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ARTICLE 355 INVOKED, ARMY FLAG MARCH ON, ADDITIONAL TROOPS AIRLIFTED FROM ASSAM IN

VIOLENT & VOLATILE MANIPUR

In view of the prevailing widespread unrest in Manipur, the Central Government has imposed Article 355 in the state to control the situation, top police officials said on Friday. Article 355 is a part of emergency provisions contained in the Constitution that empowers the Centre to take all necessary steps to protect a state against internal disturbances and external aggression.

▶ THE SITUATION IN MANIPUR TURNED VOLATILE AS THOUSANDS OF TRIBALS ON WEDNESDAY TURNED UP FOR THE MARCH CALLED BY THE ALL TRIBAL STUDENTS UNION OF MANIPUR (ATSUM) IN ALL THE 10 HILL DISTRICTS TO OPPOSE THE DEMAND FOR INCLUSION OF THE MEITEI COMMUNITY IN THE ST CATEGORY.

▶ ACTING ON A WRIT PETITION FILED BY THE MEITEI (MEITEI) TRADE UNION, THE MANIPUR HIGH COURT ON APRIL 19 HAD DIRECTED THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE CASE OF THE PETITIONERS FOR INCLUSION IN THE SCHEDULED TRIBE LIST EXPEDITIOUSLY.

▶ THE VALLEY IS DOMINATED BY MEITEI AND THEY ARE SEEKING THE ST CATEGORY STATUS, ALLEGING INFILTRATION FROM BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR, DESTROYING THE DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN IN THE STATE.

▶ FOLLOWING THE RALLY, CLASHES, ATTACKS, COUNTER-ATTACKS AMONG DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES AND BURNING OF HOUSES AND SHOPS TOOK PLACE IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS, FORCING AUTHORITIES TO SUSPEND MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES FOR FIVE DAYS, WHILE A NIGHT CURFEW WAS ALSO IMPOSED IN SEVERAL TENSION-RIDDEN MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICTS, INCLUDING IMPHAL WEST, BISHNUPUR, JIRIBAM, TENUGOPAL, AND CHURACHANDPUR.

▶ THE STATE GOVERNMENT ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT REQUISITIONED THE ARMY AND ASSAM RIFLES TO CONTROL THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN AT LEAST SIX DISTRICTS. TRIBALS - THE NAGAS AND KUKIS WHO ARE MAINLY CHRISTIANS - CONSTITUTE ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S AROUND THREE MILLION POPULATION AND INHABIT THE HILL DISTRICTS WHICH ACCOUNT FOR MUCH OF THE STATE'S LAND.



IMPHAL | Agencies

The Manipur government on Thursday appointed Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) Ashutosh Sinha as the overall Operational Commander to control the situation and bring normalcy in the state. Sinha on Friday said that 23 police stations, mostly in mountainous districts of the state, have been identified as most vulnerable and Army and central para-military forces were deployed in these police stations. Director General of Manipur Police, P. Doungel while talking to the media said that after reviewing the overall situation, Article 355 has been imposed in the entire state allowing the Centre to take all necessary steps to bring the situation under control and protect the lives and properties of the people. Retired IPS officer Kuldip Singh, a former CRPF Chief, has been appointed security advisor by the Manipur government. Meanwhile, more than five Deputy

Inspector General (DIG) rank officers and seven senior superintendents of police (SSP) and SP-rank officers of the CRPF have been tasked to coordinate the deployment of various security forces in violence infested Manipur.

A senior official of Manipur Home Department said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is closely monitoring the situation in Manipur round the clock and he is in constant touch with top functionaries of state and Centre. Various state governments of the northeastern states are in touch with the Manipur authorities on the safety and security of the students and people belonging to different northeastern states living in Manipur. Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram governments have set up 24 X 7 help lines for the benefit of the students and people living in Manipur.

The situation turned seriously volatile after thousands turned up for the 'Tribal Solidarity March' on Wednesday to oppose the demand for inclusion of the Meitei community in the

People from violence-hit Manipur take shelter in Assam

Guwahati: In the wake of the ongoing unrest in Manipur, several families have crossed the border into Assam's Cachar district seeking shelter, authorities said on Friday.

Speaking to reporter, a Cachar district administration officer said: "Since Thursday evening, a number of people have come to take shelter. We have arranged temporary shelters at a few government schools in the Lakhapur sub-division area. Food and other necessary commodities have been provided to them."

According to the Cachar administration, at least 600 people have already crossed the border and have taken shelter.

Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.

In view of the prevailing situation, the Manipur government on Thursday authorised all District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and all Executive Magistrates to issue "Shoot at sight orders" in extreme cases.

A defence spokesman said that Army and Assam Rifles personnel conducted flag marches and aerial reconnaissance in areas of Khuga, Tampa, and Khomajunbba areas of Churachandpur district, Mantripukhri, Lamphel, and Koeirang area of Imphal West District, and Sugnu in Kachhing districts.

In an appeal to the people, the Chief Minister urged them to maintain peace and calm and cooperate with the state government. Rumours of several deaths are being spread creating problems for the law enforcement agencies. However, authorities have not confirmed any fatalities. Chief Ministers of all the northeastern states and six-time world champion boxer M.C. Mary Kom separately urged the people to maintain ethnic harmony, peace and calm.

Covid-19 no longer a public health emergency: WHO



Team Absolute | New Delhi

After three long gruelling years of Covid-19, the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Friday declared that the pandemic is no longer a public health emergency.

Covid-19 was declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) in January 2020. About six weeks later, it was characterised as a pandemic. The deadly disease has to date infected over 763 million and claimed more than 6.9 million lives globally.

Based on a decreasing trend in Covid-19 deaths, related hospitalisations and intensive care unit admissions, and the high levels of population immunity to SARS-CoV-2, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday recommended to end the health emergency at the 15th meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Emergency Committee.

The Committee's position has been evolving over the last several months. While acknowledging the remaining uncertainties posted by potential evolution of SARS-CoV-2, they advised that it is time to transition to long-term management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Yesterday, the emergency committee met for the 15th

■ The SARS-CoV-2 virus will, however, continue to have pandemic status like HIV.
■ Although there has been a fresh surge in Covid cases, due to Omicron sub-variants XBB.115 and XBB.115, both infections and deaths have been the lowest in the three years.
■ Yet, more than 3,500 people died in the last week of April and billions remain unvaccinated.

time and recommended to me that I declare an end to the public health emergency of international concern. I have accepted that advice," Ghebreyesus said at a news conference on Friday. Meanwhile, many countries have also ended their states of emergency for Covid. The US also aims to lift its Covid emergency on May 11.

Six killed in scuffle over land dispute in MP's Morena

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least six persons were shot dead in broad daylight over an alleged property dispute between two groups in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on Friday, the police said. The deceased include three women belonging to the same family, while at least four are reportedly admitted in a hospital with severe injuries.

The incident was recorded on a mobile phone by an eyewitness when four to five people got into a scuffle and started shouting. After this a man with a gun was seen opening fire on the people present at the spot, the police



added. The incident took place in Lepa village over an old land dispute, the police said. According to the police, a fight broke out between two groups supporting Dhir Singh and Gajendra Singh. Initially, the supporters of Gajendra Singh were beaten with sticks and eventually, the situation turned violent as Shaymu and Ajit (belonging to the Dhir Singh camp)

opened fire on the other side.

Senior police officials reached the spot and have started investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, State Congress President Kamal Nath has said "this incident is a serious challenge to the law and order situation in the state. Incidents challenging law and order are happening one after the other in the state but the state government is not able to control the situation".

Taking to his official Twitter account to express his concern over the incident, Nath added, "I request the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan that action should be taken in this matter according to the law."

NCP junks Sharad Pawar's resignation, wants him to remain President

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai: On expected lines, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Friday unanimously rejected the resignation of party's national President Sharad Pawar and requested him in one voice to continue in his post.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the special panel set up by Pawar to name his successor after his dramatic announcement to step down, made on May 2, said NCP Vice-President Praful M. Patel, who is the convenor of the committee.

Addressing a crowded media conference, Patel said that the panel's decision on two resolutions - rejecting the resignation and urging him to continue as party chief - shall be conveyed to Pawar for his final call in the matter.

The committee also resolved that it was unable to elect another President in place of Pawar and requested him to continue till his full term ended, indicating that the party has fully united under him vis-a-vis recent speculation of a possible split.



Jaishankar calls Pak FM Bhutto 'spokesperson of terror industry'

Team Absolute | Panaji

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday called Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari a "spokesperson of terror industry", which is the mainstay of Pakistan. Addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the meeting of foreign ministers of the member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) here, Jaishankar said, "As a Foreign Minister of an SCO member state, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was treated accordingly. As a promoter, justifier... But I am sorry to say that as a spokesperson of a terror industry which is the mainstay of Pakistan, his positions were called out and countered, including at the SCO meeting."



"G-20 meetings are held in all the states and Union Territories of India. They (Pakistan) have nothing to do with G-20 and also with Srinagar. There is only one issue

to discuss on Kashmir that when does Pakistan vacate its illegal occupation of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir," Jaishankar said in response to a question.

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra wins Doha Diamond League 2023

Doha: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra opened his season by winning the Doha Diamond League 2023 with a best attempt of 88.67m in his first throw, here on Friday. The Indian javelin thrower registered victory over a field that included Olympic champion Anderson Peters and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist Jakob Vadlejev. Chopra's season-opening throw of 88.67m -- the world leading attempt -- was never bettered by any other javelin thrower on the night. Vadlejev finished second with a best attempt of 86.63m, just four centimeters behind Chopra. Peters was third on the night with a throw of 85.88m. After his first throw of 88.67m, Neeraj's next throws were 86.04m, 85.47m a foul throw, 84.37m and 86.52m. Meanwhile, Eldhoshe Paul could only finish 10th in the 11-man field in men's triple jump with a best attempt of 15.84m.

Another CCTV footage shows Tillu Tajpuriya murdered in prison officials' presence

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Another chilling CCTV footage has surfaced showing the murder of gangster Tillu Tajpuriya allegedly by the members of the notorious Jitender Gogi gang inside the high-security Tihar Jail on May 2 in the presence of prison officials, who appear to be standing by without intervening. The entire incident took place within the sight of Tihar jail officials, who seemed to be standing idle by as mere spectators.

The newly surfaced 2.36-minute-long video shows the attackers forcefully entering a separate area where prison officials were in the process of tak-



ing Tillu Tajpuriya a.k.a. Sunil Maan. However, the assailants pro-

ceeded to viciously stab, kick, and punch Tajpuriya in a brutal attack aimed at ensuring his

demise. The disturbing footage has sparked significant concerns about the level of security within Tihar and the apparent lack of action on the part of officials to quell the violence.

As per reports, Tajpuriya was stabbed around 50 times by the assailants.

Tajpuriya (33), a resident of Tajpur Kalan on the outskirts of Delhi, was lodged in Tihar Jail under tight security measures.

Gangster Satinder Singh Brar, also known as Goldy Brar who is believed to be in hiding in Canada, has claimed responsibility for the attack on Tajpuriya, citing revenge, according to an unverified social media post.

FIVE SOLDIERS KILLED IN GUNFIGHT WITH TERRORISTS IN J&K'S RAJOURI

Jammu | Agencies

Five soldiers were killed in a gunfight between terrorists and security forces in the Kandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Friday.

"In the ongoing operation in Rajouri sector, three soldiers who were critically injured in the morning have unfortunately succumbed to their injuries. The operation is still in progress," the Army said.

Earlier, the Army said the terrorists triggered an explosive device in retaliation. The Army team suffered two fatal casualties with injuries to four more sol-



diers, including an officer. "As per initial reports, a group of terrorists are trapped in the area. There is a likelihood of casualties in terrorist's group. The operation is in progress," the Army said. The Indian Army columns have been conducting "relentless intelligence-based operations" to flush out a group of terrorists that was involved in an ambush on an Army truck in the Tota Gali area of Bhata Dhurian in Jammu region.



PETROLEUM MINISTRY DENIES CREA REPORT ON IMPORT-EXPORT OF RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Wednesday rejected the report of CREA (Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air) regarding India's purchase of crude oil from Russia at a cheaper price. It has been alleged through this report that India is among the five countries that imported crude oil from Russia, refined it and exported it to the European Union and some G-7 countries.

Reacting strongly to this, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said via Twitter, "The report by the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air is a misleading attempt to tarnish the image of India, the fourth largest oil refinery in the world. This reflects a lack of understanding of supply-demand dynamics and India's long history as a major refined product exporter."

The Helsinki-based CREA in a report on May 1 said that India is among the top five countries, including China, that is purchasing cheap Russian crude oil and converting it



into refined petroleum products, which are laundered in Europe and the G7 countries. Responding to this, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said as a sovereign country, India is free to import or export goods and commodities within the terms of international law and calling its legitimate business as 'laundromat' implies an

"illegal" activity, to which India strongly objects. The ministry said, "Import of crude oil below \$60 barrel from Russia or other places does not come under any international restrictions. There are also no self-imposed restrictions by the 'coalition countries' on buying diesel from refiners across the world. To use the word like 'whitewashed oil

is disingenuous at best or mischievous at worst." The ministry further said India meets its energy requirements through imports from many countries, including Russia, and India has never shied away from this fact nor is it apologetic about it as evidenced by multiple ministerial statements over last year.

Over 3,800 Indians evacuated under Operation Kaveri from Sudan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian government has evacuated as many as 3,862 Indian citizens from war-torn Sudan till date under Operation Kaveri, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday.

In a lengthy tweet, Jaishankar said that early on Friday morning, an Indian Air Force plane brought 47 passengers to India from the troubled African nation, adding that with this, 3,862 persons have been evacuated from there.

There is an indication that the rescue operation might be coming to a close, as the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh tweeted: "Today, we closed down the transit facility created at the International Indian School Jeddah @IndianPage for Sudan evacuees during #OperationKaveri. The facility provided comfort to more than 3,500 evacuees and served as the nerve centre for planning their onwards movement to India."



Meanwhile Jaishankar tweeted: "An Indian Air Force C130 J flight carrying 47 passengers has landed in India. With this arrival, 3862 persons have been moved out of Sudan through #OperationKaveri... Moving passengers to Port Sudan from various locations across the country in precarious security circumstances was a complex exercise".

He said that with the help of 17 Indian Air Force flights and five Indian Navy ship sorties, Indian citizens were moved from Port Sudan to Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah. In addition to this, 86 nationals were evacuated through countries bordering Sudan,

Jaishankar added. "The flight from Wadi Sayidna which was executed at great risk also deserves recognition. From Jeddah, air force and commercial flights have brought people home. We are grateful to Saudi Arabia for hosting them and facilitating this process," he added. The Minister also appreciated the support of several nations like Chad, Egypt, France, South Sudan, the UAE, the UK, the US and also the United Nations.

Jaishankar also appreciated the contribution of his ministry colleagues, saying that their presence on the ground "was a source of strength and reassurance".

Avoid cross-voting among opposition parties in 2024: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Friday once again emphasised that the anti-BJP forces in the country should avoid cross-voting among themselves in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to prevent the saffron camp taking the benefit of division in opposition votes.

"Let all the opposition parties get united. Let us ensure a one-to-one fight. Let us all try to work together," the Chief Minister said while addressing a rally at Samsarganj in Murshidabad district.

However, she continued to remain silent as to whether the Congress is included in Trinamool's blueprint for united opposition. Previously too, she had remained silent on this matter even during her recent meeting with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in Kolkata.

Political analysts feel that her call for avoiding cross-voting among opposition forces is a reflection of her strategy to ensure that Trinamool doesn't have to make any compromise in West Bengal in any possible seat-sharing agreement.



According to political analysts, her call for avoiding cross-voting among opposition forces means those parties which are strong in their respective states should only contest against the BJP in that state, and by that calculation, Trinamool will get an upper-hand in West Bengal, where she will not have to

make any compromise in any seat-sharing agreement. Banerjee herself is aware that in West Bengal, multi-polar contest has to be avoided at any cost. Already the Trinamool leadership has announced that the stand of the party is to maintain equal distance from the BJP as well as the Congress.

Cong ups attack on BJP, shares 'rate card of corruption in K'taka'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With just a few days to go for the May 10 assembly elections in Karnataka, the Congress on Friday targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the issue of corruption, and also released a "rate card" of alleged corruption in the southern state.

The Congress first shared the rate card from the official Twitter handle of the party in a bid to scale up attacks on the issue of corruption.

In the post, the Congress alleged that the Karnataka Chief Minister's post was up for grabs for Rs 2,500 crore and the rate of ministerial posts was Rs 500 crore.

Sharing the post on Twitter, the party wrote, "Kannadigas! Here is the corruption rate card of the 'TROUBLE ENGINE' 40% Sarkara." The post also highlighted figures for "Appointment and Transfer

CORRUPTION RATE CARD 2019 - 2023		JOB RATES	
CM Post	2500 Cr	BJP Commissioner	RS Cr
Minister Post	500 Cr	BJP Chairman	RS Cr
APPOINTMENT & TRANSFER RATES		BJP MP	RS Cr
IAS	RS Cr	BJP MLA	RS Cr
Engineer	RS Cr	BJP Member	RS Cr
Sub-Inspector	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Police Officer	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
IPS	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Asst. Professor	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Assistant	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
SSA	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Junior Engineer	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Bank Clerk	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
PAWS Jr. Engineer	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr
Constable	RS Cr	BJP Candidate	RS Cr

Rates", "Job Rates", and alleged commission for government deals.

Following the party's stand, even former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also shared the post and targeted the BJP, saying "trouble Engine BJP is in love with the number 40, the people of Karnataka will give them 40 seats only".

In a tweet, Rahul Gandhi said: "BJP's 40% Commission Sarkara's 'Rate Card'!

"Trouble Engine' BJP is in love with the number 40, people of Karnataka will give them 40 seats only!"

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi has been attacking the BJP over the alleged corruption in the BJP government in the state.

Last year, the Congress launched PayCM campaign in the state to highlight the alleged corruption.

The Congress has been campaigning aggressively in

Karnataka and has cornered the BJP on issues of corruption and several other matters.

The Congress released its manifesto on Tuesday and also announced several promises for the people of the state.

The party also promised to repeal, within one year of coming to power, "all unjust laws and other anti-people laws" passed by the BJP government in the state.

To woo the voters in the state, Congress announced Gruha Jyothi (200 units of free electricity), Gruha Lakshmi - Rs 2,000 monthly to every woman head of the family, Anna Bhagya - 10 kg of food grains of their choice (among rice, ragi, jowar, millet) to every person in a BPL family.

The election for the 224-member assembly is scheduled on May 10 and counting of votes will take place on May 13.

4 KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACKS WITHIN 5 HRS IN 2 JHARKHAND DISTRICTS

Ranchi | Agencies

At least four persons were trampled to death by elephants in two separate incidents in Jharkhand within a span of five hours.

While three persons from the same family were killed in Latehar district, another person was killed in Giridih district, forest officials said.

In Latehar, a herd of about a dozen elephants reached a brick kiln at Chandwa town between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. on Friday. Many labourers along with their family members were sleeping at the kiln.

The elephants not only ransacked the kiln, but also trampled to death a man identified as Panua Bhuiyan, his wife Babita Devi and daughter Manjisha Kumari, who were sleeping nearby.

The rest of the labourers present at the kiln managed to escape the elephant attack. The Bhuiyan family



hailed from Saraidih village in Garhwa district. The deceased couple used to work as brick kiln labourers. Mahendra Bhuiyan, the father of Panua Bhuiyan, said that he is yet to overcome the demise of his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. His son and daughter-in-law were

the sole breadwinners of the family. The police and forest officials reached the spot on Friday morning. The bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem. Locals said that elephant herds often attack their village, causing loss of life and property.

EX-ASSAM BJP MLA JOINS CONGRESS

Guwahati: Former BJP MLA Joy Ram Engeng has joined Congress on Friday in Diphu at a meeting where the State Congress President Bhupen Bora and Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi were present.

Engeng resigned from the BJP a few days ago writing a letter to the Assam BJP Chief Bhavesh Kalita.

He was also the chief executive member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).

Engeng fought the 2016 Assembly election on BJP's ticket from the Howraghat Assembly constituency in Karbi Anglong district.

Along with Engeng, Bhupen Hasnu, former executive member of KAAC, and seven others have joined the Congress on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma played down Engeng's importance in the Karbi region.

Notice over 'sexual misconduct' by AAP minister in Punjab

Chandigarh | Agencies

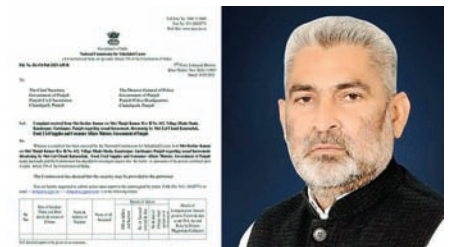
Taking notice of the alleged 'sexual misconduct' by a Punjab cabinet minister, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), on order of its Chairman Vijay Sampla, on Friday issued a notice to the state Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to submit an action-taken report.

In a video message and a letter to the NCSC, the victim has demanded justice as well as security, alleging minister Lal Chand Kataruchak was giving "threats to his life".

"I am now on the run and submitting a complaint in Delhi as the minister is threatening to harm me and my family. I request the NCSC to take action against the minister over sexual misconduct and provide me with security," the victim said.

The victim, who is from the Scheduled Caste community, alleged that "Kataruchak had approached him by sending a friend request on Facebook in 2013-14 and when he accepted it, Kataruchak allegedly started making advances.

Since he was an influential person, he had



promised me a government job due to which I remained mum. I was too young at that time to understand anything. But, his sexual excesses continued till 2021.

"However, he met me for the last time on Diwali in 2021 and he neither provided me with a job nor did he meet me after that."

Recently, the purported video was handed over to Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit by Congress legislator Sukhpal Khaira.

Meanwhile, the NCSC asked the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to investigate the matter and to submit an action-taken report, through post or email.

Classmates stab class monitor in Delhi school

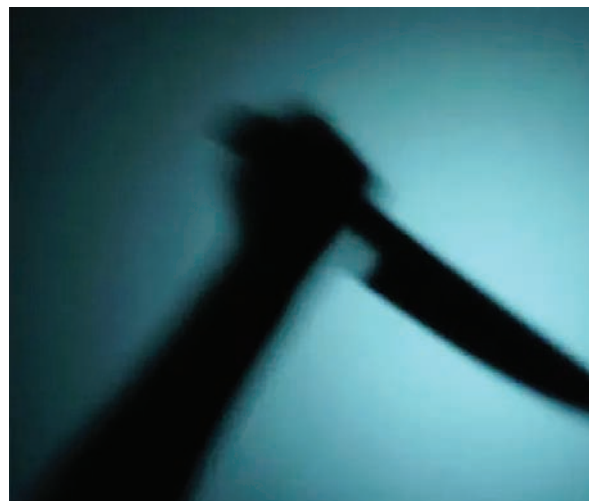
Team Absolute | New Delhi

A tenth standard student was stabbed by his classmates in south Delhi's Tigr area, an official said on Friday.

The police said the accused duo has been apprehended.

According to the police, a PCR call was received on Thursday informing about a stabbing incident involving students at a government school in Tigr. The injured student was admitted to the hospital with stab injuries on his shoulder and back.

"We have recorded the statement of the injured student, wherein he said that he was named the class monitor



by his teacher on Thursday. When another student was causing disturbance in the

class, he wrote his name on the blackboard," said Chandan Chowdhary,

Dehradun | Agencies

A school in Dehradun has been accused of collecting a fine of Rs 100 from students who did not reach school to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, an official said on Friday.

Orders in this regard has been issued by the school management in the WhatsApp group of the school.

National president of the National Association for Parents and Students Rights, Arif Khan, has written a letter to the chief education officer, Dehradun, demanding action in this matter.

The education department has issued a notice to the school and sought a reply within three days. Arif Khan said: "GRD Niranjanpur

Dehradun: Students reportedly fined for not listening to PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'



Academy of Dehradun has issued an order to bring a fine of Rs 100 or submit a medical certificate to those children who did not reach school for the Mann Ki Baat programme on Sunday. Parents have also shown the screenshot of this order."

Chief Education Officer Pradeep Kumar said: "A show cause notice has been issued to the school. And if the school does not present its stand within three days, then it will be understood that money was sought from the students on behalf of the school. After this the department will take action."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio show 'Mann Ki Baat' completed 100 episodes on April 30.

Being the 100th episode, special programmes were organised at many places including schools across the country.



BAJRANG DAL TRIES TO ENTER CONGRESS OFFICE IN BALAGHAT; BURNED CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S EFFIGY



Team Absolute | Bhopal

After Jabalpur, workers of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad created ruckus at the Congress office in Balaghat as well. The protesters took out a rally and reached the Congress office. Where the effigy of Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge was burnt. Meanwhile, some workers tried to attack the Congress office. On trying to stop them, the protesting workers clashed with the police. After this, the police

chased them using mild force. In fact, in its manifesto released for the Karnataka elections, the Congress has talked about banning the Bajrang Dal. Bajrang Dal workers are angry about this. Earlier on Thursday, Bajrang Dal broke into the Congress office in Jabalpur and ransacked it. VHP and Bajrang Dal workers took out a rally from the excellent school grounds and reached in front of the District Congress office via Ambedkar Chowk, Kali Putli Chowk, Hanuman Chowk via Main

Road. Hanuman Chalisa was recited here. After this, the VHP and Bajrang Dal workers who were trying to enter the district Congress office were chased away by the police. Bajrang Dal and VHP burnt Kharge's effigy while raising slogans against Congress at Hanuman Chowk. In view of the opposition of VHP and Bajrang Dal, Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Dabur and City Superintendent of Police Anjul Ayank Mishra were themselves present on the spot.

CONGRESS LEADER GOT ANGRY AFTER VANDALIZATION OF CONGRESS OFFICE IN JABALPUR

Jabalpur: After vandalizing the Congress office in Jabalpur, a video of Congress leader Dinesh Yadav abusing him has come to the fore. This video is being told from outside the Congress office. On Thursday, Bajrang Dal ransacked the Congress office in Baldevbagh. Former Congress city president Dinesh Yadav, who reached the spot, got angry and lashed out at Bajrang Dal and BJP along with his party workers.

The workers of Bajrang Dal got agitated over the banning of Bajrang Dal in the Congress manifesto in Karnataka. In Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur on Thursday, Bajrang Dal workers reached the Congress office, kicked the office gate and broke the lock and forcibly entered inside. The poster of Sonia Gandhi was also torn. Climbed the stairs and started dismantling the tinshed. After this, the police chased the protesters from there. Police has registered a named case against five people. The Congress has warned that if the in-charge of Lardganj and Kotwali police station is not suspended, then Jabalpur will be closed. In the video, Dinesh Yadav city president Jagat Bahadur Singh is seen fuming at the absence of Annu. He is saying that call Annu, if Annu is getting courage then come to the spot, no So don't worry... let it be... After this they started abusing, said-call...call everyone...call everyone...who is giving protection. Will go to BJP office today, what will happen will be seen. Regarding the whole matter, Congress leader Dinesh Yadav says that there was resentment against those who ransacked the Congress office. Naturally, if he was in front, we would have fought too. In the matter of giving advice to Congress leaders to wear bangles, he said that I was angry, I do not remember what I have said.



Drizzle in Bhopal-Sagar, clouds elsewhere; likely to remain same for next four days



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, the period of rain and thunderstorms reduced on Friday. Light drizzle occurred in Bhopal and Sagar, while the rest of the places remained cloudy. The sun also shown during the day. According to the Meteorological Department, the effect of the active system has reduced in the state. Due to this, there will be no period of heavy rains. The weather will clear from May 9. This will also increase the effect of heat. The weather will remain like this for the next 4 days i.e. till 8th May.

Meteorologist HS Pandey said that a Western Disturbance is currently active in the state. There is no effect of trough line and cyclone, so there may be light drizzle across the state

till May 8. In some areas, the effect of rain will be more. The weather will change after noon. Before that the sun will be shining. After May 15, the temperature will increase more and the effect of heat will start showing. Jabalpur, Sagar, Rewa, Shahdol, Narmadapuram and Bhopal divisions along with thunderstorms may rain in Khandwa, Khargone, Dhar, Indore, Barwani, Burhanpur, Shajapur, Dewas and Agar. The weather will be clear in the rest of the districts. Thunderstorm with a speed of 40 to 50 km per hour can occur in Panna, Rewa, Satna, Anuppur, Chhatarpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Dhar, Indore, Barwani, Burhanpur, Shajapur, Dewas and Agar districts along with Jabalpur, Narmadapuram and Bhopal divisions.

CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTED A BANYAN TREE IN OMKARESHWAR



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings at Omkar Parvat in Omkareshwar. He planted a banyan tree. Chief Minister's wife Sadhna Singh and saints and media representatives from different regions of the country were also present.

IF THE BOSS'S CLAP, THEN THE BOSS'S ABUSE TOO: DEEPAK JOSHI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi's son and former minister Deepak Joshi is no longer ready to take his step back. He has made it clear that he will join the Congress in Bhopal on Saturday. Deepak Joshi will join Congress along with some of his workers in a simple program at Kamal Nath's residence. Talking to the media in Dewas on Friday, he said that father did Suchita's politics, but now there is a difference between BJP's words and actions. Corruption has reached its peak. The former minister also became emotional. Tears welled up in his eyes. He said that my companions do not even greet me out of fear.

Forget about obeisance, before talking he looks at me in such a way that no one is watching him. He also wanted to talk, but could not. Due to fear, they cannot even say Namaskar. I was not even invited to programs. That's why I don't even try to force my way into any program.

Deepak Joshi said that tears are coming because I could not fulfill the responsibility of saving my father's legacy. My concern is for those families who are working with my family as 4th-5th generation, they must be feeling bad on my decision but moving ahead to save those families. May my loved ones give me enough strength to fight this battle ahead.

CM Shivraj and Jyotiraditya

Scindia laid the foundation stone of father's memorial, but it was not built. What was my problem if it would have happened? Everyone in the BJP spoke. CM, state president, national leaders, people of the organization and my political friends tried. This is a fight for respect, this is a fight for the honor of father. Many messages came from the CM, but after May 3, I stopped paying attention to the messages. If there was a need for me or my father-in-law, they would have started work on the memorial the day after I raised the issue for the first time, but it was being deliberately neglected.

Deepak Joshi said that I am not going to become MLA or MP in Congress, will work as a normal

worker. If I have done my work then I will feel that yes I have done my work. Why should I search for my future, why should I think whether I have a future in Congress or not. Let them assess how much damage will be caused by my departure. Somewhere they are at a loss because they are constantly trying to stop me.

For 4-5 days continuous news was coming to me. It has happened in politics that people move from here to there at the time of elections. My point is slightly different. I don't want ticket from the party, I don't want post, I don't want prestige. I am an activist carrying on my father's legacy, MLA. I have been a minister.

IF THE BOSS IS CLAPPED, THEN THE BOSS IS ALSO ABUSED...

Joshi said, "If the boss's clap, then the boss's abuse too... When you clap, you should also take the abuse. He must put his stones on the buildings which were constructed and laid foundation stone when he was my minister, but no effort was made to invite me to the programme. In Dewas district, I had become for the party in such a way that if I used to reach any program, people used to wonder why I had come. I don't even like sitting with such elements anymore, why should I sit with those who don't like me."

THE SCHEME FOR FORMATION AND PROMOTION OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE BENEFICIAL: AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Bhopal: Farmers' Welfare and Agriculture Development Minister Kamal Patel has expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on behalf of the farmers of the state. He said that the new "Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) formation and promotion scheme" made to enrich the farmers would prove to be very beneficial. The scheme was approved in the cabinet on Thursday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chouhan.

Agriculture Minister Patel said that a new plan has been made to encourage formation of minimum 2 farmer producer organizations in each development block in the state. The scheme will be operated by the Agriculture Department. Handholding will be provided to the FPOs to be formed under the scheme. This will help the FPO members to use quality inputs and advanced agricultural machinery as well as post harvest techniques. Minister Patel has told that FPO will be linked with the market. Minister Patel said that a provision of a total amount of 50 crores has been made in this scheme to be operated till the year 2025. In this, a provision of Rs 20 crore 99 lakh has been made for the year 2023-24 and Rs 29 crore one lakh for the year 2024-25. Under the scheme, a maximum of Rs 18 lakh will be provided per FPO for 3 years. FPOs will be provided Rs 2,000 per farmer as equity grant, with a maximum of Rs 15 lakh. The scheme will be implemented by the State Level Implementation Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Agriculture Production Commissioner.

Absconding accused in Delhi murder apprehended in MP



Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

A 26-year-old accused who had been on the run since beating a man to death in Delhi last year, was finally apprehended in Madhya Pradesh, a Delhi Police official said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Ajay alias Hariya, a resident of Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh.

In April 2022, Ajay along with others had beaten the man to death in Delhi's Bindapur area. "During investigation about a month ago, specific inputs were received regarding Ajay, who had been declared a 'Proclaimed Offender' by a Dwarka court," said M Harsha Vardhan,

the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka). On the basis of technical surveillance, he was located and traced at all his possible hideouts in Delhi, Jhansi and Tikamgarh. "Many raids were conducted to nab him but he managed to escape each time. On April 30, his location was zeroed down to Tikamgarh and a police team was dispatched to nab him," said Vardhan. On seeing the team, Ajay again tried to escape but was apprehended after a brief chase, said the DCP. On interrogation, he disclosed that after the murder he fled from his house and kept on changing address frequently to evade arrest. The official said that Ajay was also found to be involved in four other cases of murder and Arms Act.

EDITORIAL BOARD CONSTITUTED FOR "FUTURE HEALTH," THE OFFICIAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF AIIMS BHOPAL

Bhopal: AIIMS Bhopal announced the constitution of the Editorial Board for "FUTURE HEALTH," the official multidisciplinary journal of the institute. The board will oversee the drafting, reviewing, and publication of the journal's articles across various disciplines.

The Chief Patron of the Editorial Board is Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhopal, and it comprises the advisory committee of all departmental heads and deans. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Adesh Shrivastava, Additional Professor, Dept. of Neurosurgery, while Dr. Samendra Kumar Karkhur, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Ophthalmology, will serve as the Executive Editor. Dr. Neha Arya, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Translation Medicine, will serve as the Managing Editor.

Additionally, the Editorial Board includes Associate Editors Dr. Amber Kumar, Dr. Anindo Majumdar, Dr. Snehil Gupta, and Dr. Vaibhav Ingle, as well as nine Section Editors from various specialty departments.

The Editorial Board of "FUTURE HEALTH" is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence and providing a platform for diverse perspectives and innovative research in the healthcare field.

Dalit girl gangraped in Rajgarh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Due to enmity, a case of gangrape of a Dalit girl has come to light in Rajgarh. The 8 accused barged into the house and assaulted the members of the first family. After she fainted, the daughter of the family was raped by 5 men in turn. The sensational incident of rape took place on Thursday night in Karanwas police station area. The village is 45 km away from the district headquarter.

Here, the havoc of the bullies broke on the Dalit family in such a way that the family members are badly crying. The bullies first enter the house and then thrash the parents and brother of the girl present there. They are beaten so much that everyone faints. After this, 5 men take turns to rape the girl. During this, 3 people stood at the door and kept watch. At present, the girl is being treated at the district hospital. The Dalit

family is admitted in the district hospital, where the victim, while alleging by name, said that the above five raped her in turn. The girl is fainting while crying again and again remembering the incident. It is being told that the victim's family had also reached the Karanwas police station, but the police have registered a case of molestation by entering the house citing enmity.

Karanwas police station in-charge Ajay Singh Yadav said that we had received information that last night some people barged into a girl's house, beat her up and tore her clothes. After the incident, I myself went to the spot and immediately on the complaint of the victim, we have registered a case against 5 accused under sections 147, 149, 456, 354, 294, 323, 506, 427. Now four accused Arvind, Meherban, Deepak, Banwari have been arrested. The accused Devendra is absconding, who is being searched.

Neelima Bhoyar got the gift of appointment letter at the wedding reception

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Neelima Bhoyar, selected for the post of Manager, Quality Control in Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation, received the appointment letter as a gift at her wedding reception. It is worth mentioning that last day Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had distributed appointment letters to 30 selected candidates in the Corporation after a function at the Chief Minister's residence. Bhoyar could not be present at the Chief Minister's residence to receive the appointment letter due to her own marriage. On getting this information, on the instructions of



Chief Minister Chouhan, District Manager Balaghat R.K.

Patle went to the reception and handed over the appointment

letter to him and wished him well.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 15th May 2023, inter alia to consider and approve the Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the financial year ended on 31st March 2023.

The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

Place: Bhopal
Dated: 05/05/2023

For We Win Limited

Sd/-

Ashish Soni
(PAN: HCOPS6623A)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer



EDITOR'S SPECS

Likelihood of climate getting worst

The likelihood of El Nino developing later this year is increasing, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said. This would have the opposite impacts on weather and climate patterns in many regions of the world to the long-running La Nina and would likely raise global temperatures, according to the WMO's El Nino /La Nina Update, which is based on input from WMO Global Producing Centres of Long-Range Forecasts and expert assessment. The unusually stubborn La Nina has now ended after a three-year run and the tropical Pacific is currently in an ENSO-neutral state (neither El Nino nor La Nina), reports Xinhua news agency. There is a 60 per cent chance for a transition from ENSO-neutral to El Nino during May-July 2023, and this will increase to about 70 per cent in June-August and 80 percent between July and September, according to the WMO update. "We just had the eighth warmest year on record, even though we had a cooling La Nina for the past three years and this acted as a temporary brake on global temperature increase," WMO Secretary General Petteri Taalas said. "The development of an El Nino will most likely lead to a new spike in global heating and increase the chance of breaking temperature records," Taalas added. According to the WMO's State of the Global Climate reports, 2016 was the warmest year on record because of a very powerful El Nino event and human-induced warming from greenhouse gases. The effect on global temperatures usually plays out in the year after its development and so will likely be most apparent in 2024. El Nino occurs every two to seven years on average, and the episodes usually last nine to 12 months.

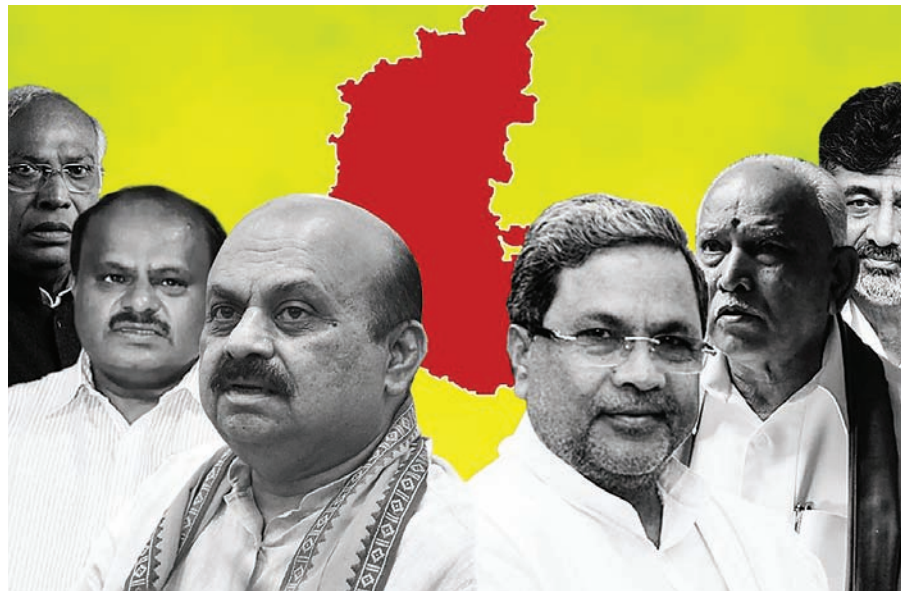
OMISSION OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN KARNATAKA ELECTIONS

Lalit Garg

The assembly elections in Karnataka are going to be very interesting; the results of these elections will have an impact on the future state of the Congress as well as the assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. With these elections, the directions for deciding the role of Congress in the process of opposition unity will also emerge. In this sense, the Karnataka elections are important and will change the directions of future Indian politics. The Congress has pinned a lot of hopes on these elections, while on behalf of the BJP, like every time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is campaigning vigorously. By talking about banning Bajrang bali in its manifesto, the Congress has stopped its march towards victory. Because the BJP is associating it with the honour and respect of Hindu sentiments, its negative effects will definitely be seen in the era of Hindutva wave sweeping the country.

In spite of all the hustle and bustle, this election also seems to be deviating from the issues. As the polling date in Karnataka draws closer, the assembly elections seem to be drifting away from issues and focusing on religious sentiments. Election promises of free revelries are an old tradition in the south, but now snakes around Shiva's neck and Bajrangbali have also become election issues. Karnataka, which has become the gateway of BJP in South India, is counted among the socio-economically better states, but the bitter truth is that the politics there has not been free from caste barriers. The state has three major communities - Lingayats, Vokkaligas and Kurubas. Political parties have been looking for the way to power only by sitting the correct maths of their vote-politics among them.

This time also the electoral scenario seems to be starting from this multiplication. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa; the BJP has big faces from the largest Lingayat community in the form of Yeddyurappa, but it has also suffered a setback with former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi rebelling and joining the Congress. The Congress has Kuruba community in the form of former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state president D.K. The Vokkaliga community already has big faces in the form of Siva Kumar. In such a situation, it



can be assumed that the change of sides of Shettar and Savadi has only benefited him. It will not be surprising if the effect of religious sentiments also shows its magic amidst these caste equations.

Despite the strong position of the Congress, even if the BJP pulls a miracle, it cannot be ruled out. The Congress may make the functioning of the BJP governments headed by Yeddyurappa and Bommai an issue or the former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik and the wrestlers' dharna at JantarMantar are additional issues for it. In response to the BJP's manifesto with populist promises, Congress promises in the same way or going further are also politically understandable, but the promise of ban on Bajrang Dal along with PFI has provided BJP the desired issue. First, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge created an unwanted and unseemly controversy by calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a poisonous snake, then by keeping Bajrang Dal and PFI in the same category, Congress has diverted the election from the real issues and got swayed by emotions. You have given yourself a chance to go. The issue of Bajrang Dal is going to be effective, because the people of Karnataka have an emotional and religious connection with Hanumanji, the pride of being the birthplace of Bajrangbali goes to this state. The BJP wanted this election to take

a religious turn, Congress has facilitated the BJP by raising the issue of Bajrangbali. The question is, why has the Congress once again agreed to play on the election pitch prepared by the BJP? The Congress, which dreams of banning Bajrang Dal, is actually calling for its complete downfall. Bajrang Dal is a nationalist organization of patriotic youth, who does not see caste, religion etc. in times of calamity and cooperates with body, mind and money in solving the crisis of the country. Where it is condemnable to compare it with terrorist organizations like PFI due to political bias, the same politics is a sign of immaturity.

Congress is also losing its remaining respect due to such prejudiced thoughts. It is ironic that instead of doing the evil of terrorism, the Congress is keen to target nationalist organisations. She is probably forgetting the history of Bajrang Dal. Who doesn't know the remarkable role of this nationalist organization in making the Raj work successful in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement? When the Congress released the manifesto, this one promise along with the freebies attracted everyone's attention. It seems, the sooner Congress gets out of this daydreaming, and the better it will be for its advanced political future. Another aspect of these elections is that both the hotly contested parties have given adequate attention to national

issues as well. The BJP may not have directly talked about Ram Mandir, but it has definitely promised to implement Uniform Civil Code and NRC. It is worth noting that the Congress is also looking very aggressive on these alleged national issues. In its manifesto, it has spoken of taking a tough stand against hate speech. Although the central government has already banned PFI for five years. Not only this, in response to the BJP's announcement of ending the four per cent Muslim reservation, it has also talked about restoring it. This is an interesting change from the soft approach of the Congress on issues that have been allegedly divisive for some time now. Amidst all these promises, the question is not only that whose promise is so tempting, it will also be a matter to be seen that how reliable the voters consider whose promises and which party leads them to victory.

Following in the footsteps of the Aam Aadmi Party, which emphasized the culture of freebies in Delhi, both the Congress and the BJP have tried to woo different sections of voters in their manifestos, which, though natural, raises a big question on the political state and direction. Is. But no one has shown any hesitation in offering freebies in this sequence. While the Congress has promised 200 units of free electricity, Rs 2,000 per month to every female head of the family, Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders, the BJP has given half a kilo per day to every BPL family. Nandini has given assurances like giving milk, providing cheap food grains to the people and giving three gas cylinders free of cost on ugadi, Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali.

Remembering the debate that broke out in the past about distribution of free women during elections, this part of the manifesto of both the parties seems to violate it, but both of them link these promises with their resolve to empower the weaker sections. Whatever it may be, every time in the elections, every party does not hesitate even a bit to sideline the principles and values, it is being violated in these elections also. It is also true that despite the promises and claims of development, a large section of voters are still in a position that allegedly free or cheap things influence their vote decision.

international

FIERCE CLASHES CONTINUE IN SUDAN DESPITE 7-DAY TRUCE

Khartoum | Agencies

Khartoum and several other areas in Sudan witnessed continued violent clashes between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) despite a seven-day truce agreed by the two warring factions.

The violent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF which erupted on April 15, has so far left more than 550 people dead and 4,926 others wounded, while thousands of citizens have been displaced or forced to seek refuge in safe areas or neighbouring countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia and Chad, reports Xinhua news agency.

On Thursday, the SAF announced that its units clashed with RSF fighters in the town of Bahri, north of capital Khartoum.

"Our forces clashed at dawn today with the rebels who tried to attack the command Bahri military area," the army said in a statement.

"Our forces destroyed eight combat vehicles of the enemy and seized 11 vehicles, a Katyusha launcher and communication devices," the statement added.

The SAF further called on the citizens to keep away from the sites of clashes and strange metal objects.

The RSF, for its part, accused the army of violating the declared humanitarian truce and



attacking their posts at on Thursday.

"Our forces and residential neighbourhoods came under indiscriminate artillery and aircraft bombardment in a flagrant violation of international norms as well as international and humanitarian law," the paramilitary said in a statement.

Meanwhile, violent clashes also took place on Thursday in El-Obeid, the capital city of

North Kordofan state.

"El-Obeid city and the command of the 5th Infantry Division came under a treacherous attack by the rebels today," the SAF said.

"The enemy was crushed and suffered heavy losses and its remnants are being chased out of the city." The army said that the operational situation in all parts of Sudan was stable and calm, except for parts of the capital

and El-Obeid city.

The incidents of violence came a few hours after the two sides agreed to a seven-day truce extension proposed by the regional African bloc Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

Earlier in the day, the Foreign Ministry condemned what it termed "the violations of the rebel RSF against embassies and diplomatic missions without the slightest regard to the declared truce or respect for international law". "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the attacks by the rebel forces on the headquarters of the Indian Embassy," it said in a statement. The Ministry said that it had also received complaints about attacks on the building of the Saudi cultural attache, residences of the Swiss diplomats, and the consular section of the Turkish Embassy.

Given that the clashes have pushed the country to the edge of a humanitarian crisis, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths, who arrived in the eastern city of Port Sudan on Wednesday, urged the warring parties to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the needy.

To this end, RSF Commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagaló pledged to open and protect humanitarian corridors to facilitate the movement of citizens in areas controlled by his forces.

4 far-right group members found guilty in US Capitol riot case

Washington | Agencies

Four members of the far-right all-male group, Proud Boys, have been found guilty of seditious conspiracy and a range of other charges in connection to their involvement in the January 2021 US Capitol riot case.

Enrique Tarrio, the Proud Boys longtime chairman, Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs and Zachary Rehl were found guilty on Thursday of seditious conspiracy and three separate conspiracy charges, obstructing the Electoral College vote and tampering with evidence, reports CNN. The guilty verdict marks the third time that prosecutors have secured convictions for seditious conspiracy in the Justice Department's historic prosecution of those who breached the Capitol on January 6, 2021. A fifth defendant, Dominic Pezzola, was found not guilty of seditious



conspiracy after the jury returned for several more hours of deliberation on Thursday.

Unlike the other defendants in this trial, Pezzola is not alleged to have a leadership position in the organization and was inactive in Proud Boys group chats.

Each of the defendants were convicted of at least one charge that carries a 20-year maximum prison sentence, and could face a lengthy amount of time behind bars.

A sentencing date for the five defendants has not yet been scheduled, but District Judge Timothy Kelly said it is likely to happen in late July.

ONE DEAD IN NEPAL CHOPPER CRASH



Kathmandu: At least one person died and four others were injured in a chopper crash in Nepal's Sankhuwasabha district on Friday.

The incident occurred when the chopper crashed into a tree in Siparung.

Birendra Godar, Deputy Superintendent of Nepal Police stationed in Sankhuwasabha district, said one Bhawindra Gurung, who was seriously injured in the crash, succumbed. Gurung, who was taken for further treatment to Kathmandu, breathed his last on the way to the airport, Nepal Police DIG, Rajesh Nath Bastola of Koshi province told media. Gurung used to work as an assistant in the chopper.

8 DEAD IN 2ND MASS SHOOTING IN SERBIA WITHIN A DAY

Belgrade | Agencies

In a second mass shooting within a day in Serbia, at least eight people were killed and 10 others injured after a gunman reportedly fired an automatic weapon from a moving vehicle in a village south of capital Belgrade, authorities said on Friday.

The incident took place at around 11 p.m. on Thursday night in Dubona and Interior Minister Bratislav Gasic identified the 21-year-old suspect as Uros B, who is currently absconding, reports CNN.

Health Minister Danica Grujic, and the head of the Security Intelligence Agency, Aleksandar Vulin, have reportedly travelled to the area in the early hours of Friday.

On Friday morning, Serbian media said that special police forces had arrived at the villages Dubona and Mladenovac, the BBC reported.



Photos from the scene show police officers stopping cars at checkpoints as they try to locate the gunman, while a helicopter, drones and multiple police patrols also searched for the suspect in the area around Dubona.

Local media reports said the gunman started the shooting spree after having an argument with a police officer in a park in Dubona earlier on Thursday evening.

Without providing additional details, the Interior Ministry told CNN that they are treating the massacre as an act of "domestic terrorism". All special police units are engaged, including an anti-terrorism unit, helicopter unit, and police forces from the cities of Belgrade and Smederevo, it added.

On Wednesday, a 13-year-old who shot dead eight fellow students and a security guard at the

Vladislav Ribnikar primary school in central Belgrade.

President Aleksandar Vucic described the attack as "the most difficult day in the modern history of our country".

The massacre prompted Vucic to propose tighter restrictions of gun ownership, including an audit on firearms licences and a tightening of the rules around who can access shooting ranges.

6.3-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS JAPAN, NO TSUNAMI THREAT

Tokyo: An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck Japan's Ishikawa prefecture and its surrounding areas on Friday, but there is no threat of a tsunami, the country's weather agency said.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the tremor occurred at 2.42 p.m. (local time), at a depth of 10 km, registering an upper 6 on the national seismic intensity scale of 7 in the city of Suzu, upper 5 in Noto and lower 5 in Wajima, Xinhua news reported.

The agency said there was no threat of a tsunami, but sea level changes of less than 20 cm were possible.

No abnormalities have been detected at the Shika nuclear power plant in Ishikawa, as well as at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in the neighboring prefecture of Niigata, Kyodo News reported.



SHARAD PAWAR BOWS TO PARTY'S WISHES, TO CONTINUE AS NCP PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sharad Pawar today said he would continue as chief of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), hours after his resignation was rejected by top party leaders in the backdrop of emotional protests from cadre in Maharashtra.

"After reconsideration of everything, I announce that I will continue as the president of the party. I take back my previous decision," Sharad Pawar, 82, said this evening.

The dramatic resignation, and equally dramatic takeback, capped a three-day drama that has reaffirmed the veteran politician's absolute hold over the party amid talk of his nephew Ajit Pawar's dalliance with the ruling BJP.

Ajit Pawar was, significantly, absent when Mr Pawar reversed his decision and spoke of "organisational changes to the party, assigning new responsibilities and creating new leadership".

His shock resignation had trig-



gered fierce speculation that his daughter Supriya Sule would take over his role, leaving the question of Ajit Pawar's role wide open.

"Even though I am continuing in the post of president, I am of the clear opinion that there has to be a

succession plan for any post or responsibility in the organisation. In future, I will focus on making organisational changes in the party, assigning new responsibilities, creating new leadership. I will also work vigorously for the growth of organisa-

tion and take our ideology and goals of the party to the people," Pawar said.

He also made it clear he was ready to resume his other job, that of uniting an opposition pulling in all directions against the BJP in 2024.

"It is very important to unite all the political parties. From Rahul Gandhi to CPIM's Sitaram Yechury, everyone called and asked me to continue," Pawar said.

This morning, an NCP panel led by Praful Patel rejected Pawar's resignation and told him he should continue as president for the sake of lakhs of workers.

When Pawar dropped his bombshell at the launch of his memoir in Mumbai, many believed he wanted to forestall Ajit Pawar in his reported moves to organize a split in the party and defections to the BJP.

There were fireworks and celebrations by NCP workers who had made dramatic threats since Tuesday, begging their "Saheb" to take back his resignation.

No alternative to Sharad Pawar: Shiv Sena (UBT), welcomes NCP panel decision

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut on Friday welcomed the Nationalist Congress Party decision rejecting its President Sharad Pawar's resignation.

"It was an anticipated lines... There's no alternative to Pawar Saheb... The NCP committee's decision is correct," said Raut, soon after the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally's turmoil-ridden party's move.

He said that Pawar is the most respected and nationally accepted leader and all the Opposition parties in the country want him to continue in his post.

"All parties are clear on this, he is a uniting force... Pawar Saheb must continue as NCP President, at least till the (2024) elections," urged Raut.

He reiterated that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was making attempts to destroy all Opposition parties and force them to merge with it, using pressure tactics of different kinds.

"First the BJP broke up the Shiv Sena, then the NCP was being targeted similarly with the fear of the central investigating agencies... This cannot work in a democracy," he pointed out. He revealed that Pawar had even written on this to Union Home Minister Amit Shah



recently. Raut's reactions came soon after the NCP panel meeting, which unanimously rejected Pawar's shock decision of May 2 to step down as the party president, and also requested him to continue in his post.

The NCP top leadership went to meet Pawar and submitted the resolutions passed by the committee, asking him to honour the same and convey his response on priority.

NCP Vice-President Praful Patel said that Pawar has sought some time to think over it and his final call is expected soon.

State chief Jayant Patil said that there's no truth in the rumours being floated that the NCP will split and asserted that the party is fully united behind Sharad Pawar.

'Blatant lie': Shinde's son shoots down report of CM meeting Thackeray kin

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde on Friday rubbished certain reports claiming that his father and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had a secret meeting with the family members of Shiv Sena-UBT President Uddhav Thackeray.

The news, flashed by a private local TV channel here, claiming CM Shinde had met Rashmi Uddhav Thackeray and her son, created a political sensation.

"This is a LIE. No secret meet. Shinde and Rashmi Thackerayji never met as shown on (TV)," said Shrikant Shinde.

He termed the news as "desperation, false news and



nothing else" and said he will ask the Mumbai Police to conduct a probe in the matter. "We will complain to

Twitter and Police - several accounts are spreading deliberate fake news and lies today. This needs to stop," he said.

Shinde called upon the Mumbai Police to take cognisance of rampant spread of misleading news and deliberate lies, several accounts circulating baseless propaganda about secret meets which are patently false. "Please investigate the sources of these false news reports for appropriate action. Irresponsible journalism," he said.

After the news was telecast by the private TV channel, it sparked off furious political speculation on the motives, the agenda, and whether it spelt the start of a new political chapter in the state, etc.

DOMESTIC HELP STEALS ORNAMENTS WORTH RS1.31 CRORE, ARRESTED

Mumbai: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing items worth Rs 1.37 crore, including gold and diamonds worth Rs 1.31 crore, a Mumbai police official said on Thursday.

The theft took place in the Mulund house of an elderly man and the accused worked there as a domestic help, he said.

"The incident came to light on April 28. The accused was working in the house for the last six years and was angry at his low wages, which prompted him to commit the crime," the official said.

Thackeray can meet anti-RRPL protestors, can't address a rally

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena-UBT chief and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will on Saturday visit Barsu and other villages where the locals are strongly protesting against the proposed Rs 3 lakh crore Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. project coming up with Arab help.

While Thackeray shall be allowed to meet the protestors comprising activists, farmers, tribals, the local police have declined permission to hold a rally in Rantale.

Thackeray said that he will interact with the people of Barsu and surrounding villages who are opposing the refinery-cum-petrochemicals complex here for the past 12 days.

"I am not going there to see the strength of the Shiv Sena-UBT or the



Bharatiya Janata Party, but to meet and hold discussions with the local population, understand their problems pertaining to opposing the project, hear out their problems or grievances. Unless all their apprehensions are cleared, the project should not be pushed through," he reiterated.

In a related move, hundreds of workers of the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya

Janata Party will take out a procession of the 'pro-refinery' sections who are likely to meet Thackeray and submit their 'NoC' to him. Union Minister Narayan Rane will also address a 'pro-refinery' rally along with Shiv Sena Minister Uday Samant in Barsu to counter Thackeray's high-profile visit there.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis on Friday again slammed Thackeray for indulging in political opportunism by first proposing the Barsu land, then opposing the same, and labelled him an "anti-development person", alleging that he has no concern for the progress of the state or its people but only playing politics. Meanwhile, some villagers attempted to sneak into the site of the ongoing soil-strata survey being conducted in the vicinity for the past over a week, but were blocked by police deployed there.

Dabbawalas urge BMC to construct wide footpaths outside Lower Parel station

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's famous dabbawalas have raised questions about not constructing wide footpaths or staircase on the new bridge outside Lower Parel station.

Subhash Talekar, President of the Mumbai Dabbawala Association, said: "The old bridge outside Lower Parel station has been demolished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and a new bridge has been constructed. But for the new bridge, they did not construct a footpath, nor did they put staircase to go up and down. This has a major impact on dabbawalas."

He said that the old Lower Parel bridge was spacious, it had stairs. The bridge also had wide footpaths. "As the old bridge was wide and spacious,



the place to exchange dabbas (tiffins) was on the footpath. Tiffins for Worli, Kalachowki, Byculla and Mazgaon areas were exchanged here. Now the

new bridge has no space and due to which it is difficult to exchange tiffins," Talekar added.

While urging BMC, Talekar said that the new bridge should have staircase and wide footpaths like the old Lower Parel Bridge. "Why is there no construction policy of BMC regarding new bridge construction? We have nothing to do with it, but while constructing a new bridge, at least the civic body should think about how people were using this bridge before?" he asked. Talekar further said that the civic body should have taken local residents and public representatives into confidence while changing the structure of the old bridge.

The Mumbai Dabbawala Association will soon hand over a request letter for the same to MLA Aaditya Thackeray soon.

CBI searches Jet Airways offices, Naresh Goyal's residence in bank fraud case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday carried out searches at the old offices of Jet Airways and the residence of its founder Naresh Goyal in the Rs 538 crore bank fraud case, sources said.

"The CBI team is carrying out searches at seven locations in Mumbai on residential and office premises of Jet Airways and the accused named in the case," a CBI source told reporter.

The source said that the agency sleuths also carried out searches at the residential premises of Goyal and some other officials of Jet Airways in connection with the bank fraud case involving Canara Bank.



In April 2019, Jet Airways suspended its operations due to a severe cash crunch and mounting debt. Jet Airways once used to be India's largest private carrier.

The source clarified that the CBI searches are not at the premises linked to the new owners of Jet Airways.

TWO COPS SUSPENDED FOR ASSAULTING DOCTORS, EXTORTING MONEY FROM THEM

Mumbai: Two Mumbai Police personnel have been suspended for allegedly assaulting two doctors, who had flouted traffic rules, and extorting money from them, an official said on Friday. Similar action has also been taken against another cop for alleged lapses.

The official said the alleged incident took place on April 25 when two doctors were brought to the Samta Nagar police station in suburban Kandivali for violating traffic norms. The doctors were allegedly hit with a belt and made to stand at the police station for a long time. One sub-inspector and a police naik extorted money from them, he said. The doctors then approached senior police officials and narrated their ordeal at the police station. A preliminary inquiry found that there was truth in the doctors' version, he said. A police inspector who was on duty at the time has also been placed under suspension for failing to instruct his juniors to take lawful action and guide them, the official said, adding a departmental inquiry is on against the cops.

Nigerian national held with drugs worth over Rs 11 lakh

Mumbai police arrested a Nigerian national, who does not have a valid visa or passport, in the Taloja area of the city with possession of 116 grams of drugs named Methaquinone worth more than Rs 11 lakhs, the police said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The accused, identified as Boniface Emenike, was arrested for peddling drugs by Thane police in 2022, and having come out on bail four months back, and started the illegal activity again, said the Police.

The arrest and seizure of the drugs were made in a search operation at his rented apartment in Shrikripa Residency in Taloja, sector 2 after the police got a tipoff regarding his drug peddling.

In his interrogation, he told the police officers that he received the drugs from another Nigerian identified as Ogbona Paul, said the police adding that they started zeroing in on arresting Ogbona Paul.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Crime Branch has arrested two drug peddlers and seized drugs worth Rs 71 lakh from them. The arrests were made in Andheri



and in Jogeshwari East of Mumbai city, said the Crime Branch.

A case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), and the accused was sent to Police custody till May 6 by a court in Mumbai, said the police.

In Mumbai, on Thursday four people including a Nigerian national were arrested for allegedly selling drugs.

Police said that narcotics with an estimated value of Rs 32 lakh in the international market were seized from their possession.

The arrested persons were identified as Suraj Habib Sheikh, Zaeer Wahabuddin Qureshi, Riyaz Nasir Ali Sayyad and Sunday John Ambazze who was a Nigerian national, the police said.

A case has been registered against them under the NDPS Act after which all of them were sent to police custody till May 6.

FIVE BOOKED FOR ABUSING, MANHANDLING FOREST OFFICIALS

Thane: Police in Thane city of Maharashtra have registered a case against five persons for allegedly manhandling and abusing forest officials at the Yeoor entrance of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), an official said on Friday.

The station house officer of Vartak Nagar police station said the alleged incident took place on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday when the accused arrived on three motorcycles.

Barring local residents, government officials and those with special permission, others are not allowed to enter the protected forest from dusk to dawn, said the official.

When the men were stopped at the gate, they abused and manhandled forest personnel and also threatened to kill them, the official said citing the complainant.

The accused then allegedly sped past the guards and entered the forest. The five have been identified as Nilesh Badal, Sudan Ale, Prakash Saud, Pawan Lokhande, and Rohit Kedare, said the official, adding that no arrest has been made yet.

'Waiting for the Right One'

After coming out as bisexual in October last year, actress-model Emily Ratajkowski said she would "love" to date a woman, but is waiting for the "right one" to come along.

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Gone Girl' actress added she is waiting for the right female to come along and said rapper Meg Thee Stallion would probably be her type, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told the new issue of HommeGirls magazine when asked if she'd date a woman: "I would love to... waiting for the right one to come along.

"I've always been someone who's more attracted to vibe than specifics of physicality so sometimes it'll just randomly hit me and I'll be like, 'Whoa, I'm attracted to this person!'"

"In person (Meg Thee Stallion) is, like, unspeakably beautiful and she's nice. And humble. So I stan."

In October 2022 -- a month after she filed for divorce from her estranged husband Sebastian Bear-McClard who allegedly cheated on her and with who she has two-year-old son Sylvester -- joined in a TikTok trend that said women who own a green couch are bisexual.

Before showing off her sofa in the colour, Emily said in a clip on the platform: "My girlfriend came over and was like, 'B****, have you seen the green-couch thing?' She was laughing at me because my green couch is so big.

"I want to be able to have fun with how I present myself in the world without feeling like I'm a bad feminist or a good feminist."

Emily's video prompted fans to fill the comments section of her post with congratulations for "coming out" as being attracted to men and women, with many declaring: "Yet another win for the ladies."



PRIYANKA IS A BOSS: NICK JONAS

Los Angeles | Agencies

American pop star Nick Jonas cannot stop gushing about his wife Priyanka Chopra Jonas as he calls her "boss" after seeing her performance in the series 'Citadel'.

Nick took to Instagram Stories to share a poster of Citadel featuring Priyanka with her co-stars and fellow spies Richard Madden and Stanley Tucci. It had 'Citadel, no. 1 title on Prime Video' written on it.

Captioning the poster, he wrote: "My wife is a boss. Congrats to the entire Citadel and Prime Video family."

The first three episodes of Citadel are out right on Prime Video, and new episodes will be released every Friday and the finale on May 26. Filled with action, thrill and drama, the series stars Priyanka, Richard Madden and Stanley Tucci.



Christina Ricci says she was 'so obnoxious' as child star

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Christina Ricci believes that childhood stardom made her "obnoxious". The actress found fame as Wednesday Addams in 'The Addams Family' movie in 1991, and Christina admits that she initially struggled to cope with the pressures of fame, reports acehowbiz.com. "Some people deal well with fame than other people and some people have more supportive families than other people. And I do think that having a 'famous child' is a weird pressure to put on a child," she told the 'Reign with Josh Smith' podcast. "I think it's -- and I always thought this when I was younger -- when being asked questions about who I was before I knew who I was, I knew that, that was not helpful as a kid, which is probably why I was so obnoxious in interviews all the time, I find it interesting because anytime I do work with someone who has been a child actor, they are the most professional people on set. They are the people that understand the sacrifices that are going to have to be made. They're always the most prepared, they're always the most adaptable, as far as working with them." Christina actually thinks she's better at handling rejection in her pro-



essional life than she is in her personal life. The actress, who was previously married to movie producer James Heerdegen, explained: "I think professionally I'm actually very good at being rejected."

Amber Heard 'quits' Hollywood & moves to Madrid

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard has reportedly quit Hollywood and moved to Madrid, Spain. "I can reveal that Heard has quit Hollywood and quietly relocated to Spain with her young daughter Oonagh," the Daily Mail claimed in an article, reports pagesix.com.

According to the journalist of the portal, a friend of Heard said: "She's bilingual in Spanish and is happy there, raising her daughter away from all the noise."

The friend also told the outlet that the actress may one day return to Tinseltown.

"I don't think she is in any hurry to return to work or to Hollywood, but she will probably come back when the time is right, for the right project," the friend explained, per the Daily Mail report.

Notably, Heard sold her Yucca Valley, California, home in July 2022 for \$1.1 million.

Since then, she has spent plenty of time in Spain. Last October, the actress was photographed flaunting her bikini body on the beaches of Palma de Mallorca.

Heard's alleged move to Spain comes nearly a year after her defamation trial with ex-husband Johnny Depp.

Depp sued Heard for \$50 million in 2019, claiming she lied about him abusing her



only to obtain more money in their divorce settlement.

One year later, his ex-wife countersued him for \$100 million.

The trial ended in June 2022 with the court ordering Heard to pay Depp \$10 million compensatory damages plus \$350,000 in punitive damages for defaming the 'Cry Baby' actor in a 2018 op-ed piece she wrote for 'The Washington Post'.

Heard later asked the judge to toss the jury's verdict and requested a retrial, claiming that the judgment was not supported by evidence.

'I THINK I'D JUST WALK OUT'

Jennifer Lopez vows to walk out on Affleck if she ever found out he had cheated

Los Angeles | Agencies

After marrying him last year, actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has said that she would walk out on her filmmaker-actor husband Ben Affleck if she found out he had cheated.

The singer last year married her old flame but has declared she would simply "walk out" if she discovered he had been unfaithful instead of flying into a rage, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said on 'The View' when asked if she would react in a "violent" or "rational" manner if she found out Ben had cheated: "I think I'd just walk out."

Co-host Whoopi Goldberg agreed and asked: "Why waste time?"

Jennifer added: "You know everything you need to know. What else do you need to know?"

The episode of 'The View' also addressed the fallout over the cheating scandal to hit Bravo's hit show 'Vanderpump Rules' after



Tom Sandoval's affair with his ex Ariana Madix's former pal Raquel Leviss was exposed.

Jennifer said she was familiar with the show but didn't "watch it regularly".

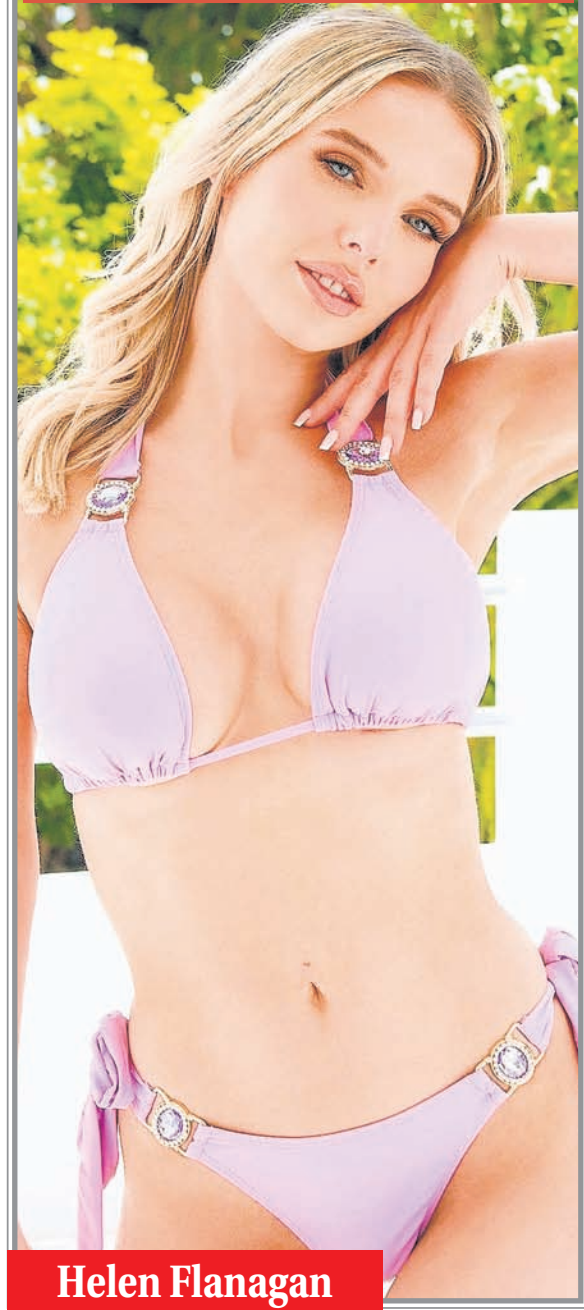
Raquel has been in hiding as she seeks mental health treatment due to the backlash she's received for her fling with Tom.

The disgraced TomTom bar owner has been spotted hanging out around Los Angeles while he faces criticism, and their affair continues to unfold on new episodes of 'Vanderpump Rules', which are shown on Wednesdays on Bravo.

Celebrities have been weighing in on scandal, with Chrissy Teigen tweeting on March 3 just after it broke: "I have 20 different chats going about this 'Vanderpump Rules' news. 20 wildly different people, a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, insanely different jobs and lives, all have come together to say WHAAAAAAAAAT!?!?!?"

'Selling Sunset' star Chrishell Stause has posted a photo of herself with Ariana to show her support for her, and tweeted alongside the snap: "I love when we can all agree on something."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Helen Flanagan



IPL 2023

GUJARAT TITANS DOMINATES 9-WICKET WIN OVER RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Jaipur | Agencies

Riding on a stunning bowling display from Afghan spin duo Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed followed by Hardik Pandya's unbeaten and quickfire 15-ball 39, Gujarat Titans (GT) registered a dominating 9-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in an IPL 2023 match at Saiwaj Mansingh Stadium, here on Friday.



got stumped in the 10th over off the bowling of Yuzvendra Chahal. Then, Hardik Pandya took Adam Zampa to the cleaners as he hit 6,4,6,6, taking 24 runs off an over and Titans reached 96/1 in eleven overs. Saha and Hardik collected 18 runs off the next two overs including two boundaries. With five needed to win, the duo dealt in singles and chased down the target with ease. Earlier batting first, the Royals had

a slow start as they lost Jos Buttler early. Yashaswi Jaiswal and Sanju Samson went for a few big hits to add crucial runs before the former got run out and the hosts posted 50/2 in the

PowerPlay. Titans continued to put pressure on the hosts with their clinical bowling and RR failed to establish a stable partnership, as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Brief scores:

Gujarat Titans (Wriddhiman Saha 41 off 34, Hardik Pandya 39 off 15; Yuzvendra Chahal 1/22) beat Rajasthan Royals 118 all-out in 17.5 overs (Sanju Samson 30 off 20; Rashid Khan 3/14, Noor Ahmad 2/25) by nine wickets.

Men's World Boxing Championships 2023

Hussamuddin advances to pre-quarters; Ashish bows out

Tashkent | Agencies

Asian and Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Hussamuddin (57kg) continued his good run with another dominant performance as he progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the IBA Men's World Boxing Championships 2023 here on Friday.



In the Round of 32 bouts, Hussamuddin took on China's Lyu Ping and displayed his swift movement and intelligence to throw a combination of punches in the first round and gain momentum.

After winning the first round unanimously, the southpaw from India upped the ante in the next and took the initiative to land heavy blows on his opponent while dodging Lyu's punches. The Chinese boxer couldn't match the speed and intensity of Hussamuddin and eventually lost the bout 5-0.

He will next take on Russia's Savvin Eduard in the pre-quarterfinal on Sunday.

On Friday, India suffered a setback as Asian Championships silver medalist Ashish went down against two-time Olympic Champion Arlen Lopez of Cuba in a Round of 32 bout.

Ashish went on the offensive in the first round but Arlen defended well and hit some heavy counter-punches to win the first round. The Indian boxer came back strongly in the second round and took the game to the

opposition to win the round.

With everything to play for in the last round, both the boxers went neck-and-neck and landed fierce punches in what was an intensely-fought bout. Both the boxers showed a lot of heart and courage but the Cuban boxer won the bout 5-2 after bout review. Today two Indian boxers will be in action in the Round of 32 bouts in their respective categories. Akash (67kg) will face China's Fu Mingke whereas Nishant Dev (71kg) will take on Korea's Lee Sangmin.

Asian Weightlifting C'ships

Mirabai Chanu finishes sixth with 194kg combined lift

Jinju | Agencies

Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu finished sixth in the 49kg weight category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, here on Friday.

Chanu, who has a personal best of 88kg (snatch) and 119kg (clean and jerk), lifted 85kg in snatch and 109kg in clean and jerk for a combined lift of 194kg.

She started with an 85kg lift in the snatch and went for 88kg on her second and third attempts but could not complete it. The effort placed her fifth in the snatch category.

In clean and jerk, the Indian clinched 109kg on her first try and opted to skip the next two attempts in order to protect herself from an injury. Chanu's only medal at the Asian Championships so far has come at the 2020 edition in Tashkent where she won a bronze for a total lift of 205kg, which included the world record clean and jerk of 119kg.



The Asian meet was the Commonwealth Games champion's first competition since the world championship in December last year as she underwent a five-month rehabilitation programme after winning silver at the competition. The Asian Championships 2023 is the second in the series of qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. With her combined lift of 194kg, Chanu improved her score in the Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) to 400. She is second on the list with Jiang Huihua leading the OQR table with 413.

La Liga

BETIS TAKE BIG STEP TOWARDS EUROPE, ESPANYOL DROP DEEPER INTO TROUBLE

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

Real Betis took a significant step toward securing a place in Europe with a 1-0 win in Bilbao.

Willian Jose's sixth-minute volley on Thursday night separated the two sides, although Oihan Sancet hit the bar for Athletic Club in the second half, and Claudio Bravo made several crucial saves to frustrate the home side, which deserved at least a point.

Girona moved into seventh place after defeating Mallorca 2-1, thanks to Bernardo Silva's finish from a loose ball following a free kick.

Vedat Muriqi equalised for Mallorca from the penalty spot with 11 minutes left to play, but Valentin Castellanos' powerful header gave Girona their third win from three games six minutes from time, reports Xinhua. Rayo Vallecano still have a



chance of qualifying for Europe after a 2-1 win at home to Valladolid, who remain deep in a

battle against relegation. Goals from Raul de Tomas after 48 minutes and Sergio Camello 10

minutes from time put Rayo 2-0 up before Sergio Leon pulled a goal back for the visitors, who are just one point above the relegation zone.

Espanyol are in danger of being cut off in the battle to avoid relegation after a 3-2 defeat to Sevilla.

The defeat leaves the Barcelona-based club three points from safety and with FC Barcelona as the next visitors to their home ground, looking to secure the league title.

Bryan Gil put Sevilla ahead in the 21st minute, but Rekik put the ball into his own net in the 28th minute to make it 1-1, and Javi Puado scored from outside the area to put Espanyol 2-1 up before the break. Lucas Ocampos levelled from the penalty spot after a foul on Pepe Gueye in the 69th minute, and Gueye netted the winning goal in the 86th minute, just after Ocampos had hit the Espanyol crossbar.

KL Rahul to undergo thigh surgery; ruled out of WTC final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India opener KL Rahul said he will be undergoing thigh surgery shortly, thus ruling him out of the remainder of IPL 2023 and India's squad for the World Test Championship final, set to be held next month against Australia in London.

"After careful consideration and consultation with the medical team, it's been concluded that I'll be undergoing surgery on my thigh shortly. My focus will be on my rehabilitation and recovery in the coming weeks. It's a tough call to make, but I know it's the right one to ensure a full recovery," said Rahul in his post on Instagram.

In IPL 2023, Rahul made 274 runs at an average of 34.25, including two half-centuries. "As the team captain, it pains me deeply not to be able to be there during this crucial period. But, I'm confident that the boys will rise to the occasion and give their best performance as always. I'll be cheering for them from the sidelines with all of you, watching every game."

"Absolutely gutted that I won't be at the Oval next month with Team India. I'll do everything I can to get back in the Blue and help my country. That has always been my



focus and priority," he added.

"I want to express gratitude to each one of you - my fans that gave me the strength to get back up, the LSG management and the BCCI for their promptness, and my teammates for their unwavering support during this difficult time. Your encouragement and messages mean a lot to me and motivate me to come back stronger and fitter than ever before."

"Meanwhile, I promise to keep you all updated on my progress and hope to be back on the field sooner than soon. The last few days have been really hard, but I'm determined to come out on top. Injuries are never easy, but I'll give it my all as always. Thank you for all the support and good wishes," concluded Rahul.

ENG PACER SCIVER-BRUNT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

London | Veteran England right-arm pacer Katherine Sciver-Brunt has announced her retirement from international cricket. Katherine made her England debut in 2004 and played 267 times for her country, taking 335 wickets across all formats.

She was also a member of England's ODI World Cup wins in 2009 and 2017, apart from a T20 World Cup triumph in 2009 and four Ashes series victories. Katherine ends as the leading wicket-taker for England in both T20Is and ODIs, with 114 and 170 scalps respectively. "Well, here I am, 19 years later, at the end of my international journey. I thought I'd never be able to reach this decision but I have and it's been the hardest one of my life. I never had any dreams or aspirations to do what I've done; I only ever wished to make my family proud of me. And what I've achieved has gone way beyond that."

"I have so much to be thankful for; cricket has given me a purpose, a sense of belonging, security, many golden memories and best friends that will last a lifetime. Of the trophies and titles I could have wished to achieve, I have reached them all, but my greatest achievement is the happiness that I have found in Nat," said Katherine in a statement.



Serie A

Napoli wins the title for first time in 33 years

Rome (Italy) | Agencies

After days of waiting, Naples burst into celebration after the city's football club clinched their first Serie A title in more than three decades. The finish was anticlimactic, with SSC Napoli securing their first championship since 1990 with a 1-1 draw against a middle-of-the-pack Udinese squad.

With the title, the southern Italian city of Naples, which stands in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius volcano, erupted into celebration. There were no immediate reports of violence or injuries during the celebrations.

A second-half goal by Victor Osimhen secured Napoli the title with five games remaining in the season.

Sandi Lovric had dampened the spirits of visiting fans when he scored a goal after 13 minutes, with a well-placed shot that found the top-right corner of the box. However, in the 53rd minute, Osimhen sparked jubilant celebrations among the Napoli fans when he fired in the equaliser from a rebound.



The city began planning for a widespread celebration a week ago when it became mathematically possible for its favourite sons to clinch the championship.

But those hopes were dashed on Sunday when Napoli drew with struggling Salernitana 1-1 on the road. Then, on Wednesday, the team missed another chance when second-place Lazio beat mid-table Sassuolo 2-0, keeping their ultra-slim title hopes alive.

He will make the most of it: Ganguly on Rahane playing WTC final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday said that Ajinkya Rahane has always been a good player for India and hoped that the seasoned batter will make most of the opportunity if he features in the team's playing XI during the ICC World Test Championship final, set to be played from June 7 to 11 at The Oval.



named in the side for WTC final courtesy his spectacular

form in the ongoing IPL 2023. Playing for the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL 2023, the right-hander batter has scored 224 runs in seven matches so far, at an average of 44.80 and a strike-rate of 189.83.

He also had a decent season for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy 2022-23 campaign, scoring 634 runs at 57.63 including two centuries.

"I have always liked him. He has always been a good player for India. Opportunities don't come every day and if he gets the chance to feature in the playing XI during the WTC final, he will make the most of it. So, I wish him all the best," said Ganguly.

Madrid Open

Swiatek dominates Kudermetova to storm into final against Sabalenka

Madrid | Agencies

World No.1 Iga Swiatek came up with another dominant performance to book a maiden entry into the final of the Madrid Open with a comprehensive victory over Veronika Kudermetova.

The Polish tennis player took a commanding lead early in both sets as she went on to hand the Kazan-born No.12 seed a 6-1, 6-1 defeat in a late-night semifinal.

Top seed Swiatek took 1 hour and 19 minutes to prevail in the first WTA 1000 clay-court event

of the season, improving her dominant head-to-head record against Kudermetova to 4-0. Swiatek has never lost more than six games in a match against Kudermetova.

With this comprehensive victory, Swiatek, for the second straight WTA Tour event, will meet World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka in the final. Sabalenka won the day's first semifinal over No.9 seed Maria Sakkari.

Eleven days ago, Swiatek topped Sabalenka in the Tennis Grand Prix final in Stuttgart. Overall, Swiatek has a 5-2 win-loss record against Sabalenka

going into Saturday's Madrid final. Swiatek has also won all three of their previous clay-court meetings. Swiatek won the first seven points of the match en route to a 5-1 lead, then saved a break point in the seventh game with a rally backhand winner before closing out the set.

Top-seeded Swiatek took another commanding 4-1 lead in the second set, but Kudermetova powered to four break points in that game. Swiatek overcame each of those chances as she methodically moved to victory without ever dropping serve in the nightcap.





'Little wobble on my knees'

Alia Bhatt shared a glimpse of how she got dressed for Met Gala debut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alia Bhatt has shared a glimpse of how she dressed up for her debut appearance in the prestigious Met Gala. Alia took to Instagram where she shared a behind-the-scenes video in which she can be seen getting ready with her Prabal Gurung dress, makeup done and also spoke about feeling a little nervous.

Before the designer said, "From Mumbai to Met," Alia joked, "Cool, can somebody like lift me up now, and place me on the carpet from here?"

Sitting on the make-up chair, Alia said: "When you talk about one of the major events in the year globally, the first that comes to mind is the Met Gala." "It is very exciting, but I will definitely tell you that when I am stepping out of that sprinter van, I am going to feel like a little wobble in my knees. It is not going to be really nice because I have a very big dress, and very high shoes."

The clip also has a few snapshots of Alia posing with singer Rita Ora and Prabal.

The 2023 Met Gala event on May 1 in New York City celebrated the opening of the Costume Institute exhibition, 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster 'Pathaan' will now become the first Hindi film to release in Bangladesh post 1971. It is set to release on May 12 in Bangladesh.

Nelson D'Souza, Vice President, International Distribution, said, "Cinema has always been a unifying force between nations, races and cultures. It transcends borders, galvanises people and plays a significant hand in bringing people together."

"We are incredibly thrilled that 'Pathaan', which has done historic business worldwide, will now get a chance to entertain audiences in

'PATHAAN' BECOMES FIRST HINDI FILM TO RELEASE IN BANGLADESH POST 1971

Bangladesh!" He adds, "Pathaan becomes the first Hindi film to release in Bangladesh post 1971 and we are thankful to the authorities for their decision. We have learnt over the years that Shah Rukh Khan has tremendous fan following in Bangladesh and we feel Pathaan, our latest offering from YRF's Spy Universe, is the perfect first film of SRK & Hindi cinema to release in the country and represent Indian culture and cinema in its full glory."

'Pathaan' is also the highest grossing film of the fabled YRF's Spy Universe that also includes blockbusters like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai' and 'War'.



Kangana reveals the most challenging thing about a film's direction



SAIYAMI PLEDGES HER SUPPORT FOR YOUNG FEMALE ATHLETES

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Actress Saiyami Kher has pledged to support young female athletes. The actress said she wants to do her bit for the girls who want to pursue sports.

The actress, who will be seen playing a para athlete in the upcoming movie 'Ghoomeer', said: "I have always wished to do something for girls in sports and I am trying to do my bit. I am very glad that there is so much being done for women in sport now. At this point, even if my involvement is in a small way, I believe every drop in the ocean counts."

"Kavita Raut (India's long distance runner) was sponsored first by an NGO started by my parents in Nasik. And I feel so proud to see all that she's achieved. Just feel that if I can contribute to helping young female athletes achieve their dreams, I would be very happy," the actress said.

She added: "The last three years I have helped a vegetable vendor's daughter to complete her engineering in electrical and telecommunications and will be helping young individual female athletes in my capacity. I hope I come to a point to start my own organisation because this is something very close to my heart".

Saiyami is part of 'Ghoomeer' in which she is playing the part of a cricketer, a para athlete who has lost one arm. The story, which is currently in the post production stage, is co-written by Balki, along with Rahul Sengupta and Rishi Virmani, and is inspired by the story of Karoly Takacs, the late Hungarian right-hand shooter who won two Olympic gold medals with his left hand after his other hand was seriously injured.

THE KERALA STORY: ADAH'S REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE FAILS TO SAVE THE DROWNING SCREENPLAY



FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Directed by: - Sudipto Sen
Cast: - Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Sonia Balani and Siddhi Idnani
Runtime: - 138 min
Rating: - 2/5

Synopsis

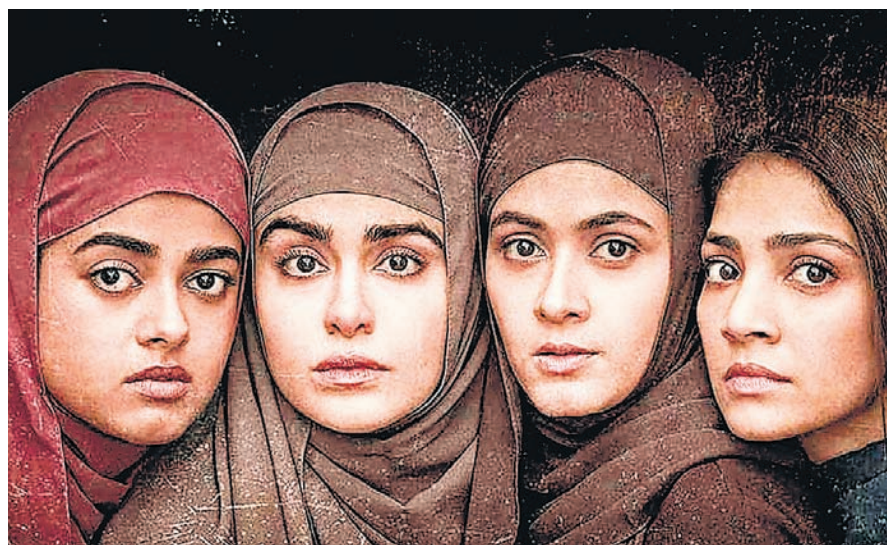
The premise revolves around a group of Kerala women who convert to Islam and join the terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Review

The film is described as being based on a true story, although the authenticity of the numbers depicted is not supported by any verifiable proof. It alludes to Love Jihad propaganda in Kerala, where Muslim youngsters supposedly seduce Hindu girls in order to convert them to Islam.

The story of the three girls depicted in the film is based on the three victims of Kerala. Although the issue is sensitive, there is no denying that, the way it has been portrayed appears to be a film that is brainwashing our minds while discussing people who spread love Jihad through brainwashing and conversion. The film begins with Adah's character Shalini/Fatima being apprehended by UN officers at the Afghan-Iran border, and then she takes you back in time to explain how she ended herself in this scenario. While telling the story, she discusses how she was brainwashed by one of their college roommates. Asifa is the primary antagonist in the story, with Nimah and Geetanjali as the other two victims.

As the story progresses, Shalini describes how Asifa introduced them to three of her



cousins, who attempted to seduce the girls with their charm. Whereas Nimah was certain she would not convert, Geetanjali and Shalini became engrossed in their plan.

While Shalini went to Iraq because she trusted them, Geetanjali committed suicide after discovering the truth and having her MMS go viral. As true as these events are, their portrayal is so phoney and manipulative that you begin to doubt everyone around you. There was no sign of anyone being cordial; it was as though we were sitting in a hotspot and everyone around us was attempting to set a trap for us. Though the second half of the film, which takes you to the terrorists' camp, is shown with a little grace, the first half is depressing. There are some issues that should be read about in the news rather than commercialized and profited from, and this is unquestionably one of them. Good, you made a documentary before but now don't turn it into a money-making venture.

In terms of star performances, Adah Sharma chose to act in a film that is nothing more than a structure constructed on the feelings and sentiments of the people. I believe

this is Adah's best performance, and she should choose a better script.

Aside from Adah, Sonia Balani appears to be acting with her accent, which is clearly forced. She is a talented actor, but she fails badly in this role.

To begin with, there is nothing spectacular about the cinematography that leaps out, although the screenplay does require some cutting. Rather than showcasing cruelty, show facts and keep it subtle because, at the end of the day, no matter how honest you want to be with reality, it needs to be palatable for people to watch.

One thing that stood out to me while watching the film is that the directors preserved all of the songs in their native tongue to maintain authenticity and give you a taste of Kerala, which is outstanding and deserves commendation.

Conclusion

A movie that claims to be based on true events presented the topic in completely unpalatable ways. You can avoid watching this one.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Raai Laxmi