

absoluteindia



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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02
India, Egypt to elevate relations to strategic partnership, take...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
7 Oscar nominations for 'The Fabelmans' ...



SPORTS > 07
Renuka Singh named ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer...



HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

Absolute India's office will remain closed on January 26th for celebrations. Next issue will be published on January 28th, 2023.

Editor

SC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO ASHISH MISHRA IN LAKHIMPUR CASE



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted an eight-week interim bail to Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, the key accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

The apex court imposed a slew of stringent conditions on him and also decided to monitor the trial in the case. Granting the 8-week interim bail to Mishra, the bench noted that it is not inclined to express any final opinion as regard to the petitioner's (Mishra) right to seek regular bail at this stage, rather furtherance of interest of justice and in a way on an experimental basis, to adjudge as to whether there is any substance in the apprehensions expressed on behalf of the state and the informant.

The apex court imposed a slew of conditions while granting bail to Mishra: he will have to leave UP within 1 week of his release, he cannot stay in UP or Delhi/NCR, he shall inform court about his location, and any attempt by his family members or Mishra himself to influence witness will lead to cancellation of his bail. Mishra will also have to surrender his passport, he will not enter the Uttar Pradesh except to attend the trial proceedings, and the prosecution, SIT, informant or any family member of the victims of the crime will be at liberty to promptly inform this court of any incident of misuse of the concession of the interim bail.

India has lost presence in 26 of 65 patrol points in Eastern Ladakh: Report

SERIOUS CONCERN

PRESENTLY THERE ARE 65 PPS (PATROLLING POINTS) STARTING FROM KARAKORAM PASS TO CHUMUR WHICH ARE TO BE PATROLLED REGULARLY BY THE ISFS (INDIAN SECURITY FORCES). OUT OF 65 PPS, OUR PRESENCE IS LOST IN 26 PPS (I.E. PP NO. 5-17, 24-32, 37, DUE TO RESTRICTIVE OR NO PATROLLING BY THE ISFS. PD NITYA, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OF LEH, LADAKH'S MAIN CITY, WROTE ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH PAPER, NDTV REPORTED.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has lost access to 26 of 65 patrolling points in Eastern Ladakh, a report by a senior police officer in the union territory has said, in a worrying new disclosure amid the country's standoff with China at various flashpoints along their tottery 3,500-km frontier.

The report was filed at last week's annual conference of the country's top police officers in Delhi, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

"Later on, China forces us to accept the fact that as such areas have not seen the presence of ISFs



or civilians since long, the Chinese were present in these areas. This leads to a shift in the border under control of ISFs towards Indian side and a "buffer zone" is created in all such pockets which ultimately leads to loss of control over these areas by India. This tactic of PLA (China's People's Liberation Army) to grab land inch-by-inch is known as "Salami slicing," it said.

"PLA has taken advantage of the buffer areas in the de-escalation talks by placing their best of cameras on the highest peaks and monitoring the movement of our forces... they object our movement even in the buffer zone, claiming it to be

'their' area of operation and then further ask us to move back to create more 'buffer' areas," the officer wrote.

She said this Chinese strategy was seen in Galwan Valley, the site of a deadly clash in 2020 when 20 Indian troops and at least four Chinese soldiers died in hand-to-hand fighting.

Nitya also said that marking areas as out of bounds and keeping them barren affects troop morale as well. "During an interaction with one senior officer whose unit is based right on forward area, he shared that, if by retreating 400 metres back, we can buy peace with PLA for 4 years, then it's worth it," the report

'Don't call flyer 'drunk', says AI's new alcohol policy



Team Absolute | New Delhi

With Air India reviewing its alcohol service policy, the new guidelines say that the cabin crew should act respectfully without raising voice and guests should not be permitted to drink alcohol unless served by the cabin crew.

It also says that the cabin

crew should be attentive to identifying guests who might be consuming their own alcohol.

As per Air India's reviewed liquor policy, the cabin crew should behave with the passengers in a polite manner, and not call the guests 'drunk'.

"Don't call the guest 'drunk', warn them politely that their behaviour is unac-

ceptable. Don't be persuaded to give them 'one last drink' if they have had enough," the new policy says.

The guidelines also prohibits the cabin crew from raising their voice.

It also says that serving of alcoholic beverages must be carried out in a reasonable and safe manner, which includes tactfully refusing to (further) serve a guest alcohol. The airline has also issued a set of 'Dos and Don'ts' for service refusal. These require the cabin crew to be polite and avoid value judgements and use tact to politely inform the guest that "you will not serve them any more alcohol".

Managing unduly intoxicated patrons must be done assertively and respectfully, it says.

ChatGPT passes US Law School Exam, writes Essays on Taxation, Constitution

Paris | Agencies

A chatbot powered by reams of data from the internet has passed exams at a US law school after writing essays on topics ranging from constitutional law to taxation and torts.

ChatGPT from OpenAI, a US company that this week got a massive injection of cash from Microsoft, uses artificial intelligence (AI) to generate streams of text from simple prompts.

The results have been so good that educators have warned it could lead to widespread cheating and even signal the end of traditional classroom teaching methods.

Jonathan Choi, a professor at Minnesota University Law School, gave ChatGPT the same test faced by students, consisting of 95 multiple-choice questions and 12 essay questions.

In a white paper titled



"ChatGPT goes to law school" published on Monday, he and his coauthors reported that the bot scored a C+ overall.

While this was enough for a pass, the bot was near the bottom of the class in most subjects and "bombed" at multiple-choice questions involving mathematics.

Officials in New York and other jurisdictions have banned the use of ChatGPT

in schools, but Choi suggested it could be a valuable teaching aide.

"Overall, ChatGPT wasn't a great law student acting alone," he wrote on Twitter.

"But we expect that collaborating with humans, language models like ChatGPT would be very useful to law students taking exams and to practicing lawyers."

OUTAGE HITS MICROSOFT CLOUD PLATFORM AZURE, TEAMS AND OUTLOOK SERVICES

New Delhi: Microsoft Corp on Wednesday was hit with a networking outage that took down its cloud platform Azure along with services such as Teams and Outlook, potentially affecting millions of users globally.

Azure's status page showed services were impacted in Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa. Only services in China and its platform for governments were not hit.

An outage of Microsoft's cloud computing platform Azure can impact a variety of services and create a domino effect as almost all of the world's largest companies use the platform. Microsoft did not disclose the number of users affected by the disruption, but data from outage tracking website Downdetector showed thousands of incidents distributed across continents.

'PATHAAN' JOINS PARTY

Patna | Agencies

Mona Cinema Hall in Patna saw fans gathered outside it in large numbers and cut cakes to welcome and celebrate the release of Shah Rukh Khan's spy-thriller 'Pathaan' on Wednesday. The fans expressed their happiness and raised 'Shahrukh Khan Zindabad' slogans to extend their support amid a controversy surrounding the movie.

A fan said, "We are feeling very proud. Our entire friend circle is here to watch the movie. There is no controversy anymore. The reach of the film has only increased after the initial controversy around



the song 'Besharam Rang'. The movie is in demand in the international market. The film is being released in more than 100 countries. This is the impact of Shah Rukh Khan. He is known worldwide."

Among other prominent people, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra aired his objections to one of the songs in the movie, 'Besharam Rang'. Mishra then told media persons, "The costumes in the song at first glance are objectionable. It is clearly visible that the song of the film 'Pathaan' has been shot with a dirty mindset."

ASSAM YOUTH DETAINED FOR 'PROVOCATIVE' STATEMENT

Guwahati: A man from Assam's Darang district was detained on Wednesday for issuing 'provocative' statements in connection with the Bollywood movie 'Pathaan', said police.

The person identified as Mofidul Islam bought at least 120 tickets for Shah Rukh Khan's latest release. He lives in the district's Dhula area. Superintendent of Police of Darang district, Prasanta Saikia said, "We detained him to avoid any untoward incident and registered a case under Section 107 IPC. He was later allowed to go home.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN INDORE

Indore: A group of protestors were spotted outside a theatre and staged a protest in Indore. According to report, a large group of protestors, who are reportedly activists of Right Wing, were seen reciting the Hanuman Chalisa. The report also said that the protestors had come to the Sapna Sangeeta Talkies, where the film was to be screened, with sticks to delay the release in the city. They were also allegedly chanting 'Jai Shree Ram' at the venue. The report revealed that police forces have been deployed and the 9 AM show was cancelled.



Shri. Narendra Modi
Hon. Prime Minister, India




HEARTY GREETINGS ON THE REPUBLIC DAY!

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

Shri. Eknath Shinde
Hon. Chief Minister

Shri. Devendra Fadnavis
Hon. Deputy Chief Minister

ROC-2022-23/No.-5/C. 5520

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Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, Government of Maharashtra



INDIA, EGYPT TO ELEVATE RELATIONS TO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, TAKE BILATERAL TRADE TO \$12 BN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that India and Egypt have decided to elevate their bilateral relations to the level of a "strategic partnership".

He further said that both the nations have decided to take bilateral trade to \$12 billion in the next five years.

In his remarks after discussions with visiting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Modi said, "At one side of the Arabian Sea is India and on the other side is Egypt. Strategic cooperation between the two countries will help in promoting peace and prosperity in the entire region. So in today's meeting, President Sisi and I decided to elevate our bilateral partnership to the level of 'Strategic Partnership'. We have decided that under the India-Egypt Strategic Partnership, we will develop a long-term framework of greater cooperation in political, security, economic and scientific fields."

He said that both he and President Sisi closely observed the adverse



effects on healthcare infrastructure and global supply chains during the Covid pandemic.

"President Sisi and I have remained in close contact during this challenging period, and both countries have sent each other immediate assistance in times of need. Today, we have held extensive discussions on strengthening the food and pharma supply chains affected by Covid and the

Ukraine conflict. We also agreed on the need to increase mutual investment and trade in these areas," Modi said. He also said that India and Egypt are worried about the spread of terrorism happening around the world.

"We are unanimous in the opinion that terrorism is the most serious security threat to humanity. Both countries also agree that concerted

action is necessary to end cross-border terrorism. And for this, together we will continue to try to alert the international community," the Prime Minister said.

Modi further elaborated that "there is also immense potential for enhancing security and defence cooperation between us". "In the last few years, there has been a significant increase in joint exercise training and capacity building between our armies. We have also decided in today's meeting to further strengthen cooperation between our defence industries, and enhance the exchange of information and intelligence related to counter-terrorism," he said.

Modi said that during his meeting with the Egyptian President, the issue of misuse of cyber space to spread extremist ideologies and radicalisation was discussed, and therefore it was decided that both the countries would extend cooperation against this also.

Sisi, who arrived on Tuesday on a three-day official visit to India, would be the chief guest during the Republic Day function on Thursday.

Maha FDA raids Mumbai pharma co, seizes steroids, sex-boosters worth Rs 51L

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a swoop, the Maharashtra FDA has seized large stocks of over Rs 51 lakh of sex-enhancer drugs and steroid injections used for body-building, an official said here on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Food & Drugs Administration and MHB Colony Police Station laid a trap and nabbed a person red-handed on January 24 while supplying steroids and sex-power drugs near the Bhagwati Hospital in Borivali west.

His questioning and further investigations led them to the Kosher Pharmaceuticals, in Borivali west, which was jointly raided by the FDA and police teams, said Assistant FDA Commissioner Ganesh Rokade. "The action team that raided the premises found huge stocks of Anabolic Steroids injections, like Testosterone, Oxandrolone, Stanazolol, Estradiol, Mesterolone, Boldenone, Nandrolone, Adenosine Monophosphate, and sex-boosters like Sildenafil and Tadalafil tablets," said Rokade.

He added that the firm was not holding any type of licence under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 rules, and the company allegedly "indulged in selling sensitive drugs which are supposed to be used only on the advice of a physician for the treatment of chronic illnesses".

Accordingly, the FDA teams drew represen-



tative samples and seized the remaining stocks worth Rs 51.27 lakh while some company officials have reportedly been detained for further probe by the police.

The MHB Colony Police Station has registered a FIR and further investigations, including the possible involvement of more persons who may be involved in the illegal sale of the drugs, is underway.

The entire operation was carried out under the instructions of FDA Minister Sanjay Rathod, guided by FDA Commissioner Abhimanyu Kale, Joint Commissioner Samadhan Pawar, and their teams of sleuths.

Rokade appealed to the public that the FDA works to promote public health by regulating the quality, safety and efficacy of drugs for treatment of diseases and hence people should take any medicines only on the advice of the doctors from valid drugs licence holders against a proper sales bill.

India among fastest-growing economies: President Murmu

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In her first Republic Day-eve speech, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday that India has been among the fastest-growing major economies because of the timely and proactive interventions of the government.

Stating that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world, the President said, "This has been achieved against a global backdrop of economic uncertainty. With the help of able leadership and effective struggle, we soon came out of the recession, and resumed our journey of development."

"India has been among the fastest-growing major economies because of the timely and proactive interventions of the government. The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, in particular, has evoked great response among the people at large," Murmu said.

The President also talked about the challenges faced during the early years of Independence.

"In the early years of Independence, we faced countless challenges and adversities. Very high levels of poverty and illiteracy were



just two of the many ill-effects of the long foreign rule. Yet, the spirit of India was undeterred. With hope and confidence, we began an experiment unique in the history of humankind."

Murmu said that those who shaped modern Indian mind also welcomed progressive ideas from abroad, following the vedic advice "Aano bhadra krtavo yantu vishvatah (Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions).

Bengaluru | Agencies

The High Court of Karnataka has held that a marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act cannot be termed void even if the bride is below 18 years of age, Press Trust of India reported.

A lower court had declared a marriage void under Section 11 of the Act but the High Court pointed out that this section does not include the condition of the bride being 18.

According to news agency Press Trust of India, overturning the Family Court order, the High Court Bench of Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, in their judgement, on January 12, said, "Section 11 of the Act deals with void marriages. The Act provides that any marriage solemnised after the commencement of the Act shall be void and the court may on the petition presented by either of the parties thereto, declare the same to be nullity if it contravenes the provisions



of Clauses (i), (iv) and (v) of Section 5 of the Act. Thus, it is evident that clause (iii) of Section 5 of the Act, which provides that the bride has to be 18 years of age at the time of mar-

riage, has been omitted from the purview of Section 11 of the Act."

Setting aside the trial court order passed on January 8, 2015, the High Court said, "The trial court has, how-

ever, failed to appreciate the aforesaid aspect of the matter." Sheela from Chennai Taluk had approached the High Court in 2015 against the order of the Family Court.

She had married Manjunath on June 15, 2012. After the wedding, Manjunath realised that Sheela's date of birth was September 6, 1995 and she was a minor at the time of marriage. So, he filed a petition before the Family Court to declare the marriage null and void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Family Court held that on the date of marriage, Sheela was 16 years, 11 months, and 8 days old and had not completed 18 years of age as was required under Clause-3 of Section-5 of the HMA. It, therefore, declared the marriage void under Section 11 of the Act. However, her appeal before the High Court was admitted as it found that Clause-3 of Section-5 was not applicable to Section 11 which deals with void marriages.

Even if Oreva group pays compensation to Morbi victims, director will have to face criminal trial: Gujarat HC

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court on Wednesday said that even if Oreva Group pays compensation to kith and kin of Morbi bridge collapse victims, criminal trial against its director will continue.

A bench of Chief Justice Arvind Kumar and Justice A J Shastri made the observation after Oreva group director

Jaysukh Patel, in an affidavit submitted to the court, offered to pay suitable compensation to kith and kin of victims.

In the affidavit, Patel submitted that he is willingly and unconditionally ready to take responsibility of seven children who have lost their parents in the tragedy.

He further said that he took the



repair work not for any commercial work but to preserve the heritage and some influential people had helped him to get this work.

The director submitted that he is even given maintenance and repair work of Jamsab tower clock in Rajkot.

The state government in its reply stated, "There are 1441 over bridges across the state, of which 63 major bridges need repair, of total over bridges, 168 major bridges and 180 minor bridges are in the municipal corporation areas, other over bridges are in nagar palika area, of 100 odd bridges, 32 are major bridges, 27 of them are under repair."

On October 30, 2022, a suspension bridge on Machchhu river in Morbi collapsed, in which 135 persons were killed.

Several leaders of Haryana's ruling BJP-JJP join Congress

Chandigarh | Agencies

Half a dozen leaders of Haryana's ruling BJP-JJP, comprising former legislators, on Wednesday joined the Congress along with hundreds of supporters amidst the presence of Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state unit chief Chaudhary Udaybhan.

Those who joined the Congress included former MLA and JJP candidate from Bhiwani, Shiv Shankar Bhardwaj, former minister Mangeram Gupta's son and JJP leader Mahavir Gupta, and BJP Kisan Cell's state Vice President Satish Rana.

The joining ceremony took place at the meeting of party



delegates, MLAs, former MLAs, working presidents and senior leaders convened under the 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign. Hooda said in the last few months, over 15 former MLAs of other parties, including the BJP and the JJP, and 50 prominent leaders

have joined the Congress. "Leaving the ruling parties, the leaders and workers are joining the Congress. This shows the people are definitely going to vote for a Congress government in the state in the next elections," he said.

Unnao rape survivor moves Delhi HC against its order granting bail to former BJP MLA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Unnao rape survivor on Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court against its order granting interim bail to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the case, from January 27 to February 10 to allow him attend his daughter's wedding.

She has also requested that additional restrictions are imposed on him during his release period as she had been receiving information that Sengar is going to harm her and her family.

"The apprehension of the applicant as regards her safety, and that of her family, has increased, especially in consideration of the fact that the appellant, upon being released on bail, is permitted to use his mobile phone, and he is likely to conspire with and influence his known persons in the administration in



order to harass the present applicant, and to create security risks," the application reads.

A division bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Anoop Kumar Mendiratta issued notice on the plea to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and listed the matter for the next hearing on January 27.

A week back, the survivor had opposed the court's decision of granting interim bail to Sengar.

K'taka: War of words between Congress, BJP leaders turns ugly

Bengaluru | Agencies

As Karnataka inches closer to assembly elections, two major national parties in the state, ruling BJP and opposition Congress are indulging in ugly fight. The leaders are getting personal and targeting one another.

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar launched an attack on Wednesday against former minister and BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi. "I have not asked him to remove his pants," he stated, referring to the alleged sex-CD scandal.

Ramesh Jarkiholi had sought a CBI inquiry against Shivakumar. He had also attacked Begalavi Rural MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar that it is time for her to go.

Shivakumar, referring to Jarkiholi, stated, "he was the person who destroyed Congress party. Who facilitated operation lotus and ensured Congress-led coalition government."

Congress MLA from Sringeri K.B. Raje Gowda, while attacking BJP and Hindu activists, used the word 'children



of prostitute'. He had also targeted BJP, RSS and religious mutts and later apologised for his remarks, stating that the abuse he used should not be a part of any individual's culture.

Karnataka BJP President, Nalin Kumar Kateel's remarks that questions should be asked on love-jihad and not on roads and infrastructure, also stirred

a huge controversy. BJP state unit had also launched an attack on late Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi that they died because of their own mistakes. The BJP has also alleged that they initially nursed terrorism, which in later stages took their lives.

CJI announces access to verdicts in some scheduled languages from Republic Day

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday launched a Supreme Court service, which will start providing top court's judgments in various Indian scheduled languages from Republic Day.

The Chief Justice, as the bench assembled to conduct the day's proceedings, told the lawyers that a part of the electronic-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project will be operationalized to make judgments available in some scheduled languages from Thursday, which will be free to access.

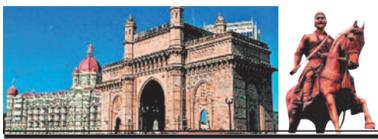
The judgments will be available on the apex court website, its mobile app and on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Chief Justice Chandrachud said, "We have the e-SCR (project), which now has nearly 34,000 judgments and an elastic search facility".

He added that 1,091 judg-



ments in regional languages will be launched on the Republic Day and emphasized that the apex court is on a "mission" in connection with availability of all judgments in scheduled languages. The Chief Justice said they have 52 in Tamil, 21 in Oriya, 4 in Punjabi, 17 in Kannada, 14 in Marathi, 4 in Assamese, 29 in Malayalam, 3 in Nepali, 28 in Telugu, 3 in Urdu etc. There are 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution including Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.



MUMBAI INTN'L AIRPORT INTRODUCES FIRST BATCH OF EVS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) introduced its first batch of Electric Vehicles (EVs) on Wednesday. To reduce dependency on fossil fuels, CSMIA has introduced 45 EVs by replacing its existing fleet of fossil fuel powered vehicles. This is part of the airport's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and to promote sustainable transportation.

CSMIA intends to replace all its combustion-powered vehicles with electric vehicles as part of its Operational Net Zero mission by 2029. According to a CSMIA spokesperson, this move is a step towards CSMIA's Operational Net Zero plan, which aims to reduce the airport's environmental impact.

In addition to the 45 EVs being introduced in January, CSMIA is also exploring the deployment of 60 more EVs in the next fiscal year, including ambulances, forward command post, security and airside operations & maintenance utility vehicles.

The remaining vehicles will be replaced in a phased-wise manner. CSMIA is also planning to engage with stakeholders operating at the airport to switch to EVs in support of



CSMIA's Operational Net Zero by 2029 goal.

Speaking on the occasion, CSMIA's spokesperson said, "With every green program that the airport initiates, it brings us a great sense of delight to be able to contribute to aviation industry's journey towards attaining a sustainable future. As a responsible airport service provider, CSMIA strives to reduce its impact on the environment. Switching to electric vehicles

will help to reduce carbon emissions, thereby lowering the airport's carbon footprint. CSMIA takes pride in its vision and mission to create an ecosystem that is centered to fast-track its journey towards carbon neutrality."

Recently, the airport commissioned twelve robust DC fast EV charging stations at P1 - Multi-level Car Parking (MLCP) at Terminal 1, P5 - MLCP at Terminal 2, and Airside of

CSMIA. This initiative will help in reducing around 25% of greenhouse gas emissions caused by burning of fossil fuel in mobility. Moreover, the airport now holds the Highest-Level 4+ "Transition" of Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program of Airport Council International (ACI). CSMIA is committed to reducing its environmental impact and is eager to lead the way in sustainable transportation.

'First priority in Maharashtra, should be Marathi films'

MNS leader to multiplex owners, after Pathaan release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Ameya Khopkar today warned the multiplex owners against setting aside the screening of the Marathi films due to the release of Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan', and said that the first priority in the state would be films made in the Marathi language. The MNS leader, however, clarified that the party is not protesting against Khan's 'Pathaan' in which the actor is making a comeback into the movies. The remark comes in the wake of protests in parts of the country against the film's release.

Khopkar said that 'Pathaan' should be screened in the state, however, the Marathi films which are due to be released or have been making a good run at the box office should also be shown.

"Hindi film Pathaan released across the nation on 25 January. We do not object to the movie Pathaan. Shah Rukh Khan is making a



comeback in this film, it should also be screened. But that does not mean that the multiplex owners would not screen the Marathi films," he said.

"Let alone theatres, ticket counters are also not being opened for the Marathi pictures," Khopkar added. The MNS leader said the MNS would protest if the multiplex owners did not screen the Marathi films.

"We protest against the multiplex owners and the

MNS would protest against this. The first priority in Maharashtra will be Marathi films and then films made in other languages. If Marathi film does not get a place in theatres, then the glasses of those theatres are more expensive, if they break, then it is not our responsibility," he said.

"File a case against us or put us in jail, we are ready. Every time a Marathi film has to do protest to get places in the theatre," Khopkar added

HC GRANTS BAIL TO EX-MAHA MINISTER ANIL DESHMUKH'S FORMER SECRETARY IN CORRUPTION CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Sanjeev Palande, former private secretary of NCP leader Anil Deshmukh, in a corruption case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Former Maharashtra minister Deshmukh, also an accused in the case, is currently out on bail.

A single bench of Justice M S Karnik allowed Palande's bail plea after hearing arguments of the both sides. He is likely to walk out of the jail on January 27, his lawyer Shekhar Jagtap said.

The HC had last month granted bail to Palande in a money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate. The ED had arrested Palande in June 2021 in connection with the money laundering case.



Later, the CBI took his custody in the corruption case in April 2022.

The high court had in April 2021 directed the CBI to carry out a preliminary inquiry. The CBI, based on this inquiry, registered an FIR against Deshmukh and oth-

ers for alleged corruption and misuse of official power. According to the central probe agency, Palande had given instructions on behalf of Deshmukh to former Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze for the collection of money.

DRI BUSTS GOLD MELTING FACILITY IN MUMBAI, RECOVERS 36.9 KG GOLD

Mumbai / New Delhi: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Wednesday said it has busted a melting facility for smuggled gold in Mumbai and recovered 36.9 kg of yellow metal worth Rs 22 crore. According to the information, one person has also been arrested by the DRI. However, his name has been withheld.

"Continuing the focus on dismantling the gold smuggling networks, we busted a melting facility for smuggled gold in Mumbai on January 23. We have recovered 36.9 kg of smuggled gold at various stages of processing," the official said. The official said that the gold was smuggled into India by various people, including foreign nationals, in the form of capsules in body concealment, travel bags, cloth layers and also concealed in different types of machines.

Bodies found in river last week a case of 'mass murders'

Team Absolute | Pune

In a startling revelation, the Pune Police said that the seven bodies fished out of the Bheema River in the past one week, may have been victims of a macabre case of 'mass murder' and four persons have been nabbed here on Wednesday.

As per preliminary investigations, the motive behind the murders, a senior citizen couple, their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren, is believed to be a family feud arising out of certain superstitions.

The development came after the Pune Police had retrieved the bodies from different locations in the vicinity of Yavat village in the Bheema River at Daund for six days from January 18-23.

They were described as labourers from Beed who had settled in a village in Parner in adjoining Ahmednagar district. The victims Mohan Uttam Pawar,



his wife Sangita Pawar, daughter Rani Shyam Phulware, her husband Shyam Phulware, and their three children.

The first body of a woman was spotted by locals on January 18, and after a search in the river with motor-boats and divers scanning several hundred metres, the remaining vic-

tims were brought out over the next six days.

Even as the incident sent shock among people in the three districts, the Pune Police cracked into action by setting up multiple probe teams and managed to solve the case by arresting four suspects, currently in detention.

3-YEAR-OLD RAPED, KILLED IN THANE; NO ARRESTS YET: POLICE

Thane: A 3-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Maharashtra's Thane district, the police on Wednesday.

The child was playing outside her home in Bhiwandi on Tuesday afternoon when she went missing, prompting her parents to file a police complaint.

The Shanti Nagar police launched a search and found her body in a flat on the first floor of a dilapidated building in the area, said the official.

The body was first sent to a local government hospital and then to the state-run JJ hospital in Mumbai for a post-mortem, said the official. "We have registered a case of kidnapping, rape and murder under the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act," said Inspector S A Indalkar of Shanti Nagar police station. Nobody has been arrested yet, he said.

Conman case: Jacqueline Fernandez files new plea in Delhi court to travel abroad

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who is one of the accused in the Rs 200 crore money extortion case involving conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, on Wednesday filed a new application in Delhi's Patiala House Court to fly to Dubai. She filed the application to travel from January 27 to 30 ahead of the Pepsico India Conference.

However, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought time to file its reply in the matter. The court listed the matter for the next hearing on January 27.

Earlier, Fernandez had filed an application seeking to travel to Dubai on January 29, which she withdrew later. On Monday,



Additional Sessions Judge Shailender Malik granted the actress a one-day exemption from personal appearance.

The Judge was supposed to hear the arguments on framing charges in the matter, but adjourned the hearing for February 15.

Fernandez, even in December last year, had moved a plea seeking to travel abroad to visit her ill mother in Bahrain. But, she withdrew it as the court wasn't willing to allow her to travel abroad.

Chandrashekhar is accused of extorting money from politicians, celebrities and businessmen, and allegedly duped pharma company Ranbaxy's former owner Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh of Rs 200 crore.

SHUNNED IN SCHOOL, EMINENT WRITER SHANTABAI K. KAMBLE PASSES AWAY AT 99

Team Absolute | Pune

Prominent writer Shantabai Krushnaji Kamble, renowned as the first woman Dalit autobiographer, passed away here on Wednesday morning at the age of 99, a family friend said.

She was suffering from old-age related ailments and her last rites was performed at the Koparkhairane crematorium same evening.

The mother of the late Prof Arun Kamble, a founder-member of the Dalit Panthers of India party and politician, Shantabai is survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Top Dalit personalities paid rich tributes to Shantabai and recalled how "the writings of her life's



struggles helped fill a gaping void in the Dalit literature" after Dr B. R. Ambedkar's Constitution gave universal right to education in India.

"Thereafter, many women got educated, some even started writing, but Shantabai laid the foundation for giving a strong voice to the weaker sex and the downtrodden. Her immense contribution to Dalit literature can never be forgotten," said a close family

friend Milind Kamble, the President of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICC).

It was in March 1983 that the 60-year-old, retired government school teacher, Shantabai started penning her autobiography in Marathi, "Majhya Jalmachi Chittarkatha" which was published as a series of articles in the 'Purva' magazine.

The series caught popular imagination and in June 1986, it came out in a book form, later it was made into a tele-serial for Doordarshan Marathi as "Najuka" (Aug. 1990 onwards).

Union Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale, several prominent Dalit leaders and others joined for Shantabai's last rites.

DRI swoops on smuggled Chinese-origin insecticides in Maha, seizes 30 tonnes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major crackdown, the Department of Revenue Intelligence's (DRI) Mumbai Zonal Unit has seized smuggled Chinese-origin insecticide consignments of 30 tonnes, valued at around Rs 16.80 crore, an official said.

The seizure has blown the lid off a major racket by a syndicate that may have smuggled in over 300 tonnes of such illegal pesticides, valued at over Rs 300 crore, into India in the recent past, according to the DRI.

"Several consignments of insecticides being smuggled into India with the active connivance of the Chinese suppliers of these items. Investigation is on in these

cases. Import of insecticides legally require the permit of the Central Insecticides Board," said a DRI MZU official.

As per the probe, the smuggling by the unidentified syndicate sneaked in insecticides like chlorantraniliprole, abamectin benzoate, etc by declaring them as vinyl acetate ethylene copolymer.

After the consignment was seized under the Customs Act, 1962, lab tests have confirmed the goods to be insecticides, brought here with the active connivance of the Chinese suppliers, said the DRI.

The probe unravelled that the syndicate was operating in complicity with the Chinese suppliers who inten-



tionally mis-declared the insecticides as VAEC in their documents to facilitate the smuggling.

The illegal proceeds from the sale of these smuggled

goods were routed to the unidentified Chinese suppliers through the illicit hawala network by the syndicate.

As per the law, it is mandated for the importer along

with suppliers/manufacturers to get registration from the CIB, to ensure that proper quality standards are met before usage of insecticides.

"All these requirements were flouted by the smugglers. Usage of substandard insecticides can be harmful to nature as well as to the health of citizens. Further, certain insecticides were patented products and were being brought in violation of the IPR rules," said the DRI.

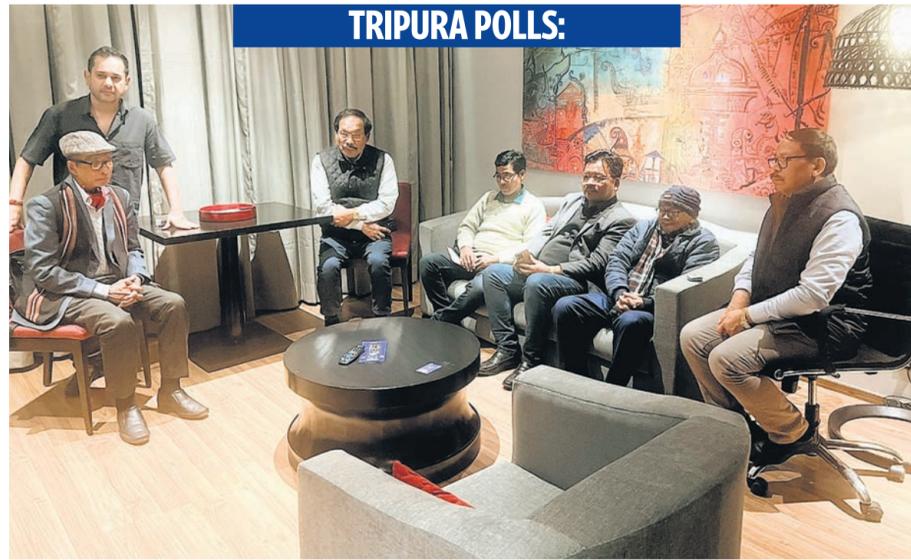
In the past one month alone, the DRI revealed it has seized several consignments of such smuggled insecticides entering into India from China, and pointed to a bigger racket that has been going on for a considerable time with widespread ramifications.



EDITOR'S SPECS

FORTY SLUM KIDS TO PARTICIPATE IN R-DAY PARADE

For the first time, slum children in the 11-18 age group, who used to beg at traffic signals, will be participating in the Republic Day parade this year. They will carry placards with the slogan 'bhiksha se shiksha ki ore' (from beggary to education). Municipal commissioner Inderjeet Singh said, "In a first, beggars from slum areas will participate in the Republic Day parade of any state. Over 40 children, who used to beg at crossroads, are rehearsing daily for it." "Now, their life is transformed due to Project Smile that is aimed to bring these children out of beggary and connect them with the mainstream. We have been working with these children for the last 1.5 years," added Singh. He said that "The work of providing them education and connecting them with schools is being done. Now, we are bringing them to the parade practice so that they have some new experience and gain confidence." Balbir Singh Maan of NGO 'Umeed', which is playing an important role in Project Smile, said, "Earlier, these poor children used to beg for money. But we have been educating them since last year. Today, they are full of confidence to participate in the R-Day parade." Pratap Vikram Singh of Project Smile said, "The kids are performing at par with the kids of convents and government schools, rehearsing for the R-Day parade. A year-and-a-half back, these children never wanted to talk to anyone as they were not ready to trust us. It took us a long time to build trust. We gave them toys, started running smart classes for them and gave them exposure."



TRIPURA POLLS:

IPFT DISCUSSING SEAT-SHARING WITH BOTH ALLY BJP, OPPOSITION TIPRA

Tripura ruling coalition member Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has been holding seat-sharing talks with both current ally BJP and opposition Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) for the February 16 assembly polls. IPFT President and state minister Prem Kumar Reang on Sunday said that they held a close door meeting with the TIPRA leaders led by party supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman in Guwahati on Saturday. "We are now talking with both the BJP and the TIPRA. Our seat-sharing talks remained inconclusive so far. Once this is finalised we would announce it before the public," the veteran tribal leader told correspondent. The IPFT, since 2009, has been demanding to make the areas under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) as a full-fledged state while the TIPRA, since 2021, has been demanding elevation of the TTAADC areas by granting of 'Greater Tripaland State' under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

After the Saturday's meeting in Guwahati, Reang said that the Central government and the BJP did not respond to their demand and if the BJP fulfilled its demands, "we would certainly fight the forthcoming polls jointly". "Deb Barman has been wholeheartedly fighting for the cause of the indigenous tribals. We are ready to fight the elections together. Talks are going on among us," he said. On his part, Deb Barman told the media in Guwahati that the leaders of both the parties have started talks for merger or fighting together during which issues on common flag and symbol would be discussed. About alliances with any other party, he said: "The party or parties which would give written assurance supporting our demand, we would forge electoral alliance with them. It is completely false propaganda that we would go into alliance with BJP or Congress or CPI-M." Deb Barman said that the TIPRA, the IPFT, and all other like-minded parties can fight the upcoming Assembly polls together on a common symbol for the greater cause of the tribals, who consti-

tute one third of Tripura's little over four million population. Responding to the influential tribal-based party's appeal, the IPFT held discussions with them in Guwahati on Saturday. The BJP, however, is yet to make any comment about the IPFT-TIPRA's seat sharing talks. "Officially we have no information about the seat sharing talks between the TIPRA and the IPFT," BJP spokesman Nabendu Bhattacharjee told correspondent. The TIPRA is now ruling the politically-important 30-member TTAADC, which has jurisdiction over two-third of Tripura's 10,491 square km area and is home to over 12,16,000 people, of which around 84 per cent are tribals, making the autonomous council a mini-Assembly. The BJP, in alliance with the tribal-based party IPFT, came to power in the 2018 Assembly polls thrashing the CPI-M-led Left, which governed the north-eastern state for 35 year in two phases (1978-1988 and 1993-2018).

Anita Bose Pfaff highlights Netaji's faith in secular values, social democratic state

On the eve of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126th birth anniversary, his daughter, Anita Bose Pfaff, issued a statement on Sunday re-stating her father's vision of India based on secular and socialist principles, and she also explained why he had to turn to fascist governments for help. "Even though he died in a foreign country more than 77 years ago and his remains still rest in a foreign land, many of his countrymen and his countrywomen have not forgotten him," Pfaff noted in her statement. "They remember him not only in a detached manner as a person who played a role in the struggle for India's independence," Pfaff said. "Members of all parties, across the entire political spectrum, parties who share his ideas and his ideology and those who do not, pay tribute to him and thank him for his sacrifice for India. With their respect and love they repay him for his sacrifice for their country." With this preface, Pfaff went on to remind Indians that "Netaji should be remembered for what he stood for and envisaged for independent India". She then spelt out the four pillars of Netaji's Idea of India: India was to become a modern state, respected by other countries. Education for all men and women was therefore of utmost importance to him. He believed in equal rights, opportunities and duties for men and women, for members of all religions, castes and all social strata. This meant the empowerment and emancipation of all disadvantaged people. As an individual he was a religious person. However, he wanted free India to be a secular state where members of all religions would live together peacefully and with mutual respect. These values were practised in the Indian National Army and in his own actions. He was a politician inspired by socialism who envisioned India to become a modern, socialist -- or in today's terms social-democratic -- state, with equal opportunities for the well-being of all. "In his struggle for India's independence he saw himself forced to seek the cooperation and support of fascist countries who did not share his ideology and his political agenda," Pfaff clarified. "At that time, they were the only countries willing to support this struggle against a common adversary." Reiterating her demand that Netaji's ashes be brought back home from Tokyo's Renkoji Temple, Pfaff said: "Men and women who love and admire Netaji can honour him best by upholding his values in their political and personal actions -- and by welcoming his remains back in India. Let us bring Netaji's remains back home!"



international

'BREAD-AND-BUTTER' ISSUES TOP NEW ZEALAND NEW PM'S AGENDA

Wellington | Agencies
New Zealand's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said on Wednesday that tackling the "inflation pandemic" will be his top priority. The 'bread-and-butter' issues that New Zealanders are most concerned about are needed to be addressed, Hipkins told a press conference after his first cabinet meeting as Prime Minister. Hipkins was sworn in as New Zealand prime minister on Wednesday, with his predecessor Jacinda Ardern officially tendering her resignation. The swearing-in ceremony held at the Government House saw Hipkins officially taking up the top job and Carmel Sepuloni becoming the deputy prime minister. The unchanged inflation



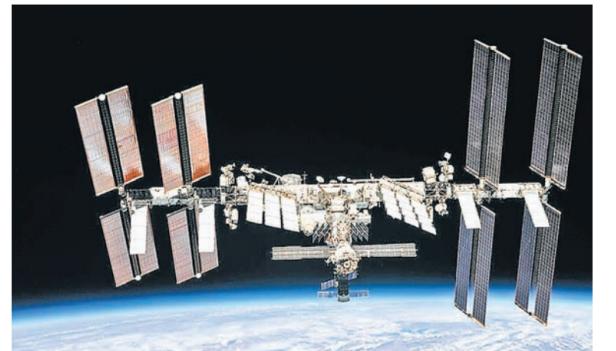
figure of 7.2 percent in the 12 months to December 2022, released on Wednesday, confirmed this is "the right immediate focus" for the government he led, Hipkins said. The level of inflation was clearly not sustainable, he said, adding the cost-of-living pressures have been caused by the global economic situation. Hipkins also compared the 7.2 per cent inflation in New Zealand with 7.8 per cent in Australia, 10.5 per cent in Britain, 10.3 per cent as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) aver-

age, 11.1 per cent in the European Union. As Prime Minister, he will talk with businesses in Auckland on Thursday, with global worker shortage expected to be one of main topics. Hipkins will reshuffle the cabinet next week. Besides the top leadership role, he himself will be the minister of national security and intelligence. Announcing her resignation last week, Ardern said after five and a half years of the top leadership role, she could not keep going for another year or term after careful consideration. Hipkins said on Tuesday he and Ardern have reflected on the last few years, adding "it's a bittersweet moment". New Zealand's 2023 General Election will be held on October 14.

CARGO SHIP CARRYING 22 SINKS OFF S.KOREA'S JEJU ISLAND, 5 RESCUED

Seoul: A Hong Kong-registered cargo ship carrying 22 crew members sank off South Korea's Jeju island on Wednesday, and five of them were rescued, while a search is underway for the others, the Coast Guard said. Fourteen Chinese and eight Myanmar crew members were aboard the Jin Tian, a 6,551-tonne, wood-carrying ship, when it sent out a distress signal at 3.07 a.m. in waters 148.2 km southeast of the city of Seogwipo on the island, Yonhap News Agency quoted the Coast Guard as saying. The ship was completely submerged when Coast Guard personnel arrived at the scene. Five of the crew members were rescued by other ships that were sailing by, officials said, adding the Coast Guard is conducting a joint search and rescue operation with their Japanese counterparts for the 17 others. The Coast Guard said the ship appears to have gone down when it sent the distress signal via the emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB), an emergency locator system. It was found that the vessel transmitted its first distress signal via the Digital Selective Calling system at 1.45 a.m. before going out of contact about an hour later.

Russia aims to deploy over 1,000 satellites in orbit by 2030



Moscow | Agencies

Russia should increase the number of satellites in orbit from about 200 now to at least 1,000 by 2030, said Yuri Borisov, Director General of Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos. In order to achieve such growth, it is necessary to produce 250 satellites per year and then 300-350 satellites annually by 2030, taking into account the gradual replacement of obsolete ones, Borisov said at an event

on space exploration, Xinhua news agency reported. He noted that the 1,000 satellites in orbit should serve for various purposes, including communications, remote sensing of the Earth, meteorology and navigation. Russia will start to deploy its own orbital station in 2027, according to Borisov, who said in July 2022 that Russia would pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 but later postponed the possible deadline to 2028.

Classified documents found at ex-US Vice Prez Pence's home

Washington | Agencies
After US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, classified files have now been found at former Vice President Mike Pence's home. The documents, discovered by a lawyer last week at Pence's Indiana home, have been handed over to the FBI, the BBC reported. However, the former Vice President's representatives have said that the FBI collected the documents, bypassing 'standard procedures' and requesting 'direct possession' of them. Representatives for Pence have also sent a letter to the National Archives alerting them to the documents. Under the Presidential Records Act, White House records are supposed to go to the National Archives once an administration ends. Regulations require such files to be stored securely. A "small number of documents bearing classified markings" were "inadvertently boxed and transported" to Pence's home at the end of Trump's presidency, his lawyer wrote in a letter shared with US media. The latest development emerged after Pence sought legal help from specialists in

handling classified documents "out of an abundance of caution". He asked for help "after it became public that documents with classified markings were found in President Joe Biden's Wilmington residence", the letter read. Lawyers found "a small number of documents that could potentially contain sensitive or classified information", which were locked by the former Vice President in a safe. An aide to Pence told CBS News that the documents were stored in boxes in an insecure area of Pence's home. The aide said they were taped shut. According to US media, the documents are believed to have first been taken to Pence's home in Virginia before later being sent to Indiana. Amidst the latest development, Trump, who is facing a criminal investigation for allegedly mishandling papers, came to Pence's defence and took to his 'Truth Social' social media platform to say that Pence is "an innocent man". "He never did anything knowingly dishonest in his life," Trump wrote. "Leave him alone!!!"

FREEZING WEATHER KILLS 124 IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul | Agencies

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has confirmed that at least 124 people have been killed across the country due to the freezing weather. While confirming the fatalities, a spokesman for the State Ministry for Disaster Management said that about 70,000 livestock had also perished in what has been deemed as the coldest winter in a decade, reports the BBC. Acting Minister of Disaster Management Mullah Mohammad Abbas Akhund told the BBC that many areas of Afghanistan were now completely cut off by snow; military helicopters had been sent to the rescue, but they couldn't land in the most mountainous regions. Akhund said the forecast for the next 10 days indicated temperatures would warm. But he was still worried about a rising death toll of Afghans, and their livestock. "Most of the people who lost their



lives to the cold were shepherds or people living in rural areas. They didn't have access to healthcare," the

Minister told the BBC. "We're concerned about those who are still living in the mountain

regions. Most of the roads which pass through the mountains have been closed due to snow. Cars have got stuck there and passengers have died in the freezing temperatures." Winters are always harsh in Afghanistan but this is the worst weather in a decade. This year's relief operations have been hampered by last month's Taliban government edict barring Afghan women from working in aid agencies. But Mullah Akhund categorically said that the edict could not be lifted and the international community had to accept Afghanistan's Islamic culture. "Men are already working with us in the rescue effort and there is no need for women to work with us. The men from every family are already participating in relief efforts, so there's no need for women," he told the BBC. Aid officials, including the UN, are urgently trying to find ways to work around this ban.

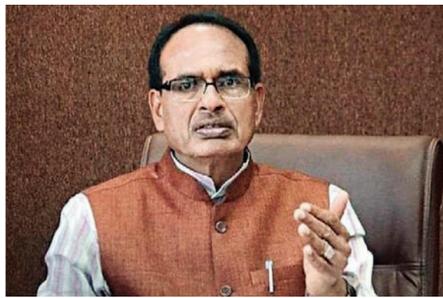


SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN INAUGURATED CENTRAL KITCHEN TO PREPARE MID-DAY MEALS FOR 47,000 STUDENTS

A centralised kitchen that will prepare mid-day meals for nearly 47,000 school children was inaugurated here by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The facility, spread over 1 acre, will provide hot and nutritious meals to students in government-run primary and middle schools in the urban areas of the Bhopal district, Chouhan said. Mid-day meals are given to students in government and government-aided schools across the country under the PM Poshan Programme.



CM Chouhan said the state government has signed an agreement with the Akshaya Patra Foundation, a Bengaluru-headquartered NGO, to run the kitchen. More such organisations will be roped in to provide mid-day meals

in government schools in the state, he said.

The kitchen has come up at a cost of Rs 12 crore spent by HEG Limited, which will also give Rs 7 crore a year to provide additional dishes like cake, 'sweet dalia' and

'kheer' to the students, said Chouhan.

The NGO said the kitchen is the biggest mid-day meal facility in Madhya Pradesh and will serve food to students in 900 schools.

FOREST DEPARTMENT SETS UP TRAP CAGE TO CAPTURE STRAY HYENA IN BADNAWAR

Badnawar: In order to trap a wild animal, possibly a hyena straying around, a team of the forest department put cages at different locations in Kathoriya village of Badnawar tehsil of Dhar district.

A labourer working in his agricultural field was attacked by a stray hyena which caused major injuries to him. On hearing his screams, other farmers working in adjacent fields rushed to help following which animal ran away and hid in the forest area.

After the officials learned of the hyena's presence in the area, it triggered a sense of panic among the residents. Forest Guard Radheshyam Meda along with forest workers set up a trap cage to capture the hyena and launched a departmental-level search operation to catch it.

BJP's 'Vikas Yatra is Nikas Yatra': Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Wednesday took a dig at the BJP's proposed 'Vikas Yatra', that is expected to cover all 230 Assembly seats in the state, saying it will be party's 'Nikas' (farewell) Yatra.

Addressing medipersons in Harda, he attacked the saffron party, claiming that the BJP had opportunity to take Madhya Pradesh forward but their 18-year rule has weakened the state's economy.

"Madhya Pradesh is surrounded by five states and has enormous business opportunities here, but irony is that, even those selling their products in southern states, are establishing their factories in Haryana and Punjab due



to the wrong policies of the state government," he claimed.

He said that his government was ousted from power within 15 months due to which the promises made to

the people during the 2018 Assembly elections could not fulfilled.

Kamal Nath claimed that had the Congress remained in power for full term (five years), things would have been different.

The former chief minister said that he tried to bring some changes and a lot of things changed, but "We got only 11 months in government, otherwise things would have changed today."

"I accept that promises made to people were not fulfilled, because it wasn't possible in 11 months. I will give my 11-months report card to the people and I would ask BJP to give its 18-year's work report. Differences would be clear. It's just not about the elections only, it's about the future of Madhya Pradesh and its people," Kamal Nath said.

'Pathaan' releases in MP theatres amid protests

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's film 'Pathaan' released on Wednesday in theatres across Madhya Pradesh amid protests staged by right-wing members.

Theatres in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and many other cities witnessed long queues from early morning as people line up to watch the first show of the film which also stars Deepika Padukone and John Abraham.

However, the right-wing protesters also gathered outside the movie halls against the screening of the movie.

Effigies of Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone were burnt outside the Rang Mahal Talkies in Bhopal, and after that they sat outside chanting the Hanuman Chalisa.

In Indore, a group of Vishwa Hindu Parishad members armed with sticks protested outside the Sapna Sangeeta Talkies. However, a



heavy contingent of police personnel deployed around the cinema hall controlled the situation and the first show was screened. 'Pathaan' courted controversy after the video of the song 'Besharam Rang' was released. The music video was criticised after viewers spotted Deepika

Padukone sporting an orange swimsuit. There were demands from a section of public, including Madhya Pradesh Minister Narottam Mishra, to change the colour of the swimsuit in the song. However, the makers have decided to retain the outfit.

HUNDREDS OF BAJRANG DAL ACTIVISTS REACH DD MALL GWALIOR TO PROTEST RELEASE OF PATHAAN

Gwalior: Hundreds of Bajrang Dal activists reached DD Mall in Gwalior on Wednesday and warned not to release Pathaan movie in theatres. Even before the first show of film Pathaan releasing the activists of Bajrang dal reached the theatres for the protest and warned not to release movie in theatres. After getting the information, a large number of heavy police force has also reached the spot. District Minister of Bajrang Dal Raju Goswami said, film Pathaan is an anti-national film, all Hinduist organizations have announced that this film will not be allowed to run in any theatre because it has deliberately insulted Hindus. For the security, police force has been deployed at theatres and malls keeping protest in Mind, said Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi.

BJP Leader Charged With Murder Of 63-Year-Old Woman

Team Absolute | Khandwa

Police have registered a case against a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) corporator in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa on the charge of killing his 63-year-old woman relative, who succumbed to injuries after being beaten by him earlier this month, an official said on Wednesday.

Pawan Goswami, the BJP corporator from ward 37 of the Khandwa Municipal Corporation, was booked on the charges of murder on Tuesday, an official said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Seema Alawa said that on January 3, Goswami was booked for threatening and beating his elderly relative Poonam Goswami following a dispute.

The victim succumbed to injuries during the treatment at a hospital in Indore on January 21, she said.

After receiving the medical report, the police added Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 302 (murder) to the first information report (FIR) on Tuesday. Alawa said. The police have launched a search for the accused who is cur-



rently on the run, she said. The victim had suffered serious internal injuries following the attack, sources said. District BJP spokesman Manglesh Tomar said that Goswami's issue came to light on Wednesday and the party leaders will take appropriate action in this connection.

Chief Secretary administers the oath on the 13th National Voters Day



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains administered the oath on the 13th National Voters' Day at Mantralaya Vallabh Bhavan. Officers/employees of Mantralaya, Satpura and Vindhyaal Bhavan along with Additional Chief Secretary Shri Vinod Kumar

were present. All the officers-employees took the pledge to maintain the dignity of the country's democratic traditions, exercise franchise in all elections fearlessly, without being influenced by religion, class, caste, community, language or any other temptation while keeping up the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections.

A THREE-DAY FEAST AT BHOJSHALA BEGINS IN DHAR

Team Absolute | Dhar

Likewise every year, the Bhoj Utsav Samiti will celebrate Basant Panchami Mahotsav by organising a three-day program at Maa Saraswati Mandir Bhojshala. Informing about the program, Bhoj Utsav Samiti president Rajesh Shukla and general secretary Hemant Dauraya held a press conference and informed about the upcoming Basant Utsav program. Senior campaigner Indresh Kumar, and special guest Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sumner Singh Solanki will address the religious meeting as the chief guest in Maa Vagdevi Shobhayatra and the religious



meeting on Thursday at 11 am. On Friday at 3 pm Matrushakti Sammelan in which Saint Siya Bharti will be the chief guest speaker, there will be a grand court and bhajan evening of Baba Khatu Shyamji

in the night. On Saturday, at 1 pm, a debate competition and an All India Virat Kavi Sammelan will be held at night, which will be coordinated by national poet Sandeep Sharma. On Monday,

Kanya Pujan and Kanya Bhoj will be organized by the committee in Bhojshala.

Committee president Rajesh Shukla said that this year, on the first day of the celebration, more than 15 free food stalls will be set up by all the societies for devotees, in which tea, water and breakfast facilities will be available.

More than 200 active workers in the city will especially provide their services in the Bhoj Mahotsav program. It was called upon by the committee that in this Basant Panchami Saraswati birth festival, all religious loving people should participate and introduce the awakened Hindu power.

COLLECTOR SANCTIONS FINANCIAL HELP TO BEREAVED SISTERS IN RATLAM

Ratlam: A weekly public hearing was held at the district collector's office in which collector Narendra Kumar Suyavanshi directed to make available Rs 4,000 monthly as sponsorship amount under the Mukhyamanti Bal Ashirwad Yojna to each of the two girls Devkunwar and Nikita of village Kharwakala in the district whose parents have passed away. According to information both the girls brought to the notice of the district Collector Suryanshi that they are the real sisters and their parents had passed away. District collector also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 lakh as an exgratia amount under Mukhyamantri Jankalyan Sambal Yojana. In another case, two girls of Maukhedhi village, Puja and Ramkunwar reached along with their aged father Narayan and drew the attention of the district collector that their small house is in a dilapidated condition but do not have sufficient finances to repair the house.

TIGRESS FOUND DEAD IN SHAHDOL DISTRICT



Shahdol: An adult tigress was found dead in the Godavari forest range of Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, an official said on Wednesday. The carcass of the feline, aged 8 to 10 years, was spotted by a patrolling team after its members noticed foul smell in the area on Tuesday afternoon, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Gaurav Choudhary.

The carcass appears to be two to three days old, but it doesn't seem to be a case of poaching as body parts of the tigress were found intact, he said.

The forest official said the spot where the carcass was found is located close to the Sanjay Gandhi Reserve and Bandhavgarh National Park. In addition, there is movement of tigers in the district from neighbouring Chhattisgarh, he added.

He said the cause of the wild animal's death was being investigated. According to the All-India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, Madhya Pradesh was home to 526 tigers, the highest in any state of the country. Madhya Pradesh has half a dozen tiger reserves, including Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura and Panna.

Voters are Oxygen of democracy: Governor Mangubhai Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that free and fair elections are the hope of democracy, then aware voters are the key to its success. The right to vote is the power by which the voter gives life to democracy. He said that the generation around the year 2000 and beyond would shape the future of democracy for almost a century. It is necessary that the seeds of democracy should be sown in the students at the school level itself.

Governor Patel was addressing the gathering after the inauguration of the exhibition on National Voters Day at Kushabhau International Convention Centre today. He also administered the voters' oath to the people present. He honoured the officers-employees engaged in the election duties who did outstanding work. He awarded the winners of various competitions conducted by the Election Commission of India. Voters above eighty years of age Jitendra Singh, Manju Singh, transgender voter Sanjana Singh and Nazar Thakur were felicitated by presenting shawl and shirwal. The Governor distributed Epic Cards to 10 new voters. The coffee table book "The Power of One Vote" published by the Commission was released in the program. Video message of Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India



was broadcast. A song released by the Commission on National Voters' Day and a video film made on International Day of Elderly Persons were also screened.

Governor Patel said that we are proud that we all are citizens of the world's largest democracy. It is necessary that all of us, the basis of democracy, compulsorily participate in the election process with integrity. He told that Shyam Saran Negi, passed away at the age of 106, who was included as a voter in the first general election in the year 1951, never missed voting in his long life. The younger generation should take inspiration from him.

Chief Electoral Officer Madhya Pradesh Anupam Rajan informed

that 13th National Voters Day has been organised at 64 thousand 100 polling stations of the state.

Various activities, public awareness and distribution of voter cards by post have been initiated on this occasion. He informed that the advanced Voter ID Cards are being distributed to voters by post. Better security measures have been taken in these cards. They also have hologram, QR code and ghost image. He told that special emphasis is being laid by the Commission on inclusion of youths in the electoral rolls. Efforts have been made by setting up special camps to include special backward Scheduled Tribes in the voter list. Collector Bhopal Avinash Lavania expressed gratitude.

MP's 25 personnel to receive Police Medals in Republic Day Parade

4 PERSONNEL TO GET MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY, 4 TO GET PRESIDENT'S POLICE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AND 17 TO GET POLICE MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

As many as 25 police personnel from Madhya Pradesh were announced by the Centre on Wednesday for service medals in four different categories on the eve of Republic Day. The list published by the ministry of home affairs contains the names of the personnel who have been decorated with the Police Medal for gallantry, the President's

Police Medal for distinguished service and the Police Medal for meritorious service. While four personnel from MP are going to get the Police Medal for gallantry, four will be awarded the President's Police Medal for distinguished services. Other than them, 17 others will receive medals for meritorious service. The medals will be presented to the officers on Independence Day.



Flowers is about finding happiness after divorce

MILEY CYRUS BREAKS SPOTIFY'S ONE-WEEK STREAMING RECORD WITH NEW SONG

Los Angeles | Agencies

Miley Cyrus has smashed Spotify's One-Week Streaming Record with her latest single Flowers.

From January 13 to January 19, the singer's newest track was streamed over 96 million times on the service alone. The single is reportedly about how Miley is doing after her divorce from Australian actor Liam Hemsworth, and was also released on his birthday, January 13.

Flowers soared to the top of the Billboard Hot 100 songs in its debut week after Taylor Swift's Anti-Hero had eight weeks at number one. The former Disney star sold an impressive 70,000 of the track in its first full week which continues to grow. It has been nine years since Miley had a Hot 100 No. 1, with Wrecking Ball in September 2013. Last week, the star dropped the very racy music video for her new single Flowers.

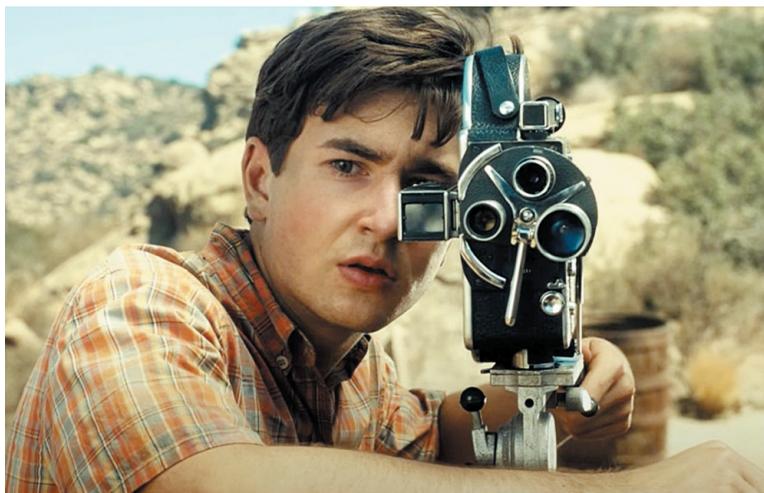
The pop song's lyrics allude to her failed relationship with the actor including a double entendre about Miley watching her marriage and the Malibu home they once shared 'burn' to the

ground.

"We were right / till we weren't / built a home and watched it burn," she sings. In November 2018, their home was completely destroyed as a result of the devastating Woolsey Fire. They wed a month later but split after less than a year in August 2019. The pair dated on/off for nearly a decade after meeting on set of their film, The Last Song (2010), when Miley was 17 and Liam was 19.

But now, Miley is the symbol of self love as she belts out: 'I can buy myself flowers / Write my name in the sand / Talk to myself for hours / See things you don't understand'.

7 Oscar nominations for 'The Fabelmans'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Reliance Entertainment's film 'The Fabelmans', directed by Steven Spielberg, is one of the most nominated film in the 95th Academy Awards.

The film is contending in the categories Best Picture, Best Director, Best Lead Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Original Screenplay, Best Production Design and Best Original Score.

In the Best Picture category, 'The Fabelmans' is contending alongside 'All

Quiet on the Western Front', 'Avatar: The Way of Water', 'The Banshees of Inisherin', 'Elvis', 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', 'Tar', 'Top Gun: Maverick', 'Triangle of Sadness' and 'Women Talking'.

Spielberg is in competition with Martin McDonagh, Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert, Todd Field and Ruben Ostlund in the Best Director category. In Best Supporting Actor, Judd Hirsch from 'The Fabelmans' will be seen in competition with Brendan Gleeson, Brian Tyree Henry, Barry Keoghan and Ke Huy Quan.

Michelle Williams has been named alongside Cate Blanchett, Ana de Armas, Andrea Riseborough and Michelle Yeoh.

'The Fabelmans' is a 2022 American coming-of-age drama film. It is a semi-autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker, told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him.



Madonna biopic starring Julia Garner scrapped as singer embarks on world tour

Los Angeles | Agencies

The anticipated biopic of music legend Madonna is taking an indefinite holiday. The project, which the icon was going to direct herself, is no longer in development at Universal Pictures. Speculation over the fate of the movie began instantly after Madonna announced a career-spanning world tour last week one that sold out shows in New York, London, Paris and other cities in minutes, reports 'Variety'.

Insiders familiar with Madonna said her sole focus is the tour, but she remains committed to making a film about her life one day.

While announced in 2020, development on the film lingered on through the end of 2022. Madonna worked on two script drafts encompassing large periods of her creative and personal life. An earlier version was written with Oscar winner Diablo Cody (their writing sessions were widely disseminated on social media).

Erin Cressida Wilson ('Secretary', 'The Girl on the Train') took a second pass.

Last June, Variety broke the news that Emmy and Golden Globe winner Garner had won the role of the pop icon.

Madonna has two feature films to her name as a director: 'Filth and Wisdom', a 2008 dramedy set in the UK, and 2011's 'W.E.', a historical

romance about King Edward VIII's abdication of the British throne to marry

American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

BEYONCE WORE \$7.5 MN JEWELLERY AT PRIVATE DUBAI GIG

Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy winner Beyonce's jewellery for her private show in Dubai was reportedly worth \$7.5 million around a third of her rumoured \$24 million pay cheque for the invitation-only gig. The 'Crazy in Love' singer, 41, made a comeback to the stage for her first concert in nearly five years at her invitation-only show to make the opening of the new 'Atlantis The Royal' hotel in the UAE city with TMZ reporting she was paid \$24 million pay cheque for the show, reports femalefirst.co.uk. It's now been estimated her bling cost around a third of the rumoured payday. Page Six is reporting the multiple outfits Beyonce wore included about \$7.5 million of Lorraine Schwartz jewellery.

It included enormous diamond chandelier earrings, as well as different diamond and green Colombian 100 carat-plus emerald fan earrings and a 30-carat yellow diamond ring.

She wore a halo-style crown with another of her outfits, which included red gloves and bringing another pair of Schwartz diamond earrings.

For her final look of the concert, the singer wore a pink crystal-covered mini-dress by Ukrainian designer Ivan Frolov, to which she added matching stockings and gloves and pyramid earrings featuring more than 60 carats of dia-



monds. Ivan told Vogue the outfit was "created in our workshop in Kiev, Ukraine, during war and massive blackouts" and that "it just goes to show that no matter what, Ukrainian brands continue to showcase the world their resistance and culture". Beyonce's payday means she earned more than \$280,000 per minute for her 85-minute Dubai show. The singer didn't feature any of her new music on the set list, but performed hits, including 'Beautiful Liar', 'Halo', 'Crazy in Love' and 'Drunk in Love'. Beyonce's husband Jay-Z and their three children as well as her parents Tina Knowles-Lawson and Mathew Knowles were in the audience along with famous faces, including Kendall Jenner, Rebel Wilson, Ellen Pompeo, Liam Payne and Bar Refaeli.



'I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS LEFT': EKIN-SU

I lost 'so many' close people after finding TV fame

Los Angeles | Agencies

Love Island's Ekin-Su Culcuglu admitted that she 'doesn't have any friends left' after appearing on the ITV2 dating show last year.

The Turkish actress, and her Italian boyfriend Davide Sancimenti, were crowned the winners of Love Island 2022 after beating runners-up Gemma Owen and Luca Bish. Speaking to fellow former contestant Joe Garratt in a Reddit chat, Ekin-Su told listeners she ditched her former pals after they 'sold stories' about her. She explained: 'Don't change who you are, don't get caught up in this ego where you think you're this celebrity so you should act a certain way and belittle people - you shouldn't. We're all equal, I feel like even the people who clean the toilet, you should respect that person because we're all the same. Stay humble.' 'I lost so many friends coming out, I don't have any friends left because they sold stories of me.'

Shocked by her revelation, Joe said: 'Oh that's so sad, well they weren't friends then. That's jealousy man, that's sad.'

Seeing the positive side of the situation, she added: 'But then you make new friends who understand you.' It comes after Ekin-Su sparked controversy with her performance during Sunday evening's Dancing On Ice launch show of the skating competition as she recreated her famous crawling scene from Love Island. And she gave the routine 100%, with host Holly Willoughby even dubbing the routine the show's 'sexiest dance ever'. But the performance didn't quite get the reaction she was hoping for, with Ofcom receiving 112 complaints from the public following the episode.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Cara De La Hoyde



RENUKA SINGH NAMED ICC EMERGING WOMEN'S CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2022

Dubai | Agencies



India pacer Renuka Singh Thakur was on Wednesday named as the ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022 after she impressed everybody with her magnificent displays of seam and swing bowling, last year. Renuka got the better of Australia's Darcie Brown, England's Alice Capsey and compatriot, left-handed wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia to become the recipient of ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022. With this, she also became the first Indian women's cricketer to get the honour. Renuka claimed 40 wickets for her country in 2022 in just 29

matches across the two white-ball formats, filling the void of the legendary pacer Jhulan Goswami. Able to swing the ball or find deviation off the surface, the right-arm pacer is most likely to be one of India's most dependable bowlers in years to come. In the ODIs, Renuka was outstanding, claiming 18 wickets at an average of just 14.88, of which eight came in two appearances against England, and seven in India's series against Sri Lanka. Her best performance came against Australia on cricket's return to Commonwealth Games, taking 4/18 with 16 dot balls, and leaving them at 34/4, though the eventual champions chased down India's 154.

SKY WINS MEN'S T20I CRICKETER AWARD

New Delhi: India's right-handed batter Suryakumar Yadav was named winner of the ICC Mens T20I cricketer of the year 2022 award. He also becomes the first Indian to win the honour. Suryakumar beat competition from England's left-arm pace all-rounder Sam Curran, Zimbabwe's off-spin all-rounder Sikandar Raza and 2021 award winner, Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, to get the coveted honour. Yadav had a sensational 2022 in the shortest format of the game, becoming just the second batter to score more than 1000 runs in a year in the format with his 360-degree strokeplay. He ended the year as the highest run-getter, scoring 1164 runs at a ridiculous strike rate of 187.43, averaging 46.56. His tally of 68 sixes in 2022 is the highest anyone has hit in the format in a year by a fair distance. With two hundreds and nine half-centuries in the year, Yadav was undoubtedly the standout men's T20I batter, achieving a career-high 890 rating points to be the top-ranked T20I batter in 2022.



SIRAJ TOPS ICC MEN'S ODI RANKINGS IN BOWLING

New Delhi: India's right-arm fast-bowler Mohammed Siraj has become the new number one bowler in the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings for bowlers, going past New Zealand's left-arm seamer Trent Boult and Australia's fast bowler Josh Hazlewood.



It's a remarkable rise for Siraj, who only returned to India's ODI setup in February last year following a three-year hiatus from the format and was even named in Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2022 on Tuesday. Siraj's rise to the top is more astonishing considering that he conceded 76 runs on his ODI debut against Australia in Adelaide in January 2019. Since his ODI comeback, Siraj, 28, has collected 37 wickets from 20 matches.

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern snatch late draw with Cologne, Leipzig reduce arrears in table

Berlin | Agencies

Joshua Kimmich's late hammer secured Bayern Munich a 1-1 draw with courageous Cologne while ruthless Leipzig crushed last-placed Schalke 6-1 in the curtain raiser of the 17th round.

Cologne caught a fairy-tale start on the road and stunned Bayern with the early opener in the fourth minute when Julian Chabot flicked on Florian Kainz's corner to the back post where Ellyes Skhiri finished the job from very close range.

Bayern remained unimpressed and controlled possession but still Cologne posed more threats in front



of the target as goalie Yann Sommer had to defuse a low cross to deny Skhiri a second goal at the half-hour mark, reports Xinhua.

The hosts eventually created their first opportunity in the 44th minute when Benjamin Pavard forced Cologne goalkeeper Marvin Schwabe into action for the first time.

Julian Nagelsmann's side started an onslaught on Cologne's goal after the restart but neither Matthijs de Ligt nor Kingsley Coman was able to beat Schwabe despite promising chances.

Schwabe remained in the thick of things and denied Bayern another golden chance after defusing a close-

range header from Thomas Muller in the 79th minute.

Cologne's custodian was hapless moments later as Kimmich unleashed a hammer from 30 meters into the roof of the net to secure a share of the spoils in the 90th minute.

Elsewhere, Leipzig moves on second for now after trashing Schalke 6-1 courtesy of Andre Silva's first-half brace, four points behind leaders Bayern.

Wolfsburg snatched another high victory and extended their winning streak to six games after easing 5-0 past hapless Hertha Berlin, while Hoffenheim played out a 2-2 draw with Stuttgart.

INDONESIA MASTERS 2023

Lakshya, Saina advance to second round; Srikanth bows out

Jakarta | Agencies

Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Saina Nehwal advanced to the second round of the Indonesia Masters 2023 badminton tournament but their compatriot Kidambi Srikanth crashed out in the first round, here on Wednesday.

Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya dispatched Japanese shuttler Kodai Naraoka by 21-12, 21-11 scoreline in his men's singles round of 32 match.

In the round of 16, the seventh-seeded Sen will face Malaysia's NG Tze Yong, who ousted Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in straight games in his opening round clash.

Meanwhile, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth lost 10-21, 22-24 to Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

The experienced Indian shuttler is not in the form recently and has made first round exits from all three tournaments he has played so far this year -- the Malaysia Open,



India Open and now the Indonesia Masters.

In women's singles, Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal also successfully crossed her first round hurdle after defeating Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-15, 17-21, 21-15. Saina will face the winner of the all-Chinese clash between Zhang Yi Man and Yue Han in the next round.

Rohit Sharma hopeful of Bumrah playing last two Tests against Australia

Team Absolute | Indore

India captain Rohit Sharma is hopeful of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah recovering from his injuries and playing in the last two Tests against Australia at home in March. At the same time, Rohit warned against rushing the right-arm fast-bowler into competitive cricketing action.

After recovering from a back injury sustained in September which kept him out of the 2022 Men's T20 World Cup, Bumrah was set to join the Indian team in Guwahati ahead of the ODI series against Sri Lanka earlier this month.

But he was withdrawn on the



eve of the ODI series opener, with the BCCI citing the need for him to build bowling resilience, calling the decision a precautionary measure. Understandably, the Indian team management is cautious about Bumrah's fitness, especially with the 2023 ODI World Cup set to be held in the country in October and November. "About Bumrah, I'm not too sure at the moment. Of course, for the first two Test matches, he's not going to be available. But I'm expecting that; not expecting but hoping he plays the next two Test matches but again we don't want to take any risk with him. The back injuries are always critical."

Women's Premier League gets total bids worth INR 4669.99 crore, breaks record of Men's IPL

New Delhi | Agencies

Jay Shah, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said that the organisation has gained a whopping INR 4669.99 crore as total bids for owning teams in the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL), which he added has broken the record for the inaugural Men's IPL in 2008.

The BCCI is all set to unveil the five franchise owners, along with the home cities, for the WPL later on January 25. It is learnt that 17 parties, including seven men's IPL franchises -- Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Punjab Kings, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore -- are in the fray for owning teams in the five-team WPL.

The cities which are shortlisted as home cities for the WPL, as per multiple reports, are



Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Indore, Lucknow and Mumbai. The inaugural edition of the WPL could be held in March this year, with the player auction expected to happen early in February.

MUMBAI INDIANS, DELHI CAPITALS, RCB, ADANI GROUP, CAPRI GLOBAL WIN BIDS

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday announced that men's IPL teams Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, along with the Adani Group and Capri Global have won bids to own the five Women's Premier League (WPL) teams.

The inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League is expected to be played in March this year. The home teams of the five winning franchises will be Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Lucknow respectively.

The auction was held in Mumbai earlier in the afternoon. The five winners were revealed after opening the bids. While Adani Group, through Adani Sportsline Pvt. Ltd got the Ahmedabad franchise with the highest bid of INR 1289 crore, Indiawin Sports Pvt. Ltd acquired the Mumbai franchise with a bid of INR 912.99 crore.

Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd, JSW GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd and Capri Global Holdings Pvt. Ltd won the rest of the three teams with winning bids of INR 901 crore, INR 810 crore and INR 757 crore respectively.



"I congratulate the winners for making successful bids to own WPL teams. The league will give players from India and abroad a chance to learn and grow together. It will pave the way for development at the grassroots level with the inclusion of more women cricketers."

Roger Binny, President, BCCI

SERIE A: LAZIO CRUSH DEMORALISED AC MILAN 4-0

Rome | Agencies

Former champions AC Milan almost lost their Scudetto hope as they found themselves 12 points behind leaders Napoli after a 4-0 away defeat to Lazio.

The Rossoneri had a poor start to the new year as they suffered back-to-back draws in Serie A, an exit in the Coppa Italia and a 3-0 Supercoppa defeat to Inter Milan.

Theo Hernandez was added to Milan's injury list, alongside Mike Maignan, Fode Ballo-Toure, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Alessandro Florenzi, while Lazio had to do without trump card Ciro Immobile.

Lazio put their noses ahead just four minutes into the game on Tuesday night Mattia Zaccagni rolled across from the left, and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic swept it into the box.



The Biancocelesti doubled the lead before the break as Adam Marusic's angle drive hit the post but it was prodded into the net by Zaccagni.

Luis Alberto's penalty in the 67th minute put the home side firmly in charge before Felipe Anderson put the icing on Lazio's cake.

The win allowed Lazio to climb to third place, levelling with Inter Milan and Roma on 37 points, just one point shy of second-placed AC Milan.



Jacqueline is proud of her film 'Tell It Like A Woman'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

While it was 'Naatu Naatu' that made a lot of noise with its Oscars nomination, another song 'Applause' from the film 'Tell It Like A Woman' is also competing against the global phenomenon in the Best Original Song category. Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who also stars in the film, recently shared her happiness with the track earning the nomination. The song titled 'Applause' has been penned by singer Diane Warren, a recipient of 13 Oscar nominations and spreads the message of strength and empowerment.

Excited with the Oscar nomination, Jacqueline said, "I am so proud of the entire team of 'Tell It Like A Woman' and especially Dianne and Sofia who created such magical music with 'Applause'. The whole experience of doing this film was just as magical for me."

She further mentioned, "Being associated with this Oscar nomination is just so special, I cannot express it because it is very overwhelming and I wish the best to the whole team for the Academy Awards!"

'Tell It Like A Woman' is an anthology of films made by eight female directors from around the world. Margherita Buy, Eva Longoria, Cara Delevingne, Anne Watanabe, Jennifer Hudson, Marcia Gay Harden and Jacqueline Fernandez are just a few of the ensemble cast members in the film. The actress also took to her social media to express her joy and excitement as she congratulated the fellow contenders. Apart from 'Naatu Naatu' and 'Applause', the other songs that have been nominated include 'This Is A Life' (EAAA), 'Hold My Hand' (Top Gun: Maverick) and 'Lift Me Up' (Black Panther: Wakanda Forever).

Apart from 'Naatu Naatu', 'Applause', is also nominated under Best Original Song



'Song brought me peace'

A.R. RAHMAN GIVES NEW SPIN TO 'VAISHNAV JAN TO'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The first song from the upcoming film 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh', titled 'Vaishnav Jan To' was unveiled on Wednesday. The song composed by music composer A.R. Rahman was originally written by Late Narsinh Mehta and has been sung by playback singer Shreya Ghoshal.

The film has been directed by Rajkumar Santoshi and marks his return to cinema after almost a decade.

Speaking about the song, Rahman shared, "Rajkumar Sir is a legend and working on a music for him was a great experience. 'Vaishnav Jan To' is also one of the special songs because it was Gandhi's favourite."

He further mentioned, "This song brought a sense of peace whenever I worked on it and I am sure it will bring the same peace and love in the hearts of my audience as well."

The song, presented by Jacky Bhagnani's record label Jjust music, rouses the emotion of patriotism.

Rajkumar Santoshi's daughter, Tanisha Santoshi shared, "Everything about 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh' is a treasure I will always cherish."

'Vaishnav Jan To' was my first song. Since it is in the Gujarati language I had to prepare for it days in advance. Also, there was an added pressure of the legendary singer Shreya Ghoshal ma'am lending me her vocals along with A.R. Rahman sir's music so I had to give it my best. "The song didn't have any dance steps obviously so I had to make it as expressive as possible through my emotions and eyes. But all in all, it was an exhilarating experience for me," she added. 'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh' presents a unique concept of opposite ideologies shared by Mahatma Gandhi and his assassin Nathuram Godse. Presented by Santoshi Productions LLP, the film is a PVR Pictures Release, produced by Manila Santoshi.

Sandeep Modi on giving 3 different looks to Aditya Roy Kapur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 'Night Manager' director Sandeep Modi talks about the three different looks of Aditya Roy Kapur in the web series, which is a Hindi adaptation of John le Carre's novel 'The Night Manager'.

He shared: "The story was set across five years, and five different emotional stages for our character. Shaan's character is the longest arc of the story. He starts with 'The Night Manager' in Dhaka, to Shimla, he goes to Sri Lanka, and he goes through so much, eventually the climax." Sandeep, who is known for 'Aarya', 'The Lottery', and 'Neeraj', added further how challenging it was to give him different looks that goes well with the storyline of the series. "We decided to go with three looks for him, he's clean shaven, he's bearded, and he has stubble. So it was tough trying to figure out how to manage each look because each look required 5-7 days to prep right." "Once you get him clean shaven, it will require 14 days to come back to a bearded look so it was a tough production call but creatively we took it and it is wonderful on screen," he concluded. Created and directed by Sandeep Modi, the show features Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sobhita Dhulipala, Tilotama Shome, Saswata Chatterjee, Ravi Behl and others.



KAUSHIKI RATHORE ON FACING CASTING COUCH IN INITIAL YEARS OF HER ACTING CAREER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kaushiki Rathore, has been a part of shows like 'Krishna Chali London', 'Gudiya Hamara Sabhi Pe Bhari' and 'Story 9 months Ki', is all set to be seen as the negative lead in the TV show 'Durga Aur Chaaru'.

Kaushiki narrated an incident and said that during her initial days, she received a weird demand.

She said: "The industry has changed so much but the one thing that hasn't changed is asking for favours in return for work. The incident happened with me when I had started giving auditions and chanced upon an opportunity in the South project."

"All the things got finalised but when they handed over the contract to me they added some of their conditions and asked me to compromise. I was bewildered as I had only heard about such incidents, but when it happened to me it shook the ground beneath me. I declined their offer but their words affected my mental state." Kaushiki added that one cannot blame the entire industry for those practicing casting couch. She shared:

"Despite the incident, I believe that not all are bad. We just need to learn to differentiate between good and bad. People should understand that compromising is not the only way to make it big in the industry."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Disha Patani

Pathaan: A Phenomenal Spy Thriller

FILM REVIEW

YOGENDRA CHATURVEDI

Directed by: Siddharth Anand
Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone & John Abraham
Ratings: 4/5

A classic story of a patriot, who neglects the rules to protect the country and its people from threats.

Pathaan, is a spy thriller that crackles with energy. It goes the distance riding on the insouciant and cocky charm that Shah Rukh Khan, in his first full-fledged appearance on the big screen since 2018's Zero, brings to an exercise that is at once excessive and exciting.

Salman Khan's cameo is the icing on the cake for this high-octane action sequel. If you are a movie buff, it will make your heart skip a beat. Pathaan, who peppers with gunpowder-dry punch lines, contributes in no small



measure to keeping this action-packed movie on the boil all the way till the end.

The first half of the film is more concerned with glorifying the appearances of the characters than with telling a story, which is fun to watch. The first 40-45 minutes after Salman's cameo in the second half drag the

movie's graph down, but it re-establishes the grip on audiences in the final 20 minutes.

You cannot, without a doubt, ask for an action-packed entertainer while also demanding a coherent story. It's a movie for the masses, and it should be treated as such.

John Abraham, as an antagonist with a

decent back story, did a good job adapting the character and delivered as required. The heroine, Deepika Padukone, is an ISI agent with a back story that makes her the inscrutable and unpredictable person she is. Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana - are perfectly in tune with the style and substance of Pathaan. The movie packs a massive punch. The cinematography is the topmost drawer. Editing lends the film a pacy rhythm that leaves no room for dull passages. And the pulpy panache of directorial sleights is impressive. They combine to make Pathaan a thoroughly riveting movie that instantly gets the willing suspension of disbelief that it demands and thrives on.

The team Pathaan has done an excellent job of creating action sequels and playing beautifully with VFX. This film contains an insane amount of VFX, making it critical for them to be flawless.

Conclusion: Without a doubt, every Indian should and must go to theatre and watch this movie. After all, it's the Bollywood's Badshah on the big screen after a four-year hiatus.