



SC DISMISSES MAHA GOVT'S REVIEW FOR 2021 VERDICT QUASHING MARATHA QUOTA

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea by the Maharashtra government seeking review of its May 5, 2021 judgment, which struck down a state law providing a 12 to 13 percent quota for Maratha community. A five-judge bench comprising Justices M.R. Shah, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, S. Ravindra Bhat and V. Ramasubramanian declined to entertain the plea by the state government seeking a relook at the judgment. The bench, in its order, said: "Permission to file the review petition is granted. Delay condoned. Applications for listing of the review petitions in the open court are rejected. Having carefully gone through the review petitions, the judgment under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, we are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record, warranting reconsideration of the judgment impugned. The review peti-



tions are, accordingly, dismissed. Pending applications stand disposed of." The matter was considered inside the judges' chamber as per the Supreme Court Rules with regard to review petition and the top court took decision on the matter on April 11. However, the order was uploaded on the apex court website only on April 20. The apex court had earlier dismissed a plea by the Central government to reconsider the May 5, 2021 judgment. The apex court had declared that states do not have the power to prepare lists for socially and educationally backward classes. The decision had also

Why 2024, ready for Maharashtra Chief Minister's post now: Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Pune

Amid speculation over his next political move, senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Friday said his outfit can stake a claim to the post of Maharashtra's Chief Minister "now" instead of waiting for 2024 when assembly polls are due in the state. The Leader of Opposition in the Assembly also said that he will "100 per cent" like to be Chief Minister of Maharashtra. In an interview to Sakal Media Group in Pune, Pawar said he had heard that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, before his rebellion against the Shiv Sena leadership in June 2022, was unhappy and something was going in his mind. Pawar revealed his colleague late RR Patil would have become Chief Minister in 2004 when the NCP had won more Assembly seats than its ally Congress, but a message came from Delhi that his party will get the Deputy Chief Minister's post. Asked whether the NCP will stake a claim for the Chief Minister's post next year when assembly polls are due in Maharashtra, he remarked, "Why 2024, we are ready to stake a claim for the Chief Minister position now also." He, however, did not elaborate on the statement. Pawar on Friday skipped a meeting of his party's Mumbai unit, raising eyebrows in political circles as speculation about his next political move refuses to die down. He played down the buzz saying he was unable



to attend the NCP convention as he had to attend some other programmes happening at the same time. He insisted nothing much should be read into this. During the interview, Pawar was asked whether he would like to become Chief Minister. To this, he promptly replied, "Yes, I would 100 per cent like to be." Asked why the NCP has an affinity for the Deputy Chief Minister's position as the party has got that post on multiple occasions in the last 20 years, the veteran politician said in 2004, the NCP and the Congress fought Assembly elections in an alliance and the former had won more seats. "We got 71 seats, while the Congress won 69. Everyone, including the Congress, thought Chief Minister would be from the NCP. However, some decisions were taken at the highest level and a message came from Delhi that the NCP will get the Deputy Chief Minister position and the Chief Minister post went to Congress," he said. Pawar said his colleague Patil was chosen as the

Leader of the House (Assembly), and he would have become Chief Minister in 2004 if the top post was given to the NCP. In the subsequent Assembly polls, the Congress Scored more seats than the NCP and naturally kept the Chief Minister's post with itself, he said. Asked whether he liked working with Congress Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan or Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, who held the top post from November 2019 to June 2022, Pawar said they worked with the latter "happily", but working with the former was out of choice. On Shinde's revolt and subsequent split in the Shiv Sena, the former deputy Chief Minister said they used to hear that Mr Shinde, then his Cabinet colleague in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, was unhappy and sensed something was going in his mind. "We had alerted Pawar saheb (NCP president Sharad Pawar) and Thackeray was also apprised about it. The BJP had been trying to pull down the MVA government since the first day of its formation. The wife of a key politician confessed later that her husband used to go out in disguise, and later some ministers said Shinde and a particular leader used to meet," Mr Pawar said without taking any names. He said during the MVA government, Thackeray had given full control of Thane district to Shinde, then a Cabinet Minister, and some officials appointed by him had helped rebel Shiv Sena MLAs to sneak out of Mumbai and reach Surat on June 20.

Man cleans chicken with national flag in viral video, arrested

Team Absolute | Silvassa

Dadra and Nagar Haveli: A man from Silvassa in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli was arrested after a video purportedly showing him "cleaning" chicken with the Tricolour went viral on social media, an official said on Saturday. An official from Silvassa police station said the man was seen "insulting" the national flag by using it as a piece of cloth to clean chicken at a poultry shop where he worked. "We booked the person on the basis of a complaint and arrested him under Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971," the police official said. The man was arrested on Thursday and sent to judicial custody on Friday, police said. The official said the man was arrested under Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act which deals with people burning, mutilating, defacing, defiling, disfiguring, destroying, or trampling upon the



national flag in a public place or in any other place within public view. If found guilty, he can be imprisoned for up to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Acquittal of Naroda Gam riots accused 'murder of judiciary, Constitution': Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar on Friday termed the recent acquittal of 69 accused in the brutal Naroda Gam (Gujarat) riots of 2002 as a "murder of the judiciary and the Constitution". Addressing a party meeting, Pawar said that the riots had taken place, there were deaths (11) and the accused ranged from ruling party leaders, MLAs and ministers, many of whom were arrested and enlarged on bail. "Now, the court verdict has come, acquitting all the 69 accused in that incident. Along with the killings of the victims in those communal riots, even the judiciary and the Constitution have been murdered," Pawar said. Slamming the misuse of the central investigation agencies, he said that even in small villages for local disputes, people are now being threatened with ED. "The ED or CBI have become household names," he said.



Continuing in the same context, he referred to a senior NCP leader, Anil Deshmukh who was arrested by the ED in late 2021 on charges of Rs 100-crore bribe, he spent 13 months in jail and the chargesheet mentioned barely donations of Rs 1.25-crore. Similarly, in the case of another NCP leader, Nawab Malik - stuck in jail for over 14 months, the

news keeps coming that his bail plea is on another date, Pawar pointed out. Adopting the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) stance, Pawar demanded a probe into the Navi Mumbai tragedy of April 16 that left 14 dead after the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award' 2022 was conferred on reformer Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "It was a state government function and there was negligence in organising the event. An official will not give a report against his own administration, only a probe by a retired judge can bring out the truth," said Pawar. Referring to former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik's comments, the NCP supreme alleged that so far no inquiry has been ordered into the terror strike of February 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel in Pulwama. Flanked by top NCP leaders, Pawar appealed to his party workers to start preparations for the upcoming civic, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, and strengthen 'booth-level', and improve contact with the masses.

XBB.1.16 variant of COVID-19 no cause for concern, says Maharashtra health minister

Maharashtra Health Minister Dr Tanaji Sawant on Saturday said the current XBB.1.16 variant of coronavirus was no cause for concern and citizens should not panic about the rise in cases.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The present wave will come down to an endemic stage by May 15 and a downward trend will be seen next month, the minister said while urging citizens not to panic. Maharashtra on Friday reported 993 COVID-19 cases and five deaths, which took the tally to 81,60,499 and the toll to 1,48,497. According to the state health department, the XBB.1.16 is the dominant variant of Omicron that was driving the case surge in the state. So far, 681 cases caused by this variant have been detected, and five persons have succumbed.



The minister was speaking at the 'bhoomi poojan' ceremony of the new 900-bed district civil super-speciality hospital in Thane, which was performed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Speaking on the occasion, Shinde said the Thane District Civil Hospital had a major role in the development of the Shiv Sena in Thane and surrounding districts. The new super-speciality hospital will be constructed on the same land where the existing medical facility stands. The 900-bed hospital will be a modern one equipped with all super-speciality facilities such as an air ambulance, he said.

Man stabs another to death over suspicions of having illicit relationship with his mother

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police has booked a 27-year-old man in Shivaji Nagar for allegedly killing a 34-year-old man over suspicions of having an illicit affair with his mother. The incident occurred on the evening of April 21, Friday. Ansar Ilias Sayyed, 30, in his statement to police has identified the accused as Musheer. He said that on the fateful evening, he called his brother Sattar, 34, to inquire when he would be home. Sattar told Ansar to reach to Hakkani Chinese Centre at Road no. 10, Bainganwadi. Upon his arrival at the spot at around 6.55 PM, Ansar saw Musheer Manjar Khan, 27,



laden with a knife yelling at his brother, Sattar. Although Ansar tried to save his brother but Musheer charged towards him. Scared, Ansar rushed home to seek help. After reaching home he narrated the incident to his brother, Gaffar. The brother-duo rushed to the spot again where people told them that some auto drivers shifted their brother to Rajawadi Hospital in an injured condition. At the hospital, the brothers were informed that their brother passed away due to excessive bleeding. Sattar had been stabbed in his chest and hand.

One killed, four injured in car accident on Samruddhi Expressway



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 50-year-old doctor from Mumbai was killed and four others injured when their car rammmed into a truck on Samruddhi Expressway in Jalna, police said on Saturday. The accident took place on

Friday morning, when Dr Abdul Khalique was travelling to his hometown Amravati with his wife and two children to celebrate Eid with his family, an official said. The car reached Samruddhi Expressway in Jalna, when the driver rammmed into a truck, killing the doctor who was sitting in the front, he said. "Preliminary information suggests that the accident had occurred due to the negligence of the truck driver. The four other occupants of the car are recuperating at a hospital in Jalna," inspector Keshav Wagh of Sindhkhed police station said.

Current Covid strain mild, 5-6 Million Covovax doses made: Adar Poonawalla

Team Absolute | Pune

The prevalent strain of COVID-19 is mild and the Serum Institute of India (SII) has already produced five to six million doses of the Covovax vaccine, said the company's chief executive officer Adar Poonawalla. Poonawalla was talking to reporters amid rising cases of coronavirus infections in the country since March. India has recorded 12,193 fresh COVID-19 cases in a span of 24 hours, with the number of active cases of the infection going up to 67,556, the Union health ministry said. "Currently, the COVID strain is not severe, it's just a mild strain. Just for precautionary measures, elderly people can get the booster dose, but it would be their choice whether



or not to take it. Five to six million doses of Covovax are available. We will also produce the same amount of Covishield doses in the next two to three months," said Poonawalla. As per a health bulletin of the Maharashtra government on Friday, the XBB.1.16 variant of Omicron is currently the dominant strain in the state. The Centre on Friday asked eight states, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, to maintain a strict watch and take preemptive action in any area of concern to control any emerging spread of infection. "We are providing Covovax in the US and Europe. It is the only COVID vaccine made in India which is approved in the US and Europe. Currently, the demand is very small," Poonawalla added.





Muslims offer prayers on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr at the Taj-ul-Masjid in Bhopal



Huge procession was organized in Bhopal on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya.

BHOPAL WAKES UP TO CLOUDY SKY, THUNDERSTORM LIKELY IN SEVERAL PARTS OF MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal woke up to a cloudy morning on Saturday and the weather department has predicted thunderstorm and lightning in parts of Madhya Pradesh later in the day.

According to the regional meteorological department, Bhopal, thunderstorm along with lightning is likely in several other parts of the state including Indore, Jabalpur, Shahdol, Dewas, Narsinghpur, Shajapur and in some more districts.

The maximum temperature during the day time in Bhopal is likely to settle between 22 degrees Celsius and 39 degrees Celsius.

As per the data received from the weather department,



Seoni district recorded 4.8 mm rain in the last 24 hours. While, in the last three days, at least three people were killed due to lightning in Sehore district, adjoining Bhopal.

The weather department has predicted that the temperature in the state would further go up from the next

week. The weather scientists in Bhopal regional office have also predicted thunder and high velocity winds in Morena, Guna, Bhand, Ashok Nagar, Anuppur, Sidhi, Mandla, Tikamgarh, Singrauli, Dindori, Balaghat and Seoni.

"JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA ISN'T A TRAITOR, HE'S SELF-RIGHTEOUS": SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has slammed the Congress party for continuously making remarks against Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and has said that Mr Scindia is not a traitor but a self-righteous leader. Chief Minister Chouhan made the remark while talking to news agency in the state capital Bhopal on Saturday.

"Scindia is not a traitor, he is self-righteous. After all, how much insult he tolerates from the Congress party. The Congress fought the election in the name Scindia but made elderly Kamal Nath the Chief Minister of the state. Even the government was also being run by former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and Nath was just a face only," Chouhan said.

Time and again Scindia (when he was in Congress party) and his com-



panions were drawing attention of Kamal Nath towards the public problems, but Nath's arrogance was so high that when Scindia said to do

work or else he would protest, then where Nath did not paid attention to it, the Chief Minister said. He added that Nath's ego was such

that he would drop him (Scindia) in another party by car. How could Scindia tolerate it? After all, how much he would get humiliated? he asked "I want to say one more thing that if they (Scindia and his companions) were wrong then how would the public make them win by thousands of votes in by elections. Those who won by 1000 or 2000 votes by staying in Congress, they won by 50 to 60 thousand votes in the by-poll. We are not running the government because of someone's favour, they resigned, contested elections and came back victorious," Chouhan said.

There is a competition of pettiness going on in Congress, the Chief Minister said. "Every congress leader wants to make a statement to belittle the other leader and even Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh are also involved in it. God knows what will happen to the Congress," the Chief Minister added.

2 Maoists with bounty of Rs 14 lakh each killed in Balaghat

Team Absolute | Balaghat

State Hawk force and police team killed two women Maoists carrying a reward of Rs 14 lakh each in an encounter in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district in the early hours of Saturday.

The Maoists were gunned down in Kandla forest under Garhi police station of the district. The women Maoists were identified as Sunita (Bhoram Dev Area Committee Member) and Sarita (Khatia Mocha Area Committee Member). Both of them were active in Maoist activities for the past many years. The police team also recovered rifles, live cartridges, weapons, edible stuff and other materials from the spot. After the killing of the Maoists during the night, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on



Saturday morning congratulated the state police, hawk force and district police force for the same.

"Two dreaded Naxalites were killed, who were carrying a bounty of 14 lakh each on their heads, in an encounter in Balaghat in the night. Weapons and many other things have also been recovered from them. I congratulate the soldiers for the same," Chief Minister Chouhan

said. The Chief Minister further said that it was the fourth encounter in the last one and half years. The bravery and alertness of the police is that they are continuously killing the Maoists. A total of eight dreaded Maoists killed so far in the 1.5 years on whom a reward of about 1.5 crore were announced.

"Our resolution is the rule of law. We will not allow any dacoits to flourish or Naxalites to spread their wings in the state. After Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), we are engaged in eliminating Popular Front of India (PFI) people involved in terror activities from the state. We will not spare the goons and miscreants who disturb the peace and tranquillity of the public. It is the commitment of the MP Government," Chouhan added.

CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTED SAPLINGS OF JAMUN, MANGO AND SATPARNI



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today planted saplings of Jamun, Mango and Satparni in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Darshan Singh Chaudhary, Purushottam Sharma, Pramod Chaudhary, Brijesh Tiwari, Vivek Ahirwar, Mahesh Malviya and Ashutosh Jat also planted saplings along with Chief Minister Chouhan. Chief Minister Chouhan along with Senior Editor of News 18 news channel Sudhir Dixit including Shailendra Bhadauria, Anurag Srivastava, Basu Choure, Jitendra Sharma, Ranjana Dubey, Anumita, Adhira Dixit, Ramakant Dubey and social workers Prarthana Chauhan, Durga Chauhan, Vanshika Chauhan, Aryan Chauhan also planted saplings.

"Blot On India": BJP slams Digvijaya Singh for dig at Jyotiraditya Scindia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh's dig at his former party colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia has triggered a war of words, with leaders from the ruling BJP calling the grand old party's Rajya Sabha member a "blot" on the country and wishing that he is born in Pakistan in his next life.

Digvijaya Singh on Friday visited Ujjain city in Madhya Pradesh, where the famous Mahakaleshwar temple is located. Responding to a query about what he would seek from the deity, Singh had told reporters, "Hey Mahakal, a second Jyotiraditya Scindia should not be born in the Congress." Scindia, who was once considered to be a close aide of former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, quit the grand old party in March 2020, ending his nearly two-decade-long



association with the organisation. He then joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and was made a union minister. Following Singh's swipe at him, Scindia had on Friday tweeted that Lord Mahakal should ensure an "anti-national" like Mr Singh, who also greatly harmed Madhya Pradesh, is not born in India.

When asked about the Congress veteran's remark against Scindia, BJP leader and Minister for Panchayat Mahendra Singh Sisodia said, "I pray to Lord Mahakal that a person like Digvijaya Singh,

who ruined the entire Congress and Madhya Pradesh, should be born in Pakistan in his next life." Minister for Medical Education Vishvas Sarang, who also belongs to the BJP, reacted sharply to Singh's remarks as he termed him a "Pro-Pakistan" leader and accused him of insulting the country's army and soldiers.

"Leaders like Digvijaya Singh are a blot on this country. Jyotiraditya ji has rightly tweeted. Such people who speak pro-Pakistan language, talk about giving protection to terrorists and dividing this country, such people have no place in India," Sarang said.

The Congress government under Kamal Nath in the state, which came to power in December 2018 after 15 years of BJP rule, collapsed in March 2020 after 22 MLAs loyal to Scindia joined the saffron party following his rebellion in the grand old party.

65 new cases were found in Madhya Pradesh



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the last 24 hours, 65 new cases of corona have been found in Madhya Pradesh. Among these, Bhopal has the maximum number of 17 cases, while 13 people were found infected in Gwalior, 9 in Indore and 11 in Sagar. Corona cases have also been reported in Rajgarh, Khandwa, Agar-Malwa, Satna, Sehore and Raisen. 42 patients have recovered, but there are still 369 active cases in the state. Earlier on Friday, 107 new corona

patients were found in the state. Out of these 44 patients were from Bhopal only. On Saturday, the figure of the infected gave some relief and the figure came down. No infected person has died in the last 24 hours. It was a relief.

Corona cases are continuously increasing in the state. Worry has also increased due to this. In such a situation, people also need to take precautions. The mask has to be brought into practice once again. In case of cold or fever, see the doctor immediately.

A huge building will be built for devotees in the cave temple complex: Chief Minister Chouhan

Brahmin Welfare Board will be established in Janapav, the birth place of Lord Parshuram, the biography of Shri Parshuram Lok Parshuram ji will now be in the textbook, encouragement on Sanskrit studies. Chief Minister Chouhan participated in the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Parshuram

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a huge building will be constructed in the cave temple complex for the convenience of the devotees. Brahmin Welfare Board will be established in the state. Lord Parshuram was the god of justice. They took up arms to destroy the terrorists. With his inspiration, strict action is being taken against goons, miscreants and Naxalites on the land of Madhya Pradesh. Inclusion of life-character of Lord Parshuram in class 8th syllabus in the state, Arrangements have been made to give scholarship to the students studying Sanskrit and rituals and hon-



orarium to the priests. Work will be done to appoint Sanskrit teachers in the state if required. Along with this, necessary rights will also be there in relation to the land of the temples. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the

Akshayaotsav-2023 on the birth anniversary of Lord Parshuram in the company of Swami Dharendra Krishna Shastri Maharaj of Bageshwar Dham in the cave temple complex, Bhopal today. Chief Minister Chouhan said that

Parshuram Lok will be constructed at Janapav, the birth-place of Lord Parshuram. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Brahmins have made a special contribution in the work of protecting religion and culture. Educated and initiated Brahmins fulfill their obligations for the necessary rituals on various occasions. 3547 Sanskrit teachers have been appointed in the state. Keeping in view the need of Sanskrit teachers in government schools, more appointments will be made. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the state government will take necessary steps as per the suggestions given by Dharendra Krishna Shastri Maharaj.

Chief Minister Chouhan sent the youth who met with an accident on VIP road to the hospital for treatment



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while going to Lalghati program after planting saplings in Smart Park, saw a youth meeting with an accident on VIP road and instructed the security personnel to send him to the hospital immediately.

Chief Minister Chouhan got his convoy stopped and made arrangements to send Sajib, a resident of Khanugaon, and another youth to the hospital by ambulance for treatment. After this he left for his program.

A car going at a high speed

from Lalghati intersection towards Khanugaon on Bhopal's VIP Road overturned on the road due to loss of balance. There were two youths in the car. On the instructions of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan, immediate action was taken to take 100 to the hospital by ambulance. The Chief Minister himself reached the injured in a pilot vehicle and arranged for their treatment and wished them a speedy recovery. The Chief Minister sent instructions regarding their treatment to the hospital. During this, Chief Minister Chouhan also congratulated the Muslim brothers present on Eid.

SETH MEYERS PASSED OUT ON THE FLOOR AFTER DRINKING WITH RIHANNA

Los Angeles | Agencies

TV host Seth Meyers passed out on the floor of his apartment after spending a day drinking with pop star Rihanna. The TV presenter went out with the pop star for a few tipples for a segment on his 'Late Night with Seth Meyers' show called Day Drinking and the 'Umbrella' star managed to out drink him as they necked shots, chugged beers and popped bottles of Champagne - and Seth ended up slumped on the floor of his home getting very little sympathy from his wife



Alexi, reports femalefirst.co.uk. During an appearance on 'The Late Late Show with James Corden', Meyers said: "Rihanna was the drunkest I've ever been, I think, and it was worth every second of it ... They have to edit out some of the drinking (from the show segment) just for time, so whatever you see, it's like 40 per cent more than that."

He went on to add that he got a frosty reception after stumbling home, saying: "I went home, immediately fell asleep in the hallway of my apartment. Got in the door, fell asleep ... My wife - passive-aggressively ... put water next to my head and went to bed." Seth confirmed Rihanna, who is more than 10 years younger, was absolutely fine after their boozy outing in 2019. He explained: "Well, first of all, I should note that ... I hate to break the news here: she's younger than me. We drank the same amount and then she definitely went out. Like, she was fine. She walked out, she looked as good as she did when we started."



'Sensational'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Priyanka Chopra stuns in a plunging green marabou gown at the Citadel premiere

Priyanka Chopra shared a hug with co-star Richard Madden as they hit the red carpet at the premiere of their new series Citadel in Rome on Friday. The actress looked nothing short of sensational in a plunging green gown which hugged every inch of curvaceous figure. She teamed the stylish frock with a matching chiffon coat that boasted a striking marabou trim. Priyanka added extra height to her frame in colour coordinating platform shoes and completed the ensemble with a selection of diamond jewellery. She accentuated her features with a glamorous make-up palette and swept her hair into a high ponytail while strands framed her gorgeous face. Meanwhile former GOT actor Richard cut a suave figure for the event in a purple velvet blazer. The handsome actor layered the jacket over a black silk shirt, which he wore open and teased a hint of chest hair. Priyanka was also supported on her big night by husband Nick Jonas who beamed with pride.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kylie Jenner looked stunning in new snaps shared to Instagram on Friday afternoon. The Kardashians reality star put on a sultry display in a bright red wig with eye-brow-grazing, blunt bangs and a peach-colored crop top with pink, sheer pants as she posed for the sexy photos. The makeup mogul - who is rumored to have been dating Timothee Chalamet for months - sported a pair of black, retro-looking sunglasses as she pouted for the camera. The social media personality also showed off her hour-glass figure in snaps with a spotlight highlighting her silhouette. The Kylie Cosmetics founder also squatted down in an almost-faceless shot to show off her complete outfit. She captioned her post simply with a red lipstick kiss mark emoji.

In the series of photos, the socialite donned a high-neck, peach-colored crop top with long sleeves that flowed seamlessly into a pair of gloves. The former model paired the garment with sheer, hot pink pants with visible, contrasting seams and nude micro shorts. The entrepreneur also sported a pair of clear, pointed-toe jelly kitten heels to finish off her look. In one photo, she posed with one arm over her head, lifting her top just enough to show off a hint of her bust. Another snap showed her posing with her hands on the sides of her lower face and putting once again. For makeup, she appeared to be wearing a stunning combo of dark brown lipliner and mauve lipstick. She also sported a wash of peach blush and ample bronzer to accentuate her radiant, sun-kissed skin.

RED HOT!

Kylie Jenner sizzles in a shiny scarlet wig and a tiny crop top as she poses for sultry snaps



'I turned down Star Wars'

AL PACINO SAYS HE 'GAVE HARRISON FORD A CAREER' AFTER TURNING DOWN ICONIC ROLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood legend Al Pacino opened up about turning down the role of Han Solo in 'Star Wars' because he "didn't understand the script" and said that he "gave Harrison Ford a career." The actor opened up about being a "new kid on the block" at the time of inception for the now-cultural phenomenon and explained that although they "offered him so much money" he just "didn't understand" the storyline. "Well, I turned down Star Wars," he told David Rubenstein as part of the 92nd Street Y, New York's People Who Inspire Us series, reports mirror.co.uk. "When I first came up, I was the new kid on the block; you know what happens when you first become famous. "It's like, 'Give it to Al,' they'd give me Queen Elizabeth to play," Al recalled. "They gave me a script called Star Wars." "They offered me so much money," he revealed. "But I didn't understand it, I read it. So I said I couldn't do it. I gave Harrison Ford a career." Harrison Ford took on the role as

Han Solo in the original film, which grossed for \$775.8 million at the worldwide box office with just an \$11 million budget. Al looked back on a role he did accept as Michael Corleone in The Godfather and stated that he rewatched the movie after not watching it for 25 years. He added that at the time of filming the cult classic, studio executives were underwhelmed with his performance and were initially planning to replace him. In a meeting with the movie's director Francis Coppola, Al remembers him saying: "You know, I had a lot of faith in you. And you're failing me, I'm standing there thinking 'What the f**k, what did I do?'" "The Sollozzo scene, where Michael shoots the cop. Coppola pushed that up, because he thought Paramount was about to fire me," Al said. "I do the scene, they liked it, and they kept me in because I shot someone." Al's role in his most "gratifying film," Scarface, came with a few downsides and the actor recalled one of his many injuries from being on set.

DREW STARKEY TO STAR ALONGSIDE DANIEL CRAIG IN LUCA GUADAGNINO'S 'QUEER'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Luca Guadagnino will next direct the William S. Burroughs adaptation 'Queer' with Hollywood star Daniel Craig and Drew Starkey. Craig will be playing the renowned counterculture author's alter ego, an outcast American expat who lives in Mexico, and Starkey starring as a younger man with whom he becomes madly infatuated, reports Variety. 'Queer' will also topline Lesley Manville, frequent Wes Anderson collaborator Jason Schwartzman; and Henry Zaga, according to inside sources. The boldly ambitious indie film is set to start shooting this month at Rome's refurbished Cinecitt Studios where the Mexico City-set movie will be filmed in its entirety. Lorenzo Mieli's Fremantle-owned Italian company The Apartment - the internationally expanding shingle behind Guadagnino's Bones and Alla and Sofia Coppola's upcoming 'Priscilla' - is lead producing 'Queer' in tandem with Guadagnino's own Freneszy Film. Fremantle North America is also on board. American playwright Justin Kuritzkes, who penned Guadagnino's upcoming sexy comedy 'Challengers' starring Zendaya, Josh O'Connor, and Mike Fast - which has now completed post

- has adapted the Burroughs novel for the big screen, continuing his collaboration with the Italian director. British designer Jonathan Anderson, who has shaken up the fashion world with his creations for Loewe and his subversive signature JW Anderson label, will also continue to collaborate with Guadagnino as costume designer on 'Queer' after handling the costumes on 'Challengers.' "It is one of my all time favourite books. And the film has everything - Mexico, lots of drugs, and Daniel Craig," Anderson recently told The Guardian. Written between 1951 and 1953 but not published until 1985, 'Queer' is Burroughs' second novel after 'Junkie.'



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Camila Morrone



IPL 2023

ARSHDEEP'S FOUR-FER OUTSHINES GREEN, SURYA KUMAR FIFTIES; HELPS PBKS BEAT MI BY 13 RUNS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Cameron Green and Suryakumar Yadav struck blazing half-centuries but could not propel Mumbai Indians across the line as they went down to Punjab Kings by 13 runs in Match 31 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium, here on Saturday.

After their bowling unit conceded 109 runs in the last six overs to allow Punjab Kings to post 214/8 after being asked to bat first by Rohit Sharma, Green blasted 67 off 43 deliveries and Suryakumar Yadav hammered 57 off 26 balls as Mumbai Indians could only manage to score 201/6 in 20 overs as they fell short despite a brave chase. Skipper Rohit Sharma smacked a 27-ball 44 but in the end, that effort went in vain. Arshdeep Singh claimed 4-29 runs as PBKS came back strongly in the second half of both innings to register their fourth win in seven matches as they moved to fifth position on the points table.

Mumbai lost their way in the last two overs, needing 31 runs off the last 12 deliveries. Tim David and Tilak Varma blasted 15 runs off the 19th over bowled by Nathan Ellis with David hitting a huge six and both doing some hard running.

With Mumbai Indians needing 16 from the last over, Arshdeep bowled brilliantly, using the slower yorkers castled Tilak Varma and Nehal Wadhwa off successive deliveries to snuff out Mumbai Indians' hopes.

Though Ishan Kishan (1) got out early, skipper



Rohit Sharma kept Mumbai on course with a 27-ball 44 as he and Cameron Green raised 76 runs for the hosts as they chased a stiff target of 215 in 20 overs.

Rohit struck the last ball of the first over by Matthew Short for four and tapped Arshdeep Singh past the vacant deep third-man area. He smashed his first six off Arshdeep in the fourth over with a lap shot and then pulled Sam Curran over the boundary off a slower one. After being kept quiet in the next couple of overs, Rohit Sharma hammered Rahul Charar for a big six and paddled the spinner for a four in the ninth over. But just when it looked like Rohit Sharma had set himself perfectly to go berserk, the Mumbai Indians skipper got out tamer, spooning an easy catch to Liam Livingstone off his own bowling to be out for 44 off 27 balls, hitting four boundaries and three maximums.

Cameron Green and Suryakumar Yadav then raised 75 runs for the third wicket partnership, starting cautiously and then unleashing some power-packed strokes all around the ground. Green smacked Harpreet Brar over long-on for his first six and then edged Arshdeep Singh past the vacant first slip for a streaky four in the fourth over.

Brief scores

Punjab Kings 214/8 in 20 overs (Sam Curran 55, Harpreet Singh 41, Jitesh Sharma 25; Piyush Chawla 2-15, Cameron Green 2-41) beat Mumbai Indians 201/6 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 44, Cameron Green 67, Suryakumar Yadav 57, Tim David 25 not out; Arshdeep Singh 4-29) by 13 runs.

La Liga

Decisive match for Barca and Atletico Madrid

Madrid | Agencies

FC Barcelona play arguably their most important and difficult game between now and the end of the La Liga season when Atletico Madrid visit the Camp Nou Stadium today afternoon.

However, Barca's recent performances have given cause for worry, with Xavi Hernandez's side unable to score in their last three matches - a 4-0 defeat at home to Real Madrid in the Copa del Rey, a 0-0 draw in La Liga at home to Girona and a 0-0 draw away to Getafe last weekend, a Xinhua report said.

Failing to score in three consecutive matches is something that hasn't happened to Barca for almost 20 years, and happens just as they receive the most in-form side in La Liga.

Atletico travel to Barcelona third in the table after a run of ten wins from 12 that has virtually ensured them of a place in next season's



Champions League and lifted them to two points of Real Madrid.

Antoine Griezmann has been in excellent form for Atletico since the World Cup, as he showed with his two goals against Almeria last weekend, while Rodrigo de Paul and Marcos Llorente look comfortable in midfield and Mario Hermoso finally looks settled as part of a back-three with wing backs.

There is no doubt Barca's injury problems have not helped them, with Pedri, Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong all injured since their defeat against Real Madrid at the end of

March, and Andreas Christensen suffering a calf injury in the international break.

Sergi Roberto tore a hamstring at Getafe last Sunday and will miss the rest of the season, but there is a chance Pedri and De Jong will be able to play some part today.

That should allow Xavi to introduce some spark into midfield for a decisive game. Barca's 11-point lead looks unassailable and a win, or perhaps even a draw, would probably be enough, but defeat would set some alarm bells ringing and give Real Madrid some hope of a miracle.

World Transplant Games

Ankita makes India proud with three-medal haul

Perth | Agencies

India's Ankita Shrivastava bagged three medals at the World Transplant Games 2023, here.

The 29-year-old athlete's impressive performance has earned her a gold medal in the Long Jump event with a jump of 3.06 meters, and two silver medals in the 3,000-meter Racewalk (power walk) for women and the Shot-Put event, with a throw of 28.31 meters.

The World Transplant Games is a prestigious international sporting event held by the Olympics Association. The Games are open to those who have received heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, stem cells, and bone marrow transplants.

Ankita performed exceptionally well and managed to secure a spot in the top three in all three events that she took part in.

Her journey to the World Transplant Games has not been easy. She has unflinchingly overcome gigantic challenges including physical and emotional barriers to get to where she is today. It all began in 2007 when her mother was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis, which eventually led to liver failure.



Despite being on a waitlist for a donor, the list was too long, and Ankita, whose blood group matched her mother's, decided to donate 74 per cent of her liver to save her mother's life.

Ankita's dedication and perseverance have been instrumental in her success, and she credits her friends and family for their unwavering support.

Our immediate goal is to win Gold at Asian Games & qualify for Paris Olympics: Sumit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Men's Hockey Team is currently sweating it out at the ongoing national coaching camp which is being held at SAI, Bengaluru and will conclude on May 21 ahead of the team's trip to Europe where they will take on Belgium, Great Britain, Netherlands, and Argentina in the remaining season of the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022-2023.

The 39-member Core Group for the national coaching camp includes midfielder Sumit, who contributed to the Indian Men's Hockey Team winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Talking about the upcoming FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022-23 matches in Europe, Sumit said that they will be crucial for the team as it will serve as the preparatory event leading up to the highly anticipated Hero Asian Champions Trophy at home in Chennai in August and the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023 in September this year.



"We are confident of giving our best performance in the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League games in Europe as they will be crucial for our preparations for important tournaments like Hero Asian Champions Trophy and the upcoming Asian

Games," Sumit said.

"FIH Men's Hockey Pro League 2022/23 in Europe will help us fine-tune our team structure and strengthen bonds among players. It will also help us reckon the aspects of our game which need to be improved," he

added. Sumit also revealed the Indian Men's Hockey Team's immediate goal, saying, "We want to win a gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023, which will ensure our direct qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympics."

WTA 500 Stuttgart GP

SABALENKA, SWIATEK SECURE SEMIS SPOTS WITH COMEBACK WINS

Stuttgart, Germany | Agencies

World's top two tennis players Iga Swiatek of Poland and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus both reached the semifinals after 2-1 comeback wins here at the WTA 500 Stuttgart Grand Prix.

Second seed Sabalenka came from a set and a break down to defeat wildcard Paula Badosa of Spain 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and reach the semifinals for the third straight year. The 2023 Australian Open champion is seeking her first Stuttgart title after two consecutive runner-up showings, reports Xinhua.

It's Sabalenka's fourth semifinal



in six tournaments so far this year. She will next face 24-ranked Russian Anastasia Potapova, who upset fourth seed Caroline Garcia of France 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Potapova, 22, had never gone beyond the quarterfinals at WTA 500 level or above.

Defending champion Swiatek will face third seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia in the semis after beating 2018 champion Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. Taking advantage of a slow start from Swiatek, Pliskova raced out to a 4-0 lead after just 17 minutes. But Swiatek gradually found her rhythm and took advantage of Pliskova's serve to overturn the match.

Ligue 1

Mbappe hits twice to power PSG closer to title

Paris | Agencies

Kylian Mbappe scored a brace as Paris Saint-Germain defeated bottom side Angers 2-1 to move another step towards a record 11th French top-flight title.

The defending champions sit atop the standings with 75 points after 32 games, 11 ahead of second-placed Marseille who have one game in hand and will travel to Lyon on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Mbappe put PSG in front in the ninth minute, bundling Juan Bernat's cross over the line. The French international added another before the break, latching on to a Messi through ball before rounding Paul Bernardoni and finishing into an empty net.

The 24-year-old, who had won the league



golden boot in the past four seasons, is leading the scorers' list again with 22 goals.

Despite everything going well for PSG in the first half, the underdog Angers pushed hard and even terrified Christophe Galtier's team in the second as Sada Thioub managed to pull one back for the hosts in the 89th minute.

FIFA announces draw for 2023 U20 World Cup

Geneva | Agencies

Football's world governing body FIFA held the draw for the 2023 Under-20 World Cup with the hosts Argentina kicking off the tournament against Uzbekistan on May 20.

The ceremony was held at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland and FIFA confirmed the match schedule and the host cities as well, reports Xinhua.

Twenty-four teams will compete in six groups across four cities, La Plata, Mendoza, San Juan and Santiago del Estero. The opening match between



Argentina and Uzbekistan will be played at the Santiago del Estero Stadium, with three more matches to be

played on the opening day. La Plata Stadium will host the semifinals, play-off for third place and final.

Smriti Mandhana ranked among 'Top 10 global female athletes'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Smriti Mandhana, the ace Indian women's cricket team opener, has been ranked among the top 10 athletes in the world by sponsorship value on social media, according to a recent study released by Sportico and KORE.

Social media performance across her digital platforms saw more than 61 million engagements in 2022 and the swashbuckling batter has combined following of more than 14.8 million, securing the 9th spot for her among all female athletes in the world, making her the only



Women cricketer to be in top 10 athletes.

Smriti has been a prominent figure in the Indian cricketing circuit for several years and has represented the country in several international tournaments. She has won several accolades for her performances, including the Arjuna Award in 2019, Women's Cricketer of the Year 2019 & 2021, the Wisden Woman Cricketer of the year 2019, ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the year 2018. Most recently the Indian Opener was also sold to RCB for USD 413K, the highest bid for any player in the first edition of the Women's Premier League 2023.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan thanked Twitter CEO Elon Musk in his own unique way after his blue tick on the micro-blogging website was restored. Taking to Twitter, Amitabh wrote: "T 4624 -

'TU CHEEZ BADI HAI MUSK MUSK':

BIG B AFTER GETTING BACK HIS TWITTER BLUE TICK

ae Musk bhaiyya! Bahut bahut dhanyavaad det hain ham aapaka! Uu, neel kamal lag gava hamaar naam ke aage."

He then gave a hilarious spin to the song 'Tu Cheez Badi Hai Mast Mast' from the 1994 film 'Mohra'. The song is originally picturised on Akshay Kumar and Raveena Tandon.

He wrote: "Ab ka batayi bhaiyya! (gaana gaye ka mann karat hai hamaar! Sanbo ka? Ee leo suna: "Tu cheez badee hai musk musk ... too cheez badee hai, musk."

On the work front, Amitabh will be seen in 'Project K'. Directed by Nag Ashwin, the film also stars Prabhas and Deepika Padukone. It will hit the screens on January 12, 2024.

Amitabh will be seen in the upcoming movie 'Section 84', a courtroom drama thriller written and directed by Ribhu Dasgupta.

'Women still have a long way to go for great opportunities' says Alaya F

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alaya F is currently seen playing the lead role of Radhika, a reporting intern in the supernatural thriller movie 'U-Turn'.

Her character has been given an assignment to investigate accidents that are happening at the U-turn on a particular flyover. She said that there is a lot of pressure of playing the lead role in any project as a lot is expected from the actor by the makers so there is an added pressure. Alaya also added that she is happy to be part of a cinema with more and more projects being made around female protagonists.

She said: "There is a lot of pressure, it is scary I won't lie but sometimes you need to just jump in. I used to be concerned about this but then you remind yourself that you are working with someone like Ekta Ma'am who has been such a strong and powerful boss lady in this industry. Gender bias or roles have never affected her personality. It doesn't apply to her."

The actress added further that things are changing in the industry and now-a-days, many films are made with women actors as the protagonist. "Right from my first film I have been really grateful for being offered wonderful characters and neat parts in every film I have done. It is a real blessing because as an actor I have to say very honestly that this is the best generation where films are being made," she added. "I definitely enjoy this era of cinema better because it is something which connects with me. I think we still have a long way to go when it comes to women having great opportunities, but we have definitely started off towards incredible beginnings," the actress concluded.



KRITI SANON OPTS FOR BUDGETED FLIGHT, FLIES ECONOMY CLASS TO INDORE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ditching the luxury of a first class in an airplane, actress Kriti Sanon channelled her inner 'aam aadmi' as she took a budgeted flight and flew economy class to Indore. Celebrity paparazzi Viral Bhayani posted a video of Kriti from the economy Indigo 6E flight. Kriti was seen in a white dress and a pink shawl over her shoulders. Another video showed her sitting as she played with a toddler sitting in front of her. The toddler and Kriti were seen holding hands and playing and Kriti even blew kisses to the kid. On the work front, Kriti will be seen next with Shahid Kapoor in an untitled romantic movie. She also has 'Adipurush' with Prabhas. Kriti also has 'Ganapath' with her 'Heropanti' co-star Tiger Shroff. The film is slated for release this year.

I WISH THERE WAS MORE REAL SENSE OF TALENT & LONGEVITY OF STARDOM: ADITI RAO

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Touted to be the 'Queen of Period Dramas', actress Aditi Rao Hydari recently blew our minds with her series Taj: Divided by Blood and Jubilee. She has been receiving adulation for the portrayal of Sumitra Kumari.

In an exclusive chat with Absolute India News, the actress opened up about what intrigued her, working with Prosenjit Chatterjee and much more.

Aditi Rao Hydari essays the character of a successful yesteryear heroine Sumitra Kumari. Talking about what aspect intrigued her most, the actress shared, "What I noticed is whether it's now or then, what she goes through as a human being is so relevant. Many people called her 'lady superstar' because she commanded the position her male counterparts would do. Overall, what drew me towards the character was that goddess-like quality coupled with fragile human emotion."

We further asked the actress whether believes that people tend to forget even actors are human beings. To which she averred, "Absolutely! People forget it because we as actors ourselves don't realise it. We start believing our myths, but that happens naturally. Sushri Mishra once advised me that when you become a star, don't do that. I truly agree that is so significant."

Aditi Rao Hydari's character is seen at loggerheads with Prosenjit Chatterjee's character. Talking about whether she was intimidated, Aditi said, "I feel like sometimes the legend of an actor can take over. But I always feel like actors are also human beings. Prosenjit Da is a very kind and loving human being. Only when the camera is rolling, you get to see the actor he is."

When we asked Aditi to share with us what she believes from that era should exist today, she said, "We have grown in the social media-driven generation and so we don't know professional life without it. But it depends on how one uses it. I believe there is a point where it gets too much. Secondly, I wish we didn't have to promote



so much. I do understand it, but the extent to which it happens today, I wish we didn't have to do it."

She added, "I also want we didn't have so much perception build-up. I wish there was more real sense of talent and longevity of stardom which wasn't so dependent on us screaming from the rooftop."

Tina Datta talks about 'refreshing' content on the small screen

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Television actress Tina Datta is currently seen on the show 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' and spoke about how the audience today is open to new genres when it comes to the content on small screen. Tina became a household name after starring in the show 'Uttaran' which revolved around the concept of class divide as Tina's character was a daughter of a maid and her best friend was the daughter of businessman employer of her mother. Talking about whether the audience is looking for new genres on the small screen after shows on social messages and 'saas-bahu' dramas took the spotlight, Tina said: "I think people are looking for new genres because how much can you watch the same thing on television? We all move on with time and adapt to new things and people like watching new things." "So, this story ('Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum') is very refreshing, it is a very new age story in today's world. Yeah, change is the only thing that is constant and the audience also looks forward to such a refreshing vibe to see that element on screen."



AALIM HAKIM RECOUNTS HOW HE STYLED PRABHAS' HAIR IN 'BAAHUBALI'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Celebrity hair stylist Aalim Hakim recalled a behind-the-scenes moment from the set of 'Baahubali: The Beginning'.

He recalled hairstyling of South superstar Prabhas for the 2015 film, which was directed by S. S. Rajamouli. Along with Prabhas, it also features Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty, Tamannaah, Ramya Krishna, Sathyaraj, and Nassar. He said: "In 'Baahubali', we added hair extensions for Prabhas. Since there were many

scenes where he had to ride a horse, we made him play badminton to see how much his hair can bounce while running and how it would look in slow motion while shooting."

Aalim added further that he styled his hair in such a way that it looked perfect for the character: "I set his hair in such a way that it would look perfect when he rode the horse and his hair would bounce appropriately."

The celebrity hairdresser talked about his journey in the industry and remembered his days of struggle on Kapil's show.



Sakshi Dwivedi