys are



getting," said du Plessis in post-match presentation ceremony.

With the bat, Bangalore huffed and puffed their way to 173/8 before the bowlers, especially Harshal Patel, Glenn Maxwell and Josh Hazlewood put up a fine show to restrict Chennai to 160/8. "With the bowling department, we've been very good throughout the tournament so it was just a case of backing it up with some good runs."

KAMALPREET KAUR PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED AFTER TESTING POSITIVE FOR BANNED DRUG

New Delhi | Agencies

Indian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after testing positive for a banned steroid, the World Athletics body confirmed on Wednesday.

"The AIU has provisionally suspended discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur of India for the Presence/Use of a Prohibited Substance (Stanozolol), a breach of the @WorldAthletics Anti-Doping Rules," the governing body said in a tweet. Tokyo Olympian and national record holder in women's discus throw, Kamalpreet Kaur faces the prospect of being banned for a maximum period of four years if she is found guilty. Notably, a Provisional Suspension is when an Athlete or other Person is suspended temporarily from participating in any competition or activity in Athletics prior to a final decision at a hearing conducted under the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules or the Integrity Code of Conduct.



What really let Chennai Super Kings down was the batsmanship: MSD

Pune | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni felt that his side suffered a let down in the batting efforts, causing a 13-run defeat to Royal Challengers Bangalore at MCA Stadium on Wednesday.

In a chase of 174, Chennai began well with 51/0 in power-play and Devon Conway getting 56. But the rest of the batters couldn't do much, falling to slower balls as Chennai were restricted to 160/8.

"We did well to restrict them to 170 runs. What really let us down was the batsmanship. I feel especially when we are chasing, you know what's required on the board and what the bowlers are doing," said Dhoni after the match.

In the last 30 balls, Chennai need-

ed 56 runs but with batters unable to stay at the crease for long, the defending champions fell short of the target. "At times you have to curb your instinct and try to see what the situation is demanding rather than just play your shot. If the batsmanship had been slightly better, maybe in the last few overs we wouldn't have needed many runs," observed Dhoni.

Dhoni admitted that Chennai losing wickets in a heap wasn't ideal at all. Dhoni signed off by saying that once the processes are right for Chennai, the results will be better reflected on the points table.



Hockey India senior women's national championship 2022 set to start on Friday

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A total of 27 teams will vie for top honours in the 12-day tournament when Hockey India senior women's national championship 2022 will begin here from May 6.

The participating teams are divided into eight pools. Teams in Pool A are Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Chandigarh and Hockey Bihar, while Pool B features Hockey Haryana, Assam Hockey and Hockey Bengal. Pool C consists of Hockey Punjab, Chhattisgarh Hockey and Tripura Hockey, while Pool D features Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Rajasthan, Hockey Uttarakhand.

Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Andhra Pradesh and Le Puducherry Hockey have been included in Pool E, while Hockey Karnataka, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu and Hockey Arunachal, Hockey Andaman & Nicobar have been slotted in Pool F. Pool G consists of Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Delhi Hockey, Goans Hockey and Hockey Gujarat, while Pool H features Hockey Association of Odisha, Kerala Hockey, Telangana Hockey and Hockey Himachal.

Speaking at the prospect of defending the title, Hockey



Madhya Pradesh coach Vandana Uikey said, "There will be a bit of pressure playing at home as the Title defenders, but I

think we are fully prepared, both mentally as well as physically. We will go game-by-game, our first target is to qualify for the Quarters, and then approach the knockout stage depending on who we play against. Preparations have been fantastic, and players are excited to take part in the competition."

Meanwhile, the coach of last year's runners-up team, Hockey Haryana, Kuldeep Siwach said, "We narrowly missed out on the Title last year, but this time I am expecting that we will win the Title and continue Hockey Haryana's legacy in the competition. We've been training for a long time, and we will certainly give our best to win the Title."

Speaking about her team's preparations for the competition, Hockey Punjab's Coach Yogita Bali said, "Preparations have been really great for the tournament. We have a good mix of young and experienced players. Around 10 players have recently got their exposure from Khelo India, so we have good momentum for this tournament. We finished third last year, but we hope to reach the Final this time."

After eight days of pool matches, the quarterfinals will be played on May 14, the semifinals will be held on May 16 and the medal matches are scheduled for May 17.

Warner sets record for most T20 half-centuries

Team Absolute | Mumbai

David Warner on Thursday set the record for most half-centuries in T20 cricket as he scored his 89th fifty playing for Delhi Capitals against Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2022 at the Brabourne Stadium here.

Warner, who had started his career with the Delhi franchise in the 2009-10 season when it was called Delhi Daredevils, blasted his half-century off 34 deliveries, hitting seven fours and two sixes. He went on to remain unbeaten on 92.

This was his 89th half-century in T20 cricket and overtook West Indian legend Chris Gayle, with whom he was tied on 88 half-centuries



before this match. India's Virat Kohli is third with 77 half-centuries while Aaron Finch of Australia is fourth with 70. India's Rohit Sharma is fifth on the list with 69 half-centuries.

Warner has scored the most half-centuries in the IPL, scoring 55 fifties so far. Virat is next in line with 47.



I am not worried about being compared to Vidya Balan: Kiara Advani

The actress is all set to return to big screen with her latest release *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. In a recent interview, the actress opened up about playing diverse characters, clash with dhaakad, comparison, and much more.

ON PLAYING DIVERSE ROLES

When asked about playing different kind of roles Kiara said, "Good newzz was released 3-4 months after Kabir Singh. People had appreciated me as Priti, so when Good Newzz released, they could recognize that I am that same girl. That is when I got to know that people are liking to see me in different characters. Luckily, even today, I am not offered similar kinds of roles. As an actor, being versatile is always the hunger."

HOW SHE CHOOSE PROJECTS?

Revealing her mantra for choosing projects, Kiara said, "I have been instinctive with my choices. There was a time in my life when I had no choices. Gradually, people took notice

of me and I started getting offered some of the best projects. Be it making choices in my personal or professional life, I always listen to my heart."

CLASH WITH DHAAKAD

Kangana Ranaut starrer *Dhaakad* is also releasing on the same day. Sharing her thoughts on clash with *Dhaakad*, Kiara said, "I think there has been a time in our industry where for 2 years we have not had films released. Because of which, financially and commercially there is so much at risk. Keeping all of that in mind, I would wish for each film to be loved, accepted and received well. It's not just the actors, there are so many people working on the film. From director, producer to your technicians and the amount of people working on your film, they deserve that credit and we are all looking forward to all the films coming."

ON COMPARISON WITH BHOOL BHULAIYAA

Bhool Bhulaiyaa starring Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan received rave response. Reacting to comparison with it, Kiara said, "Comparisons will happen, but I hope people watch this as a new film. There are elements of Part 1 to keep it nostalgic."

She further added, "Vidya Balan is an outstanding actor. I am not pressurized of being compared to her since my character is different."

WHAT GENRES SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO EXPLORE?

When asked about what genre is she looking forward to explore, Kiara said, "Period Drama and action films are two genres I am longing to be a part of."

Excerpts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kiara Advani is touted as one of the most popular and loved actresses of the generation with a range of interesting performances that have stayed etched in everyone's minds. Be it MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, Good Newzz, Kabir Singh, and Shershaah among others, the diva has won our hearts with her stellar performances.

'I think it is meant to happen'

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Kartik Aaryan never ceased to entertain us with his stint in films like *Pyaar is Punnama*, and *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti* among others. The actor is back on the big screen to scare us all as *Rohu Baba* in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani starrer *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* is all set to hit the theatres on 20 May. *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* is the sequel of the popular 2007, Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan starrer horror-comedy *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*. In a recent interview, Kartik Aaryan spoke about comparison with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, reacting to trolls, shooting simultaneously for three films and much more.

When Absolute India News asked him about comparison with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* bothering him, Kartik Aaryan said,

"I think it is meant to happen. If I start getting affected by it, my attention will be drawn to that. I have been looking at this as a new film together. I feel, that after watching the film people will realize why the title goes well with it. I am happy about the fact that it is called *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and also the way characters have turned out." On the work front, Kartik Aaryan has films like *Freddy*, *Captain India* and *Shehzada* in his pipeline. When Absolute India News asked him about how did he manage his timeline, he said, "I didn't want to juggle between shoots, but it happened by chance. It became difficult for me to manage my schedule as I prefer concentrating on one film at a time. But due to the break that we had to take because of lockdown, the dates overlap."

SHIVANGI JOSHI TO BE A PART OF ROHIT SHETTY'S ADVENTURE REALITY SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular adventure reality show *Khatron Ke Khiladi* is back with new season. This season is going to be bigger and better than before. All the action is set to unfold soon and as the demigod of action, Rohit Shetty and daredevil contestants are set to head to Cape Town for the new adventure. To make the season a thrilling one, an eclectic mix of contestants will put aside their deepest fears and perform some exceptional stunts.

Joining the fearless khiladis this season will be Shivangi Joshi. Talking about the show she said, "Khatron Ke Khiladi is going to be my first ever reality show and I am extremely excited for it. The show will be a good platform to overcome my fears and test my abilities. I am looking forward to meeting Rohit Shetty sir. I am sure he will bring a lot of motivation to me."

MADHURI TEAMED UP WITH RAJA KUMARI FOR HER UPCOMING SONG

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Madhuri Dixit has teamed up with Raja Kumari, an Indo-American rapper, songwriter, and performer, to create the song "Made In India," which was created in collaboration with a Shoe brand. "Having lived in the USA for a few years, I completely resonate with the sentiments with which Raja Kumari created *Made In India*. It is an anthem for every Indian born in and outside of the country. It is truly exciting to have united with such a feisty artist for a song that envelopes the spirit of India," said

Madhuri. Raja Kumari and Madhuri feature in the next song in ultra glamorous ensembles that highlight the story of local labels curating aesthetics. The upcoming anthem, sung and written by Raja Kumari as an interpolation of Alisha Chinai's "Made in India," is a tribute to the original song, which inspired her as a child. The hip hop artist proudly claims her Indian background in the song, and she encourages Indians all across the world to do the same.

Raja Kumari adds, "Madhuri is the ultimate queen of expression and a dance icon. I've admired her inspiring work and it feels surreal that we've collaborated for my dream project 'Made In India'."



NUSHRRATT BHARUCHHA REACTS ON BEING TROLLED FOR PLAYING CONDOM GIRL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nushrratt Bharucha's upcoming film will release on June 10. In the film, she plays the role of a condom sales girl. A few days back, when Nushrratt shared the poster of her film on social media, people started trolling her for promoting condoms.

Sharing the video, Nushrratt wrote, "#janhitmeinjaari." In the video, Nushrratt says, "A few days back, I added two posters from my film on Instagram, in which I, a woman, am seen promoting condoms. But people took it in another way. Generally people share the best comments on their profiles but since yesterday, so much has been happening with me, so I decided to share the worst comments that I've received." A series of hateful comments then started appearing on the screen. She then says, "I am striving to change this mentality. But no worries. You point your fingers, and I will raise my voice."

On the work front, Nushrratt Bharuchha will next be seen in *Ram Setu* opposite Akshay Kumar and Jacqueline Fernandez.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Neha Malik

Celebs' reaction to Doctor Strange: The Multiverse Of Madness

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

While everyone is eagerly awaiting the release of "Doctor Strange: The Multiverse Of Madness", Absolute India News spoke with a few well-known personalities to find out about their reactions to the film.

This movie was screened for some very well-known YouTubers and public figures today, March 4th.

"I am literally mind blown, what else to say. Every every moment, scenario, circumstance, and action is incredible. This movie made me emotional in so many ways." Said Anshuman Malhotra

Speaking about the film Ayush Mehra Stated "It was really really good. I am gonna watch this at least two three times. It is one of the best Marvel movies I have seen".

While the rest of the audience was enjoying the film, Rohan Shah stated that it is a complete package. He described the experience as "mind-blowing."

According to Anil Chanchlani, the film is designed in a way that people haven't seen before in comic books. People find it thrilling. "I will enjoy this movie in every universe," remarked Taaruk Raina.

For the unversed, the movie is all set to hit the big screen on 6 May 2022.

