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THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA PUTS SEDITION LAW ON HOLD TILL REVIEW, SAYING

Cognisant of civil liberties of citizens

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it is cognisant of the integrity of the state on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other, as it put on hold the colonial-era penal provision of sedition. It also asked the Centre and state governments to refrain from registering any FIRs under the sedition provision, Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, till review of the law by Centre is complete.

- THE UNION MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IN AN AFFIDAVIT, HAD SAID THE TOP COURT MAY NOT INVEST TIME EXAMINING THE VALIDITY OF SECTION 124A ONCE AGAIN, AND RATHER WAIT FOR THE EXERCISE OF RECONSIDERATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM WHERE SUCH RECONSIDERATION IS CONSTITUTIONALLY PERMITTED.
- THE BENCH NOTED THAT IT IS COGNIZANT OF SECURITY INTERESTS AND INTEGRITY OF THE STATE ON ONE HAND, AND THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF CITIZENS ON THE OTHER. "THERE IS A REQUIREMENT TO BALANCE BOTH SETS OF CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH IS A DIFFICULT EXERCISE. THEREFORE, WE EXPECT THAT, TILL THE RE-EXAMINATION OF THE PROVISION IS COMPLETE, IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE NOT TO CONTINUE THE USAGE OF THE AFORESAID PROVISION OF LAW BY THE GOVERNMENTS."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench, headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, noted petitioners' contention that this provision of law dates back to 1898, and predates the Constitution itself, and is being misused. It also considered Attorney General K.K. Venugopal's submissions citing glaring misuse of this provision, like in the case of recital of the Hanuman Chalisa (by Rana couple in Maharashtra).

The bench said that all pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124A of IPC be kept in abeyance.

"Adjudication with respect to other sections, if any, could proceed if the courts are of the opinion that no prejudice would be caused to the accused," it added.

In the interest of justice, the bench said: "We hope and expect that the state and Central governments will restrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures by invoking Section 124A of IPC while the aforesaid provision of law is under consideration."

It added that if any fresh case is registered under Section 124A of IPC, the affected parties are at liberty to approach the courts concerned for appropriate relief.

"The courts are requested to examine the reliefs sought, taking into account the present order passed as well as the clear stand taken by the Union of India," said the bench. It said the Centre will be at liberty to issue the directive to the state governments/UTs to prevent any misuse of Section 124A of IPC, and the above directions may continue till further orders are passed.The top court has scheduled the matter for further listing in the third week of July.

EVERYONE MUST RESPECT 'LAKSHMAN REKHA'

"We have made our positions very clear and also informed the court about the intentions of our PM. We respect the court and its independence. But there's a 'Lakshman Rekha' (line) that must be respected by all organs of the state in letter and spirit. We have to ensure that we respect the provisions of the Indian Constitution as well as existing laws."

Kiren Rijiju, Union Law and Justice Minister

SC HAS VALIDATED OUR STAND ON SEDITION LAW: CONGRESS

"The Congress stand gets vindicated and showing mirror to the government doesn't surmount to sedition and the rulers should know the public is awaken and its voice can't be suppressed. The Congress in its manifesto in 2019 had said it will Omit Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code(that defines the offence of 'sedition') that has been misused and, in any event, has become redundant because of subsequent laws."

JAILED JOURNALIST SIDDIQUE KAPPAN'S WIFE HAILS CJI

"I am extremely happy to hear the verdict and I hail the Chief Justice Ramana for this directive. Even though Kappan has done no wrong, he is in a jail in Uttar Pradesh and he still has cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act... we wish the courts should look into this also and come out with appropriate orders."

MP CONG TO GIVE 27% TICKETS TO OBC CANDIDATES IN LOCAL BODY POLLS: KAMAL NATH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress on Wednesday announced that the party will give 27 per cent tickets to OBC candidates for the local body elections in the state.

The decision was announced by state Congress President Kamal Nath after a meeting with other party leaders on Tuesday.

The politics in the state over the OBC reservation issue has heated up again after the Supreme Court ordered the state election body to conduct local body elections without OBC reservation.

Notably, both the Congress and the BJP in December last year had passed a unanimous resolution in the Assembly that the local body elections would not be held without OBC reservation. However, complying with the SC's direction, the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) has started preparations for the polls.

On Wednesday, the SEC held a meeting and decided that the notification regarding the elections would be issued by May 24. Officials in the SEC said that district administrations have also been directed to prepare for the elections.

Ever since the SC's order was pronounced on Tuesday, the Congress has been blaming the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government for the present situation. It has alleged that the state government did not present data before the apex court, which led to the present situation.

SUMMONED BY HIGH COMMAND, CM DEPARTS FOR DELHI

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan suddenly left for Delhi to meet BJP high command. Home Minister Narottam Mishra and Urban Administration Minister Bhupendra Singh also accompanied him for Delhi. CM Chouhan and his ministerial colleagues left for national capital from state hangar by special aircraft. Politics has heated up in Madhya Pradesh after the Supreme Court's decision over the OBC reservation case. BJP National President JP Nadda has called the Chief Minister for discussion in this matter in Delhi. According to sources, Chouhan will also meet senior leaders and senior advocates in Delhi.

Next round of 8-9 airports to be leased shortly: Scindia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Of the humongous Rs 62,000 crore debt on the books of Air India when it was handed over to the Tatas, the Government of India has closed its part of Rs 47,000 crore by paying off all the banks involved.

Scindia brimming with ideas for the aviation sector is thinking of new policies which make the system more organised and equally more dynamic. For instance, immediate on his agenda is leasing of at least 8-9 more airports.

As he said, "Let me categorically insist as I did in the Parliament the other day that these airports are not being privatised, they are being leased for a 50-year period. Not only are they going to generate revenue for the government this way, but they will guarantee upgrading of these airports. I think this is the best model going forward. You will hear of us calling for bids in the next round shortly. On charges of privatisation, let me tell you that leasing will actually garner revenues of Rs 904 crore per year for AAI as lease fee for the first round of six airports, and as much as Rs 2,322 crore has already reached government accounts in this case. We expect a similar windfall when we do the next round of leasing."

On the same lines, he is excited with the response he has got on his call for reducing VAT on ATF (aviation turbine fuel).

JHARKHAND IAS OFFICER POOJA SINGHAL ARRESTED BY ED

New Delhi: IAS officer and Jharkhand Mines Secretary Pooja Singhal was on Wednesday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after her second day of questioning in connection with the ongoing probe of Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to alleged embezzelment of MNREGS funds.

Singhal on Wednesday she again joined the probe after being grilled for 9 hours on Tuesday. The ED, after collecting enough evidence against her, placed her under arrest.The ED sources said that they would scan her transactions of the last three years, to check the suspicious money trail, if any.

The agency is also scanning details of all her properties.A source said that total of four cars of her husband have been seized.Cash amounting to around Rs 19 crore which was recovered in the raids by the ED. It is said that it was Singhal's money.

Pakistan decides to resume trade with India

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad

The Pakistan government under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to resume trade with India, designating a trade minister for the task.

Though the decision is being seen as a major development in terms of country's dire economic condition, it is also being seen as a major compromise by Islamabad and a back step from its previous stance against India after August 5, 2019.

In a federal cabinet meeting, it was decided that Pakistan will be working towards reopening of trade with India.Moreover, similar trade officers and ministers are being designated in at least 15 countries, to enhance trade relations and agreements with their respective countries.

The decision to resume trade with India is a difficult decision that Shehbaz Sharif has taken because the former Prime Minister Imran Khan had halted trade with India after the Modi government abrogated Article 370 of its constitution and changed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's economic condition is moving towards a meltdown, which is coupled with the strict demands from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of its loan facility of $6 billion.

SL PREZ TO APPOINT NEW PM, GOVERNMENT

Susitha Fernando|Colombo

To end the ongoing political crisis, Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday announced that a new government with a new Prime Minister, who can command the majority in the Parliament, would be appointed this week. Addressing the nation, President Rajapaksa also agreed to bring constitutional changes in line with the 19th Amendment, which was introduced by the last government and seeks that the Parliament be given more powers while curtailing executive (presidential) powers. He also assured that as demanded by various sections of the society, he would make ways to abolish the Presidential system.

PRESIDENT'S LETTERHEAD FORGED TO PROMOTE UNIVERSITY, FIR LODGED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While monitoring social media, the Special Cell of Delhi Police has found out that a man allegedly forged the letterhead of the President of India in a bid to promote his university.

"It is submitted that during social media monitoring, it was found that a person named Amardeep Singh used the letterhead of the Hon'ble President of India under his own signature to inform people that the Vikramshila University is going to be inaugurated shortly," read the FIR.

The FIR was registered under Sections 465 (Punishment for forgery), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (Using as genuine a forged document) of the Indian Penal Code at the Special Cell police station.

The police also found two phone numbers, a website link -- www.vikramshilauniversity.com -- and address mentioned in the letterhead. As per the FIR, a notice has been sent seeking registration details of the above mentioned website.

The website -- www.vikramshilauniversity.com -- claims that the institute is India's first digital varsity and also has a message from its founder and CEO, Amardeep Singh.

The university claims to offer courses like nuclear science & technology, nanotechnology, geo informatics, remote sensing etc. under its graduate programme.

- The peer reviewed study by Shanghai's Fudan University, published in the Nature journal, said a decision by Chinese authorities to lift such measures could see more than 112 million symptomatic cases of Covid-19, five million hospitalisations, and 1.55 million deaths.

China could see 1.6 mn Covid deaths if curbs are lifted

TAIPEI | Agencies

The lifting of zero-Covid policies in China would see a "tsunami" of infections and almost 1.6 million deaths, a study claims, citing in part China's low vaccination rate among elderly residents, The Guardian reported.China's government remains committed to a zero-Covid policy, employing resource intensive mass testing and case surveillance, and enforcing lockdowns, strict quarantine and isolation. A speech last week by the president Xi Jinping reaffirmed the commitment, despite the challenge posed by the Omicron variant which has already overwhelmed other countries' zero-Covid policies.However it also said that with access to vaccines and antivirals and "maintaining implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions", authorities could prevent the health system being overwhelmed. It suggested these factors could be more of a focus in future policies. Health experts agree, but China analysts are also concerned the authorities have backed themselves into a corner with no political exit ramp for the policy without admitting failure, The Guardian reported.

WHO CHIEF CENSORED IN CHINA AFTER QUESTIONING ZERO-COVID POLICY

Beijing | Agencies

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) is being censored on China's internet after questioning the sustainability of the country's zero-Covid policy, CNN reported. The censorship on Weibo and WeChat, China's two largest social media platforms, targets WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' comments that expressed rare disagreement with Beijing's policies. "When we talk about the zero-Covid strategy, we don't think that it is sustainable, considering the behavior of the virus now and what we anticipate in the future," Tedros told a media briefing Tuesday, citing the increased transmissibility of Omicron, CNN reported.

"We have discussed this issue with Chinese experts and we indicated that the approach will not be sustainable...I think a shift will be very important," he said. The United Nation's official press account on China's Twitter-like Weibo posted Tedro's comments early on Wednesday morning, drawing a wave of sarcastic comments from Chinese users.

SC MOVED AGAINST LIC IPO, SEEKS SCRAPPING OF PROCESS

CHENNAI | Agencies

The Supreme Court on Wednesday admitted a writ petition against the initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) that got over early this week.

The writ petition was filed by policyholders, said Thomas Franco Rajendra Dev, Joint Convenor of NGO People First and the case is listed for Thursday.

The petitioners have filed the case in the apex court to issue a writ of mandamus, to declare Section 5 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (as amended by the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2011) to be void and inoperative to the extent the capital of the corporation is characterised as 'equity capital', and to declare Sections 130, 131, 134, and 140 of the Finance Act, 2021 and Sections 4,5,24 ad 28 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (as amended by the Finance Act, 2021) to be void and inoperative for being ultra vires Articles 14 read with Article 300A of the Constitution.

They also sought that Part III of the Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2021 be declared void ab initio for the certification of the Finance Bill, 2021 as a Money Bill to be in violation of and ultra vires Article 110 of the Constitution.

Among other, it sought that the respondents - the Union of India and the LIC - not to take any steps on the basis of or in furtherance of the amended Sections 4,5, 24 and 28 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 including the ongoing initial public offering of the LIC.It also sought that both the Centre and the LIC to immediately issue all necessary communications to authorities including the SEBI, IRDAI and the general public that the ongoing initial public offering of the LIC is rescinded in view of the orders of the apex court.Queried about the delay in filing the case as LIC's IPO process has ended and listing of the shares is to happen soon, Rajendra Dev told IANS: "Earlier some cases were filed but didn't succeed. It was only later that details about the valuation of LIC and the issue price were available."

MISCREANTS HOIST SAFFRON FLAG ON MOSQUE IN K'TAKA

Belagavi : Tense situation prevailed after some miscreants hoisted a saffron flag on a mosque in a village in Karnataka's Belagavi district on Wednesday.

According to police, the miscreants climbed to the mosque tower and hoisted the flag in the wee hours. The incident came to light in the morning, causing tension in the region.

The incident took place in the Sattigeri Maddi mosque in Mudalagi taluk of the district. The police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. The police held a meeting of the leaders of both the Hindu and Muslim communities and removed the saffron flag.

Though the police controlled the situation, security has been beefed up in all sensitive areas of the district to avoid any untoward incident.

The incident caused panic and raised concerns all over the state as the state has been witnessing agitations by the Hindu organisations on the loudspeaker row. The government has announced guidelines and stated that they would be implemented. Hindu organisations have said that they would like to see the guidelines implemented as soon as possible.

Gujarat court imprisons BJP MLA, 25 others in gambling case

GODHRA | Agencies

A court at Halol in Gujarat's Panchmahal district on Wednesday sentenced a sitting BJP MLA and 25 others to two years' imprisonemnt in a gambling case.

It also imposed a fine of Rs 3,000 on each convict. The court ordered to cancel the licence of the resort, where the accused were caught gambling.

While pronouncing the order, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Prem Hansraj Singh held BJP MLA from Matar Assembly consttuency, Kesarisinh Solanki, and 25 others guilty and awarded them two years' imprisonment.

It observed that the prosecution has proved the case beyond doubt based on documentary evidence, CCTV footage seized from the resort, and statements of the witnesses. It has been proven that Solanki and 25 others were gambling for their financial benefits.

The police seized Rs 3.89 lakh in cash from the accused, 25 mobile phones, one laptop, plastic coins used as token currency, and eight four-wheelers. Even play cards were seized.

During the trial, 96 witnesses were cross-examined and 13 documentary evidences were produced before the court, including CCTV footage from the resort.

The Panchmahal police had received information that a large number of people were being facilitated for gambling at the Jimira resort near Shivrajpur in Halol.The police raided the resort on July 1, 2021 and found 26 persons, including six women, gambling.

Bulldozers again roll in Delhi, Left protests

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday continued its drive to demolish illegal encroachments in several parts of the national capital, while left parties protested against the government accusing them of spreading a communal atmosphere.

The places where the demolition is being carried out are Tilak Nagar, Dwarka, Lodhi Road, Najafgarh, Aya Nagar, among several other areas. Meanwhile, demolition will not be carried out in New Seelampur as an adequate number of police force could not be provided.

However, the places where illegal encroachments are being removed, the police force along with para-military personnel were deployed in adequate numbers to handle any untoward situation. As per latest reports, JCB bulldozers are demolishing some illegally constructed structures across an Air Force land in the city's Arya Nagar area. Rajpal Singh, Chairman, Central Zone, said they had already identified illegal encroachments on Lodhi Road."We do not want to harass anyone but there are some places where even a van or bus cannot pass. So we will continue with the process of demolition until and unless all the encroachments are removed," he said.

At several congested places, police personnel could also be seen atop the buildings to monitor the situation.

NOW COMMON ENTRANCE TEST FOR GOVT JOBS IN RAJASTHAN

Jaipur: The Rajasthan government has announced a common eligibility test for recruitment in various government jobs.

The state government will conduct the eligibility test on the lines of Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

For the recruitment to the government posts such as Village Development Officer, Patwari (Village Accountant), Ministerial Staff, etc., now there will be one common eligibility test conducted instead of a separate examination.

The state Cabinet has also decided to scrap the process of interviews completely in some direct recruitment examinations except in Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) examination. The Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules, 1999, (RAS Recruitment) and other service rules will be modified to do away with the provision of interviews. The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held late on Tuesday evening, which was chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his Council of Ministers.

The Rajasthan government has decided to give land to companies for solar projects. A 2000 MW solar park will be built on 6,000 hectare of government land in Jaisalmer district and is being built by Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Limited, a joint venture company of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited and Adani Group.

At the same time, the state cabinet has also made big announcements for the Paralympic medal winners in the cabinet meeting. According to the state Cabinet, Paralympic medal winners, who are residents of Rajasthan, will also be allotted 25 bighas of land free of cost in the Indira Gandhi Canal Project area. This decision was announced in the state Budget.

Delhi Class 10 student raped, forced to undergo abortion

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped in the national capital following which she got pregnant and was forced to undergo illegal abortion by the accused, an official said on Wednesday.

The accused, who committed the heinous crime, has been arrested. He was identified as Dharamender alias Raj (23). Three others, identified as Babita Devi (a Quack working at a clinic) and the accused's two friends -- Dilip Kumar Singh and Manish -- have also been arrested.

Furnishing details, Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer district) Sameer Sharma said the victim girl, a Class 10 student, on April 22 alleged that in October, 2021 she went to a mobile repair shop where accused Dharamender secretly took her mobile number from her phone and started chasing her. Thereafter, he befriended the victim and repeatedly made physical relations with her at his friend Manish's rented room in Nangloi and due to which she got pregnant.

"The accused told her not to disclose this in-front of anyone. The accused further hatched a conspiracy with his parents and a quack and some lab technicians," the DCP said.

On April 1, the parents and the brother of the accused took the victim woman to Aditi Clinic in Narela, where a female 'doctor' (a Quack) made a phone call to the mother of the victim and persuaded her that she is her class teacher and is taking the victim for a school tour.

Then the 'doctor' gave some abortion pills to the victim and on the next day she delivered a dead infant. The dead infant was buried by the alleged persons.

Thereafter, she returned home but after a few days her health deteriorated due to excessive bleeding and then she was admitted to the SGM Hospital Mangolpuri for medical treatment. It is at this time, her statement was recorded and a case under sections 376 (punishment for rape), 313, 315, 318, 328, 201 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code and section 6 and 21 of the POCSO Act was registered at Police Station Nangloi.

The police after this constituted a team which raided the house of the accused Dharamender and arrested him. During sustained interrogation, the accused disclosed how he conspired with his parents and one of his friends namely, Dilip Kumar Singh decided to kill the baby in womb.

Newly-infiltrated terrorist killed in encounter at J&K's Bandipora

SRINAGAR | Agencies

A terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces in a forested area in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora on Wednesday and has been identified as newly-infiltrated operative, police said.

"Killed terrorist identified as Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, resident of Wussan Pattan, Baramulla. He exfiltrated in 2018 and remained there for 3 years and 6 months before infiltrating back in the last week of April," police said.

"The killed terrorist was a part of newly infiltrated terror group. Search for other two terrorists is in progress," the police said in a tweet, quoting Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

Earlier, police said one terrorist was killed and a AK rifle and three magazines were recovered. The firefight between in Salinder forest area took place after a joint team of security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists.

As the security forces zeroed in on the spot where terrorists were hiding, they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.

MAN BOOKED FOR TRYING TO PROVOKE CROWD IN JAHANGIRPURI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Wednesday took preventive action against a 48-year-old man who was found provoking the crowd against one specific community in Jahangirpuri, which recently witnessed communal violence.

The accused has been identified as Shiv Kumar, a resident of Jahangirpuri in northwest Delhi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Usha Rangnani, said a PCR call was received at 6.15 a.m. on Wednesday at the Mahendra Park police station, in which the caller, Shiv Kumar, reported shattering of window panes of vehicles by some Muslim boys.

Sensing the sensitivity of the situation, the police rushed to the spot, where they found a crowd gathered around two cars with their rear windscreens shattered.

"Shiv Kumar was found targeting one specific community without verification of facts, and trying to give a religious tone to the incident, provoking the crowd gathered there," Rangani said.

CCTV footage showed three minor boys (all non-Muslims) shattering the windscreens, and action under the relevant section of the IPC has been initiated against them.

"In view of the sensitive situation owing to the recent incident in Jahangirpuri and the boisterous behaviour of the caller which could have affected peace and tranquility in the area, preventive action under Section 107/151 of CrPC has been initiated against Shiv Kumar," the officer

'CLAMOUR' FOR RAHUL GANDHI'S RETURN AS PRESIDENT LIKELY AT CHINTAN SHIVIR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress's three-day 'Chintan Shivir' in Rajasthan's Udaipur from May 13 is meant to brainstorm on a roadmap for the revival of the party's fortunes, but could see a clamour for return of Rahul Gandhi as party chief grow and some sections are likely to raise the demand, sources said.

The demand was formally raised recently at a CWC meeting but it was said that organizational polls have already been announced.

The most vocal voices in the party for Rahul Gandhi's return are its two Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan) and Bhupesh Baghel (Chhattisgarh), apart from Randeep Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal and other Rahul loyalists.

In the Chintan Shivir, Rahul Gandhi will speak as a second last speaker just ahead of party chief Sonia Gandhi, and the party hopes to get a new path of revival from there to reverse its electoral losses.

Rahul Gandhi had quit the post after the party's second successive massive defeat in the 2019 elections and in his resignation, sought that someone from outside the Gandhi family should be appointed as party chief but the CWC appointed Sonia Gandhi as interim President. However, soon a section of leaders, the G-23, wrote a letter for sweeping reforms in the party and election from the block to the CWC level.

However when Sonia Gandhi called some of the members of the dissident group for discussions, they said that there was no question on the leadership but fixing responsibility on those responsible for party's defeat in the recent spell of Assembly elections.

Party leader and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh had on Monday asserted that the Chintan Shivir is not a destination of the Congress, but a milestone.

He said the Shivir is being held not to draft a manifesto, but to prepare an action plan to revive and strengthen the Congress so that it can deal with the present-day political and organisational challenges.

The heads of various departments of Congress, office bearers, former Union ministers and MPs would all participate in the Chintan Shivir. A total of 422 members will be present in the Shivir, of which 30-35 per cent will be youth and 21 per cent women.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4581243K Nk SURYAVANSHI ARJUN F/o SURYAVANSHI ANANYA ARJUN presently residing at Village warvanti Post sangvi The Ahemdpur Dist Latur MH Pin 413515 have changed my daughter's name from ANANYA ARJUN to SURYAVANSHI ANANYA ARJUN vide affitdavit no. BC 529651 dated 25 Apr 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4581243K Nk SURYAVANSHI ARJUN F/o SURYAVANSHI ANUSHKA ARJUN presently residing at Village warvanti Post sangvi The Ahemdpur Dist Latur MH Pin 413515 have changed my daughter's name from ANUSHKA ARJUN to SURYAVANSHI ANUSHKA ARJUN vide affitdavit no. BC 529649 dated 25 Apr 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I BARNALI BHATTACHARJEE CHAKRABORTY is legally wedded spouse of No. 4573800H HAV SRI PARTHA CHAKRABORTY presently residing at Chandipara PO Amarpur PS Birganj under Amarpur sub division Dist Gomati Tripura Pin: 799101 have changed my name from smt BARNALI CHAKRABORTY to BARNALI BHATTACHARJEE CHAKRABORTY vide affitdavit No. 01AA 465164.

CHANGE OF NAME

I MANORANJANA PRAVIN JAWANJAL is legally wedded spouse of No. 4578960M Nk JAWANJAL PRAVIN SAHEBRAO presently residing at Post Pimpri khurd Tq. Akot Dist Akola Pin:444126 have changed my name from MANORANJANA JANWANJAL PRAVIN to MANORANJANA PRAVIN JAWANJAL vide affitdavit No. ZL 239921 and date 10 May 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SURYVANSHI MANISHA ARJUN is legally spouse of No. 4581243K NK SURYVANSHI ARJUN presently residing at Village warvanti Post sangvi The Ahemdpur Dist Latur MH Pin 413515 have changed my name from MANISHA SURYAWANSHI to SURYVANSHI MANISHA ARJUN vide affitdavit no BC 529650 dated 25 Apr 2021

CHANGE OF NAME

I VIDYA VINOD PATIL is legally wedded spouse of No. 4582850P NK VINOD PATIL presently residing at Patil Galli, Walki, Taluka Chikkodi, Walki, Belagavi, Karnataka Pin:591238 haven changed my name from VIDHYA VINOD PATIL to VIDYA VINOD PATIL vide affitdavit No. 36AA 080259 and date 4 Apr 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4578960M Nk JAWANJAL PRAVIN SAHEBRAO F/o PRATHAMESH PRAVIN JAWANJAL presently residing at Post Pimpri Khurd Tq. Akot Dist Akola pin - 444126 have changed my son's name from PRATHAMESH to PRATHAMESH PRAVIN JAWANJAL vide affitdavit no. ZL 239822 dated 10 May 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4578960M Nk JAWANJAL PRAVIN SAHEBRAO F/o PARI PRAVIN JAWANJAL presently residing at Post Pimpri Khurd Tq. Akot Dist Akola pin -444126 have changed my daughter name from PARI to PARI PRAVIN JAWANJAL vide affitdavit no. ZL 239823 dated 10 May 2022.

RAJ THACKERAY GETS THREATS, MNS WARNS 'STATE WILL BURN'

Claiming that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has received death threats, a party leader on Wednesday warned that even if his hair is touched, "entire Maharashtra will burn".

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Claiming that Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has received death threats, a party leader on Wednesday warned that even if his hair is touched, "entire Maharashtra will burn".

MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar met Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil and apprised him of the alleged threats -- coming reportedly from some Muslim organisations -- being received by Raj Thackeray and himself.

A letter said to be penned in Urdu was received at the MNS office and another in Hindi by Nandgaonkar, after which he warned that "even if one hair on Raj Thackeray is touched, the entire Maharashtra will go up in flames". He claimed that after listening to him, Walse-Patil spoke with the Commissioner of Police, Sanjay Pandey, and assured a probe. Nandgaonkar said the antecedents of the purported letter, who wrote it or when, are not known, but repeated the dire consequences if the MNS chief is touched.

He added that the MNS has been demanding security for Raj Thackeray and his family and both the Centre and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra must take note of it.

The MNS has launched a state-wide movement to remove all loudspeakers from mosques, threatening to play 'Hanuman Chalisa' opposite those that flout laws and relay 'azaan' on public address systems, even as the MVA launched a crackdown against the MNS activists.

In retaliation, Raj Thackeray on Tuesday flayed the MVA for gunning for his men and also warned his estranged cousin and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray that governments come and go and nobody remains in power forever.

Raj Thackeray has also announced plans to go to Ayodhya where he is meeting stiff opposition from a BJP MP and the Mahants, who are demanding an apology for the treatment meted out by MNS to north Indians in 2008.

BJP MPs spar over Raj Thackeray's Ayodhya visit

BJP MPs in Uttar Pradesh are now sparring over Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's proposed visit to Ayodhya on June 5.

Ayodhya | Agencies

BJP MPs in Uttar Pradesh are now sparring over Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's proposed visit to Ayodhya on June 5.

On Wednesday, Lallu Singh, a BJP MP from Ayodhya, said that anyone who comes to seek the blessings of Lord Ram is welcome. Lallu Singh's statement is in stark contrast from that of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been vehemently opposing Thackeray's visit, saying that he should first apologise to north Indians for his campaign against them before stepping into the holy city.

Lallu Singh further said that there are many other parties and leaders who have spoken against Lord Ram and Ayodhya from time to time but they have never been stopped from entering the town.

BJP insiders said that his statement is in sync with the party line and could have come at the behest of the Sangh and the BJP which has not spoken against Raj Thackeray so far.Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, meanwhile, remains unrelenting in his stand against Thackeray.

The BJP MP has circulated posters that say, "Uttar Bharatiyon ko apradhi kehne wale Raj Thackeray maafi maangon ya phir wapas jao (Raj Thackeray, who calls North Indians criminals, should either apologise or go back)".

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is seeking support from top priests, seers and members of the civil society in Uttar Pradesh to stop the MNS chief from entering the temple town.

Meanwhile, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has slammed Thackeray for not responding to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Santoor maestro Pt. Shivkumar Sharma cremated with full state honours

Santoor maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma was cremated with full state honours, comprising Mumbai Police gun salute, at the Vile Parle Hindu crematorium, here on Wednesday evening with Bollywood turning out in force to bid him a tearful adieu.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Santoor maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma was cremated with full state honours, comprising Mumbai Police gun salute, at the Vile Parle Hindu crematorium, here on Wednesday evening with Bollywood turning out in force to bid him a tearful adieu.

His wife Manorama, sons Rahul and Rohit, family members and film fraternity friends like his longtime partner Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia and table exponent Zakir Hussain were among those present.

Earlier, a large number of prominent personalities took Pt. Sharma's final 'darshan' at his residence in Juhu, where his mortal remains were kept for three hours.

Among those who came and paid last respects were Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Javed Akhtar and his wife Shabana Azmi, singer Ila Arun, music composer Jatin-Lalit Pandit, many singers, musicians and commoners. Later, hundreds of people could be seen on the roads bowing and offering their final farewell to the legendary musician draped in the tricolour as his flower-bedecked funeral cortege wended its way to the crematorium.

Born on January 13, 1938, Pt. Sharma brought the humble folk-music instrument 'Santoor' onto the world stage with his unique renditions. He collaborated with the eminent flautist Pt. Chaurasia as the Shiv-Hari duo, composed music for several films including "Silsila", "Lamhe", "Chandni", "Darr" and others. Pt. Sharma was bestowed with honours and accolades including the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

Ambedkar memorial in Mumbai to be ready by March 2024

THE WORKS ON THE MEMORIAL TO DR. BABASAHEB R. AMBEDKAR IN MUMBAI ARE PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND THE WORLD-CLASS MONUMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 2024, OFFICIALS SAID HERE ON WEDNESDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The works on the memorial to Dr. Babasaheb R. Ambedkar in Mumbai are progressing smoothly and the world-class monument is expected to be completed by March 2024, officials said here on Wednesday.

A 3-Minister delegation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government inspected the Indu Mills compound site in south Mumbai where the memorial, executed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), is coming up.

The much-anticipated monument of global standards is being built in the now defunct mills' 12 acres compound in Dadar, near the Chaityabhoomi and adjacent to the Arabian Sea, with the tallest statue of Dr. Ambedkar which will be known as 'Statue of Equality' planned here.

Besides the delegation - comprising Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde, School Education Minister Prof. Varsha Gaikwad and Minister of State for Social Justice Dr. Vishwajeet Kadam, MMRDA Commissioner SVR Srinivas and renowned architect Shashi Prabhu also visited the area.

"We have gone around and seen it. The work is progressing well. We are confident the memorial will be ready by March 2024," said Munde, adding there will be no paucity of financial resources required for the project estimated to cost over Rs 1,000 crore.

Rahul Gandhi Seeks Exemption From Appearance In Maharashtra Defamation Case

Team Absolute | Thane

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has moved an application in a court at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district, seeking permanent exemption from appearance in a defamation case filed against him. Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) J V Paliwal on Tuesday directed the complainant, local RSS activist Rajesh Kunte, to respond to the application and posted the matter for further hearing on May 18. In 2014, Kunte had filed the case against Gandhi after watching his speech in Thane's Bhiwandi township, where the Congress leader alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi.

Kunte had claimed this statement slandered the reputation of the RSS.

In his application moved on Tuesday, Gandhi said being a member of Parliament (from Wayanad in Kerala), he has to visit his constituency, attend to the party work and travel a lot, hence he be exempted from appearing in person before the court. His advocate Narayan Iyer said Gandhi has also stated in his application that whenever required, he be allowed to be represented by his lawyer in the hearing. On Tuesday, Kunte also moved an application seeking exemption from appearance as he was unwell, which was allowed by the court.

In 2018, the court had framed charges against Gandhi in the case, but he had pleaded not guilty.

Last month, Kunte paid Rs 1,500 cost to Gandhi, as per the court's directions, as he (Kunte) had sought adjournment in the case.

NCP joins hands with BJP in Gondia ZP elections, Cong candidate loses

IN THE 53-MEMBER GONDIA ZP, THE BJP HAS 26 MEMBERS, CONGRESS 13, NCP 6, JANATA KI PARTY 4, AND TWO INDEPENDENTS.

Team Absolute | Gondia

Breaking the MVA alliance code, the NCP joined hands with rival BJP to elect the president of the Gondia Zilla Parishad in Maharashtra on Tuesday, keeping the Congress away from power with the backing of Independents and a local outfit. In neighbouring Bhandara, five rebel members of the BJP led by former MLA Charan Waghmare joined hands with Congress to elect the party candidate as the president of the ZP. A BJP member was elected as the vice president of the Zilla Parishad in Bhandara.

In Gondia ZP, BJP's Pankaj Rahangdale was elected as the president and NCP's Yashwant Gunvir as the vice-president.Rahangdale defeated Congress' Usha Mendhe. Rahangdale polled 40 votes against 13 bagged by Mendhe. Gunvir trounced Jitendra Katre of Congress.

In the 53-member Gondia ZP, the BJP has 26 members, Congress 13, NCP 6, Janata ki Party 4, and two independents. Speaking on the surprise political alignments, NCP leader Rajendra Jain and BJP's Rahangdale claimed that they followed the instructions of senior leaders of their respective parties.In Bhandara Zilla Parishad, the Congress has emerged as the single largest party with 21 seats in the 52-member body.

With the backing of a rebel faction of the BJP comprising five members, Congress' Gangadhar Jibkhate was elected as the president of the ZP by defeating BJP's official candidate Avinash Bramhankar by 27-25 votes.

The BJP rebel group's leader Sandeep Tale was elected as the vice president of the Bhandara ZP by defeating Maheshwari Neware, the official candidate of BJP.

COVID-19:

Maharashtra cumulative vaccination tally crosses 16.57 crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the ongoing vaccination drive, Maharashtra on May 10 has inoculated 16,57,11,955 people.

As per the state government data, 7,14,31,607 individuals aged between 15 and 59 years received their first vaccine dose and 5,75,67,532 received their second dose and 1,48,450 received precaution dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1, 2021.

Similarly, 1,33,60,367 individuals above 60 years have received the first vaccine dose while 1,12,24,318 received their second dose. 15,13,389 of them received their precaution dose.

As many as 21,84,604 children in the age group of 12 to 14 years have received their first dose while 8,34,703 received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

So far, 12,95,369 health care workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 11,90,647 of them have got their second dose. 3,74,097 health care workers have received their precaution dose so far.

Similarly, 21,49,625 front line workers in the state have till now received their first vaccine dose and of them, 20,01,354 got their second dose. 4,35,893 front line workers have received their precaution dose so far.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Tuesday reported 223 COVID-19 cases and two deaths, taking the overall tally to 78,79,622 and the toll to 1,47,849, a health department official said.

The addition to the COVID-19 tally was a steep rise from the 121 cases recorded in the state on Monday, which incidentally was covered by Mumbai alone that saw 122 infections during the day, he pointed out.

The twin coronavirus-linked deaths took place in Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation limits, part of Thane district which falls in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and in Satara, western Maharashtra, he said.

So far, 77,30,370 persons have been discharged post-recovery, including 161 in the last 24 hours, leaving the state with 1,403 active cases, he said.

State health department data showed Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Latur, Osmanabad, Akola, Yavatmal, Bhandara, Gondia and Gadchiroli districts had no active case as on Tuesday.It also revealed that 25,592 coronavirus tests carried out in the last 24 hours had taken the total number of swab samples examined in the state to 8,04,22,318.The coronavirus recovery rate was 98.11 per cent, while the fatality rate in the state stood at 1.87 per cent, as per health department data.

'FOUL CARTEL' OF AIRLINES LOOTS FLYERS, CLAIMS COMPLAINT TO PM

As the pandemic tapered off in February, lakhs of excited families planning domestic vacations to exotic locales by flights got a shock bigger than a Covid-19 positive test report.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the pandemic tapered off in February, lakhs of excited families planning domestic vacations to exotic locales by flights got a shock bigger than a Covid-19 positive test report.

The airfares of all airlines to various destinations had suddenly shot up -- and drastically -- for seats on the trunk or non-trunk routes, irrespective of the flight timings, the particular carrier, the type of aircraft, direct or hopping services, the prevailing fuel prices, etc.

"Welcome to ugly world of 'Cartelisation' - witnessed in India probably for the first time... The airlines have colluded to hike fares phenomenally and indulge in open loot of the passengers, under the very nose of the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre," accused a prominent consumer rights activist Barrister Vinod Tiwari.

Tiwari is the President of Council for Protection of Rights of the NGO Grahak Bharti, Nagpur, which has red-flagged the alleged 'unofficial syndicate' involving most private airlines in India.

He contended that until February 10, the passenger airfares of all airlines in the country were in the reasonable range of Rs 1,500-Rs 3,500 per sector in three slabs.

If tickets were booked well in advance or at least 45 days before travel, the fares were very low, higher for 30 days slab, going up considerably as 'normal fare' for upfront bookings for less than 15 days travel dates.

For instance, the Mumbai-Nagpur fare was in the range of Rs 1,800-2,400-3,400, Nagpur-Delhi was Rs 2,400-Rs 3,400-Rs 4,500 in the three slabs, Mumbai-Delhi was Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000-Rs 4,000, and so on, for various sectors, depending on the travel dates."Now, past over two months, the scenario has changed and all airlines are charging fares -- presumably under a single slab, which in many instances, is double the usual 'normal fare', and this unholy nexus has hit hard lakhs of holiday flyers on tight budgets in the country," explained Tiwari.

Surprisingly, the 'cartel' suspicions stem from the soaring fares offered by various airlines -- the rates charged are near-identical for most each sector, as seen on the major travel portals, where maximum bookings are known to take place.

For instance, a Mumbai-Delhi ticket on any airline for this week will cost around Rs 8,042, whether full-service or frills-free, Tiwari pointed out.

A cursory check of the tickets for entire May and mid-June reveals a similar trend for all airlines, whichever be the sector, leaving the poor flyers with no option but to prostrate and 'pay the painful price' for the post-pandemic sojourn.

Perturbed by this and complaints from various quarters, the Grahak Bharti has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, drawing their attention to the purported 'evil nexus' of the airlines out to make hay while the summer sun shines.

"This is a big, serious issue, of open loot of air passengers due to the unusual 'Cartelisation' of airlines operators under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation and therefore, an immediate intervention is needed to stop such unfair practices," said the plea to Modi and Scindia.

Tiwari warned that unless the Centre acts within 48 hours in the matter, the Grahak Bharti would move the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and take legal remedies if needed, and order the airlines to refund hundreds of crores of rupees they have jointly collected by fleecing the gullible flyers.

He rued that in the absence of a government-run airlines to 'balance the scales', these monopolistic practices by private carriers are contravening the BJP's own aims of making air travel affordable to the middle-classes through various schemes like UDAAN, etc.

"Unfortunately for the BJP, the current milieu is contrary to its lofty proclamations... Air travel has again become a luxury within the reach of the suited-booted and rich, while the masses are once more sweating it out trains or buses," slammed Tiwari.

Maharashtra Congress Slams Ally NCP's 'backstabbing'; Prefers 'enemies That Are Openly So'

CRACKS WITHIN MAHARASHTRA'S RULING COALITION - MVA ARE STARKLY VISIBLE YET AGAIN AS MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS CHIEF NANA PATOLE HAS OPENLY ATTACKED ALLY NCP.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Cracks within Maharashtra's ruling coalition - Maha Vikas Agadhi (MVA) - are starkly visible yet again as Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole has openly attacked ally Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Speaking to the media, Nana Patole has alleged that in the last 2.5 years, the NCP has poached members from the grand old party. He further added that the Sharad Pawar-led party also went ahead and forged an alliance with the BJP for the Gondia Zilla Parishad polls.

Patole has alleged that the NCP is 'back-stabbing' the Congress and has therefore vowed to ask questions to the Sharad Pawar-led party. Patole has also claimed that some of the NCP members are also working against the Congress party under the garb of friendship. In a huge statement, Patole has termed the NCP as an "enemy that backstabs". This comes even as both parties are a part of the MVA along with the Shiv Sena. "In 2-2.5 yrs, NCP took away some of our party members. It forged alliance with BJP for Gondia Zilla Parishad. If we want an enemy, we want someone who is openly an enemy. If they backstab while being beside us, they will be asked questions," said Nana Patole Even as Patole has made these remarks, he maintained that the Maharashtra Congress will still reach out to the grand old party's high command and follow its instructions.

EDITOR'S SPECS

UP Assembly will have more members

The number of seats for members of the Uttar Pradesh state Assembly has been increased to 415 for the first Budget Session that will begin on May 23. The strength of the house is 403 and one seat is reserved for the advocate general. The additional seats are for ministers who are members of the Vidhan Parishad but participate in the Assembly proceedings. According to Speaker Satish Mahana, the state Assembly had only 379 seats for 425 members in undivided Uttar Pradesh. The state Assembly's strength was brought down to 404 (including a nominated member) following the division of Uttar Pradesh for the creation of Uttarakhand in the year 2000. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has no nominated member now and the strength is now 403. In another new step, the members will now find tablet devices fixed on their respective desks when the 18th Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha (state Assembly) meets for the first time for the forthcoming Budget Session. This is a major initiative to implement e-Vidhan and make the functioning of the legislature in the state paperless. Devices on the seats of the chief minister, the leader of opposition, minister for parliamentary affairs and the speaker will be bigger. The names of the members speaking in the House will be displayed. As implementation of e-Vidhan will pave the way for paperless proceedings in the House, Governor Anandiben Patel is also likely to read out her address using a device. The Central government is implementing e-Vidhan aimed at connecting all state Assemblies and bringing them on a common digital platform. A data depository is being set up to make the state legislatures paperless. The state Assembly has since then stopped using extension rod microphones. Instead, microphones have been fixed to the desks.

WHY BELGIUM'S ELECTIONS WILL BE A TEST FOR EUROPEAN VALUES

Ranjan Mukherjee

The upcoming elections in Belgium have given rise to a political party of Muslims who have acquired citizenship over the years and have grown in numbers fast enough to be able to launch a political party to de-Europeanise Europe culturally.

European nations share an intrinsic but unexpressed cultural identity based on Christianity. This identity made the Renaissance possible, with freedom of thought leading to an unimagined creativity, which gave birth to the 'modern' world with every aspect of life progressing towards better standards of living.

The 'absolutist paradigm' of intolerance and violence of unicentric dogmas, which have arisen in theistic tribal formations, will ravage all advances in pure sciences and applied technology, if Europe does not act fast.

A country is not just a 'polity' but also an 'Identity' based on a long span of 'time' and even more on 'ethnicity' with its subtle nuances and definitive creativity. Belgium is European, it should remain so, and no outsiders have the right to alter it.

Several European countries embraced Muslim refugees with open arms, welcomed them in their country, gave them shelter, food and jobs to settle down (no OIC countries, by the way, gave them these facilities). But after these people settle down in Belgium and other European countries, or in any country for that matter, they start flaunting their religion/faith and want the Sharia Law to be introduced, undermining the law of the land and the dominant religion of the host country. It is a ploy of the radicals to spread Islam at any cost.

Several countries have efficiently outlawed the deculturisation of the polity. In Pakistan's constitution, no non-Muslim can become the President (Article 41) or the Prime Minister (Article 91). Several states in India have criminalised marriages between Hindus and Muslims by legislation.The constitution of Italy provides that no naturalised citizen can be the Prime Minister or President of the country.

The question of power being vested in the son of the soil ('bhumiputra') goes back to the third century BCE. Emperor Ashoka exiled his minister Yashas to Khotan, as he had blinded his dear son Kunala. Yashas clashed with the Chinese who were controlling Khotan, an area located on the Silk Road branch that ran along the southern edge of the Taklamakan Desert.

To end the stalemate, Yashas suggested that the King of Khotan should be a son of the soil. The Chinese agreed to this principle and a Khotanese 'son of the soil' founded a dynasty that ruled until 1001 CE.

Korea and Japan did not accept Chinese matrimony. King Kim Suro, who founded the State of Korea, got a princess from far-off Ayodhya as his queen. She landed in Korea in 48 CE. The dynasty lasted till 532 CE and ensured Korea's independent identity.

Members of the Kim families are all descendants of the princess of Ayodhya. They travel to Ayodhya every year to pay their respects to her. Japan got Buddhism from Korea and it, in turn, defined its national persona. Prince Shotoku, inspired by the Sutra of the Golden Light, named his country Nippon, or Land of the Rising Sun. The Golden Light represents the Rising Sun.

Prince Shotoku also drew up a 'Seventeen Article Constitution' with Buddhism as one of its articles for the well-being of the people. It was consecrated with a Sanskrit hymn on the Goddess of Supreme Victory, Usnisavijaya, a well-known Buddhist divinity in Nepal, Tibet and Mongolia. It is the epitome of the Buddha's longevity. And in spite of the panoramic Sinocentric layering of their cultures, Korea and Japan have sustained their distinctive identities.

The constitution of Malaysia clearly defines that all industries are to be headed by a 'Bumiputra', a natural citizen and not a naturalised citizen. The all-pervasive Chinese industries have to be and are presided over by Bumiputras. In Indonesia, no Chinese can have a controlling political position, though they have extensive economic interests.

In the UAE and the Arab world, too, it is only the sons of the soil, who head and lead all companies though they employ several professionals from outside. But no outsider can ever head an organisation, no matter how efficient or competent he or she may be.

Belgium has to legislate that only a son (or daughter) of the soil can be the President or Prime Minister. It must bar any political party formed by naturalised citizens, such as the Muslim refugees who have been granted citizenship. It has to ensure that the Belgian identity based on Christian values, their ethnic perceptions chiselled into fine shape across centuries, and the value they give to free thought are all nurtured to enable 'open' social and material advances.

Belgium is not an isolated case. Europe stands at a critical juncture. It has to preserve its cultural and civilizational, social and political, economic and scientific selfhood. It has to stop the creeping 'religious aggression' by enacting appropriate legislation.

Europe distinguished an alien as a 'denizen', as opposed to a citizen. An alien admitted to residence in a country, and favoured with all or a part of the rights of citizenship, was called a denizen. An alien thus admitted was incapable of holding any public office.

(The writer is a senior Indian Air Force veteran with multifaceted experience in civilian bureaucracy. The views expressed are purely personal)

international

JAPAN ENACTS INTO LAW BILL AIMED AT BOLSTERING ECONOMIC SECURITY

Tokyo | Agencies

Japan's upper house of Parliament on Wednesday enacted into law a bill purported to help bolster the country's economic security.

The new bill comprises four pillars that span fortifying supply chains so that semiconductors, along with other vital products, can be regularly imported amid a global chip crunch, reports Xinhua news agency

In addition, the bill references the development of artificial intelligence in twine with public entities as well as forwarding other next-generation technologies, they added.

Patents related to sensitive technologies will be made non-public under the new law, sources close to the matter said. In addition, equipment used in sensitive areas such as telecommunication and transportation will be screened by the government in a bid to combat cyber and other security threats, and the measures will be launched next spring.

Some goods such as chips, pharmaceutical products and rare minerals will be categorized as "critical items" and will be closely monitored.

Suppliers who can offer Japan a stable supply of said goods will be fiscally supported, local accounts said.

Those who leak protected patents will be subjected to a prison sentence of up to two years or face a maximum fine of 1 million yen ($7,670), they said.

POLLS LIKELY IN PAKISTAN BEFORE APPOINTMENT OF NEW ARMY CHIEF

London: The Defence Minister of Pakistan, Khawaja Asif, on Wednesday revealed the possibility of general elections in November, prior to the appointment of the new army chief, Geo News reported.

In an interview with BBC, Asif said that there is a possibility that the caretaker government will leave before November and a new government will come into power.

Regarding the extension of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's tenure, he said the army chief had announced that he wasn't seeking an extension.

"I welcome his decision as it has closed the door on speculations," he added.

Meanwhile, Express Tribune reported that Nawaz Sharif has summoned an "emergency meeting" of the party leaders in London to discuss matters related to the economy and the prevailing political situation in Pakistan.

According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with his delegation reached London on Wednesday morning for the meeting in which some "big decisions" are likely to be made.

Mahinda Rajapaksa to remain in naval base until normalcy returns

Colombo | Agencies

Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family will remain at the Trincomalee naval base until normalcy returns to the island nation following widespread violence that caused him to flee Colombo, Defence Secretary Kamal Gunaratne announced on Wednesday. Addressing the media, Gunaratne said that Rajapaksa will be moved to a location he wishes, once the situation in the country returns to normalcy, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Defence Secretary said that the military will provide security to Rajapaksa as long as it takes because as a former Prime Minister he is entitled to security for life.

Rajapaksa, his wife Shiranthi, and their youngest son Rohitha and his family, left the Prime Minister's official residence, Temple Trees, early Tuesday morning on board an Air Force helicopter.

Violence erupted in the country after he resigned on Monday.

A number of violent incidents have taken place in the country after pro-government groups clashed with anti-government protesters on Monday, leaving eight people, including an MP, dead and over 200 others injured.

A nationwide curfew has been extended until Thursday morning.

The island nation, hit by the most severe economic crisis since gaining independence in 1948, is currently without a government.

With a severe financial crisis due to dollar crunch and inflation, protests that started on March 31 have been continuing throughout the country demanding the Rajapaksas to resign.

In the wake of the protests, the cabinet resigned but Mahinda Rajapaksa formed a new cabinet under his leadership.

With the lack of fuel and gas and hours-long power cuts, people took to the streets and demanded that the immediate resignation of the government.

Meanwhile, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has has urged the opposition to form an all-party government, but the latter has refused to do so until he steps down.

The state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation on Wednesday announced that fuel distribution has been temporarily suspended due to the current security situation.

AL-JAZEERA JOURNALIST KILLED IN WEST BANK

Ramallah: Shireen Abu Akleh, a journalist with the Qatar-based Al Jazeera broadcaster, was killed in the West Bank on Wednesday amid an Israeli raid.

Taking to Twitter, the broadcaster said: "Israeli forces have shot and killed veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh in the occupied West Bank."

The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement that the reporter was shot while covering the Israeli military raid and died shortly after, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Ministry also claimed that another Palestinian reporter was shot.

In a statement, the Israeli Army said it has launched an investigation into the incident and was looking into the possibility that the journalists were hit by "armed Palestinians."

The raid triggered clashes with armed residents, and "massive fire was shot toward Israeli forces by tens of armed Palestinian gunmen", said the statement, adding that the soldiers "responded with fire toward the sources of the fire and explosive devices. Hits were identified".

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid tweeted that the Jewish state offered to carry out with the Palestinians "a joint pathological investigation into the sad death" of the journalist.

"Journalists must be protected in conflict zones and we all have a responsibility to get to the truth," Lapid said.

EX-BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LULA LEADS ELECTION POLLS

Brasilia | Agencies

Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has taken the lead in several polls ahead of the general elections in October.

Lula garnered 40.6 pe rcent of voters' support, followed by current President Jair Bolsonaro with 32 per cent, Xinhua news agency.

The result, which was made by the MDA Institute and released by the National Transport Confederation (CNT), showed that the gap between the two top candidates was narrowing.

In a prior poll in February, Lula, the candidate of the Workers' Party (PT), has 42.2 per cent of the support, compared with 28 per cent for Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party (PL).

Trailing far behind in the third place was Ciro Gomes of the Democratic Labor Party (PDT), with 7.1 per cent of voters' support, followed by Joao Doria of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB), with 3.1 per cent.

On May 7, Lula announced his candidacy and unveiled the seven-party alliance, Let's Go Together for Brazil Movement, alongside his proposed Vice President, former Sao Paulo Governor Geraldo Alckmin.

The 76-year-old has run for president several times before: he was defeated three times before triumphs in 2002 and 2006.

In 2018, he ran for a sixth time but was disqualified a month before the election after conviction of corruption, a charge ultimately overturned by the Federal Supreme Court in 2021.

Lebanese President vows to hold transparent, free polls

Beirut | Agencies

Lebanese President Michel Aoun vowed has vowed that the May 15 parliamentary polls will be conducted in a transparent and free manner.

Aoun made remarks during his meeting with a delegation from the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) at the Baabda Palace, reports Xinhua news agency.

"All measures have been taken to conduct the electoral process in an atmosphere of transparency, freedom and democratic competition," Aoun was quoted as saying.

Lebanon is a member of the OIF, a Paris-based organization established to facilitate cooperation among its members, most of which were French-speaking countries or regions.

Aoun said that the OIF delegation's visit is a proof of the organisation's firm belief in Lebanon's respect for democracy. Alda Greoli, head of the OIF delegation, thanked Aoun for the country's cooperation in facilitating the delegation's mission, which will remain in Lebanon for 10 days to monitor the elections and write a report on the event.

Ahead of the May 15 polls, the first round of voting for the Lebanese expats took place on May 6 in nine Arab countries and Iran, and the second phase began on May 8 in 49 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

Parliamentary elections are held in Lebanon every four years.

A total of 718 candidates, including 118 females, are in the fray for the polls to the 128-seat Parliament.

Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system allocates seats for its mosaic of religious sects in its Parliament, including Sunni and Shia Muslims, various Christian denominations, and the Druze.

The president must always be a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni and the Speaker of Parliament a Shia.

The elections come amid an unprecedented economic crisis that emerged about three years ago, leading to the currency to lose more than 90 per cent of its value since 2019, while also plunging over 70 per cent of the population into poverty.

CM CANCELS FOREIGN TOUR AFTER SC'S ORDER ON OBC RESERVATION

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday cancelled his foreign trip, scheduled from May 14, for inviting business houses to invest in the state, saying his priority is to present the state government's side in the Supreme Court and safeguard the interest of other backward classes (OBCs).

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday cancelled his foreign trip, scheduled from May 14, for inviting business houses to invest in the state, saying his priority is to present the state government's side in the Supreme Court and safeguard the interest of other backward classes (OBCs).

The decision came a day after the Supreme Court directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct local body (gram, nagar and zila panchayat) elections without OBC reservation.

"I was scheduled to travel abroad from May 14 to attract investment in Madhya Pradesh, but at this time it is my priority to present my case again in the court and protect the interests of the backward classes. Therefore I am cancelling my proposed foreign trip. My government is fully committed to the socio-economic and political empowerment of other backward classes," Chouhan added.

Chouhan asserted that the Supreme Court's judgement would affect the OBC's reservation in local bodies and that's why the state government decided to file a review petition.

The chief minister's office (CMO) told IANS that Chouhan's foreign trip to the US, UK, Switzerland, Germany and Davos was scheduled from May 14 to 24. The proposed visit was part of the state government's plan to host a global investors summit in November this year. In its judgment pronounced on Tuesday, the court had strictly directed the SEC to issue notification regarding the same within a

period of two weeks. After the Supreme Court judgment, both the political parties - BJP and the Congress started levelling allegations at each other and maintained that the local body elections should not be held without OBC reservation.

Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath blamed Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the present situation on this matter.

"OBC class would have got the benefit of their increased reservation, but the Shivraj government did not want it, so it did not make any serious efforts regarding this, but the Congress is still determined that the OBC class should get the benefit of the increased reservation in any case, and without OBC reservation, urban body elections should not be held in Madhya Pradesh," Nath said.

GOVERNMENT WILL AGAIN PRESENT ITS SIDE IN THE COURT ON OBC RESERVATION

Protection of the Interests of Backward Classes Is Priority of State Government

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has cancelled his foreign visit in view of the decision of the Supreme Court regarding reservation in local bodies. It is noteworthy that Chouhan was going on a foreign trip from May 14 to attract investments in the state. Chouhan has informed through a tweet that- "The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a decision to conduct elections in local bodies in Madhya Pradesh without reservation for Backward Classes. The state government is fully committed to the social, economic and political empowerment of Other Backward Classes. The decision of the Hon'ble Court is a judgment affecting the representation in the local bodies." Chouhan has said that the state government has decided to file revision petition in the Supreme Court. Chouhan has said that "At present my priority is to present our case in the court and protect the interests of backward classes, that is why I am cancelling my proposed foreign trip."

Initiate water conservation with your own example: Governor

- Tree plantation must for water sufficiency and conservation
- Governor addresses Jal Shakti Abhiyan and programme of e-dedication of Water App

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has appealed to initiate water conservation by setting one's own example. He said that water can be saved on many occasions in daily life. He said that tree plantation is very important for water sufficiency and conservation. Along with planting saplings, it is also necessary to take care of them till they grow into trees.

Patel was addressing the e-launching programme of Pani App and Jal Shakti Abhiyan by Burhanpur district administration virtually from Raj Bhavan. The Governor digitally dedicated the Pani App.

Patel said that rain water harvesting is a major source of saving water for drinking purpose. Referring to Gujarat, he said that many districts there collect rain water in wells and use it for drinking throughout the year. He said that the speed with which the water problem is increasing must be checked now itself otherwise there will be a serious water crisis in future. The future generation will have to struggle for water in future. He said that recognizing the danger of water crisis, our visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi, started Jal Shakti Abhiyan: 'Catch the Rain' project on World Water Day last year, which emphasizes that wherever it rains, it must be conserved and we must be committed for the construction of Amrit Sarovar. The Governor said that the work of water conservation cannot be possible with the efforts of the government alone. To make it a mass movement, everyone's participation and cooperation is very important. He said that in the coming rainy season, efforts should be made on a large scale to store the rain water in our terrace, mohalla, field and village.

Animal Husbandry and Social Justice Minister Prem Singh Patel said that water is life. Society has to be aware for water conservation. He said that the level of ground water is depleting at a faster rate, if it is not stopped, then the serious problems will arise in front of the future generations. Referring to the Prime Minister's call to build Amrit Sarovar, he said that along with the government, the society will also have to come forward for the construction of ponds.

Member of Parliament Gyaneshwar Patil hoped for cooperation of the society in water conservation and restoration of water structures. Former Minister Archana Chitnis said that the Pani App is an effective use of technology in water conservation efforts. Referring to the geographical features of Burhanpur, she said that there is huge potential for water sufficiency.

Collector Burhanpur Praveen Singh said that arrangements for monitoring the works being done for water conservation have been made with public participation. Chief Executive Officer of Zila Panchayat, Rohit Sisodia proposed the vote of thanks.

Minister's daughter-in-law commits suicide

Madhya Pradesh Minister Inder Singh Parmar's daughter-in-law was found hanging at their residence in Shajapur late on Tuesday evening.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Minister Inder Singh Parmar's daughter-in-law was found hanging at their residence in Shajapur late on Tuesday evening.

Savita Parmar (22), the deceased, had married Parmar's son Devraj Singh Parmar around three years back. The couple was living in Pochaner village of Shajapur district. According to police, the incident occurred around 5.30 p.m. Family discord is believed to be the cause behind the incident. Although nothing has been confirmed by police.

At the time of the incident, Inder Singh Parmar was in the state capital while Savita's husband Devraj was reportedly attending a wedding in Mohammad Khera, an adjacent village.No suicide note was recovered from the spot, police said.

Police said preliminary investigation suggested that she had committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan in her room. However, the actual reason would be known after the post-mortem.

After the incident, police personnel have been deployed at the minister's residence and the investigation was underway, police said. Police told mediapersons that Savita had gone to her parental house in Hadlay village and returned a day prior to the incident.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem. We are also interrogating the family members of both the sides," said a senior police official in Shajaur district.

After Almost 48 years Special Repair Work of Bharat Talkies ROB Will Be Undertaken

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang inspected Bharat Talkies Railway Over Bridge in Bhopal city today. He said that the Bharat Talkies Railway Over Bridge in Bhopal city, connecting the bus station and the old city to the railway station platform number one was constructed in the year 1974. Now with the special repair work of the bridge, it will be ready again for the next about 25 years. About Rs two and half to three crore will be spent on the repair work of the bridge.

Sarang informed that due to the repair work of the bridge, changes will be made in the traffic system for a short time. According to the planning of the district administration and the traffic police, a well-organised plan is being prepared to divert the traffic, so that the traffic remains smooth. He told that the traffic system has become smooth through 80 Feet Road of Ashoka Garden and Subhash Nagar ROB. The removal of encroachments of the underpass near Barkhedi will also facilitate traffic. Sarang gave instructions to vacate the godown built under Bharat Talkies ROB. He said that the encroached areas should be freed within two days.

It is noteworthy that since the bridge is quite old, the bearings and

pedestals of the bridge have been damaged and the riding condition is also bad. Keeping in view the situation, the work of all bearings and pedestals of the bridge will be done. Also, to fix the riding surface, the existing surface will be dismantled and the new surface mastic will be made of asphalt. Maintenance of the expansion joint will also be done. Apart from this, a new surface is proposed to be made by removing the paving blocks on the pavement. Work order has been issued for this work.

Eight months have been fixed for completion of the work. During the inspection, Sarang reached the vaccination camp running at GB Convent HS School, Shankaracharya Nagar and encouraged the children.

The vaccine is being administered to children above 12 years of age in the school. Sarang asked the children to motivate their friends for vaccination as well.

PLANT SAPLINGS ON BIRTHDAYS, MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES AND IN MEMORY OF FAMILY MEMBERS: CHIEF MINISTER

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Peepal saplings in the Smart City Garden on Wednesday. Anita Gaur, Kusum Uike, Magani Ben and Urmila Bijore of New Fort Social Welfare Society also planted saplings. Chief Minister Chouhan asked the members of the society to plant saplings on birthdays, wedding anniversaries and in the memory of the family members and motivate people to take care of the planted saplings.

Various works of cleanliness, environment-protection and colony development are being done by the society in the colony. For cleanliness in the colony, a campaign is conducted within a given time period. A pit has been constructed in the premises to make compost manure from the wet waste coming out of the colony. This manure is used only in the garden of the colony. In the plantation drive, saplings have been planted by the society at different places. The members of the society have taken the responsibility of these plants till they become trees. Peepal planted today is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Rich in antibiotic elements, neem is known as the supreme medicine.

'Pithora' is a mirror of the thoughts and feelings of the mind: Gangu Bai

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhil Painting Workshop under the Do and Learn Museum education program was inaugurated on Wednesday at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghryalay (IGRMS).

The workshop is being organized from 9th to 16th May, 2022 in IGRMS premises.On this occasion traditional Bhil Artist Gangu Bai said that members of the Bhil community on auspicious occasions decorate their house with Pithora painted on the inner wall of the house. A Pithora -maker is known as Lakhindra. Even today, on auspicious occasions like marriage in this tribe, the deity is established in the inner room of the house and the pictures of Pithoro Dev are inscribed on the walls according to the traditional rules. All these pictures which are inscribed in the honor of Pithoro are called Pithora.

The center part of the picture is of special importance where Pithoro's horse is shown by separating it specially by small dots or lines. Other characters in the second line such as Cituruno, Queen Kajal, Pithoro, Valan or Indiraja can be distinguished by their characteristic appearance or gestures such as smoking a hookah or holding a bird. In its outer and third parts, Ravana, Dholchi, bullock carts and elephants etc. give completeness to the painting.

SC's order to conduct local body polls without OBC reservation put BJP, Cong in dilemma

- The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (MPSEC) to start the process for conducting the local body polls in the state. However, the hurdles for the three-layer panchayat elections in the state continue to persist as both the ruling (BJP) and the Opposition (Congress) have already expressed unanimously that "elections should not be held without Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation".

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (MPSEC) to start the process for conducting the local body polls in the state. However, the hurdles for the three-layer panchayat elections in the state continue to persist as both the ruling (BJP) and the Opposition (Congress) have already expressed unanimously that "elections should not be held without Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation".The SC's judgment on this much debated and long pending OBC reservation issue has put both BJP and the Congress into a dilemma - what to do and what not to do.

With less than two years left for the state Assembly polls, both the political parties advocate for increasing OBC's quota from the existing 14 per

cent to 27 per cent - the step which is seen as a move to lure the OBC voters.

Interestingly, as per the 2011 Census, OBCs constitute 50.09 per cent of the state's population, and both the political parties want to get support from the community in the next Assembly polls. The BJP, which seemed to be on the back foot on th issue, responded soon after the apex court gave directions to the MPSEC, saying that the government will file a review petition against the verdict. Responding to queries, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "We are yet to study the judgement in detail but we will file a review petition hoping that the panchayat elections be held with OBC reservation."

Whereas, the state Congress unit has once again sharpened its attack on the Chief Minister and held him responsible for the present situation. The Congress accused the BJP of "not presenting detailed data regarding the OBC reservation before the court and hiding facts on the matter".

Congress MLA and former state cabinet minister Kamleshwar Patel, who is considered one of the key OBC leaders in the party, while speaking to IANS claimed that the BJP's "hidden agenda has brought this situation".

"The manner in which the BJP government presented the case before the court is a clear indication that they (BJP) have some agenda behind it. They (BJP) do not want to give benefit of reservation to OBC and that is why Shivraj government had passed a resolution to conduct local body polls without providing reservation to the community. The resolution was taken back because of relentless opposition from the Congress."

Patel further said that the Kamal Nath led Congress government had proposed to increase OBC reservation quota from 14 per cent to 27 per cent, but the Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP government "intentionally tampered with the set of constitutional rules for its political gain."

"This is not only about OBC reservation but about ST/SC also. Because of the BJP's wrong policies and tampering with constitutional rules, promotion of state employees falling under ST/SC categories and others are pending since long. Several employees have retired without getting benefit of their constitutional rights. BJP has destroyed the entire system just for its political gain and left the people of all communities to suffer," Patel added.

Replying to whether the Congress will agree with the SC's decision to conduct elections without OBC reservation, Patel said, "Congress party would welcome the apex court's direction and will contest elections. We will tell the people about the hidden face of the BJP on the reservation issue."

The SC on Tuesday directed the states to follow the triple test it laid down in 2021 for reservation to OBC in local body elections. The triple test involves the appointment of panels, gathering empirical data quantifying the extent and backwardness local body-wise, and ensuring the reservation does not exceed the 50 per cent ceiling.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज,

जिला रायसेन (म.प्र.)

E-mail:: cmobegamganj@mpurban.gov.in Ph No. 07487-272617

क्रमांक/310/भण्डार-शाखा/GEM/न.पा./2022, बेगमगंज, दिनांक 07.05.2022

GEM बिडिंग सूचना

एतद् द्वारा समस्त समक्ष श्रेणी पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों को सूचित किया जाता है कि निकाय द्वारा नीचे दी गई तालिकानुसार कार्य कराने हेतु लमसम दर पर ऑनलाईन GEM बिडिंग ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल www.gem.gov.in के माध्यम से निम्न विवरण अनुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	GEM बिडिंग नम्बर	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि	अमानत राशि	समयावधि
1	GEM/2022/B/2159300	नगर से विभिन्न स्थानों पर WELCOM GATE (12 MTR) स्थापित करने हेतु	3500000/- जी.एस.टी. सहित	नियमानुसार	15 दिवस
2	GEM/2022/B/2159394	नगर से विभिन्न स्थानों (SMART) MOBILE TOILET स्थापित करने हेतु	1600000/- जी.एस.टी. सहित	नियमानुसार	15 दिवस

Bid Details

Bid Stating Date/Time : 07.05.2022 12.00:00
Bid End Date/Time : 17.05.2022 13.00:00
Bid Opening Date/Time : 17.05.2022 13.30:00

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(अभिषेक चौरसिया)
प्रशासक
नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज

(धीरज शर्मा)
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज,जिला रायसेन (म.प्र.)

EVA MENDES HINTS AT ENDING HER 10-YEAR BREAK FROM ACTING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Eva Mendes has floated a potential end to her near-decade long hiatus from acting. Mendes has not starred in a feature film since a small supporting role in partner Ryan Gosling's 2014's directorial effort 'Lost River', although she lent her voice to a role on a 2021 episode of 'Bluey', reports 'Variety'. Mendes appeared on 'The View' and said her potential return to acting would have specific requirements.

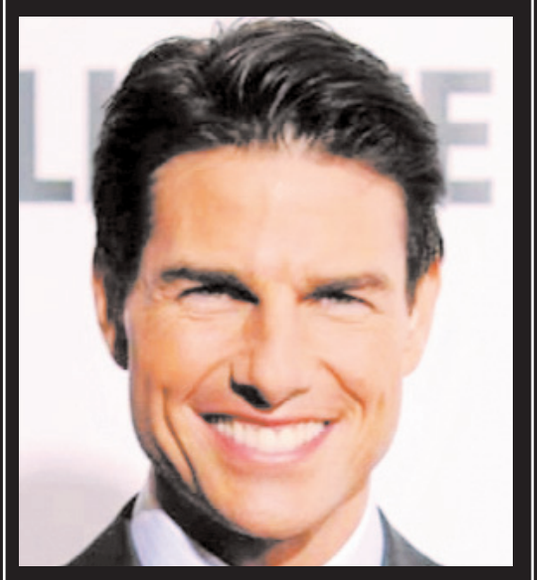
"I have such a short list of what I will do, with four kids," "I mean, if it was a fun project. But now I won't do violence, I don't want to do sexuality, the list is short. 'The View' co-host Sunny Hostin asked Mendes if she would end her acting break if a "special project" came her way that met all of her requirements, to which the actor answered, "I hope so."

Mendes' last starring role in a movie was the 2012 drama 'Girl in Progress', directed by Patricia Riggen.

The Lionsgate release only grossed $3 million at the box office. In that same year, Mendes played supporting roles in critical favorites such as Derek Cianfrance's 'The Place Beyond the Pines' and Leos Carax's Cannes stunner 'Holy Motors'.

Mendes' last live-action television role was a supporting turn in Larry David's 2013 HBO original movie 'Clear History'. Rumours have circulated that Mendes might return to the 'Fast and Furious' franchise now that production is underway on the final two-part installment.

Tom Cruise on working with Val Kilmer for a 'very special' scene in 'Top Gun: Maverick'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Tom Cruise says he "really rallied hard" for actor Val Kilmer to appear in 'Top Gun: Maverick'. The Hollywood star, who brought to life Lt Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell, really wanted the man who played his on-screen rival Lt Tom 'Iceman' Kazansky to come back for the sequel. "I really rallied hard for him to make the movie," the 'Vanilla Sky' star told Entertainment Tonight of the 'Batman Forever' actor, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The 59-year-old Tom praised 62-year-old Kilmer's "talent" and how they made a very "special" scene together. He said, "The kind of talent that he has, and you see that scene, it's very special, it's just very special," he continued speaking of a powerful scene in the film.

In 2021, 'Maverick' producer Jerry Bruckheimer echoed the sentiment, saying that Tom "really wanted" Val to join in with the flick. He said, "'We have to have Val, we have to have him back. We have to have him in the film.'"

"And he was the driving force. We all wanted him, but Tom was really adamant that if he's going to make another 'Top Gun', Val had to be in it," Jerry added.

"He's such a fine actor, and he's such a good individual. We had such a good time on the first one and wanted to bring some of the gang back together again."

Jerry also labelled their coming back together on-set as "very emotional" for the pair and production. He said, "It was a really emotional experience for all of us. It was a long time getting there, but we did."

'Top Gun: Maverick' is due to hit theaters on May 27 after making the rounds at the Cannes Film Festival.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Six days after the debut of 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness', actress Charlize Theron posted to Instagram the official first look of her as Clea, her character introduced in the mid-credits scene of the Marvel Studios film. Theron's casting as Clea had been rumoured for the last few weeks as word of the many surprises in 'Multiverse of Madness' began to trickle through the Internet. But Theron's post marks the first time the Oscar-winning actor has acknowledged she's playing the character.

According to 'Variety', in the film, Theron appears in full sorcerer regalia while

Charlize Theron posts first look of her Marvel debut in 'Doctor Strange 2'

Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) is walking down the street. She tells him that his multiverse hopping actions from the film have caused an "incursion" between universes, which, as it sounds, was not a good thing.

After ripping the fabric of reality to reveal a portal to the Dark Dimension -- i.e. Clea's home -- she asks Strange to join her to repair the damage, and he does.

In the Marvel comics, Clea is a fellow sorcerer with a lineage that traces directly to Dormammu, the overlord of the Dark Dimension who faced off with Strange in the climax of 2016's 'Doctor Strange'.

Eventually, Clea and Strange get married, but Clea must commute between the Dark Dimension and Strange's reality, which, naturally, puts something of a strain on their relationship. At this point, it is unclear where Theron's version of Clea will go within the MCU, but the post-credit scene strongly suggests that she and Cumberbatch will headline the next 'Doctor Strange' movie.

Amanda Seyfried got creeped out by boys asking about 'Mean Girls' weather report

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amanda Seyfried shared that she was often grossed out after the release of 'Mean Girls' because male viewers would approach her asking her if it was raining, a reference to the infamous weather report scenes in the comedy. Seyfried's character in the film, Karen Smith, believes she can predict the weather when she's holding her breasts.

According to 'Variety', the actor told Marie Claire that boys would come up to her and reference the scenes, one of which had her soaked in a rainstorm. "I always felt really grossed out by that," Seyfried said of the reaction.

"I was like 18 years old. It was just gross."

Reflecting on what today's young stars have to endure in the face of social media, Seyfried added: "I think being really famous [young] must really fucking suck. It must make you feel completely unsafe in the world. I see these younger actors who think they have to have security."

"They think they have to have an assistant. They think their whole world has changed. It can get stressful. I've seen it happen to my peers. So, I bought a farm. I was like, let's go in the opposite way." Seyfried recently graced the cover of Variety's Power of Women issue, where she spoke about how important it was for her not be pigeonholed by the success of 'Mean Girls'.

Riz Ahmed, Jessie Buckley to star in sci-fi romance 'Fingernails'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar nominee Jessie Buckley and Oscar winner Riz Ahmed have joined Christos Nikou's anticipated English-language feature film debut 'Fingernails'. According to 'Deadline', FilmNation is launching sales on the hot package at the Cannes market next week. Nikou's lauded pandemic-themed debut Apples was a buzz title at the 2020 Venice Film Festival. He has scripted his new project with Sam Steiner and Apples co-writer Stavros Raptis.

Hollywood star Cate Blanchett's Dirty Films is producing alongside Arrival outfit FilmNation Entertainment, which is also financing. Jerome Duboz will serve as executive producer.

Carey Mulligan was previously attached to the project but is no longer aboard.

In the world of the surreal drama, described to us as a "grounded sci-fi love story", a test has been discovered that measures whether couples are truly in love. To help couples succeed, love institutes have opened to guide them. Anna (Buckley) is skeptical of the positive result she's received with her longtime partner, so she starts working in a love institute as an assistant to Trevor (Ahmed), a mysterious, dedicated instructor. The intriguing plot sounds like prime territory for a director of the Greek new wave.

ANSON MOUNT RECALLS FIRST MEETING WITH PATRICK STEWART

Los Angeles | Agencies

Anson Mount, who is getting a positive response for his performance as Captain Christopher Pike in the recently released series 'Star Trek: Strange New Worlds', recently opened up about his first meeting with Sir Patrick Stewart, who is known for immortalising the character of Captain Jean-Luc Picard in the 'Star Trek' franchise.

The 49-year-old actor recollected the events of the past, as he said, "I have grown up watching the original 'Star Trek' series in syndication when I was about eight years old. And then the next viewing happened around junior high, for me.

"It's funny because Patrick Stewart was a very young man when I was in graduate school with mutual family friends. We once went to see him perform in 'The Tempest' at the Broadway. I remember I was absolutely star-struck as a 22-year-old."

"He took us for dinner afterwards. My friend asked him, 'Patrick what's next for you?' to which he said, 'I think I want to do the Scottish play, 'Macbeth' to first really f*** it up completely and second time to do it correctly. I remember saying to myself, 'Wow! that's commitment'", he added.

Sharing what appealed the most to him about this character, he said, "The quality of this character that really appealed to me was the depth of his empathy which requires a great deal of humility. He's not afraid to go wrong. In fact, the way he runs the bridge is very fascinating. Despite his powers, he is never afraid to experiment and that really intrigues me and inspires me in a way."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Emily Shah

IPL 2022

DELHI REGISTERS EIGHT-WICKET WIN OVER RAJASTHAN

Navi Mumbai | Agencies

Mitchell Marsh and David Warner put up a stand of 144 runs for the second wicket to power Delhi Capitals to a much-needed eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals at the DY Patil Stadium on Wednesday.

After Marsh along with Chetan Sakariya and Anrich Nortje took two wickets each in restricting Rajasthan to 160/6, he came out to lead the chase with a 62-ball 89 while Warner hanged around to play the anchor, remaining unbeaten on 52 off 41 balls.

Rajasthan drew first blood when KS Bharat departed for duck on the second ball, going for the pull but edged behind to keeper off Trent Boult. Prasidh Krishna backed it up with a maiden over while finding some swing. Warner and Marsh were initially cautious but started to open up when the latter hit Ravichandran Ashwin for a six over long-off. The duo took a four each off Boult before Marsh brought out an excellent pick-up shot off Krishna to clear backward square leg fence. Post power-play, he welcomed Kuldeep Sen with sixes over cow corner and down the ground.

Warner had three slices of luck in ninth over off Yuzvendra Chahal - a pulled six just cleared deep square leg, a miscued loft fell short of sliding long-off at 19 and on last ball, ball brushed past leg-break with bails lighting up but weren't separated.

After flicking Sen through square leg, Marsh reached his fifty in 38 balls with a loft down the ground off Chahal. He continued to make merry against pacers, slamming for back-to-back fours through backward point and backward square leg to keep Delhi in driver's seat.

Warner mlked Sen through extra cover; then he skipped down the pitch but got down late to sweep Chahal through backward square leg. The duo went on to feast on short balls from Ashwin, with Warner pulling over long-on and Marsh playing the same shot over square leg to take 15 runs off the off-spinner's final over.

After Ashwin, Boult came under thrashing from Marsh and Warner, who collected two fours and a six via the pull, with the former bludgeoning one over deep mid-wicket for a 102m six. In an attempt to get his eighth six, Marsh top-edged a slog-sweep to keeper off Chahal, falling 11 short of what would have been his first hundred in IPL. Rishabh Pant carted Chahal for two sixes over long-off and deep extra cover while Warner finished off the chase with a pull through deep mid-wicket, taking Delhi to victory with 11 balls to spare.

Brief scores :
Rajasthan Royals 160/6 in 20 overs (Ravichandran Ashwin 50, Devdutt Padikkal 48; Chetan Sakariya 2/23, Mitchell Marsh 2/25) lost to Delhi Capitals 161/2 in 18.1 overs (Mitchell Marsh 89, David Warner 52 not out, Trent Boult 1/32) by eight wickets

WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dominant Parveen advances to second round

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Parveen pulled off a powerful performance to enter the second round at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships after thrashing Mariia Bova by unanimous decision in Istanbul on Wednesday.

The boxer from Rohtak completely dominated the 63kg opening round bout as she attacked from the very beginning. Not just she timed her punches to perfection but also impressed in defence.

Showcasing sharp reflexes, Parveen landed some clear punches and her relentless attack unsettled her Ukrainian opponent quite a few times as she completed a comfortable win. After an impressive start to her campaign, Parveen will be up against the former Youth Olympics champion Jajaira Gonzalez of USA in the pre-quarter finals on Sunday. Later tonight, three other Indian pugilists, including Nikhat Zareen, are also set to begin their challenge at the prestigious tournament, which has been witnessing high voltage competition in presence of record 310 boxers from 73 countries across the world.

This year's event, which marks the 20th anniversary of the IBA Women's World Championships, will be played till May 20.

The 25-year-old boxer from Telangana, Nikhat will square off against Mexico's Herrera Alvarez in the 52kg opening round match. While Manisha (57kg), who received a bye in the opening round, and Saweety (75kg) will fight Nepal's Kala Thapa and England's Kerry Davis respectively.

2021 Asian Championships bronze medallist Jaismine, Anamika and Shiksha will kickstart their campaigns in the round-of-32 on Thursday. Jaismine will face challenge from the two-time Youth Asian Champion Porntip Buapa of Thailand in the 60kg category while Anamika (50kg) will fight against Romania's Eugenia Anghel. Shiksha, who was handed a bye in the opening round, will play Argentina's Herrera Milagros Rosario in the 54kg match.

In the last edition of the tournament, held in Russia in 2019, Indian boxers secured one silver and three bronze medals.

Aubameyang at the double for Barca as Betis and Granada both win in Spain

Madrid | Agencies

FC Barcelona strengthened their grip on second place in La Liga with a comfortable 3-1 win at home to Celta Vigo.

Memphis Depay opened the scoring in the 30th minute after great work from Ousmane Dembele and then turned provider for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to double the lead four minutes before halftime on Tuesday night.

Aubameyang doubled his tally of the night four minutes after the break with another assist from Dembele.

Iago Aspas pulled a goal back for Celta in the 50th minute, but Celta's hopes of a fightback suffered a setback when Jeison Murillo was sent off for a foul on Depay in the 58th minute.There was a worrying moment for Barca when Ronald Araujo had to be taken off the pitch in an ambulance after a clash of heads with Gavi just two minutes later, although reports said that he was conscious on his arrival at the hospital. Betis kept their slim hopes of finishing fourth alive (at least until Atletico Madrid's game on Wednesday) with a 3-0 win away to Valencia.

The game was a repeat of the final of the Copa del Rey, which Betis won on penalties just over a fortnight ago, but this wasn't anywhere near as close as Betis romped to a 3-0 win thanks to second-half goals from Willian Jose, Sergio Canales and Borja Iglesias. It was Valencia's sixth defeat in their Mestalla Stadium this season as the team drifts rudderless towards the end of the campaign. Alex Collado took advantage of a bad mistake from Athletic Club Bilbao midfielder, Dani Garcia, to score the only goal of the game as Granada beat their Basque rivals 1-0 in the Estadio de Los Carmenes stadium.The win means Granada have taken eight points from 12 since Aitor Karanka took over as coach and leaves them close to assuring top-flight survival for another year while virtually ending Athletic's hopes of playing in Europe next season.

Thomas and Uber Cup

INDIAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS LOSE FINAL GROUP TIE

Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

The Indian women's and men's badminton teams lost their final Thomas and Uber Cup 2022 group ties against South Korea and Chinese Taipei, respectively at the Impact Arena, here on Wednesday.

Both teams had already ensured their berths in the quarterfinals after winning their first two group ties but needed to win on Wednesday to top their respective groups. However, the Indian women's team lost 0-5 to South Korea while the men went down 2-3 against Chinese Taipei.

Having finished second in the Uber Cup Group D, the PV Sindhu-led women's team will go up against a strong Thailand team, which topped Group C in the top eight. On the other hand, the men's team are placed second in Thomas Cup Group C and their opponents in quarters will be decided later.

In the Uber Cup tie, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, ranked 7th in the badminton world rankings, started off the proceedings against world No. 4 An Seyoung in the first singles rubber.

The narrative repeated once again in game 2 as the Indian squandered an early lead. Eventually, Seyoung beat Sindhu 21-15, 21-14 in 42 minutes.From there on, the Indian challenge collapsed as Shruti Mishra and Simran Singhi lost 13-21, 12-21 to worlds silver medallists Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan in the first doubles match before Aakarshi Kashyap went down 10-21, 10-21 against world No 19 Kim Ga Eun. Meanwhile, in the Thomas Cup Group C tie, the Indian men's team showed a little more resistance against Chinese Taipei but submitted 2-3 eventually.Lakshya Sen, India's highest-ranked singles player at world No 9, went down fighting against world No 4 and Asian Games silver medallist Chou Tien Chen. India's top doubles draw Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy then lost 11-21, 19-21 to reigning Olympics doubles champions and Wang Chi-lin.

Italian Open

Rafael Nadal beats John Isner to reach third round

Rome | Agencies

Rafael Nadal maintained his perfect record of never losing back-to-back matches on clay, defeating the big-serving John Isner 6-3, 6-1 at the Italian Open here on Wednesday.

The Spaniard, beaten by Carlos Alcaraz in last week's Madrid Open quarterfinals, returned to his favourite surface with straight sets win over American Isner. Nadal has been untouchable at the Foro Italico for much of his career and he immediately looked settled in his return games against Isner, countering the American's huge serve with his trademark spinning groundstrokes.

Although the unseeded Isner competed well, he struggled to recover any momentum after letting slip two break points at 3-3 in the opening set as Nadal dominated the second to move to a 69-7 match record in the Italian capital.

The win continued Nadal's comeback to competitive action after he reached the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open last week following a six-week layoff due to a rib injury.

Having lost to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz in Spain, the win over Isner ensured Nadal has still never lost consecutive matches on clay, with Wednesday's victory taking him to 44-0 in matches following a defeat on the surface.

ZVEREV ADVANCES TO THIRD ROUND AFTER BEATING BAEZ

Rome: World No 3 Alexander Zverev advanced to the third round of the Italian Open after beating in-form Sebastian Baez, here on Wednesday.The German struggled to find the form that carried him to a 10th Masters 1000 championship match appearance at the Madrid Open last week, but he found a sufficient level to outlast Estoril champion Baez and clinch a 7-6(6), 6-3 in an intriguing second-round encounter at the Foro Italico.

Despite a disappointing loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Madrid final, the German looked back to his best at times in the Spanish capital after an inconsistent start to 2022 that has left the World No 3 still hunting a first title of the year. He will hope to use the victory over Baez as a foundation for another deep run in Rome, where he claimed his maiden Masters 1000 title as a 20-year-old in 2017.Baez came out with all the confidence of a man on a six-match winning streak. The Argentine won his first 21 points on serve as Zverev struggled to fire up his return game.

Archery Asia Cup Stage 2

INDIA FINISH SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN WITH 14 MEDALS

Sulaymaniyah (Iraq) | Agencies

Indian archers wrapped up a highly successful Asia Cup 2022 Stage-2 campaign with a total of 14 medals - eight golds, four silvers and two bronze, here on Wednesday

Having secured four medals on Tuesday, the young Indian archers added 10 more to their medals tally on the final day of the competition. India clean-swept gold medals in all categories barring the women's individual recurve and mixed recurve, both of which yielded silvers.

The final day's medal rush began after the Indian trio of Mrinal Chauhan, Parth Salunkhe and Juyel Sarkar outshot Bangladesh 5-1 in the men's recurve team event final to pocket the gold medal.Meanwhile, the women's recurve team of Avani, Bhajan Kaur and Laxmi Hembrom overcame a far sterner test in their final match. The trio edged out Bangladesh 5-4 in the gold medal decider. Parth Salunkhe and Bhajan Kaur then bagged the recurve mixed team silver after going down to Uzbekistan 5-4 in a shoot-out. Both Salunke and Kaur also won individual medals. While Parth Salunke defeated Uzbek archer Amirkhan Sadikov 6-4 in the bronze medal match, Bhajan Kaur had to settle for silver in the women's section, losing 6-2 against Iranian archer Mahta Abdollahi in the final.Mrinal Chauhan defeated Bangladeshi fourth seed Ruman Shana 6-2 to pocket the men's individual recurve gold.

Sarthak Chavan achieves historic podium finish at Thailand Talent Cup

Buriram (Thailand) | Agencies

Honda Racing India rider Sarthak Chavan has created history by securing a podium finish at Thailand Talent Cup (TTC) 2022 Round 2 at Chang International Circuit, here.

This marks the first time in the racing history of Honda Racing India that an Indian rider has achieved this remarkable feat.

Showcasing his riding skills, the 15-year-old lad from Pune meticulously maneuvered his way in race 2 of the round to reach top 5 after his 12th position start on the grid. Giving a tough fight to the competition even under wet conditions, Sarthak boldly took on the finest of Asian riders and finished the race in third place with just 0.583 seconds behind the race leader. Sarthak's teammate Kavin Quintal (16-year-old) too showed the might of a confident young Indian rider in the race. Starting 15th on the grid of 16 riders, the Chennai boy made a good start and overtook 5 riders in lap 1 itself. From there till the end of race 2, Kavin persevered through the stiff competition and closed at 9th position with the total time of 29:50.642.

Sr women's hockey nationals

ASSAM, CHANDIGARH, CHHATTISGARH AND RAJASTHAN WIN LEAGUE MATCHES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Assam Hockey, Hockey Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh Hockey and Hockey Rajasthan registered wins in their pool matches in the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2022 in Bhopal on Wednesday.

The first game of the day saw Hockey Chandigarh face off against Hockey Bihar in Pool A match. Monika (3'), Sonu (14'), Kavita (17'), Captain Rajani (26'), Priyanka (43'), and Rajani Waskale (59') scored goals for Hockey Chandigarh to help their team pick up a 6-2 win. Nutan Topno (10') and Nusrat Khatoon (30') scored the two goals for Hockey Bihar. In the second game of the day, Assam Hockey played off against Hockey Bengal in the Pool B match. Priyanshi Singh (9', 12', 40') starred for Assam Hockey in the match, scoring a hat-trick. Captain Elina Tigga (19', 35') also scored a brace in the match, while Milka Surin (26'), and Miximi (60') scored one goal each as Assam Hockey beat Hockey Bengal 8-0. In the third game of the day, Chhattisgarh Hockey faced off against Tripura Hockey in the Pool C match. Anjali Mahto (19', 48', 56') scored a hat-trick in the match, as she helped her team take the lead. Leena Kosare (5', 23') also scored a brace, while Rushali Kashyap (12'), and Captain Pooja Yadav (49') scored one goal each, helping Chhattisgarh Hockey beat Tripura Hockey 7-1. Priya (58') scored the sole goal for Tripura Hockey.In the fourth game of the day, Hockey Rajasthan faced off against Hockey Uttarakhand in a Pool D match. Reena Kanwar Balawat (28', 36') scored a brace in the match. Nidhi Chanderia (52') scored the third goal as Hockey Rajasthan beat Hockey Uttarakhand 3-1. Monika Chand (19') scored the sole goal for Hockey Uttarakhand.

INDIA TO BE AN OFFICIAL COUNTRY OF HONOUR AT 75 TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 75th Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off on May 17, has everyone's eye. It is undoubtedly one of the most renowned events, and being a part of it is a tremendous honour. Pooja Hegde's appearance on the red carpet of the Film Festival this year was only announced yesterday. She will be making her debut while representing her country at the yearly festival. According to sources, Pooja Hegde will be the first female Pan India celebrity to attend the event. More names of actors who will be walking the red carpet have emerged.

Reportedly, Akshay Kumar, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, AR Rahman, and R Madhavan are among the actors and musicians who will walk the red carpet at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival opening ceremony. The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur will accompany them. Tamannaah Bhatia, Pooja Hegde, Nayanthara, CBFC president Prasoon Joshi, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and folk performer Mame Khan are also expected to walk the red carpet.

For the unversed, this year's Cannes Film Festival will honour India as the Official Country of Honour. The Palais des Festival premiere of R Madhavan's Rocketry: The Nambi Effect will take place on May 19 as part of these festivities. In addition, the restored version of G Aravindan's Thamp will be shown at the film festival. This will be the first time the market has an official Country Of Honour, and the tradition is expected to continue in future years.

Mahesh Babu's 'Bollywood cannot afford me' statement sparks debate

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Mahesh Babu recently made a statement at Adivi Sesh's 'Major' trailer launch, which has sparked a debate. When asked about his plans to star in Bollywood films, the actor stated that "Bollywood cannot afford" him.

Despite the fact that the statement has been taken out of context, social media is buzzing with conversations about the same subject.

Mahesh Babu's fans defend his statement, claiming that he has always given the same response, which is now being exaggerated.

"I may come across as arrogant, but I have received numerous offers in Hindi. However, I believe they cannot afford me. I don't want to squander any of my time or others. I never considered leaving Telugu cinema or going to other places, because of the fame and love I have here."

"I've always imagined making films here and seeing them grow in popularity, and that dream is now becoming a reality. I couldn't be more pleased," is what the 'Okkadu' actor stated at the event. Mahesh Babu is also not comfortable with acting in remakes, which he has always been open about. "If a person doesn't want to work in a certain space, why do we have to assume that the person doesn't respect them?", one of his fans wrote. "Why do we have to draw controversy from every other statement by the actors", another one wrote.

Jacqueline Fernandez seeks permission to go to Abu Dhabhi for IIFA 2022

Team Absolute | Mumbai

According to a news agency, Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who is under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate for her ties to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, has filed an application with a Delhi court seeking permission to travel abroad for 15 days to attend the IIFA Awards in Abu Dhabi. The actor has also requested permission to travel to France and Nepal after the federal agency seized her assets worth Rs.7.27 crore.

A legal notice against her in connection with the case, and she was forbidden from travelling abroad in December of last year.

The actor is not allowed to leave the country while the investigation is ongoing and her relationship with Sukesh Chandrashekhar is being examined. She was stopped briefly at the Mumbai airport as she was about to fly to Mumbai, but she was soon freed and allowed to return home. In connection with the investigation, the actor has been questioned multiple times.

According to the ED, the actor agreed to receiving gifts from Sukesh Chandrashekhar, who according to the actress, approached her with a film proposition. Sukesh had introduced himself as a channel owner, according to Jacqueline.

KIARA ADVANI REVEALS HER SUPERSTITION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani, who is appearing on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote her new film, reveals how she is just superstitious about one thing in life.

She is coming with co-actors Kartik Aaryan and Rajpal Yadav along with director Anees Bazmee. After making her debut in the comedy film 'Fugly', Kiara played a supporting role in the sports biopic 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story'. She also got appreciation for the anthology film 'Lust Stories'. The actress also rose to fame with her roles in Telugu political thriller 'Bharat Ane Nenu' and the Hindi films such as 'Kabir Singh' and 'Shershaah'. In conversation with host Kapil Sharma, Kiara said: "I am not at all superstitious, except for one thing. I believe that till the time I don't actually sign a film, I won't tell anyone." To this Archana Puran Singh complimented Kiara on being wise. 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan pay homage to Pt Shivkumar Sharma

Mumbai: Legendary musician and santoor player Pandit Shivkumar Sharma breathed his last on May 10. The musician, who was born in Jammu, has been credited with popularising the once little-known musical instrument, santoor.

He had been suffering from kidney-related issues for the last six months and was on dialysis. He passed away due to cardiac arrest.

His last rites were head earlier today at the Vile Parle Hindu cremation ground near the Juhu airport.

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan were seen making their way to pay their last respects to the Santoor player. Big B with folded hands met Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma's family members. Javed Akhtar too was snapped after Big-B. He too came in and paid his last respect. Celebrities like Shabana Azmi, Ila Arun and Hariharan were also snapped paying homage to the music maestro. Sharma's family released a statement that read, "He had a severe heart attack at around 9am... He was active and was to perform in Bhopal next week. He was on regular dialysis but was still active."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Aahna Kumra

Raymon Kakar: Gaining control of our ego is an art

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As May 11 is celebrated as Ego Awareness Day, actress Raymon Kakar, who is known for featuring in popular shows like 'Ye Teri Galiyan', 'Apna Time Bhi Aayega' and 'Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye', feels gaining control on our ego is the best art.

She says: "Our ego can take away so many good things from our life and can push away many loved ones from us. Our ego will affect the way we live our life and we won't be able to deal with the disappointments or the hardships in a healthy way; and disappointments are a part of life.

"In a way, ego will kill our happiness. I personally believe gaining control of our ego is the best art that we all can do for ourselves or else it will continue getting in the way of our relationships, our career and our life." Raymon who also acted in iconic shows like 'Bhabhi' and 'Kkusum' believes ego is the biggest enemy in life. She adds: "Being egoistic can make you irrational. Aa when all you want to do is win or prove others wrong, you start acting in ways that are not very diplomatic or rational. You will always say and do things that you might regret if all you want to do is prove you're right instead of trying to understand things from a logical standpoint."

"That's what ego does to you - it overshadows everything, taking away our sense of rationality. It forces us to make everything about ourselves. We agree that self-esteem and confidence are must-haves to survive in this big bad world, but ego is our biggest enemy," concludes the actress.

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