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Need for Centre to intervene as AP's debts cross Rs 12.50 lakh...



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SC issues notice on plea against release of 11 convicts on Bilkis Bano case, says

Indian Embassy in Kathmandu claims Amritpal Singh hiding in Nepal: Report

'IT IS HORRENDOUS'

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on a petition filed by 2002 Gujarat riots victim Bilkis Bano against the premature release of 11 persons convicted of her gang-rape and murder of her family members, calling the offence "horrendous". The bench directed the parties involved in the matter to complete the pleadings by the next date of hearing and also asked the state government to be ready with the relevant files connected with granting remission to the convicts on the next date of hearing.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna observed that before hearing the plea, the court would like to know what is the gamut of issues, which would aid in knowing the framework within which the issues have to be considered.

Advocate Shobha Gupta, representing Bilkis Bano, submitted that the state (Maharashtra), where the trial was held should decide on the remission of the convicts, and not the state where offence was committed.

During the hearing in the matter, the bench orally observed that the offence was "horrendous". Advocate Vrinda Grover, representing one of the petitioners, contended that the trial judge



said no remission should be granted and also the CBI said that remission should not be given, yet they were released.

As the judges queried how many years each accused had spent in jail, counsel, representing one of the convicts, said over 15 years and 14 years is the requirement for consideration under

Gujarat government remission policy. However, it was contested by a counsel, representing one of the petitioners.

A contention was made during the hearing in the matter that all the petitions against the release of 11 convicts were "emotional pleas". However, the bench said it is only on the law and has nothing to do with emotions. Noting that the crime against Bilkis Bano and her family was horrendous one, the bench made it clear that the matter will be decided on the basis of law. After hearing detailed submissions, the top court scheduled the matter for further hearing on April 18.

All 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15 last year.

UP GOVT'S PLEA AGAINST HC DIRECTION TO GIVE JOB TO FAMILY MEMBER OF HATHRAS VICTIM DISMISSED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed Uttar Pradesh government's plea against high court direction to consider giving a job to a family member of the victim in Hathras case and also the relocation of the family, saying "the state should not come up in such matters". The bench told Garima Prasad, additional advocate general (AAG) of Uttar Pradesh, "State should not come up in such matters... Prasad submitted that the state government is ready to relocate the family but they wanted a job either in Noida or Delhi."

Declining to entertain the state government's plea, the Chief Justice said, "these are facilities provided to the family. We should not interfere. State should not come up in these matters..."

BRS LEADERS LASH OUT AT BJP OVER BILKIS BANO RAPIST SHARING STAGE WITH MP

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders K. Kavitha and her brother K.T. Rama Rao have lashed out at BJP after one of the convicts in Bilkis Bano gang-rape case shared stage with a BJP MP and MLA in Gujarat. Kavitha, daughter of BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, took to Twitter to express her outrage. "Bilkis Bano rapist openly shares stage with BJP's MPs and MLAs. What have we become as a community that perpetrators of heinous crimes against women are being celebrated and given a platform while the victims plead for jus-

Justice. India is watching!", tweeted Kavitha. "Welcome to Amritkaal," taunted KTR. "Balatkara Justification Party and its brazen embrace of these rapists is a true reflection of their mindset," tweeted KTR. Shailesh Bhatt, one of the 11 convicted in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case and murder of her kin during Gujarat riots of 2002, shared the stage with a BJP MP and MLA in Gujarat at a government function in Dahod district on March 25. The convict was sharing the stage with Dahod MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor and Limkheda MLA Sailesh Bhabhor.

Team Absolute | Kathmandu

The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has claimed that absconding pro-Khalistan radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh is currently hiding in Nepal and requested the Himalayan nation's government agencies to arrest him if he tries to flee. The Mission made the claim in a letter to the Department of Consular Services under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 25. "The esteemed Ministry is requested to inform the Department of Immigration not to permit Amritpal Singh to travel through Nepal for any third country and arrest him if he attempts to escape from Nepal using an Indian passport or any other fake passport under intimation to this mission," reads a copy of the letter obtained by The Kathmandu Post.

The letter and Singh's personal details have been circulated to all the concerned agencies from hotels to airlines, multiple sources told The Kathmandu Post. Singh is said to be possessing multiple passports with different identities.

The development comes amid a massive crackdown on Amritpal Singh and his associates in Punjab.

Amritpal Singh, against whom the National Security Act has been invoked and a non-bailable warrant issued, has been on the run despite the massive manhunt



launched to nab him since March 18. The self-styled preacher had returned from Dubai last year.

CLOSE AIDE OF AMRITPAL ARRESTED IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh: As the hunt of Waris Punjab De' chief and fugitive pro-Khalistani leader Amritpal Singh is still on, the separatist leader's close aide and gunman, who is an ex-serviceman, was arrested by the police for his alleged involvement in the Ajnala violence case.

The accused, Varinder Singh, belonged to Patti subdivision of Tarn Taran district in Punjab. Following the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA), he was sent to Assam's Dibrugarh jail. Amritsar Senior Superintendent of Police Satinder Singh said the accused was one of the gunmen of Amritpal Singh.

Mumbai's main water pipelines burst, half the city to suffer water cuts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A major water main pipeline was damaged and burst during the construction of a water culvert near the Mulund Octroi Checkpost in Mumbai on Monday afternoon, the BMC Disaster Control said.

The 2,345 mm Mumbai-2 mainline, which supplies water from the Pise-Panjrapur Treatment Plant Complex, was damaged during the ongoing work carried out by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRDC) at Hariom Nagar.

Eyewitnesses said that a massive water jet was seen shooting at least 20 metres upwards and lakhs of litres of the precious drinking water flowing from there into the gutters, flooding



some of the low-lying areas around.

Moving swiftly, the BMC engineers have shut off the water on the affected main pipeline and initiated the repair works. Consequently, the BMC will impose a 15 percent water cut in almost half of the city, comprising most parts of south Mumbai and the eastern suburbs for 48 hours starting from 10 p.m.

on March 27 till 10 p.m. on March 29.

The areas that will be hit are the BMC's Wards T (Mulund east-west), S (Bhandup, Nahur, Kanjurmarg and Vikhroli east), N (Vikhroli west, Ghatkopar east-west, L (Kurla east), M East/West - Entire region, in the eastern suburbs.

In south Mumbai, entire A, B, E, F-North and F-South, shall experience the 15 per cent water cut including the posh residential, business, trading, commercial hubs and important administration offices of the state and Central government located in different areas. The BMC Disaster Control has appealed to all people to use water sparingly for the next couple of days and cooperate with the civic authorities.

DALAI LAMA NAMES US-BORN MONGOLIAN BOY AS 3RD HIGHEST LEADER IN BUDDHISM

Dharamsala: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has named an eight-year-old US-born Mongolian boy as the reincarnation of a spiritual leader.

He has been recognised as the reincarnation of the third most important leader in Tibetan Buddhism as the 10th Khalkha Jetsun Dharma Rinpoche. The elderly spiritual leader was pictured with the boy during a ceremony recognising him as the 10th Khalkha Jetsun Dharma Rinpoche. The ceremony took place earlier this month in Dharamsala, where the Dalai Lama (87) lives in exile.

"We have the reincarnation of Khalkha Jetsun Dharma Rinpoche of Mongolia with us today," the Dalai Lama said during the ceremony which was attended by 5,000 monks and nuns, 600 Mongolians and other members.

BJP functionary hacked to death in Puducherry

Puducherry | Agencies

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) functionary, Senthil Kumar, has been hacked to death at Villianur in Puducherry by some unknown assailants following which the police have constituted four special teams to nab the killers, the police said on Monday. Senthil Kumar was close to BJP leader and Puducherry Home Minister, A. Namassivayam.

The police said that the incident took place at



around 9 p.m. on Sunday when the BJP functionary was waiting near a tea stall. Police said that a group of assailants who reached the spot on seven motorcycles hacked Senthil Kumar to death. According to eye-witnesses, the assailants also hurled two country bombs at Senthil Kumar,

following which smoke engulfed the area and they hacked him to death. The gruesome murder occurred near a bakery adjacent to Kannaki Government High School. Tension prevailed in Villianur area with a large number of BJP supporters reaching the spot of crime. A heavy contingent of police is camping in the area. Senthil Kumar was also into real estate and many other businesses apart from looking after the BJP's party-related matters in Mangalam constituency.

HARYANVI TRACK '2 NUMBARI' ACCIDENTALLY PLAYED IN DELHI METRO'S PA SYSTEM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Metro commuters were left amused after a Haryanvi track '2 Numbari' was played accidentally by the Metro Train Operator instead of the usual announcement on the PA (public announcement) system.

A video clip related to the episode in which the song can be heard is doing rounds on social media.

An official said that the song was not played intentionally and "might have



been done accidentally by the Train Operator".

A Twitter user, Amandeep Singh, along with the caption: "Reason why I love Delhi", shared the video on Twitter and other social media platforms, which has now gone viral.

Passengers can be heard laughing their hearts out. In the video, the song could be heard for a few seconds and was then turned off. Twitter and social media users shared some hilarious comments.

महाराष्ट्र शासन | स्वातंत्र्याचा अमृत महोत्सव | G20 INDIA 2023

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प्रधानमंत्री

एकनाथ शिंदे
मुख्यमंत्री

विविध योजनांतून कृषी विकास शेतकऱ्यांच्या उन्नतीचा ध्यास!

निर्णय वेगवान

#महाराष्ट्र गतिमान

गतिमानतेचे प्रमुख टप्पे-

शेती, सहकार, सिंचनासाठी २९ हजार १६३ कोटी रुपयांची तरतूद

| नमो शेतकरी महासन्मान निधी केंद्र सरकारचे ६००० रुपये आणि राज्य सरकारचे ६००० रुपये याप्रमाणे शेतकऱ्यांना प्रतिवर्षी १२,००० रुपये मिळणार. राज्यात १.१५ कोटी शेतकऱ्यांना लाभ, ६९०० कोटी रुपये राज्य सरकार देणार.

| केवळ १ रुपयात पीकविमा. शेतकऱ्यांना कोणताही भुर्दंड नाही. ३ हजार ३१२ कोटी रुपये राज्य सरकार देणार.

| मागेल त्याला शेततळे या योजनेसोबतच आता मागेल त्याला फळबाग ठिबक सिंचन, शेतांचे अस्तरीकरण, शेडनेट, हरितगृह, आधुनिक पेरणीयंत्र, कॉटन ब्रेडर.

| जलयुक्त शिवार योजना ५००० गावांमध्ये राबविणार. गाळमुक्त धरण, गाळयुक्त शिवार योजनाही राबविणार.

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ROC-2022-23/No - 5/C 7079



NEED FOR CENTRE TO INTERVENE AS AP'S DEBTS CROSS RS 12.50 LAKH CRORE: TDP

Amaravati | Agencies

Leader of Opposition in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, Yanamala Ramakrishnu, on Monday expressed surprise as to why either the Centre or the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) not taking it seriously when the state's total debt burden has crossed a whopping Rs 12.50 lakh crore.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former Finance Minister said that the state has "totally collapsed" after Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has become the Chief Minister and the people have never witnessed such a dire situation.

"Still, why neither the Centre nor the RBI is taking the situation seriously," he asked.

Ramakrishnu told reporters that the YSRCP government not only created problems for the people of the state but also crippled the whole economy. He remarked that Jagan has the credit of pushing the economy to the lowest level.

Expressing serious concern that every individual carries Rs 5.5 lakh debt on his or her head now, he said that by March 2024, the outstanding debts will go up further.

Despite all this, the RBI is according



permissions to the state to borrow more funds and the people in the coming days will be facing a massive burden of Rs 15,000 crore in the shape of revision of RTC and power charges and to meet the daily needs, Yanamala Ramakrishnu maintained.

Though the state government has been claiming that thousands of crores are being spent for welfare schemes, the report of the

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) says that the funds are not reaching completely to the beneficiaries, he pointed out.

By that time the YSRCP Government completes its five-year term, the funds spent on the welfare schemes alone will reach Rs 2.70 lakh crore, he said adding that the financial imbalances are increasing by the day. The CAG has clearly mentioned in its report that Rs 48,000 crore has been

misused in the 2019-20 fiscal while there are no accounts for Rs one lakh crore in the financial year of 2020-21, he stated.

The CAG also mentioned in its report for 2021-22 that accounts for 1,18,000 crore have not been shown, Yanamala said and asked what the state government is doing with these funds without giving the details of the accounts. This clearly indicates that these funds worth lakhs of crores are being diverted, the former Finance Minister said and expressed concern that in the coming days the interest on these loans itself will be in lakhs of crores per annum.

Ramakrishnu asked as to why salaries in lakhs of rupees are being paid for the advisors. "What additional qualifications do they have," he questioned and said that the public money should not be paid as salaries for political advisors. All this is causing a huge burden on the exchequer, he said and asked how volunteers can be appointed with public funds.

He also felt that the Central funds too are being diverted and expressed surprise that the Centre is not questioning this. The Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House felt an immediate need for the Centre to interfere and the RBI too should initiate proper steps to correct the situation.

Conspiracy to stop free electricity scheme in Delhi: Power Minister Atishi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Power Minister Atishi on Monday alleged that a conspiracy is being hatched to stop the free electricity scheme that Delhi government is providing to the people of the national capital.

"The scheme which has been a huge success is being obstructed by some officials in connivance with Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena. To investigate the matter further and to find out the truth behind the conspiracy, a special audit of the accounts of all the electricity companies of Delhi for the last 8 years will be conducted by the CAG auditor," she said.

Atishi also noted that the officials have removed experts appointed by the government on the boards of power companies in a hurry, and this has raised questions about the nexus between the officials of LG and the power companies.

Addressing the media, she also questioned the removal of chartered accountants and power sector experts from the boards of power companies. "Why is the file related to free electricity not being



shown to the elected government of Delhi? Are the LG and the officials conniving with the power companies and hatching some big conspiracy?" Atishi asked.

Atishi said that a special audit of power companies will expose the conspiracies to stop the free electricity being given to the people of Delhi by the Arvind Kejriwal government. It will be clear from the special audit that the money given to the power companies for free electricity has not been misused, she added.

"The file related to the scheme which came out from the LG office 15 days ago, has

yet to reach the Chief Minister, the Electricity Minister, or the cabinet. This delay is highly suspicious and suggests that a significant conspiracy is underway to obstruct the provision of free electricity to the people of Delhi.

"The deliberate hiding of such an essential file from the Chief Minister and the cabinet raises alarming questions. Why are some officials preventing the file from reaching the concerned authorities? Is there any attempt to prevent the continuation of the free electricity scheme in Delhi?" Atishi said.

2 CAUGHT IN BIHAR'S GAYA FOR SMUGGLING LIQUOR IN AMBULANCE COFFIN

Patna | Agencies

Two persons were arrested in Bihar's Gaya on Monday on the charge of smuggling liquor from Jharkhand, concealed in the coffin of an ambulance, Excise Department officials said.

The accused, identified as Lalit Kumar Mahto, a resident of Ranchi, and Pankaj Kumar Yadav, a resident of Chatra district in Jharkhand, had put a coffin in an ambulance to smuggle liquor. The excise sleuths have recovered 212 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquors of different brands inside the coffin.

The incident came to light on Monday morning when the accused came from Jharkhand via NH19. They were intercepted at Dobhi check post in Gaya district.

"We were doing routine checking of vehicles coming from Jharkhand and West Bengal. We have spotted an ambulance coming from NH19. Our personnel stopped the ambulance. When we asked the driver Mahto, he said that a dead body was inside the coffin. When we asked them to open the coffin, they became uncomfortable. When we opened the



coffin, 212 liquor bottles of different brands were found in it," Gaya's Excise Inspector Dipak Kumar Singh said.

The accused were booked under relevant sections of liquor prohibition act.

Liquor has been banned in Bihar since April 2016. Still, smugglers are using different modus operandi to smuggle liquor from neighbouring states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. A large number of smugglers also used the Nepal border route to smuggle liquor bottles.

BSF recovers 6 kg narcotics dropped by drone in Punjab

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday seized six kg narcotics dropped by a drone in Punjab's Amritsar sector, an official said. "On March 26, at around 9.36 p.m., BSF troops deployed at the International Border heard the buzzing sound of a suspected flying object (drone) entering from Pakistan into the Indian Territory near Toor village in Amritsar district," the BSF said.

During thorough search of the area on Monday, BSF troops recovered six packets, containing 6.27 kg heroin, inside a bag lying in the fields near the village. A motorcycle was also found nearby.

BYPOLL IMPACT:

Mamata replaces minority affairs minister, takes charge herself

Kolkata | Agencies

The defeat in the recent bypoll to the Sagardighi Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district, which hinted at substantial erosion of a dedicated vote-bank in the minority-dominated erstwhile Trinamool Congress stronghold, has prompted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to replace the minister in charge of minority affairs and madrasa education and take charge of the same herself.

The decision to remove Ghulam Rabbani as the minority affairs minister was announced on Monday, when it was also said that the



affairs of the department will now be under the purview of the Chief Minister. Rabbani has been transferred to the horticulture department.

The current minister of state in charge of MSMEs and

textiles department, Chandranath Sinha, has been given the additional charge of minister of state for minority affairs and madrasa education.

In the Sagardighi bypoll,

Left Front supported Congress candidate Bayron Biswas had defeated Trinamool's Debashis Banerjee by a margin of 22,980 votes. The result came as a shocker for Trinamool, as Sagardighi -- a minority-dominated constituency -- was a traditional stronghold of the ruling party, where it won by big margins since 2011.

Recently, Trinamool had also reshuffled the party's minority cell. Now the Chief Minister herself taking charge of the minority affairs and madrasa education department becomes significant in West Bengal's evolving political situation.

Parts of Kolkata turn into battlefield over protests against minor sacrifice

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Parts of South Kolkata turned into virtual battlefields on Monday as protests erupted over the 'human sacrifice' of a seven-year-old girl by her neighbour in the Tiljala area.

On Sunday night, a man named Alope Kumar was arrested after the girl's body was recovered from his residence. Later on the same night, the local people staged demonstrations in front of the Tiljala police station demanding handover of the accused to them, leading to clashes between the cops and the protesters.

The situation turned violent on Monday afternoon, as the local people staged fresh protests in the Tiljala, Tarikhana Crossing, Picnic Garden Road and Bondel Road areas. A group of agitators also started a rail blockade at the Bondel Gate railway crossing.

As a large contingent of the police,



led by two deputy commissioners, made an attempt to remove the agitators, clashes broke out between the protesters and the cops. The agitated mob attacked the police with bricks,

stones and crude bombs. A police vehicle and a couple of motorcycles were torched by the agitators on the Bondel Road flyover. A number of police vehicles were damaged by the

protesters.

The police had to resort to lath-charge and fire of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Till the time of filing this report, tension prevailed in the above-mentioned areas.

According to police sources, Alope Kumar has confessed to sacrificing the seven-year-old girl on the advice of a 'tantrik', who told him that the sacrifice of a minor girl will help him become a father. Both Alope Kumar and the 'tantrik' hail from Bihar.

The accused told the police that his wife had suffered three miscarriages following which he contacted the tantrik who advised him to adopt the sacrifice route.

According to the girl's parents, she was sent to dump the garbage at the nearby garbage bin on Sunday morning and since then she went missing.

A team of Kolkata Police will soon leave for Bihar to track and arrest the 'tantrik'.

Eviction notice sent to Rahul Gandhi to vacate govt bungalow

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After being disqualified as a Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi has been asked to vacate his government bungalow in Tughlak lane in Delhi's Lutyen's zone, sources said.

However, sources in the Congress said that they have not received the notice yet but officials said that as per rules Rahul Gandhi has to vacate the house within 30 days.

Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as a MP 24 hours after being convicted by a Surat court on Friday.

The Surat district court in Gujarat on Thursday convicted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case over his alleged 'Modi surname' remark in 2019. Gandhi was convicted under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500. The maximum punishment under this section is two years.

BJP MLA and former Gujarat Minister Purnesh Modi had filed



the case against Rahul Gandhi for his alleged "how come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname..." remark.

DELHI POLICE BUST MEWAT-BASED GANG OF SEXTORTIONIST, 5 HELD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested five persons, including two juveniles, after busting a Mevat-based gang of sextortionist which indulged in blackmailing and extorting money from people, especially the elderly, by threatening to upload their objectionable pictures/videos online.

The accused have been identified as Rahul Khan (26), Arman (21) and Azad (41), all residents of Rajasthan, apart from two juveniles.

According to the police, a 67-year-old man had filed a complaint with the cyber police station in Shahdara district wherein he alleged that on March 18, he had received a WhatsApp video call from an unknown number in which a girl was performing some obscene act.

"After some time, the complainant started receiving extortion calls. Someone introduced himself as the SHO of the cyber police station and tried to extort money by saying that if the complainant does not transfer the money, he would circulate the complainant's nude video on social media," said Rohit Meena, Deputy



Commissioner of Police, Shahdara.

Under pressure, the victim had transferred a total of Rs 13,70,000 to the cheater's bank account, the DCP said.

During investigation, the police collected all the relevant information; include the call detail records and WhatsApp chat

details. "All the bank details and phone numbers of the cheaters were analysed, following which raids were conducted at Bharatpur and Alwar in Rajasthan from where three adults and two juveniles were apprehended," the DCP said. On interrogation, it was revealed that

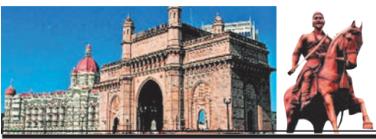
the gang used to make WhatsApp video calls or Messenger calls to the victims and start playing obscene videos of girls using a second mobile phone and provoke the victims to do the same.

The accused then recorded the calls along with taking screen shots. To commit the crime, the accused purchased SIM cards and cellphones from West Bengal and managed the fraud bank accounts with the help of other co-accused persons.

"To threaten the victims, the accused introduced themselves as 'Vikram Rathore', SHO, cyber police station, and 'Sanjay' from YouTube. They mainly used to target elderly people as many of them were reluctant to lodge complaints in such a matter," the DCP said.

The police have also traced money trail of more than Rs 40 lakh from the frozen accounts the accused. More than 20 victims were also traced who had transferred money into these accounts.

"A total of 24 videos were found from the phones recovered from the accused. Rahul, the mastermind, used to pose as Sanjay from YouTube, while Azad used to introduce himself as SHO Vikram Rathore," the officer said.



SHIV SENA (UBT) TO SKIP OPPN MEET OVER RAHUL'S SAVARKAR REMARK

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Following the uproar over Rahul Gandhi's remark referring to Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, the Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray has decided to skip the Opposition meet convened by the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President, Mallikarjun Kharge.

"My name is not Savarkar, I won't apologise," Rahul Gandhi had said after he was disqualified from the Lok Sabha following his conviction by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case.

Sources in the Shiv Sena (UBT) indicated that the party is upset over the remark, which has come to haunt the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition.

The development came a day after Thackeray publicly appealed to Rahul Gandhi to refrain from insult-



ing Savarkar.

While declaring his full support to Rahul Gandhi in his fight against the BJP, Thackeray, however, reiterated his plea and urged the Congress leader "to refrain from targeting Veer Savarkar who's our idol".

"I am publicly appealing to Rahul Gandhi... You are doing a great job, fighting for the country. But, Savarkar is our icon... We shall not tolerate any insult to him," Thackeray had said while addressing a rally in the Muslim-dominated Malegaon town

in Nashik on Sunday.

Endorsing, Raut said that Veer Savarkar is "a matter of our faith", and such utterances are intolerable, adding that he will call on Gandhi in a day or two in New Delhi to discuss and amicably resolve the matter.

Earlier, the Sena (UBT) had raised strong objections to Gandhi's comments vis-A-vis Savarkar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in November during its Maharashtra leg.

However, the Congress ruled out the possibility of their snapping ties in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), with Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe and MP Rajani A. Patil saying their stand on the Savarkar issue is clear for all.

Similarly, Patole declared that the Congress' stance on the Savarkar matter is well known to all and vowed that the party will not make any ideological compromises.

"Rahul Gandhi should stay in Andamans Jail": Eknath Shinde on Savarkar row

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comment that he will not apologise because he is "not Savarkar" has led to a unity of sorts between rivals Uddhav Thackeray, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and Eknath Shinde, the current Chief Minister who heads the original Shiv Sena after revolting against Thackeray.

Gandhi is no longer a Lok Sabha MP after his conviction in a criminal defamation case for asking if those with the surname "Modi" were "thieves", which the BJP alleged was derogatory to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community.



When asked whether he would apologise, Gandhi told reporters on Saturday, "My name is not Savarkar. I am a Gandhi. I won't apologise." The Congress leader's

allusion was to the Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar, who sent mercy petitions to the British when he was jailed in the Andamans during the freedom struggle. Savarkar is an important figure for the Sena, which is why earlier Thackeray's faction members went wearing black to a meeting called by their Maharashtra ally Congress to show their disagreement.

This evening, Shinde, in a rare move that aligned with his rival Thackeray's stand, also launched a fresh attack on Gandhi over this comment on Savarkar. "The citizens of Maharashtra are upset with what Rahul Gandhi said. We will organise Savarkar Gaurav yatra throughout the state to inform about the sacrifice of Savarkar... Rahul Gandhi should go and stay at the Andamans jail for one day if he can," Shinde told reporters.

"Savarkar isn't a God only of Maharashtra, but of the entire country," the Chief Minister said. He also took a swipe at Thackeray for diluting the Sena's core principles by joining hands with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

"People who keep on speaking about Hindutva didn't say anything on Rahul Gandhi during the Maharashtra assembly session. They wore black ribbons, stood with Congress leaders and opposed the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi. The entire state watched this," Shinde said.

Mumbai hardware shop gutted in fire, 2 killed in sleep

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least two youths were killed in their sleep when a massive fire raged through an electrical and hardware shop at the dead of the night in Andheri, the BMC Disaster Control said here on Monday.

The blaze was reported around 2.15 a.m. from Rajshree Electric & Hardware stores near the Saki Naka Metro station, and five fire engines and water tankers were rushed to the spot, with police supervising the operations.

The flames remained confined within the 200-sq ft congested shop's electrical fittings and wiring, but the shop also had two lofts with more goods stored there.

Locals claimed that there could be at least two to three persons, reportedly workers, still trapped inside, but the



Fire Brigade have recovered two bodies. They are identified as Rakesh Gupta, 22, and Ganesh Devashi, 23, said the BMC Disaster Control.

The officials said that due to the intensity of the blaze the two lofts were fully gutted and crashed down to the lower level, blocking the entry for the rescue teams.

Accordingly, the Fire Brigade deployed a bulldozer to break down the front por-

tions of the shop and gained access to douse the flames and also retrieved the bodies of the two youths who perished in the tragedy.

The cause of the fire -- which was finally extinguished after nearly nine hours, is not clear and it's also unknown whether the double-lofts built inside the shop, which hampered the fire-fighting efforts, were authorised or not.

Jodhpur man who threatened Salman Khan sent to police custody till April 3

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Rajasthan youth, who was arrested in a joint operation by Mumbai and Jodhpur Police, was produced before a Magistrate Court which sent him to seven-day police custody, an official said here on Monday.

The accused, identified as one Dhakadram Ramlal Siyag, 21, was nabbed on Sunday for allegedly sending an email threatening to kill Bollywood mega-star Salman Khan last week.

Cracking into the probe, the Bandra Police Station registered an FIR on March 18 and with tech-intel traced the email originating to Rajasthan.

They shared the information with the Jodhpur Police, who tracked down Siyag and after zeroing in on his location, they went in a combined operation to nab him on Sunday morning.



The Bandra Police team said that the arrested Siyag is a history-sheeter and wanted by the Rajasthan and Punjab Police in different cases and has some cases lodged against him in that state.

These include a case filed in the Sardarpura Police Station in

Rajasthan and threatening the killed singer Siddhu Moosewala's father in an email threat, registered by the Mansa Police Station in Punjab.

It may be recalled that a week ago, the Bandra Police lodged the FIR against mafiosi Lawrence Bishnoi, his associates Goldie Brar

and Rohit for the threat email sent to the actor's aide, Prashant Gunjalkar.

It had referred to the mafia don Lawrence Bishnoi's interview in which he made a chilling claim, that "his life's aim was to kill Salman Khan".

The email in Hindi, came from one Rohit Garg, who also wanted to talk with the actor and the police booked him also following a complaint lodged by Gunjalkar.

The communication also advised that if Salman had not seen the Bishnoi interview, then he should watch it, and if he wanted to close the matter, he must speak with Garg and Brar, face to face, and he (Garg) would arrange it.

The Bandra Police had immediately swung into action, geared up security outside Salman's home in Bandra West and lodged the FIR against the accused, Siyag, who was nabbed within a week.

Days after criticism, Shinde's courtesy meeting with Raj Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after Maharashtra Navmirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray in a rally slammed the state government for spending Rs 1,700 crore for the beautification of Mumbai, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday paid him a courtesy visit at his residence.

Raj Thackeray had, in the same rally, blamed his estranged cousin Uddhav Thackeray for the split in the Shiv Sena. Breaking his silence on the issues in the party, he blamed the exit of many Shiv Sena leaders from the party, including Chief Minister Shinde and 39 MLAs supporting him, on Uddhav Thackeray, who ditched the BJP and allied with the Congress and the NCP to form a new government.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had on Thursday



demolished a dargah in Mumbai's Mahim coastal area, a day after Raj Thackeray claimed it was being built

on an encroached land. Eknath Shinde's minister Deepak Kesarkar said the Maharashtra government is

walking on the path of Balasaheb Thackeray.

"Our government runs on the vision of Balasaheb Thackeray. Balasaheb Thackeray used to raise these issues and now Raj Thackeray raised them.

Due to Raj Thackeray, it came to our notice that the violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Act is going on, so we took action so that no one in future repeats these actions," he said.

Intensifying his 'Hindutva' pitch, Raj Thackeray recently said he will renew his campaign to pull down loudspeakers from mosques if the state government does not take any action in the matter. He also demanded withdrawal of nearly 17,000 cases slapped on his party workers last year when they launched protests seeking removal of loudspeakers from mosques.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The growing popularity of 'RRR' seems to be unstoppable. The film, which recently bagged the Oscar for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards, has caught the fancy of a Japanese mother.

An RRR fan account on Instagram recently shared a video featuring a comic book made by a Japanese mother for her young son. The woman in question made an illustrated story book for her 7-year-old son who might have trouble watching the movie with subtitles.

As the woman flips through the pages in the viral video, it gives a glimpse of Ram Charan and Jr NTR's beautifully illustrated charac-



ters. "Japanese Mother made an entire illustrated story book for RRR movie. She thought her 7 year old son would find it hard to watch 3hr movie with subtitles (sic)," the caption read.

"RRR" stars NTR Jr., Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt and Shriya Saran and tells the fictional story of two

real-life Indian revolutionaries, Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem and their fight against the British Raj.

Set in the 1920s, the plot explores the undocumented period in their lives when both the revolutionaries chose to go into obscurity before they began the fight for their country.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui files defamation suit seeking Rs 100 cr damages from his ex-wife and brother

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has filed a defamation suit in the Bombay High Court seeking Rs 100 crore damages from his former wife Aaliya alias Zainab Siddiqui and his brother Shamasuddin Siddiqui accusing them of making defamatory and false statements against him.

The suit is likely to be heard on March 30 by a single bench of Justice Riyaz Chagla.

The actor, embroiled in a matrimonial dispute with his former wife, requested the High Court to permanently restrain Aaliya and his brother from making any statements or remarks that would defame him. He also sought a written apology from his former wife and brother.

As per the suit, Nawazuddin had appointed Shamasuddin as his manager in 2008 and "blindly"



assigned all financial work to him.

However, Shamasuddin started cheating and defrauding Nawazuddin and purchased properties using the actor's money, the suit alleged.

It added that when the actor learnt about the fraud and raised queries, Shamasuddin instigated Aaliya to file a false case against Nawazuddin.

The actor claimed Aaliya and Shamasuddin have misappropriated Rs 21 crore from him.

When Nawazuddin demanded that properties be returned to him, Shamasuddin and Aaliya joined hands and started blackmailing the actor by uploading "cheap videos and comments on social media", the suit said.

Remarks of Ex Maha Governor on Shivaji Maharaj no criminal offence: Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has dismissed a petition seeking action against former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi for their statements on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and other icons, saying their remarks prima facie do not constitute an offence under any criminal law.

The high court also said that the statements reflect the perception and opinion of the speaker about those figures with an aim to persuade the audience, and the intention appears to be to enlighten society for its betterment. The High Court's order was made available recently.

Koshiyari, whose tenure was dogged by controversies caused by his utterances about Shivaji Maharaj, social reformers Mahatma Phule and his wife Savitribai and Marathi people, stepped down from the post of the governor last month.

He had faced flak for calling Shivaji Maharaj an "icon of olden times", while Trivedi had allegedly said that



the founder of the Maratha empire had apologised to Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Justices Sunil Shukre and Abhay Waghvase, on March 20 dismissed a petition filed by Panvel resident Rama Katamaware, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

The petitioner claimed that the

statements made by Koshiyari and Trivedi who are non-SC or Scheduled Tribes (ST) members, at public speeches are disrespectful to these late political figures who were held in high esteem by members of society in general and members of the SC/ST communities in particular.

The petitioner referred to several objectionable statements made by

Koshiyari and Trivedi on Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule and 'Marathi mannos'.

However, the bench in its order, said, "An in-depth consideration of the referred statements would tell us that they are in the nature of the analysis of history and the lessons to be learnt from history."



EDITOR'S SPECS

Brainwashed in Brampton

As Khalistani activists in Canada have grabbed headlines after the Amritpal Singh incident in Punjab, many fear that the pro-Khalistani sentiment is rising in the country. "What did the promptness of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, MP Sonia Sidhu, and others in tweeting about the Punjab situation after Amritpal Singh's incident and ban on Internet services, say? It was done at the behest of radical votebanks," says a Brampton Sikh entrepreneur, requesting anonymity. He says the majority is silent because of fear of reprisal. "Nobody opens their mouth against the Khalistanis who enjoy political patronage. Any leader who says anything against them is banned from entering gurdwaras and joining Vaisakhi parades," he says. When events such as the arrest of Amritpal Singh happen, Khalistan supporters bombard the offices of mayors, MPs, MPPs and ministers with messages, forcing them to issue hasty statements or tweet," says an Indo-Canadian restaurant owner in Toronto. The restaurant owner claims that Khalistanis are luring and using new students from Punjab to further their agenda. They brainwash these students while helping them with jobs, accommodation and food, he says. "The students are being roped in for Khalistani demonstrations. In return for helping these students, the radicals ask the parents of these students in Punjab to help pro-Khalistan activists in the state," says the Toronto restaurant owner. Ritesh Malik, national convener of the Canada-India Foundation which has been targeted by radicals as being pro-RSS, blames the political appeasement for the rise of anti-Indian sentiment in Canada. Brampton Punjabi journalist Balraj Deol also blames the Indian government for emboldening Khalistanis by deleting their names from the black lists.

KHALISTANI ELEMENTS IN PAKISTAN IN LOCKSTEP WITH KASHMIRI SEPARATISTS

Hamza Ameer



With the latest crackdown on pro-Khalistan leaders and supporters in India, protests have been staged in different countries around the world, reportedly trying to create a majority representation in support of the formation of a separate Khalistan state. Not surprisingly, the Khalistan movement has got strong support in Pakistan, which India claims, extensively supports, facilitates and harbours Khalistani elements to continue their demand for a separate state. Ant-India notorious figures such as Gopal Singh Chawla, who has been openly lashing out at India and showcasing pro-Khalistan banners and flags at gurdwaras in Pakistan, is not only based in Pakistan's Punjab province, but is a senior member of the Sikh community in Pakistan as well. Chawla is a standing supporter of the Pakistan military establishment and happens to be a sup-

porter of former premier Imran Khan, during whose tenure, the Kartarpur Gurdwara Darbar Sahib got renovated and the Kartarpur Corridor plan became a beautiful reality.

But for India, tackling the Khalistan movement and its referendum seeking independence from India is a matter of serious concern and is a sensitive vulnerable point, which can be exploited by its arch-rival Pakistan.

"India had supported Bengalis to break Pakistan into pieces in the past. The issue of Kashmir is also somewhat of the same demand of holding a plebiscite for right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir - another contention between Pakistan and India." And this Khalistan movement is another demand of independence of a Khalistan state. So, Pakistan officially supports the Kashmir cause and their demand of independence from India. It would be difficult to say if Pakistan would not be desirous of extending a similar support to the

Khalistan movement as well," said Javed Siddique, senior political analyst. Pakistan has in the past linked any question related to the support to Khalistan movement with the Kashmir dispute and has stated that India should hear the demands of the people of Kashmir and those demanding a separate state (Khalistan) and let them decide their future.

Pakistani media has been talking about Indian government's action against Khalistan leaders, protests in Australia, the UK and other countries.

While the Pakistan government or its military establishment has never openly expressed their support to the pro-Khalistan movement, it is believed that as the Khalistan issue is similar to the Kashmir dispute, and also because Khalistan leaders openly express their support to the Kashmir cause and take Pakistan's side, it is more likely of Pakistan to be supportive of the Khalistan movement and provide support to its leadership.



Political clout of Khalistanis in Canada far greater than their numbers

Though Khalistanis constitute a small fraction of the Sikh diaspora in Canada, they wield huge clout in most federal and provincial political parties -- the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party.

Their deep influence on the Canadian political set-up allows them to indulge in radical activism.

Through their influence, pro-Khalistan leaders have managed to place their supporters, sons, daughters and relatives in these parties and get them elected as MPs and MLAs and even appointed as cabinet ministers. Because of their political clout, the Khalistanis have also managed to get their sympathizers placed in various Canadian government agencies and services. "The modus operandi of the Khalistanis is simple: control gurdwaras. They have managed to capture major gurdwaras in Ontario and British Columbia provinces where most of the Sikhs in Canada live," says a Sikh realtor of Brampton, requesting anonymity.

All the political clout that the Khalistanis enjoy flows from their control of the gurdwaras because these religious places are the biggest gathering centres of the Sikh community, he says.

"The control of gurdwaras gives a huge clout to Khalistanis. All sorts of politicians run to them for votes and donations."

Adds veteran Punjabi journalist Balraj Deol, "Politicians want votes and dona-

tions. And Khalistanis deliver them votes and notes in abundance. That's how the Khalistanis have formed a deep nexus with politicians and mayors in Canada."

This nexus has allowed the Khalistanis to exploit the Canadian political system to further their agenda, he says. "Khalistanis have managed to get their sons and daughters placed in important positions in all political parties, get them elected as MPs and get ministerial berths. The fathers of two cabinet ministers have been known to be pro-Khalistan. The father of a Brampton-area MP was also a sympathizer of radicals," says a Brampton-based mortgage broker who wanted to be identified only by his surname Gill.

He says the lure of votes and notes (donations) has made politicians ignore the agenda of the radicals. "Politicians pander to Khalistanis because Sikhs are one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the Toronto and Vancouver areas. Politicians need their votes. Through their control of gurdwaras, Khalistani radicals deliver them the votes. They volunteer in large numbers for all political parties. "With major gurdwaras in the Toronto and Vancouver areas perpetually under their control and many Indo-Canadian MPs getting elected with their support, Khalistanis in Canada will continue with their anti-India activities in the foreseeable future."

international

Global researchers create digital database of over 1.1 bn natural history objects

Jerusalem | Agencies

More than 1.1 billion natural history objects from 73 major natural history museums and herbaria from 28 countries are now collected into a huge global database.

The database created by global researchers and the museums' staff will help researchers and decision-makers find scientific solutions to global challenges of conservation of endangered wildlife, climate crisis, food insecurity, and preparedness for epidemics, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) which participated the project said in a statement on Sunday.

The inventory, described in a new article published in the journal Science, includes diverse collections of animal and plant remains of all kinds alongside archaeological and geological findings, Xinhua news agency reported.

The project's organisers subdivided



the enormous aggregate collection by creating a unique shared vocabulary for collection types and their geographic source areas.

The result was a grid of 19 collection types by 16 geographic regions, such that any collection object from any-

where in the world would fall into only one of the resulting 304 cells.

The researchers hope with the digital database to catalyse collaborative collection-based efforts to support future global sustainability, biodiversity and climate frameworks.

Major incident declared in Southern England after fluid leak

London: A major incident has been declared after around 200 barrels of reservoir fluid leaked into Poole Harbour, in Southern England's Dorset, local authorities have said.

"It is estimated that nearly 200 barrels of reservoir fluid has been released into the water column in Poole Harbour," said Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) in a statement on Sunday.

Typically, there are five main types of reservoir fluids: black oil, volatile oil, condensate (retrograde gas), wet gas, and dry gas.

The PHC said the leak had come from the Wytch Farm facility, operated by hydrocarbons' producer Perenco. Wytch Farm is one of the largest onshore oil fields in Europe, Xinhua news agency reported.

"PHC have activated their oil spill plan and are working with a number of organisations. A major incident has been declared, and a gold command unit has been established," it added.

Members of the public have been urged not to swim at Poole Harbour or the surrounding area until further notice.

17 killed in car accident in Mozambique

Maputo | Agencies

At least 17 people, including three children, were killed in a deadly road accident in central Mozambique, the state radio channel Radio Mozambique reported.

Another three people suffered serious injuries in the accident that occurred in the Nhamatanda district, central province of Sofala, involving a passenger minibus and a truck, according to the report, quoting Sofala's Secretary of State, Stella da Graca on Sunday.

The official said that the injured have been transferred to the Beira Central hospital in the provincial capital Beira, after being treated at the Nhamatanda rural hospital, Xinhua news agency reported.

"According to preliminary reports, there is information that one of the tyres (of the minibus) burst and the vehicle crashed in the cargo truck carrying cement. The collision was vio-



lent," said Graca.

The President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, lamented the death of the 17 people and said that road accidents continue to be a public tragedy with devastating social and economic consequences.

"In the preliminary assessment carried out on the spot, the cause of the accident was found to be excessive speed and mechanical problems caused by a tyre burst," said Nyusi who was speaking on Saturday evening during a session of the Central Committee of the ruling Frelimo party, in the city of Matola, southern province of Maputo.

N.KOREA FIRES 2 SHORT-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES



Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) toward the East Sea on Monday, as a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier plans to hold joint drills in waters near the Korean Peninsula, Seoul's military said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches from the Chungwa County area in North Hwanghae province between 7.47 a.m. and 8 a.m.,

reports Yonhap News Agency. The missiles flew some 370 km before splashing into the sea, it added.

Pyeongyang's latest provocation came as South Korea and the 'Ssangyong' (double dragon) amphibious landing exercise last week. It is scheduled to end on April 3. The USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group will also train together with the South's major warships in waters south of the peninsula on Monday, according to the Defence Ministry in Seoul.

Trump little fazed by possible indictment on NY tax evasion case

TN Ashok | New York

Former US President Donald Trump seemed little fazed by the possible indictment on the lower Manhattan Tax Evasion case following Attorney General Letitia James prosecution even as the city and rest of the US has gone on high alert expecting disturbance from supporters.

Trump is quite calm and has repeatedly insisted, especially Saturday night, that he was not upset by expected criminal charges that might arise from the Manhattan district attorney's investigation into his role in paying hush money to adult film star Stormy Daniels as he returned from a campaign rally in Waco, Texas.

Trump's responses to questions suggested possible potential damage to his image, media reports said, he came across as someone angry that his good vibrations with his "Make America Great Again" base in Texas could be interrupted by the reality of a possible indictment as soon as this week.

He claimed in a recorded inter-



view with reporters aboard his Trump Force One plane that he was unafraid about the investigation even as he attacked the case and attacked media reporting about the case.

"I'm not frustrated by it. It's a fake investigation. We did nothing wrong... I told you that," the former President said before proceeding to

lash out at the NBC News reporter on the plane who asked if he was frustrated.

"This is fake news, and NBC is one of the worst. Don't ask me any more questions."

Trump admitted he had actually no insight into the investigations. "I have no idea what's going to happen. They've already dropped the

case, from what I understand." Trump went on to attack the investigation insisting the case is over even as he asserted it was fake though not supported by any concrete evidence.

"If anything ever happened with the case, it's a fake case. This is a fake case. They have absolutely nothing. They have it in reverse. They should indict Michael Cohen for all the lies that he told," he was quoted by the British newspaper Independent. as he referred to the attorney who allegedly made the hush money payment.

"They may not do that, but that's what should be happening. The case is about the sum of \$130,000 that Trump reportedly paid to Daniels through Cohen in the final days of the 2016 campaign.

Trump later allegedly reimbursed Cohen with \$35,000 checks using his personal funds, put down in account books as legal expenses. Cohen later pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal crimes.

However, it's still vague what charges the district attorney Alvin Bragg might seek against Trump,

though some members of his legal team believe the most likely scenario involves a base charge of falsifying business records coupled with potential tax fraud because Trump would not have paid taxes on the payments.

The remarks from Trump on the flight came during an interview with four reporters. The Guardian claimed it obtained the recording after the reporter, confirmed to travel with the former president, was erased off the manifest the day before the trip over recent reporting that the campaign disliked.

The former President was buoyed from a 2024 campaign perspective, noting how he had moved ahead in recent polls amid news of an expected indictment and the Republican base's clamoring to his defence.

"We've had the best polls we've ever had," Trump said.

Using a derisive nickname for Florida governor and expected 2024 candidate Ron DeSantis, Trump said: "Ron DeSantimonious is crashing. They're already looking for somebody to take his place."



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY IN DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WELFARE ACTIVITIES: CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is necessary to ensure public participation in monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of development and public welfare activities like MNREGA scheme, construction of Amrit Sarovar, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. People's representatives will also have to fulfill their responsibility in this. The Disha committees constituted at the state and district level for monitoring and review of various schemes by the Union Ministry of Rural Development also have an important responsibility. Chief Minister was addressing the meeting of the State Level Disha Committee at Mantralaya.

Start road construction only on available budget, people should not face problems due to incomplete roads

Chief Minister Chouhan said that special efforts should be made to increase the number of mandays created under MNREGA. It is necessary to ensure transparency in the implementation and payment of community works. The effort should be that 100 per cent payment should be Aadhaar based. Road construction works should be started only on the basis of budget availability. It should be ensured that the road construction that has started should not be left incomplete, people should not



face problems due to incomplete roads. The Chief Minister said that it is our aim to extend the roads till the farms. For this purpose, there is a plan to construct roads in remote areas. Construction of ponds should be taken on priority for the purpose of saving rain water in dry areas. Ensure 100% compliance of the norms given by Prime Minister Modi in the construction of Amrit Sarovars.

Madhya Pradesh leading in the country in providing employment to STs in MNREGA It was informed that Madhya Pradesh is among

the leading states in the country in providing employment to Scheduled Tribes under MNREGA. Since the inception of the scheme, 68 lakh 84 thousand works have been completed. There is a target of constructing 75 Amrit Sarovar in each district of the state. Till now the work of 2 thousand 657 Amrit Sarovar has been completed. 63 Amrit Sarovar built in the state are dedicated to freedom fighters and martyrs. In addition, 116 lakes have been constructed at places of historical and 231 lakes of religious importance. Activities like fish and water chestnut production have been added to Amrit Sarovars for multipurpose economic benefits.

43 schemes are reviewed in the direction committee

The Ministry of Rural Development of the Central Government has arranged for the formation of DISHA committees at the district and state levels for monitoring and review of various schemes. The Chief Minister is the chairman of the state level committee and the chairman of the district level committee is the Lok Sabha MP elected from the district area. State level committee meeting should be held every 6 months and district level committee meeting should be held every 3 months. From the year 2015-16 till now, 445 meetings of the Disha Committee have been held in the districts. 43 schemes of various departments are reviewed in the committee.

Harassed by teacher, coaching student commits suicide in Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A girl student allegedly committed suicide after being harassed by a teacher at her coaching centre here. The police have arrested the teacher and are probing the matter.

The victim identified as Shaali Singh (20) had come to Indore from Bundelkhand's Panna district to prepare for competitive examinations. The case pertains to Bhanwar Kuwa police station area. Shaali Singh stayed with her friend in Krishna Dev Nagar. Both these friends used to study in the coaching centre located in the area. Late on Saturday evening, Shaali committed suicide by hanging herself inside the room.

According to the police, when Shaali's suicide case was investigated, no details were found in her mobile, all the data had been deleted.

When the police recorded the statements of Shaali's



uncle and her friend, it came to the fore that Aman Aggarwal, the teacher who taught in coaching, used to constantly harass her and also sent obscene messages on her mobile. When the police checked Aman's mobile, no data was found as he too had formatted it.

Police have arrested Aman Aggarwal on the basis of preliminary investigations while mobile phones of Shelly and Aman are being scanned. Shaali's relatives said that she had complained to her mother also about Aman's ill-treatment as she was troubled by his behaviour.

CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTED NEEM, KARANJ AND ALMOND SAPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of neem, karanj and almond in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, social worker Muskan Hiranandani planted saplings on her birthday. His relatives Deepa Hiranandani, Juhi Hiranandani and Neeraj Hiranandani were with him. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, child Shivansh also planted a sapling on his birthday.

New facilities available at Forensic Medicine and Toxicology department, AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Autopsy is an investigative tool, an established scientific procedure done on the body of the deceased to ascertain cause of death. Autopsy is often required in police (Medico-legal) cases. Autopsy is however also done for greater understanding of disease and for research purposes with consent from family of the deceased (adult, child or newborn) when it is called Clinical Autopsy. Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology conducted clinical autopsy in cases of COVID deaths with consent from family members of the deceased and were able to bring out relevant facts related to the pandemic. Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology routinely handles Medico-legal autopsies.



Facility to conduct autopsy at AIIMS Bhopal is unique in scientific and humanitarian ways. The department has recently installed three Downdraft Ventilated Autopsy Tables and one Downdraft Ventilated Dissecting bench. Mortuary has ventilation system which ensures 12 to 18 air

cycles per hour. This makes the post mortem room a safe place to conduct autopsy on even infectious bodies. This is the only Forensic Medicine and Toxicology department known in the country to conduct an X-ray examination (using mobile Digital X-ray machine) before conducting an

autopsy. This is a useful tool which helps to establish diagnosis in some cases, provides evidence of either injuries or their complications and sometimes suggests most suitable autopsy procedure based on expected findings suggested at X-ray.

Histo-pathological examination of organs is also done. A Fellowship in Forensic Histopathology (the first and only known in the country) is also starting this year.

Postmortem Microbiology is also done in collaboration with Microbiology department of AIIMS Bhopal.

Analytical Toxicology lab of the department provides screening of drugs of abuse in urine samples. This lab is going to start Thin Layer Chromatography soon for qualitative detection of poisons.

WOMAN WITH 4 KIDS JUMPS INTO WELL IN BURHANPUR, THREE DEAD

Bhopal: In a shocking incident, a 30-year-old woman along with her four minor children jumped into a well in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur. But, the woman came out of the well along with one of her children, leaving the other three to die.

The police later recovered the bodies of three children, including that of an 18-month-old son. The bodies were sent for post-mortem. Police said investigation in the matter was underway, a preliminary probe revealed that the woman took the extreme step following a quarrel with her husband. Police said the woman first threw her children -- one after the other -- into the well and later jumped into a deep well located near her house. However, she managed to catch the rope used to fetch water from the well and along with one of her daughters came out of the well. By the time the family members or locals could rescue the children, they were dead. The shocking incident occurred at a village located around 60 km from the district headquarters Burhanpur on Sunday.

Morena's Gajak, Rewa's Sunderja mangoes get GI tag

CM Chouhan thanks PM Modi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Morena's famous gajak and Rewa's Sunderja mangoes have earned the geographical indication (GI) tag on Sunday, informed CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan through a tweet. CM Chouhan expressed gratitude to PM Modi and said, "It is a matter of pleasure that our Rewa's Sunderja mango and Morena's Gajak have got global recognition through #GITag. Congratulations to the brothers and sisters of Rewa and Morena and all the people of the state for this honour! Thank you honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Piyush Goyal." Morena's gajak is a popular sweet of the Gwalior-Chambal region and is consumed during winters. The campaign to get it a GI tag began in 2019 under collector Priyanka Das. On the other hand, Rewa's



Sunderja mango is characterised by its distinct aroma and sweetness. These mangoes do not have fibres in them. Every region is known for its traditional and regional products, and Geographical Indications also known as GI

tags, are signs that celebrate the specific geographical origin and qualities and characteristics of the product that are due to that origin. Chanderi sarees, Bagh prints, etc. are some other products from MP that have the GI tag.

MP got first Vande Bharat, Railway released schedule, PM Modi will show green flag

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The rake of the state's first Vande Bharat train has reached at Rani Kamalapati station of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. This is the 11th Vande Bharat train of the country. Earlier this train was discussed from Indore but it is going to start from Bhopal. It is being told that on April 1, PM Modi will flag it off. This train will take 7.45 hours to travel from Bhopal to New Delhi.

The country's first Vande Bharat train was started in the year 2019. This train was run from New Delhi to Varanasi in UP. So far, only 10 Vande Bharat trains run in the country, this is the 11th train. Regarding Vande Bharat train, it is being said that its services will start regularly from 2nd April. This is the first Vande Bharat train of the state. It will be operated from Rani Kamalapati station to New Delhi. Let us tell you



that before this there were discussions about running of this train from Indore. But now this train will run from the capital Bhopal. It will leave Bhopal at 5:55 am and will take approximately 7.45 hours to reach New Delhi.

The state's first Vande Bharat train running from Rani Kamalapati station Bhopal has 16 coaches. Which includes 14 AC Chairs and 2 Executive Class coaches. In this, a total of 1128 seats have been made available for the passengers. Passengers traveling in this will be provided with breakfast as well as lunch facility. This train will run 6 days a week and will not operate on Saturday.

Drunk girl dances on moving car, wreaks havoc on Gwalior's busy street; video viral

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a high-voltage drama, a Gwalior girl created ruckus at the city's Phoolbagh signal as she danced on a moving car, disrupting traffic on Monday. In the multiple videos that have now gone viral, the girl can be seen threatening passerby. She seemed to be intoxicated. She first stopped a commuter's scooter asked him to step down and forcefully sat on it and started riding. She, then, climbed on the bonnet of a moving car and started dancing on it. And all this was happening at Gwalior's



busiest intersection. A large group of people gathered as her drama continued for half

an hour. Police rushed to the spot and took and brought the situation under control.

Bagheswar Dham's Dharendra Shastri sparks controversy with his comments on 'same-sex marriage'

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Bagheswar Dham's Krishna Shastri has yet again sparked controversy, with his statement on 'same-sex marriage' during Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Jabalpur. During the event, Shastri joked that these days boys are getting married to each other. Addressing bachelors, he laughingly said, "If you don't get a girl, go marry boys so that atleast after your death, you can tell Lord Brahma that you are also married."



Supreme Court opposing same-sex marriage, citing it as being against Indian culture. Shastri's statements have been criticized for promoting bigotry and going against the Indian government's stance on same-sex marriage. It remains to be seen whether any action will be taken against him for his controversial comments.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement with demand notice details, including borrower names, amounts, and dates.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement with demand notice details, including borrower names, amounts, and dates.

'Moved On'

Gigi Hadid would have 'no problem' with Zayn & Selena's romance

Los Angeles | Agencies

As love blossoms between Zayn Malik dating Selena Gomez, former's ex-girlfriend Gigi Hadid would have 'no problem' with Zayn dating Selena. Selena was reportedly seen enjoying a dinner date with Zayn in New York City with fans of the pop stars keen to know if a new romance is blossoming, reports [Mirror.co.uk](#).

Gigi is said to have "moved on" from Malik and is having fun when it comes to her romantic life. She dated the former One Direction singer on and off for seven years and announced they were expecting their first child in 2020.

But the pair split in 2021 and have remained amicable co-parents while moving on in their romantic lives. A source told [Us Weekly](#), quoted by [Mirror.co.uk](#), "Gigi has no problem whatsoever with Zayn dating. As long as he is happy, stable and continues to be a good co-parent to (their daughter) Khai, she's fine with whoever he goes out with."

Earlier this month, Selena kept fans guessing as she revealed she didn't have a crush at the moment and didn't appear to be dating anyone. Zayn has been single since his split from Gigi in October 2021 after the birth of their first child (daughter Khai).

News that Zayn and Selena might be coupling up came after an exchange of texts went viral on TikTok as one fan allegedly spotted the pair enjoying a meal together.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Brooke Shields opened up about her friendship with King of Pop Michael Jackson and said the star once lied that she was his girlfriend.

Back when she was 28 years old, Jackson told a live TV interview with Oprah Winfrey that she was his girlfriend but he was reportedly in a relationship with someone else, reports [mirror.co.uk](#).

Shields said: "I called him up and I think I said, 'This is kind of pathetic that you need to do this. I am having a shot at a normal life - you cannot drag me into crazy town.'" She claims Jackson laughed it off and despite their closeness as friends, the pair never kissed or

dated.

She added: "There was one moment when we were in the car and the cameras were there and he grabbed me to kiss me and I said, 'No! Stop! We are just friends and you need me as a friend.'"

"I remember the early days when other actresses were after him and he was kind of cute, before the shift. But it never even crossed my mind," she told [The Times](#).

In her upcoming documentary titled *Pretty Baby*, Brooke is overcome with emotion as she sits at her dining table with her two daughters, Rowan and Grier Henchy as they discuss the 1978 film of the same name.

She said she doesn't understand why her mother didn't help her when filming the kissing scene and claims director Louis Malle snapped at her for making a repulsed face.

MICHAEL JACKSON ONCE LIED ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BROOKE SHIELDS

Her co-star Keith tried to reassure her, saying the kiss "doesn't count. It's pretend. It's all make-believe".

Rowan says she will never watch the movie before asking her mother: "Would you have let us (do that) at the age of 11?" "No," Brooke replies instinctively and her shoulders collapse.

Speaking about the scene in a new interview, Brooke said she found it difficult to speak to her daughters about the decision to make the film.

"That was... that was hard for me, to not justify my mom to them, but when they asked me, I thought, 'Oh God, I have to admit this.'"

The actress added: "I mean, I could say, 'Oh, it was the time back then,' or 'Oh, it was art.' But I don't know why she thought it was all right. I don't know."

Chris Pine & Anne Hathaway reacts to 'Princess Diaries 3' development

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Chris Pine, who gained the spotlight with his performance as Lord Nicholas Devereaux in the romantic comedy *'Princess Diaries 2'*, has reacted to the third installment of the film with actress Anne Hathaway.

The actor walked the red carpet at the premiere of his new action-adventure comedy, *'Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves'*.

Hathaway had told [People](#) that the movie was still in development and that patience was needed, because the gears of the movie industry turn slowly.

However, she is still very much advocating for the long-awaited sequel, and Pine says he'd be down to join the cast when it comes time.

"Yeah, I'm here! I'm here for it," Pine said, reports [etonline.com](#).

"Give me... give me a phone call or an email."

In 2004's *'The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement'*, Pine played Lord Nicholas Devereaux, a rival to the throne for Hathaway's Princess Mia Thermopolis, who becomes her friend and eventual love interest.

While the project might still be a long ways off, Pine said that, if he were part of a sequel in the future, he'd make sure to do things a little bit different when it came to his character's hair style, saying he'd rather opt for a "low-profile hair helmet."

Pine will soon be seen on screen battling evil wizards and a slew of fanged, winged, fiery beasts in *'Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves'*.



BEBE REXHA IS UPSET ABOUT A SENT MAIL "USED TOILET PAPER"

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Say My Name' hitmaker Bebe Rexha shared on social media that she got a mail with "used toilet paper" in it. The singer shared on Twitter an image that showed what appeared to be toilet paper next to a letter she got in the mail, which was shipped from Miami, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

In the caption, she wrote, "Someone mailed me used toilet paper," adding a sick emoji. Many have since reacted to the picture. One Twitter user jokingly told Bebe to "sniff it," to which she replied, "no way."

Someone else, meanwhile, urged her to wash her hands. In response, the musician wrote, "Bro I washed them like 10 times."

Another individual asked Bebe whether she usually receives strange packages in the mail. She answered it by writing, "No this is insane. Like wtf." On the work front, Bebe announced her third studio album earlier this month. When speaking about the project, which will be released on April 28, she told Janine Rubenstein and Jeremy Parsons during PEOPLE's 2023 Grammys red carpet broadcast that it is starting "out like Fleetwood Mac, and then it goes into all my favourite '70s (sounds)."

Nicolas Cage drank his own blood while shooting for 'Renfield'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Nicolas Cage accidentally drank his own blood while portraying Count Dracula in new movie *'Renfield'*.

The actor sank his teeth into the role of Bram Stoker's vampire opposite Nicholas Hoult as the bloodsucker's downtrodden servant and he's revealed he kept biting his own lip because his ceramic fake fangs were so

sharp, reports [Female First UK](#).

In an Ask-Me-Anything session on Reddit, Cage explained: "No reason in terms of method, but the fangs were genuine fangs, they were ceramic and quite pointy. So I did bite my lip a few times which made me drink my own blood."

'Female First UK' further states that the actor previously told [The Sun](#) newspaper he decided to wear the fangs as much as possible so he could get used to speaking with them in.

He explained: "I was trying to give the character an eloquent and elegant voice that was pretty hard to do with all the ceramic material in my mouth. But I got used to it by taking them home, leaving them in when I was in my hotel room."

Cage also previously insisted he took inspiration from Sir Christopher Lee's iconic portrayal of the toothy Hollywood villain, telling [Collider](#): "We wanted it to be more homage, more Christopher Lee. I favoured Christopher Lee as Dracula and I liked his kind of sixties hair 'do, but the wardrobe, the costume, and no, I didn't come up with the idea for the rings. That all came out of a wardrobe. They came in with all that."

On his decision to play Dracula in the film, Cage added: "Well, first of all, I don't know how you say no to Dracula, but two things come to mind. One, he's a character that's been done well many times and then been done poorly many times. So you want to be on the side of doing something well."

"And also you want to be on the side of doing something fresh and something that pops. To me, because the movie's really not about me, Dracula rather, I don't have a lot of screen time. "It's really Nick Hoult's movie, and it's about 'Renfield'," he added.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Florence Pugh



IPL 2023

WHO WILL DOMINATE THE PITCH? TOP 5 BOWLERS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the 16th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) all set to begin on March 31, cricket fans around the world are eagerly anticipating the return of their favourite teams and players. Among the many exciting aspects of IPL, one area of particular interest is the list of bowlers to watch out for.

Umaran Malik (Sunrisers Hyderabad), the right-arm quick has been one of the most consistent performers in IPL when it comes to pace. With a smooth, clean action, he clocked over 150 kmph effortlessly in every match he played in the IPL last year.

The race for the fastest delivery of IPL last year was between Umaran and Gujarat Giants' Kiwi seamer Lockie Ferguson, which the former dominated the entire season before Ferguson surpassed him, bowling at 157.3 kmph in his side's final match against Rajasthan Royals.

Jofra Archer (Mumbai Indians), after recovering from a bout of injuries, the England speedster is set



to return to IPL for the first time since 2020 and will be a terrific addition to Mumbai Indian's pace attack. The 27-year-old pacer has played 35 IPL matches so far, picking up 46 wickets at an economy rate of 7.13.

After missing out on a lot of cricketing action due to injuries, Archer returned to competitive cricket in South Africa in January during the SA20.

The England fast bowler, who played no part in last season's IPL, will give a big boost to MI's chances this season, especially with Jasprit

Bumrah and Jhye Richardson being ruled out due to injury.

Adam Zampa (Rajasthan Royals), Australia's premier spinner in limited-over cricket, Zampa has made an impact as one of the world's top white ball spinners.

He has shown his bowling might in T20 leagues around the world. Since making his debut in Australia's Big Bash League, he has picked up 114 wickets in 99 matches, which places him comfortably in the top 10 leading wicket-takers ever in the BBL. Kuldeep Yadav (Delhi Capitals),

after spending the majority of the 2020 season on the sidelines, the Chinaman bowler finished IPL 2022 with 21 wickets - third highest by a spinner in the season and fifth on the overall list of highest wicket-takers.

His exploits across categories while on national duty have proven his worth. His uniqueness of being a Chinaman bowler has always been the X Factor about him. Delhi Capitals will be hoping that the left-arm wrist spinner continues his fine form this year too.

Kagiso Rabada (Punjab Kings), the South Africa pace spearhead has delivered in the IPL with his excellent skills. In 2019, he picked up 25 wickets and followed it with 30 wickets in the following season to win the coveted Purple Cap. In 2021, Rabada had grabbed 15 wickets, followed by 23 wickets in 2022, third in the list of highest wicket-takers.

Rabada (27) has played 63 IPL matches, picking up 99 wickets at an average of 19.86. With one more wicket, he will become the 19th bowler with 100 wickets in the cash-rich league.

Euro 2024 qualifiers

England, Portugal take back-to-back wins



London | Agencies

England saw off Ukraine 2-0 to make it two wins from two, while Portugal thrashed Luxembourg 6-0 to take back-to-back wins in Euro 2024 qualifiers.

England hosted Ukraine at Wembley after having beaten reigning European champions Italy away three days previously. Harry Kane tapped in Bukayo Saka's cross after 37 minutes and Saka curled in a close-range volley three minutes later, reports Xinhua.

The visitors failed to make any threat with only three attempts on goal, with England sealing a comfortable win to lead Group C with a perfect start.

Italy beat Malta 2-0 thanks to goals from Mateo Retegui and Matteo Pessina. The Azzurri are second in the group, but North Macedonia also claimed three points and have one game in hand over Italy.

ITALY BOUNCED BACK WITH 2-0 WIN OVER MALTA

Valletta | Italy bounced back from their defeat to England in Euro 2024 qualifying Group C with a 2-0 win over Malta, with Mateo Retegui scoring again.



The Azzurri's campaign didn't start on the right foot as they lost 2-1 to England in their opening match on Thursday, representing their first defeat in European qualifiers since 2006, reports Xinhua.

Head coach Roberto Mancini made radical changes in the starting line-up, opting for a new midfield partnership of Matteo Pessina, Sandro Tonali and Bryan Cristante, while Argentina-born forward Retegui led the line flanked by Matteo Politano and Wilfried Gnonto.

The reigning European champions got the job done in the first half, as Retegui broke the deadlock in the 15th minute when Tonali's corner allowed him to score his second goal in as many games, before Pessina sealed the win in the 27th minute.

IPL 2023

KKR announce Nitish Rana as captain in absence of Iyer

Kolkata | Agencies

Two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Monday announced that left-handed batter Nitish Rana will be the side's captain for the upcoming IPL 2023 in the absence of Shreyas Iyer, who is recovering from a back injury.

KKR also said in their official statement that they are hopeful of Iyer recovering and participating in IPL 2023 at some stage. Rana has previously led his domestic cricket team Delhi in 12 T20 matches of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, with the side having eight wins and four losses. Rana, who also bowls handy off-spin and has one ODI as well as T20I appearance for



India in 2021, has been a vital cog in the wheel of KKR's batting order since 2018. Iyer, on the other hand, had been doubtful to participate in IPL 2023 suffered a recurrence of lower back injury during the fourth Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test against Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

While IPL 2023 starts from March 31, Kolkata are scheduled to play their first match of the tournament on April 1, against Shikhar Dhawan-led Punjab Kings at the PCA Stadium in Mohali. Kolkata will play their first home game at the Eden Gardens on April 6 against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Afghanistan clinch first-ever series win against Pakistan in any format

Sharjah | Agencies

Fazalhaq Farooqi and Najibullah Zadran's impressive show helped Afghanistan register a thrilling seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the second T20I on Sunday to seal their first series triumph over their Asian rivals.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan posted a total of 130/6 on the board. In response, Afghanistan chased down the target with a solitary delivery remaining.

Farooqi was the standout performer with the ball, finishing with impressive figures of 2/19 in his four overs and was also adjudged Player of the Match.

Chasing 131, Afghanistan got off to a steady start thanks to the 56-run partnership between Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran for the second wicket. Gurbaz was particularly impressive



with the bat, scoring 47 runs to lay the foundation for a successful run chase. Ibrahim Zadran also played a crucial role in the middle order, scoring 38 runs to keep the momentum going for Afghanistan. With the finish line in sight, Afghanistan lost a couple of quick wickets which gave Pakistan a glimmer of hope. However, Mohammad Nabi (14*) and Najibullah Zadran (23*) showed their experience and composure under pressure to guide Afghanistan to a comfortable seven-wicket win. The victory was an incredible achievement for Afghanistan, as they registered their first-ever series win against Pakistan in any format of the game. After sealing the three-match series with a win on the second T20, Afghanistan will be aiming to sweep Pakistan when the two sides will meet on Monday in the third and final T20 at the Sharjah Cricket Ground.

IPL 2023

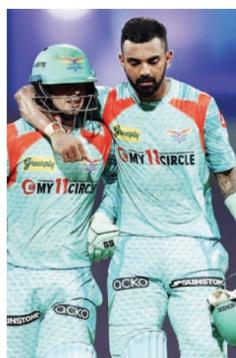
K.L Rahul, de Kock are the biggest strengths of LSG: Finch

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Australia skipper Aaron Finch believes the opening pair of Captain K.L. Rahul and wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock is the biggest strengths of Lucknow Super Giants in the run-up to 2023 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

In their maiden IPL season last year, the side, captained by Rahul, finished third in the league stage with nine wins and five defeats. They crashed out of the competition after losing to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the eliminator at Kolkata.

But de Kock will miss Lucknow's first two matches against Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings on April 1 and 3 respectively as South



Africa will be engaged in an ODI series against the Netherlands. "The big strength of the Lucknow Super Giants is their

opening combination, K.L. Rahul and Quinton de Kock. They complement each other so well. They are very different players, and their strengths and weaknesses offset each other. So, I think if they are going to have a big season."

"I think the home ground advantage for the Lucknow Super Giants this year, although their wicket has been a little unpredictable at times, they've got a class opening combination in KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock, their middle order power of Stoinis, Nicholas Pooran, and they've got a lot of bowling options, Krunal Pandya with the ball, who can also be versatile with the bat. So, I think they have got a lot of options to be able to exploit whatever the wicket produces," said Finch.

THERE AREN'T MANY PLAYERS WHO ARE AS HUNGRY TO SCORE AS I AM: SUNIL CHHETRI

Imphal | Two decades in Indian Football, and 84 goals for the Blue Tigers. Yet this is the first time that Blue Tigers legend Sunil Chhetri is playing a competitive match in Manipur, and his hunger to score for India is as high as it has ever been.



The mercurial striker, after joining the National Camp just a day after the Hero ISL final, was on song for India, in the first Tri-Nation International Football Tournament match against Myanmar at the Khuman Lampak Stadium last week. Despite several efforts, a disallowed goal that left many questioning the off-side call on the India captain was all he had to show for it. However, the India number 11 is as motivated as ever ahead of the match against the Kyrgyz Republic, to bulge the back of the net at yet another stadium. "My hunger to score is the same as it has always been, and it will be the same against the Kyrgyz Republic. Off-sides and penalty decisions are a part of the game, and you think about them for a certain amount of time, but then you move on and look forward to the next match," said Chhetri to the-aiff.com.

Miami Open

Alcaraz powers to the fourth round, to face Tommy Paul next

Miami | Agencies

World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain continued his 'Sunshine Double' quest on track, beating Serbia's Dusan Lajovic 6-0, 7-6(5) to advance to the fourth round of the Miami Open.

In a high-quality performance the Spaniard, who hit 27 winners to Lajovic's eight, recovered from failing to serve out the match at 5-4 in the second set against Lajovic, recomposing himself to seal his eighth consecutive straight-sets win on his fourth match point in one hour and 31 minutes on Sunday.

The 19-year-old needs to lift his fourth ATP Masters 1000 trophy in Miami to prevent Novak Djokovic from replacing him as No. 1 in the ATP Rankings. Alcaraz will become the youngest man to win the coveted 'Sunshine Double' with another title run in Miami. Roger Federer was the last man to win the 'Sunshine Double' in 2017.

The Spaniard will next play World no 19 Tommy Paul. The American has a 1-0 head-



to-head lead against Alcaraz, having won in the Canada Masters 1000 6-7(4), 7-6(7), 6-3. Paul reached the fourth round in Miami for the first time with a 6-3, 7-5 victory against Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

Bumrah made first appearance post his back surgery during WPL final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who underwent back surgery in New Zealand earlier this month, made his first appearance post his surgery at the Brabourne Stadium during the Women's Premier League (WPL) final.

Bumrah has been out of competitive cricket since late September last year, when he pulled out of the home T20Is against South Africa and subsequently missed the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. He had also missed the Asia Cup held last year in the UAE.

He attempted a comeback in January this year for the ODI series against Sri Lanka. But, Bumrah was withdrawn on the eve of the ODI series opener at Guwahati. Moreover, he has been ruled out of the upcoming IPL season and also for the World Test Championship final in June. In a video posted by Mumbai Indians on their Instagram on Sunday, Bumrah can be seen interacting with England fast bowler Jofra Archer in the Brabourne Stadium. With the 29-year-old Indian not being part of the IPL 2023, Archer, who



missed the last season due to injury, will spearhead Mumbai Indians' attack. Mumbai Indians will open their IPL 2023 campaign against Royal Challengers Bangalore on April 2 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

IRAN THRASHED JAPAN IN AFC BEACH SOCCER ASIAN CUP FINAL

Bangkok | Agencies

Iran thrashed three-time former champions Japan 6-0 in the 2023 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup final in Thailand's Pattaya.

Iran scored a spectacular opener when Movahed Mohammadpour collected a long pass from keeper Seyedmahdi Mirjajili before firing home in the fourth minute, reports Xinhua.

Japan suffered another setback in the eighth minute as Mirjajili scored again, this time from Ali Mirshekari's assist. Japan had no answer to Iran when they conceded again in the 20th minute after Movahed diverted Mirjajili's throw to an unmarked Moslem Mesigir, who slammed the ball home. In the 29th minute, Japan goalkeeper Shinya Shibamoto was dispossessed in his own area by Mohammadali Mokhtari, who tapped home the fourth into an empty goal. Iran extended their lead in the 35th



minute thanks to an own goal by Kosuke Matsuda, before Mirshekari netted the final goal with seconds remaining. Iran had finished unbeat-

en to top Group B before hammering Bahrain 11-0 in the quarterfinals and beating Oman 6-3 in the semifinals. In the third-place playoff, Oman

defeated the United Arab Emirates, joining Iran and Japan to qualify for the 2023 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai this November.



Kareena, Anushka gives epic response after being compared to Gstaad & B'luru

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A social media user has compared Bollywood stars to cities and reacting to those celebrities such as Kareena Kapoor Khan, Anushka Sharma and Neetu Kapoor have shared an epic reaction. An Instagram user, Freddy, penned a long post, where he compared Bombay to Shah Rukh Khan saying "the city of dreams." He wrote: "Delhi is Salman Khan,

the city of gyms and djinns. Kolkata is Sharmila Tagore, quiet, dignified and beautiful. Poona, not Pune, is Jim Sarbh and the delicious smells wafting from Parsi bakeries." "Chandigarh is Kiara Advani, neat, squeaky clean and symmetrical." He compared veteran star Neetu Kapoor to Dubai "forever youthful". "Bangalore is Anushka Sharma, real, lovely, beautiful, always the perfect mood and temperature and needs a Virat Kohli to toss its traffic jams out of the park. Arjun Kapoor is

Berlin, solid and dependable," it continued. Describing Rekha and Zeenat Aman, the user wrote: "Rekha is Bora Bora, exotic and distant. Goa is Zeenat Aman, warm and gorgeous, sexy of spirit and soul." "Manali is Ishaan Khattar, perennially cool. Tara Sutaria is the beautiful winding roads going up to Darjeeling. The Thai dessert is Katrina Kaif, forever scorching," Freddy added. "Kareena Kapoor is Gstaad, jet setting with her Nawab, both the coolest of the cool. Ayushmann Khuranna is

Toronto, every hardworking, super-successful boy from Punjab. Alia Bhat is a city somewhere far away, on a planet all her own. Cities are people," concluded Freddy's post. Reacting to the post, Kareena wrote: "Have to agree with this". Anushka re-shared the post with a red heart emoji. Reacting to the post, Neetu wrote, "Dubai" and dropped a red heart and laughing emojis. Ayushmann Khuranna and Tara Sutaria shared a red heart on the note.



WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH YOUR CHILDREN, YOU GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER: CHAHATT KHANNA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' actress Chahatt Khanna said that she is fond of travelling and also shared her experience of visiting the Pink City, Jaipur along with her daughters, Amaira and Zohair.

Sharing her experience, she said it is very important for parents to travel with their children at regular intervals.

Chahatt said: "Travelling helps in strengthening the bond between parents and children. In today's times, most parents get extremely occupied with their professional lives. The few hours that we manage to set aside for our children every day are not enough. When you travel with your children, you get to know them better."

"You also make them realise the importance of travelling to new places and being outdoors. Very few things in our life con-

tribute to our growth as much as travelling does," she said.

The actress, who is known for her shows such as 'Kumkum', 'Kaajjal', 'Qubool Hai', and many more, said she had been to Jaipur earlier, however, it was Amaira's first visit to the city. This is the reason, she made a complete list of places before starting her trip where she can take her daughter.

"I was particular about taking Amaira to places she would enjoy visiting. Although I had visited Jaipur a couple of times in the past, I got to discover many wonderful things which I had not come across earlier. One of our most memorable visits was to the Albert Hall Museum which happens to be the oldest museum that is based in Rajasthan," she said.

Chahatt said: "Amaira was highly amused to see the historical artefacts and other elements in the museum that took one back to a bygone era."



NANI SAYS HIS FILM IS THE FIRST MASS FILM WHICH WILL TOUCH YOUR HEART

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actor Nani, who is busy in promoting his first ever pan India film 'Dasara', recently visited the Capital and talked about his film and how much he enjoyed travelling to different cities.

"I really enjoyed exploring new places and travelling to new cities where I had never been before. I am getting butterflies in my stomach and am nervous also." On what



his expectations are from the film he said: "As an actor I have worked hard as I do with all my films as I never take the audience for granted and always keep myself at their place whenever I take up any project."

"If I do anything with honesty and give my hundred percent I am sure the result will be positive," he added.

While sharing the reason why he called it a mass film, he said: "This is the first mass film which will touch your heart. We should call it a heartwarming mass film, a combination very rare to be found." "Whenever you see a mass movement and think of whistling, at the same place there is a glitter also in your eyes. I think this combination we generally miss and that is why we call it mass film."

RAVI KISHAN REVEALED HE FACED CASTING COUCH BY WOMAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-politician Ravi Kishan has shared that he faced casting couch by a woman who is now a "big shot". He revealed he was offered a 'coffee at night' by the woman, who he chose not to name.

Ravi was asked about casting couch during his recent appearance on the chat show 'Aap ki Adalat', according to a media report. "Yeah, it happened and this is something that happens in the industry. But I somehow managed to escape. My father had taught me that I should approach my work with honesty, I never wanted to take a shortcut. I knew I was talented," he said. Ravi added: "I can't name her, because she has become a big shot now. She had said, 'Coffee peene raat me aayie. I thought that is something people prefer to have during the day, so I got the hint and refused,'" he said as per a media report. A big star in the Bhojpuri film industry, Ravi has worked in Hindi, Telugu and Kannada films. He was seen in the web series 'Khakee: The Bihar Chapter' and hosted a singing reality show 'Swarn Swar Bharat'.



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Actress Wamiqa Gabbi, who is known for her work in streaming anthology series 'Modern Love Mumbai', will be soon seen in another streaming series, this time a period drama titled 'Jubilee', and the role was a dream come true for her as she is a huge period drama fan. To prepare for her part, the actress saw the popular films from the 1950s to 1960s to sketch up her part.

Having grown up in a family who watched black and white movies together, Wamiqa revealed she jumped on to the opportunity when she was offered 'Jubilee'. It was not just a huge nostalgic factor for her, but also a challenge as an actress. She said, "I have always been a fan of period drama films, especially from the black and white era. There was a time when I used to enjoy such films with my entire family in Doordarshan. When Jubilee was offered to me, I jumped at the offer; it was like reminiscing about the good old days."

She further mentioned, "I got into the skin of the character in 'Jubilee' by watching popular films between the 50s and 60s to take references from the actresses of that time. The soul of the character is completely mine, so that it does not look like a caricature. However, with context to their body language, facial expressions and dialogue delivery, a lot of actresses from that era inspired me."

The series, which also stars Aparshakti Khurana, Aditi Rao Hydari, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Sidhant Gupta, Nandish Sandhu, and Ram Kapoor in pivotal roles, is helmed by Vikramaditya Motwane, who is known for his extremely diverse filmography.

Wamiqa Gabbi took references from films of 1950s, 1960s for upcoming film



SAMANTHA SAYS 'WHO WILL LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO' AFTER A FAN ASKED HER TO 'DATE SOMEONE'

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Actress Samantha Prabhu, who sizzled the screens with her performance with 'Oo Antava' in 'Pushpa: The Rise', has talked about dating in her recent tweet.

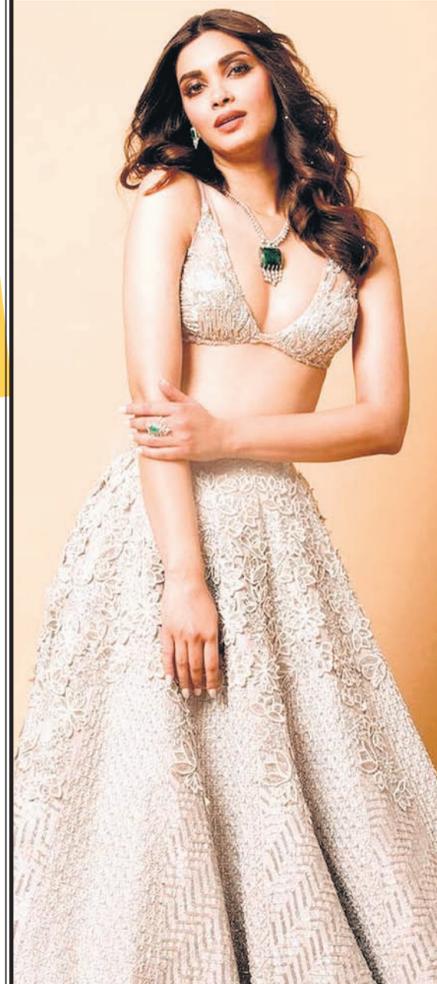
A fan on the micro-blogging website shared an edited picture of Samantha and asked "I know it's not my place to say, but plz date someone Samantha Prabhu."

To which Samantha, who was married to actor Naga Chaitanya, replied: "Who will love me like you do."

It was in 2021 when Samantha and Chaitanya announced their separation.

On the work front, Samantha is gearing up for the release of her mythological romantic drama 'Shaakuntalam' which is scheduled to release on April 14. Directed by Gunasekhar, it also stars Dev Mohan in the lead role.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Diana Penty