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AYODHYA TO GET SOLAR FERRIES



■ The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) will add a fleet of 10 solar ferries to take the tourists around the temple town. The ferries will have a GPS navigation system and a maximum speed of 10 knots. The carrying capacity of the ferries will range between 6 to 50 individuals.

Delhi temperature dips to 1.9, dense fog in many states

"Dense fog in isolated pockets is very likely over Uttarakhand, north Rajasthan, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Assam & Tripura during next 2 days; over north Madhya Pradesh during next 24 hours," IMD on Sunday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The national capital on Sunday recorded a minimum temperature of 1.9 degree Celsius at Safdarjung, while Aya Nagar had 2.6 and Lodhi Road registered 2.8 degree Celsius, as per the India Meteorological Department.

Due to a very dense fog condition, the visibility was recorded at 200 meters at Safdarjung and 50 meters at Palam. The IMD has said that the cold day to severe cold day conditions is very likely to prevail in many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh on Sunday; Cold Day conditions in isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal &



Sikkim on Sunday and over Bihar on Sunday and Monday. The minimum temperatures are very likely to rise by about 2 degree Celsius over many parts of the plains of Northwest India after the next 24 hours, the IMD has predicted.

However, no significant change in minimum temperatures is very likely over East

India during the next two days and a rise of about 2-3 degree Celsius is predicted thereafter. Fall by 2-3 degree Celsius in minimum temperatures is very likely over Madhya Pradesh during the next 24 hours and no significant change during subsequent four days, said IMD. Due to continuation of prevailing light winds and

high moisture near surface over the Indo-Gangetic plains, dense to very dense fog very likely to continue in some parts during night and morning hours over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours and in isolated pockets thereafter for subsequent four days over the region, it said.

Major infiltration bid foiled in LoC's Balakot sector, 2 terrorists killed

Jammu | Agencies

A major infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district was foiled by the Indian Army, resulting in the elimination of 2 terrorists, defence officials said on Sunday.

"On January 7, 2023, at approximately 7 p.m., own alert troops observed suspicious movement of two infiltrators who were trying to sneak across the LoC in Balakot sector in Poonch," Defence Ministry spokesman, Lt Col Devender Anand said in a statement.

"The troops on the LoC and the fence were alerted and kept observing the area. At approximately 7.45 p.m. there was a loud explosion due to a mine having got initiated by infiltrating terrorists.

"Thereafter at approximately 7.50 p.m. own troops saw the movement near the fence and engaged the terrorists by bringing aimed fire onto them. Once the firing ceased, our troops on the fence and troops on the LoC readjusted the cordon to prevent their escape," he added.

According to the spokesperson, a night-enabled quadcopter and other surveillance devices were employed to keep a strict vigil on the cordoned area, and troops commenced a search operation at 2 a.m. on January 8.

"The search was very deliberate as the area is not only undulating with dense undergrowth, but is also heavily mined.

"In the search so far, two bodies have been recovered with weapons, magazines, ammunition and other war-like stores. Army has

recovered an AK 47 rifle with two magazines and 21 rounds, one modified AK 56 rifle, one Chinese pistol with one magazine and five rounds, two Chinese hand grenades and two high explosive IEDs and a mobile phone till now. Search operation continues," Lt Col Anand said.

The Army also said that on December 29, 2022, alert troops deployed on the LoC in Krishna Ghati sector had picked up suspicious movement of three terrorists attempting to infiltrate, utilising the cover of heavy rainfall, from across the LoC. On being challenged by effective fire by troops, the terrorists escaped into the forests.

"Subsequent search of the area during daylight on December 30, 2022 led to recovery of bags containing warlike-stores and abundant items essential for sustenance.

"Items recovered include two pistols, three magazines, 24 rounds of pistol ammunition, 30 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, night vision goggles, dagger, winter clothing, rubber gloves and eatables sufficient for sustenance for a prolonged period."

The Army said that these "continuous disruptive attempts by terrorists and inimical forces indicate their desperate efforts to hamper the prevailing peaceful and harmony situation and the ongoing development in the Jammu region."

"Meantime, the operations to nab terrorists involved in the Dhangri attack continue by the Indian Army along with other security forces operating in the region, particularly in Rajouri and Poonch districts."

Punjab School Principal Offers Free Air Travel To Top Scoring Students

When I joined the school in 2019, its rank was 48 out of 56 schools in the district. Now, the school ranks first in the Ferozepur district, the principal asserted: Rakesh Sharma

Chandigarh | Agencies

When four students of a government school in Punjab's Ferozepur district featured in the merit list of the state board exams, ending a 12-year wait, the overjoyed principal did not hesitate to fulfil their wish of air travel.

Rakesh Sharma, the principal of Shaheed Gurdas Ram Memorial Government Senior Secondary School (Girls), at Zira in Ferozepur, is paying for the air travel expenses of students from his own pocket.

According to Sharma, the students of the 10th and 12th classes of the school had not been making it to the merit list of the Punjab School Education Board exams for the last 12 years.

To motivate students to work hard on their studies, Sharma asked them about their wishes which he would fulfil if they make the cut.

"The students wished for 'jahaaz da jhoota' (travel by air) and I told them it is my commitment to fulfil



their wish," Sharma said.

"I announced in a prayer meeting that if any student of 10th or 12th class secures merit positions in board exams, I will ensure air travel for any destination of their choice within the country," he added.

Most of the students of the school belong to poor and middle-class families. "By the grace of God, four students -- two of 10th class and two of 12th class -- secured merit positions in the final exams," an elated Sharma said.

"Two twelfth-class students, Bhajanpreet Kaur and Simranjeet Kaur, went to Goa from Amritsar

on a flight in November last year. Both of them attended the India International Innovation and Invention Expo (INEX-2022) in Goa," Sharma said.

Bhajanpreet's father is a 'granthi' (priest) at a local gurdwara and Simranjeet's father is a truck mechanic. Two other students will now travel to Delhi from Amritsar on a flight in the last week of January, the school principal said.

"They will be visiting the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Red Fort and other places in the national capital," he said.

After seeing two students availing of air travel facility, Sharma said another 22 students from classes 10 and 12 have now registered themselves for securing merit positions.

"The students asked me if all 22 secured merit positions, what will I do in that case? I told them I am committed to what I said. They will get 'jahaaz da jhoota'," Sharma said. "Students have now correlated the merit position with air travel," he said.

NEW RULES FOR COPS ON NIGHT DUTY

JUST WEEK AFTER DELHI CAR DRAG HORROR

New Delhi: A week after the car dragging incident where a 20-year-old woman died after she was hit and dragged by a car for 13 km in the national capital, Delhi police have asked all inspector-level officials to share their live locations while on night duty. All Station House Officers (SHO), Anti-Terrorist Officers (ATO) and Inspector of Investigation (Bravo) have also been directed to inform the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) before leaving the police station, officials said.

"SHO (Station house officer), ATO (anti-terrorist officer), Bravo have been asked to share their live locations. From 12 midnight to 4 am they will have to update their positions with live locations. No Police personnel can leave the Police Station without DCP's (Deputy Commissioner of Police) permission," the order said.

Official sources say the decision has been taken in the wake of January 1 car dragging horror.

Anjali Singh was heading home with a friend on her scooter when she was hit by the car a little after 2 am on the New Year. Her leg was caught in a wheel and she was dragged away by the car while her friend suffered minor injuries.

The men, allegedly drunk, came to realise that the woman was caught under the car, but they kept driving around the same area and taking multiple U-turns to shake off the body. After the body fell off, the men drove off.

163 COVID CASES IN INDIA IN 24 HOURS

New Delhi: India logged 163 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases declined to 2,423, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,79,924). The death count stands at 5,30,720 with two deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 86 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case-load in a span of 24 hours. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,46,781, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.13 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of four crore on January 25 last year.

DISTURBING YOUR CO-WORKER WHO IS ON LEAVE WILL COST YOU RS 1LAKH AT THIS FIRM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Imagine that it's your week off and you didn't get a single call or text from the office. Finding it hard to process? Well, you are not alone. While it sounds next to impossible, a company has taken baby steps to make sure that its employees aren't disturbed on their leave days. And, there is a fine in case the employee gets a call. Wait, what? Oh yes, you read that right. Dream11, a fantasy sports platform, has introduced the "Dream11 Unplug" policy for all its employees to help them relax, unwind and rejuvenate on their leave days. This policy will allow the person to have no contact with emails, chats and other groups. Speaking to CNBC, Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sethi, co-founders of the company, said, "Once a year, for one week, you're kicked out of the [company] system ... you don't have Slack, emails and calls." Talking about the hefty fine, Jain said, "Anyone who reaches out to another employee during 'unplug' time has to pay a fine of about \$1,200 [1 lakh approx]". The two added that this policy has been a success so far.

In a statement, which was released in February last year on LinkedIn, the company said, "At Dream11, we actually log off the 'Dreamster' who is unplugged, off from every



possible Stadium communication platform, be it slack, emails and even WhatsApp groups. We do this to ensure absolutely no one from the Dreamster's work ecosystem can contact them while they are on their

well-deserved break". Wondering how a person working at Dream11 can opt for it. "To avail Unplugged, Dreamsters have to have spent at least one year in the organisation or worked on one IPL," the statement added.

2 Children Found Dead At Goa Home, Father Found Hanging From Nearby Tree

Panaji: Two minor children were found dead at home while their father was later found hanging from a tree behind the house in North Goa district, police said on Sunday.

Prime facie, it seems the man killed the children and then committed suicide, Superintendent of Police (North) Nidhin Valsan told reporters.

The bodies of the minor boy aged 14 and his eight-year-old sister were found in their house in Candolim village on Saturday night. Their mother was not at home when the children died, he said. "When the children did not open the door of the house, their mother opened it forcibly with the help of neighbours and found the children dead," he said.

The police received a call at around 10.30 pm on Saturday about the incident. The Calangute police then started searching for the children's father who was untraceable since the kids were found dead, the official said.

On Sunday morning, the man's body was found hanging from a tree behind their house, Valsan said. The man was in his late 40s, another official said.

"Prime facie, it looks like the father killed both the children to death and then committed suicide," Valsan said. An investigation is on into the incident, he added.





TN'S FIRST JALLIKATTU FESTIVAL HELD IN PUDUKOTTAI, 74 INJURED

Chennai | Agencies

Thousands of people gathered at Thatchankurichi in Gandarvakottai taluk of Tamil Nadu's Pudukottai district on Sunday to watch and participate in the first Jallikattu festival of the season, while 74 people were injured after trying to tame the bulls.

Hundreds of bulls were brought to Thatchankurichi village in mini freight carriers, while a heavy police posse was present to regulate and control the crowd that thronged at the venue. The festival was to be held on January 6 but was postponed by a couple of days due to some security reasons. As many as 485 bulls were let off to the field one after the other and the tamers tried to tackle and



control them in a marked area filled with coir pith. The tamers had to produce a negative RT-PCR test report taken a day before for participating in the tournament.

The bulls had also undergone dope tests before they were allowed to march to the 'Vadivasal' or entry point to the ground. A 20-member medical team was deployed at the venue and a fleet of

'108' Ambulances was deployed to rush the injured to the nearby Thanjavur Medical College Hospital.

The Jallikattu was declared open by state Ministers S. Raghupathy and Siva V. Meyyanathan with District Collector, Kavitha Ramu administering the oath to the tamers and handing over the tea shirts to them.

BJY GETTING MORE RESPONSE IN NORTHERN INDIA: RAHUL

Kurukshetra | Agencies

Rahul Gandhi has said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) was getting more response in North India, thus failing all the predictions made by some.

While addressing a press conference in Haryana's Kurukshetra on Sunday, he said, "The Yatra in northern India has got more response than South and the massive crowds in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana are just an example that people have connected to this Yatra."

He said that the swelling crowd was a witness to the fact that the Congress will form a government in all the northern states, and added that his focus was on what the government agenda would be rather than mere forming a government. "That is not the agenda, but implementation of the manifesto is the real agenda," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said that the Yatra was drawing more people



day by day because they want to live in harmony and believe in compassion. He, however, refused to answer political questions put by the

reporters. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is in Haryana currently and will move to Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and end in Jammu and Kashmir.

EX-ARMY CHIEF DEEPAK KAPOOR JOINS RAHUL'S BHARAT JODO YATRA

Kurukshetra (Haryana): Days after RAW's ex-chief A.S. Dulat, a group of retired armed forces officers, led by former army chief, General Deepak Kapoor (retd) joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Haryana's Kurukshetra on Sunday.

Gen Kapoor was accompanied by Lt Gen R.K. Hooda (retd), Lt Gen V.K. Narula (retd), Lt Gen D.D.S. Sandhu (retd), Air Marshal P.S. Bhangu (retd), Maj Gen Satbir Singh Chaudhary (retd), Maj Gen Dharmender Singh (retd), Maj Gen Bishambar Dayal (retd), Col Jitender Gill (retd), Col Pushpender Singh (retd), and Col. Rohit Chaudhry (retd).

The Bharat Jodo Yatra is attracting scores of ex-servicemen as Gandhi is opposed to the Agniveer scheme and lashed out on the government over it.

Addressing a rally in Haryana's Panipat during his Yatra, he said that earlier a soldier used to serve the country for 15 years and proper training was imparted and retirement benefits were given but now after 5 years, he will be unemployed.



4 ex-ministers among 172 accused held in 2022 by Punjab Vigilance Bureau

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Vigilance Bureau in 2022 arrested 172 accused in 129 bribery cases. They included four former Congress ministers, an IAS officer, a chief forest conservator, two forest conservators and an Assistant Inspector General of Police, bureau's Chief Director-cum-ADGP Varinder Kumar said on Sunday.

He said the arrested 172 accused included 83 in 65 trap cases and 89 in 64 online complaints in one year. The bureau has set a record in registration of bribery cases, arrests of accused in corruption, registration of criminal cases and arrests made thereof, besides filing of vigilance enquiries against suspects involved in these probes as compared to the last two years.

Giving details of high-profile cases, he said four former ministers, Sadhu Singh Dharmot, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Bharat Bhushan Ashu and Sundar Sham Arora; former chairman of the Improvement Trust Amritsar, Dinesh Bassi; Sanjay Popli, an IAS officer; Chief Forest Conservator Parveen Kumar; Forest Conservators Vishal Chohan and Amit Chohan; Divisional Forest Officer Guramanpreet Singh; contractor Harmandir Singh Hummy, Assistant Inspector General of Police Ashish Kapoor; PUNSUP general manager Naveen Kumar Garg; district commander Punjab Home Guards, Nirmala and platoon commander Anmol Moti; Excise and Taxation Officer Sandeep Singh; and contractors Telu Ram, Yashpal and Ajaypal were booked and arrested in various cases. Kumar said the Bureau has adopted a

multi-facet approach to corner the bribe seekers and to generate awareness among the public. During the year, 30 personnel of Punjab Police, 13 of the Revenue Department, five of the Power Department and four of the local bodies were caught red-handed while taking bribes from January 1 to December 31, 2022. To encourage people to come forward and report corruption in state public offices, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had launched Chief Minister's Anti-Corruption Action Line on March 23, 2022, which has shown notable results. Giving more details about the performance of the Bureau, Kumar said the Bureau has registered 135 criminal cases against 371 accused which includes 35 gazetted officers, 163 non-gazetted officials, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and 173 private persons. Apart from

this, 103 vigilance enquiries have also been registered against 139 suspects to probe corruption complaints which include 35 gazetted officers, 58 NGOs and 46 private persons in the last year. Besides, two cases of disproportionate assets were registered against one gazetted officer and an NGO. Two NGOs have been dismissed from their services by their respective administrative departments due to conviction in various courts, he added. He said special courts have sentenced two gazetted officers, 18 NGOs and 10 private persons accused in 19 vigilance cases registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act and awarded imprisonments up to five years. The special courts have also imposed fines varying from Rs 5,000 to Rs 33,00,000 in these cases which amount to a total sum of Rs 37,90,000, he said.

Himachal govt hikes VAT on diesel, BJP slams move

Shimla | Agencies

The Congress government in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday increased the VAT on diesel by Rs 3.01, increasing it to Rs 7.40.

With this, the diesel is now costs Rs 86 per litre in the state.

Slamming the government, the main opposition BJP said the increase in the price of diesel is likely to increase freight charges and add to the burden on farmers. Former minister Suresh Bhardwaj has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over decisions to appoint six Chief Parliamentary Secretaries



and increase VAT on diesel. He said the Congress has started a "Kharacha Express" to pamper its leaders by burdening the public. He said before the Cabinet expansion, the government appointed six MLAs as Chief

Parliamentary Secretaries (CPS). Before that, the government enhanced VAT on diesel to make it costlier for the common man.

Bhardwaj said the government denotified several institutions opened by the previous BJP government across the state, citing budget constraints but appointed six Chief Parliamentary Secretaries.

"The anti-public face of Congress is exposed today," he said, adding that a Congress leader is doing a yatra to save his existence and talks about inflation. They should also tell the people that petrol and diesel are still the costliest in the Congress-ruled state.

4 criminals evading trial held by police in Delhi's Dwarka

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Four absconding criminals, evading their trial and recently declared proclaimed offenders, were arrested by in Delhi's Dwarka area, an official said on Sunday.

The accused were identified as Raghuvier, Subhash, Anil, and Rishi.

DCP, Dwarka, M. Harsha Vardhan said that a special drive against proclaimed offenders is being continuously carried out by the police, and informers have also been roped in.

He said that on January 6, the police got a tip-off about the accused, the information



was developed, and a team was formed to nab the accused. A raid was conducted at the hideout of the accused and all of them were held. During interrogation,

the accused disclosed about their involvement in cases lodged at Bindapur police station, adding that during the trial, they fled from their houses.

THREE KILLED IN FIRE AT TELANGANA FACTORY

Hyderabad: Three workers were killed in an industrial fire that broke out in Mylan Laboratories in Telangana's Sangareddy district on Sunday.

The incident took place at the warehouse block of Mylan at Gaddapotharam industrial area in Jinnaram mandal.

Police said the fire broke out after an explosive chemical had leaked while being poured into a container. Three workers, who sustained serious burn injuries, died while undergoing treatment a few hours later.

The deceased were identified as Paritosh Mehta, 40, of West Bengal, Ranjith Kumar, 27, of Bihar and Lokeshwar Rao, 29, of Andhra Pradesh. Police registered a case and took up further investigation.

Two Bangladeshi citizens held with gold consignment from near Bengal border

Kolkata | Agencies

Two Bangladeshi citizens with huge consignments of gold biscuits have been arrested by the BSF personnel from near the Benapole-Petrapole border in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, officials informed on Sunday.

Working on a tip-off that a huge consignment of gold was being smuggled through a bus, the BSF jawans of the 145 battalion stopped the vehicle, that was coming to Kolkata from Agartala via Dhaka, near the border checkpoint.

After thorough checking of the bus, 30 gold biscuits were recovered from the possession of driver,



Mohammad Farhad and conductor Umar Farooq. Both of them have been identified as Bangladeshi

nationals. The weight of the 30 gold biscuits was over three kilograms and its estimated market value in Indian currency is around Rs 2 crore.

During the interrogation, the arrested duo informed that this gold consignment was meant for someone in the New Market area in central Kolkata. They also admitted that they had been acting as handlers in this cross-border gold consignment smuggling for quite some time.

They informed that the name of the recipient of the consignment in the New Market area was one Mohammad Jamal, who was again supposed to take that consignment to Mumbai.

AKHILESH REFUSES TEA OFFERED BY UP COPS



Lucknow: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday refused to drink tea offered to him by the police officers at the DGP headquarters. He asked his party worker to get tea from outside for him.

"You never know, they may mix poison in my tea. I will drink my own tea and you people (cops) can drink your tea," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav had reached the DGP headquarters unannounced to protest the arrest of media handler of the party's Twitter account, Manish Jagan Agarwal, from Hazratganj. He was accompanied by party workers who staged a protest against the arrest at the DGP headquarters. Agarwal was arrested on Sunday morning after three cases were registered against him at Hazratganj police station allegedly for making objectionable remarks on Twitter through the party's social media handle.

"Arrest of Samajwadi Party worker, Manish Jagan Agarwal, by Lucknow Police is condemnable and shameful! Police should release him immediately," said the SP on Twitter.

Kerala Forest Department team fails to capture wild tusker PM 2 in Wayanad

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

The Kerala Forest Department, which had constituted a team of 150 officials to capture wild tusker, codenamed Pandalur Makhana 2, failed in its attempt on Sunday, official said.

The forest team members told media persons in Wayanad that the elephant is within the reach of the team but could not dart it as it was with another elephant.

Wild tusker PM 2 had killed two people and was radio-collared by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department after it had forayed into Gudalur human settlement. It had reached the Sulthan Bathery town a couple of days before and attacked Subair Kutty who was walking along the footpath during early morning hours. The elephant was later driven into the forest area by Forest Department officials.

After several complaints from the local people, the state Forest Department has constituted a team of 150 men including veterinarians and the Rapid Response Force Team of the department, and two kumki elephants.



However, even after extensive combing on Sunday, the elephant could not be captured.

The Forest Department is planning to capture the rogue elephant and either relocate it to the deep forests or convert it into a kumki elephant at elephant sanctuary Muthanga where the elephant would be provided training.

Meanwhile, Muslim Youth League workers waved a black

flag at state Forest Minister, A.K. Saseendran who had reached the area. However, the police escorted the minister to safety.

Saseendran, addressing media persons at Bathery, said: "The elephant is well under the control of the forest team and the team is behind it. However after dusk has set in, further movement was not possible and hence we will have to wait till tomorrow for further action."

100 African nationals attack Delhi cops, 4 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police officials were attacked by a violent mob of 100 African nationals who helped in escaping of three African nationals who were caught by the police for living in India illegally.

When police again went to Neb Sarai's Raju Park, the police team was again attacked by the African nationals, but police managed to apprehend four of them.

A senior police official said that a team of Narcotics Cell went to Raju Park on Saturday for deportation proceedings of overstaying foreign nationals. The official said that at about 2:30 p.m., the team apprehended three African nationals whose visas had expired.

"The team was trying to bring them to the police station but suddenly about 100 African nationals gathered there and obstructed the police team and in the meantime two of the detained African Nationals managed to escape. Later on, one Philip was successfully apprehended," the official said.

The official said that again at about 6:30 p.m., a joint team of narcotics squad and Police Station Neb Sarai reached Raju Park in search of the overstaying foreign nationals and detained four African nationals including one woman namely Kene Chukwu David Williams. A case under section 420/120B of IPC read with 14 Foreigners Act has been registered against the accused at Crime Branch, and passports have also been seized there.



The accused Nigerians identified as Igwe Emmanuel Chimezie, Aziegbie John, Queen Godwin were held in second round of visit.

But again about 150-200 African nationals gathered there. They were also trying to help the detained African nationals to escape but after sincere efforts, the police team succeeded to bring them in Police Station Neb Sarai.

The official said that further the deportation proceedings for apprehended overstaying foreign Nationals are being taken up.



PRESIDENTS OF GUYANA, SURINAME ARRIVE IN INDORE FOR 17TH PBD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The presidents of Guyana and Suriname arrived in India to attend the 17th Pravasi Divas convention beginning in Indore on Sunday.

Guyana President Mohamed Irfan Ali, who is on a seven-day visit to the country, is the chief guest at India's biggest diaspora conclave and also a recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award.

Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi was received by Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Water Resources Minister Tulsii Silawat and other officials upon his arrival in Indore.

Santokhi is the special guest of honour at the Diaspora convention. Both the leaders are scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi where they will be discussing migration, mobility, food processing and energy. The two leaders will also be meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and depart from India on January 14. The three-day convention comes at a time when India enters the period of 'Amrit Kaal' --



charting the next 25 years of vision for the country. Over 3,500 diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries have registered for the PBD Convention.

The 17th PBD will kick off with the inauguration of the Youth

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which will be held in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Zaneta Mascarenhas, Member of Parliament of Australia, will attend the event as the Guest of Honour.

PM TO INAUGURATE PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS IN INDORE TODAY

Indore:

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Indore, Madhya Pradesh today (January 9). "Looking forward to being in the vibrant city of Indore tomorrow, 9th January to mark Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD). This is a great opportunity to deepen the connect with our diaspora, which has distinguished itself globally," Modi tweeted. The event will continue till January 10.



The 2023 event is significant as it is being held physically after a gap of four years. The last PBD meet was held virtually in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government will extend support to boost investment and employment: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the first day of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, NRIs and industrialists had a personal meeting and discussion with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. CM Chouhan has said that the government will provide all help to boost investment and employment in various sectors in Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that new investment is also welcome in the renewable energy sector. The state is continuously working in this area. He informed that the work is in progress for setting up a 600 megawatt floating plant at Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh. Along with this, efforts are being made in the field of renewable energy in places like Shajapur, Neemuch, Chhatrapur and Morena. The renewable energy sector has been given a substantial boost. Will ensure assistance as per the state policy for investment in renewable energy sector. In previous years, benefits have been received from the solar power project in Rewa. Madhya Pradesh wants to promote the production of millets including Sharbati wheat and Basmati rice.

On the first day of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Indore today, CM Chouhan told various NRIs and industrialists regarding investment in Madhya Pradesh, that about 20 years ago the state witnessed problems related to electricity, water and roads were seen in Madhya Pradesh. Arrangements were strengthened in these areas. Investments started pouring in with the development of necessary infrastructure and with invitation of industrialists in various



Global Investors Summits. Eligible youths started getting work. New efforts will be made to invest in various sectors after getting the suggestions examined by the concerned departments received in this conference and the proposals received after that. The NRIs and investors willing for investment in the fields of education and skill development, IT, setting up of science labs, renewable energy, marketing of organic products, tourism and starting mixed martial arts and fitness centres met Chief Minister Chouhan.

Prominent NRIs and industrialists calling on today Chief Minister Chouhan was called on by Sajjan Latif of Information Technology company in Gulf countries including UAE. Sajjan is participating in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention along with a group of 20 businessmen. He has initiated investment in medical tourism and cargo shipping. Today Dr. Siddiq Ahmed Group of UAE also met and apprised about the intention of investment. Aman Haider also met along with Polos Thepela Group (Qatar).

Food market of Indore decked up for NRIs Porn CD, Vyapam, corruption: MP Cong begins poll year with 3-pronged attack

Team Absolute | Indore

Overseas Indians from different countries are gathering in the three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention being held in Indore from today till January 10. All the guests are also enjoying the tradition of Malwa Indore cuisine. There is a joyful atmosphere at Indore's famous Sarafa and ChhappanDukaan regarding the arrival of NRIs. The people of Indore have decorated their shops and put up hoardings to welcome them. A day earlier on 7th January, many NRIs reached here and enjoyed Indore's Dahi-Bade, Kachori, Tikki, Indori Dosa, Shikanji and Jalebi. Steaming hot Garadu is also being relished by the people in the cold weather.

The 56 Dukaans famous for food have been decorated like a bride. The traders here have been welcoming the NRIs wholeheartedly. Rakesh Hasija, who has been running Falooda, Matka-Kulfi and Cold-Coffee shop for the past 45 years, says that our ice-cream, Faluda and Matka Kulfi are very famous and their unique flavour will enhance the taste of overseas Indians. Similarly, Indori namkeen seller



Rakesh Agarwal has also prepared a namkeen using less chilli and spices to welcome the NRIs. The Indori Dosa made here is the centre of attraction.

Operators of shops like delicious samosas and kachori shops, Vijay Chaat House, Shikanji shop and Joshi's Dahi Bade etc. in Sarafa are very excited and the Rajwada is decorated like a bride to welcome the guests eagerly. The welcome gates and lights in the city are telling that the Indian diaspora is in our hearts.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The political tussle has intensified in Madhya Pradesh before the upcoming Assembly elections.

The Congress has begun the poll year with a three-pronged attack on the BJP on issues pertaining to porn CDs, Vyapam and corruption, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been questioning the Congress aggressively.

State President Kamal Nath was shown as the future Chief Minister in the advertisements. Since then, the Congress has intensified its attack on the Shivraj-led government. Congress has been using the issues of pornographic CDs of the leaders, Vyapam scam and corruption by more than a dozen ministers of the state government to expose the ruling party.

The attack on the saffron party and the government began with the statement of the opposition leader, Govind



Singh, wherein he claimed that he possessed a CD with obscene content that would expose the harsh realities of the BJP leaders. Singh on the Vyapam issue demanded for the original copy of the FIR lodged by former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh in the matter.

On the other hand, Congress MLA Jeetu Patwari openly stated that the party had the corruption details of 15 ministers of the government. The honeytrap scandal created a stir in the state politics and many leaders were affected by it. Kamal Nath claimed that he saw

the CD when he was the chief minister and gave it to the police officers for investigation. Apart from this, in the complaint made by Digvijay Singh regarding Vyapam, it has been alleged that BJP leaders, ministers, workers were involved in the scam. A case was finally registered after eight years, on the complaint of Singh.

BJP State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma openly challenged the Congress leaders to present the CD if they actually held it.

Political analysts believe that as the elections approach, a campaign to corner each other by the national parties has intensified. The analysts suggest that the way the allegations are being levelled against the BJP by the Congress, it may indicate that some BJP leaders have been provoking the opposition leaders, which is why a case was registered in the Vyapam scam and the CD issue is being raised again.

KARNI SENA ANDOLAN



The Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena showed its strength on Sunday at the BHEL Jamboree Ground with 21-point demands including demand for reservation on economic basis, re-review of caste reservation and opposition to Atrocity Act. Till Sunday afternoon, more than three lakh people have gathered. Karni Sena chief Jeevan Singh Sherpur warned that the government should end caste reservation, otherwise we will not refrain from electoral politics.

YOUTH PASSES OUT AT POLICE STATION; RUSHED TO HOSPITAL; DIES

Indore: A youth died under mysterious circumstances at the Chandan Nagar area. It is said that the police caught his vehicle and he had gone to the police station to show his vehicle papers when he crashed on to the floor and was rushed to the hospital but could not be saved. It is believed that he died due to cardiac arrest.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Amzad Mansuri. His vehicle was caught by the police as the driver was not carrying the documents. Amzad was informed by the police to produce the documents to retrieve his vehicle.

Younger brother Firoz said Amzad had reached the PS and was showing the documents to the police when he fell unconscious. The police are waiting for the autopsy report to ascertain the exact reason of his death.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS RUDRAKSH SAPLING AT RESIDENCY KOTHI GARDEN IN INDORE



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Rudraksh sapling at Residency Kothi Garden

in Indore on Sunday morning. Collector Indore T Ilaya, Rajaand Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra along with other officers

were present. CM Chouhan has been continuously planting saplings every day since Narmada Jayanti-19 February 2021.

MP to host Khelo India Youth Games from Jan 30 to Feb 11

For the first time, water sports -Kayaking, Canoeing, Canoe Salaam and Fencing-have been included in Khelo India Youth Games

Team Absolute | Bhopal

MP Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the mascot 'Mowgli', the smart torch 'Amarkantak' and the theme song of Khelo India Youth Games in a program organised at Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal. The fifth Khelo India Youth Games will be organised in Madhya Pradesh from January 30 to February 11. As many as 6,000 players will participate in 23 sports items in 8 different cities for 13 days. Union minister of state

for youth affairs and sports Nisith Pramanik was present as a special guest at event.

While the entire sports event will be organised in Madhya Pradesh, one game (cycling) will be organised in Delhi. For the first time, water sports -Kayaking, Canoeing, Canoe Salaam and Fencing-have been included in Khelo India Games. As many as 303 international and 1,089 national officials will be part of these games. About 2,000 volunteers will be deployed at different game venues for Khelo India.

"Tiger State" MP lost 34 big cats in 2022, Karnataka 15

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Facing the challenge of retaining the status of India's "tiger state", Madhya Pradesh lost 34 big cats in 2022 as compared to just 15 in Karnataka, its nearest competitor in housing the number of tigers in the country, according to official data.

The deaths were reported in the survey year for the country's tiger census, whose results will be announced later in 2023. A senior forest department official said it is a "mystery" as to why Madhya Pradesh has recorded higher tiger deaths than the southern state though both had almost the same number of big cats as per the 2018 count. Karnataka, home to 524 tigers as per the 2018 census, is competing with Madhya Pradesh (526) for the tag of India's 'tiger state'.

The national tiger census is conducted once in every four years. The latest All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) was conducted in 2022 and its report is scheduled to be released this year, a forest department official said.

As the country eagerly awaits findings of the quadrennial count to know which state stands where in terms of tiger population, data on how many big cats India lost in the year



just gone by is now available.

Madhya Pradesh lost 34 tigers in 2022, while its nearest rival for the "tiger state" status, Karnataka recorded the death of 15 big cats, according to data uploaded on the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) website. The causes of these deaths were not mentioned. The NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and

Climate Change constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for strengthening tiger conservation.

Total tiger deaths in India in the previous year stood at 117, as per the NTCA website.

"We (MP) have the maximum number of tigers and we take into account all the carcasses found in our state. It is a mystery for us why lesser tiger deaths were reported there (Karnataka) when the number of big cats is almost the same," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) J S Chauhan said when asked about the wide gap in mortality figures in the two states. He said the average age of tigers is 12 to 18 years. If longevity criteria are taken into account, then about 40 deaths annually should be considered natural as the state had recorded the presence of 526 tigers in the last estimation conducted in 2018, he said. In 2021, Madhya Pradesh lost 42 tigers out of 127 fatalities recorded in the country that year. "I don't know about other states but no tiger death goes unreported in Madhya Pradesh. We investigate every case of tiger death and take legal steps if something suspicious is found," said the senior forest department official. Chouhan said sometimes big cats die naturally deep inside forests and caves which can't be spotted.



EDITOR'S SPECS

A BOND TO HANDLE LAST RITES

With nuclear families and old age people living alone becoming the order of the day, the concept of funeral/cremation services is slowly gaining ground. Taking the initiative further, an NGO in Prayagraj is now offering a bond, called 'Retirement India Sunset Deposit', to handle funerals and last rites of the investor. The plan has been floated by city-based Retirement India Foundation (RIF) that works for the welfare of senior citizens and has launched many schemes for their needs. The bond is being introduced under the supervision of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will be introduced this month itself with a pilot project of having 10,000 investors across the country. The NGO has tied up with a renowned banker and an insurance company too. A brainchild of Raj Gulati, a former senior government official who runs the NGO, the bond would be of Rs 21,000 and for a period of five years. The investor (above the age of 18) will nominate three individuals (friends, family or any other acquaintance who he or she thinks will take care of performing the last rites). One of them would be tasked to inform the NGO in the event of the investor's death. The NGO will ensure that the last rites are performed according to customs. Following this, an amount of Rs 19,000 would be transferred into the account of any one of the three nominees. If it remains unutilized in five years (if you live on), an amount of Rs 25,000 will be given back to the investor and they may reinvest in the bond afresh. The idea was first shared with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, in a Last Rites EXCON (first such conference in India) on November 30.

AS CONCRETE JUNGLES SHRINK FORESTS, HOMELESS LEOPARDS TURN TO COLONIES



Pawan Tripathi

The decreasing forest areas across the country has given rise to concrete jungles, which leads to the entry of wild animals into human settlements. The incidents of wild animals like leopards and fishing cats, wandering into residential areas have been recorded in several places, including Greater Noida and Mumbai. Incidents of leopard attacks have seen a rise in Aarey Colony, situated in Mumbai's Goregaon. One such incident occurred in November, 2022, where a woman named Sarita Gaurav, a resident of Adarsh Nagar in Aarey Milk colony, was attacked by a leopard while she was crossing a road, which left her seriously injured. Incidents like these act as evidence of the fact that the forests have reduced considerably. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat programme praised Ramveer Tanwar, who has been beautifying and reviving ponds since the last 6 years. Known as the Pond Man of India,

Tanwar has so far revived around 40 ponds in several places, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur, Palwal, Manesar, Delhi and Haryana. Tanwar quit his job as a mechanical engineer in 2018 and started focusing completely on the beautification work. In a conversation with correspondent, Tanwar said that leopards generally stray into residential areas in search of food, due to the reduction of forest areas. He said that tourists go deep inside the forests and reserves, and interfere with the wildlife by playing loud music and carrying lighting equipment, which scares the animals who come towards the cities due to fear. Tanwar said that lack of food was one of the biggest reasons for the wildlife to enter residential areas. He apprised that many a times, the animals wander towards the cities at night by crossing the highway, and are alarmed by heavy traffic when they try to go back to the forests in the morning. He said that these animals are dangerous as they cannot differentiate between sheep, goats and humans and come to colonies solely for food. He appealed to the people to keep themselves safe, and scare the leopards

away by making loud noises, instead of hurting them as their population has already been decreasing. Divisional Forest officer Pramod Kumar Shrivastava, Gautam Buddha Nagar, said that wild animals wandered into human settlements in search of food, including goats and dogs. He said that the animals, if caught, are released back into the wild later. The residents of Ajnara Le Society in Greater Noida West have been living in constant dread since a leopard was sighted in an under-construction site in the society, on January 3. They have been holding protests against the builder and the forest department and consider the department responsible for the big cat not being trapped. Nisha Singh, a resident of the society, said that she, along with her children has been imprisoned in their home and that she fears for her husband's safety whenever he leaves home for office. Doorstep delivery of essentials is being denied to the residents which has increased their problems. She blamed the builder and said that the leopard could not have entered the society, had the boundary walls been tall enough.

Giving back big cats their space: Jaipur only Indian city to have leopard safaris

Archana Sharma

Rajasthan and leopard safaris seem to have become synonymous to each other as the desert state accommodates many cities which have gained credence across the world for their distinguished feature in terms of leopard safaris. For instance, Jaipur has become the only city in the country with two leopard reserves offering safaris, namely, Jhalana and Aamgarh. While the state capital is drawing attention with man-animal conflict as the western and the southern boundary of the Jhalana forest share thick suburbs of Jaipur City, and the eastern boundary has villages and some new settlements, there is yet another place in the desert state where leopards cohabit with the villagers and other domesticated animals with minimal man-animal conflict. Situated about halfway between Mumbai and New Delhi, this region of Jawai has been rising to fame as it has one of the largest concentration of wild leopards in the world. This small municipality in Rajasthan traces its roots back to the days of the maharajas. But what makes Jawai unique is that the leopards cohabit with the villagers and other domesticated animals with minimal man-animal conflict. "The leopards have been here since centuries staying in these hills. However, it is us, humans who have encroached on their land," says Pushpendra Singh Ranawat, whose family settled here generations ago as custodians of the forests

upon invitation from the then Maharaja of Udaipur. Talking to IANS, he says, "Jawai is famous for being the only place in world in which human habitat is so close to that of leopard, and there is no conflict. "The lava rocks are like rooms for leopards here, these are inside hills where leopard feels safe to stay. However in other places, leopards stay in jungle which is an open area and they fear that humans can walk in and attack them which causes the man-animal conflict." When leopards enter caves, it is confident that humans will not enter caves, which is not the case in other safaris. Villagers here know that they need to give space to leopards for they have equal rights too to stay here," he says. However, expressing concern, he said that things have started changing. "While officials are busy in showing bedazzling facts that are alluring tourists and are fake, nobody is showing the real fact that Jawai is under threat. Like-minded people are not coming here but DJ party properties are coming in. Administration should understand that such parties should not be allowed in Jawai. People are getting NOC to make property right in front of leopard caves which will increase man animal conflict." Ranawat adds, "Encroachment is increasing in this place, wildlife was seen blooming on grazing land and revenue land, now people are coming in from other places, and have started farming on grazing land, so there is no space left for wildlife.

international

5 KILLED, 23 INJURED AS VEHICLE OVERTURNS IN MYANMAR



Nay Pyi Taw Agencies Five women were killed and 23 others injured after a six-wheeled vehicle overturned in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw. The accident occurred when the vehicle's right front tire blew, causing the car to veer off the road and overturn on the old Yangon-Mandalay highway near Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw, Xinhua News Agency reported. "Five women died on the spot," a policeman said, adding that there were over

30 people aboard the car when the accident occurred. The car, which came from the direction of Tatkon Town, was heading to Pymmana Town when the accident occurred. The injured included 10 men and 13 women, who were sent to a hospital for medical treatment, he added. "The wounded persons sustained injuries in chin, head and chest. But they are not critical," a rescuer told Xinhua. The police have filed a case against the driver for careless driving.

Normal travel between mainland, Hong Kong resumes with border reopening

Hong Kong Agencies Normal travel between mainland and Hong Kong resumed as various control points linking Shenzhen and Hong Kong reopened on Sunday morning. The progressive and orderly reopening of Shenzhen-Hong Kong boundary control points marked the first step of the resumption of normal personnel exchanges between mainland and Hong Kong over the past three years, Xinhua News Agency reported. After inspecting the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point Sunday morning, John Lee, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said the overall operation of the first day of the border reopening was smooth, safe and orderly. At around 6:30 a.m. local time, the Lok Ma Chau Control Point



was packed with people waiting to enter the mainland. The HKSAR government has said a daily quota of 60,000 Hong Kong residents are allowed to enter the mainland, in which 50,000 of them are allocated at the three land control points - Shenzhen Bay, Man Kam To and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line. The remaining 10,000 quota is available through ferry terminals, the Hong Kong International Airport and the

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Wang Pengjun, a Shanghai resident working in Hong Kong, has not returned to the mainland for nearly three years since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. He took the first metro train to Lok Ma Chau Station early Sunday morning, looking forward to getting reunited with his family. Wang appreciated the efforts made by the HKSAR government

and the mainland authorities, which he said fulfilled people's long-awaited wishes. A daily quota of 50,000 at the three land control points is also applied to mainland residents heading to Hong Kong. Shenzhen's Shekou port and Fuyong Ferry Terminal are controlled through ticketing mechanism, while land control points arrange the number of daily outbound passengers through the reservation system. Fung, a Hong Kong resident working in Shenzhen, took a taxi to the Futian Control Point and waited in line to cross the border. He said he was excited and would stay longer in Hong Kong this time as he had not seen his family for nearly three years. Shenzhen and Hong Kong will review the first phase of border reopening in a week. On the basis of consensus reached by both sides, arrangement of the second phase will be announced.

AFGHAN RESCUE TEAM RECOVERS 3 MINERS AFTER 61 HOURS



Kabul: The rescue team has recovered three miners from under the debris after 61 hours in Afghanistan's northern Badkhashan province. "The remaining two miners were recovered from under debris at 09:20 p.m. Saturday while another was rescued on Friday and thus the rescue operation is over after 61 hours," the provincial director of information and culture Qari Maazudin said on Sunday. Several miners were working in a tunnel of a gold mine in Yawan district on Thursday when the tunnel caved in, trapping the three people, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting the official. The trio had been recovered and shifted to a hospital for medical treatment, the official added.

S.Korea shows more signs of economic slowdown amid export slump

Seoul Agencies South Korea is showing signs of an economic slowdown, as its manufacturing industry are losing momentum in the wake of slowing exports. "Investment sustained high growth (in November), but exports tumbled on lackluster external demand, implying that economic activity is losing steam," the Korea Development Institute (KDI) said in its monthly report. South Korea's finance ministry said last month Asia's No. 4 economy is anticipated to see a 4.5 percent fall in exports this year on a global economic slowdown and weak chip prices, Yonhap News Agency reported. "On the production side, despite the rebound in automobiles, the manufacturing industry exhibited a decline led by increased losses in most items, and the growth in the service industry moderated," it added. Industrial production edged up 0.1 per cent on-month in November, turning around from a 1.7 per cent decrease posted in October, the data from Statistics Korea showed earlier. The output from the automobile sector jumped 9 percent over the period. The growth, however, was limited, as production from the chip industry slipped 11 percent



amid the weak global demand. The KDI pointed to growing uncertainties in the financial market as well as the protracted war between Russia and Ukraine. "Downward pressures are expected to intensify as the impact driven by rate hikes at home and abroad gradually ripples through the real economy," the KDI added. The Bank of Korea has hiked its benchmark policy rate by a combined 2.75 percentage points since August 2021 to the current 3.25 percent to bring inflation down.

ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIMS 17 LIVES IN CHINA

Beijing: Seventeen people were killed and 22 others sustained injuries in a road accident in Nanchang County in China's Jiangxi province on Sunday. The injured have been sent to hospital for treatment, Xinhua News Agency reported. The cause of the accident is under investigation, according to the local authority.

5.3-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS MOROCCO

Rabat: A 5.3-magnitude earthquake jolted the province of Al Hoceima in northern Morocco, the Moroccan Institute of Geophysics said in a statement. The epicentre of the tremor was initially determined to be at the town of Nekkour, at a depth of 21 km, it added on Saturday.

Surrey proclaims day in memory of Sikh victim of racist attack

Surrey (Canada) Agencies On the 25th anniversary of the brutal killing of Nirmal Singh Gill by the white supremacists, one of the fastest growing municipalities of Canada made a proclamation to recognize the incident. Gill, who was a caretaker at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, laid down his life in the line of duty on January 4, 1998, when a group of neo Nazis came to attack the place of worship. On Saturday, Mayor of Surrey, Brenda Locke, presented the proclamation to the relatives of Gill at a commemorative event held inside the gurdwara. Gill's maternal grandson Paramjit Singh Sandhu came from Toronto to accept the proclamation that declares January 4 as 'Nirmal Singh Gill Day'. Locke, who also addressed the congregation, was presented with a robe of honour by gurdwara officials for raising her voice against a controversial bill in Quebec that prohibits people from wear-



ing religious symbols in public service. The law has affected turbaned Sikhs and hijab-wearing Muslim women, besides other faith groups and fuelled racial tensions. Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, who has previously served as Parliamentary Secretary for anti-racism initiatives, was also in attendance and presented a certificate recognising the sacrifice of Gill to the temple officials for keeping the history of resistance against racism alive. Last year, Gill's picture was installed at the seniors' centre located on the temple premises. Among those who paid tributes

to Gill on the occasion was anti-hate educator and former Neo Nazi Tony McAleer. An author of The Cure for Hate: A Former White Supremacist's Journey from Violent Extremism to Radical Compassion, McAleer has visited the gurdwara in the past to repent the episode. Although he was never directly involved, he has taken moral responsibility for contributing to the hate through his activities that culminated into the death of Gill. He had apologised to the son-in-law of Gill when the former was visiting Canada in 2015. He had also donated money through the proceeds of the sale of his book to the gurdwara. Intiaz Popat, co-founder of Coalition Against Bigotry, also spoke at the event. He has made a documentary on Gill. The speakers unanimously called upon everyone to contribute to fight back against racism that refuses to die. A message from Gill's daughter in India, Ranjit Kaur, was read out at the event, while Sandhu recalled the memories of the last days of his grandfather in Surrey in a choked voice.



SANJAY RAUT ABUSES UNION MINISTERS OVER CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ INSULT ROW

Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray faction's Sanjay Raut was once again found retorting to abusive language for Union Ministers of the government of India.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Speaking to the media on Sunday on the issue of alleged slight to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Raut said, "Those in the government who speak on every issue under the sun are not saying anything on the insult of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. I thought at least any one self-respecting man would raise this issue."

"Saghele C**ndu Chi aulaad aah (Everyone's an a**hole)," said Raut, referring to Union Ministers of the Government of India. With the paucity of issues to target the Centre and the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government, the Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray faction has been trying to rally the Marathi sentiment over Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

In the video, Raut can be heard saying that he expected someone in



the Union Ministry to speak out against the insult to Chhatrapati

Shivaji Maharaj or to offer to resign, but no one has, and then he abuses

them. However, this is not the first time that Raut has lost control over his language. His tryst with abuses and cuss words is rather long. Earlier in February 2022, Raut was seen abusing BJP leader Kirit Somaiya while speaking to the media in Mumbai.

While talking to the press, Sanjay Raut was asked to comment on Kirit Somaiya's statement over the KCR-Uddhav Thackeray meeting in Mumbai. The BJP leader had rhetorically asked whether Uddhav Thackeray had sought the permission of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi before meeting Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao over an alleged Non-Congress, Non-BJP political alliance. To which, Sanjay Raut was seen replying, "Who has said this, I don't know. There are a lot of C*utiya in this country and it does not look good upon the media to report what such C*utiya say about Shiv Sena."

Air India Urination Case: 'Our response should have been much swifter,' Tata Sons Chairman issues statement



Air India has released an official statement of N Chandrasekaran, the Chairman of Tata Sons in the Air India Urination Case on Sunday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shankar Mishra, a passenger on New York to Delhi flight allegedly urinated on his co-passenger in the flight an inebriated state on November 26. The official press statement was tweeted by Air

India on their official twitter handle. he statement said, "The incident on Air India flight AI102 on November 26th, 2022, has been a matter of personal anguish to me and my colleagues at Air India. Air India's response should have been much swifter. We fell short of

addressing this situation the way it should have been. The Tata Group and Air India stand by the safety and well-being of our passengers and crew with full conviction. We will review and repair every process to prevent or address any incidents of such unruly nature.

Three killed, four injured in a road accident on Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three people including a one-year-old child and a 65-year-old man died in a road crash near Kasa on Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway on Sunday afternoon, while four others travelling in the same car were seriously injured. Confirming the incident, the Superintendent of Police, Palghar district Balasaheb Patil said, "All of them belong to the same family and are the residents of Nalasopara. They were travelling in a WagonR car and heading to Bhilad in Gujarat."

"Prima facie, it seems that the driver lost control of the vehicle and rammed it into a



truck on the highway from behind. Three people died on the spot and four others were injured. The injured people have been rushed to a nearby hospital where they are undergoing treatment,"

Patil told mid-day. Kasa police is in the process to register a case under relevant sections of the IPC and Motor Vehicle Act, the Superintendent of Police added.

Jackie Shroff's plea to Yogi Adityanath: Get cinemas to lower popcorn prices

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff asked UP's CM Yogi Adityanath to lower the prices of popcorn at cinemas. He said that if the charges of popcorn is very high, the audience's interest in coming to theatres and watch movies will be affected. He conveyed his thought that lowering the prices may help in bringing movie buffs to cinema halls.

He said: "Theatre ke popcorn ka keemat kam karo Sir. 500 rupiya lete hai popcorn ka. Picture banayenge, studio banayenge, lekin andar aayega kaun? (Please reduce the price of popcorn, sir. They charge Rs 500 for popcorn. We will make films, studios, but who will come to watch them in a cinema?)"



Yogi Adityanath recently visited Mumbai and held a meeting with Bollywood celebs including Suniel

Shetty, Manoj Joshi, Kailash Kher, Sonu Nigam, Boney Kapoor and Jackie Shroff.

The 'Hero' actor also welcomed the Chief Minister and invited him for home-cooked food.

"Welcome to Mumbai. Kabhi bhi ghar ka khana chahiye toh hukum karna, mil jayega (If you want home-cook food, just order and you will get it)."

Jackie also posted a picture on his social media handle expressing his gratitude to the CM.

He wrote in the caption: "It was nice to meet Yogi Adityanath Ji today along with Subhash Ghai Ji and my friends Suniel Shetty and Rahul Mittra, and learn about the UP film policy and film city. My best wishes!"

Later, Suniel Shetty also asked him to request PM Modi for putting a stop on boycott bollywood trend.

CHEMBUR MAN LOSES RS 3 LAKH TO SEXTORTION INVOLVING FAKE COPS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bizarre turn of events, a 39-year-old Chembur resident not just became the victim of a sextortion racket, but also got conned and threatened by people impersonating as Mumbai police officials. The victim was asked to pay up Rs 3.16 lakh within 24 hours failing which a purported "sex" call would be made viral on social media. An FIR was lodged against three unknown persons at Tilak Nagar police station. Earlier on December 27, the victim who works in an Airoli-based private company, received a Facebook friend request from an account which appeared to be of a woman, Kirti Agarwal. In a matter of days, the social media friendship extended to WhatsApp. On December 31, at around 1.40 in the night, the man got a message from the woman inviting him for a private video call.

"As soon as the man received the call in his bathroom, there was a naked woman on the screen asking him to undress too. The call disconnected after a few seconds," the police said. "Minutes later, a



second call came from the same number, demanding Rs 15,000 in lieu of not making the video viral. The victim declined to pay up," he added. The following day, the victim got a call from a man posing as Gaurav Shinde, ACP of Mumbai Cyber Cell, stating that the video had gone viral.

"He was told to contact another person named Nitin Shinde to get the video deleted. When the victim did as told, he was asked to pay Rs 11,999," the police said.

Falling for the trap, the victim paid Rs 95,991 across five transactions but he got another call from the impersonator Gaurav demanding Rs 95,000 more for quashing a fake FIR against him for obscenity. After forcing out Rs 2.21 lakh so far, on January 2, the fake cop told the victim that he needs to cough up another Rs 7 lakh as compensation to the woman Kirti who had tried to kill herself and was recuperating in the hospital, due to trauma from the video going viral. This is when the victim smelt something fishy and approached the police.

"An FIR has been lodged against unknown persons identifying themselves as Kirti Agarwal, Gaurav Shinde and Nitin Shinde. They have been booked under IPC section 384 (extortion), 419 (cheating by impersonation), 420 (cheating), 34 (common intention) and relevant sections of IT Act," said Sunil Kale, senior inspector of Tilak Nagar police station. No arrests have been made yet.

MAN ARRESTED FOR MAKING BOMB THREAT CALL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra ATS has arrested one person who allegedly called the Mumbai Police control room, giving false information that in two months a bombing like that of 1993 will take place in Mumbai. The caller also claimed that one MLA from the Indian National Congress was involved in it.

According to sources, the call was received on Saturday evening from an unknown number and the caller claimed that a 1993-type blast will take place in Mahim, Bhandi Bazaar, Nagpada and Madanpura. He also claimed that riots would also take place in



Mumbai and that the Nirbhaya gang rape case incident would repeat. The caller said that one MLA from the Indian National Congress is also involved and some people are already present in the city to execute the plan. Based on the call, the officials were alerted and later Maharashtra ATS

apprehended one person. The officials are probing the seriousness of the threat. The accused is identified as Nabi Yahya Khan (55) alias KGN alias Lala. He was arrested from Pathanwadi in Malad. The accused has 12 criminal cases against him which includes robbery and molestation.

MAN MURDERED OVER FRIENDSHIP WITH WOMAN IN KALYAN; COPS SEARCH FOR FOUR ACCUSED



Thane: A 21-year-old man was killed allegedly by four persons in Maharashtra's Thane district after the main accused was annoyed over a woman breaking-up with him and developing friendship with the victim, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday evening when the 19-year-old woman and the victim went to Khadegolawadi market area in Kalyan town, they said. The main accused along with three others allegedly stabbed the victims multiple times with a knife and fled from the spot, an official from Kolsewadi police station said quoting the woman's complaint. The victim died on the spot. The body was later sent to a government hospital for postmortem, the official said. The police registered a case on Sunday against the main accused and three other persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention). Efforts were on to nab them, the police said.

MAURITIUS HEALTH MINISTER VISITS VASHI PUBLIC HOSPITAL, PRAISES CLEANLINESS AND DIGITISATION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Health Minister of Mauritius Dr. Kailash Kumar Singh Jagutpal along with Senior Chief Executive Officer Devichand Anandi Ray Seevurthoon, Digital Health Services Officer Dr. Bholah Mamal as well as Director of Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology Delhi Ravindra Kumar paid a special visit to NMMC Hospital, Vashi. They inspected the E-Hospital and AYUSH Center functioning in Vashi hospital. Health Minister of Mauritius Dr. Jagutpal and his officials are visiting private and government hospitals in various cities of India and are inspecting the e-hospital and AYUSH center there and learning about its functioning. As part of it, he also visited and inspected private hospitals like Tata and Apollo. On this occasion, Medical Health Officer of NMMC Dr. Pramod Patil, Medical Superintendent of Vashi Public Hospital, Prashant Jawade and other municipal officials were



present. During this visit, the Minister of Health of Mauritius said that the population of Mauritius is 12.7 lakhs, although the population of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation area is more than 15 lakhs. "Due to proper use of digitization and planning, the rush of patients is properly controlled. He also praised the hospital management for the cleanliness of the hospital despite being so

crowded. He observed that not only the city of Navi Mumbai is clean, but the hospitals here are also clean. During this visit, he also visited the blood bank, trauma center of the hospital and gave feedback that he was inspired by the working method of NMMC hospital. He also said that he will discuss the e-hospital system implemented in NMMC Hospital during the visit of the Prime Minister of India.

POLICE ARRESTS 22-YEAR-OLD MAN ACCUSED OF VANDALISING CROSSES AT MAHIM CHURCH CEMETERY

Mumbai: The culprit accused of vandalising crosses at Mahim Church cemetery was arrested from Navi Mumbai on Sunday and the police are now trying to verify his motive behind the attack. The culprit has been identified as Dawood Ibrahim Ansari, who allegedly vandalised at least 18 crosses and other structures at the St. Michael's Church early Saturday morning. CCTV footage of the incident was handed over to Mahim police by the church authorities which helped in nabbing the Ansari. "The incident happened around 5 am. The watchman noticed this later. There was Mass in the morning so I came to know of the incident around 8.30 am. Soon the police were informed," said Fr.

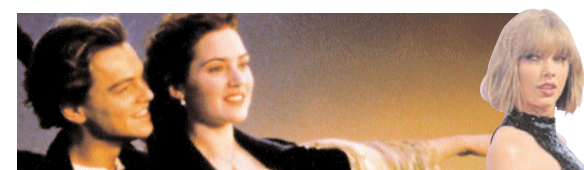
Massive fire breaks out in Abdul Rehman Street, 20 shops gutted



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A massive fire broke out on Saturday late evening at a market in south Mumbai's Abdul Rehman Street in the Masjid Bunder area. Approximately 20-25 shops were gutted in the fire, and no casualties were reported in the incident, Mumbai fire brigade officials confirmed. According to BMC's disaster management unit, the fire was reportedly started at around 8:15 pm and the cause is yet to be ascertained. Around four fire engines

and four jumbo tankers rushed to the location. Until 10.30 pm the blaze was classified as level 1, however, it spread across more shops. "Fire incident was reported at a ground plus four structures. The fire is confined to 20 to 25 shops on the ground, first and second floors located at Abdul Rehman Street near Jumma Masjid. There were no casualties reported as of now. More details are awaited as firefighting operations are on. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained," said a fire brigade official at the location.



High ticket prices makes Adele's Vegas residency struggle with fan count

Los Angeles | Agencies

'S kyfall' singer Adele is finding it difficult to attract fans at her Las Vegas residency which still has two and a half months to go. Reports suggest that she's running out of fans who want to see her perform there. The 34-year-old singer has been belting out her hits in Sin City since mid November as part of her Weekends with Adele residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, reports The Mirror.

She is due to continue her gigs until 25 March this year - and it was noted that tickets had been costing a pretty penny at cost but skyrocketed to 40,000 pounds on ticket resale sites after the shows sold out.

As per The Mirror, the resale ticket prices have crashed by a huge 90 per cent - bringing the cost down to a still eye watering 3,450 pounds per seat.

'The Sun on Sunday' claims that insiders from the Colosseum have confided that some shows are failing to attract a full audience. They claim that "seat fillers" are being used to beef up the crowd appearance and to hide the unsold seats - with the possibility for some fans to nab last minute tickets for just a hundred dollars or so.

A source told the publication, quoted by The Mirror: "Adele's performances have been magnificent, but oddly the early demand to see her sing has waned - and that is reflected in the price of tickets."

"There is also talk of people picking up front row seating spots for a few hundred bucks minutes before the performance. And the expectation is that prices will keep sinking as she nears the end of her run in March."

The Mirror further states that Adele was paid up-front for her 34 show run - and is believed to be worth 200 million pounds herself.



KYLIE JENNER, TRAVIS SCOTT PART WAYS AHEAD OF THEIR SON'S FIRST BIRTHDAY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kylie Jenner has reportedly split from her boyfriend Travis Scott after less than a year since welcoming their son together.

The makeup mogul gave birth to their second child in February last year. The couple also share four-year-old daughter Stormi Webster, reports The Mirror.

Sources close to Kylie and Travis said that the pair spent Christmas and New Year apart but "remain friends" and will continue to work together co-parent their two young children.

"Kylie and Travis are off again, they were supposed to spend the holidays together, but she went to Aspen to be with her family and friends up there," an insider said, quoted by The Mirror.

"This has happened so many times before, they're known to be on again and off again, but always remain friends and great co-parents," the source revealed in an interview with US Weekly.

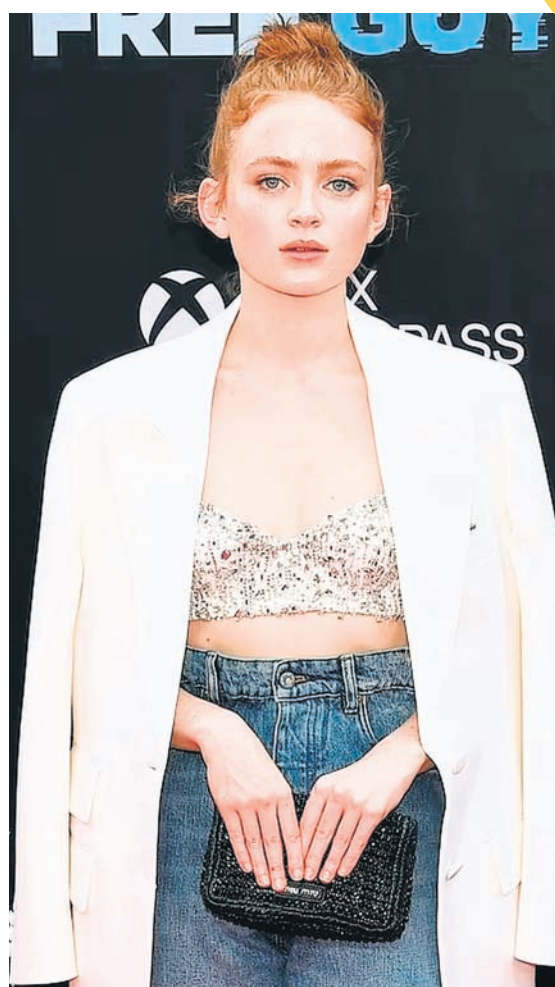
The split comes after fans began speculating whether or not Kylie and Travis were still together. Kylie and Travis were first spotted together at Coachella in 2017. The Kardashian star gave birth to their daughter a year later.

'IT'S GOING TO BE HORRIBLE'

Sadie Sink talks about the end of Stranger Things

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sadie Sink admitted that the end of Stranger Things is going to be emotional for her. The hit Netflix series premiered in 2017 and it was revealed last year that it will conclude after its fifth season, which may hit the streaming platform in 2024. The actress - who has played the character Max Mayfield since season two - recently opened up about the show during a TODAY show appearance.



'It's going to be awful. It's going to be horrible,' Sink said. 'These kids, this entire cast and crew, it's family. People say that all the time, but I genuinely mean it.' She continued, 'And to think that we have to say goodbye to that security and knowing that we'll be seeing each other for another season? It's scary and sad.' Sink did say it was 'exciting to kind of move on' despite her sadness at the shows conclusion.

When asked what season five might have in store for fans, Sink was quick to say she didn't know anything for sure.

'With the way that my character ended in Season 4, I have no idea what is going to happen, but I'll be there,' she said.

Sink joined the cast as Max Mayfield during the show's second season back in 2017. She had a major role in the show's fourth season and will presumably feature as a major character in season five.

Kate Hudson celebrates son's birthday, says he has her 'whole heart'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery' star Kate Hudson is celebrating her son Ryder's birthday with a sweet tribute that she posted on her Instagram. The actress wasn't afraid to get sappy on Instagram for his 19th birthday, writing about how much her eldest son has changed her life, alongside a set of photos and videos of him throughout the years, reports People magazine.

"Born on a full moon in cancer, this young man has my whole heart," Hudson wrote. "Hilarious, loving, kind, loyal, sensitive. Ryder, my sweet son, I love celebrating the day you were born." The collection of photographs, according to People, includes a snap of Ryder hugging his mom over her shoulders as she smiles at a camera, a candid one of him sitting outside by a bonfire and a picture of Hudson lying down on the floor with both Ryder and her 4-year-old daughter Rani Rose. She further mentioned in her caption: "Your birth changed all of our lives forever and has brought so much joy and laughter daily," she continued.

"I love you infinity x infinity x 3 trillion cubed. A Big Happy Birthday mr.ryderrobinson."

She also shared some hilarious clips of Ryder doing a plie while they both worked out and him imitating Harry Styles in a fur jacket. In the final video, she points to Ryder and sings: "I'm a hap-happy mommy, hap-happy mommy, got all my babies, I'm a hap-happy mommy."



Jessica Chastain revealed the identity of her famous former landlord

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Interstellar' actress Jessica Chastain has revealed the identity of her famous former landlord. The Academy Award winner said that she rented out Kyle Richards' Bel Air house before the homeowner's Real Housewives of Beverly Hills co-star Sutton Stracke stayed there, as she appeared this week on Watch What Happens Live, reports People magazine. "I don't even think anyone knows, so I'm going to say this for the first time. I rented Kyle's house," she revealed to host Andy Cohen.

"I swear that's true... before Sutton rented it. And I didn't realise it. My husband had picked it out. I said, 'How do I know this place?' And at one point, we had an issue with the movie theatre room. [Richards' husband Mauricio Umansky] showed up," Chastain recounted with a laugh. As per People, although she didn't immediately clock the setting, Chastain admitted that she got a sense of deja vu when she saw the "black and white chequered tiles at



the entrance."

Chastain's revelation comes a year after the couple sold the house for \$6.1 million through Umansky's The Agency, following four years on the market. The family previously moved to Encino in 2017.

Shortly thereafter, Richards and Umansky rented the residence out to Stracke for a whopping \$20,000 a month.

JEREMY RENNER PAID TRIBUTE TO HIS MEDICAL ICU TEAM

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jeremy Renner has paid tribute to his ICU team for taking care of him after his snow plough accident.

The actor has been in intensive care since being run over by his own snow plough at his Lake Tahoe ranch and Jeremy took to Instagram to thank the medical team who has been looking after him, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The picture shows Jeremy in his hospital bed, with a number of medical professionals standing around him and he wrote: "Thank you Renowned Medical ICU team for beginning this journey."

The accident came after Jeremy tried to help remove a stranded family member's car from the snow near his home in Tahoe.

Jeremy was struck by a snow plough and left "completely crushed" by the vehicle, according to a 911 call made after the incident.

A doctor - who lived nearby - fixed a tourniquet to his leg, which was bleeding heavily, until the actor was airlifted to hospital, where he was kept in an intensive care unit in a critical condition, before he underwent surgery for blunt chest trauma and orthopedic injuries.

His family released a statement thanking fans, saying they were "tremendously overwhelmed and appreciative of the outpouring of love and support."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christine Quinn



**IND vs SL T20I Series**

SURYA'S SHOTS, WAY OF CHANGING THE GAME ACTUALLY BREAKS MORALE OF BOWLER: HARDIK PANDYA

Rajkot | Agencies

In India's 91-run thrashing of Sri Lanka at Rajkot to win the T20I series 2-1, Suryakumar Yadav was undoubtedly the star with his belligerent 112 not out off just 51 balls, which left the fans enthralled on Saturday evening.

India skipper Hardik Pandya was also in awe of Suryakumar's abilities to change the game and his 360-degree shots, saying the right-hander's show with the bat actually crushes the morale of bowlers while helping the Indian batters. "It felt like Sri Lanka against Surya. It makes my life very easy, and that is the reason I have always mentioned that someone like Surya is so important to us in white-ball cricket. The way he changes the game and the way he plays some shots, it actually breaks the morale of the bowler, which helps the other batters as well," said Hardik in the post-match press conference.

"You don't tell him. See, the kind form Surya's been playing in, the kind of clarity he has, you don't have to go and speak to him. He's always very clear about his plans. And that's the reason he's successful in this format. He doesn't doubt his ability."



"Whenever he's in double mind, he always comes (to me) and we have a chat. It's just about giving that little bit of clarity. But more often than not, I don't need to speak to him. It's just about to go out there and just enjoy, which he does. I don't think anyone has to say anything to him."

"Obviously everyone knows what Surya did, but special mention to Rahul Tripathi as well. The kind of intent he showed - something which is so natural to him - can change the game and the momentum."

"If you see the first couple of overs, the ball was doing something, and people outside, even the next batter, they all thought there was something in the wicket. But because of his intent, the bowlers changed their length and all of a sudden the ball stopped moving. Then it was like they (Sri Lanka) were chasing the game."

Sydney | Agencies

South Africa batters finally showed some fight at the Sydney Cricket Ground to force a tame draw against Australia on the last day of the third and final Test of the series.

Though Australia's imposing bowling attack failed to eke out a win from a rain-affected match, victories in Brisbane and Melbourne meant the Pat Cummins-led side were able to get a 2-0 series triumph and put themselves in pole position for a spot in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC).

Resuming from 149/6 on day five, Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer held fort for the first hour until Travis Head's part-time bowling took the former out. Harmer then joined forces with Keshav Maharaj for an essential 85-run partnership.

With the likely outcome of the game moving towards a draw, Josh Hazlewood stepped in to take out both Harmer and Maharaj to put Australia within one wicket of the follow-on. Nathan Lyon finally brought the Proteas innings to a close with dismissal of Kagiso Rabada as Australia enforced the follow-on over South Africa.

South African skipper Dean Elgar had some close shaves, but his tour came to a brutal end after he gloved behind off Pat Cummins. In the tour, Elgar managed just 56 runs at an average of 9.33.



Eventually, Hazlewood took the wicket of Klaasen, before Sarel Erwee and Temba Bavuma hanged around to force a draw for South Africa. Australia will now prepare for a massive four-match tour of India starting from February 9.

It meant Australia must wait until their upcoming series against India away from home to book their place in the World Test Championship final, with the current leaders missing the chance to cement their spot.

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Championship final, with the current leaders missing the chance to cement their spot.

Brief scores

Brief Scores: South Africa 255 and 106/2 (Sarel Erwee 42 not out, Temba Bavuma 17 not out, Josh Hazlewood 1/9) drew with Australia 475/4 declared.

FA Cup

Liverpool held to 2-2 draw by Wolves

Liverpool, England | Agencies

Liverpool played out a 2-2 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Emirates FA Cup at Anfield. The Reds were forced to come from behind in L4 in a topsy-turvy third-round encounter before being held by the visitors, on Saturday evening, reports liverpoolfc.com.

Wolves opened the scoring through Goncalo Guedes though Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah both struck either side of the half-time interval. Wanderers had the final say through substitute Hee-Chan Hwang in the 66th-minute, earning a replay at Molineux Stadium for Julien Lopetegui's outfit.

Both teams exchanged possession in the early stages as they fought for dominance, and Ibrahima Konate



provided solid defensive work to thwart Wolves' first real attack through Raul Jimenez. The visitors did take the lead, though, shortly before the half hour mark as Guedes

pounced on a loose pass out from goalkeeper Alisson Becker to break the deadlock. The goalscorer then threatened from distance, forcing a strong save from the Reds' No.1

ahead of the interval. With half-time looming, Liverpool levelled after a quick break forward was finished off by a well-placed Nunez volley. Trent Alexander-Arnold -- who was making his 250th appearance for the club -- burst forward to halfway and found the run of the front man with an in-perfect ball to bring the scores level.

It took Liverpool just seven minutes of the second period to edge themselves in front thanks to a Salah strike. The visitors, however, brought themselves level in the tie as substitute Hee-Chan Hwang finished off inside the area following a well-crafted move. Both teams battled for a winner and Wolves were denied another strike through Tote Gomes by the offside flag with VAR upholding the decision. The Reds pushed for a crucial third goal late on but were unable to make the breakthrough.

Coco Gauff clinches her first title of the season at ASB Classic

Auckland | Agencies

World No.7 Coco Gauff captured her first title of the season at the ASB Classic, defeating Spanish qualifier Rebeka Masarova 6-1, 6-1 in the final.

The title is Gauff's first since 2021 Parma and her first on the hard court since winning her first at 2019 Linz.

The American's straight-set victory over Masarova capped off a dominant week for her. She did not drop a set through five matches, losing just 22 games.

"Honestly, a great week for me despite the rain. Couldn't ask for a better start to my season. The first title on hard since I was 15. I'm happy to be successful on a surface that I love," Gauff said.

The American showed her



quality and experience from the start. After rain delayed the start of the final, Gauff broke immediately in the opening game and built a 5-1 lead before the rain returned as she was set to serve on set point.

But the brief delay was not enough to cool off Gauff.

When the players returned to court, Gauff calmly served out the opening set and did not take a step wrong in the second set. Masarova had her chances to pressure the American, earning five break points in the sixth game, but Gauff saved them all and broke to close out the win.

United Cup: Pegula, Tiafoe, and Fritz guide USA to title in inaugural edition

Sydney | Agencies

Jessica Pegula, Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz captured the inaugural United Cup title for the USA after beating Italy 3-0 in the final. Fritz clinched the title for his country with a 7-6(4), 7-6 win over Matteo Berrettini in a nail-biting duel between two of the biggest hitters on the ATP Tour to give the USA an unassailable 3-0 lead over Italy.

"It's great. It's amazing for the team to win this event. We came in with really high hopes, or at least I did, for the event. I was really happy to be in that position to clinch the match," Fritz said after the win.

Pegula and Tiafoe each earned a point for the Americans earlier in the day with defeats of Martina Trevisan and Lorenzo Musetti respectively.

Pegula gave her country a good start with a 6-4, 6-2 victory against Trevisan. Tiafoe then surged through the first set against Musetti when the Italian retired trailing 6-2 due to a right shoulder injury. The first rubber was far from straightforward for the World No.3, as Trevisan came out firing with an aggressive strategy, and remained committed to front-foot tennis throughout. Then, reigning Indian Wells champion Fritz tri-



umphed over Berrettini in 2 hours and 16 minutes.

The USA produced a dominant performance throughout the United Cup, dropping just two individual matches. None of their ties were closer than 4-1.

Serie A: Juventus keep winning streak

Rome | Agencies

Juventus registered their eighth consecutive victory in Serie A as they beat Udinese 1-0 thanks to Danilo's late winner.

Juve opened the new year with a 1-0 win over Cremonese on Wednesday and entered Saturday's game having Angel Di Maria and Adrien Rabot back in the starting lineup, reports Xinhua news agency.

There was a minute's silence before the kick-off to mourn for former Juve players Gianluca Vialli and Ernesto Castano who passed away recently.

It was a fairly even game as both sides created a couple of chances, with the only goal emerging in the 85th minute when Leandro Paredes' long



pass over the top found Federico Chiesa, who chested it down and rolled across for Danilo to tap in from

close range. With the win, Juve provisionally moved into second with 37 points, one ahead of AC Milan who will

host Roma.

Inter's Matteo Darmian scored the opener in the 10th minute, one minute before Patrick Ciurria leveled the game with a curler. Lautaro Martinez restored the lead for the Nerazzurri in the 22nd minute as the World cup winner won back possession in the box and fired home.

Francesco Acerbi thought he had extended Inter's lead in the 80th minute, but the goal was canceled out, while Lautaro hit the upright minutes later.

Monza punished Inter in the dying minute as Caldorola sav his loop header go beyond goalkeeper Andre Onana. Elsewhere, Fiorentina edged Sassuolo 2-1 with Nicolas Gonzalez converting a stoppage time penalty for the Viola.

I-League 2022-23

RoundGlass Punjab beat NEROCA 3-1, remain unbeaten at home

Panchkula | Agencies

RoundGlass Punjab FC (RGPF) beat NEROCA FC 3-1 to maintain their unbeaten run at home in the Round 10 fixture of the I-League 2022-23 at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium.

Luka Majcen, Brandon Vanlalremdika and Krishnananda Singh scored for the winners while Yumnam Gopi Singh scored the consolation goal for NEROCA FC.

RGPF started the half with more intent and deployed their usual high press strategy giving no time on the ball for the opponents. Juan Mera and Pranjal Bhumij were lively on the wings. RGPF took the lead in the 12th minute.

Pranjal Bhumij played an inviting ball into the box which found a free Luka Majcen who jumped high to

deposit a thumping header past the NEROCA keeper to give the home side the lead. It is Luka's fifth goal of the season.

Juan Mera dispossessed the ball from the NEROCA wingback and found Luka Majcen just outside the box. Luka played a perfect ball to the on-rushing Brandon Vanlalremdika who poked the ball past Shubham Dhas to double the lead in the 15th minute.

RGPF put the game beyond NEROCA in the 77th minute through a goal from Krishnananda Singh.

Substitute Maheson Singh played a brilliant through ball for Krishnananda who rounded the rushing NEROCA keeper and tapped into the empty net. Brandon Vanlalremdika was adjudged the Hero of the Match.

Adelaide | Agencies

Djokovic beats Korda for 92nd tour-level trophy

Adelaide International 1

Word No.5 Novak Djokovic pulled off a remarkable escape to clinch the Adelaide International 1 men's singles title on Sunday, saving a championship point to beat American Sebastian Korda in the final.

The top seed Serb saved a championship point at 5-6 in the second set before rallying past the American 6-7(8), 7-6(3), 6-4 after a gruelling three hours and nine minutes.

The 22-year-old Korda was on the cusp of becoming the first man since Hyeon Chung in the 2018 Australian Open fourth round to defeat the Serbian Down Under, but his opponent snuffed out his chance with an overhead winner.

This is Djokovic's 92nd tour-level title from his 131st final. "It's been an amazing week and you guys made it even more special. For me to be standing here is a gift, definitely,"



Djokovic was quoted as saying during the trophy ceremony. "I gave it all today and throughout the week in order to be able to get my hands on the trophy. The American player played fearless baseline tennis to take the action against the Serbian. With Djokovic serving at 5-6, 30/40 in the second set, Korda needed just one more clutch strike to earn the biggest win of his career.

SABALENKA BEATS NOSKOVA TO CLAIM 11TH CAREER TITLE

Adelaide| Aryna Sabalenka ended her 20-month title drought, as she claimed her 11th career singles title with a 6-3, 7-6(4) victory over Czech player Linda Noskova in the Adelaide International 1 final.

This is World No.5 Sabalenka's first title since she took the crown at Madrid in May of 2021, where she beat Australian Ashleigh Barty.

It is the third time Sabalenka has won a title in the opening week of the season. She pulled off the same feat with Week 1 titles in both 2019 (Shenzhen) and 2021 (Abu Dhabi), according to WTA. Sabalenka hit 12 aces and saved all three break points she faced in the final match. Both the players dodged a pair of early break points, but Sabalenka took control by breaking for 4-2 behind a powerful backhand. She raced through the rest of the first set, dropping only one more point on her delivery as she deployed excellent serves and forehands. She claimed her first two top-10 wins over Daria Kasatkina and top seed Ons Jabeur en route to the final. Having started the week just outside the top 100 Noskova was bound for Melbourne as the new world No.56.





'NEW BEGINNINGS'

Bipasha Basu aims to do some 'great acting work' in 2023

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Bipasha Basu, who recently celebrated her birthday and is also enjoying motherhood with her baby girl Devi Basu Singh Grover, is aiming for a terrific 2023 which also involves "great acting work".

The actress, who has been on an acting sabbatical for some time, recently took to her Instagram and shared a picture of her in a beautiful aqua outfit.

In her caption, she wrote: "2023 you will be an amazing year. New beginnings. Adventures of new mommy and baby...looking forward to great acting work... 3 of us travelling the world and the list goes on and on. Manifesting dreams manifesting 2023 new

mommy monkey love."

In addition, the 'Race' actress also shared a set of pictures with her husband, Karan Singh Grover, and their newborn daughter Devi.

The celebrity duo had welcomed their daughter in the latter half of 2022. The infant's face wasn't revealed. However, she could be seen wearing an outfit with the words "I love mom" written on it.



TINA BARES HER FEELINGS; SHALIN SAYS SHE'D DOING IT FOR CAMERA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bigg Boss 16' contestants Shalin Bhanot and Tina Datta were seen arguing with each other and Shalin blamed Tina for doing everything for the camera.

Tina also gave him back saying he is just trying to portray her as fake. Tina also admitted that she has feelings for him.

Shalin asked Tina: "Did you ever love me?" To which, Tina replied: "Yes, I did have feelings for you."

Shalin again questioned Tina and said: "Aapne sab kuch camera ke liye kiya hai (You have done all this for the camera)."

Tina got upset hearing this and replied to Shalin: "This is what you do." Shalin then said: "Ispe itna frustrate karogi toh koi bhi panic karega (If you get frustrated over this, anyone can panic)."

Tina told Shalin: "Shalin agar tum portray karne ki koshish kar rahe ho ki maine tumko fasaya hai... mera image already barbaad ho chuka hai, mat rahiye mere saath (You are trying to portray that I have trapped you. My image has already been tarnished, no need to stay with me)."

In the earlier episode, it was already seen that the host Salman Khan had scolded Tina Datta and Shalin Bhanot and questioned their closeness during MC Stan's New Year concert. The two had almost shared a kiss as they danced together.



'KGF' makers hint at new film with Yash in their b'day greetings

Bengaluru: Superstar Yash turns a year older today and there is no better celebration of his birthday than Hombale Films hinting a yet another film with him. Hombale Films, who have given Yash a phenomenal break in his career with KGF and KGF 2 has taken the Kannada industry a notch higher with this big feat at the box office. Now taking to social media, they wished Yash a very Happy Birthday and hinted on joining hands for a new project. They wrote: "KGFChapter2 was a Gargantuan one, waiting for another Monster soon. To the man who shaped up the dream and took it beyond. Wishing you a very happy rocking birthday our Rocking Star TheNameIsYash. Have a rocking one and a phenomenal year ahead!"

HBDRockingStarYash

HombaleFilms"

Yash and Hombale Films both have basked in a very successful 2022 with their film KGF2 being one of the highest grossers of the year.

Yash booked a phenomenal success at the box office with Hombale KGF 2's first-day collection of Rs 54 Cr. in the Hindi market and marked big on the global front by collecting 1200 Cr.

Hombale Films has truly owned 2022 with just 2 releases. KGF 2 and Kantara have emerged as the two biggest hits of the year that not only ruled over the hearts of the masses but also booked massive success at the domestic and global box office. Ahead of this, Hombale Films is all set to bring yet another blockbuster in 2023 with Salaar.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Arjun Reddy' star Vijay Deverakonda,

who is known to be generous to his fans, shared an update on his Devera Santa initiative.

As a part of the initiative, which sees him presenting exciting gifts to fans around Christmas and New Year celebrations, the actor will sponsor a trip to Manali in Himachal Pradesh for 100 fans.

During the five-day trip, these 100 fans will travel to Manali and experience the magic of the mountains, besides visiting temples and monasteries.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Huma Qureshi

Shubhangi Atre says she looks up to Priyanka Chopra as her fashion icon

New Delhi: 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai' actress Shubhangi Atre, who is a popular name in the TV industry, got candid about her style statement, her fashion icon, and also gave tips on what one should keep in mind while choosing their attire. She said: "I enjoy wearing comfortable clothes. My idea is never to overdress but to be elegant and subtle. Salwaar Kameez and saris are my favourite Indian attire. These outfits never go out of fashion. They are versatile, elegant, classy, and known for their intricate designs and drapes." "So, they are comfortable and beautiful at the same time and enhance a woman's personality and beauty. I have a good sari collection for every occasion in my wardrobe, accumulated over the years from my travels across the country.

When I am not shooting or going out, I prefer comfortable clothing like loose-fit t-shirts, pyjamas and shorts. Especially in the summertime, shorts are a must."

She further shared some fashion tips and what one should keep in mind while choosing outfits and colours: "As I said before, fashion reflects one's personality and style. So one should also wear clothes that make them comfortable. Revealing her fashion icon, she said: "Priyanka Chopra has always been and will continue to be my fashion icon. She is stylish, classy and experimental in her fashion and manages to carry it off easily and elegantly. Her sense of style is about confidence, which strongly reflects her attire." "She can carry off both Indian and western so elegantly, which stands out completely. She does not follow a trend but sets a new trend!" "Another actor's style that I have always admired is late Sridevi Ji, especially during my childhood. I always found her so graceful, fun and classy in her way. Her versatility could be seen in her fashion, which I have always admired," Shubhangi concluded.



VIJAY 'DEVERA SANTA' GIFTS 5-DAY MANALI HOLIDAY TO 100 FANS

Taking to his Instagram, he shared a video of himself against the chill backdrop of lush greenery and calming waters. In the video, he can be heard saying "Happy New Year, my loves. This is a 'DeveraSanta Update!'" He goes on to say: "I had told you that I am going to send 100 of you on an all-expenses paid trip holiday, food, travel, accommodation on me. I asked you guys where you want to go and every pole chose the mountains, so to the mountains we go." He adds: "I am sending 100 of you on a 5 day trip to Manali. You are going to see snow capped mountains. You are going to see temples, monasteries, and we have a lot of activities planned! If you are 18-plus, I am sorry you have to be 18-plus, and you have been following me, just fill out the attached 'Devera Santa google document form and we are going to pick 100 of you."