

absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 83, MUMBAI | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

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SUPREME COURT WARNS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON DELAYING JUDGES' TRANSFER

'Don't make us take a hard stand'

A BENCH COMPRISING JUSTICES SANJAY KISHAN KAUL AND ABHAY S. OKA TOLD THE ATTORNEY GENERAL R. VENKATARAMANI, REPRESENTING THE CENTRE, "DON'T MAKE US TAKE A STAND WHICH WILL BE VERY UNCOMFORTABLE...", AND FURTHER ADDED THAT IF TRANSFER OF JUDGES IS KEPT PENDING THEN IT IS A SERIOUS ISSUE.



NOTICE TO CENTRE ON BLOCKING OF BBC DOCUMENTARY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice on petitions challenging the Centre's decision to ban BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots. The apex court declined to pass an interim order, but directed the Centre to place before it the original record of decision taken and scheduled the next hearing in April. The bench directed that the Centre should produce the original records in connection with its order on the documentary on the next date of hearing in April.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by journalist N. Ram, advocate Prashant Bhushan and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and another petition filed by advocate M.L. Sharma.

The documentary titled 'India: The Modi Question' has been banned on social media and online channels, but some students have screened it on campuses of various universities across the country.

attacked from outside. Justice Kaul said, "We are used to it. Be rest assured that it does not bother us. It is for the authorities to know where to..." After hearing detailed arguments, the bench scheduled the matter for further hearing on February 13. The AG submitted that recommendations made for appointment of the five Supreme Court judges would be cleared shortly.

On December 13, 2022, the apex

court collegium had recommended for elevation of justices Pankaj Mishra, Sanjay Karol, P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra to the Supreme Court.

On January 31, the collegium also recommended for elevation of Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court and Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court as judges of the top court. The top court was hearing a

'ENSURE NO HATE SPEECH IS MADE': ON SAKAL HINDU SAMAJ EVENT IN MUMBAI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed that an upcoming event in Mumbai, organised by a body known as the Sakal Hindu Samaj, should only be allowed subject to that no hate speech is made at the event.

The bench asked the Maharashtra government to record the event scheduled on February 5, and stressed that the government has to ensure that hate speeches are not made.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Maharashtra government, vociferously opposed the plea and informed the court that permission to hold the event has not been granted yet. He contended that if someone is prevented from voicing their view, then there will be prevention of Article 19(1)(a) and the court has to be very careful in a pre-censorship order.

Citing the Dharam Sansad event in Uttarakhand, the bench said the event happened there and then the state government took action and "If there is a replica of what happened then we cannot allow this..." Mehta assured that action will be taken against hate speech.

contempt petition filed by Advocates Association of Bangalore against the Centre breaching the timeline for judicial appointments. Earlier, the apex court had expressed its displeasure over the delay in clearing of the names approved by the collegium for appointments.

S&P GLOBAL REVISES ADANI ELECTRICITY, ADANI PORTS RATINGS TO 'NEGATIVE'

Chennai | Agencies

Global credit rating agency S&P Global Ratings on Friday said it has revised the rating outlook of Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd to negative from stable. "The negative outlook reflects the risk of a deterioration in the credit profile of Adani Ports and Adani Electricity Mumbai due to governance risks and funding challenges for the larger Adani Group," it said.

The rating agency said a short-seller report alleging significant governance issues for the Adani Group, many of which relate to disclosures and actions at the shareholder level, has triggered a sharp fall in Adani Group entities' equity and bond prices. There is a risk that investor concerns about the group's governance and disclosures are larger than it has currently factored in the ratings, or that new investigations and negative market sentiment may lead to increased cost of capital and reduce funding access for Adani Ports and Adani Electricity, S&P Global said.

Meanwhile, Adani Enterprises shares removed from Dow Jones Sustainability Indices

Under fire following allegations of fraud and stock manipulation, the Adani group has received another jolt from the US markets. The group's flagship company Adani Enterprises has been removed from the Dow Jones Sustainability



LS ADJOURNED AMID PROTESTS

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Friday amid protests by Congress-led opposition demanding probe into Hindenburg's report alleging fraud against Adani group.

As soon as the Lower House reconvened at 2 p.m., members from the Congress, All India Trinamool Congress, DMK and JD(U) stormed into the well of the House, raising slogans like "Adani Sarkar Hai Hai!" and "We Want JPC!" However, the House was adjourned for the day.

Indices effective February 7.

According to a note issued by S&P Dow Jones Indices, home to iconic financial market indicators, the decision to remove Adani Enterprises was taken following a media & stakeholder analysis.

"Adani Enterprises will be removed from the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices following a media & stakeholder analysis triggered by allegations of stock manipu-

Lawyer seeks probe into Hindenburg report

New Delhi: A PIL has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre and the SEBI to inquire into alleged "criminal conspiracy" behind the Hindenburg report into Adani Group of companies, leading to crashing of its stock and huge losses to investors.

The plea, moved by advocate M.L. Sharma, contended that US resident Nate Anderson of Hindenburg Research and his Indian entities "hatched a criminal conspiracy, did short sale in hundreds of billion dollars prior and thereafter on 25th January 2023, they released a concocted news as research report qua to the Adani Group of the companies, got crash in the share market and squared up their short sell position at the lowest rate".

lation and accounting fraud," said S&P Dow Jones Indices.

China imposes communications crackdown on Tibetans

Team Absolute | New Delhi

China has tightened restrictions on Tibetan residents of a county in Sichuan province that has been a hotbed of resistance to Chinese rule, imposing measures to prevent contact with people outside the area, according to a media report.



The communications clampdown in Drago county is the latest measure by Chinese authorities to bring locals to heel following the demolitions of huge Buddha statues in the area beginning 2021, as monks and local residents were forced to watch, sources in the region said, RFA reported.

"Beginning January this year, local Chinese authorities in Drago county

have warned Tibetans living in the region to stop communicating with people outside Tibet," said one of the sources who requested anonymity for safety concerns.

"Their cellphones are randomly probed and they are restricted from sharing any kind of information with the outside. They are also not allowed to contact their family members or send money," the source said, RFA reported.

ASSAM: MASSIVE CRACKDOWN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGES; 1,800 HELD

Guwahati: In a massive crackdown against child marriages in Assam, the police on Friday arrested at least 1,800 people across the state, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said. Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of a programme here that the crackdown started on early Friday morning throughout the state, adding it would continue for 3-4 days.

The police have registered 4,004 incidents of child marriage in the last 10 days since the state Cabinet resolved on January 23 to take action. Many offenders have been arrested in this connection. Police sources said the actual number of arrests can be ascertained only after going through the data from each district.

However, a senior police officer mentioned the number of arrests would be quite huge as more than 4,000 complaints have been registered.

Houses in J&K's Doda develop cracks, 19 families shifted

Jammu | Agencies

It's a Joshimath-like crisis in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, where a village is sinking and more than 20 houses and a mosque have developed cracks, triggering panic among residents.

Nineteen families have been moved to safer places after their houses developed cracks at Nai Basti village in J&K's Doda district, officials said on Friday.

The officials said that several houses at Nai Basti village in the Thathri area of Doda district started developing cracks due to a land sink. The situation was accentuated by a landslide triggered by recent rains.

"Nineteen families have been moved to safer places so far. The land sink happened due to loosened rocks," said Abdul Qayoom, SSP, Doda.

Qayoom said a team of geologists and



engineers have inspected the spot. "A proper assessment has been made," he said.

Qayoom said that according to experts who studied the rocks at the site, the land there could not bear the load of the buildings.

"There are both new and old struc-

tures constructed in the area," he said. Abdul Farooq, who is among those whose house has developed cracks, appealed to the administration to shift the affected people to a safer place.

"Some houses have been totally damaged due to the landslide. A mosque has also come under its impact," Farooq said.

The officials, however, refused to draw a comparison between Doda with the sinking town of Joshimath in Utrakhnad that posed a major challenge and forced a large number of people to move after their houses developed cracks.

"The two cannot be compared. It is a very localised affair in Doda," Qayoom said.

"A geology and mining team from Jammu is arriving to give inputs as to how the situation can be stopped from aggravating," Sub-Divisional Magistrate Athar Amin Zargar told reporters.

Police trample 90-acre opium field in Hazaribagh

Ranchi | Agencies

A joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the police destroyed opium planted on 90 acres of land under the Chauparan police station area in Hazaribagh district on Friday.

More than a dozen tractors and JCB machines were used in the operation.

Hazaribagh SP Manoj Ratan Chothe has directed to identify the people involved in the illegal farming of opium and register FIRs against them.

Significantly, about a month ago in the same area, the police had trampled opium crop planted in about 75 acres of land.

The SP said that all police stations have been instructed to destroy the crop and take strict legal action on receiving information about opium cultivation any-



where in the region.

Barhi's SDPO Nazir Akhtar, CRPF 22 Battalion's Assistant Commandant Sanjeev Kumar, Barhi women's police station in-charge Sweety Kumari, among others, were involved in the operation to destroy the cultivated field on Friday. It is being said that

opium is being secretly cultivated in a large area of Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary in Chauparan.

Sources have said that opium is being cultivated in the forested areas of Duragara, Moraniya, Sikda, Karga, Dhodhiya and Pathalgar, among other areas, in Chauparan.

INDIGO PASSENGER REACHES UDAIPUR INSTEAD OF PATNA

New Delhi:

Aviation regulator, the Director General of Civil Aviation has sought a report from Indigo airline on a bizarre instance in which an air passenger reached Rajasthan's Udaipur while he was supposed to reach Patna.

The incident took place on January 30 when passenger Afsar Hussain had to board an Indigo flight to Patna from Delhi airport. However, he boarded the Indigo flight to Udaipur by mistake and he realised this only after reaching there.

Sources said that it is a matter of investigation that why his credentials were not checked properly while he was boarding the wrong flight.

A senior DGCA official said: "We are looking into this and shall take appropriate action."

Apple sets all-time sales record in India, retail store soon: Tim Cook

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Apple has set another all-time revenue record for the India market, along with quarterly records in Brazil and India, its CEO Tim Cook has said.

In the analysts' call after posting its quarterly results, Cook said late on Thursday that looking at the business in India, "we set a quarterly revenue record and grew very strong double digits year over year and so we feel very good about how we performed." "That's despite the headwinds that we talked about. India is a hugely exciting market for us and a major focus. We brought the online store there in 2020. We will soon bring Apple Retail there," Cook announced.

Apple is set to launch its own-branded first brick-and-mortar store in Mumbai anytime soon. On the opportunity in India post-pandemic, Cook said, "We actually did fairly well through



Covid in India and I'm even more bullish now, hopefully on the other side of it".

"That's the reason why we are investing there by bringing retail

there, bringing the online store there and putting out a significant amount of energy there. I'm very bullish on India," Cook added.



BJP CONSPIRED AGAINST AAP IN MCD, NOW THEY HAVE DISCREETLY PASSED CIVIC BODY BUDGET: SAURABH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday accused the BJP of backstabbing Delhiites by making officials unethically pass the MCD budget before the AAP government was formed. AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said the "BJP and its central government conspired to create a ruckus in the MCD and not let AAP form the government and now they have discreetly passed the MCD budget. It is the responsibility of the elected government of MCD to fulfil its promises by preparing the budget, but the BJP got the budget passed by fraud to prevent CM Arvind Kejriwal from fulfilling his promises."

If the officials prepare the budget at the behest of the BJP's Central government, how will the Aam Aadmi Party fulfil its promises? asked Bhardwaj. He said that this is a huge fraud. "Earlier BJP used CBI and LG in Delhi to trouble AAP, similarly now every governor is troubling their state governments", he accused. "Today, the BJP has once again



gone on to disappoint the citizens of Delhi. The Budget of the MCD is a very important document that gives the detailed breakdown of how much money the elected government hopes to spend in the fulfilment of its promises. Despite losing the elections to the AAP, the BJP has illegally

passed the Budget of the MCD through the officials that it uses to control the corporation. This is the level to which the BJP can stoop to retain power. If this is how the MCD is to be run, then what was the point of conducting elections? Talking to the media, Bhardwaj

said that the bureaucrats of the MCD who have passed the Budget should be asked to fight the MCD polls the next time. This is a betrayal of the people of Delhi. It is the AAP that has been elected by the people to run the MCD, but the people passing the budget are bureaucrats of the MCD, what sense does this make?"

He claimed that the BJP has just taken another major step to cheat the people of Delhi and take revenge against them as they were voted out of power in the MCD.

He concluded, "Even in the MCD, the BJP had a full-fledged plan to not let AAP form the government despite winning the elections in December last year. Under the pretext of maintaining law and order, they even brought in armed police forces and tried to use them to threaten the elected councillors of AAP. This act of getting the bureaucrats to pass the MCD Budget is another well-planned tactic of the BJP to retain power in the MCD despite the citizens of Delhi wanting them out of the corporation."

Kerala budget 2023: Petrol, diesel & liquor to cost more; Oppn fumes

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Kerala Finance Minister K.N.Balagopal on Friday presented the Pinarayi Vijayan 2.0 government's second budget proposing a Rs 2 cess on petrol and diesel in addition to a Rs 20 hike on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

Not only has it proposed a hike in property taxes, but also levied an additional tax on those who own a second home and on all homes that are kept locked.

Another hike has come in the taxes for new vehicles, registration of land and also fees charged for government services. Besides, the judicial fee will also be increased.

Denouncing the increased taxes, the Congress-led Opposition termed the budget a "tool" to loot the people and announced to launch a massive protest against it.

Leader of Opposition V.D.Satheesan called it a day-



light dacoity signalled through the budget.

"At no cost will we allow this indiscriminate hiking of taxes and cess on petrol and diesel. We are going to launch an indefinite state-wide protest till the govern-

ment rolls back the hikes as this budget will surely break the spine of the man on the street." A tippler, reacting to the hike in liquor price, said from now on three pegs daily, the consumption will have to be halved.

Nation gives priority to deprived: PM Modi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the nation gives top priority to those who have been so far deprived and neglected.

Addressing the Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace, being held at Krishnaguru Sevashram at Barpeta in Assam via video conferencing, PM Modi said that the government has given priority to the deprived.

Giving examples of the state of Assam and the north-east, the Prime Minister observed that these regions have been neglected for decades when it comes to development and connecti-



ty, but they are being given top priority today. Krishnaguru Eknaam Akhanda Kirtan for World Peace is a month-long kirtan which has been going on since January 6 at Krishnaguru Sevashram. Referring to this year's Budget, the Prime Minister underlined the same priority for the deprived as the key guiding sentiment.

J'khand HC grants relief to Rahul Gandhi in case pertaining to remarks against Amit Shah

Ranchi | Agencies

The Jharkhand High Court has granted relief to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in a case related to his remarks against former BJP president Amit Shah.

The court has put a stay on the notice issued by the Ranchi Civil Court against Gandhi in this matter. Along with this, any kind of action against Gandhi has been banned. A complaint was lodged against Gandhi in the Civil Court on behalf of BJP leader Naveen Jha.

Earlier, Jha had sent a legal notice to Gandhi asking him to apologise for his remarks.

In the Congress session in 2019, Gandhi had said that a



murderer could not become the national president in the Congress, but it was possible in the BJP. The court took cognisance of the complaint and a hearing was held in this matter in the civil court on

February 4. Gandhi had then filed a petition against it in the High Court.

Jharkhand High Court Judge Justice Ambuj Nath's court, in the hearing on Friday, put a stay on the action

against Rahul Gandhi and the civil court's notice.

The next hearing is scheduled on February 17. Advocate Piyush Chitresh and Advocate Dipankar Rai appeared on behalf of Gandhi.

Two more held in Guj paper leak case from Kolkata



Vadodara | Agencies

The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested two more accused in connection with the junior clerk paper leak case from Kolkata on Thursday night. Both accused are being brought to Ahmedabad, said sources in the ATS.

Till date, a total of 19 accused persons have arrest-

ed in the paper leak case. The junior clerk's competitive exams conducted by the Gujarat Panchayat Service Selection Board was scheduled last Sunday. But early on Sunday morning, the Board cancelled the exams citing police information that a paper had been leaked. By the evening, 16 persons were apprehended by the police for their alleged role in the paper leak.

3-year-old girl gang-raped in Delhi, 2 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A three-year-old minor girl was allegedly gang-raped by two men in a forest area in south Delhi, the police said on Friday.

According to a senior police officer, on Friday, a woman along with her three-year-old daughter came to Fatehpur Beri police station and lodged a complaint in this regard.

"In her complaint, the woman stated that her daughter went missing in the morning. While she was looking for her daughter, her neighbour told the woman that she had seen her daughter walking near the jungle area. The neighbour had also seen two persons going in the same direction towards the jungle area," said the offi-



cial. After some time, the child was found crying.

"The complainant saw that her daughter was bleeding from her private part. When the woman asked her about what happened, the child kept on crying," said the official. "The woman told the incident to her husband and

they reported the incident to the police station. The victim (child) has been sent for medical examination and treatment to AIIMS hospital," the official added.

Police said that both the accused, who took the girl inside the jungle, have been apprehended, and an investigation was underway.

PIL in Delhi HC seeks direction to conduct LS, Assembly polls together in 2024

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has been moved for direction to the Central government and the Election Commission (EC) to determine if it is feasible to hold the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections at the same time in 2024.

In his Public Interest Litigation (PIL), petitioner, advocate Ashwini K. Upadhyay sought a direction to both to conduct elections on holidays, including Saturdays and Sundays, in order to save valuable time of schools, colleges, universities, service industries, and manufacturing organisations.

He has submitted that it is crucial to hold the elections concurrently in order to save public money, lessen the load on the security forces and public administration on election duty, and EC staff who have to organise booths, electronic voting machines and voter slips.

The plea states: "As elections have become a big budget affair and expensive, the Law Commission of India, in its 170th Report on Reform of Electoral Laws (1999) has suggested simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, for the sake of stability in governance. But the Centre



and the EC did not take appropriate steps." Upadhyay has asked for the Law Commission's recommendations to be implemented.

The plea further states that the elections to assemblies whose terms are expiring in 2023 and 2024 may be brought together with 2024 Lok Sabha election by curtailing or extending their tenure.

"If consensus evolves among political parties; assembly elections of 16 states i.e. Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Telangana, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand can be held with 2024 General Election," it states. The plea also states that since the majority of the states are ruled by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, the consensus would emerge without much difficulty, adding that it will result in simultaneous assembly polls of 16 states with General Elections in 2024.

Furthermore, it says that once the elections are held together and the election process is over, the government will get a clear 58 months to carry out important reforms since this is a large enough window for their results to be visible.

"It will make life easier for the political class," the plea states.

Delhi's Neeli Jheel developed as eco-tourism site with four artificial waterfalls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday inaugurated the Neeli Jheel ecotourism site in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary.

The jheel has been developed as an eco-tourism site and eco-friendly material has been used in all the facilities made for tourists.

The highlights include four artificial waterfalls, operated by a solar system, where water cascades down 100 feet height to the lake below, presenting a scene of splendour.

Inaugurating the facility, Rai said that Delhi government is taking every appropriate step to improve the environment and curb the pollution in the city. "Also we are focused towards making Delhi an eco-friendly tourism site. In this direction today, on the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the Delhi government is giving a gift to the people of Delhi in the form of Neeli Jheel eco-tourism. Delhiites can come with families and enjoy the natural beauty of this place," he said.

"In the 40 hectare area surrounding Neeli Jheel, environment friendly development work has been done. In



addition to other facilities, signage has been set up to inform visitors about the trees and their significance in the area," the minister said, adding that the order has been issued to make the arrangements for golf carts and electric cycles for tourists and to construct an eco-friendly cafeteria near Neeli Jheel.

"All the constructions made for tourism near Neeli Jheel have been done with natural materials like wood, bamboo etc." He said that the government wishes to provide the citizens of Delhi with a place where they may appreciate nature while also educating the next generation about it.

BSF SHOTS DOWN PAKISTANI DRONE IN PUNJAB; HEROIN SEIZED

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) shot down a drone that was smuggling contraband from Pakistan in Punjab's Amritsar district on Friday.

The drone was recovered between the border fence and the Zero Line along with a packet of 5 kg heroin, wrapped in polythene.

At about 2.30 a.m. troops deployed on the border heard a buzzing sound of a suspected flying object entering from Pakistan into the Indian territory near Kakkar village in he district, said the BSF in a statement.

As per the laid down drill, troops endeavored to intercept the drone by firing. The whole area was cordoned and police and other agencies were informed.

Man held for strangling wife in Ghaziabad, burying body near pond

Ghaziabad | Agencies

The police has arrested a man for killing his wife and mother of his three children on Thursday. The accused had buried her body near a pond outside his village.

The body was retrieved late on Thursday night with the help of a JCB and sent for postmortem.

The incident took place on January 25 in Fazalgarh village in Ghaziabad's Bhojpur police station area.

The accused -- identified as Dinesh Prajapati -- is a vegetable seller and had been married to the victim for around 13 years. Their three children are aged between 6 to 12 years.

On January 30, Dinesh lodged a missing complaint of his wife and told the police that his wife, Anju had left home on January 26, when he had gone to the vegetable market. He then told his kids that their mother had gone to

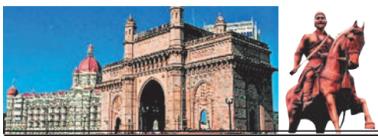


her maternal home. When police investigated the matter, it was revealed that the couple had differences. The police then took Dinesh into custody, who confessed to strangling his wife upon interrogation.

He alleged that he suspected his wife of having an affair

which is why when he got up to go to the vegetable market at 4 a.m. on January 25, he killed her and hid her body in another room.

Dinesh revealed that he carried the body outside the village on a tonga the next night, when his children were sleeping.



MAHA MLC POLL RESULTS

MVA WINS THREE, BJP & INDEPENDENT BAG 1 EACH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) came trumps winning three seats while the ruling Balasahebchandra Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BSS-BJP) and a BJP-supported Independent bagged one seat each, in the biennial MLC elections to five Teachers and Graduates constituencies.

The MVA 'auto-rickshaw' alliance of Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT) rammed the 'double-engine' BSS-BJP to capture the Nagpur Teachers Constituency and Aurangabad Teachers Constituency, and the Amravati Graduates Constituency.

Despite its earlier confident claims of bagging all five seats, the BJP had to be content with only the Konkarn Teachers Constituency, while the Nashik Graduates Constituency has gone to a BJP-supported Independent Satyajeev Tambe, who has emanated mixed signals on joining the Congress which took disciplinary action against him on election eve.

"The MVA has given a blow to the



BJP in the birthplace of its parent organisation (the RSS)," an elated Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole said on the Nagpur victory. Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe said that "the fact is, BJP has lost four seats" and has also lost its standing among the educated and intellectual classes like Teachers and Graduates who were the voters in these elections. "The BJP has forfeited

four seats... It signifies the party has worn off its charm among the literates and enlightened population. This is a very significant development for the state," Londhe said of the much-fiercely contested January 30 electoral battle. In the latest round of MLC polls, BJP's Dnyaneshwar Mhatre trounced MVA-backed Peasants & Workers Party nominee Balaram Patil in Konkarn Teachers Constituency.

The BJP-supported independent and sitting MLC Nago Ganar was beaten by Congress-MVA's Sudhakar Adbale of Vidarbha Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh.

BJP's sitting MLC Ranjeet Patil bit the dust with the Congress-MVA candidate Dhiraj Lingade bagging the Amravati seat.

The NCP-MVA candidate and sitting MLC Vikram Kale defeated BJP's Kiran Patil in Aurangabad.

In Nashik, Congress rebel Satyajeev Tambe won over Sena (UBT)-MVA candidate Shubhangi Patil.

Londhe added that this is the third time in barely three years that the MVA has trounced the BJP on its home turf (Nagpur) comprising the RSS headquarters, plus Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and other senior BJP leaders hail from here. Earlier, the MVA had bagged the Nagpur Graduates Constituency and then the Zilla Parishad elections, and now the Nagpur Teachers Constituency, indicating that the masses are distancing themselves away from the BJP, Londhe said.

Bombay HC refuses to stop tender for sanitary napkins for govt school

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Friday rejected a petition that objected to certain conditions in Maharashtra government's tender to procure sanitary napkins for girls in state-run schools, noting that the safety and hygiene of the students are important and that the clauses are necessary to maintain quality.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice S V Gangapurwala and Justice Sandeep Marne disposed of the petition filed by a start-up owned by a 69-year-old man challenging the conditions imposed by the state in its tender for the supply of sanitary napkins to 9,940 government schools.

"Safety and hygiene of school girls are important and for that purpose, the quality has to be maintained. We do not find any illegality in the tender conditions," the court said.

The conditions were that the bidders had to have



three years of experience in supplying sanitary napkins and an annual turnover of Rs 12 crore.

Additional government pleader B V Samant told the court that the tender has the conditions to ensure that the quality of the product is maintained.

The bench in its order noted that the project was for the safety and hygiene of school girls.

"The project pertains to supply of sanitary napkins in

government schools in State of Maharashtra. Naturally, the predominant factor that would have to be kept in mind by the state is quality of sanitary napkins, and for that purpose, past experience is utmost necessary," the court said.

"Further, the supply is for 9,940 schools in Maharashtra. A large number of supply is required, therefore past turnover and experience is relevant," it added.

AMUL HIKES MILK PRICE BY RS 3/LITRE FOR DELHI, MAHA & KOLKATA CONSUMERS

Ahmedabad:

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMF) has increased prices of Amul pouch milk (all variants) by Rs 3 per litre with immediate effect.

The price has been increased for the consumers in Delhi, Kolkata and Maharashtra.

"We would like to inform you that the price of Amul pouch milk (all variants) has been revised upwards as under w.e.f. February 2, 2023 night dispatch (February 3, 2023 morning)," the GCMCF said in a statement.

After the price hike, Amul Taaza one liter will cost Rs 54; Amul Gold one litre Rs 66; Amul cow milk Rs 56; Amul A2 Buffalo milk one liter Rs 170. The price has been hiked for all the variants of Amul Milk.

"PROVE CHARGES OR APOLOGISE": SHIV SENA (UBT)'S LEGAL NOTICE TO UNION MINISTER

Mumbai:

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said he has sent a legal notice to Union minister

and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Narayan Rane for making "baseless allegations" against him on public platforms. Raut said Rane should prove his allegations or else apologise to him. "Narayan Rane has been making baseless allegations against me and Shiv Sena. He should prove his charge or else apologise. I have sent a legal notice to him through my lawyer Sarthak Shetty, Jai Maharashtra," Raut said in a tweet.

Rane, one of the bitter critics of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and his faction of the Shiv Sena, has been engaged in a war of words with Raut. Of late, the verbal duel between the two leaders became uglier and more personal.

Rane, a former chief minister, had quit the Sena over his differences with Thackeray.



Terror Agency gets threat mail about attack in Mumbai, probe launched

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Investigation Agency has received a mail from an unidentified individual claiming to be a Taliban member threatening to carry out a terror attack in Mumbai, police sources said today. According to the sources, the NIA apprised the Mumbai Police about the development following which various cities of Maharashtra have been put on alert. "The person who sent the threat mail described himself to be a Taliban. He said that there would be a terror attack in Mumbai," Mumbai Police sources said. After the threat mail, NIA along with Mumbai Police started a joint



investigation to unearth the truth.

Earlier in January this year, a threat call was received at Dhirubhai Ambani International School in

Mumbai on Tuesday in which the unknown caller threatened to blow up the school.

According to Mumbai Police, a call was received at 4:30 pm on the landline of the school.

The caller claimed to have planted a time bomb at the school. A similar call informing about the bombs planted in various parts of the city was received in October last year. Mumbai police had received a 'suspicious' call from an unidentified caller informing them that bombs are planted at several key places across the city. According to the police, a call was received by a caller claiming that three bombs have been planted in the city at Infinity Mall Andheri, PVR Mall Juhu, and Sahara Hotel Airport. The Mumbai police have beefed security in the targeted places. Attempts are underway to nab the unidentified caller.

TEENAGER MURDERED ON BUSY ROAD IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: A 19-year-old college student was stabbed to death with sharp-edged weapons in the middle of a Mumbai road yesterday evening by two unknown persons, Chunarhatti police informed.

He has been identified as Mukhtar Sheikh, a resident of Chembur area. According to the police, on Thursday evening, around 6.30 pm, two youths stabbed Sheikh and fled from the spot. The accused are currently on the run.

In a badly injured condition, people took the student to the nearest hospital, where the doctor declared him brought dead, the police informed.

The victim was apparently returning home from college in the Chunarhatti area of Mumbai.

According to the police, the case has a love affair angle to it. A girl was in love with a boy earlier, but she left him and started loving the Mukhtar Sheikh, due to which the old lover of the girl, along with a friend, carried out the incident, stated the police. The police have identified one of the accused involved in the murder. The Chunarhatti police have registered a case under sections 302 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against the two unidentified persons. The police are further investigating the matter along with the crime branch.

AJIT PAWAR 'ADVISES' TAMBE TO RETURN TO CONGRESS

Mumbai: Soon after Congress rebel Satyajeev Tambe won the Nashik Graduates Constituency polls as an Independent candidate, Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar on Friday "advised" him to patch up and return to his Congress party.

Speaking to media persons, the NCP leader suggested that with the elections over, Tambe - placed under suspension for six years by the Congress for anti-party activities in January - should now discuss his issues with senior leaders and his family members to take an appropriate decision. Pawar felt that Tambe - who won as an independent with Bharatiya Janata Party's backing, trouncing Maha Vikas Aghadi-backed Shubhangi Patil - could hammer out the issues with his father, senior Congressman Sudhir Tambe, who was suspended last month, and also his father-in-law, Balasaheb Thorat, the Congress Legislature Party leader.

Delhi HC dismisses 2006 Mumbai train blasts convict's plea for govt reports

New Delhi | Agencies

The Delhi High Court on Friday said that intelligence agencies' reports and dossiers cannot be made public under the RTI Act, especially if doing so will jeopardise the sovereignty or integrity of the nation.

A single-judge bench of Justice Pratibha M. Singh rejected Ehtesham Qutubuddin Siddique's request for the reports that the governments of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh had submitted on 2006 Mumbai train bombings investigations.

Siddique, a death row convict in the case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), has claimed that he was falsely implicated in the case and it amounts to violation of his human rights. The high court said that it is



undoubtedly in the best interests of the nation and its people if the reports are not given to the petitioner in accordance with the Right to Information Act.

Dismissing the plea, Justice Singh said: "The major public interest is in protecting the safety and security and not in disclosing such

reports. In these facts and circumstances, this court is of the opinion that the Chief Information Commission (CIC) order cannot be faulted with and the writ petition is accordingly dismissed."

On July 11, 2006, seven explosions had ripped through seven western line local trains in

Mumbai, leading to the death of 189 people and injuring 829. The petitioner had moved the high court in 2020 challenging a 2019 CIC order denying his request for documents related to a 2007 notification empowering the Secretaries of state governments to sanction prosecution for offences under the anti-terror law - UAPA.

In his plea moved through advocate Arpit Bhargava, the petitioner had contended he was arrested in 2006 and the sanction for his prosecution was granted by the Maharashtra Additional Chief Secretary in January 2007, six months before the notification was issued.

Therefore, the sanction granted was null and void for want of authorisation on the date it was issued, he had contended in his petition.

POLLUTION CONTROL, BETTER HEALTH SYSTEM AMONG OTHERS SHOULD BE IN BMC BUDGET: EKNATH SHINDE

Mumbai | Agencies

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal (Administrator) to prioritise pollution control, strengthening of the health system, administration transparency, and city's beautification while making the municipal corporation's budget.

Committed to providing clean air to the city, the CM said, "to control pollution and air quality in Mumbai, air purifier towers should be installed in the city like they are installed in Delhi, Gurgaon, and Lucknow."

At the same time, Shinde said that measures will be taken to increase urban forestry. The Guardian Minister for Mumbai suburban district and BJP leader Mangal Prabhat Lodha also stressed cleaner air quality in the city and assured that the air quality will improve within a month. "The air quality of Mumbai has worsened and we cannot sit idle without doing anything. Within a month you will



notice an improvement in the air quality. We have conducted many meetings with the BMC regarding this issue," Lodha told reporters.

Pointing to the health of Mumbaikars, CM said that a door-to-door screening campaign should take place for patients with diabetes and high blood pressure. CM also suggested special measures to take care of the health of Mumbaikars.

"About 27 per cent of the citizens of Mumbai are suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure disorders. The Chief Minister has directed that they should go door to door and prepare their data through the Municipal Health Department," a press note issued by the Public Relations department of government said.

It is also believed that CM Shinde

instructed BMC to start Skill Development Center in municipal schools for class IX and X students and also to increase their number in view of the demand of Mumbai Public Schools.

In a meeting, CM Shinde asserted that Mumbaikars should experience good governance. "The Mumbai Municipal Administration should make efforts to ensure that the citizens experience good governance. It should be fulfilled by the administration in such a way that citizens can get all the facilities easily, at the same time the necessary permits and licenses required by the Municipal Corporation such as building licenses, property tax, and renewal of shop registration licenses should be given online," Shinde said.

He also said that along with the beautification of the Mumbai metropolis, provision should be made in the budget through the Mumbai Municipal Corporation to enable women's self-help groups to provide relief to common Mumbaikars in terms of communication, infrastructure, congestion and traffic control.

Anil Deshmukh's aide gets bail in corruption case

Mumbai | Agencies

A special court on Friday granted bail to Kundan Shinde, an aide of former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, in a corruption case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Special CBI judge S H Gwalani allowed the bail plea of Shinde, who worked as a personal assistant to Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Deshmukh, Shinde's lawyer Aniket Nikam said.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had in June 2021 arrested Shinde in connection with a money laundering case, and later the CBI took his custody in a corruption case.

A special PMLA court on Wednesday allowed Shinde's bail plea in the money laundering case.

Other accused in the case include Anil Deshmukh and dismissed assistant police inspector Sachin Waze. Deshmukh is out on bail, while



Waze continues to be in judicial custody.

Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh in March 2021 alleged that Deshmukh, the then home minister, had given a target to police officers to collect Rs 100 crore per month from restaurants and bars.

Former assistant police inspector Waze, who was arrested in the case of an explosives-laden vehicle found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai last year, had also levelled similar allegations.

The high court in April 2021 directed the CBI to carry out a preliminary inquiry.



EDITOR'S SPECS

ONLY 7 HEALTH SYMPTOMS DIRECTLY RELATED TO LONG COVID

Long Covid patients are susceptible to developing only seven health symptoms for up to a year following the infection, a new study has revealed. These seven symptoms are fast-beating heart, hair loss, fatigue, chest pain, shortness of breath, joint pain and obesity, according to a team of University of Missouri (MU) researchers in the US who made this unexpected discovery and published it in the Open Forum Infectious Diseases journal. "Despite an overwhelming number of long Covid symptoms previously reported by other studies, we only found a few symptoms specifically related to an infection from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19," said Chi-Ren Shyu, director of the MU Institute for Data Science and Informatics and the corresponding author of the study. To develop their findings, the team reviewed real-world data from electronic medical records containing de-identified information for medical research purposes. After examining data from a total of 52,461 patients at 122 healthcare facilities across the US, the researchers selected the top 47 most commonly reported health symptoms from long Covid to examine for this study. Then, the researchers looked for any comparisons in the reported health symptoms -- many also shared by other viral respiratory infections -- among people in three different subgroups. These subgroups included people diagnosed with Covid but do not have any common viral respiratory infections like influenza or pneumonia; People with common viral respiratory infections but do not have Covid and people who do not have Covid or any other common viral respiratory infections. Shyu said the results could benefit ongoing efforts by fellow researchers to study various impacts of Covid. "Now, researchers will be able to better understand how SARS-CoV-2 may mutate or evolve by creating new connections that we may not have known about before," the researcher noted.

The Benefits of Internships for Fresh Graduates: Exploring the Advantages of On-the-Job Training

Anubhav Dubey

India is home to a large youth population, with 70% of its population under 40 years of age. This youth contributes 34% of India's Gross National Income, however, there is significant potential to expand this percentage. Millennials have a prominent role to play in both economic growth and social change, yet they often face difficulties in channeling their energy in the right direction. Internships are an excellent way for fresh graduates to gain real-world experience and develop professional skills. Internships provide students and recent graduates with the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios; it also helps graduates gain knowledge about their chosen profession and provide them with the opportunity to know valuable insight into the workplace.

How startups are helping youths in obtaining skills:

Companies like Chai Sutta Bar offer a variety of internship opportunities in the areas of marketing, operations, finance, and technology. Interns in these areas will gain valuable experience in the QSR industry by working in a fast-paced and dynamic environment.

In addition, Chai Sutta Bar offers a unique internship program for college students. This program provides interns with hands-on learning experience in areas such as inventory management, customer service, and digital marketing. Interns also have the opportunity to learn about the culture and values of Chai Sutta Bar and understand how the business works from the inside out.

Interns are also given the chance to network with Chai Sutta Bar's employees and gain insight into the inner workings of the company. Internships can provide graduates with the opportunity to establish professional connections. It can help in forming work relationships with industry professionals and leaders, which can be invaluable when it comes to applying for jobs. Not only can it help in getting jobs, but it can also provide them with valuable advice and guidance throughout their careers.



How states Governments like Madhya Pradesh helping the youths through their various internship programs

The Chief Minister's Youth Internship Programme ('Mukhyamantri Jan SevaMitra') is a youth employment initiative by the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GoMP) to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the state. Interns will be provided with a stipend of Rs. 8000 per month for a maximum period of six months. During this period, the interns will be providing their services to the rural population in the state and will be required to help in the implementation of various government-sponsored schemes.

The objective of this scheme is to give young people in the state the chance to gain real-world experience by creating opportunities to work with stakeholders such as the government, community, NGO, academia, industry, and so on. It also seeks to provide holistic professional skill development for the youth, thus increasing their employability and creating goodwill ambassadors for the state of Madhya Pradesh at home and abroad. Furthermore, it will provide youth with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in structured projects which will help them to understand the adminis-

trative framework, research, and other related topics. Lastly, the scheme will work to develop a bottom-up approach for real-time evidence generation that can be used to improve policy and governance models by engaging the young people of the state.

The intern would be able to do the following:

- Conduct impact evaluations and social audits of different schemes of MP.
- Provide implementation support by mobilizing beneficiaries and running campaigns to involve the community.
- Produce evidence for improved policies and implementation through research and advanced data analysis.
- Create a communication strategy, engage with the community, and generate awareness.
- Lead advocacy initiatives by mobilizing communities, local leaders, village panchayats, block level/district level heads, etc.

(Anubhav Dubey is a famous emerging Entrepreneur of India who is known all over India for his tea business known as Chai Sutta Bar.)

NEW I-T SYSTEM CAN HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON TAXPAYERS' SAVINGS, SAYS RSS AFFILIATE SJM

New Delhi: While expressing satisfaction over growth orientation in the Budget, with focus on rural development, infrastructure and MSMEs, RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) impressed upon the Centre to tweak the tax regime to promote saving by the middle class, which is an important source of government borrowing and capital formation.

The SJM also urged upon the government to increase tariffs on products where there exists sufficient excess capacity, aimed at promoting manufacturing in the country by curbing imports from China.

Dr Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-Convenor, SJM said that as expected, the income tax burden (in the new tax regime) has been reduced for the middle class, including for ultra rich, which will have an impact on the total revenue of Rs 37,000 crore.

"Swadeshi Jagran Manch believes that the new income tax system may give relief to the tax payers in terms of ease in filing returns, with lower tax burden; but it can have an adverse impact on the savings being made by income tax payers. In today's era where GST has gone out of the ambit of the Budget; and hardly much possibility of any tweaks in corporate taxation, the allocation of government expenditure is more in the eyes of economic analysts," he said.

No doubt, the allocation of government expenditure is the mirror of the policies of the government; and that is perfectly reflected in the Budget. In that context, SJM expresses its happiness over the allocation for infrastructure, rural development, green growth, education and digitization in the budget," he added.

The RSS affiliate said that unprecedented imports from China and trade deficit is a cause of concern.

"Although, it was expected that there will be an emphasis on manufacturing in this Budget, SJM expresses its dissatisfaction over lack of sufficient efforts, including hiking of tariffs on products, both final as well as intermediate products. Today the country is going through an unprecedented imports from China and trade deficit, but the same couldn't catch sufficient attention of the Finance Minister," said the SJM.

SJM said that carrying forward last year's resolution, the share of effective capital expenditure (including support to state governments for capital formation) has been raised to Rs 13.7 lakh crore, which is 4.5 per cent of GDP.

"It will benefit infrastructure building and other types of asset creation. Capital expenditure of Rs 2.40 lakh crore for Railways, the provision of various types of capital expenditure, including logistics of Rs 7,500 crore makes this Budget special. This much capital expenditure is a record not only in terms of quantity, but also as a percentage of GDP in recent decades," it said.

"Another welcome focus in the Budget is the MSME sector. Extending Credit Guarantee for MSMEs, giving relief to MSMEs who could not fulfil their contracts with the government by releasing their caution money, PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman scheme is a welcome step for empowering artisans, who are at the bottom of the pyramid," said the SJM.

international

Snow, heatwave coincide in Australia

Canberra | Agencies

While a cold snap has brought snow to parts of southeast Australia, people in the state of Queensland are sweltering through heatwaves.

In a statement released on Friday, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecasted mixed and extreme weather conditions across the country, reports Xinhua news agency.

A strong cold front associated with a deep low-pressure system swept across much of southeast Australia on Thursday, bringing a burst of cold air as well as showers, localized hail, thunder, and strong gusty winds.

There was snow overnight in the Alpine areas of New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria, and snow showers will likely continue in these areas, said the Bureau, adding that southeast Australia will also see maximum temperatures are as much as 10-16 Celsius degrees below average for February.

Meanwhile, heatwave conditions continue in eastern Queensland, with a severe heatwave warning current for areas south of Proserpine. Conditions will begin to ease



from Sunday.

Before 9 a.m., the temperature in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, already cracked 30 Celsius degrees.

The BOM noted that as hot and gusty winds will move over north-east NSW and south-east Queensland, temperatures are likely to hit the high 30 Celsius degrees to low 40 Celsius degrees on Friday and Saturday, which could result in elevated fire dangers and heatwave conditions.

In NSW, extreme weather events triggered multiple warnings of marine wind, severe thunderstorms, floods, fire dangers and for sheep graziers in snowy mountain districts.

PUTIN COMPARES RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE TO FIGHT AGAINST NAZI GERMANY

Moscow | Agencies

In a speech to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Stalingrad, Russian President Vladimir Putin compared his country's ongoing invasion of Ukraine to the fight against Nazi Germany.

The Battle of Stalingrad, which was fought between August 23, 1942 to February 2, 1943, was the deadliest to take place during the Second World War. An estimated two million people were killed. During the war, Nazi Germany and its allies unsuccessfully fought the Soviet Union for control of the city of Stalingrad, later renamed Volgograd. The Soviet army captured nearly 91,000 German troops, marking a major turning point of the war.

Speaking at a commemoration event in Volgograd on Thursday, the President said history was repeating itself as Germany has decided to send tanks to Ukraine, the BBC reported. "It's unbelievable but true... We are



again being threatened by German Leopard tanks," he said.

Germany has agreed to send 14 Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, prompting the Russian energy industry firm Fores to offer five million roubles to the first Russian soldier to destroy or

capture one. Without providing details, Putin also hinted that he could seek to move beyond conventional weapons. "Those who hope to defeat Russia on the battlefield do not understand, it seems, that a modern war with Russia will be very different

for them," the 70-year-old leader said.

"We are not sending our tanks to their borders, but we have the means to respond. It won't be limited to the use of armoured hardware. Everyone must understand this."

Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Putin has sought to present the ongoing war as a battle against nationalists and Nazis, who he says are leading the government in Kiev.

"Now, unfortunately, we see that the ideology of Nazism, already in its modern guise, in its modern manifestation, again creates direct threats to the security of our country," the BBC quoted the President as saying.

"Again and again we have to repel the aggression of the collective West."

To mark the day, Putin laid flowers at the grave of the Soviet marshal who oversaw the defence of the city, and visited the main memorial complex where he led a moment of silence for those that died in the battle.

AUS SUPERMARKET GIANTS ORDERED TO CLEAN UP SOFT PLASTIC WASTE

Canberra: Australia's two major supermarket chains, Coles and Woolworths, were issued a draft notice by the state authorities on Friday, asking them to clean up over 5,200 tonnes of soft plastic waste. The draft Clean-up Notice, issued by the New South Wales (NSW) Environment Protection Authority (EPA), urged the supermarket chains to remove over 5,200 tonnes of soft plastic stockpiled at 15 sites across the state, which were collected after the two supermarkets widely promote the REDcycle soft plastics collection program to their customers, reports Xinhua news agency. "Thousands of customers diligently collected soft plastics and dropped them into their local supermarket's collection bin because they trusted their waste would be diverted from landfill and recycled," said NSW EPA CEO Tony Chappel. He added that the extent of the soft plastic waste sitting in warehouses across NSW is very concerning, and those materials need to be removed to reduce the risk of a fire. The EPA also notified Fire and Rescue NSW of the high-risk storage facilities in 11 local government areas and requested the operators of these sites to take immediate action to mitigate risks. Both supermarkets have six days to comment on the draft notices.



US tracks Chinese spy balloon sailing across

Washington | Agencies

The US has said that it is closely monitoring a Chinese spy balloon that is said to be the size of three passenger buses wafting across the sky and it has considered shooting it down but has hesitated so far fearing falling debris on civilian populations underneath.

This is not the first such sighting. It happened before, but the US defense department said this is the longest Chinese spy balloon that has been seen hovering over the country. And it comes as Secretary of State Antony Blinken prepares to visit China and President Joe Biden is slated to deliver his first State of the Union speech in a Republican-led House of Representatives.

India will be following this spy balloon's flight as well for insights and lessons given its own border chal-



lenges with China, whose military has provoked a string of skirmishes along the Line of Actual Control in recent years, the last of them took place in December, and with increasing frequency.

"The United States government has detected and is tracking a high-altitude surveillance balloon that is over the continental United States right now," Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brigadier Gen. Pat Ryder said during an impromptu briefing on Thursday evening.

"The US government, to include NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), continues to track and monitor it closely."

But the balloon poses no threat to commercial air traffic as it's positioned way above that height, Ryder said.

President Biden has been briefed, according to news reports.

Shehbaz confesses terrorists roam around in Pakistan

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has confessed that terrorists roam around in Pakistan but there is no safe haven for them.

He also ruled out that any terrorists were settled on any tract of Pakistan, Samaa TV reported.

Although they roam around, but they haven't been able to settle in part of the country, he claimed.

Sharif emphasized unity at this time to fight the scourge of terrorism. He said that it was a make-or-break situation and the political leadership must sit together to devise a comprehensive strategy against resurging terrorism in the country. The Prime Minister mentioned the successful military operations in the past which eradicated terrorism.

He said that the nation questions how such incident took place after terrorism had been wiped off.

Addressing the conspiracy theories, Sharif asked what should be said about the recent terror incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Samaa TV reported.

In an oblique attack on his predecessor Imran Khan, Sharif said that a man wanted settlement of TTP members in Pakistan (after the US left Afghanistan), but isn't ready to sit with his compatriots.

Sharif also said the security lapses in the Peshawar mosque blast must be investigated but baseless allegations should not be leveled against the government, Samaa TV reported. The premier chaired a meeting of the apex committee in Peshawar following the blast. The military brass also attended the meeting. He condemned the propaganda on social media following the deadly attack which resulted in over 100 casualties.



NCC CADETS FELICITATED BY CM FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the cadets of Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh NCC directorate, who participated in the 74th Republic Day camp organised in Delhi, deserve congratulations for their excellent performance. Khushi Mahawar, who got the first position in various categories, will be awarded a Samman Nidhi of Rs. 50,000, Ayushi Tiwari, who got the second position, will be awarded Rs. 30,000 and Ishika Gurjar, who got the third position, will be awarded Rs. 20,000. In this sequence, each cadet participating in the National Republic Day will be given a Samman Nidhi of Rs 5,000 and each cadet participating in cultural programmes will be given a Samman Nidhi of Rs 1,000. NCC provides courage and opportunity to continuously move towards the set goals with discipline, patriotism, hard work and courage. CM Chouhan was addressing the Chief Minister Banner



programme organised at the Chief Minister's residence premises for the NCC contingent of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh representing Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the 74th Republic Day camp organised in Delhi. Chief Minister Chouhan honoured Group Commander Sanjoy

Ghosh of Bhopal NCC Headquarters with Chief Minister Banner.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that in the difficult times of Covid, NCC was first noticed as a young, courageous and disciplined team to face an insurmountable challenge like Covid. I believed that only NCC cadets have

the courage to risk their lives to save the lives of people. We have to move forward on the path of continuous progress and take the country forward. India is providing guidance to the world under the leadership of PM Modi. We have to establish India as a Vishwa guru by moving forward continuously.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh NCC Directorate Additional Director General Major General AK Mahajan said that NCC, started in 1948, is currently the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world. PM Modi has emphasised on its expansion, as a result of which 55 thousand cadets will be included in Madhya Pradesh. The team of Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh directorate secured 11th place in the parade in Delhi. 15 cadets from the Directorate participated on the Kartavya Path, 5 in the National Guard of Honour and 2 in the PM Rally. In horse riding, the cadets of the directorate won two silver and two bronze medals.

VHP will make Dharma Rakshak to stop conversion, love jihad

Team Absolute | Shajapur

In the meeting of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, many matters related to conversion, love jihad were discussed and concerns were expressed. At the same time, to prevent such increasing incidents, have made up our mind to become protectors of religion.

Two-day meeting of VHP Malwa province was held in Shajapur. More than 250 office bearers of Malwa province were present in the meeting, mainly VHP Central Joint General Secretary Koteswar Sharma, Province Vice President Mukesh Jain, Province Vice President Mahesh Gothi, Province Organization Minister Nandadas Dandotia, Province Co-Minister Dilip Jain, Province General Secretary Vinod Sharma, Prant Durga Vahini Sanyojika



Pinky Pawar, Prant Matrushakti Sanyojika Aarti Jaiswal were present.

Giving information about the meeting, VHP state minister Sohan Vishwakarma said that the resolution passed in the central meeting on 'religious bigotry, side effects and solutions' was also discussed. There is a plan to make Dharma Rakshaks to stop topics like religious conversion, love jihad. In order to save the cows of Indian breed, efforts will be made for breed improvement and farmers will be motivated for cow-based farming.

Sohan Vishwakarma further said that the previous programs were reviewed in the meeting, in which mainly

a plan has been made to connect the people who have become well-wishers to the VHP campaign.

The provincial minister said that VHP is completing 60 years in 2024, plans have been made for this, under the plan to make VHP all-encompassing and all-touchable, a target has been set to extend the work of the organization to every village, locality, every district. Margdarshak Mandals of Saints will be formed at all levels, Bajrang Dal and Durga Vahini's active groups are also planned to reach every city and town.

Sohan Vishwakarma further told that efforts will be made to start service works permanently in every district, there is a plan to increase child rituals centers, Ramayana, Mahabharata, cow science competitions will also be organized to educate children.

Honey and Chyawanpras will be given to malnourished children of Tendupatta collectors in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal | Khandwa

In order to improve the health of malnourished children of Tendupatta collectors in Madhya Pradesh, the government has taken a big decision, now honey and Chyawanpras will be given to the malnourished children of this class. State Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah has said that malnourished children of tendu leaf pluckers, who are studying in Anganwadi, will be provided six months' money and food grains. The state government is making serious efforts to make their life happy.

Dr. Shah, in a one-day training workshop of Tribal Entrepreneurship Training Development Center in forest village Aanwalia of Khandwa district, said that to remove malnutrition among the children of Tendupatta collectors, Chyawanprash of Mahua will be made by the Forest Department. Malnourished children will be provided 10 grams of honey and 15 grams of Chyawanprash daily.

He said that in case of death of Tendupatta



managers, the department would give an assistance of Rs.6 lakh to their family members.

Forest Minister Dr. Shah said that the managers of the Primary Forest Produce Committee will start getting Rs. 13,000 from the existing monthly honorarium from the coming April.

Uma Bharti tied cows in front of liquor shop: 'sharab nahi, doodh piyo'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Uma Bharti tied stray cows in front of a liquor shop in Orchha town of Madhya Pradesh and fed them hay as she called upon people to drink cow milk and shun alcohol. The former chief minister, spearheading a campaign against liquor consumption in the BJP-ruled state, maintained the government should not cash in on the habit of drinking. Standing in front of the shop selling Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) in Orchha, a town in Niwari district famous for its temples and palaces, after tying the cows, Bharti was heard raising the slogan 'Sharab Nahi, Doodh Piyo (drink milk not liquor)'.

In June last year, the BJP leader had thrown cow dung at the same liquor shop. In March 2022, she had hurled a stone at a liquor shop in Bhopal. A salesman of the outlet immediately downed its shutters, apparently fearing a repeat of the 2022 incidents. The Hindutva leader said she, too, was to some extent responsible for the prevailing



drinking problem and recalled she sought votes for the BJP in the 2003 Assembly polls and since then the party is in power in MP barring 15 months in 2018-2020 when the Congress ruled the state. The saffron leader, who earlier pushed for total prohibition in the state, for the last few months, had been

regularising alcohol sale in state, where Assembly polls are due by the year-end. "Last time, the former Union minister had flung cow dung at this Orchha liquor shop. So this time I downed the shutters of the shop," salesman Rampal said. According to the salesman, addressing people who had gathered near the IMFL shop, Bharti said the government should not cash in on the habit of drinking.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is a 'courageous' leader, who has accepted that the existing excise policy has some flaws and promised to draft a new one in consultation with yoga guru Ramdev, she told the small gathering, according to Rampal.

In the state capital, Chouhan parried questions from reporters on Bharti's statements and her anti-liquor campaign. The Madhya Pradesh government is expected to bring out a new excise policy shortly. Speaking at a Republic Day function, Chouhan had said the new excise policy would discourage drinking.

Firms at Neemuch raided for GST evasion

Team Absolute | Neemuch

In view of the complaints of commercial tax evasion, a Central GST team took action in Neemuch. On the instructions of GST Intelligence wing, officials from Indore, Delhi and Bhopal raided the factory, offices, godowns and houses of two big business firms of the city and searched the documents. Till the filing of the report, the investigation was going on. According to the information, at around 11:00 am on Thursday, a 16-member team of Central GST reached Neemuch in four vehicles.

Investigation was started against two firms associated with mandi trade and oil business, which continued till Friday late evening. Officials who are involved in the operation said that they can't disclose anything until the investigation process is completed.

It has been learned from sources that in the said proceedings, the



Dhanuka Soya Oil Mill located at Mhow Road and the Aggarwal Soya Plant located at Jhanjharwada were investigated. These two firms were on the radar of Central GST for many days, said sources, adding that the purchase and sale of the two firms from Delhi was being monitored. As soon as the issue of tax evasion was brought to light, the Director General of Central GST Delhi, the intelligence wing assembled a team of officials from Indore, Delhi, and Bhopal and dispatched it to Neemuch for investigation. The scope of the irregularities has not been revealed as yet, but according to GST sources, the tax evasion could be significant.

3-MONTH-OLD DIED AFTER BEING BRANDED WITH HOT IRON 51 TIMES FOR TREATING PNEUMONIA

Shahdol: In an unfortunate incident, a 3-month-old infant died after her parents' alleged superstitious beliefs led to a delay in proper medical treatment. The baby was allegedly branded with hot iron rod 51 times as a treatment for pneumonia disease.

Roshni Kol, the child's mother, said that her daughter was rushed for treatment at a Primary Health Centre but her condition did not improve. She added she objected to the treatment of the woman "healer" sought to give the infant but her family insisted this was the only way to treat the disease.

The infant was taken to the Shahdol Medical College when her condition deteriorated. "The infant died during treatment on Wednesday night," said Kol.

Shahdol collector Vandana Vaidya said that the girl was suffering from pneumonia and the infection spread due to a delay in treatment. "We are investigating the matter and will also register a case against the woman [healer]. The practice of treating small babies with hot iron rod in the name of treatment still continues in Shahdol district and to stop this practice Public Awareness Campaign will be launched," Vaidya added.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Once again the color of name change has started dissolving in the political atmosphere of Madhya Pradesh. Now the name of Islam Nagar of Bhopal has been changed to Jagdishpur. Even before this the names of many places have been changed, while more efforts are going on in this direction. Assembly elections are going to be held in the state this year and every effort is being made to win the hearts of the voters, one of them is the campaign to change the names of places. The name of Islamnagar in the capital has been changed to Jagdishpur. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the name of Islamnagar has been changed to Jagdishpur, which is an

ancient and historical name. Names have been changed earlier in the state as well. Hoshangabad has been renamed as Narmadapuram while Babai town has been renamed after Makhanlal Chaturvedi. Not only this, the exercise to change the names of Halalpur Basti, Lalghati and Halalpur

doing politics of name change. Place names are being changed. The people of the state know this truth. There are issues like unemployment and inflation, but the BJP is engaged in changing the name to divert the attention of the public.

I do not agree that any publicity is good publicity for a film: Garima Mehta

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The impressive success of Pathan is a message to the boycott gang that they would not decide what we should watch and what we shouldn't. "The people have stood up and upset them," said Garima Mehta, one of the producers of the film Mission Majnu. Garima was in city on Friday and she said that she does not agree with the idea that any publicity is good publicity for a film. "We work very hard on every film. And a lot of money goes into producing films. So, if a group of people, without seeing a film, start making negative comments about it and begin calling for its boycott, it affects the morale of the industry as a whole," She added.

Garima, who was born and brought up in Bhopal, added that the success of Pathan may reverse the trend of film's releasing on OTT platforms.

About charges of nepotism in the entertainment world, she said that a doc-



tor's daughter becoming a doctor and a neta's son becoming a neta is common enough. "If you dub an actor's children becoming actors as nepotism, then it is there in every field," she said. Garima said that after completing her schooling from Bhopal, she moved to Indore where she studied management. Later, she studied filmmaking in New York and began her career in Bollywood in the field of production. She said that the lead character of the movie Mission Majnu is a sincere and hardworking actor. Mission Majnu, currently streaming on Netflix is an action-packed film of Sidharth and Rashmika based on one of India's daring RAW operations on Pakistani soil in the 1970s.

न्यायालय अतिरिक्त जिला दंडाधिकारी, जिला देवास (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक- 222/रीडर/22

देवास, दिनांक 31/01/2023

प्रकरण क्रमांक 19/अन्य विविध/2023

कारण बताओ सूचना पत्र

प्रति,

- श्री गिरीश पिता लालसिंह वर्मा
- श्रीमती कीर्ति पति लालसिंह वर्मा
- श्री लालसिंह पिता भाउसाहेब वर्मा निवासी- सी-6/166, एमआईजी आवास नगर, देवास

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, विस्तार फायनेंशियल सर्विसेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, प्लाट नंबर 25/3, प्रथम मंजिल, रंका मेन्शन, एसबीआई के ऊपर वाय एन रोड इंदौर द्वारा सरफासी एक्ट, 2002 की धारा 14 के तहत आपकी रहन संपत्ति भूखंड भूमि सर्वे नंबर 174/12 मिन-1, पटवारी हत्का नंबर 17, भूखंड/ भवन गिरीराजधाम ए.बी. रोड (मक्सो रोड) ग्राम बिलावली तहसील व जिला देवास कुल क्षेत्रफल 750 वर्गफीट का वास्तविक कब्जा दिलाये जाने हेतु आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया है।

अतः आप पक्ष समर्थन हेतु इस न्यायालय में नियत पेशी दिनांक 10.02.2023 को दोपहर पश्चात 03.00 बजे उपस्थित रहे।

अतिरिक्त जिला दंडाधिकारी जिला देवास (म.प्र.)

Madhya Pradesh - Planning for a youth-centric tomorrow

Tejas Jain | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has a massive youth population that needs to be engaged through the efforts of the government for developing their skills and making them employable. The state had everything that it has today except a policy that focuses on the holistic growth of youth with a strategic vision.

There was a need to channelize the enormous energy in youth through government intervention and use the youth for creating a society that is driven by creative ideas. This void is now being filled by Chief Minister's Youth Internship Programme - 'Mukhyamantri Jan SevaMitra'

The Internship Programme focuses on giving real-time experience to youths by creating opportunities for giving them an immersive experience of working with stakeholder government, community, NGO, Academia, NGO, Academia, Industry. This will help youths in developing skills as well as make them well aware of the state, its operating structure, and society, thus enhancing their employability.



Interns will be given a Stipend Rs. 8,000/- per month

The scheme will emphasize on creating social impact by catalyzing social linkages & engagements. Youths will be given training under professionals for enhancing their on-field skills through door-to-door connect and by working on well-structured government projects which will enable them to understand the administrative framework and develop a bottom-up approach for real-time evidence generation required for improving the policy and governance model of the

state. Madhya Pradesh government is focused on community upliftment by strengthening scheme delivery to the beneficiaries and empowering young interns in diagnosing delivery mechanisms for enabling community mobilization. The Madhya Pradesh government is nurturing youth by working towards inclusive and equitable growth and unleashing their greater potential. This will enable youths professionally & financially. (Tejas Jain is a budding entrepreneur actively working to promote student entrepreneurship CEO, Muniversiti)



'IT'S A HYPER FORM OF LOVE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop musician Ellie Goulding has released her new single titled 'Like A Saviour' with its video. The track features a pulsating bassline juxtaposed with the 80s synths. The video, directed by Joe Connor with choreography by Daniel Alwell, features Ellie and a cohort of backing dancers stranded in a desert - a landscape they must battle against, as the song reaches its epic crescendo finish.

Ellie took to social media last month to announce the new single and also shared the new release date for her forthcoming album 'Higher Than Heaven' which is now set for release on March 24.

Ellie explained: "We've had some exciting opportunities appear behind the scenes which I cannot wait to share with you in due course. In the meantime, as a thank you for your patience."

For her forthcoming album, Ellie has enlisted some of the finest talents of the pop genre to craft the album with her like Greg Kurstin, Jessie Shatkin, Koz and Andrew Wells, with the finished record seeing Ellie put her own spin on modern pop music. 'Higher Than Heaven' features powerful basslines, synths and euphoric melodies.

Speaking about the new album, Ellie explained: "There was definitely a darkness about (the past two years) that was palpable in

the studio, with everyone having gone through it differently. I think for that reason, nobody wanted to sit and agonise over some relationship or some drama. So that's how this

album came together. Higher Than Heaven is about being passionately in love. But it's a hyper form of love, almost like a drug-induced feeling. It feels almost artificial and there's the potential for a crash."

Ellie Goulding's 'Like A Saviour' has pulsating baseline with 80s-style synth



Los Angeles | Agencies

Ellie Bamber is set to star as Kate Moss in a new film

Ellie Bamber is set to star as Kate Moss in a new film detailing her infamous relationship with Lucian Freud. The "Serpent" and "Nocturnal Animals" star will play the British supermodel in "Moss & Freud", which will cover a period in the early 2000s when she sat for Freud, who will be played by Derek Jacobi ("Murder on the Orient Express"), reports 'Variety'.

The project will be directed by James Lucas, who is known for his Oscar-winning live action short film "The Phone Call", starring Sally Hawkins and Jim Broadbent. Moss will executive produce with the support of the Lucian Freud Archive. Set around Freud's Holland Park studio and London in the heady days of early 2000s Britain, the story opens up to explore Freud's mysterious past and Moss's life as a globally recognised supermodel.

As per 'Variety', Cornerstone is handling worldwide sales at the upcoming European film market. The Reset Collective will handle the release in Australia and New Zealand. At the peak of the supermodel era, Moss was at a crossroads in her life and work when she agreed to sit for Freud - the grandson of psychologist Sigmund Freud - over an intense nine-month period at his studio in Holland Park. Although from seemingly different worlds and often at odds, as their relationship develops, the two personalities discover they are kindred spirits with lots to learn from each other and, as a consequence, about themselves. The process becomes cathartic, leaving both changed forever. Moss recently spoke about the experience on BBC Radio 4 program "Desert Island Discs", revealing that the artist etched a tattoo of a bird into her thigh that now looks like "varicose veins." "I'm still probably the only living person with a Lucian Freud on my thigh," she told host Lauren Laverne.



'THE AFFAIR WAS SEXY AND ENTICING'

Jessica Simpson had an 'enticing' affair her 'younger self would not be proud of'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Jessica Simpson said that she had an affair with a "massive movie star". She is now married to Eric Johnson and has three children.

The star was married to Nick Lachey from 2002 until 2006 - and wrote the story that she "never thought she would tell" as part of new short story for Amazon Original Stories, 'Movie Star', reports Female First UK. She told People magazine: "This is a very personal story and I really thought I would never share it! The whole period was very surreal. There were times I had a lot of fun, don't get me wrong! But a lot of the time it felt isolating because I am someone who likes to deeply connect with people and I didn't know who was trustworthy and who was not. You can't always take people at their very persuasive word - seems obvi-

ous but it really isn't when you are dealing with someone who sells it so well."

As per Female First UK, the 'I Wanna Love You Forever' hitmaker went on to add that although the affair was "sexy and enticing," it made her feel like a "call girl" and she knew her younger self would not be proud of her.

She said: "Yes, there was something sexy and enticing about all this, but there was also something demeaning about it. I felt like a call girl. I didn't care if he was my teenage fantasy come to life, this was not a choice that the same girl, my younger self, would be proud of."

"Not betraying your own heart and diminishing your self-worth actually feels so much better than immediate gratification of living in a lie," she continued. "I also learned that there is a wide range of what monogamy means in Hollywood!"



TAYLOR LAUTNER OPENS UP ON BODY IMAGE ISSUES AFTER 'TWILIGHT'

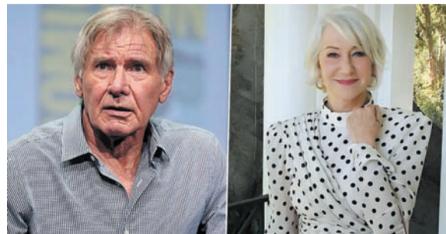
Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Taylor Lautner was left with body image issues after starring in 'Twilight'. The actor spent his formative years playing shapeshifter Jacob Black in the series of vampire films based on the books by Stephanie Meyer. The actor explained that he was later "affected" by having to appear shirtless so often on screen, reports Female First UK. He said: "When I was in it, when I was 16 through 20 years old, I was starring in this franchise where my character is known for taking his shirt off every other second. No, I did not know that it was affecting me or that it was going to affect me in future with body image. In the first movie, I was 140 lbs and in 'New Moon' I was 175, so that wasn't my natural body. And I had to work hard for it, and I had to work very, very hard just to maintain it. As per Female First UK, the 'Tracers' star went on to explain that he had a negative reaction to seeing images of his changing body shared online and reminded fans that they can change whatever they want to about their body physically but it will be "all for nothing" if their mental health is not in check.

Helen Mirren is 'still sexy' with 'remarkable' acting talent: Harrison Ford

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Indiana Jones' star Harrison Ford has spoken out about actress Helen Mirren, calling her "sexy" while admiring her talents as a "remarkable" actress. The actor discussed his former co-star while appearing on 'The Late Show With Stephen Colbert', in which he spoke about the two working together in 1923, a prequel series to 'Yellowstone', reports Mirror.co.uk. Harrison will play Jacob Dutton, while Helen will portray his wife, Cara, on the



Western drama. It's not the first time Helen and Harrison have played each other's love interests on a project, previously starring in 1986 thriller, 'The Mosquito Coast', their first film together. Speaking to host Stephen Colbert, Harrison said that working with Helen was the deciding factor in him joining the cast of the spinoff show.

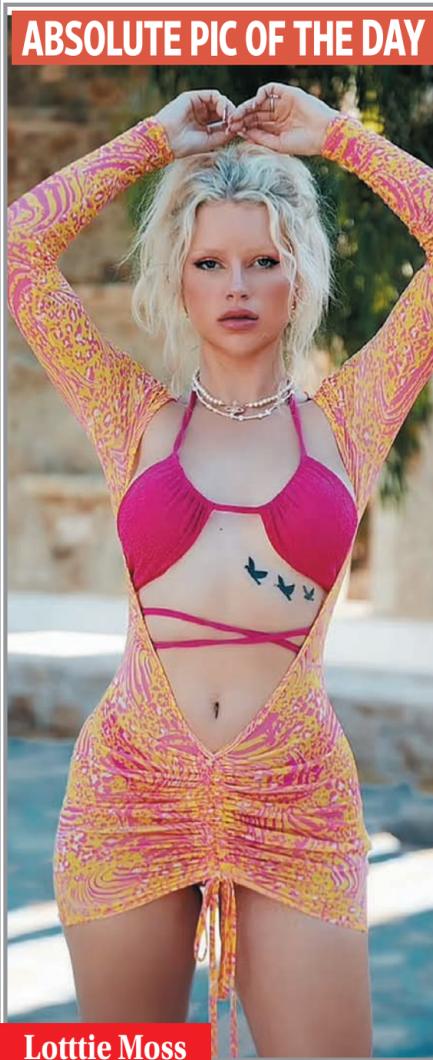
As per Mirror.co.uk, the host then pulled up a photo of the two

actors together in 'The Mosquito Coast', saying the pair were: "Sexy and still sexy, it's amazing."

Harrison replied: "Yeah, she is still sexy." Upon asking Harrison if he had ever "made out" with his co-star, Stephen explained: "I ask because I have made out with Helen Mirren. First time she came on here, the first time I ever met her, she came on and plants a wet one on me. Really grabs my head. I was paralyzed for about five minutes." Harrison laughed: "She's

out there", before admitting he thinks she is a talented actor. He said, quoted by Mirror.co.uk: "It's been remarkable to watch her. There's a lot of physical action and she just jumps right in and does stuff you don't imagine Helen Mirren

would do. Dame Helen Mirren." Helen recently opened up about her first experience of working with Harrison, saying that she felt "very intimidated" by his glittering resume, having previously been cast in Star Wars and Blade Runner.



Lottie Moss

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



INDIA RISE TO NO. 3 IN IBA'S WORLD BOXING RANKINGS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India continue to take rapid strides in the boxing world as the country jumped to the third spot in the International Boxing Association's (IBA) latest world ranking.

The exceptional performances from its boxers saw India accumulate 36,300 ranking points, only behind Kazakhstan (48,100) and Uzbekistan (37,600). They have also surpassed top boxing powerhouse nations including countries like the USA and Cuba, which are ranked fourth and ninth respectively in the current standings. Indian boxing has witnessed an unprecedented rise in recent years with the teams consistently finishing amongst the top 5 countries at global multi-nation tournaments such as World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. In the last two editions of the Commonwealth Games (CWG), Indian boxers have won an unprecedented 16 medals and Indian Boxers have had 140 medals to their



names since 2008 in top international events. Since 2016, Indian boxers have won 16 Elite World Championships medals across men's and women's categories. BFI has also host-

ed several big-ticket international events in the country and from March 15 to 26, they will organize the prestigious Women's World Boxing Championships for the third time in India.

India's excellent show has also extended to the junior and youth level with 22 medals from the last two Youth World Championships indicating at a shining future for Indian boxing.

India began preparations for the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test

The Indian Test side, led by opener Rohit Sharma began its preparations for the first Test against Australia starting from February 9 at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Batters Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav were among the first players pictured on social media accounts of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to have batting practice in the nets.

Ravindra Jadeja, who was deemed fit to feature in the series after playing a Ranji Trophy match for Saurashtra against Tamil Nadu, was also seen padding up and having a hit with the bat. Australia and India, currently ranked number one and two respectively in both the MRF ICC Men's Test Team Rankings and the ongoing ICC World Test Championship 2023 cycle, will meet in a highly-anticipated four-match series to be held in Nagpur, New Delhi, Dharamshala and Ahmedabad.

India is the current holder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, having won the last three series against Australia in 2017, 2018-19 and 2020-21. India has hosted Australia in 14 Test series and



holds an 8-4 lead, with two of the series being drawn. Eight of these Test series in India have been played for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with the hosts holding

a 7-1 series lead in that time and a 16-5 win-loss ratio across the 25 Tests on their home soil, while Australia last won a Test series in India in 2004.

Real Madrid's victory marred by injuries to Benzema, Militao

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

Real Madrid moved back to within five points of La Liga leaders FC Barcelona after a 2-0 win at home to Valencia.

Real Madrid were always on top of a side that parted ways with coach Gennaro Gattuso on Monday, with stand-in coach 'Voro' Gonzalez unable to produce a reaction.

The first half of the match played on Thursday night saw Real Madrid totally dominate after 15 minutes in which the visitors were able to control the ball without being put under excessive pressure. Carlo Ancelotti's side took control of the ball but failed to create many clear-cut chances. They also lost defender Eder Militao after a collision with Valencia winger Samuel Lino. Militao had to leave the game after 36 minutes and was replaced by Dani Carvajal, reports Xinhua



news agency.

Antonio Rudiger had the ball in the Valencia net deep into first-half injury time, but the goal was disallowed for a clear foul from Karim Benzema on Yunus Musah. It was no surprise when Real Madrid opened the scoring in the 52nd minute. Marco Asensio, who had missed a couple of chances in the first half, rifled home with his left foot after an assist from Benzema. Vinicius Jr doubled Madrid's lead two minutes later after another assist from Benzema. But the French strik-

er set alarm bells ringing just six minutes later when he asked to be changed and was replaced by Rodrygo.

Valencia had Giorgi Mamardashvili to thank for keeping the score down in the 74th minute when he made an excellent save to deny Fede Valverde. This happened just two minutes after Valencia had been reduced to 10 men as Gabriel Paulista was sent off following a wild challenge on Vinicius Jr, which ended any chance the visitors had of taking anything from the game.

SAFF U-20 Women's Championship

Substitutes score three hat-tricks as India trounce Bhutan 12-0

Dhaka | Agencies

Three hat-tricks by as many substitutes helped India U-20 women's football team trounce Bhutan 12-0 in their opening match of the SAFF U-20 Womens Championship at the Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

Messers Neha, Anita Kumari, and Lynda Kom, netted three goals each after coming off the bench, as the Young Tigresses completed the demolition job, one for which they have thoroughly trained in Chennai.

It was Kajol Dsouza, who first beat the defence, as she latched on to a ball in the opposition third, drove her way into the Bhutan box, and squared it for Apurna, who poked it past a hapless Bhutan keeper.

Substitute Neha soon made her mark on the game as she zipped into the box from the left and sent in a low cross for Nitu Linda to tap it in, after the latter missed a similar open goal just minutes earlier.

Neha turned scorer two minutes into the first



half added time, as she produced an amazing individual effort that meant India took a four goal lead into the tunnel at the breather. The Young Tigresses picked up where they had left off in the second half, when Sunita Munda and Anita Kumari also came on to join the fray. It did not take the latter much time to put her own name on the scoresheet, as she tapped a cross by Neha into the net just five minutes into the second half. Another five minutes later, Anita turned provider, feeding a low cross to Neha, who duly obliged for the sixth.

Anita Kumari used her pace to get behind the Bhutan defence and calmly slotted it past the keeper to score her second with just a little over 20 minutes of regulation time left on the clock.

Lynda Kom completed her hat-trick with 15 minutes left, when Anita intercepted a clearance by the keeper and passed to the former, who was calm enough to poke it home. Anita completed her own hat-trick minutes later, when she broke free on the right, entered the box and slit it between the keeper and the near post.

ILLT20 BILLINGS, RUTHERFORD HELP DESERT VIPERS BEAT DUBAI CAPITALS

Dubai | Agencies

Desert Vipers dominated in all departments of the game to produce a 22-run win over Dubai Capitals in the 25th match of the DP World ILT20 held at the Dubai International Stadium, confirming a top-two finish for them.

Although it was a must-win match for Dubai Capitals, they could muster only 160 for 7 in 20 overs chasing Desert Vipers' total of 182 for 7 on. This win has carried Desert Vipers to the top of the table and guaranteed them a top-two finish.

The Desert Vipers bowled and fielded brilliantly after Sam Billings and Sherfane Rutherford cracked half-centuries to put on 80 runs in just seven overs for the fifth wicket. Rutherford hit Yusuf Pathan for five sixes in the 16th over to take 31 runs.



This onslaught proved to be vital in Desert Vipers' win.

Speaking about his performance, Desert Vipers' Sherfane Rutherford

said, "Our coach has given me the role of giving the team the best finish I can and it's good that I'm carrying out the role well. I hope I can contin-

ue performing for the team in the rest of the games."

Meanwhile, Dubai Capitals' Robin Uthappa said, "The five sixes from Sherfane Rutherford definitely took the momentum away from us. We dropped a catch of Sam Billings just before that over. I thought we did a really good job to restrict the Vipers to the score they were at before that over."

Brief scores

Desert Vipers 182/7 in 20 overs (Rohan Mustafa 31, Sam Billings 54, Sherfane Rutherford 50; Fred Klassen 3-34) beat Dubai Capitals 160/7 in 20 overs (Robin Uthappa 30, Sikandar Raza 41, Rovman Powell 33; Sheldon Cottrell 2-36, Luke Wood 2-36) by 22 runs.

Bowling sessions before going for World Cup helping me in bowling: Deepti Sharma

East London | Agencies

India's off-spin all-rounder Deepti Sharma revealed that working on her bowling in specific sessions before arriving in South Africa is giving her results, as seen from a Player of the Series award in the recent women's T20I tri-series.

In the women's T20I tri-series, Deepti picked nine wickets, averaging 9.89, apart from making 49 runs to take the Player of the Series award. She had earlier picked 13 wickets at a remarkable average of 7.69 in India's victorious campaign at the Women's T20 Asia Cup last year.

"I had worked with a single wicket with different balls like



with heavy ball and light ball. It was a turning wicket, so I got a lot of help. I bowled to my strength. Like in the Power-play, I go for breakthroughs and it helped the team. Whatever sessions that I did before the World Cup has helped me in my bowling," she said in the post-match press conference.

Though India lost the tri-series finals to South Africa,

Deepti, who has taken 96 wickets from 87 T20Is so far in her career, insisted the visitors' did get a lot of positives from the tournament.

"There are lots of positives from the series, we did well as a bowling and batting unit. We have to just carry on these things to the World Cup as well. Whether we play England or any other team, we have to just focus on the things we did well here and continue doing that over there as well."

"Obviously South Africa has home conditions. But as a team, we have to carry forward what we have done right in the tri-series and not think about the opposition but our own team, what we can do better."

Joginder Sharma announced retirement from all forms of cricket

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Fast bowler Joginder Sharma, who registered his name in the minds of cricket fans after bowling India to victory in the inaugural Mens T20 World Cup in 2007, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

"Today with immense gratitude and humility I announce my retirement from all forms of International and domestic cricket. My journey from 2002 to 2017 has been the most wonderful years of my life, honour representing India level of sport," he wrote in a letter addressed to BCCI

secretary Jay Shah through his social media accounts.

Sharma had represented India in four ODIs and as many T20Is from 2004 to 2007, picking five wickets across both formats. In the Indian Premier League (IPL), he represented Chennai Super Kings in the first four seasons, picking 12 wickets in 16 matches. "I am grateful for the opportunities given to me by the BCCI wicket Association Chennai Super Kings and the Haryana government to all my teammates coaches Mentors and support staff absolute privilege to have played with you all for helping turn my dream into reality."

De Kock revitalises the campaign of Durban's Super Giants

Durban | Agencies

Quinton de Kock led from the front with a half-century to revitalise the campaign of Durban's Super Giants in the SA20 with a five-wicket victory at Kingsmead.

De Kock showed great courage to battle through the pain of an injured finger. The skipper struck 63 off 41 balls to set up his team's successful chase before Matthew Breetzke took the home team over the line with an undefeated 48 off 39 balls. MI Cape Town, though, pushed the Super Giants to the penultimate ball before Breetzke pulled a six into the stands to surpass the visitors' 165/5.

The visitors did not have the best of starts after being inserted by De Kock as they lost both openers Dewald Brevis



(13) and Grant Roelofsen (10) early on. Proteas' batter Rassie van der Dussen and Australian star and new recruit Tim David were forced to rebuild the MI Cape Town innings with solid contributions of 43 and 33 respectively. Dwaine Pretorius was the most successful bowler Super Giants bowler with figures of 2-38 but suffered at the backend of the innings when Delano Potgieter (32* off 17 balls) was in full flow.

The two left-handers De Kock and Breetzke, though, were in fine form with a 65-run partnership that reset the run chase. A rapid 48-run partnership of just 29 balls between Breetzke and Keemo Paul maintained the momentum with the West Indian providing the game-changing innings of 31 off just 18 deliveries.

Prime Volleyball League 2023 season to feature 31 games

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The upcoming season two of Prime Volleyball League will feature 31 matches from February 4 to March 5, 2023 as eight franchises from eight different cities of India get ready to battle it out for the ultimate glory.

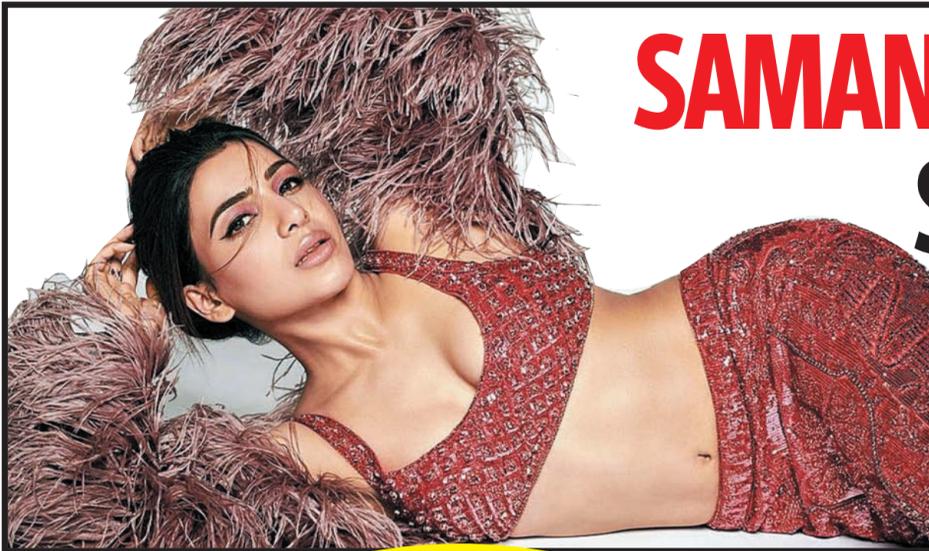
The eight franchises are Calicut Heroes, Kochi Blue Spikers, Ahmedabad Defenders, Hyderabad Black Hawks, Chennai Blitz, Bengaluru Torpedoes, defending champions Kolkata Thunderbolts and latest entrant Mumbai Meteors. As per organisers, the top volleyball players from the country will once again get a chance to showcase their skills in front of thousands



of fans. Meanwhile, Volleyball World and Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) announced India as the host nation for the Men's Club World Championships for two years in partnership with the Prime Volleyball League. As the host nation, the winners of the Prime Volleyball League in 2023 and 2024 will represent India in the tournaments, where they will face fierce competition against established clubs from the top volleyball nations from around the globe like Italy, Brazil, and Iran etc.



SAMANTHA HAD TIGHT WORK SCHEDULE IN JANUARY



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who swayed the nation with her moves in "Oo Antava" from "Pushpa: The Rise", and her work in the recent release "Yashoda", recently shared that the year started on a busy note for her as January was all about work for her.

On Friday, the actress took to her Instagram to share throwback pictures that capture her working on herself

and working on projects. She has posted several pictures including the one where she can be seen spending time with the team of "Citadel".

Another picture sees her in the look for the trailer launch of "Shaakuntalam" and also a picture of her workout from the gym. The actress is now at work in full force with nothing seems to be stopping her.

She titled the post, "January".

The last picture from her carousel is a message she shared about self-love

and motivation.

And indicating how she got back on her feet. She had earlier opened up about a skin ailment, Myositis that she had got but is now clearly back with full force, we can see there is no stopping for the most popular actress in India.

On the work front, Samantha has an interesting slate of projects including the Disney-like fairytale film "Shaakuntalam", the romantic comedy, "Kushi", and "Citadel".

Team Absolute | Mumbai

If you like the visuals of the song "Tere Pyaar Mein" from the upcoming Ranbir Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor-starrer "Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar". The song, which gives out a vibrant and cool vibe in terms of the visuals, has been shot across eight locations in Spain.

The makers purposefully took the decision to shoot in such locations to add more vibrance and freshness to the song. Spain always adds a distinctive texture to the frame, and the fans of the Zoya Akhtar directorial "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" would agree.

The first few frames of the song, where Shraddha looks ravishing in a flared red dress while Ranbir looks stunning in a white casual shirt, were shot in the beautiful Spanish village of Besalu.

Ranbir is seen chasing Shraddha playfully across the beautiful mediaeval town

through its cobblestone streets and beautiful bridges. Besalu brims with its own character in the song.

A major part of the song has also been shot across the towns of Mallorca, an island with ravishing beach coves and beautiful villages. The water sequence where Ranbir and Shraddha are seen oozing sizzling chemistry has been shot in a tiny cove beach called Cala Deia, which is known for celebrity staycations.

In addition, it has also been shot on the Borne Street and the beaches of Barcelona along with Sollar, Cala s'Almunia and Vallademesa. Talking about the song, "Tere Pyaar Mein" has been sung by Arijit Singh, composed by Pritam with lyrics penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. Directed by Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, and presented by T-Series' Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar.

RANBIR-SHRADDHA'S UPCOMING MOVIE'S SONG WAS SHOT ACROSS 8 SPANISH LOCATIONS



Sidharth Malhotra-Kiara Advani to marry in Jaisalmer, preps commence

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul's intimate wedding, it is time for Shershaah couple to tie the knot. If reports are to be believed, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani are all set to tie the knot in Jaisalmer on 6th February 2023. Although the couple and their families have been tight-lipped about the wedding celebrations, both Kiara and Sidharth have been spotted multiple times in Mumbai doing their final rounds of wedding preparations. According to some news report, the couple will get married in tra-

ditional Punjabi style and it will be a private affair. Only close friends and family members from both sides will be invited to the wedding. However, big wigs from the industry, such as Karan Johar, Manish Malhotra, Ashvini Yardi, among others, expected to be present for Sid-Kiara's big day. Sidharth Malhotra, who hails from New Delhi, has visited his home to go over a few things pertaining to the wedding.

On Tuesday, Kiara Advani was spotted at celebrity fashion designer Manish Malhotra's house. Reportedly, she had made that visit for her wedding lehenga and was there for a last-minute trial.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Elnaaz Norouzi

FARAAZ : THE FILM MANAGES TO HOOK THE VIEWERS

FILM REVIEW

AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by: Hansal Mehta
Star cast: Aditya Rawal, Zahan Kapoor, Juhi Babbar Soni, Aamir Ali, Pallak Lalwani
Duration: 110 minutes
Rating: - 3/5

Story: Faraaz is based on the real-life terror attack on a Dhaka Cafe in 2016. The film showcases how on a claustrophobic night, customers at Dhaka's Holey Artisan cafe were held hostage by a group of 5 young boys who were on a killing spree towards the Non-Muslim citizens. It mainly revolves around Faraaz Ayaz Hossain, a 20-year-old Bangladeshi Muslim, who was among the hostages killed during the 12-hour siege. He was allowed to leave as he was a Bangladeshi Muslim, but the terrorists refused to let his friends go. Faraaz chose to stand by his friends, including an Indian and was subsequently shot dead.

Review: The film opens with a bunch of young boys getting ready for what turns out to be a fairly



lethal mission. After vehemently refusing to go Stanford University for further studies, Faraaz arranges to have dinner with his pals at the Holey Artisan restaurant on a fateful night, where the attack is being prepared. Librus (Aditya Rawal) is leading the group of five militants whose aim is to shoot down just those who don't belong to Islam. What unfolds ahead is a series of

gruesome events.

The film, like every Hansal Mehta project, keeps it close to reality and raises questions to the audience about religion, culture and identity. In the crisp runtime of 1 hour 50 minutes, the filmmaker makes sure the tension-laden moments are chalked out well to keep the viewers hooked. One of the major highlight of the film over-

all is the thrilling climax. It also boasts of nuanced representation of ideology of a rati and an irrational Muslim without glorifying either.

Well, the film was not free of drawbacks. The proceedings were at a slow place and some developments were so convenient and predictable that it turned out to be unconvincing. When such a story is

presented, a gist of what provoked the central to go on a killing spree was required. The film lacked that. The feeble writing banal dialogues were another underwhelming point of the film. There were also not enough conflicting moments between Jaahan Kapoor and Aditya Rawal which was quite disappointing. Also, the dialogues uttered by the characters were not hard-hitting. When it comes to performances, Aditya Rawal steals the show as Librus. He has performed the character with utmost gumption. Zahaan Kapoor makes a promising debut, however he has a limited screen presence. One wished to see more of him. Rest of the cast, Juhi Babbar Soni Aamir Ali, Pallak Lalwani, and Reshham Sahaani lend support but have nothing much to do.

Talking of other technical aspects, the cinematography and sound departments deserve special mention. The grit and tension are captured effortlessly. While the background score and sounds of guns blazing are equally gut-wrenching creating an apt atmosphere. Overall, the film is to be watched for fine performances and if you are oblivious of the dreadful attacks.