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STAY ON CONVICTION MUST TO RESTORE RAHUL GANDHI'S LOK SABHA MEMBERSHIP: LEGAL EXPERTS

RaGa GETS BAIL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was on Monday granted bail by a Surat court in criminal defamation case, where he has been convicted and sentenced, said that "truth" is his "weapon in this struggle". In series of tweets in Hindi, Gandhi proclaimed that it was "a fight to save democracy" and against "mitra kaal", and "in this struggle, truth is my weapon and truth is my shelter". Earlier, Rahul Gandhi reached Surat, accompanied by sister and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi while various Congress Chief Ministers received him at the airport.

DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, GANDHI STATED THAT "ALL THIEVES HAVE MODI SURNAME"; EQUATING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI WITH FUGITIVES LIKE LALIT MODI AND NIRAV MODI. ON MARCH 23, A LOWER COURT IN SURAT FOUND HIM GUILTY OF DEFAMING THE ENTIRE MODI COMMUNITY IN A CASE FILED BY BJP MLA PURNESH MODI. GANDHI WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISQUALIFIED FROM THE LOK SABHA UNDER A RULE THAT BARS CONVICTED MPS FROM HOLDING LOK SABHA MEMBERSHIP.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

GANDHI WAS GIVEN THE MAXIMUM 2-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR HIS OFFENCE, BUT THE SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED FOR 30 DAYS FOR HIM TO FILE AN APPEAL AGAINST THE ORDER. IF THE CONVICTION IS NOT OVERTURNED, HE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM CONTESTING ELECTIONS FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS.

In a relief for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, a Surat sessions court on Monday granted bail, till disposal of his appeal, in the defamation case over his remark "why all thieves have the Modi surname" and also issued notice to the complainant on Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction. According to

legal experts, a stay on Gandhi's conviction in the case would be sufficient to restore his Lok Sabha membership. Speaking to reporter, senior advocate Sanjay Hedge said according to the Supreme Court judgment in the Lily Thomas case, a stay on the conviction is sufficient and if the sessions court stays Rahul's conviction, then the Lok Sabha secretariat could restore Gandhi's membership.

The sessions court will hear Gandhi's appeal against conviction in the case on April 13.

Gandhi, the former President of Congress, arrived in Surat to file the appeal in sessions court against a lower court's order that found him guilty of criminal defamation. The charges stemmed from a remark he made in April 2019 while campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka's Kolar.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra said if the sessions court stays his conviction in the defamation case, it will pave the way for the restoration of his Lok Sabha membership. He stressed that a stay on conviction is a must.

A senior advocate, on the condition of anonymity, said Gandhi's conviction has not been stayed by the court on Monday, however, a notice has been issued to the complainant on Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction and the matter is scheduled for hearing on April 13. He added once his conviction is stayed, then the Lok Sabha secretariat can restore his membership.

NCERT removes chapters on 'Mughal Empire' from Class 12 History book



Team Absolute | New Delhi

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has revised its books, including the 12th class History book by removing the chapters on Mughal empire. The change will be applicable for all the schools that follow NCERT across the country.

From Classes 12, chapters related to 'Kings and Chronicles; the Mughal Courts (C. 16th and 17th centuries)' have been removed from the History book 'Themes of Indian History-Part 2'.

Similarly, NCERT will remove some poems and

paragraphs from the Hindi textbooks too.

As per NCERT, all the changes made will be implemented from the current academic session, i.e. 2023-2024.

Along with History and Hindi textbooks, 12th class Civics book has also been revised. Two chapters titled, 'American Hegemony in World Politics' and 'The Cold War Era' have been removed from the book.

Continuing with the changes, two chapters namely, 'Rise of Popular Movements' and 'Era of One Party Dominance' from the Class 12th textbook 'Indian Politics after Independence' have also been removed.

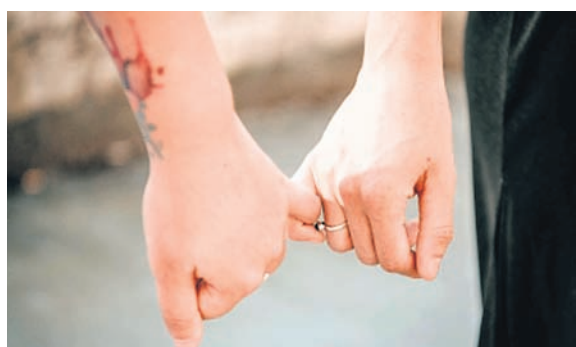
Changes have been made in Class 10th and 11th textbooks as well, such as chapters on 'Democracy and Diversity', 'Popular Struggles and Movements', and 'Challenges of Democracy' have been removed from Class 10th book 'Democratic Politics-2'. Chapters such as 'Central Islamic Lands', 'Class of Cultures', and 'Industrial Revolution' have been dropped from Class 11th textbook 'Themes in World History'.

Confirming these changes, senior officials said that the new syllabus and textbooks have been updated from this year and are being implemented in various schools.

TWIST IN 'LOVE-JIHAD' CASE; PROBE REVEALS MUSLIM BOY, HINDU GIRL WERE IN LOVE

Bagalkot (Karnataka) | Agencies

The police investigations into the alleged love-jihad case reported from Bagalkot district in Karnataka have revealed that the Muslim youth and Hindu girl were in love for three years, according to sources. The 26-year-old Afzal Sollaपुरa died on Monday at a hospital and the girl - 22-year-old Nethravathi Waddar - is battling for life. Afzal and Nethravathi had torched themselves on February 27 at Guduru village in Ilkal taluk. They were admitted to a hospital by the locals. Afzal and Nethra were treated at the district hospital and later shifted to the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) at Hubballi.

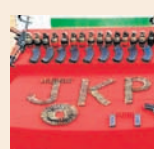


Afzal who suffered 70 per cent injuries succumbed on Monday. The girl is battling with severe burn injuries is battling for life. The Hindu organisations had claimed it to be a case of 'love-jihad' and alleged that the boy had poured petrol and set the girl ablaze for rejecting his love proposal. The family members of the girl had stated that Afzal

was behind her and their daughter did not love him. They also alleged that he threatened her as well that he will not let her live. But, the police probe revealed that both were in love and Nethravathi had not revealed about Afzal to her family. She also agreed for marriage to be fixed by her family. Further investigation in the case is on.

Drone dropped arms, ammunition recovered in J&K's Samba

Jammu: Arms and ammunition dropped by a suspected drone were recovered on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district. Police sources said that a consignment of arms and ammunition dropped by a suspected drone was recovered in Rakh Barutia village of Vijaypur in the district.



"After receiving information, a police team rushed to the spot to carry out searches. A yellow packet was found near the bushes. Three pistols, six magazines, 48 bullets and four hand grenades were recovered from the packet, said the sources. "A long plastic string attached to the yellow packet suggests that the consignment was dropped by a drone," sources said.

Stray dog carries newborn in mouth in hospital; K'taka Police forms teams to probe

Shivamogga (Karnataka) | Agencies

The Karnataka Police have formed three teams to investigate the case of a stray dog carrying an infant in its mouth in the premises of the McGann hospital in Karnataka's Shivamogga district, officials said on Monday.

The Doddapete police in Shivamogga, who have registered the case, are getting the details of deliveries of babies in the recent past in all government and private hospitals of the city.

According to police, the incident had come to light on Sunday. The dog was spotted carrying the baby in its mouth on March 31. A woman security guard had filed a police complaint in this regard and the incident had come to light lately.

The guard had told police that as she reported to duty at 6 a.m. at the hospital on March 31, people informed her



about a dog carrying the baby. The dog was also spotted coming out from the maternity ward. The guard had searched the premises and found the dog holding the baby in its mouth.

The baby was recovered and found dead. The police are not sure whether the baby was killed by the stray dog. The post-mortem has shown that it was a premature delivery. The authorities have told police that the delivery of the baby did not happen at McGann hospital.

The district health authorities have asked the hospital to submit a report in three days. The police are sending the samples of the body parts to a DNA test. Further investigation is on.

Bhutan king arrives in India for a two-day visit

New Delhi: Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on Monday arrived in India for a two-day visit.

He was welcomed by Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, who received him at the airport. The king will hold talks with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

"Warm welcome to India, Your Majesty! His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in India a short while ago. His Majesty was received by EAM @DrJaishankar at the airport," the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Bhutan holds strategic importance for India and the defence and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.

MASSIVE LANDSLIDE AT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SITE TRIGGERS PANIC

Guwahati: A massive landslide, triggered by incessant rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday, caused damage in the main part of the under-construction dam in the Lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project in Assam's Dhemaji district. Mud and large boulders crashed after the huge landslide hit the hydroelectric project and the labourers had to be evacuated to a safe place. According to police, no casualty was reported from the construction site.

Meanwhile, locals have again expressed their displeasure against the construction of the dam. The incident has caused panic among them.

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has been carrying out the construction of Lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project at Gerukamukh in Dhemaji district along the Assam-Arunachal border.

This project was embroiled in controversy even before the construction began, with environmentalists warning that the dam might have adverse effects among the people living downstream.

Many organisations have been protesting against the project claiming that people who live downstream in three Assam districts of Dhemaji, Biswanath, and Lakhimpur would face cascading effects once the construction is completed.

Is India seeing another Covid wave?

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead for the Covid response at the World Health Organisation (WHO), recently said that there are about 800 sequences of Omicron variant XBB.1.16 from 22 countries. Most of the sequences are from India and in India XBB.1.16 has replaced the other variants that are in circulation. Van Kerkhove said that XBB.1.16 has a similar profile to XBB.1.5, but has additional changes in the spike protein. In lab studies, XBB.1.16 has shown signs of increased infectivity as well as potentially increased pathogenicity, she added.

Rachel V. Thomas | New Delhi

While India has seen the sharpest rise in Covid cases since the third wave in January 2022, experts on Monday opined that the current surge in infections is only "mild" but a "cause for concern" too.

India on Monday reported 3,641 infections, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. On Saturday, it reported 3,824 new Covid-19 infections -- the biggest single-day rise in about 184 days.

Last week, the country had seen a surge with 18,450 fresh cases, a substantial rise from the previous week's 8,781 cases. The Omicron variant XBB.1.16 is believed to be behind the sudden surge of the cases.

"The new variant along with other factors, which include a decrease in Covid appropriate behaviour and a change in weather -- makes us more sus-



ceptible to respiratory conditions. We might see a mild wave happening, but by and large it will be mild and cause mild disease, not severe and not really result in hospitalisations," Dr Randeep Guleria - Chairman, Institute of Internal Medicine and Respiratory & Sleep Medicine and Director-Medical Education, Medanta, told correspondent.

"With the introduction of

every new variant, there could be a transient surge in the number of cases. The current scenario is another such surge. While we don't expect another wave, however, we need to be careful and vigilant in monitoring the variants, mutations, and trends in the number of cases," added Dr Rohit Kumar Garg, Consultant, Department of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

Bengal govt seeks 5.75 L COVID-19 vaccine doses

Kolkata: In wake of fresh spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the country, West Bengal health department has sought supply of 5.75 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the Centre.

Of the 5.75 lakh doses, five lakh are for Covishield and the remaining 75,000 for Covaxin.

A senior official of the state health department said that the fresh request for COVID-19 vaccines to the Union government has been made in wake of apprehension that there might be fresh demands for booster doses in the state amid the recent spike in active cases.

Guleria said that XBB.1.16 "is possibly more infectious but current data does not suggest that it is more virulent and causes more severe infection".

Garg noted that with the evolution of the pandemic so far and the mutating nature of this virus it seems logical to state the virus is going to stay.

While the additional mutations on XBB.1.16 have impacted its transmissibility,

"immune evasiveness is yet to be seen". Further, considering the mutating nature of this virus, "we can expect small outbreaks in future also".

In such a scenario, "everyone must take a third dose, particularly patients at high risk of severe diseases. The available vaccines are safe and protect us against severe disease," Garg told correspondent.



EXCISE POLICY SCAM: SISODIA'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL APRIL 17

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Monday extended former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's judicial custody until April 17 in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

CBI Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Courts ordered the AAP leader to be produced before the court on April 17. The central probe agency had sought the extension of Sisodia's custody as the investigation is at a crucial stage.

On March 31, the court had dismissed former Deputy Chief Minister's bail plea. While denying him bail, Judge Nagpal had said that Sisodia can, prima facie, be held to be the "architect of the criminal conspiracy".

He observed that the payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore was meant for him and his other colleagues in the AAP government.

"The payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore was meant for him and his other colleagues in the GNCTD and Rs 20-30 crore out of the above are found to have been routed through the co-accused Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally and approver Dinesh Arora and in turn, certain provisions of the excise policy were permitted to be tweaked and manipulated by the applicant to protect and preserve the interests of South liquor lobby and to ensure repayment of the kickbacks to the said lobby," the court held.

The court is not inclined to release Sisodia on bail at this stage of investigation as his release may adversely affect the ongoing investigation and will



also seriously hamper the progress, the order stated.

It said that the evidence collected by the probe agency so far shows that the applicant through the co-accused Vijay Nair was in contact with the 'South lobby' and formulation of a favourable policy for them was being ensured at every cost and a cartel was permitted to be formed to achieve monopoly in sale of certain liquor brands of favoured manufacturers and it was permitted to be done against very objectives of the policy.

"Thus, as per allegations made by prosecution and the evidence collected in support thereof so

far, the applicant can prima facie be held to be architect of the said criminal conspiracy," the court said.

It held that the allegations made against Sisodia are "serious in nature" and he does not deserve to be released on bail as he was arrested in the CBI case only on February 26 and that the investigation qua his role has still not been completed.

More filing of a charge sheet against seven other co-accused in the matter does not matter much in a case like this where deep rooted conspiracy for commission of some economic offences effecting the people at large is alleged to have been committed, the court observed.

It said that the evidence collected so far by the CBI not only shows Sisodia's active participation in the criminal conspiracy, but also the prima facie commission of some substantive offences of the PC Act by him.

"There is also nothing apparent on record to infer or show that arrest of the applicant in this case was illegal or violative of any directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court or the Hon'ble High Courts and rather, the material placed before this court by the CBI justifies the arrest of applicant in the case," the court said.

During the last hearing, one of Sisodia's counsel had said that nothing exceptional was stated by the CBI which would warrant continued custody.

"Nothing on record to show that Sisodia will be threatening the witnesses," the counsel said, arguing that Sisodia has cooperated with the CBI investigation and none of the searches have revealed any incriminating material against him.

DCW summons Delhi Police, DU over repeated sexual harassment of girls in colleges

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Taking cognisance of repeated incidents of sexual harassment of girls during college fests, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday launched an inquiry into the matter.

As part of the probe, officials from the Delhi Police and Delhi University have been summoned with details of guidelines prepared to prevent such cases in future.

The summonses were issued to the Registrar of Delhi University and Joint Commissioner of Police (SPUWAC) of Delhi Police this morning.

Last week, the commission had issued a notice to the Delhi Police and the IP college principal following reports of sexual harassment of students during a college fest. Some boys entered the college during the fest and harassed the girls, it said.

"You are hereby summoned to appear before the Commission for the purpose aforementioned on



06/04/2023 at 02.00 p.m. If you fail to comply with this order without lawful excuse, you will be subjected to the consequences of non-attendance as provided in law," read the DCW notice.

The commission has also asked police regarding the number of police personnel that are to be deployed, PCR to be stationed outside college campus during the fest and reasons for not being able to prevent such inci-

dents in colleges of Delhi. It has asked Delhi University to furnish a copy of inquiry reports conducted by the University on the incidents that took place in Gargi College, Miranda House and Indraprastha College for Women.

Details of action taken by the University against the college administration (if any) for the security lapses that occurred therein have also been sought.

AISA claims 15 of its activists detained, police deny

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A student group led by the All India Students' Association (AISA) claimed that 15 of its activists were detained outside Indraprastha College for Women on Monday.

The group had gathered to stage a protest against the alleged harassment of female students during a fest last week, and to express their dissatisfaction with the administration's response to the incident.

However, the Delhi Police has denied the accusation of detaining any protesters. Police personnel were present in large numbers, and barricades had been placed at the college's gates.

A senior police official said that at around 11 a.m., some 15-20 protesters of AISA started their protest.

"They were asked to disperse but they did not. Then, between 12:40-1 p.m. some 27 protesters (15 male and 12 female) were removed peacefully from there. They



were taken to Burari police station and were relieved there. No one from them was from the Indraprastha College," said the official. The Indraprastha College for Women is an affiliate of Delhi University, and several students have held multiple demonstrations in the past few days, demanding the resignation of the newly-appointed principal over alleged security lapses during the annual fest and its perceived authoritarian steps.

LOK SABHA ADJOURNED TILL APRIL 5 AMID OPPN PROTESTS OVER ADANI ISSUE

New Delhi: Lok Sabha proceedings were on Monday adjourned till April 5 amid vociferous protests by Congress-led Opposition.

As soon as the House reconvened at 2 p.m after the first adjournment, Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the chair, allowed laying of papers even as Opposition members rushed to the well, shouting slogans and showing placards, seeking a probe in the Adani matter. Trinamool Congress members also protested by standing near their benches, covering their mouths with black scarves.

Congress, Left and DMK members stood in the well, shouting slogans and displaying placards.

Agrawal, however, adjourned the House as soon as papers were laid, till April 5. April 4 is a holiday on account of Mahavir Jayanti.

Calcutta HC seeks report from Bengal govt over Ram Navami clashes

Kolkata | Agencies

A division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Monday sought a detailed report from the West Bengal government on the recent Ram Navami clashes in Howrah and Hooghly districts.

The two-member division bench of Acting Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmoy Bhattacharya has directed the state government to submit the report along with CCTV footage of the clashes by Wednesday.

The development occurred during the first hearing on a PIL filed by the leader of the opposition in state assembly Suvendu Adhikari, demanding a central agency probe in the March 30 clashes which turned Shibpur and Kazipara in Howrah into virtual battlefields. The division bench also directed the state police to ensure that the com-



mon people are not affected because of the tension.

While criticising the role of the police on this count, the bench also alerted the administration to be careful so that such incidents are not repeated.

Also on Monday, the states advocate

General Soumendranath Mookherjee faced questions from the bench on the alleged failure on part of the police in the matter.

"Why did the police fail to have prior information of such possible incidents though there had been precedence of similar development before? How could police have such a casual approach? What actions have been taken so far? Has Section 144 been imposed in those areas?" Justice Sivagnanam questioned. The state advocate general argued that the police gave permission for a peaceful procession. "However, after some time a section of the protestors resorted to violence. Section 144 has been imposed. Internet services have been suspended in certain pockets. So far as many as 36 individuals have been arrested," he informed the court. The next hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

5 Maoists, including commander carrying Rs 25L reward, killed in encounter

Ranchi | Agencies

Five Maoists, including a commander carrying a reward of Rs 25 lakh, were killed in an encounter in the Lawalong police station area in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Monday.

The slain Maoist commander has been identified as Gautam Paswan.

Police are conducting extensive search operations in the area after recovering a large cache of arms and ammunition, including several AK-47 and INSAS rifles.

Confirming the incident, SP Rakesh Ranjan said that the number of Maoists killed could be more and complete information will be revealed after the search operation concludes.

According to sources, Chatra district police and paramilitary troops were conducting a search operation in the forests of the area adjoining Palamu district when the Maoists ambushed the security forces.



The security forces retaliated and the crossfire continued for at least three hours. While five deaths have been confirmed, some Maoists managed to escape. Locals identified the

eliminated extremists as Ajit Oraon aka Charlies, Amar Ganjhu aka Dhuru, Ajay Yadav aka Nandu, Sanjit Bhuiyan aka Sagar and Gautam Paswan. Squads of CRPF CoBRA

(Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) and police from Palamu and Chatra were involved in the operation.

Telangana teacher arrested for 10th class question paper leak

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana police have arrested a teacher for leaking the question paper of 10th class examination in Vikarabad district on Monday.

Within minutes after the exam began, the question paper was leaked through WhatsApp by a teacher who was on duty as invigilator at an exam centre at a government school in Tandur.

Seven minutes after the exam began, the photo of the Telugu language question paper was sent on WhatsApp. As the word spread about this, officials of the education department and police conducted an investigation.

On a complaint by the district education officer, police booked a case against the



invigilator, a science teacher, and arrested him. The teacher allegedly took a picture of the exam paper and shared it on WhatsApp to help one of his students appearing for the exam.

Police were investigating if the question paper was circulated to more candidates. Other teachers and staff on duty at the exam centre were being questioned.

The Second School Certificate (SSC) exam began

across Telangana on Monday. The exam began at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.30 p.m.

A total of 4,94,620 students appeared for Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams in Telangana. Authorities arranged 2,652 exam centres.

The 10th class exams also started in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. More than 6.64 lakh students are writing the exam across the state.

Mahila Congress stages protest against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The All India Mahila Congress (AIMC) on Monday held a 'Jantana Bachao Rally' to protest against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha following his conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case.

The AIMC members also demanded the formation of a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the allegations of financial irregularities levelled against the Adani Group.

"Rahul Gandhi led the opposition's attack against the Prime Minister in the Parliament. As a response, the Prime Minister's vengeful administration revoked his Lok Sabha membership and ordered him to evacuate his official residence," said Netta D'Souza, President, AIMC. She told the media that in his



speech in the Lok Sabha on February 7, Rahul Gandhi had expressed concerns over the alleged unethical collaboration between Adani and the Centre.

The sequence of events that followed since then demonstrate that democracy in the country is on the verge of collapse, and immediate action is now imperative, D'Souza said. The AIMC said the defamation case against Rahul Gandhi is not just about the Congress, but also about safeguarding freedom of speech.

The AIMC appealed to the government to take prompt action by initiating a JPC probe into the Adani matter, as it believes it is a critical step to combat corruption in the country.

In another similar development, the Youth Congress on Monday launched a 'Jawab Do' postcard campaign across the country.



BULLDOZER AT INDORE TEMPLE AFTER 36 DEATHS, CRACKDOWN THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE

Team Absolute | Indore

Days after a tragic accident that killed 36 people here, more than five bulldozers rolled into the Beleshwar Mahadev temple in Madhya Pradesh's Indore today to demolish illegal construction. A large contingent of municipal and police officials reached the temple on Monday morning to ensure the action was carried out without any disturbance.

Personnel from four police stations have been deployed to prevent any possible resistance. The Deputy Municipal Commissioner, District Magistrate, and other officials are also present at the spot.

The tragedy, in which some families lost more than one member, could have been averted had the Indore Municipal Corporation acted on complaints filed by residents, an NDTV investigation showed. The temple area that collapsed was an illegal structure and the Indore Municipal Corporation had marked the cover of the stepwell for demolition last year, but they backed down after the temple trust warned them religious sentiments would be hurt.

The stepwell roof broke due to the weight of the crowds on Ram Navami. A havan was being performed when the incident happened. Managed by a private trust, the temple is located at Sneha Nagar, one of the oldest residential colonies



in Indore.

The 200-year-old stepwell was covered with four iron girders, a thin layer of concrete and tiles incapable of holding the weight of the crowd that gathered to offer puja on Ram Navami.

The walls had come up around the floor. A tin shed was set up as the roof of the temple. People gathered at Shri Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal temple for a havan (ritual) did not know that the ground beneath their feet hid a deep well amid rusty iron grills. On Sunday, Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed District Collectors virtually from his residence office and instructed them to identify traditional ancient wells and

stepwells and prepare a list. He told them to stay particularly alert about wells and stepwells which have been covered without filling. If there is such a place, arrangements should be made by opening them so that there is no possibility of an accident. If necessary, boundary walls, fencing, or railing should be made around such places. Information about wells and stepwells should also be obtained from the local elders. It should be ensured that an incident like Indore does not recur anywhere in the state. He also told them to be careful about open boreholes. Such boreholes located on government and private land should be identified. Action should be taken

against the concerned officer-employee in case of an open borehole on government land, and on the concerned landowner if the borehole is found open on private land.

After his order, the Indore district administration also issued an order under section 144 of CrPC to identify and free all stepwells from encroachment. The order, released by collector Ilayaraja T, says that a survey of all stepwells and wells will be carried out across the district and those that have dilapidated covers will be marked dangerous.

A police case has been filed against two officials of the temple trust. Two municipal officials have been suspended for not removing illegal construction. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced Rs 5 lakh compensation to the families of the victims and Rs 50,000 to those injured in the freak accident and also ordered a magisterial probe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also announced compensation from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the families of the accident victims.

A tweet on the official handle of the Prime Minister's Office read; "An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh (each) from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased in the unfortunate tragedy in Indore today. The injured would be given Rs 50,000 (each): PM."

Mahavir Swami's 5 Mahavrats guide us to the path of eternal peace: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM attended Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Jeev Daya Award programme in Amarkantak

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the 5 Mahavrats of Mahavir Swami including Satya, Ahimsa, Asteya, Brahmacharya and Aparigraha show the path to eternal peace to a materialistic humanity. On Mahavir Jayanti, let us take a pledge to follow his path. Mahavir Swami had told that those who conquer others are Veer and those who conquer themselves are Mahavirs. Jitendriya means Jain to win one self. In this sense everyone should try to become a Jain. Chief Minister Chouhan attended the Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Jeev Daya Award programme in Amarkantak. He distributed prizes to the best cow shelters, gau-bhaktas and Pashu Sevaks of the state.

He said that Acharya Shri Vidyasagar is a Rashtra Sant, whose darshan I have been fortunate enough to have today. I see the image of Mahavir Swami in him. 'Mook Maati' is his creation. Jainism teaches us to conquer others without weapons. Our culture is of Atmavat Sarvabhuteshu, Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah and Ekatma Manavta. We see the same consciousness in all, and want the welfare of every living being.

CM said that taking a lesson from Mahatma Gandhi's favorite hymn 'Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye, Je Peer Parai Jaame Re', he has made a scheme for women. I wanted to remove the suffering of women. With this scheme, the women will become self-reliant and self-confident.

CM Chouhan said that continuous efforts are being made for cow protection and cow



promotion in the state. The state government has also started an ambulance service for cows and cattle. One ambulance each is being run in every development block of the state, in which arrangements for a doctor and compounder have also been made. 407 animal ambulances have arrived in the state. He told to call 1962 for this service. Chief Minister Chouhan said that liquor vends have been closed in the state from April 1st. Driving under the influence of alcohol will result in suspension of the driver's license. CM Chouhan worships Maa Narmada

CM Chouhan wished for the happiness and prosperity of the people of Madhya Pradesh by offering prayers to Maa Narmada, the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh in Amarkantak. Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti, public representatives and officers were present.

Darshan of Lord Adinath CM Chouhan reached Sarvodaya Tirtha Panchkalyan temple in Amarkantak and visited Lord Adinath and wished for the happiness and prosperity of the citizens of the state. The Chief Minister also inspected the temple complex. During this, Chief Minister Chouhan was informed about 1000 idols installed in the temple premises.

Youth Congress takes out 'Mashaal Yatra' to protest against RaGa's Lok Sabha disqualification

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Congress workers in Jabalpur took out a Mashaal Yatra (torch procession) to protest against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha on Sunday night. The procession was headed by Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas BV and Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress president Vikrant Bhuria. 5,100 youth congressmen took to the streets in Ranjhi to protest and called it 'Loktantra Bachao Yatra'. They walked for atleast 4-5 kms with burning 'mashaals' in their hands. Talking to the reporters, Srinivas BV said, "BJP is that washing machine which can clean any corrupt person.



They are running 'mutecracy' in the country. If you try to speak in the parliament your microphone is muted and if you speak on the streets, you are silenced." Talking about the upcoming assembly elections, he said that Congress will win more than 150 seats.

'Rule of lies in the country' State Youth Congress president Vikrant Bhuria said, "This anger which is being seen in the whole country is because democracy is being strangled inside the country and what is true is not being accepted. Lies are ruling the country."

Digvijaya threatens to sue BJP leader over alleged 'friends with extremists, Pak' remark

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh on Monday threatened to sue Bharatiya Janata Party's Madhya Pradesh in charge P Muralidhar Rao for defamation for allegedly claiming the former was a "friend" of extremists and neighbouring Pakistan. Singh during the day tweeted on the issue along with the image of a news report that claimed Rao made such a remark. As per new reports, the remarks, including that Singh considered the BJP a bigger enemy than Pakistan, was allegedly made by Rao at a function in Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's official residence on Saturday.

"Are you out here? You have to reply in the court for the allegations you have levelled," Singh tweeted.

Incidentally, Singh himself is facing



some defamation cases, including for alleging that MP BJP chief VD Sharma was involved in the Vyapam scam. Singh was granted bail in the case, which was filed in 2014, in February this year.

KAMAL NATH SUGGESTS DIGVIJAYA TO SUE BJP LEADER P MURLIDHAR RAO FOR TAINTING HIS IMAGE

Bhopal: Former chief minister and state Congress chief Kamal Nath said on Monday that he suggested senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh to file a case against BJP leader P Murlidhar Rao for damaging his image. "Singh was the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president and also the chief minister of the state for 10 years", said Kamal Nath talking to the media persons in Bhopal. Nath further added that many people are coming to meet him, and among them are many BJP leaders. "I asked them that I will meet them on an open platform rather than meeting them alone", he said.



Raising concern over the idol of Birsu Munda being damaged in Betul, he alleged that with only six months remaining for the assembly elections, such sponsored activities have started in the state and said that the upcoming elections will be contested between the people of the state and with the BJP.

Posters Put Up After Delhi Bureaucrat's Dog Goes Missing In Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A dog of an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer went missing from Bilua area in Gwalior district following which "missing posters" were pasted in the area and the police are engaged in a search for the last three days. The dog went missing on Friday (March 31).

According to the sources, two dogs of the IAS officer of the MP cadre posted in Delhi were being taken from Delhi to Bhopal. On Friday night, the staff carrying the dog by car stopped at a dhaba near Bilua to have food. While the staff members were having food, both the dogs escaped from the car. After the search, the staff caught one dog but failed to find the other one.

After that, the staff informed the IAS officer in Delhi about the incident over the phone. After that the Gwalior police along with staff of the Gwalior zoo started searching for the dog. Missing posters have been also pasted on the surrounding Dhabas.



Dabra Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Vivek Sharma said, "Some people came to a dhaba in Bilua area when their dog escaped by jumping from their car. They were going from Delhi to Bhopal. A complaint has been registered and nearby restaurants and shops have been informed." "Posters have also been put up at various places, in which it has also been announced to give appropriate rewards to the one who finds the dog," Sharma added.

Jaiprakash, the owner of the dhaba from where the dog went missing, said, "On Friday night a vehicle stops here, the staff members eat food and during this one of the dogs goes missing. That dog belongs to an officer because the officer himself came here along with the police as well as other personnel in search of the dog the next morning."

"When the dog was not found, posters were put up to search for it. In which it was mentioned that appropriate reward will be given to the person who tells about the missing dog," he said.

CM Chouhan plants saplings of Banyan, Mango and Jamun

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of banyan, mango and jamun in the garden at Shyamala. Former minister Archana Chitnis participated in the plantation. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Bajirao Salve along with his family planted saplings on his birthday. Vimal Salve, Gautam Salve, Poonam Salve and Shaurya Salve were with him. Founder of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia Foundation Dilip Yadav planted saplings along with Chief Minister Chouhan. Aashi Chauhan,



who is working in the field of women's safety and environment, also took part in the plantation.

Jabalpur HC imposes a fine of Rs 25,000 on state govt in Paramedical Scholarship Scam

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

The Jabalpur High Court has imposed a fine of Rs. 25,000 on the state government in the Paramedical Scholarship Scam on Monday. The bench of High Court Chief Justice Ravi Malimath and Justice Vishal Mishra has given a time period of two weeks for the reply. The next hearing will be held on April 11. Notably, Advocate Vishal Baghel, president of the MP Law Student Association, had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL). He informed the High Court that from the year 2010 to 2015, hundreds of private paramedical college operators in the state had embezzled crores of rupees from the government by showing the fake admission of students.

Later, the investigation was done into the matter. It was found that the students in whose name the amount was taken had never appeared for the exam. Along with this, the scholarship was drawn in the name of those students in many colleges.

After which, FIR was lodged against more than 100 college operators across the state



and orders were issued for recovery of crores of rupees from private paramedical colleges across the state. But due to collusion of officers and colleges, the recovery has not been done till date.

Therefore, the bench of Chief Justice Ravi Malimath and Justice Vishal Mishra has imposed a fine of Rs. 25000 and given a time period of two weeks to respond.

2 WOMEN AMONG 3 DEAD, 4 INJURED AFTER 2 CARS COLLIDE

Chhatrapur: Three persons, including two women, were killed and four others sustained severe injuries after two cars collided head on in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatrapur district on Monday, a police official said. The accident occurred near Ujra village under Garhi Malhara police station limits in the district.

Chhatrapur Superintendent of Police (SP), Amit Sanghi said, "Two vehicles, an SUV and a sedan collided head on at Mahoba road under Garhi Malhara police station in the district on Monday morning. Three persons were travelling in the SUV and they sustained injuries. On the other hand, four people were travelling in the sedan and three of them, including the driver, died and one sustained injuries." Sanghi said that one vehicle was heading towards Mohaba, Uttar Pradesh while another was arriving towards Chhatrapur and they collided head on. On getting the information about the incident, the police station in charge and other officials reached the spot. The injured were admitted to the district hospital, SP Sanghi said. The family members have been informed about the incident and further action will be taken into the matter after the post mortem of the deceased, he added.

Cheetah that strayed into village 20 kms outside KNP returns back

Team Absolute | Sheopur

The cheetah named Oban that strayed into the field situated near Kuno National Park in Sheopur district on Saturday night returned to the jungle on Sunday after much effort by the forest department. The villagers panicked when they saw Oban in the morning hours. They alerted the forest team. The forest officials immediately rushed to the village, and it was only on Sunday evening that the cheetah returned to the jungle.

District Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Kumar Verma said Oban reached the Jhar Baroda village of Vijaypur, which is adjacent to the forest and was sitting on the farm.

The forest officials made the video of Oban, which went viral on social media. During daytime, cheetahs normally rest in shadow, hence the forest team waited for



the evening hours to ensure Oban's return to the jungle of Kuno. The forest officials asked the villagers of Jhar Badoda not to disturb Oban. At sunset, forest officials created a safe passage for Oban. This tactic worked, as Oban followed safe passage and went inside the jungle. "It is very often

that a cheetah enters a nearby field and returns inside the jungle," said Verma.

Cheetahs roaming in open forest of Kuno National Park are getting familiar with the forest by reaching its every corner. They roam in an area of 10 to 15 km per day.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP expects euphoria over new Ram Temple to drive 2024 narrative

The Ram temple has been the fulcrum of BJP's politics since it came into being in 1980, and the party has faced some turbulent times in the temple movement in the past decades. When the doors of the Ram temple open in 2024, it will be only the ground floor that would have been completed by then. The Ram Lalla idols would be installed there and will be opened for public in January next year. The temple trust is not waiting for the entire temple to be ready before opening it for the public. The first and the second floors of the temple will take another year to complete and the entire premises over 71 acres would be completed by 2025. The BJP wants the temple to open next year so that the Lok Sabha polls can be held under the saffron hue. The opening of the temple, according to sources, will be preceded by a massive publicity blitzkrieg that will be designed to raise Hindu passions and create a frenzy of sorts for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Other constituents of the Sangh Parivar, according to sources, are planning programmes to create a build-up for the grand occasion. The temple's construction will cost Rs 1,800 crore, which will come entirely from donations. A big network of highways, roads, infrastructure, townships, grand entrance gates, multi-level parking facilities and a new airport is coming up in Ayodhya. The BJP has for long maintained that the temple is not about politics, but the 'faith' of millions. This is expected to escalate in the run-up to the 2024 general elections as the temple becomes a reality and emerges before the people. Also, the Congress and the Samajwadi Party would be attacked for derailing the temple's construction for years.

LORD MAHAVIRA: THE FOUNDER OF UNIVERSAL RELIGION

Lalit Garg

The entire life of Mahavira is a living inspiration for the rise of self and others. He has illuminated millions and millions of people with his aura of positivity. Therefore becoming a Mahavira is a symbol of the meaning of life. To become a Mahavira means to lead a healthy life, to develop immunity, to illuminate the soul and become a person who is self-reliant. Every year we celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, but this year the birth anniversary has to be purposeful, not mere planning. For this, every person should do spiritual practice to look within himself; Mahavira is not only worshiped, but should be imbibed in life. It is necessary that we inculcate the teachings given by Mahavira in our life and practice.

Every person prepares to become a Mahavira, then only one can get rid of problems. Mahavira can only become a person who is completely devoted to the goal, whose lifestyle is restrained and disciplined, who has the capacity to bear the sufferings. One who can maintain equanimity, restraint and balance even in adverse circumstances, who is ready to practice silence and heat the body. In whose mind there is a feeling of coexistence towards the whole being. One who not only knows how to change his destiny through effort, but also wishes for a bright future for the entire humanity.

Mahavira was born centuries ago, but his life and teachings are more effective and relevant in today's time of crisis and many diseases. Mahavira is a wave of health-evolution, a smokeless crest of healthy life-light. There is an unnamed river of courage and restraint. There was a hint of eternity in his dialogues. His lifestyle was so dominant that he would have



been bound by a once-living. There was such brilliance in his eyes that the one who saw him once could not forget. There was such an invitation in his call for a healthy life that it could not be ignored. His guidance was so perfect that the one who found him could never go astray. His presence was so inspiring that one would get transformed. He said 'appana sacchame-seja' - find the truth yourself. He did not make anyone run with the help of crutches. If you have the ability to walk on your feet, then you can walk whenever you want and reach wherever you want. He not only illuminated the way, but also created the inner light. These are all the reasons that remind us of Mahavira.

Mahavira believed in a healthy life. They lived on their own. He also taught others to live in himself. They were healthy. No disease could touch him. He gave many sources of health. One of them was the formula - Kayotsarga. Kayotsarga means purification of the body, maintenance of the body, purity and restraint towards the body. Kayotsarga is also the starting point of sadhana and it is also the

final point. This is the first understanding of health and the final conclusion. It is the shield for emergency situations involving the body. It is the use of stress-immersion and is free from all sorrows.

Mahavira's sadhana period lasted twelve and a half years. In it he repeatedly used kayotsarga. The wearer of protective armor or bulletproof jacket does not have the fear of being shot, similarly after going into deep Kayotsarga, the effect of adverse conditions of major diseases and deadly and life-threatening attacks is attenuated. Like Mahavira, one who practices Kayotsarga becomes healthy-hearted, becomes light and can lead a happy life by being absorbed in expansive meditation.

The person who wants to get rid of various kinds of diseases, wants to become healthy and has to take medicine in the form of Kayotsarga. Mahavira had the science of medicine whose constituent elements are not mentioned in medical science, he gave such an unfading system of health, which is as easy as it is difficult. Kayotsarga is a type of penance. In which physical restlessness and anger etc. have to be

immersed. The focus has to be on the breath. Is the mind fickle or the restlessness of the mind is the mind. On the basis of this concept, it seems difficult to stop the restlessness of the mind. In the practice of Kayotsarga, words like relaxation, shavasana or relaxation for the body are used. Kayotsarga is such a door, from where one can get a glimpse of the soul, a feeling of existence apart from the gross body. In Kayotsarga, the body and mind get complete relaxation. There are many misconceptions about Jainism in the public. Jainism is a religion that hurts the body. Mahavira talks of giving rest to the body. How can the principle of suffering be valid in such a situation? Any austerity or penance does not mean to cause pain to the body, but to cultivate the body. The mind cannot be controlled without the body. Therefore, through yogic processes, a way has been made to cultivate the body.

Kayotsarga has a special significance in the field of spirituality. Its usefulness in medical science is also undeniable. Kayotsarga also plays a big role in various investigations done by the modern equipment of medical science. In every medical examination, it is advised to leave the body a little loose and slow down the breathing, it is said to leave the mouth loose even during the extraction of teeth. In case of high blood pressure, it can be balanced by kayotsarga. Unbalanced lifestyle and stress are the major problems of this time. Small and big, rich and poor, everyone is surrounded by this tension. This is a problem for which doctors do not even have a cure. Kayotsarga can be a permanent solution to the problem of stress and fear. If Kayotsarga is done regularly, then there will be no leave

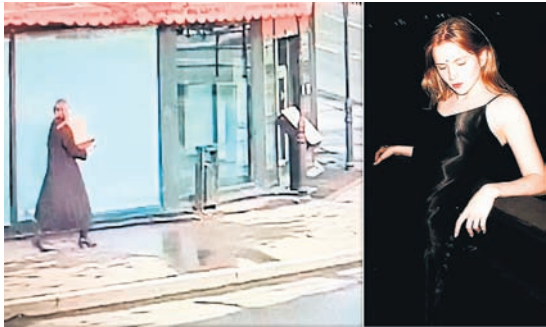
for tension and fear to arise. Through Kayotsarga, both body and mind can be kept healthy. Kayotsarga is a mantra for self-meditation, in the same way, health is also a mantra for spiritual practice.

In modern life, the practice of silence, mantra cultivation and restraint is very useful. Silence gives rest, happiness comes. But the glory of silence that is accompanied by Kayotsarga is different. Be it silence, meditation, fasting or any other restraint ritual, all have a useful place in getting rid of diseases. Those who want physical, mental and spiritual health, want to avoid epidemics and diseases, they should use this great mantra Kayotsarga of Mahavira. Kayotsarga is medicine and highway to health. Anyone following this can lead a healthy life.

Lord Mahavira is truly a shining beam of light and the founder of universal religion. He is the savior of the human mind of this creation. Mahavira had given maximum emphasis on fasting, restraint and character. Mahavira's entire life is the culmination of austerity and meditation, so he is self-motivated. The teachings of the Lord are life-giving in which the solution of life's problems is contained. Lord Mahavira is Chinmaya Deepak (a lamp that has the never lasting illumination light) The lamp removes the darkness, but the usefulness of the Chinmaya lamp to defeat the darkness of ignorance is undeniable. In fact, Mahavira's discourses and teachings are millions of beams of light. In order to be flooded with the rays of knowledge, it is necessary to immerse in them, only then will we be able to move towards a healthy life.

international

Anti-war female assassin carried explosive-laden statue into St Petersburg cafe



London | Agencies

Anti-war female activist suspected of assassinating one of Vladimir Putin's propagandists by carrying a statue laden with explosives into a cafe has been arrested on Monday, according to a media report.

Vladimir Tatarsky, whose real name is Maxim Fomin, was blown to pieces on Sunday after Daria Trepova (26) reportedly entered a cafe in St Petersburg and handed

him a small statue of himself that was said to be laden with explosives, Daily Mail reported.

Tatarsky (40), a staunch supporter of Putin and his invasion of Ukraine, had been speaking at a political event at the Street Food No 1 cafe when the bomb exploded next to him, killing the propagandist and injuring 32 others in what the Kremlin claimed was a 'terrorist attack'.

Russia's Investigative

Committee said on Monday it has detained Trepova in a rented flat in St Petersburg on suspicion of carrying out the assassination. Speaking for the first time since her arrest, Trepova insisted she had been 'set up' and 'was being used'.

Russia's top counterterrorism agency claimed - without providing evidence - that Trepova had carried out the attack with the help of 'Ukrainian special services' and activists who are linked to jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, Daily Mail reported.

It came after a chilling video appeared to show Trepova, a St Petersburg resident who was previously detained for taking part in anti-war rallies, walking into the cafe carrying a box containing what may have been a statuette containing 450 gm of TNT - just minutes before it exploded, Daily Mail reported.



Over 220 evacuated from Russian mine after smoke incident

Moscow: More than 220 miners working underground at the Obukhovskaya coal mine in southern Russia's Rostov region have been evacuated after smoke occurred at the mine.

The smoke occurred at a sub-station of the coal mine but caused no open fire. A ventilation system has been activated, TASS news agency reported on Sunday, citing the emergency services.

A rescue team is working at the scene and there have been no casualties, according to RIA Novosti news agency as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

TRUMP'S ATTORNEY SAYS TO MAKE MOTION TO DISMISS CHARGES FROM GRAND JURY

Washington | Agencies

An attorney for former US President Donald Trump said that he expects to make a motion to dismiss any charges brought by a Manhattan grand jury in the hush-money payment case involving adult film actress Stormy Daniels.

"We will take the indictment. We will dissect it. The team will look at every, every potential issue that we will be able to challenge, and we will challenge," Trump's attorney Joe Tacopina told reporters during an interview on Sunday.

"And of course, I very much anticipate a motion to dismiss coming because there's no law that fits this," Xinhua news agency quoted the lawyer as saying.

Trump, who served as President from January 2017 to January 2021, was indicted last week by a Manhattan grand jury for his alleged role in organising hush money payments to Daniels before the 2016 election.



As the first former US president to be criminally charged, Trump reportedly faces more than 30 counts related to business fraud in the indictment, which was filed under seal.

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office confirmed the indictment on March 31 and said it had contacted Trump's attorney to arrange his surrender. Trump, an early frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, is expected to arrive in New York City on Monday and appear in court for arraignment in Manhattan on Tuesday afternoon.

After Trump turns himself in, he will be in custody of the New York Police Department and the Secret Service but he will be "processed like any other defendant", according to CBS News legal analyst Ricki Klieman.

Trump, 76, has denied wrongdoing and alleged that the criminal inquiry and others relating to him are all politically motivated.

The Trump 2024 campaign said on Sunday that he will deliver remarks at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Florida, on Tuesday night, hours after his arraignment.

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 32 AFTER TORNADOES RIP US STATES

Washington | Agencies

At least 32 people have died after strong tornadoes and deadly storms struck multiple states in the US's South and Midwest over the weekend, authorities said.

In a report, CNN said that more than 50 preliminary tornado reports were recorded on April 1 in at least seven states.

The powerful tornadoes crushed homes and businesses, ripped roofs off buildings, splintered trees and sent vehicles flying.

Wynne, Arkansas, where at least four people died, was cleaved in half by one such tornado, leaving a line of destruction from the city's western limit to its eastern, according to Mayor Jennifer Hobbs, who told CNN on Sunday: "We're just gonna need all the help that we can (get) to help these families recover."

About 100 miles southwest, another person died in North Little

Rock.

Deaths have been confirmed across a wide swath of states, with multiple victims in Arkansas, Indiana and Tennessee, where the statewide death toll rose to 15 on Sunday, officials said.

Three of the deaths were in Memphis: Two children and one adult were found dead after police responded to calls about trees that had fallen on homes, the Memphis Police Department said in a statement.

Nine others died in McNairy County, Tennessee, County Mayor Larry Smith confirmed to CNN on Sunday.

The storm "crossed our county completely from one side to the other", Sheriff Guy Buck told CNN on Saturday evening as authorities continued to search collapsed buildings.

There were at least five deaths in Indiana and four in Illinois, including one person who died after the



roof of the Apollo Theatre in Belvidere collapsed on April 1 while more than 200 people were gathered for a heavy metal concert. State and local officials also reported one death in Alabama,

Mississippi and Delaware.

This latest devastation comes just a week after a massive tornado levelled a town in Mississippi, claiming 25 lives, reports Xinhua news agency.

The 26th death was reported in Alabama during the same round of turbulent weather.

The storm threat has now shifted to the Southern Plains, where nearly 13 million people in north Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth area, face an enhanced -- or level 3 of 5 -- risk for severe weather in the afternoon and early evening hours, the Storm Prediction Center said.

The Dallas Office of Emergency Management activated its sirens for the city "due to large hail" as flights were grounded at Dallas airports, according to officials.

Both the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport issued ground stops as severe weather rolled into Texas, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Flights were temporarily grounded but have since resumed, the FAA said.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for parts of Oklahoma and Texas.

Saudi Arabia announces voluntary oil production cut of 500,000 barrels per day



Riyadh | Agencies

Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry has announced a voluntary oil cut of 500,000 barrels per day from May till the end of 2023.

The production cut is in coordination with some other countries of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Participating Countries in the Declaration of

Cooperation, said the Ministry in a statement on Sunday. It noted that the voluntary cut is in addition to the reduction in production agreed upon at the 33rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting on October 5, 2022, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Ministry clarified that the decision is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the global oil market.



SHINDE WILL BE 2ND MAHA CM TO PRAY AT RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

Team Absolute | Thane

Taking forward the cause of "Hindutva", Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday announced that he will visit Ayodhya on April 9. This will be a second visit by a Maharashtra CM to the upcoming Ram Temple - in March 2020, then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had prayed there and now present Shinde will perform an 'aarti' there. Shinde will be accompanied by his party Ministers, MLAs, MPs and other leaders on their maiden trip to Ayodhya. Like Thackeray two years ago, Shinde will also perform the aartis and other rituals at the Sarayu River and worship Ram Lalla there, besides visiting the Shri Hanuman Garhi Temple. The developments follow an invite by a Mahant of Ayodhya who extended a



personal invitation to the CM to visit the Lord Ram Temple, and a week after the Maharashtra government sent the first consignment of prized teak-wood from Chandrapur district for the temple construction. Earlier, then minister Aditya Thackeray had visited the Lord Ram Temple and offered prayers there in June 2022, barely a fortnight before the MVA government

was toppled by a Shinde-led rebellion. However, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray - the estranged cousin of Uddhav - was prevented from going to Ayodhya in early June 2022 in view of threats by the Uttar Pradesh BJP MP Brijbhushan Sharan Singh, though the MNS-BJP are now cosying up in this state.

Patra Chawl Scam: ED attaches properties worth Rs 3150 cr of Wadhawan brothers

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

In a latest development in the Patra Chawl scam involving Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Monday that it has attached two immovable properties worth Rs 31.50 crore belonging to Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan and Sarang Kumar Wadhawan. The case is related to irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl project in Goregaon, Mumbai, by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd. The attached assets are in the form of land held by Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan and Sarang Kumar Wadhawan, directors of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, Mumbai and Goa. The ED initiated a PMLA investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing, Mumbai, against Guru Ashish Construction, Wadhwan brothers and others based on a complaint filed by an executive engineer of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA).



The ED learnt during the investigation that Guru Ashish Construction was entrusted with the redevelopment of Patra Chawl for rehabilitation of 672 tenants. During the relevant time, Rakesh, Sarang and others were the directors of Guru Ashish Construction. A tripartite agreement was signed between the society, MHADA and Guru Ashish Construction, according to which the developer was to provide the flats to 672 tenants and develop flats for

MHADA and thereafter the remaining area was to be sold by the developer. The directors of Guru Ashish Construction misled the MHADA and collected a net amount of Rs 901.79 crore without constructing the rehabilitation for 672 displaced tenants and the MHADA portion. Further, Guru Ashish Construction also launched a project named 'Meadows' and collected booking

amount of around Rs 138 crore from the flat buyers. The total proceeds of crime generated by the directors of Guru Ashish Construction was around Rs 1,039.79 crore. "We learnt that Rakesh and Sarang after receipt of the proceeds of crime in the bank accounts of HDIL and its group companies, diverted them through bank accounts of HDIL and/or its group companies viz GACPL, Sapphire Land Development Pvt Ltd, Satyam Realtors etc., which finally reached the personal bank accounts of Rakesh and Sarang after multiple layering. "During 2011-2016, crime proceeds of Rs 38.5 crore from the account of Rakesh was utilised for pre-payments of the installments against availed loan of Rs 28.5 crore from India Bulls Housing Finance Ltd. The loan was availed at a floating interest rate of 18.5 per cent for acquiring two plots in Goa worth Rs 31.50 crore during 2011. A payment of Rs 2 crore was also made to the seller of the plots from the personal account of Sarang," said the ED.

Raut accuses BJP of ploy to spark riots in India before 2024 elections

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of a conspiracy to incite riots all over India in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections for its political interests, here on Monday. Talking to media-persons, he claimed that the BJP has set up a "wing" specifically to create such disturbances in the country and cited the recent instances of the Hubli riots in Karnataka, the violence in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and other places in Maharashtra. "Everybody knows who is behind these flare-ups... who is creating the communal unrests all over. The BJP's strategy is to stoke riots all over the country till the 2024 elections are due and then make it 'an excuse' to postpone the polls," Raut declared. The Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson contended that wherever the BJP feels weak or scared, communal flare-ups are being witnessed in different states (like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal), and this trend would continue till the Lok Sabha polls are announced.

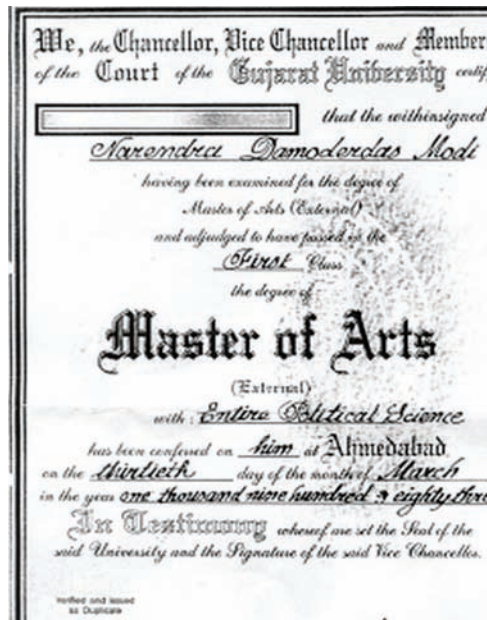


Speaking about the successful and peaceful Maha Vikas Aghadi mega-rally held in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on Sunday, Raut said that now another 16 combined MVA public meetings shall be held all over Maharashtra in the coming weeks ahead of the civic elections and next year's Parliamentary and state Assembly polls.

Display PM's degree outside new Parliament, demands Shiv Sena (UBT)

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Touching upon a touchy issue, the Shiv Sena (UBT) has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's academic degree should be displayed at the grand entrance of the new Parliament building, here on Monday. Speaking to the media, Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut wondered why the PM's degree is being guarded as a 'secret', creating doubts in peoples' minds. "Some people are calling the PM's degree a fake... I sincerely believe that the degree in Entire Political Science is historical and revolutionary. Hence it should be displayed at the grand entrance of our new Parliament so that people stop raising doubts about it," said Raut. The Sena (UBT) leader said that when Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal sought details about the PM's degree, he was denied the same and even slapped a fine of Rs 25,000. "What is there to hide when asking for the PM's degree?" Now we feel that Modi himself must come forward and clear the air on his educational



degree," Raut urged. Contending that the PM's degree is 'fake', the party's newspapers, "Saamana" and "Dopahar Ka Saamana" have editorially slammed Modi and said the degree matter is once again being raised in political circles. On Sunday night, Sena (UBT) President and former CM Uddhav Thackeray thundered at Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and touched upon the delicate issue while taking a swipe at the recent doctorate awarded to state Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "Some get their degrees, others earn it... It seems that even PhDs are up for sale now... There's one who keeps flaunting it and another who hides it... What is there to conceal, the college awarding the degree should be proud of their distinguished alumnus. But instead, those questioning (the PM's degree) and asking to see it, are penalized with a fine," Thackeray said. Raut went a notch further, alleging how many Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have also acquired such dubious degrees and termed it as a matter of serious concern for the country.

Rahul conviction case: Thousands of Cong workers stopped outside Surat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thousands of Congress workers trooping down to Surat city have been halted in their tracks and prevented from going there to express solidarity with senior leader Rahul Gandhi, top office-bearers said here on Monday. Leader of Congress Legislature Party Balasaheb Thorat said that Congressmen are going to Surat from all over India, including Maharashtra but the Gujarat Police are not allowing them to proceed ahead. "Vehicles carrying Congress activists and leaders from here have been halted at Navsari on the highway, they are under the strict watch of the police to ensure nobody can get down and join Gandhi in Surat... This is nothing but trampling of democracy," said Thorat sharply. Around 10,000 Congress activists from all over Maharashtra, especially from Nashik, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Nandurbar, Pune, Mumbai and other districts went in buses, trucks and



smaller vehicles from early morning to Surat to give 'moral support' to Gandhi in his legal-political battle.

Among the senior leaders, who were stopped, were Thorat and former Minister Yashomati Thakur but after they registered strong protests, they were allowed to leave, said a party office-bearer in Mumbai. However, hundreds of other Congressmen, Youth Congress and Mahila Congress activists were stopped and barred from going ahead and their vehicles have been parked beside the highway behind police barricades, and they are not permitted to even step out of the vehicle, he added. It may be recalled that the Wayanad (Kerala) MP, Rahul Gandhi has gone to the diamond hub in south Gujarat Monday to file an appeal against the Surat Court's verdict last month sentencing him to two years' jail term in a defamation case and his subsequent disqualification from the Lok Sabha. State and Central BJP leaders have slammed the Congress' 'show of strength as 'pressure tactics' and 'drama' to intimidate the judiciary, and putting one (Gandhi) family above the country.

Janhvi, rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya visit Tirupati Balaji temple

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A video of actress Janhvi Kapoor visiting the Tirupati Balaji temple in Tirumala along with her rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya is doing the rounds on social media. In the video, Janhvi is seen dressed in a pink and light green lehenga, while Shikhar sported in a white dhoti and pink scarf. The two were seen offering prayers at the temple and were also accompanied by Khushi Kapoor. Over the weekend, Shikhar, grandson of the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Sushilkumar Shinde, was spotted posing with Janhvi's father-



producer Boney Kapoor at the launch of NMACC. On the work front, Janhvi is gearing up for the release of 'Bawaal' starring Varun Dhawan. Janhvi is all set to mark her Bollywood debut with Jr NTR's film 'NTR30'.

Big B calls India 'mother of invention' as he posts an example



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan was impressed by an old man wearing a solar powered fan on his head to keep himself cool and shared his video on social media.

Amitabh took to Twitter, where he shared a video of the old man wearing a helmet with an attached fan at the front and solar panel at the back of it. An impressed Amitabh captioned it: 'India the Mother of invention.

Bharat mata ki jai." On the work front, the cine icon on Monday announced his next film, a courtroom drama thriller 'Section 84', which also stars Diana Penty. He also has 'Project K' with Prabhas and Deepika Padukone.

Mumbai stunt-biker nabbed, faces charges of culpable homicide

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A young city biker, who performed dangerous wheelie-stunts on his motorcycle with two girls, has been arrested by the Mumbai Police and faces charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, officials said on Monday. The accused, identified as Payyaz Ahmed A. Kadri, 24 - a history-sheeter - had performed the risky stunts last week and the matter came to light after a video of the incident went viral on social media, sparking outrage. Late on Friday, the 13-second clip was shared by PotholeWarriors Foundation which condemned his daredevil acts after which the Bandra Kurla Complex police swung into action and nabbed Kadri late on Sunday. The clips showed him doing the stunt acts with a girl sitting in his lap in the front and another pillion rider grabbing him, all without wearing helmets which is compulsory in Mumbai, and the PWF

urged the Mumbai Traffic Police to catch him. Taking prompt note of the social media video, the Mumbai Traffic Police said a case was registered by the BKC Police Station and investigations were on to identify the culprits, and also sought public help in the matter. After his arrest late on Sunday, the police checked his antecedents to discover he had similar cases lodged against him in Antop Hill and Wadala. The BKC Police Station has slapped charges under Indian Penal Code Sec. 308 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 279, 336, 34 and 114, and Motor Vehicles Act Sec. 148 and 194. A top official said that the latest development has come as a strong message to stunt bikers who perform stealthily on deserted roads at night or even those who zoom bikes at breakneck speeds in different parts of the country's commercial capital, endangering their own and the lives of other motorists or pedestrians, despite warnings by the police.

Raghav Chadha, Parineeti Chopra may get engaged in first week of April



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ever since Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chandra and actress Parineeti Chopra have been seen together, rumours about their wedding have been rife. However, according to several media reports, a source which could not be verified has

claimed that the politician and the actress will soon make their relationship official by an intimate engagement ceremony in the capital in the first week of April. According to the report, Parineeti has already reached New Delhi. The source also shared that the ceremony will be graced by family members

including Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Nick Jonas and Meera Chopra and the duo's close friends. Dating rumours between Raghav and Parineeti began last month when the two were pictured together in London and then in Mumbai. The two have often been pictured together at Mumbai and New Delhi airport.



Lady Gaga

SHOWS OFF HER PROWESS, SINGING & DANCES DURING 'JOKER 2' FILMING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Lady Gaga is making use of her vocals for her role in 'Joker: Folie a Deux'. The 13-time Grammy Award winner has shown off her singing prowess as she filmed the movie in New York City, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

Over the weekend, the singer was seen shooting scenes for the sequel at a familiar place. She was photographed at the same staircase where Joaquin Phoenix's titular character boogied down in the 2019 film.

In pictures and videos taken by onlookers, Gaga was walking the iconic staircase connecting Shakespeare and Anderson avenues at West 167th Street in the Bronx. As she ascended the graffiti-laced staircase, she busted a few moves. When she almost reached the top of the staircase, she can be heard singing a few lines from Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz's 'That's Entertainment' and dancing before walking back down.

The Golden Globe Award-winning actress wore a large black jacket and gloves with matching boots, while carrying a brown bag. Her long blonde hair was let loose as she did not sport the Harley Quinn makeup she was seen wearing in previously leaked set photos.

Though it has not been confirmed, Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, is presumed to be playing Harleen Quinzel, a psychiatrist at Gotham City's Arkham Asylum who went by the name Harley Quinn after falling in love with Fleck.

Plot details are still kept under wraps, but it has been reported that the film would be a musical. Todd Phillips is back as director and also writes the script with Scott Silver.

Zazie Beets will reprise her role as Sophie Dumond, while Brendan Gleeson, Catherine Keener, Jacob Lofland and Harry Lawtey have been cast in undisclosed roles. 'Joker 2' is slated to arrive in US theatres on October 4, 2024.



CHRIS HEMSWORTH ISN'T CONSIDERING EARLY RETIREMENT DESPITE ALZHEIMER'S WARNING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth is said to be slowing down, but not considering early retirement, after learning that he's at a "high risk" of Alzheimer's as he ages.

The 'Thor' actor discovered that he could be vulnerable in later life to the degenerative disease while he filmed his National Geographic and Disney+ docuseries 'Limitless', and sources say that even though he is planning to keep an eye on his Hollywood workload, he is not considering early retirement for the sake of his health, reports [femalefirst.co.uk](#).

An insider told Page Six that "he doesn't plan to take on many roles because of (learning about his high risk of) Alzheimer's" after he finishes four upcoming projects, which include reprising his Thor role in an upcoming 'Avengers' sequel, and a part in an untitled biopic of wrestling icon Hulk Hogan.

The actor has told Vanity Fair that he is "not talking about retiring by any means"

due to his Alzheimer's warning. But he said to the magazine there was an "intensity" in "navigating" the test results that showed he was at high risk of the disease, which he got last November.

He stressed it was not a diagnosis and only a sign the neurodegenerative condition is more likely to be in his future than it is for most other people.

He added: "Most of us, we like to avoid speaking about death. Then to all of a sudden be told some big indicators are actually pointing to this as the route which is going to happen, the reality of it sinks in. Your own mortality."

The actor also said learning he's "eight to 10 times more likely" to battle Alzheimer's than others had "triggered something in me to want to take some time off."

He added: "I've been completing the things I was already contracted to do."

Among them is a plan to "go home and... to have a good chunk of time off and just simplify," as well as "be with the kids, be with my wife."



KEKE PALMER SHARED AN ADORABLE VIDEO SAYING 'HER SON IS ALREADY TIRED OF HER'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Emmy Award winning actress Keke Palmer recently showed off her mommy moves in a sweet video with 5-week-old son Leodis 'Leo' Andrellton. Keke can be seen dancing around to "Slide" by Sada Baby with her newborn baby boy laying on her chest and looking around, reports 'People' magazine. "And to think! Just last April Fools I 'joked' about being preggers... we manifested you little buddy!" wrote Palmer in the caption. "I love hanging with you and you just be looking crazy like a caveman. He is already tired of me (sic)."

She and partner Darius Jackson announced the birth of their first child in February. "Hey Son!!!!" Palmer wrote at the time, adding: "Born during Black History Month, with a name to match! LEODIS ANDRELLTON JACKSON, welcome to the world, baby Leo. Darius always made me playlists when we first started dating; 'Someone' by El DeBarge was a favourite. We became each other's someone and made a someone, look at God! (Sic)," wrote Palmer.

'People' further states that Palmer first revealed her pregnancy in December as she made her hosting debut on 'Saturday Night Live', announcing that she's expecting her first baby with Jackson, a fitness instructor and former college football player.

"There's some rumours going around, people have been in my comments saying, 'Keke's having a baby, Keke's pregnant,' and I wanna set the record straight - I am!" Palmer exclaimed during her opening monologue, unbuttoning her long jacket to reveal her baby bump.

MERYL STREEP COULD BE A GREAT VILLAIN IN NEXT 'JOHN WICK' FILM: SHAMIER ANDERSON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Shamier Anderson is keen to have Meryl Streep join the 'John Wick' universe. The actor plays Mr Nobody/Tracker in the action film 'John Wick: Chapter 4' and revealed that he has some ideas about who he would love to see join the Keanu Reeves-starring franchise next.

"Liam Neeson would be a great antagonist. I think Denzel Washington would be a crazy antagonist. It would be really interesting to see a female villain; Meryl Streep would be something different. So those are my top three choices, Denzel Washington, Liam Neeson, and Meryl Streep," he told [IndieWire](#).

And, Anderson hopes he will still be around if any of his suggested actors ever join the franchise as he wants to develop his character even more in the future. He explained: "I felt like [Tracker] was the most relatable person to that audience."

"He didn't wear the crazy clothes and didn't do the crazy things. He didn't really believe in the themes of The Continental. And so what I wanted to do is root it in, 'How do I make this guy lovable even though he has a vicious pup? How do I make this guy lovable even though he wants to go after John Wick's head?' I said, 'What is his motivation?'"

"And I don't talk about this

too much. Hopefully, it can be earned in a derivative of this story, whether it's a Tracker spinoff or a Tracker series or something. But I thought about his mother. Why would somebody want an inordinate amount of money? Why would somebody want \$50 million for somebody outside of this fantastical world?"

"I felt like it was about his moth-

er. Why his mom? I think that's the secret that I'll definitely hold on to until we get to that next phase and hopefully I'll be able to get back in Tracker's shoes. For me, it was about this human being."



BTS' Suga to debut official solo album 'D-Day' on April 21

Seoul | Agencies

K-pop superband BTS member Suga will debut his official solo album 'D-Day' on April 21 under a stage name for his previous individual projects, Agust D, his agency BigHit Music said Monday.

'D-Day' will mark the final installment of the 'Agust D' trilogy, which began with his mix tapes 'Agust D' and 'D-2', reports [Yonhap](#).

Suga wrote and composed all the songs in the album and took charge of its overall production process to share his sincere personal story, BigHit Music said. A pre-release track will be revealed Friday.

Suga plans to go on his first individual world tour starting with Belmont Park in San Diego from April 26-27, which will also take him to other cities in the United States, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Japan.

Suga is the fifth BTS member of the septet to debut as a soloist.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Fan Bingbing



IPL 2023

MOEEN, DESHPANDE, SANTNER STAR AS CHENNAI BEAT LUCKNOW BY 12 RUNS



Chennai | Agencies

On the back of good efforts from Moeen Ali, Tushar Deshpande and Mitchell Santner, four-time champions Chennai Super Kings marked their grand homecoming to Chepauk in style with a 12-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

After Rituraj Gaikwad and Devon Conway shared a 110-run opening stand while Ambati Rayudu and captain M.S. Dhoni, along with Moeen and Shivam Dube, propelled CSK to reach 217/7, Kyle Mayers had threatened to steal their thunder with a 22-ball 53.

His efforts meant Lucknow reached 73/0 in five overs. But Moeen and Santner came in as LSG slipped to

82/3 in the eighth over. Moeen, who picked 4-26, and Santner, who returned with 1-21, kept things tight to bring Chennai back into the game.

Nicholas Pooran threatened to drive Lucknow to a late win, but Tushar Deshpande took him out as the visitors' ended up at 205/7, with Chennai pocketing vital two points in a high-scoring game.

Chasing 218, Mayers welcomed Ben Stokes with back-to-back fours through the off-side, followed by a clean 86m six over long-off. Mayers made strokeplay look ridiculously easy, punching, pulling and driving against Deepak Chahar in the next over.

Krunal Pandya and Marcus Stoinis tried to resurrect the chase with a six each, but the former miscued the slog

to long-on off Moeen while the latter saw his leg-stump being rattled by the off-spinner.

Pooran's blitz came to an end when his lofted drive was caught by long-off against Deshpande. He would take out Ayush Badoni in the final over though he gave away 15 runs, but by then the match was in Chennai's favour.

Brief scores

Chennai Super Kings 217/7 in 20 overs (Rituraj Gaikwad 57, Devon Conway 47; Ravi Bishnoi 3-28, Mark Wood 3-49) beat Lucknow Super Giants 205/7 in 20 overs (Kyle Mayers 53, Nicholas Pooran 32; Moeen Ali 4-26, Tushar Deshpande 2-45) by 12 runs

Virat, Faf are going to feed off each other perfectly: Chris Gayle

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) got their campaign off to a convincing start in the IPL 2023, beating Mumbai Indians by eight wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Former RCB icon Chris Gayle, too, was impressed with du Plessis and Kohli. "We know Faf is class. He's an excellent captain and an excellent player. He has done it all over international cricket as well, so this is not new to Faf," said Gayle.

"One thing I can tell you, Virat and Faf are going to feed off each other perfectly. Look at the way they start, they look to drop and run. They pick up their ones and their twos and by the third over comes, they're ready to take it out. That's something bowlers and teams got to be aware of because these two, I've said this before, you're guaranteed almost 400 runs."



"Virat Kohli is the biggest superstar of TATA IPL. He's shining brightly like a full moon and Indian fans can't be happier. He's started this season on a positive note," Former India left-arm pacer Irfan Pathan said.

"Runs were not coming from his bat last year, he was getting out in the most unlucky of fashions, but he did not stop. The fans kept faith in him and he's paying back. There can be no bigger news than Virat Kohli's return to form for RCB," Irfan concluded.

Those messages kill your motivation: Siraj opens up on online trolling

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) pacer Mohammed Siraj opened up on online trolling and also shared his experience that one day he was projected as the "future of Indian bowling" and the other day was asked to "drive an auto".

Speaking on the latest episode of RCB podcast, Siraj said: "It is easy to write abuses. But you don't know anything about his struggle. How can you abuse someone then? Those messages kill your motivation. A guy is getting abused for no reason at all. Why? What's next?" "One day they call you the future of India, the next day



they claim you are nothing and should drive an auto. I don't understand this," Siraj shared his experience with online trolling. "When you perform well, people start praising you so much, you are such a good bowler, next level. When I was retained, it was called as best retention. Now they question why I was retained? There was no need for you to be retained. You aren't good enough to play cricket," Siraj said.

KOHLI MAKES A STATEMENT BY HITTING JOFRA ARCHER OVER MID-OFF: DINESH KARTHIK

Bengaluru | Virat Kohli

demonstrated his courage by not holding back while facing Jofra Archer in Sunday's IPL 2023 match between Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) and Mumbai Indians (MI) here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Jofra Archer put down Kohli on his first ball of the match. Kohli then followed it up with a boundary through third man and smacked a six over long-off. "That's Virat Kohli for you. He sees the big dog in the opponent and realises that he wants to take him on. That's the guy he wants to take on. He makes a statement, steps out, hits him over mid-off. Not many people can say that they have stepped down and hit Jofra over the covers." It was just the way he dominated and it was a statement saying that 'I am here to make a difference to this team'. It was a confidence booster for the way he played," Karthik was quoted as saying on Jio TV. "He has been brilliant, he led the team well, somebody who is very bold. added.



Paul Stirling to join Ireland Test squad, available for selection in 2nd Test

Dublin | Agencies

Opener Paul Stirling is set to join Ireland's Test squad for the tour of Sri Lanka and will be available for selection for the second Test to be played in Galle from April 24-28. Stirling's addition makes Ireland's travelling squad a 16-player party for the second game of the two-Test series.

Ireland's tour to Sri Lanka was initially supposed to consist of one Test and two ODIs. But the hosts' quest to get more red-ball matches meant the two ODIs got converted into an extra Test match. Both the Tests will be played in Galle between April 16 and 28.

"Paul was originally set to join the squad in Sri Lanka for the ODI series that was originally planned. However, with those fixtures now converted to a Test match, and the scheduled Bangladesh T20I series in Ireland postponed, he will now have a greater focus on red-ball cricket and will join the Test squad for that second Test," said Andrew White, National Men's Selector at Cricket Ireland, in an official statement.



Ireland will be playing a one-off Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium from April 4-8, with their squad having nine uncapped players, out of which three have never featured in a game of first-class cricket.

Ireland squad for Tests against

Sri Lanka: Andrew Balbirnie (captain), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Murray Commins, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Graham Hume, Matthew Humphreys, Tom Mayes, Andrew McBrine, James McCollum, Paul Stirling (second Test), PJ Moor, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White.

Women's Olympic Qualifiers Round 1

Dennerby cautiously optimistic for winless India v Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek | Agencies

The Indian women's football team will go into the first leg match against hosts Kyrgyz Republic with much optimism in the Women's AFC Olympic Qualifiers Round 1 here on Tuesday.

The Blue Tigresses will play the first of the two-legged tie at the Dolon Omurzakov Stadium here on Tuesday with high hopes at the culmination of a long camp and multiple friendlies.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, India women's national team head coach Thomas Dennerby expressed excitement at finally getting to play a match, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said in a report on its website.

"We have been preparing for this moment for a long time," he said. "And now that it's here it's time to perform and make sure we get the right results." Dennerby is optimistic despite the Blue Tigresses having played five games this year and are yet to register a win. Their three draws and two losses have indicated that there is a lot to build on, even if the results haven't always been forthcoming. Dennerby hopes that the win-drought breaks



at the right time when it really matters.

While keen to see his side play good football, Dennerby said winning the match is more important. He was also keen to highlight that the hosts would not be easy pushovers. "It is never easy to beat host teams and the players are aware of that," he said. "The Kyrgyz Republic will be keen to get a good result at home and they will utilise the conditions well." Turkmenistan's withdrawal from the

competition has turned this group into a straight two-game shootout. Coach Dennerby insisted though that it didn't make any difference in the way the team prepared for the games. "We will still play two games," he said. "And it's still the same approach. We have to win both games. In our conversations, we have said that clearly. Tomorrow is one-half. Then we play the second half after that. For now, the focus is on tomorrow."

MEDVEDEV CLINCHES MIAMI OPEN TITLE, FOURTH TROPHY OF THE SEASON

Miami | Playing in his fifth ATP Tour final in as many tournaments, Daniil Medvedev continued his blistering form to claim his first title at the Miami Open by prevailing over Italian Jannik Sinner, 7-5, 6-3, in 1 hour and 34 minutes.

This was Medvedev's fourth title in five finals played this season. So far this season, he claimed the trophy in Rotterdam, Doha and Dubai before reaching the Indian Wells final in his previous event before Miami, in which he lost to Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

With the fourth title win on Sunday night, he now leads the ATP in terms of title wins this season.

"Really happy. It's the best start of the season I have ever had. Amazing amount of points won. For sure a pity there was no Grand Slam at this period of time, but yeah, generally super happy and looking forward to the season even more," said the 2023 Miami Open champion.

After falling to Carlos Alcaraz two weeks ago in the Indian Wells final, the fourth seed was rock-solid against Sinner as he frustrated the Italian with his calculated baseline game. Medvedev is now 6-0 in his ATP Head-to-Head against Sinner, also having beaten the Italian in the Rotterdam final in February. The victory extends Medvedev's lead in the calendar-year ATP Live Race To Turin to 600 points ahead of Novak Djokovic, putting him in pole position in the race for year-end No. 1. He will also move up to No. 4 in the ATP Rankings on Monday. By reaching the Indian Wells and Miami finals this year, both firsts for Medvedev, the 27-year-old became the first man since Djokovic in 2020 to reach consecutive ATP Masters 1000 finals. His 29 wins on the season leads the ATP Tour.



Seeing Ronaldinho's game made me fall in love with football: Ritwik Das

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ritwik Kumar Das has revolutionised his reputation from a young prodigy to one of the nation's best players over the past couple of Indian Super League (ISL) seasons.

Das' performance in the 2022-23 seasons was also remarkable, as he scored 6 goals in 18 appearances. He finally made his debut for India on March 2023 against Myanmar.

In an interview with Jamshedpur FC, the Indian international opened up about his grassroots football story and revealed the player he admires the most.

"When I watched the FIFA World Cup in 2006, I saw Ronaldinho play. My father was watching the game and I was very young. Seeing Ronaldinho's game at that time made me fall in love with football," Ritwik told Jamshedpur FC. "I started my professional youth career when I was 13 or 14 years old. I used to travel for five hours from Ansolt to Kolkata with my mom, three to four days a week to attend the



training session in Mohun Bagan Academy in Kolkata," the winger stated. "After spending two years in the Mohun Bagan Academy, I signed for Calcutta Customs and played two seasons there, one season in the first division of the Calcutta Football League (CFL), and one in the Premier division of the Calcutta Football League (CFL)," Das said. "Then I moved to Kalighat Milan Sangha, where I spent another two years before moving to Real Kashmir FC in the second division of the I-League. We won the I-League second division and got promoted to the I-League," he added.

DJOKOVIC REGAINS THE TOP SPOT IN ATP RANKINGS

New Delhi | Novak Djokovic

has returned to the world No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings following Carlos Alcaraz's semifinal defeat at the Miami Open.

The Serbian great, who recently surpassed Stefanie Graf's mark of 377 weeks as World No. 1, begins his 381st week atop and is scheduled to return to the ATP Tour at the Monte-Carlo Masters, which begins on April 9.

But there could be a twist in the battle for No. 1 over the clay season and beyond as Djokovic's lead over Alcaraz is slender -- just 380 points. However, Alcaraz is set to return to Monte Carlo, where he could have the chance to reclaim the No. 1 spot once again. The Spaniard dethroned Djokovic less than two weeks ago when he defeated Daniil Medvedev to capture his third ATP Masters 1000 title at the Indian Wells Masters. The 19-year-old became the youngest world No. 1 in ATP history when he won the 2022 US Open. He stayed atop for the rest of the year, despite missing the ATP Finals due to injury, but then slipped to World No. 2 after Djokovic won the Australian Open.

Alcaraz has spent a total of 21 weeks as World No. 1 during his young career, putting him 16th on the list for most weeks at the top spot among the 28 players to reach No. 1.



Milan destroy Napoli in Serie A

Rome | Agencies

A highly-anticipated Serie A clash turned out to be a lop-sided one, as AC Milan beat Napoli 4-0 away, inflicting the Partenopei's heaviest defeat this season.

Napoli are flying high this season, just conceding two Serie A defeats before Sunday's match, while Milan had struggled with only one point from the previous three matches, reports Xinhua.

With only 40 percent ball-possession, Milan were more clinical as they broke the deadlock in the 17th minute when Rafael Leao broke clear after latching on to Brahim Diaz's inspirational pass, before the Portuguese looped it over an on-rushing Alex Meret.

The away side doubled the lead minutes later when Diaz found the net.

Milan extended the lead on the hour mark with a moment of magic when Sandro Tonali



won back possession and found Leao, who out-paced the defenders to finish with an angled drive.

Alexis Saelemaekers put the icing on the cake in the 67th minute with another solo effort as he broke into the box before beating Meret with a low-strike.

With the morale-boosting win, Milan climbed back to the third place with 51 points, four points behind Lazio who won 2-0 over Monza, while Napoli still lead the table with a comfortable 16-point lead. Elsewhere, Roma staged a second-half show to beat Sampdoria 3-0, Bologna crushed Udinese 3-0, and Spezia shared the spoils with Salernitana at 1-1.



RAJKUMMAR RAO FOR INSTANCE HAS A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOUR: DIA MIRZA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Dia Mirza, who was recently seen in Anubhav Sinha's theatrical pandemic film 'Bheed', has shared her experience with her co-stars.

While she lauded the film's director for his passion and conviction in his stories, she also shared that Rajkummar Rao, who plays a cop in the film, is

blessed with a wicked sense of humour.

The actress said:

"'Bheed' is my fourth project with Anubhav Sinha and this is possibly the

toughest film of his career. Watching him work with so much passion and conviction on stories that must be told, has been truly inspirational. Yet amid all the intensity, all of us found ways to make each other laugh, celebrate special days, savour chaat treats and be there for each other when things got tough."

She further mentioned: "Rajkummar Rao for instance has a wicked sense of humour and brings great energy to the sets while Bhumi and I bonded over many common interests. She is a very intelligent and interesting person."

For her, working on this film is an unforgettable experience as she got to jam with many exemplary actors.

"Working with Rajkummar Rao, Bhumi Pednekar, Ashutosh Rana and Pankaj Kapur sir was truly an experience I will never forget. I had the most amazing time working and watching everyone at work. The craft of each of these artists is a privilege to witness up close. Pankaj ji and Ashutosh ji are institutions in their own right and Raj and Bhumi are actors I have admired right from their first films," the actress concluded.

Diana Penty shares her excitement on working with **Big B & Ribhu Dasgupta**



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Diana Penty will be seen sharing screen space with megastar Amitabh Bachchan in the upcoming courtroom drama thriller

'Section 84' directed by Ribhu Dasgupta.

Diana expressed her excitement about working with Bachchan and collaborating with Ribhu Dasgupta.

"Section 84 is very special to me. Not only because it is a riveting story, but also because it is a privilege to work with the legendary, Mr Bachchan. A dream finally realised, to be honest! Ribhu Dasgupta has a very clear vision of what he wants and I am so happy to be collaborating with him on this film. I know this is going to be an experience I will remember, with much to learn from the very best!" Diana said.

Filmmaker Ribhu Dasgupta's next film, a courtroom drama thriller, 'Section 84' stars the legendary thespian Amitabh Bachchan in the lead role.

'Section 84' is presented by Reliance Entertainment in association with Jio Studios and produced by Reliance Entertainment and Film Hangar. The film is written and will be directed by Ribhu Dasgupta.

'IF YOU STOP DREAMING NOTHING IS POSSIBLE'

From singing kirtans to winning singing reality show's trophy, Rishi Singh shares his journey

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 19-year-old boy, Rishi Singh from Ayodhya, who turned out to be the winner of the singing reality show, 'Indian Idol 13', started his career by singing bhajan and kirtan during his early years. For him, being part of the show opened many doors of opportunities. He said: "I still remember the first day of audition and it has been an incredible journey. Still I can recall standing in line for the audition thinking if I will be selected or not and finally I am here with the trophy. Nothing could be a bigger achievement than this." During the show, he got a playback singing opportunity from veteran actor and director Rakesh Roshan for Hrithik's upcoming project. Moreover, the well-known filmmaker Farah Khan invited him to her New Year party and said that she would introduce her to the entire Bollywood. Bollywood star Ranveer Singh joined him on stage and performed with him. The singer recalled that all such moments became part of his journey. Rishi cannot forget that moment when Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit said that she liked his voice so much that she made his song her phone's caller tune. In fact, 'Baazigar' director Mustan Alihbhai Burmawalla has signed 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Rishi Singh for his next film as a singer and actor. He added: "I learned a lot on the show and got a chance to explore that is not possible easily. When you belong to a small city there are very limited resources so I don't think the way I got a chance to explore on this show would be possible for me anywhere." Rishi further asserted that he got all support from his parents and they also insisted that he should not ignore his studies. Right now, Rishi is pursuing graduation in the Airport Management Programme in Dehradun.

Lastly, he concluded with: "It is most important to dream and if you stop dreaming nothing is possible. I achieved it because I never stopped dreaming. I want to achieve greater heights in music."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ishaan Khatter will be seen starring alongside Hollywood star Nicole Kidman in the upcoming limited series 'The Perfect Couple' on Netflix.

He will play Shooter Dival, the best friend of the groom in 'The Perfect Couple'.

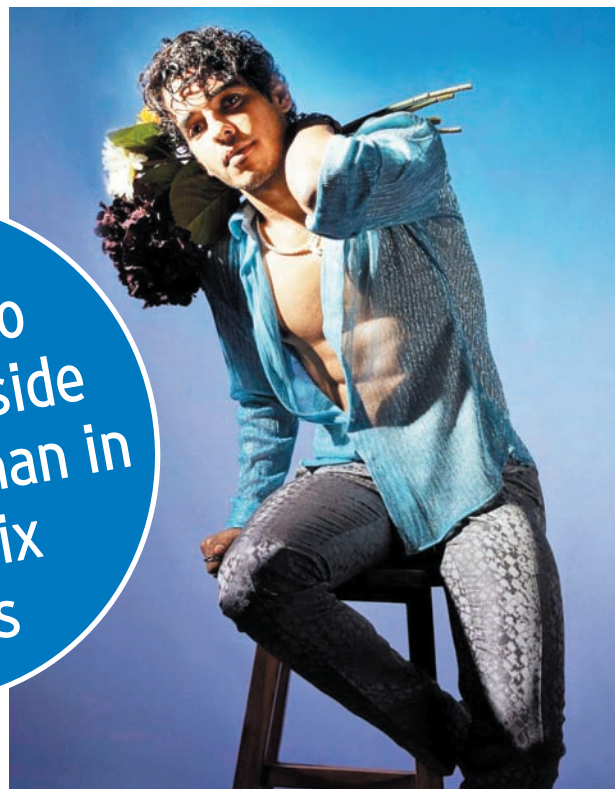
'The Perfect Couple' also stars Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning and others.

The actor took to Instagram to announce the project, and wrote in the caption: "New beginnings."

Netflix also shared the cast announcement and tweeted: "The Perfect Couple casting is actually perfect."

Ishaan was earlier seen in Mira Nair's 'A Suitable Boy'. He was last seen in the film Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi-starrer film 'Phone Bhoor'.

Ishaan Khatter to star alongside Nicole Kidman in a Netflix series



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Suhana Khan