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Despite slew of polls ahead, prospects of populist budget appear bleak

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The scope for a blatant populist budget looks bleak amid moderating tax revenue, high committed revex, and market loans, Emkay Global Financial Services said in a report. On the revenue side, lower tax buoyancy could be partly countered by higher RBI dividend and still-healthy assumption of divestment proceeds. "We watch for possible changes to capital gains tax structure and new personal tax regime, extension of concessional 15% tax rate for new manufacturing units, and higher import tariffs on PLI-related products," the report said.

On the revenue front, gross tax/GDP ratio is expected to moderate to 10.9 per cent after a robust tax-buoyant FY23 across segments. "We will watch for possible changes to the capital gains tax structure to bring uniformity among tax rates/holding periods of various asset classes and some tinkering around the new concessional tax regime and an extension of concessional 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new manufacturing units and marginally higher customs duties on PLI-related products," the report said. Separately, higher non-tax revenue would be led by bumper RBI dividends amid FX sales. The upcoming budget faces acute

policy trade-offs between nurturing a nascent growth recovery and diminishing fiscal space with challenging debt dynamics. The FY24 Union Budget will be presented against the backdrop of renewed uncertainties around global and domestic growth, tighter financial conditions, and the Union elections in CY24, the report said. However, even as additional support to some vulnerable segments of the economy is warranted, a delicate balance needs to be maintained, ensuring the fiscal impulse is maximized to boost potential growth, even as policy adherence to medium-term fiscal sustainability is signalled. This would require: (1) the expendi-

ture-to-GDP ratio to remain healthy; and (2) front-loaded investment-focused stimulus, especially amid its larger multiplier effect on growth and employment. This necessitates innovative reforms, better resource allocation, and possible fiscal funding by aggressive asset sales in the form of existing functional infrastructure monetization, disinvestment, and strategic sales, among others. However, going ahead, we believe some of these windfall gains may face pressure from stake sales of the government's large holdings, which are mainly concentrated in commodity companies and the utilities sector, the report said.



RAHUL GANDHI SNUBS DIGVIJAYA SINGH FOR HIS STATEMENT ON SURGICAL STRIKES

Jammu | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday snubbed party colleague Digvijaya Singh for his comment on the surgical strikes in Pakistan in 2016. In his statement, Singh had questioned the authenticity of the strikes undertaken by the BJP-led Central government, following a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri that killed 19 soldiers. Addressing a media conference here, Rahul Gandhi said, "I don't agree with Digvijaya Singh's statement. We trust the Army. The Army need not clarify on what it does."

"We are a democratic party. We are not a dictatorship. We do not appreciate Digvijaya Singh's views. I can assure you that Digvijaya Singh's views are not shared by the party."

He, however, did not agree that Singh's statement would affect the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"The Yatra has achieved something very powerful. This cannot be changed. The Yatra has been a success. India is being brought together", Rahul said. Rahul later left Nagrota for Udhampur town in Jammu division, continuing his Yatra. In his statement Singh had also said, "Forty of our CRPF jawans were martyred in Pulwama. CRPF officials had requested PM Modi that personnel should be airlifted, but PM Modi didn't agree. How did such a lapse occur? Till date,



BJY SUCCEEDED IN FIGHTING 'BJP NARRATIVE OF HATRED': RAHUL

"There were a lot of lessons for us in the Yatra and we have learnt a lot after meeting people of various shades during our journey. There is no scope for hatred in the country as Congress believes in spreading the message of love. Our endeavour is to open the shops of love across J&K that has been made a scapegoat of politics. Through Bharat Jodo Yatra, we have largely been able to fight the disastrous narrative of hatred spread by the BJP in the country." Rahul Gandhi while reacting to the BBC documentary on Gujarat riots said that truth always comes out and it cannot be suppressed by using the ED and CBI.

no report on Pulwama has been placed before Parliament." On

February 14, 2019, a suicide bomber had rammed his explosives laden car

CONGRESS SHOULD CLARIFY STAND ON COUNTRY'S SECURITY: PRASAD

New Delhi:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has reacted sharply to Digvijaya Singh's statement in which the veteran Congress leader raised questions on the surgical strike. BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the Congress should clarify its stand on the issue related to the security of the country.

He said that this is very shameful and unfortunate, the leaders of the Congress party will have to apologize for this. This is the gang which works to break the country, and these leaders have the support of the senior leaders of the Congress party.

into a convoy of the CRPF on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway at Lethpora in Pulwama district killing 40 troopers. In retaliation for this attack, Indian Air Force fighter planes had bombed areas deep inside the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Fake 'ED raid' on jeweller: Mumbai Police crack case in 24 hrs, nab 3

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major shocker, a gang of four persons, including a woman, impersonating Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers, "raided" and looted a Mumbai bullion dealer of gold and cash worth over Rs 2 crore, police said on Tuesday.

Moving swiftly into the investigations, the LT Marg Police have arrested three of the accused - Mumbaiikars M. Fazal S. Gilitwala, 50, and M. Raji Rafiq, 37, and Vishakha Vishwas Mudhole from Khed town in Ratnagiri.

The police have also recovered a major portion of the loot from them even as the incident on Monday sent shockwaves in the glittering Zaveri Bazar area - the hub of gold jewellery business in south Mumbai.

Recounting the details, Deputy Commissioner of Police, II, Abhinav Deshmukh said that on Monday afternoon, Gilitwala and Rafiq barged into the offices of VBL Bullions in the heart of Zaveri Bazar and assaulted an attendant.

Announcing that "this is an ED raid", they demanded to meet company owner



Viratbhai, started "searching" the office and staffers, confiscated their mobiles, and ordered them to collect all the cash, gold and other valuables.

When worker Dashrath Mali demanded to see their I-cards, they slapped him, and even handcuffed him, and collected the booty worth over Rs 2 crore from the office, plus the mobile phones of the staffers.

They ordered Mali to take them to the other office at Diamond House nearby, where Vishakha Mudhole and her accomplice had already held hostage manager Vijay Shah, and demanded to know the whereabouts of Viratbhai.

Told that Virabhai had gone to his native place, the foursome freed Mali's handcuffs, asked him to leave the premises, grabbed the loot and decamped from there.

The scared Mali informed the shaken company officials and local jewellers on the "raids" but sensing something fishy, the police was informed, said DCP Deshmukh.

The police set up several teams, used tech-intel and scanned CCTV footage of the area and finally zeroed in on the culprits to arrest them. "We have recovered Rs 15 lakh cash and around 2.70 kg of the stolen gold. We suspect there may be other associates involved in this operation and are on the lookout for them," said Deshmukh.

Meanwhile the accused Gilitwala and Rafiq were produced before the Esplanade Court and have been remanded to seven days' police custody, while the formalities for the accused woman Mudhole are underway.

Man flings currency notes off Bengaluru flyover, faces case

Bengaluru | Agencies

An unidentified man flung off currency notes from a Bengaluru flyover on Tuesday, leading to a traffic jam on the roads below as people scrambled to gather the money, police said.

The incident was reported from the Mysuru Road flyover in Kalasipalya area.

Both pedestrians and vehicle occupants below were taken by total surprise and couldn't believe it when they saw currency notes of Rs 10 denomination falling at their feet from both sides.

The development created

huge commotion in the usually crowded Kalasipalya locality, as people, in a mad rush to pick the currency notes, created a traffic jam. The traffic cops present at the spot were left at their wit's end.

DCP, West, Lakshman Nimbargi stated that a case was filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Police Act, a person taken into custody and an inquiry is going on.

The identity of the "generous" man and his motive behind the act is yet to be ascertained.

Zomato announces 800 vacancies across 5 areas amid mass layoffs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While tech giants are laying off employees around the globe, Zomato's Chief Executive Officer Deepinder Goyal has shared about 800 job opening at the firm across five areas.

The CEO stated that the food aggregator was looking to hire engineers, product managers and growth managers. Goyal also posted ads looking to hire a chief of staff to CEO, generalist, product owner, and software development engineer.

"To express interest in knowing more about any of these roles, please



mail me at deepinder@zomato.com -- me and/ or my team will be prompt in responding to you and closing the loop either way," he said in his LinkedIn post. The company's co-founder and

chief technology officer, Gunjan Patidar, resigned earlier this month and co-founder Mohit Gupta quit in November last year. Rahul Ganjoo, the head of new initiatives, left the company in November.

Zomato scrapped its 10-minute delivery service on Monday, a year after piloting it in Bengaluru, Gurugram and in some areas of Delhi. The food aggregator had announced plans to roll out instant-a 10-minute food delivery service in March last year.

The company is currently rebranding the business and working on a new menu with its restaurant partners.

95TH OSCAR NOMINATIONS: A HAT-TRICK WITHIN THE GRASP OF 'NAATU NAATU'

Mumbai | Agencies

S.S. Rajamouli's 'RRR' has bagged nomination in the Best Original Song category at the 95th Oscar Awards for its livewire track 'Naatu Naatu'.

The hosts for the nomination event, Riz Ahmed and Allison Williams, announced the nominations on Tuesday. The song, which has become an international phenomenon, had earlier bagged the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song, besides winning at the Critics' Choice Awards in the same category.

The fictional story of India's freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju (played by Ram Charan) and Komaram Bheem (played by NTR Jr.). It also stars Bollywood actors such as Ajay Devgn and Alia Bhatt. The 95th Academy Awards is set to be presented at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 12, 2023.

Simultaneously, Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen's directorial 'All That Breathes' has made it to the 95th Oscar Awards after it got nominated in the Documentary Feature Film category.

AAP REFUSES TO LEAVE AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF MCD HOUSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After the adjournment of the MCD House following ruckus created by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over Mayoral election, AAP refused to leave the House till the Mayor is elected. Speaking from the gallery, senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said that all the 135 councillors, along with 13 MLAs and three MPs, are sitting in the House, and Delhi should get a Mayor on Tuesday itself. "BJP doesn't have the numbers, so why they have adjourned the House? All our councillors,

MLAs and MPs are sitting here. If the BJP has the guts, let the election process be conducted smoothly," he said. AAP MP Sanjay Singh said that video footages are there in the public domain which show that the AAP councillors, MLAs and MPs not reacting to BJP councillors. "They were harassing our councillors, and now suddenly the House has been adjourned," Singh said. "This is an insult to the verdict of two crore people of Delhi," he added. "With a total of 135 AAP councillors, 13 MLAs and three MPs, we have 151 votes in the favour of an AAP Mayor.

RESEARCHERS WORKING ON COVID VACCINE THAT PEOPLE CAN DRINK

Researchers are working on a Covid-19 vaccine that people may drink instead of receiving with a needle, expanding their focus onto mucosal vaccines, which include nasal vaccines as well as "swish and swallow" oral vaccines.

- ▶ Scientists are hopeful that mucosal vaccines will not only protect against severe diseases and death, as revolutionary mRNA vaccines and boosters have but also ward off infections, the report said.
- ▶ Different from traditional vaccines, mucosal vaccines enter through our mucous membranes, either through our nose (as in the much-discussed nasal Covid-19 vaccine) or through our gut (as in the orally suspended QYNDRs).
- ▶ Mucosal vaccines have been supported as viable, or even preferable, options for combating Covid-19 infections due to the different types of immunity they produce and the fact that it begins right where the virus enters our bodies, the report mentioned.

San Francisco | Agencies

The vaccine, called QYNDR, completed its phase 1 clinical trial and is currently waiting on more funding to conduct the more detailed, advanced trials that could actually bring the vaccine to market, reports CNET. "The QYNDR vaccine is pronounced 'kinder', because it's a softer way to deliver a vaccine," Kyle Flanigan, founder of QYNDR's maker, US



Specialty Formulations, was quoted as saying.

Moreover, the report said that promising clinical trial

results from New Zealand offer hope that QYNDR will be a viable option for protection against the string of Covid-19 variants circulating now. "It's really challenging to have a vaccine survive making it through your digestive system," Flanigan said. "We were able to figure out how to get a vaccine past the stomach and into the gut and have it be effective and induce the appropriate response," she added.



PM INTERACTS WITH AWARDEES OF PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday gave tips to young students on capacity building, confidence development and problem solving, during his interaction with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) awardees at his residence.

Modi presented souvenirs to all the awardees and discussed their achievements on a one-to-one basis, which was followed by interaction with the entire group. He engaged in an open-hearted interaction in an informal setting. The children asked him various questions about the challenges they face and sought his guidance on a variety of topics, official sources said. The Prime Minister suggested to the awardees to start by solving small problems, gradually build capacity, enhance capability and develop confi-



dence to solve bigger problems as they go ahead in life. Discussing the issue of mental health and problems faced by children, he talked about tackling the stigma around the issue and the important role of family in tackling such issues.

India has been conferring the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories -- innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture and bravery. Each awardee is given a medal, a

cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate. This year, 11 children from across the country, under different categories of Bal Shakti Puraskar, have been selected for PMRBP-2023. The awardees belonging to 11 states include six boys and five girls.

GOVT CALLS ALL-PARTY MEETING ON JAN 30 ON EVE OF BUDGET SESSION

New Delhi: The government has convened an all-party meeting on January 30 -- on the eve of the Budget Session, sources aware of the developments said on Tuesday.

The customary meeting has been convened by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi just ahead of the budget session, which begins on January 31. The government is likely to reach out to all the parties, mainly the Congress, Trinamool Congress and other Opposition parties, to seek their cooperation for a smooth functioning of the session. While the economic survey will be presented in Parliament on January 31, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Budget on February 1. The first part of the session will be held from January 31 till February 13. The second part of the session will commence on March 13 and culminate on April 6.

Promoted many leaders but they left the party, says Nitish

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, while targeting R.C.P. Singh and Upendra Kushwaha, claimed that many leaders came to his JD-U and he had promoted them but they either talked against his party or left it.

The party is not affected by it, he added.

On the 99th birth anniversary of Jannayak Karpoori Thakur, Nitish Kumar went to his native village Karpoorigram in Samastipur district to participate in an event to mark the occasion.

During the event, he said: "Some people (Kushwaha) came to the party two years ago and are criticising us with the actual motive of making grounds for leaving the party."

Kushwaha, after the 2020 Assembly election, merged his RLSF into the JD-U after not managing to win a single



seat. The JD-U had given him the post of party's Parliamentary Board President.

"I have promoted many leaders but they talked against us and left the party. The party is not affected with their absence," Nitish Kumar said.

Asked about Kushwaha's recent comments, he

promptly said: "We have nothing to do with him. He came with us and said something. He is free to say whatever he wants. Don't ask me about him."

Besides Kushwaha, Nitish Kumar also hinted that he had given top post to R.C.P. Singh who was a bureaucrat but he was also involved in anti-party activities.

Shraddha murder case

Delhi Police files over 6,000-page chargesheet against Aaftab

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of murdering his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, till February 7, an official said, adding, the Delhi Police has also filed a chargesheet in the case which contains 6,629 pages.

Poonawala has been accused of killing Walkar and then chopping her body into several pieces and storing them in a refrigerator before disposing of them in the Chhatrapur forest area over a period of three months.

According to sources, the chargesheet was prepared on the basis of forensic and electronic evidence, and it has around 100 witnesses.

Aaftab was produced before the court through



video conferencing.

While Metropolitan Magistrate Aviral Shukla was dealing with the proceedings, Poonawala contended that he wanted to change his lawyer. The court on January

10 had extended his judicial custody by 14 days.

Poonawala had demanded law books to study. The court had also directed the prison authorities to provide him with warm clothes.

SC strikes off magistrate's approval condition from 'living will' process

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday removed the condition, mandating a magistrate's approval for withdrawal or withholding of life support to a terminally ill person.

A five-judge constitution bench, headed by Justice K.M. Joseph, said now the document will be signed by the executor of the living will. Two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, should be there when the document is signed and attested before a notary or gazetted officer, it added.

The bench also agreed to take on board a suggestion that the executor should hand over a copy of the advance directive to the family physician, if there is any.

The apex court introduced these changes in order to make the guidelines on "living will", which is an advance medical directive on end-of-



life treatment, more workable.

The bench -- also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and C.T. Ravikumar -- said that the notary and the witnesses should record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and there was no coercion involved.

The bench also agreed to a recommendation that the treating physician when learns about the advance directive, should then determine the authenticity of the document.

During the hearing in the matter, the top court had pulled up the Central government for not enacting a law on passive euthanasia as laid down in its 2018 judgment.

Last week, the Supreme Court had said it will not review its 2018 judgment on passive euthanasia and instead it would modify the guidelines on "living will" to make it more effective.

VHP, Bajrang Dal not to oppose release of 'Pathaan' in Gujarat

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has announced that it will not oppose the release of Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Pathaan' in Gujarat.

VHP state secretary Ashok Raval made this announcement through a video message to its workers. Raval said there were 40 scenes in the movie which hurt the sentiments of the Hindus and the VHP and the Bajrang Dal had raised objections and decided to oppose it.

After the VHP raised the issue, the Censor Board had asked the movie's producers to remove those scenes. The demand was met by the director/producer of the movie and



as the Hindu community's demands have been met, the organisation has decided that

neither the VHP nor the Bajrang Dal activists will stage a protest against the movie.

MAN KILLED IN HOWRAH FOR PROTESTING AGAINST DAUGHTER'S MOLESTATION

Kolkata: A 35-year-old man was lynched in West Bengal's Howrah district by two local youths after he made an attempt to prevent his minor daughter's molestation.

While the police have arrested one of the two youths, the other is absconding. The two are learnt to be brothers.

According to Howrah (rural) police superintendent, Swati Bhangalia, cases have been registered with charges of murder as well as under various sections of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

"The two accused are brothers. We have already arrested one of them. The other accused person is absconding," Bhangalia informed.

On Sunday evening, the minor girl, a student of Class 10, was returning home from her tuition class. The two accused stopped her and molested her. On being informed, her father rushed to the spot.

The father protested and tried to prevent the accused from their nefarious attempts. On being resisted, the two accused severely assaulted him. He fell down on the ground, bleeding profusely, as the accused persons fled from the scene.

Couple held with 70 kg ganja in Gurugram

Gurugram | Agencies

A couple was arrested on charges of cannabis (ganja) smuggling on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway in Manesar, the police said on Tuesday.

The police seized 70 kg ganja valued at Rs 10 lakh from their possession.

The arrested persons have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

According to the police, they received a tip-off about huge quantity of contraband being smuggled on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway.

"After getting the information, the police rushed to the spot and overpowered the accused," said Preet Pal Sangwan, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime). The couple has been identified as Sukhdev Singh alias Sukhu (30) and Priyanka (28). Upon questioning, the duo disclosed that they had sourced the narcotics from Uttarakhand and were about to



sell them in Gurugram and adjoining areas.

The police said that the duo had been involved in drugs trade for the last few years. "We are checking their criminal records and whether they were arrested earlier. A case under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered against the accused at the Manesar police station," Sangwan said.

DGCA imposes Rs 10L fine on Air India for not reporting two incidents on Paris-New Delhi flight

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aviation regulator DGCA imposed a financial penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for not reporting the incidents which occurred on AI-142 Paris-New Delhi flight on December 6, 2022.

Two incidents had occurred in the Air India flight. While one passenger who was caught smoking in the lavatory, was drunk and not adhering to the crew instructions; another passenger allegedly relieved himself on a vacant seat and blanket of a fellow female passenger when she went to the lavatory.

Accordingly, the DGCA issued show cause notice to the Accountable Manager of Air India as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. Air India submitted a reply to the show cause notice on January 23 and the same was examined, said a senior DGCA official on Tuesday.

"Enforcement action in the form of Financial Penalty of Rs 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only) has been imposed on Air India for not reporting the incident to DGCA and delaying in referring the matter to its Internal Committee, which is a violation of applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements," said the official. Following two incidents of passenger misconduct in the Air India Paris-New Delhi flight on December 6,



2022, the aviation regulator DGCA had asked the airline to maintain a database of all unruly passengers. It also asked the airline to refer the incident to the internal committee.

Earlier, in the Air India peeing incident which occurred on November 26, 2022 flight, the regulator on January 20 had imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on Air India and suspended the License of pilot-in-command for three months. Moreover, the regulator had also imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on Director-in-flight services of Air India for failing to discharge her duties.

However, reacting to this action, All India Cabin Crew Association (AICCA) said that the derostered Air India crew in connection with the Air India urination case be reinstated on flights. It also termed the action against pilot-in-command (PIC) an unusually harsh punishment.

Delhi L-G bypassing elected govt leading to legal crisis: Sisodia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

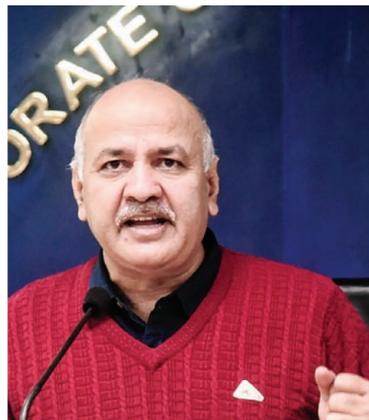
Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday alleged that Lt Governor V.K. Saxena and the chief secretary have created a situation wherein many people accused of committing serious crimes against the state might go scot free.

Stating that the Chief Secretary has started sending files directly to L-G bypassing the Minister in-charge, Sisodia sought a list of cases in which his approval was not taken from the Minister by 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

"Hon'ble L-G and the Chief Secretary, in their over-enthusiasm to bypass elected government on every matter, have created a situation wherein many people accused of committing serious crimes against the state might go scot free", he said.

Underlining Section 196 of IPC, the DC CM said that in the case of crime committed against the state, no court shall take cognizance of any such case without the approval/sanction of the state government. Many serious crimes fall under this category.

"According to the Law Department of Delhi



Government, state government in this law means elected government. This means that the Minister-

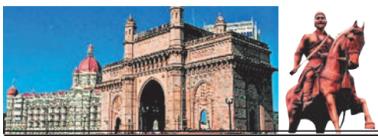
in-charge is the competent authority and the minister's approval was supposed to be taken in all these cases. After taking the Minister's approval, the file would be sent to Hon'ble LG to decide whether he differed from the decision of the Minister and whether he would like to refer it to the President of India", Sisodia said.

He said that the procedure was being followed till a few months back. However, in the last few months, the Chief Secretary started sending all these files directly to the L-G bypassing the Minister.

"Hon'ble L-G also gave approvals in all these cases, though he is not the approving authority. Therefore, in all such criminal cases in the last few months, sanctions given for prosecution are invalid. When the accused will raise this point in the courts, they will be released", Sisodia said.

The Deputy CM, who is the Minister-in-charge, has directed the Chief Secretary to place a list of all such cases before him by 5 pm on Wednesday in which approval was not taken from the Minister.

The Chief Secretary and the L-G have created a peculiar situation for the government of Delhi, he added.



MANN SHOWCASES PUNJAB AS INVESTMENT DESTINATION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday visited the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and showcased the state as the most preferred investment destination across the country.

The Chief Minister, while interacting with the media after performing the bell ringing ceremony at the BSE here, showcased Punjab as a land of opportunities and invited companies to invest in the state.

He said entrepreneurs will be immensely benefited by investing in the state, which is rapidly emerging as the industrial hub of the country. "Punjab has complete communal harmony, peace and amity, which are mainly responsible for overall development and prosperity in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister urged the industrialists to make optimum use of this congenial atmosphere backed by excellent infrastructure, power, skilled human resources and the best industrial and work culture to spread their business.

Extending a red carpet welcome to the industrialists, he said the government was always open for new ideas



and innovations to boost the industrial growth in Punjab. "The day is not far away when Punjab will emerge as the industrial hub of the country," Mann said.

Inviting the captains of the industry to visit the state in the Invest Punjab Summit slated to be held next

month at SAS Nagar, the Chief Minister said that the Invest Punjab Summit being organised on February 23-24 will prove to be a milestone in giving a major fillip to the industrial growth of the state. He said the government has already finalised the arrangements for this mega event.

Mann said the main motive behind giving fillip to industrialisation in the state is to reverse the trend of brain drain in the state by opening new vistas of employment for the youth.

On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer of the BSE, Sundararaman R., felicitated the Chief Minister.

Ex-CP Sanjay Pandey was given 'target' to arrest me: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said that former Mumbai Police chief Sanjay Pandey had been given a "target" to arrest him but the police officer could not succeed as he had done nothing wrong. Fadnavis was speaking at an event organised here by regional news channel ABP Majha.

"The Mahavikas Aghadi government had given a target to then Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to put me in jail. The MVA government had given orders to frame me or slap some criminal charges (on me) anyhow," said the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader.

Fadnavis returned as the deputy chief minister last year after a revolt by Eknath Shinde split the Shiv Sena and led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government that also comprised the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party.

"It is the truth and now you can ask any police official. They will also tell about it," he said adding, "However, I



had done nothing that would help them put me in jail, and thus they failed."

Fadnavis also said that he does not hold any personal animosity against Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, who was the chief minister with the support of the Congress and NCP.

"Uddhav Thackeray completely stopped answering my phone calls. If he did not want to form an alliance (with BJP after 2019 state polls), he should have told me so," he said.

"At a function recently, I met 'wahini' (Uddhav's wife Rashmi Thackeray) and told her to convey my regards to Uddhav Thackeray. This is the culture of Maharashtra and I cannot disregard it," he said.

Soon after the fall of the MVA government, Pandey, a 1986-batch retired Indian Police Officer, was arrested in connection with a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees. He is currently out on bail.

BJP's Bawankule seeks Patole's reaction on Karnataka Cong chief's statement



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Friday sought the reaction of Congress leaders in the state on the comments of their Karnataka colleague D K Shivakumar on the border row between the two states. Shivakumar had,

on Wednesday, asked Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to lead an all-party delegation to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to get an assurance on the state's stand on the border issue.

Speaking to reporters in Vidhan Bhavan complex here, Bawankule wanted Maharashtra Congress chief

Nana Patole and other leaders to clear their stand on the aggressive statements made by Shivakumar on the border row.

Bawankule also brushed aside the no-confidence motion brought by the Opposition parties against Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar and said it would fall flat.

BODIES OF 7 FAMILY MEMBERS FOUND IN PUNE RIVERBED

Pune: The bodies of seven members of a family, including three children, were found in a riverbed in Pune district of Maharashtra, police said on Tuesday.

The dead included an elderly couple, their daughter and son-in-law, and three grandchildren, a police officer said citing the preliminary information.

Four bodies were found on Monday and three on Tuesday near Pargaon bridge on the Bheema river on the outskirts of Yavat village in Daund tehsil, around 45 km away from Pune city.

"All the seven deceased belonged to a single family, including a couple, their daughter and son-in-law, and their three children. The bodies were found 200 to 300 metres away from each other in the Bheema river bed," a police inspector said.

"The bodies have been fished out, he said, adding the cause of the death and circumstances are under investigation. "Police are probing the case from all angles including a suicide pact," he said.

Sanjay Raut appears before court; hearing adjourned to Feb 27

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court in Mumbai on Tuesday adjourned the hearing in a money laundering case against Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and others to February 27. Rajya Sabha member Raut was present before special judge R N Rokade on Tuesday.

The matter was listed for hearing before framing of charges in the case.

However, the proceedings could not take place due to non-submission of summon reports to other accused by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a probe into the case.

The ED had arrested Raut on August 1, 2022 for his alleged role in financial irregularities in connection with the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl (row tenement) in suburban Goregaon.



A special court here had granted him bail in November last year. The ED's probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl and related financial transactions involving Raut's wife and associates.

Siddharth Nagar, popularly known as the Patra Chawl, in Goregaon is spread over 47 acres and houses 672 tenant families.

In 2008, the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), a government agency, assigned a redevelopment contract for the Chawl to Guru Ashish Construction Private Limited (GACPL), a sister company of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

The GACPL was supposed to build 672 flats for the tenants and also give some flats to MHADA. It was free to sell the remaining land to private developers.

But the tenants did not get a single flat in the last 14 years as the company did not redevelop the Patra Chawl and sold land parcels and Floor Space Index (FSI) to other builders for Rs 1,034 crore, as per the ED.

2 KILLED AFTER SCOOTER HITS RAILING, FALLS OFF FLYOVER

Thane: Two persons were killed after their scooter hit the wall of a flyover and they fell off the bridge in Maharashtra's Thane city on Tuesday, civic officials said.

The accident took place at around 3.30 am on the flyover at Castle Mill Naka when the victims were going towards Thane station from Majiwada, Thane Municipal Corporation's regional disaster management cell Chief Avinash Sawant said.

The scooter rider lost control over the two-wheeler and it hit the protection wall of the flyover, he said. Both the victims fell from the flyover and received severe injuries. They were rushed to the Thane civil hospital where doctors declared them brought dead, the official said. The two have been identified as Pratik Vinod More (21), resident of Lokmanya Nagar in Thane city, and Rajesh Bechenprasad Gupta (26) from Ulhasnagar town, the official said. The bodies were sent for post-mortem, he added.

COURT ALLOWS NIRAV MODI'S COMPANY'S FORMER FINANCE HEAD TO TRAVEL ABROAD

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Mumbai special court has quashed a look out circular issued by CBI against the former chief financial officer of Nirav Modi's Firestar International Ltd Company which is accused in the Rs 6,498 crore scam pulled off by the diamantine at large, officials said on Tuesday.

The court agreed with the submission of Ravi Shankar Gupta that he is highly qualified and is required to travel outside the country as he is the executive director of a multinational company. Gupta had said that he had appeared 31 times before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for questioning.

Seeking the cancellation of the lookout circular (LOC), the 53-year-old Noida-based executive said the nature of his job involves travelling outside India, but he is unable to undertake international travel because of the circular.

The CBI, however, strongly opposed the plea, saying Gupta was handling the finance of Nirav Modi's company which had siphoned



off Rs 6,498.20 crore from the state-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) using 150 fraud-

ulent Letters of Undertaking. It said if the LOC is dropped, Gupta may flee the country like other accused and may not be available for further investigation.

The special court noted that Gupta was neither an accused nor a witness in the case, and had attended the office of the investigation officer over 30 times in connection with the matter.

"If the LOC issued against the applicant is not cancelled or recalled, it would hamper his career," the court noted as it quashed the circular. The court, however, directed Gupta not to leave the country without its permission. Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are accused of duping PNB, a public sector bank, of Rs 13,000 crore using Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) and foreign letters of credit (FLCs) by bribing its officials at the Brady House branch in Mumbai.

While Modi is contesting his extradition from the United Kingdom where the British authorities arrested him, his uncle Choksi is safely cocooned in Antigua and Barbuda where he had taken citizenship.

Two foreign nationals held with USD 90,000, gold paste at airport

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The customs has arrested two foreign nationals with USD 90,000 and more than 2.5 kg of gold paste concealed in books and undergarments in separate operations at



caught with more than 2.5 kg of gold paste valued at Rs 1.30 crore, the official said.

The traveller had concealed the gold paste in his undergarment, he said. The duo has been arrested and booked under relevant sections of the Customs Act and further investigation is underway, the official added.

Police ban flying activities around Shivaji Park, beef up security

Team Absolute | Dadar

Head of the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, Mumbai Police on Tuesday prohibited flying activities around Shivaji Park in Dadar to prevent possible use for anti-social activities. The order issued on Tuesday by DCP, Operations, Vishal Thakur, said that it is possible that during the ceremonial parade and public program on the occasion of Republic Day at Shivaji Park in Dadar, Mumbai, terrorists or anti-social elements may try to use the air space for "breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquility" and there may be "grave danger to human life", safety and damage to public property.



"In view of the ceremonial parade and public program on the occasion of Republic Day at Shivaji Park no flying activities are allowed in the jurisdiction of Shivaji Park Police Station during Republic Day January 26, 2023," the order said. People found contravening the order shall be punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, it said.

Ashish Shelar: MVA is responsible for Mumbai's air pollution crisis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid a dip in Mumbai's air quality, MLA and Mumbai BJP president Ashish Shelar has written to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and urged the state government to form a commission for air quality management. Shelar said that more than 50 per cent of the city pollution is due to the sudden surge of construction activities, increased vehicular emissions and changes in wind speed this winter. And hence, the government needs to intervene and take immediate measures to prevent the further deterioration.



The Mumbai BJP president wrote a letter to the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and has urged the government to set up an enquiry and fix accountability on errant officers.

He further said that according to the environment experts, the financial concessions provided to the real estate sector during the tenure of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government have led to the uncontrolled rise in construction projects being undertaken simultaneously across the city. Also, the building proposal and environment department of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) did

not pay any attention to the environmental hazards that all these construction activities would pose on the air quality of Mumbai. "Holistic approach is needed to tackle the pollution crisis across Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Unfortunately, the BMC's environment control cell has been found lacking in this regard," Shelar said.

"If all the government agencies team up and work towards this common cause, it will address Mumbai's rising pollution crisis and will make our city once again a better place to live in," he added. In the letter, Shelar gave suggestions on measures that could be taken to resolve the pollution crisis in Mumbai. "Like the NCR, the government of Maharashtra must also form a Commission for air quality management headed by the MMRDA to monitor the pollution levels and also to formulate graded response action plans to tackle the pollution levels in Mumbai and the adjoining MMR. The BMC must set up the long pending construction and debris recycling facility and also mandate the construction sector across the MMR to abide by the pollution control norms. This must be made compulsory for the municipalities in the MMR as well," Shelar suggested in the letter.

He suggested that a committee must be set up by the BMC to draw a roadmap to make Mumbai a carbon neutral city by 2035. It must be noted that the NMMC is already working in this direction. "As per the orders of the Mumbai High Court, the BMC must create a dedicated anti-demolition police force to oversee the illegal construction industry that is trying to grab every inch of land, even encroaching on the mangroves. Also, the transport and logistics sector within the MMR must be mandated to use electric vehicles and must be provided attractive concessions in road tax for large scale adoption," Shelar said in the letter.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Raj BJP core committee passes resolution to overthrow Gehlot govt

A resolution was passed on Monday at the two-day BJP state core committee meeting, which started on Sunday, to overthrow the Ashok Gehlot government from Rajasthan. Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary, while addressing a press conference, said that there is Jungle Raj in the state. Chaudhary said that it has been decided in the meeting of the State Working Committee that issues related to the public will be raised and the BJP will protest on the streets against the Congress. BJP gave a call to the state government to issue white paper on the implementation of promises made by it so that the facts come to the fore. BJP further said that he shall not keep quiet till the double engine government is formed in Rajasthan. In such a situation, elections can be held in Rajasthan even before November. In the meeting, the working committee raised a demand for a CBI probe instead of SOG in the paper leak case. It was also decided that issues like policy of appeasement, atrocities on Hindu community, fake promises made to youth on unemployment allowance, rising crime against women, poor law and order will be raised to make the public aware of the poor working of state government. The core committee meeting was attended by veterans like former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, BJP state president Satish Poonia, state in charge Arun Singh, among others. Earlier on Sunday, in the meeting of state office-bearers, a strategy was chalked out to ghearo the government during the assembly session which started on Monday. At the same time, the leaders brainstormed on the strategy to strengthen the party by ending factionalism. In the office-bearers' meeting, discussions were held on activating the booth-level workers of the party.

AGEING DALAI LAMA ATTRACTS HUGE CROWDS TO BUDDHIST SACRED SITE

Kalinga Seneviratne

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, recently concluded a three-day speaking engagement at Bodhgaya, known as the 'land of enlightenment' that has attracted over 100,000 mainly Tibetans from across the world. The huge response surprised the organisers, as the event coincided with the Indian media talking about a new wave of Covid sweeping the country. Covid was far from the mind of pilgrims and devotees -- even though many wore face masks as requested by the local government authorities.



According to police estimates, about 100,000 people converged at a large open field next to the sacred Mahabodhi Temple, where the 'Bo' tree under which Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment is located. Tibetan writer and activist Tenzin Tsundue, who has lived in Dharamsala, the home of the Dalai Lama, for the past four decades, followed him to Bodhgaya. He thinks the main reason for the large crowds is that "Covid has suppressed people's aspirations", and this is an opportunity to get back to spiritual and family bonding. "Not everybody can go to Dharamsala. But this space attracts you because you not only get to see the Dalai Lama and get his blessing; there is also the Bodhgaya temple. And it is surrounded by so many pilgrimage sites," he said. Before the coronavirus pandemic, about half a million pilgrims were visiting Bodhgaya to pay homage to the scared 'Bo' tree that gave shelter for the Buddha to attain enlightenment. The Mahabodhi temple was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002, and it is the most sacred site of pilgrimage for Buddhists from across the world, like the Vatican is for Catholics or Mecca is for Muslims.

Around the Mahabodhi temple complex are many temples depicting the diverse culture and architecture of Buddhist countries and communities, such as those from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, Mongolia, China, Tibet, Nepal, Japan and Laos. Without a local Buddhist community in Bodhgaya (most of the population here are Hindus and Muslims), the monasteries here are dependent on foreign pilgrims for their upkeep. The Dalai Lama's visit has provided a much-needed fillip to pilgrim tourism here. Most of the monasteries were closed to visitors for almost two years, Nangzey Dorjee, secretary of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC), said. The Bihar government constituted a committee to step in to help the monasteries. "Main source of income (for monasteries) is a donation. Donation from the devotees this was their sole maintenance income. Other than now and then, there is no provision of funding from the government side," he said. "All temples function on the

basis of the devotees' offerings (so there were deadly problems (and in addition) local people had no work. All other temples depend on this temple," added Dorjee. The large number of pilgrims visiting here does not mean the local temples get most of their donations. There are also rows of donation booths for monasteries and other Tibetan Buddhist institutions across India, Nepal, Bhutan, lining up the street opposite Mahabodhi Temple. "Whenever there is any prayer gathering like this, donations are natural because people think this is a way to contribute from their hard-earned money, to contribute towards monasteries where young children who study Buddhism are being nurtured. So, you see, it's always a generous effort by people to contribute to Buddhist education and nurturing of young monks," explained Tsundue. People were giving generously at many of the stalls, with volunteers issuing receipts for each donation. "Every family would make sure that they split 1000 or 10,000 or one lakh rupees into small changes," Tsundue said. Hence, local vendors were doing

brisk business selling bundles of 10-, -20-, or -50-rupee notes to devotees in exchange for those of larger denominations. This enabled pilgrims to make even smaller donations. Built around the monasteries is a typical pilgrim tourism town with hundreds of hotels, cafes, souvenir and other shops, heaps of street vendors and a huge number of beggars who are attracted to Bodhgaya because of the compassionate mindset of the pilgrims visiting here. Souvenir shop owner Lolu, who was doing brisk business, said, "during the pandemic, my shop was closed (and) I even didn't have enough money to eat", and added with a smile "Dalai Lama has brought good karma for me". "Dalai Lama has been coming here often (before Covid)," said Dorjee. "He is one of the rare figures and not only for Buddhism; he is also a world figure, he is exceptional." Dalai Lama, now 87, arrived at the grounds in a golf cart and had

walk to the stage and be seated. However, his mind seems alert, and so is his thinking faculty. He delivered a lecture of more than an hour each day without any hesitations or stammering. At the back of the minds of many of the Tibetan devotees here seemed to be for how long they could hear his teachings and be in the vicinity of his charismatic personality. Reflecting on the global attraction of Tibetan Buddhism and culture today and the fact that there were many non-Tibetans here, such as westerners, Vietnamese, Thais and many ethnic Chinese from Southeast Asia, Professor Geshe Ngawang Samten, vice chancellor of the Central Tibetan University in Samath in India, said that it is because of Tibetans not having a home of their own that its Buddhist traditions have spread far and wide. Professor Samten also pointed to a special quality of Dalai Lama's teachings that elicits worldwide appeal and admiration. "He attracts (attention) because he is very rational; his mind is very scientific," he said. "The way he addresses the issues either in individual life or in social life, (he does it) through understanding the situation and providing a tool or solution that can be implemented through the transformation of a person (or) the transformation of a social system (or) through the transformation of the education system." "That is what people appreciate. He is not in favour of propaganda and propagation of Buddhism," said Professor Samten. "Always he advises that don't propagate it, do not convert other communities and people who are already within a religious kind of system. So that is his kind of attitude."

international

'POLAND WOULD REQUEST AUTHORISATION FROM GERMANY TO SEND TANKS TO UKRAINE'

Warsaw | Agencies

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that his government would request authorisation from Germany to send the Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. But he also said that Poland would send the tanks to Ukraine, even if authorisation was not granted, reports the BBC. The Prime Minister's remarks came a day after German Foreign Minister Anna Baerbock said on Sunday that she "would not stand in the way" of Poland if it were to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, adding that Warsaw was yet to ask for export permission. "For the moment the question has not been asked, but if we were asked we would not stand in the way," she told France's LCI TV. In response to her statement, Morawiecki said on Monday that "even if ultimately we did not get this consent, within the framework of a small coalition... we will still hand over our tanks, together with others, to Ukraine". Also on Monday, the Polish president's foreign policy adviser, Marcin Przydacz, said he welcomed Baerbock's announcement, but would prefer to



hear Germany's position confirmed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "It turns out that through talks and diplomatic actions, Poland is able to change the German position," Przydacz told Polish Radio. Speaking to the BBC on the development, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that Germany had the power to "save the lives of many Ukrainian soldiers". He appealed to all countries willing to send Leopard 2

tanks to "immediately, officially request the German government to allow delivery of these tanks to Ukraine". "This is the move that will make the whole situation crystal clear and we will see where it takes Germany. This is something that needs to be done right away and everything will become obvious," he told the BBC on Monday. Kuleba later told Ukrainian national TV that he was "confident" Germany would supply the tanks eventually.

ONE KILLED IN NEPAL QUAKE, SEVERAL HOUSES DESTROYED

Kathmandu | Agencies

At least one person was killed and another was injured in the earthquake that struck Nepal's Bajura and Bajhang districts on Tuesday afternoon. According to preliminary information, a number of houses were either destroyed or damaged in various parts of the two districts as a result of the earthquake, measuring 5.9 Richter scale, with its epicentre in Bajura district of western Nepal at 2.43 p.m. (local time). Police said at least two houses in Gaumul Rural Municipality of Bajura were completely destroyed as a result of the earthquake. According to local resident Dipendra Rokaya, the earthquake caused the death of 35-year-old Jamuna Rokaya, who was hit by a stone, in the same municipality. Similarly, a landslide triggered by the earthquake tremors resulted in the death of over 40 sheep belonging to Ramdal Bohora. One person was injured in the incident. According to Sudurpaschim Province's Deputy Inspector General of Police Ashok Singh, the earthquake caused destruction and damage to a number of houses in Bajura and Bajhang districts.

New natural gas reserve discovered in Bangladesh

Dhaka | Agencies

Bangladesh has discovered a new natural gas reserve in the southern part of the country with the possibility of a significant amount of fossil fuel in the new structure. The gas structure in Bhola district has been discovered by the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX), reports Xinhua news agency. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid announced the discovery of the new gas reserve. According to a statement from his Ministry, the newly discovered Bhola North-2 Appraisal Well has probable gas extraction of over 20 million cubic feet per day. BAPEX struck gas by digging about 3,428 meters deep. Petrobangla (Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation) will dig 46 new



exploration, development and work-over wells by 2025, the minister wrote on his Facebook page. Also, the Minister stressed the need for continuing exploration for natural gas in the South Asian country. Over the last few years, BAPEX discovered about a dozen small- to medium-sized fields. The biggest field so far is in Bhola, an offshore island covering an area of 3,403.48 sq km and about 205 km south of the capital Dhaka, which boasts hundreds of billions of cubic feet of reserves.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON NUCLEAR DEAL REVIVAL CONTINUES: IRAN

Tehran | Agencies

Exchange of messages among different parties to revive a 2015 nuclear deal continues through different channels, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The absence of formal negotiations on the revival of the deal does not mean an absence of interactions or message exchanges among the parties to the nuclear talks, Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted Nasser Kanaani as saying during a weekly press conference, Xinhua news agency reported. The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell is interacting with the talks' different sides, including both Iran and the US, said Kanaani.



The spokesman said Iran is resolving the nuclear issue and seeking the removal of the US sanctions within diplomatic frameworks. While ruling out the possibility of direct talks between Iranian and US officials, Kanaani said Iran will wait and see what the other sides would do in practice and to what extent they would cooperate constructively.

7 dead in 2nd California shooting within days

San Francisco | Agencies

At least seven people were shot dead by a gunman in California, just two days after one of the deadliest mass shooting incidents in the US state just two days ago that claimed 10 lives. Monday's attack occurred at two separate locations in the coastal city of Half Moon Bay, about 50 km south of San Francisco, reports the BBC. The police have arrested the gunman and identified him as Zhao Chunli, a 67-year-old local resident. The first four victims were discovered at a mushroom farm at 2.22 p.m., while the other three were found at a nearby trucking business later. A motive for the attack is

yet to be established. Addressing a news conference on Monday night, San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said that the suspect was arrested after driving himself to a local police station at around 4.40 p.m. She said that he found with a semi-automatic pistol that may have been used in the attack, and is currently "co-operating" with police. Corpus added that an eighth victim is being treated in hospital and is in critical condition. "This kind of shooting is horrific. It's a tragedy we hear about far too often, but today it's hit home here in San Mateo County," the BBC quoted the Sheriff as saying. Monday's attack comes as the state is still mourning the deaths in majority-Asian



Monterey Park during celebrations for the Lunar New Year on Saturday night. Taking to Twitter on Monday, Governor Gavin Newsom said: "At the hospital meeting with victims of a mass shooting when I get pulled away to be briefed about another shooting. This time in Half Moon Bay. Tragedy upon tragedy." The 72-year-old gunman of the mass shooting in

years, when it was hosting an event to celebrate the countdown to the Chinese Lunar New Year. The shooter was identified as Huu Can Tran, an Asian likely of Vietnamese descent, and a motive for the mass shooting is yet to be determined. Monterey Park, a city of 61,000 residents located on the eastern edge of Los Angeles, has a majority, or 65 per cent, Asian-American population. President Joe Biden had issued a proclamation honoring the victims, ordering flags to fly at half-staff at the White House and other federal buildings until sunset on Thursday. The Saturday shooting was the second within a week in California, where six people had been killed on

January 16 in Goshen. A 16-year-old and a 10-month-old were among the victims in what police said was likely a gang-related attack. The US grapples with gun violence as there aren't strict nationwide gun laws and a strong movement backed by Republicans against gun control by literally and very broadly interpreting a Constitutional provision on the right to possess weapons. As a result, even states like California that have strict gun laws face an influx of illegal weapons from states with lax laws. According to the non-profit group that runs the Gun Violence Archive collating weapon incidents, there have already been 36 mass shootings this year while there were 647 last year.



"CONGRESS DNA FAVOURS PAKISTAN": SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN ON DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday slammed Congress's Digvijaya Singh for his surgical strikes remark, saying that the DNA of the Congress favors Pakistan.

"The DNA of the Congress is in favor of Pakistan. Sometimes they (Congress) ask for proof of surgical strike and at times the proof of Ram's existence. Again, Digvijaya Singh has asked for the proof of surgical strikes while walking at Bharat Jodo Yatra. Singh is doing a sin of demoralising the soldiers. He is showing that he is standing with Pakistan," Chouhan told reporters in Bhopal.

Singh had Monday said that while the BJP government at the Centre claims to have carried out a surgical strike against Pakistan, there was no proof of it. "They (Centre) talk about



surgical strikes and that they have killed so many terrorists, but there is no proof," the Congress leader said in his address in Jammu during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The BJP leader also questioned

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, stating how "tukde-tukde gang" is walking him in the Yatra. "I want an answer from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, what kind of Bharat Jodo Yatra is this? Tukde

Tukde gang is walking with you, the morale of the Army is being lowered and Rahul Gandhi is also raising questions about the army's strength. It is not patriotism. At least the Congress should not commit the sin of lowering the morale of the army," the Chief Minister said. Chouhan further alleged that Madhya Pradesh was the stronghold of SIMI (Students' Islamic Movement of India) when Digvijaya Singh's government was in power in the state.

On February 14, 2019, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy was attacked by terrorists in Kashmir's Pulwama, in which 44 soldiers lost their lives. Striking back, on February 26, 2019, Indian Air Force fighter jets targeted an advanced terror training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan's Balakot. The day after, Islamabad attempted to target Indian military installations but was thwarted by the IAF.

Mayor announces Rs 3 lakh ex-gratia to family of labourer who died during sewer chamber construction

Indore: Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh to the next of kin of the labourer, who died in an accident while construction of sewerage chamber, on Tuesday. The mayor also announced a sum of Rs 50 thousand each as compensation for the other two labourers who were injured during the accident. Along with the announcement of financial assistance, Bhargav also expressed deep condolences over the unfortunate incident. The accident happened during the construction of a sewer chamber near Madhumilan intersection on Monday. During the construction, three labourers fell into the 25 ft deep pit due to a mudslide at the site. Immediately after the accident, arrangements were made to pull the labourers out, but one of them had already died on the spot. The other two labourers were taken to hospital where they are being treated.

On receiving the information of the inci-



dent, Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav, sent water-works in-charge Abhishek Sharma immediately to the spot. He also issued orders to investigate the incident and take strict action against those who are found guilty.

'I talked to Dharendra Shastri yesterday, was going to meet him': Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

I was planning to meet Dharendra Krishna Shastri of 'Bageshwar Dham' and we were in contact, but our dates did not match, said former MP chief minister Kamal Nath to the media here on Tuesday. While one faction of Congress is raising questions over the supernatural acts done by the religious leader and accusing him of 'promoting superstition', the former chief minister said that he is in regular contact with Shastri. "I talked to him yesterday. Those who are religious should talk about religion. I also want them to talk to me about religion and I was going there to meet him at Bageshwar Dham", he said.

However, Kamal Nath did not seem to agree with Shastri over his statement on Hindu Rashtra. Nath said, "It is his personal thought, but to keep Bharat under one flag is essential. We all shall follow the culture and constitution of India".

Dharendra Shastri hit headlines after his controversial remark saying "support me and I will give you a Hindu nation".



Decision to reimburse additional 2 percent interests to women self-help groups

Rs 594 crore for important road construction Approval

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has decided that additional 2 percent interest will be reimbursed to women self-help groups on bank loans up to Rs. 3 lakh. In order to provide additional livelihood opportunities to the women self-help groups formed under "MP Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana State Rural Livelihood Mission" and "Urban Livelihood Mission" operated in the state, this reimbursement will be provided to those women self-help groups formed under the State Rural Livelihood Mission and Urban Livelihood Mission in all the districts to whom 3 percent interest subsidy has been provided by the state government and the Central government.

Approval of more than Rs. 594 crore for important road construction works

Administrative approval of more than Rs. 594 crore was given by the Cabinet for important road construction works in the state. Under the revised administrative approval scheme, the Cabinet gave approval for the



estimated construction cost of Roads in districts like Narmadapuram, Sehore, Morena etc.

Approval of Rs 800 crore for urban area development

The Council of Ministers approved Rs. 800 crore for two years (year 2022-23 and year 2023-24) under the "Chief Minister Urban Area Infrastructure Construction Scheme" for urban infrastructure and other development works in the state and it was decided to make necessary budget provision.

85 PG seats will increase in Medical College Sagar

Administrative approval of Rs. 101 crore 46 lakh has been given by the Council of Ministers for the increase of 85 PG seats in Medical College Sagar. With the

increase of PG seats in various departments of the Medical College, Sagar, additional number of subject-specialist doctors will be available to the state every year.

High quality education to tribal students

With the aim of providing high quality education to the tribal students, the Cabinet approved the guiding principles for the operation of special residential schools, girls' education complex and model residential schools of the department with private participation.

Disposal of property

The Council of Ministers has approved the highest tender amount of Rs. 3 crore 59 lakh 27 thousand, which is 4.86 times the reserve price of Rs. 74 lakh, of the H-1 tenderer of the second tender invited for the disposal of assets of Revenue Department totalling 1200 square meters in Survey No. 50 Ward No. 03 Veerangana Durgavati Ward, Purana Bungalow located in Guna and it was decided to sell it and the contract/registry proceedings would be undertaken by the District Collector after depositing 100 percent of the tender amount by the H-1 tenderer.

New research is important to make INDIA's homeopathy system of medicine world-class: Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Union Ministry of AYUSH, has said that there is a need to conduct new researches constantly to make the country's present homeo system of medicine world-class. He said that in the last 8 years, several remarkable works have been conducted in the field of infrastructure for development in the field of Indian system of medicine. Union Secretary AYUSH was virtually addressing a two-day national seminar from New Delhi of doctors and principals of homeopathy colleges across the country in Bhopal today. The national seminar is being organised at the AYUSH Auditorium of AYUSH Complex MACT Hills.

Union Secretary Kotecha said that in the last few years, the economy of the Indian system of medicine has increased from Rs 21 thousand



crores to more than Rs one lakh crore. He said that homeopathy education courses need to be further improved in line with the new education policy. Only after reforms, service of world-class doctors will be available in the field of homeopathy in the country. Main speaker in the programme Chairman, National Homeopathy Commission, Dr. Anil

Khurana, said that there is a lot of scope for the expansion of homeopathy in the field of medicine in the country. For this there is a need to work with team spirit as per the policy.

Ashok Varshney, member of the Consultative Committee of the Union Ministry of AYUSH, said that the public in the country wishes to adopt

homeopathy system of medicine widely. For this there is a need to increase its reach. He told about the need to provide all kinds of help to the homeopathy research scholar. Principal Secretary AYUSH Shri Prateek Hajela said that during the Corona crisis, people's faith in the Indian system of medicine has increased. He apprised about the remarkable achievements made in the Ayush Cure app.

In the programme, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Secretary, National Homeopathic Commission, apprised about the objectives of the national seminar. He told that for the first time the National Homeopathy Commission is organising such a seminar in Bhopal in collaboration with the Union Ministry of AYUSH. On the second day of the seminar, on January 25, there will be discussion on expansion in the field of homeopathy in various sessions.

Two visually impaired men stopped from entering Indore stadium

Team Absolute | Indore

Two visually-impaired cricket fans on Tuesday, were stopped by the police from entering the stadium, as their aids did not have tickets. The duo, who claimed to be big fans of cricketer Virat Kohli, was later allowed to enter the venue with their assistants on humanitarian grounds. Police stopped visually impaired men from entering the stadium

According to eyewitnesses, Ashish Chauhan and Abhishek Namdev had reached Holkar Stadium with two attendants for the 3rd ODI between India and New Zealand.

Chauhan's sister said, "My brother had bought a ticket for the match, but I was stopped from accompanying him into the stadium, citing that only one person was allowed entry on a ticket." The attendants of both the visually impaired men explained their problems to the top police officers present at the spot, after which all of them were allowed to enter the stadium. "We helped both the visually impaired and their attendants to enter the stadium because every fan comes to watch



India's match with great joy," sub-inspector Sapna Dodiya said.

Namdev, who was attending an international cricket match in a stadium for the first time, said he is completely blind and had till now enjoyed the sport by listening to the commentary. Chauhan, who only has five per cent vision, is also a big fan of Kohli, said, "I am a big fan of Kohli. When he scores a century or bats well, I love listening to his commentary. I have been fond of cricket since childhood, and I have been enjoying matches by listening to the commentary till now. This is the first time that I have come to the stadium for an international match," he concluded.

AIIMS constitutes internal complaint committee to keep sexual harassment at workplace in check

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS, Bhopal, has constituted an internal complaint committee to check cases of sexual harassment, if any, at the institute on Tuesday. The Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act at Workplace recently gained traction after Indian wrestler's levelled allegations of sexual harassment against WFI president Brijbhushan Sharan Singh.

Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh



emphasised that AIIMS Bhopal has zero tolerance for sexual harassment at workplace and there should be a

safe working environment for the employees which is one of our fundamental rights. Complaints Committee includes Dr. Lily Podder, Dr. Abhijit Rozatkar, Dr. Kusum Gandhi, Dr. Mudda Sofia, Trivesh Goswami and Soumya Saxena.

The POSH Act was enacted to provide a safe and secure working environment for all employees regardless of gender. The Act provides a legal framework to protect the employees from any sexual harassment in the workplace.

Human Skeleton Found At Indore International Airport: Police

Team Absolute | Indore

A human skeleton was recovered from Indore's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport premises, police said.

"A human skeleton has been recovered at Indore's airport premises on Monday night. A thorough investigation is underway," Aerodrome police-in-charge Sanjay Shukla said.

The police official said that the skeleton will be sent for examination by Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) As per the pre-



liminary investigation, the skeleton appears to be a year old, the police official said. "We cannot tell if the skeleton is of male or female. We will send the remains for examination."

WOMAN, MINOR DAUGHTER CHARRED TO DEATH IN FIRE IN JABALPUR

Jabalpur: A woman and her five-year-old daughter were killed when a fire broke out due to short circuit in their house in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city on Tuesday, police said. The 25-year-old woman and her daughter were charred to death after they got trapped in the blaze that erupted in their flat in Adhartal locality, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Akhilesh Gaur said. The building had a small facility where traditional quilts were made using cotton. A stock of cotton kept in the flat caught fire due to short circuit, he said. The fire tenders from the municipal corporation were pressed into service and the blaze has been doused, the official said.

Forest guard found dead in Burhanpur

Burhanpur: A 50-year-old forest guard attached to Navra outpost of the Forest Department was found dead under suspicious circumstances near Savera Lodge at the local bus stand in Burhanpur on Monday night. As per reports, the deceased has been identified as Rambabu Verma, hailing from Devakhedi village under Khilchipur tehsil of Rajgarh district. He had been suspended for being absent for two days in a revolver loot case at the Bakri outpost and was subsequently attached to Navra outpost and was about to be reinstated from suspension. DFO Pradeep Mishra said that as per preliminary investigation, it is being speculated that he died owing to a heart attack. However, the investigation of the case is still going on. The matter will be clear only after the investigation. His family has been promised immediate relief apart from benefits coming from the deceased provident fund and pension. The locals rushed him to the district hospital with help of 108 emergency ambulance where he was declared brought dead. On being informed, kin and acquaintances of the deceased reached Burhanpur on Tuesday. The body was handed over to kin after conducting an autopsy. Further investigation is on.

2 WOMEN, 3 CHILDREN INJURED IN GAS EXPLOSION IN DAMOH'S BATIAGARH

Damoh: Five members of a family suffered injuries in a gas explosion in Batiagarh town here on Tuesday. According to Batiagarh Police Station In-charge Manish Mishra, the members of Lodhi family were cooking food in the morning. Two women and three children were present at a home when the gas cylinder of a local company exploded. Neighbors took all injured to Community Health Center of Batiagarh from where they were sent to Damoh for further treatment.



WE WIN LIMITED
CIN: L74999MP2007PLC019623
206-207, 2nd Floor, Corporate Zone, C-21 Mall, Hoshangabad Road, Misrod, Bhopal (M.P.) 462047
Phone: +91 755 4278897 Email: contact@wewinlimited.com
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 03rd February 2023, inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the quarter ended on 31st December 2022.
The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.
Place: Bhopal
Dated: 23/01/2023
For We Win Limited
Sd/-
Ashish Soni
(PAN: HC0PS5623A)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer



Kendall Jenner

Become the face of the new Miu Miu campaign

Los Angeles | Agencies

Top fashion model Kendall Jenner has started 2023 off with a bang. The looker, 28, has landed a new high-profile modeling job this month after first appearing as the face of Jimmy Choo.

The Keeping Up With The Kardashians vet was the focus of the new Spring/Summer 2023 campaign Miu Miu campaign as the print ads were shared on Monday. The focus of some of the shots was her famously flat and toned tummy. Jenner is the top draw, but also in the ads are Ever Anderson Achol Ayor, Emma Corrin, Esther McGregor, Quintessa Swindell, Karolin Wolter and Lim Yoona. Offering reimagined versions of Miu Miu's now-iconic signatures, SS23 showcases a range of tailored jackets, outerwear and low-rise skirts. The images were presented on Miu Miu's Instagram page, and Jenner hit like on all the new posts.

Kendall was also called 'Bold and authentic' in a close up photo where she had little to no makeup on. Last week she was seen in a new flirty video for Jimmy Choo. The older sister of Kylie Jenner pranced about on a New York City rooftop complete with a swimming pool and lounge area in her sky-high heels from the luxury brand as she swung her chic little purses. The 28-year-old reality TV star has become the face of the designer with the new ads dropping this week.

She made her toned and very long legs the highlight of the fabulous portfolio where she wore plunging dresses with matching high heels and cute purses.



Charlie Sims and his fiancée Georgia Shults plans to get hitched in Vegas

'We want a rock and roll wedding!'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ch Charlie Sims and his fiancée Georgia Shults plans to get hitched in Vegas

Charlie Sims and his fiancée Georgia Shults have revealed their plans to get married in Vegas, just like Kourtney Kardashian and her husband Travis Barker. The former TOWIE star, along with his influencer partner and famous sisters are tipped to become the 'UK Kardashians', having relocated to Los Angeles last year to film their new Only Fans reality series, House Of Sims.

Now, in an exclusive interview with MailOnline, the pair admitted they nearly tied the knot in Sin City two years ago

and were left gutted when Kravis started the trend they could have set. Charlie popped the question to his model girlfriend during a romantic Singapore getaway in 2018, but has been in no rush to make their union official. Georgia explained: 'We do have wedding ideas, which are easily changed into plans very quickly but it's obviously been quite a slow process for us. 'We got engaged quickly, we got engaged after four months of knowing each other, so we kind of wanted to just enjoy our engagement.'

'And also still, I guess, get to know each other, like, everything happens so

quickly. But yeah, the wedding plans are definitely going to... ' Charlie added: 'I think we'll get married this year. But it was meant to be last year and the year before that.'

Georgia chimed in: 'Last year, obviously, and the year before the pandemic slowed everything down. We did put plans in place for that but obviously we had to cancel.'

Rita Ora blames alcohol for group kiss with hubby Taika Waititi, Tessa Thompson

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Rita Ora has broken silence on rumours that she was in a "throuple" with her filmmaker-husband Taika Waititi and actress Tessa Thompson. The singer, and the filmmaker, reported to have got married last summer, became the subject of the claim after they were photographed with 'Creed' star Tessa, during a party session, which fans said looked so intimate that it looked as if the trio were in a relationship, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Have you ever been in a situation where you've had a lot of drinks and everyone's your best friend? And then the next day you're like, 'I was talking to this person in the smoking area for four hours and I've got no idea who they are.' Literally - that (photograph) was just a bunch of friends having a good time. (Taika and Tessa) had a crazy schedule and everyone was letting loose," she has now said. Waititi has said about the rumour, "I think in the world of the internet, everything goes away pretty quick."

He added in an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, "And also, 'Is it that big a deal?' No, not really. I was doing nothing wrong. It's fine." Rita also said her life "became better" when she got together with 'Jojo Rabbit' director Taika, with whom she had been friends for several years before they embarked on a romantic relationship. Asked how she knew Taika was the right person for her, she added to GQ Hype, "When I didn't feel a change (from only being friends), like my life just became better."



'Girls Trip 2' reuniting full cast for adventure

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Girls Trip' sequel starring Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Tiffany Haddish will be taking a trip to West Africa. Writer-director-producer Tracy Oliver, who co-wrote the original 2017 romp, joined the Variety Studio presented by Audible at Sundance and provided an update on the anticipated reunion of Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith and Tiffany Haddish.

Oliver, at the festival to promote the second season of her Amazon Prime Video series 'Harlem', said she had a "definitive 'Girls Trip 2' update. That it's officially happening. I can say that." She also provided a plot update, and while the film's producer Will Packer "might kill me, we're looking to set it in Ghana."

One of Oliver's 'Harlem' stars, actor Shoniqua Shandai, screamed "Afrochella!" after Oliver dropped the news.

She refers to the annual Afrochella festival, Ghana's premiere cultural and music event whose name borrows from the American flower crown

convention Coachella. Oliver confirmed that the ladies of 'Girls Trip' will look to attend the festival, which has attracted prominent musical acts from the region, including Beyonce collaborator Shatte Wale.

A production timeline is unknown as Oliver still needs to submit her script.

The first 'Girls Trip' was a significant box office hit, grossing \$140 million worldwide on a modest \$16 million budget.

Oliver has been on a festival tear the past year, premiering her acclaimed horror comedy 'The Blackening' at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival. The movie, directed by Tim Story, was acquired by Lionsgate on the heels of TIFF and will release this coming Juneteenth.



DOJA CAT COVERED IN RED PAINT & CRYSTALS FOR PARIS FASHION WEEK

Los Angeles: Singer Doja Cat turned heads with her all-red look while attending the Paris Fashion Week event. The Grammy Award-winner was barely recognisable as she covered her body in red paint and over 30,000 blood-red Swarovski crystals for the Schiaparelli Haute Couture show, reports aceshowbiz.com. She amped up the effect by wearing a red strapless Schiaparelli Haute Couture dress with a beaded skirt, which she paired with knee-high boots. She also accessorised with a dramatic wrap and giant gem earrings in the same scarlet shade.

Celebrity make-up artist Pat McGrath spent nearly five hours creating the look called 'Doja's Inferno', which was partly inspired by the first part of Dante's 'Inferno', according to a press release. The 14th century epic poem also inspired this season's Schiaparelli designs.

In an Instagram post, Pat gushed about working with the 'Kiss Me More' songstress to create the "magical" look. Doja, however, wasn't the only standout at the fashion show. Kylie Jenner also made a jaw-dropping appearance as she wore a black gown affixed with a large, lifelike lion head, a likely nod to her Leo star sign.



Tallia Storm



INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND 3RD ODI

INDIA SWEEP SERIES BY 3-0

With this convincing win, India rose to the top of the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings. England, who had gained the top spot merely three days back following New Zealand's loss to India in the second ODI, are now in second position, with New Zealand slipping to the fourth spot.

Indore | Agencies

A fighting century by Devon Conway (138 off 100) went in vain as India thrashed New Zealand by 90 runs in the third ODI to sweep the three-match series 3-0 at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Fantastic centuries by Shubman Gill (112 off 78) and Rohit Sharma (101 off 85) along with Hardik Pandya's vital fifty (54 off 38) powered India to a massive 385/9 in the stipulated 50 overs.

Gill and Rohit put on an excellent exhibition of batting by hitting sixes and boundaries all around the park, stitching a stand of 212 runs for the opening wicket. The likes of Virat Kohli (36), Ishan Kishan (17) and Suryakumar Yadav (14) got starts but couldn't convert them into big scores.

Chasing a mammoth total, New Zealand got off to the worst possible start as Hardik Pandya removed Finn Allen for a duck in the very first over. However, the early wicket did-



n't affect Devon Conway and Henry Nicholls much as they displayed a range of shots -- drive, scoop, cut, slash -- in their counter-attacking knocks. The likes of Umran Malik and Shardul Thakur were put under some pressure by Conway and Nicholls to lead the visitors' recovery after the early setback, adding 106 runs for the second wicket, before Kuldeep Yadav removed Nicholls for 42 (40) by trapping him in front of the wicket.

Ishan Kishan missed an easy stumping opportunity as Conway got a lucky reprieve on 58. The left-hander made Indians pay as he explored all corners of the ground to score quick runs, completing his

hundred in 74 balls to push New Zealand on the front foot.

However, Shardul Thakur once again showed his magical wicket-taking ability by scalping three back-to-back wickets of Daryl Mitchell (24), Tom Latham (0) and Glenn Phillips (5) to swing the contest back into India's favour, leaving New Zealand struggling at 200/5 after 27.4 overs. Conway kept finding boundaries and sixes to keep the visitors alive in the run-chase. But, Umran's delivery brought an end to the southpaw's splendid knock. From there on, it was a tough task as New Zealand were eventually bowled out for 295 in 41.2 overs.

Brief scores

India 385/9 in 50 overs (Shubman Gill 112, Rohit Sharma 101; Blair Tuckner 3-76, Jacob Duffy 3-100) beat New Zealand 295 all out in 41.2 overs (Devon Conway 138, Henry Nicholls 42; Shardul Thakur 3-45, Kuldeep Yadav 3-62) by 90 runs.

GILL EQUALS BABAR'S RECORD, SCORES JOINT-MOST RUNS FOR PLAYER IN 3-MATCH ODI SERIES

Indore: Continuing his red-hot form, India opener Shubman Gill on Tuesday brought up his 4th ODI century in the third and final match of the series against New Zealand at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, here to equal a rare record set by Pakistan's Babar Azam against West Indies in 2016.

Gill made 112 runs off just 78 balls, bringing up his second century of the series. Earlier in the series opener in Hyderabad, the opening batter had smashed a 208 to become the fifth Indian batter to get to an ODI double hundred. With the latest knock, Gill took his tally of runs in the bilateral series to 360, having made 40 in the second ODI of the series. The tally of runs is the joint-most recorded by any batter in a bilateral ODI series of three matches or lower.

In 2016, Babar Azam also made 360 runs during the series against West Indies, registering three hundred in three matches.

Hockey World Cup

Australia edge past Spain into semis

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Goalkeeper Andrew Carter saved a penalty stroke by Marc

Miralles with five minutes to the final hooter as Australia came back from a two-goal deficit to prevail over a fighting Spain in the first quarter-final of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 here on Tuesday.

Australia were leading 4-3 with five minutes to go when Spain earned a penalty stroke for a stick-check foul inside the shooting circle. But the experienced Carter correctly guessed the direction of Miralles' push and palmed it away. If Spain had scored that goal, they would have taken the match into a shoot-out. Instead, Australia survived the remaining time and sealed their place in the semifinals where they await the winner of the fourth quarterfinal between England and Germany. Jeremy Hayward (32nd



minute and 36th min) struck a brace of goals for Australia while Flynn Ogilvie (29th min) and Aran Zaleski (31st min) contributed one goal each to the Australian score. Xavier Gispert (19th min) and Marc Recasens had given Spain a 2-0 lead before the World No.1 fought back not only to level the scores but with Hayward blasting home two penalty corners within five minutes, Australia surged to a 4-2 lead. Marc Miralles scored a penalty corner in the 40th

minute to reduce the margin but when the crucial time came, Carter thwarted him as the World No. 1 and three-time champions heaved a sign of relief. Australia won the title in 1986, 2010 and 2014 and claimed the bronze medal four years back in Bhubaneswar. Now they have set themselves up for another title but will have to spruce up their defence if they have to claim their fourth title and join Pakistan as the most successful nation in the men's World Cup.

Rishabh Pant only Indian in ICC's Test team of the Year 2022

Dubai | Agencies

After revealing the ODI and T20I teams of 2022, ICC on Tuesday also put out its list of the best Test team of the previous year with wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant the only Indian to feature in the eleven.

Pant, who is recovering from injuries he sustained in a serious car crash two days before the end of the year, had a stunning 2022 with the bat, hitting 680 runs from 12 innings at an average of 61.81 and a strike rate of 90.90 in Test cricket.

Two centuries and four fifties in the year only tell half the story, with the destructive nature of Pant's batting helping add impetus to his team's innings throughout the year. He smashed 21 sixes in Tests in 2022 and was decent with



the gloves too -- producing six stumpings and taking 23 catches. The 25-year-old Pant is likely to miss most of the cricketing action in 2023.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who led England's extraordinary turnaround in 2022 by introducing a remarkable attacking mindset, has been named as the captain of the Men's Test Team of the Year.

Pakistan captain Babar

Azam, Australian batting duo of Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne as well as West Indies' Kraigg Brathwaite also made it to the team along with England's Jonny Bairstow.

In the bowling department, Australia's Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, as well as England's James Anderson, sealed their places.

Australian Open AZARENKA SHOCKS PEGULA; RETURNS TO MELBOURNE SEMIFINAL AFTER 10 YEARS

Melbourne | Agencies

Two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka is back in the semifinals after a 10-year gap, defeating No.3 seed American Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-1 in 1 hour and 37 minutes on Tuesday.

Azarenka will contest her first semifinal in Melbourne since her 2013 title run, her first Grand Slam semifinal since the 2020 U.S. Open and ninth overall.



Standing in her path in the last four is Wimbledon champion Elena

Rybakina of Kazakhstan, who beat Jelena Ostapenko in straight sets earlier in the day. Tuesday's result is Azarenka's first Top 5 win at a major since defeating Maria Sharapova in the 2012 US Open semifinals.

Moreover, she moved on to 47 main draw victories at the Australian Open, equalling Steffi Graf in sixth place for the most wins in women's singles in the Open era. The World No 3 Pegula found herself as the highest-ranked contender left following the defeat of

Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff but wasn't getting carried away.

KHACHANOV SEALS SEMIFINAL BERTH

Melbourne: Karen Khachanov advanced to his second consecutive Grand Slam semifinal on Tuesday after Sebastian Korda retired in the third set of their Australian Open quarterfinal match with a right wrist injury.

The 18th seed Khachanov was leading 7-6(5), 6-3, 3-0 after winning seven straight games following a medical timeout for the American midway through set two.

Khachanov won a hard-fought opening set, regrouping with a strong tie-break after failing to serve it out at 5-4. He then saw three break points go begging early in the second set as he stayed on top with his consistent baseline game.

Sania - Bopanna pair reaches mixed doubles semifinals

Melbourne: Ace Indians Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna on Tuesday marched through to the mixed doubles semifinals of the Australian Open after receiving a walkover in the quarterfinals from the Latvian-Spanish pair Jelena Ostapenko & David Vega Hernandez.

The Rio Olympic semifinalists on Monday defeated Japan's Makoto Ninomiya and Uruguay's Ariel Behar 6-4, 7-6(11-9) in their second-round match to set up a quarterfinal clash with Ostapenko and Hernandez. The Indian duo had earlier beaten Australia's Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville in the first round. Sania is playing her last major as the six-time Grand Slam champion and earlier this month announced that she will retire from professional tennis at Dubai Tennis Championships, a WTA 1000 event, which begins on February 19.



Harmanpreet named captain of the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been named the captain of the ICC Women's ODI Team of the year for 2022 that also include her teammates, opener Smriti Mandhana and fast bowler Renuka Singh, the International Cricket Council said on Tuesday.

Other players in the ICC Women's T20I team of the year 2022 are - Alyssa Healy (Australia), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Nat Sciver (England), Beth Mooney (Australia), Amelia Kerr (New Zealand), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Ayabonga Khaka (South Africa), Shabnim Ismail (South Africa).



SHREYAS, SIRAJ INCLUDED IN THE ICC MEN'S ODI TEAM

New Delhi: India batter Shreyas Iyer and pacer Mohammed Siraj have been included in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2022, which will be led by Pakistan skipper Babar Azam.

Other names in the Men's ODI team of the Year 2022 are - Travis Head (Australia), Shai Hope (West Indies), Tom Latham (New Zealand), Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe), Mehidy Hasan Miraz (Bangladesh), Alzarri Joseph (West Indies), Trent Boult (New Zealand), Adam Zampa (Australia).

Mandhana, Harmanpreet shine as India thrash West Indies

East London | Agencies

Brilliant half centuries by Smriti Mandhana (74*) and Harmanpreet Kaur (56*) helped Indian women's team beat West Indies by 56 runs in the T20I Tri-Series here.

Batting first, the Asian side's total of 167/2 was far too much for the Caribbean side.

Mandhana and Kaur scored at ease throughout their unbeaten 115-run stand, with Mandhana in particular finding the boundary with ease and even clearing the rope from the bowling of Afy Fletcher in the penultimate over of the innings.

West Indies needed a fast start to have any chance of chasing down India's large total and their hopes were quickly diminished as Deepti Sharma (2/29) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/16) helped reduce Hayley Matthews' side to 25/3 in the seventh over.

Shemaine Campbell (47) and Matthews (34*) tried hard to up the scoring rate, but India's bowlers kept things tight to ensure



they remained unbeaten at the series following a first-up victory over South Africa.

India's first match at next month's T20 World Cup comes against Pakistan in Cape Town on February 13, while the West Indies battle England in Paarl a day earlier.

'PVL has produced the most entertaining product in volleyball'

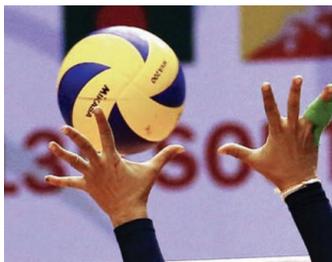
Bengaluru | Agencies

The second season of the Prime Volleyball League is just around as the second instalment of the unique and exciting league tees-off here February 4.

The Bengaluru Torpedoes will start the second season of the league with a new guiding light at the helm in the form of Coach, David Lee.

The three-time Olympian, Lee is starting his coaching journey with the Bengaluru Torpedoes after concluding an illustrious playing career featuring in the first season of the PVL. David remarked with great elation as he said, "I am extremely excited for my new opportunity to Coach the Bengaluru Torpedoes for season 2 of RuPay Prime Volleyball League. We will have a few weeks to prepare to make our Championship run."

A Gold Medalist in 2008 and 2014 of the World League, he featured in the lineup of Calicut Heroes as a player last season in the League. David Lee talked about how his experience as a player in the league will give



him an edge as Coach this time around, "Being a player in this league gives me unique insight into the challenges that face our team, taking into account that there are different rules when compared to traditional volleyball. Understanding the super point, super serve and short set score and using this experience to devise a winning strategy." "Another plus is that I have played against most of these players and know their strengths and weaknesses," he added.

Women's T20I Rankings

Harmanpreet jumps three places to reach 11th, Deepti attains career-best position

Dubai | Agencies

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur jumped three places to reach the 11th position in the latest ICC women's T20I player rankings, released on Tuesday after her team won their first two matches of the ongoing tri-series in South Africa.

While Kaur's 35-ball 56 not out against the West Indies helped her knock on the doors of world's top 10, all-rounder Deepti Sharma's knock of 33 in the preceding win against South Africa has taken her to a career-best 25th position.

Deepti has also moved up one place to second among all-rounders in the latest weekly update.

India opener Smriti Mandhana, who was named Player of the Match against the Windies for striking 74 not out off 51 balls, remains the top-ranked batter from her



country in third position, earning nine rating points to reach 736 points. Mandhana was ranked second in September last year and is now 24 points behind Beth Mooney in the list led by Tahlija McGrath with 814 points.

South Africa captain Sune Luus's scores of 29 and 30 in two matches saw her move from 47th to 45th position.

Chloe Tryon and Marizanne Kapp have also progressed.

In the T20I bowling rankings, South Africa's left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba has moved four places to a career-best fourth position after grabbing three wickets in two matches.

India's Sneha Rana is in the top 10 while Ayabonga Khaka (up four places to 16th), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (up 10 places to 18th) and Radha Yadav (up 12 places to 28th) are the other notable gainers.



AJAY DEVGN WAS 'ANOTHER PERSON' WHILE SITTING ON DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: TABU

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Tabu, who is awaiting the release of her next film 'Bholaa', directed by her 'Drishyam 2' co-star Ajay Devgn, revealed that Ajay was a totally different person on the sets of 'Bholaa' as a director.

The two have worked together in about 9 films including the blockbuster 'Drishyam' franchise, yet 'Bholaa' is the first where Ajay is directing Tabu.

Talking about her experience with Ajay at the helm of affairs, Tabu told media on the sidelines of the second teaser launch of 'Bholaa': "While directing, he was not the Ajay Devgn, whom I've known for so many years. He was some other human being on

the set as he sat on the director's chair". About any special treatment she received on the sets considering the two share a long working history, the actress said: "Special treatment? He didn't even smile at me while working. He became so quiet, so focused, he's anyway quiet but he became all the more silent as he donned the director's hat."

Shedding light on Ajay's working style as a director, she said: "He himself is such a good actor and that trickles down to his briefing and instructions for his actors on set. And yes he flawlessly switched to an action director while briefing about the action."

'Bholaa' also stars a powerful lineup of actors like Vineet Kumar, Deepak Dobriyal and Sanjay Mishra.

The film is set to arrive in cinemas on March 30.



My new release is about how true love can make life colourful: Dhvani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular singer Dhvani Bhanushali has released the first romantic song, 'Preet' from her album 'Lagan' and said that it is a true reflection of emotions of love and togetherness.

Dhvani shared: "Preet' is very touching and my favourite song from 'Lagan'. It's about how true love can make your life so colourful and wonderful."

Dhvani also praised the composer Abhijit Vaghani and lyricist Shloke Lal for the perfect combination of music and words that reflects how one feels after falling in love with someone. The story depicted in the song is written and directed by Advait Chandan.

"The composition by Abhijit and words by Shloke depicts how you feel for the love of your life. And Advait has brought the entire emotion to life with the video. I hope you all like 'Preet', added the singer known for her songs such as 'Humsafar Acoustic' from 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania', 'Veere' from 'Veere Di Wedding' and 'Ishtehaar' from the film 'Welcome To New York'.

Advait also said that this is one of Dhvani's best songs and he hopes that it will be liked by everyone.

"Preet' is a very special song. I think it's Dhvani's best song. It's got a beautiful old school melody which gets under your skin. I found myself humming it nonstop and that's when I started writing the story. It's an emotional romantic song and I'm sure her fans will love it. And I really hope they like the video," he concluded.



Feel blessed to have daughters: Chahatt Khanna on National Girl Child Day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chahatt Khanna shared how she feels blessed to be a mother of two daughters, Zoharr and Amaira on the occasion of National Girl Child Day which is celebrated on January 24 to spread awareness about the rights of girls in the society.

Saying that her daughters are the most important part of her life, Chahatt said: "My daughters are a blessing. We have an exceptional bond, and I learn so much from my daughters every day. My day is incomplete without seeing them and spending time with them."

"This year, I want to spread the message of loving their girls as much as possible and giving them equal rights and opportunities to grow and take on the world."

"My every breathing moment is spent in making sure that I can provide the very best for my girls and can help them achieve all their dreams," added the actress.

Chahatt further shared that it is unfortunate to see the inequality in society towards girl children in many parts of the country and she hopes to see things getting better in coming years. "The world is incomplete without girl children, so they should be given equal rights and opportunities to bloom. My heart aches whenever I hear any news about any girl being abused or killed and I fail to understand how anyone can hurt such lovely angels," she concluded.

Akshay Oberoi read whodunit novels to prep for his role

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Akshay Oberoi is gearing up for his next project 'Gaslight', but before that, he took to reading whodunit novels as he shot for two back-to-back murder mysteries.

The actor plays a suspect in the film, which also stars Sara Ali Khan and Vikrant Massey.



He said: "Coming from theatre background, for me the basic form of preparation for any kind of role is to get into the mood for it. While I was shooting for two of the suspense thrillers, I read many whodunit murder mystery novels. Those books gave me everything."

"The thrills, the chase, and I got the perspective of both the victim and the murderer. And since I have been an avid reader, it was a bonus for me that I was having fun."

'Gaslight' will have Sara Ali Khan and Vikrant Massey in the lead. The story is about how a married woman's life spirals to a breaking point and she suspects certain people close to her are the reason behind this.

Varun Sharma shares why his character 'Choocha' is loved by all

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Actor Varun Sharma, whose film 'Fukrey 3' is all set to release on September 7, said that his most loved character 'Choocha' from the franchise is a boy-next-door who endears himself to people because of his innocence and his ability to keep one engaged through his banter. Talking about what makes his character Choocha loved by all, Varun said: "Choocha is the boy-next-door who endears himself to people because of his innocence and his ability to keep one engaged through his banter which is always entertaining." "Every household and any group of friends will have a Choocha amongst them. He has his heart in the right place and embodies a certain wide-eyed quality that enables the character to be loved and liked by people across ages." "Fukrey 3' stars Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Richa Chadha, Manjot Singh, and Pankaj Tripathi. The film is directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba and produced under Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment. Varun took to Twitter, where he shared that the 'Fukrey' franchise is "truly special" to him. He wrote: "A film which is truly special to me. Film I started my journey with. A Character which is synonym to my Name! 'Choocha' Aa Raha hai wapis teesri baar apne Fukron ki toli ke saath Milte hai 7th Sep'23 to Cinema Gharon mai!!"

Singer Devika's next comes from her love of diverse music

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Devika, who rose to fame with rapper Bohemia's song 'Ik Tera Pyaar' in 2009, has dropped a new number titled 'Kalli Kalli Raati', which she says is inspired by her love of diverse genres of music.

In conversation, Devika said: "'Kalli Kalli Raati' is inspired by my love of diverse genres of music. One day, it so happened that I found myself listening to Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's songs and then somehow shifted to Bon Jovi. That evening I was inspired to write 'Kalli Kalli Raati' and develop it as a pop-rock song."

"The music video is directed by fashion filmmaker George Masin and I was styled by Ambika who has also been associated with the Bridgerton cast. It was shot in Los Angeles."

"The mood of the song is that of the protagonist calling out to her lover asking him to come back home, and not to leave her alone in the dark night. It brings out her fear and angst where she wonders if he has for-

gotten about her."

She said while the video opens with her singing wearing a black ensemble against a pitch black background, "it gradually moves out of the darkness into the light to a sharply contrasting setting of a vast desert wilderness suggesting that perhaps it is not all hopeless and there is an end to this sadness." "Since she has collaborated with a variety of artistes, Devika must now be having a list of do's and don'ts to keep in mind."

"The ability to bring together different styles and create something more unique as a result is something I really strive to achieve through collaborations. When I first jammed with Bohemia, our voices and styles coming together and sounded completely unique and different from anything else that existed out there."

"Dil', 'Ek Tera Pyar', 'Beparwah', and 'Phir Ek Tera Pyar' have this magic that keeps listeners coming back for more Devika and Bohemia collaborations."

She added: "It's also the other artist's openness to improvise and experiment - when I collaborated with Amaan & Ayaan



Ali Bangash, we tried a lot of ideas until we found something that we all loved, which culminated in Holle Holle."

"It's also just the connection with the other artist. When I collaborated with Noor Lodhi, we shared the same appreciation for deep lyrics as is evident in our song Andheri Lagan in the album Saari Raat."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Janhvi Kapoor