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Delhi's Najafgarh records 46 degrees C for second ...



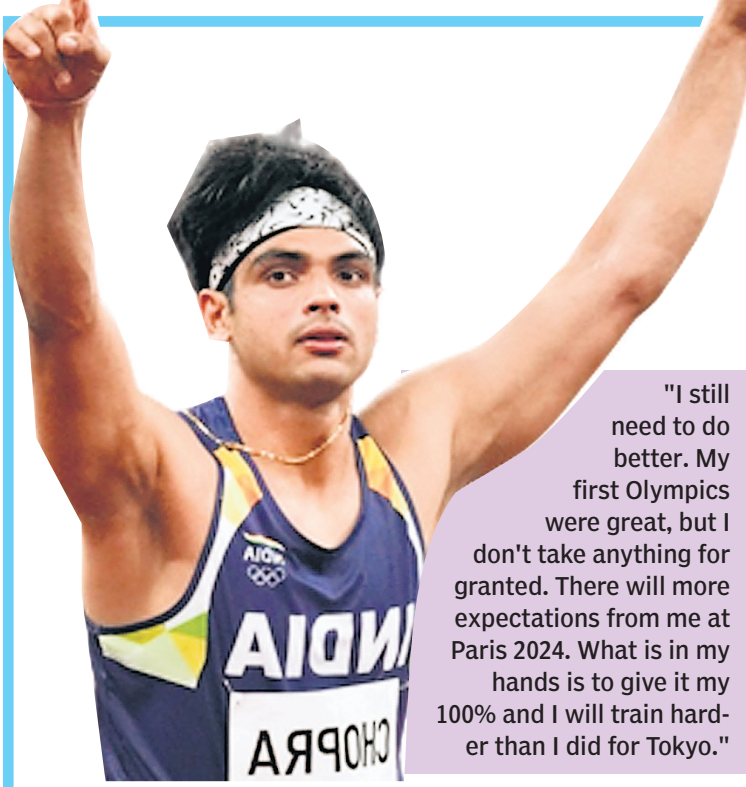
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Shotgun World Cup: India's Darshna lying third in ...



Neeraj Chopra: World Number 1 in Men's Javelin Throw

"I still need to do better. My first Olympics were great, but I don't take anything for granted. There will be more expectations from me at Paris 2024. What is in my hands is to give it my 100% and I will train harder than I did for Tokyo."

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Neeraj Chopra became the world number one in men's javelin throw, achieving his career-best rankings released on Monday. In Tokyo 2020, Neeraj became India's first Olympic gold medalist in a track and field event. In fact, Neeraj is also the first Indian to become the world no. 1 in track and field. Neeraj dethroned reigning world champion Anderson Peters

of Grenada to go top in the latest ranking released by World Athletics. The 25-year-old Chopra won gold in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series in Doha on May 5 in his 2023 season-opening event. His first attempt of the season produced a world-leading effort of 88.67m. Chopra came within touching distance of his personal best and national javelin record of 89.94m on his first attempt. Neeraj will next be in action at

the Fanny Blankers-Koen Games at Hengelo, the Netherlands on June 4, followed by the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku in Finland on June 13. In an interaction before the start of the season, Neeraj had said his focus remains on the immediate end goal - that is the 2024 Paris Olympics. When eventually Neeraj Chopra was asked about the 90m mark, a question that he has been prodded with since 2018, he had an answer ready along with a promise.

TOP FIVE ATHLETES IN MEN'S JAVELIN THROW:

- Neeraj Chopra (IND) - 1455 points
- Anderson Peters (GRN) - 1433 points
- Jakub Vadlejch (CZE) - 1416 points
- Julian Weber (GER) - 1385 points
- Arshad Nadeem (PAK) - 1306 points

WhatsApp lets users edit messages with 15-minute time limit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Monday announced that billions of WhatsApp users can now modify a message within 15 minutes of sending it. This feature has started rolling out to users globally and will be available to everyone in the coming weeks. All that the users need to do is long-press on a sent message and choose 'Edit' from the menu for up to 15 minutes after. "For the moments when you make a mistake, or simply change your mind, you can now edit your sent messages," said the instant messaging platform. This will help people correct a simple misspelling to add extra context to a message. Edited messages will display 'edited' alongside them, so those you're messaging are aware of the correction without showing edit history, said WhatsApp.



"As with all personal messages, media and calls, your messages and the edits you make are protected by end-to-end encryption," said the company. Last week, WhatsApp had announced a feature called 'Chat Lock', which lets users protect most intimate conversations behind one more layer of security. "Locking a chat takes that thread out of the inbox and puts it behind its own folder that can only be accessed with your device password or biometric, like a fingerprint. It also automatically hides the contents of that chat in notifications, too," WhatsApp had said in a statement. One can lock a chat by tapping the name of a one-to-one or group and selecting the lock option.

FRESH VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR, SECURITY TIGHTENED, CURFEW RELAXATIONS CURBED

Team Absolute | Imphal

After fresh violence in Manipur's Imphal East district on Monday, army and paramilitary forces further tightened security while period of curfew relaxation has been curbed, officials said. A police official said that some armed miscreants went to the New Checkon area of Imphal East and threatened the shop owners to close down their shops while torching two houses. As soon as news of these incidents spread, people of other communities came out and challenged them. The irate mob also beat up one of the miscreants while the others managed to run away. Two of the miscreants were, however, taken into police custody. Imphal falls across the Imphal East and Imphal West districts, and to control the situation, the district administrations have cut short the curfew relaxation period by three hours in both districts. The Manipur government on Sunday night extended the suspension of internet services till May 26 following reports of arson and



attacks and to prevent spreading of rumours and videos, photos, and messages, which might affect the law and order situation in the ethnic-violence hit northeastern state. It had first suspended mobile internet on May 3 after the state witnessed unprecedented violent clashes in 10 of the 16 districts during and after the 'Tribal Solidarity March' called by the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur (ATSUM) to oppose the

demand for inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe category. Amid the shortage of essential items, transport fuel and life-saving drugs, various government and non government facilities have also been badly affected due to the internet suspension across the mountainous state, making life more miserable for the people. Many organisations including the opposition Congress, and the media

have been demanding immediate restoration of internet service in Manipur. In the recent ethnic violence in Manipur so far 71 people have been killed, 300 people got injured including police personnel, some grievously. Out of 16 districts of the state, 11 districts were affected and out of which 6 were badly impacted. Over 25,000 people were displaced, nearly 1,700 houses were burnt, and more than 200 vehicles had been destroyed.

Salman Khan among top 10 targets of Lawrence Bishnoi, reveals NIA probe

New Delhi: Lawrence Bishnoi has

revealed to National Investigation Agency (NIA) his top 10 targets, including Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, and the gangster's alleged future plans, sources said on Monday. The sources told reporter that with his revelations, the NIA was able to foil a number of murders, robberies and extortion cases. Bishnoi informed the NIA about his entry into the world of crime from college politics and of the individuals he killed over the last 10-15 years. According to the NIA documents, the gangster's top 10 targets were: Salman Khan, Shagunpreet, manager of Siddhu Moosewala, Mandeep Dhaliwal, aide of gangster Lucky Patiyal, Gangster Kaushal Chaudhary, Gangster Amit Dagar, Sukhpreet Singh Budhdha, Gangster Lucky Patiyal, Rammji Masana, Gondar Gang member, Gurpreet Sheikho, of Gondar Gang, Bholu shooter, Sunny Lefti, Anil Lath. They all are alleged killers of Muddukhera. Lawrence wanted to kill them since they carried out the murder. All of them work for Kaushal Chaudhary's gang.



Wrestling mess: Ready for narco test if Phogat and Punia take it too: WFI Chief

New Delhi: Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has said he is ready to undergo a narco test or a lie-detector test, amid allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him. However, the BJP MP on Sunday made it clear that wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat will also have to undergo it. Taking to Facebook, Brij Bhushan wrote, "If both the wrestlers (Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat) are ready to get their test done, then call the press and announce. I promise that I am also ready if they are." Bajrang and Vinesh are among the grapplers who have been protesting against Brij Bhushan for his alleged sexual harassment of women grapplers. They have been protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar since April 23 demanding his arrest.

Gold rush due to Rs 2,000 notes withdrawal?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Jewellery sale has risen marginally after the central bank's move to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes from circulation, but it can't be compared with the 2016 rush when Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were discontinued, say jewellers. The Reserve Bank of India's Friday announcement to take back Rs 2,000 notes in exchange for lower denomination ones differs from the 2016 exercise as the Rs 2,000 notes will remain legal tenders. The 2016 exercise saw panic buying of the precious yellow metal, a trusted investment tool for middle-class Indians that was at half of its current prices. But the situation this time is different, says a top jewellers body. "There's no huge rush, only a marginal increase in customers. The demand isn't like 2016 because it's not a note ban but a slow phase-out of the (Rs 2,000) notes," said Surendra Mehta, national secretary at India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. He also denied reports that customers are paying premium prices for jewellery. "There may have been isolated incidents. Gold prices are already very high at over Rs 60,000, while it was around Rs 30,000 during demonetisation," he said. The government guidelines require customers to submit KYC (Know your



customer) details for transactions above Rs 50,000 and PAN card above Rs 2 lakh. For transactions above Rs 10 lakh, the Financial Intelligence Unit of the government must be informed, he added. Gold prices today saw a rise of Rs 485 per 10 gram and reached ₹ 60,760. Last Friday, it was at Rs 60,275. But the rising prices didn't impact gold sale in the country's financial capital, neither did the note withdrawal move. At the century-old Zaveri Bazaar in Mumbai, it appeared like any other business day. The impact has been less this time due to a shift to digital payment mode after 2016, many jewellers believe. They claim only 10% of their transactions are in cash since most customers prefer digital modes.

Kumar Jain, a jeweller, claimed customer footfalls have almost doubled at his store over the weekend. "Anyway, hardly 10% customers pay in cash," he said, adding momentum was already there in gold sale due to the ongoing wedding season. But business was just usual for some others. "There's no impact on gold sale due to the latest move. Not many people pay in cash. I am not getting many Rs 2,000 notes," Indra M Ranaut, another jeweller, claimed. But then there were some who wanted to flush out the Rs 2,000 notes from their cash holdings. "I had Rs 2 lakh in Rs 2,000 notes. I am buying jewellery for my daughter's wedding," said a customer at a shop in Zaveri Bazaar.

PM Modi conferred with Papua New Guinea's highest civilian award



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with the Companion of the Order of Logohu by Papua New Guinea, the nation's highest civilian award for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South. In a tweet, the Prime Minister's Office said: "Papua New Guinea has conferred the Companion of the Order of Logohu on PM Narendra Modi. It was presented to him by Papua New Guinea Governor General Sir Bob Dadae." Meanwhile, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "An honour emblematic of depth of India-Papua New Guinea relationship. Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae of Papua New Guinea conferred PM Modi with country's highest civilian award, Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL)." Very few non residents of Papua New Guinea have received this award. This came immediately after Fiji also conferred their highest award to Modi.

Four die as boat capsizes in UP, mismanagement by officials blamed

Ballia | Agencies

Lack of adequate arrangements at the Ganga ghat led to the death of four persons, including three women, when their boat capsized in the Ganga river in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday morning. Four persons were injured and have been hospitalised. The victims were going in the boat to perform 'parikrama' to the other end of the river, as part of the 'mundan sanskar' of their children. The incident was proof of administrative negligence since there were no river guards or divers at the spot even though large crowds had gathered there for the ceremonies. Lalita Prasad, who had come for the mundan (a religious head shaving ceremony) ceremony of his grandson at Maldeghat and managed to swim to safety when the boat overturned, said, "The fair is held every year but we always have divers and 'Jal police' to regulate boat traffic and prevent overcrowding. Today, there was



no such deployment." His family was on another boat when the accident took place. He said that all those who had gathered at Maldeghat were local people who perform 'mundan' ceremonies of children on the banks of the river. Raj Karan Nayyar, superintendent of police, Ballia, said those injured were undergoing treatment in a hospital and doctors have stated their condition is stable. District magistrate Ravindra Kumar said the engine of the boat on which around 30 people, including men, women and children were travelling, developed a technical snag in the middle of the Ganga river. As the engine suddenly stopped, passengers tried to leave the boat following which it capsized when it was close to the Peepa Pul ghat. Local boatmen present at the ghat saw the boat capsizing and immediately rushed to help. They jumped into the river to bring the victims out and residents also threw ropes to help the boat's passengers. Senior police and administrative officials reached the spot much after the accident and helped in the rescue operations. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the district officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured persons.



ED TO GRILL MAHA NCP CHIEF JAYANT PATIL, PARTY STAGES PROTESTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will on Monday question Maharashtra Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Jayant Patil in connection with his role in the alleged IL&FS scam. Patil, who was summoned last week just as the Karnataka election results were being declared on May 13 when the Congress was voted to power, had sought time from the central agency and he will appear on Monday for the probe. The ED summons to Patil triggered statewide protests from the NCP and the Nationalist Youth Congress Party (NYCP) activists, and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies like Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), with many supporters trooping to Mumbai from his home town Islampur in Sangli. The NCP and NYCP activists demonstrated outside the ED office in south Mumbai, raising slogans, waving posters, placards and banners slamming the central probe agency. "We want the ED to probe 'all the corrupt elements in the Bharatiya Janata Party instead of targeting only the Opposition parties or leaders' to please their political masters," said NYCP President



Maheeb Shaikh leading the protests near the ED office. The protesters said that any corrupt persons join the BJP, they are "whitewashed" and all corruption cases against them are dropped, but the central agencies like ED pursue a vendetta against the Opposition. As the protests heated up, Patil said that he will go to the ED office around noon as per the agency's

summons, and appealed to his partymen not to crowd outside during his presence there. "I have been getting calls from leaders and members in my party and even the other alliance partners. I appeal to all my party leaders and activists not to come to Mumbai. I shall fully cooperate with the ED probe and am grateful for your affection," said Patil.

CM TO 'FLAG OFF' BUS ON NEWLY-COMPLETED MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will flag off a 'bus' to traverse a short distance on the just completed and much-awaited Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, on Wednesday (May 24), officials said here on Monday. With the 180-metre long deck slab getting installed, the 22-km sea-link will be ready end-to-end though it will be opened from traffic operations only by November 2023. To mark the deck slab installation, Shinde will show the green flag to a bus carrying MMRDA officers and engineers to go on a symbolic short drive, said an official. The total bridge length is 22 km, including 5.5 km of the approach roads on both ends - Sewri on the Mumbai side and Nhava on the Navi



lane bridge is being built at a cost of over Rs 17,800-crore with 85 per cent funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The MTHL - envisaged 30 years ago - will slash the travel time from Mumbai side. After the token ceremony on May 24, work will proceed to the remaining stages like installing crash barriers, asphaltting the deck, erecting view-cutters, setting up the open toll collection centres, security and surveillance systems, markers and signages, water-proofing the engineering structure, lights and reflectors, etc. over the next four-five months. The 30.1 metre wide, six-

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Mumbai island to Navi Mumbai on the mainland from the existing two-three hours to barely 20 minutes. This will save time, fuel, the environment and provide a link to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport, special economic and residential zones coming up in the region and also significantly cut the road journey time to other places like Pune and Goa.

WITHDRAWAL OF RS 2,000 NOTES

Sanjay Raut accuses PM Modi of taking 'arbitrary' decisions

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after the RBI's announcement of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday claimed when a decision goes against the BJP or Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the PM comes up with some "arbitrary" decisions to water down the negative sentiments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday made a surprise announcement of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, but gave the public time till September 30 to either deposit the Rs 2,000 notes in accounts or exchange them at banks. The RBI said it had asked banks to stop issuing Rs 2,000 notes with immediate effect. Asked about the RBI's decision, Raut said, "Whenever a decision goes against the BJP or



Modi, he comes up with some arbitrary decisions to water down the negative sentiments." The Rajya Sabha member also targeted the PM over the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) defeat in the recently held Assembly elections in Karnataka, where the Congress returned to power after a gap of five years. "Karnataka is an important southern state with

people celebrating festivals of various faith. The state has maximum number of temples and people do not hide their faith or religious inclination. Despite that, the people of Karnataka have rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP," Raut said. Why is it so hard for the BJP to accept it, he said. Raut further said the BJP should learn to accept defeat, claiming there will be more such occasions. The Reserve Bank of India on Friday decided to withdraw the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation but said they would continue to remain as legal tender. RBI said that citizens would continue to be able to deposit Rs 2000 banknotes into their bank accounts and/or exchange them into banknotes of other denominations at any bank branch up to September 30, 2023.

Actor Aditya Singh Rajput found dead at his Mumbai home

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In yet another shocker, actor and model Aditya Singh Rajput was found dead in the bathroom of his home on Monday afternoon, Mumbai Police said here. The 32-year-old actor was living in a shared apartment on the 11th floor of the Lashkaria Heights building in the posh Oshiwara area. Though there is no official word on the exact cause of his death, preliminary reports suggest it could probably be owing to a suspected drug overdose. The actor's body has been sent for an autopsy, the report of which is awaited and the Oshiwara Police Station is



20 years ago. Over the years, he became a familiar face on more than 300 advertisements and spots, and acted in films like "Krantiveer", "Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara", "Love" and others. On the small screen, he was seen in shows like 'Cambala Investigation Agency', 'Splitsville - 9', 'Love', 'Ashiqui', 'Code Red', 'Rajputana', 'Aawaz-9', 'Bad Boys' and more. Bollywood personalities reacted with shock and disbelief at the young actor's death on various social media networks and some were reminded of the demise of popular actor, Sushant Singh Rajput on June 14, 2020. conducting further investigations from all possible angles, said an official. The first tip-off came from a friend of the actor who found him lying motionless in the home bathroom and rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead on admission. Rajput was born in Uttarakhnad but settled in Delhi and started as a model-cum-actor as a child star in the glamour industry around

2 Dead, 5 Injured As Van Rams Multiple Vehicles In Pune

Team Absolute | Pune

The people were killed and five others were left injured in a road accident involving several cars here in the Pune city of Maharashtra, police said late Sunday. According to the police, the driver of the van lost control of the wheel after the brakes failed and rammed into several vehicles. The incident happened at Palace Orchard Society, NIBM-Undri Road, Kondhwa. "Two people died and five were injured after the brakes of a van failed and it rammed into several vehicles," Pune police said. Police said that six vehicles were damaged in the accident. Further investigation is underway into the matter. More details are awaited



Fire breaks out at two houses, four including two children injured

Thane: Four people including two children aged four and five-years-old were injured after a massive fire broke out in two houses in Mumbra area of Thane in Maharashtra on Monday afternoon, the Regional Disaster Management Cell (RDMC), Thane said in a statement. According to the RDMC, the incident of fire was initially reported at Mumbra Fire Brigade Station in Thane, Maharashtra. Initially the blaze had started in one house but later the fire spread to the adjoining house. "The fire was reported at Jaghde Chawl that is located near Janki Villa building, beside Babu Patil Chawl in Dadi Colony of Shivaji Nagar, Mumbra area in Thane. In the primary investigations it was found that the electric wire and cables had touched the roof of the houses that may have caused the blaze," an official said. The electric wires led to the fire and it gradually spread across two houses leading to injuries to as many as four people, the RDMC said. After the information was received by the Mumbra Fire Brigade officials, the civic staff, fire brigade officials and the Mumbra Police officials rushed to the spot and began a fire fighting operation, the RDMC said. In the fire fighting operation one fire vehicle and a rescue vehicle was rushed to the spot for the operations. Four residents of the houses were immediately rescued from the spot and rushed to a nearby hospital where their treatment is ongoing. Due to the fire some houses have also been damaged, the RDMC said.

Mumbai will be flooded yet again due to BMC's incompetence, claims AAP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday slammed the Mumbai's civic body, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), for poor progress of pre-monsoon preparations. The Arvind Kejriwal-led party said that the onset of the monsoon is hardly two weeks away and yet despite the tall claims made by the civic body, very little work has actually happened on the ground. The party volunteers inspected various parts of Mumbai to check the BMC's preparations and "the findings were appalling," it said. It alleged that the BMC's tall claims are only on paper and are far off from the ground reality. "Contractors are having a field day. They are doing very little work

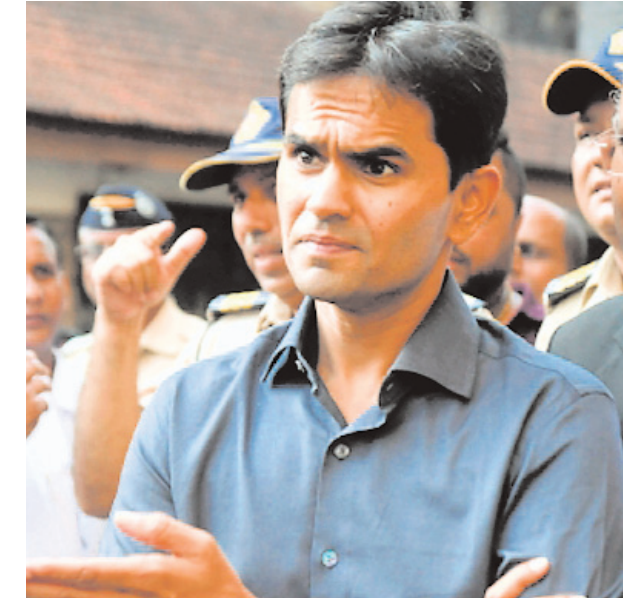
which is far from satisfactory. The BMC staff is pro-contractor and not pro-people. Nullah cleaning - desilting work is not satisfactory, large parts of the Nullah systems are yet to be desilted and very little desilting has happened in areas that the BMC claims desilting has already been completed," it said. The party further claimed that the storm water drains haven't been adequately cleaned and several spots are prone to chronic flooding are still clogged. "No cleaning whatsoever has been undertaken in slum areas, where the gutter in each 'Galli/Lane' acts as both the sewer and the storm water drain. These drainage systems have multiple chokes and result in inundation, causing hardship to the slums," it said. The Arvind Kejriwal-led

party also claimed that BMC has done nothing in landslide prone areas, to prevent the occurrence of a landslide during the up-coming monsoon, despite identifying these areas. Manholes and drain covers are either broken or not in place in several locations of the city. AAP Mumbai's working president Ruben Mascarenhas slammed the city's civic body, saying that Mumbai will flood yet again, due to BMC's incompetence. "The BJP is in power at all three levels of government. BMC has been functioning without public representation for almost 2 years now. BMC administration is nothing but proxy BJP rule through the administrator. BJP has literally put the lives of millions of Mumbaiers at risk, due to such shoddy pre-monsoon work," said Mascarenhas.

Sameer Wankhede to seek special security from Mumbai Police

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Head of the Bombay High Court hearing, IRS officer Sameer Wankhede, the former Mumbai Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau, said here on Monday that he would seek special security from the Mumbai Police owing to threats to his life. Wankhede, presently embroiled in an alleged extortion case pertaining to the sensational raid aboard the Cordelia Cruise ship in which Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan was among those arrested, said in a brief interaction with private Marathi TV channels. He said that he has been getting many threats, including on social media and would soon meet the Mumbai Commissioner of Police with a request to the effect. Wankhede said he has been raising the issue of the risks he faces several times in the past, particularly now, after



It may be recalled that ex-Maha Vikas Aghadi government minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik, and a witness in the cruise raids Prabhakar Sail (who died last year) had levelled several allegations of corruption against Wankhede and the raid team. However, Wankhede has stoutly denied all the allegations against him and expressed his full faith in the judiciary, the Central government and the CBI to give him justice. Thereafter, Wankhede was relieved from the cruise raid case and later an internal probe was conducted vis-A-vis the allegations he faced, even as the NCB gave a 'clean chit' to Aryan Khan for lack of evidence against him in May 2022. Besides Wankhede, the CBI has booked two other NCB officers, Vishwa Vijay Singh and Ashish Ranjan, and witnesses in the ship case, K.P. Gosavi and Sanvile D'Souza.

the CBI lodged the FIR against him. The IRS officer was grilled for two days, almost five hours daily, as per the high court directives of last Friday, by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). At the last hearing, the Bombay High Court granted relief from any coercive action till May 22 to Wankhede, an IRS officer of 2008 batch, whose role during the Cordelia Cruise ship raids on October 2, 2021 has come under the radar of the CBI.

MUMBAI 3RD BIGGEST DATA CENTRE MARKET IN ASIA-PACIFIC, BREACHES 2GW MARK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai has become the third biggest data centre market in the Asia-Pacific region, with a total capacity at 2,337 MW and breaching the 2GW mark in Q1, a report showed on Monday. The live capacity (operational capacity) stood at 270 MW in the city with over half of the total capacity in the early stage at 1,272 MW, which means 11.55 per cent of its capacity is now in the live segment, according to the report by international property consultant, Knight Frank. NTT-Netmagic and CtrlS data centre providers constitute just over half of the live capacity in the Mumbai market currently. "As data centres gain prominence as an asset class in the country, investors are leveraging various strategies such as mergers and acquisitions (M&As), joint ventures, and land acquisitions to tap into this thriving sector," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India. As a representative of India's growing data centre landscape, "Mumbai has emerged as a key beneficiary



with significant growth in its total capacity", he added. Over 328MW of data centre capacity was added in Mumbai in the first quarter this year, driven by announcements from existing players and a new market entrant - Digital Edge, a Stonepeak-backed operator set to deliver a hyperscale facility to the market. "Supply movements have moderated compared to previous quarters, with over 40 per cent of its current

live capacity absorbed throughout 2022," the report mentioned. The report, in partnership with leading data centre research and analytics platform DC Byte, showed that Shanghai (2,692MW), Tokyo (2,575 MW), and Mumbai (2,337MW) emerged as the top Data Centre markets in the Asia-Pacific region. Bangkok also saw impressive growth, increasing nearly 30 per cent since the beginning of the year.



EDITOR'S SPECS

UP BJP's 'tiffin meetings

Chai Pe Charcha' is apparently not enough and the BJP in Uttar Pradesh will now be holding 'tiffin meetings' in all 1,918 organisational divisions across the state from May 30 to June 30. A senior party leader said that all functionaries, including MPs, MLAs, state and regional leaders of the party, are expected to be part of the meetings. "This infuses a feeling of togetherness amongst the party leaders and workers, brings them closer and inspires them to work as one unit," he said. The idea of a tiffin meeting was first mooted by general secretary (organization) Dharampal Singh during the state executive meet held earlier this year. Sources said it will now be during the 'Tiffin meeting' that every worker and office-bearer will be informed about the organisational action plan in detail. The members will also break bread with each other, emphasizing the concept of social harmony. "Work needs to be done to make the organisational structure effective. For this, booths need to be strengthened by involving all sections of the society," said a senior BJP leader. The initiative marks the saffron outfit's fresh bid to set out the narrative of social harmony while countering the opposition's discreet allegations of being 'casteist'. The BJP plans to hold such meetings in most of its future campaigns and programmes while aiming to reinforce its organisational capabilities. The concept, primarily rooted in the functioning of BJP's ideological fountainhead, the RSS, is proposed to be adopted by the party during the 'Mahasampark Abhiyan', the month-long campaign to mark completion of nine years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. The campaign is seen as one of the BJP's key measures in the run up to the Lok Sabha elections scheduled next year.

MARKETS TO REMAIN RANGE BOUND

Arun Kejriwal

Markets had a tough week and failed to cross important resistances. They faltered at the very first level on the opening day of the week itself. The rest of the week was spent in trying to regain lost ground. BSESENSEX lost 298.22 points or 0.48 per cent to close at 61,729.68 points while NIFTY lost 111.40 points or 0.61 per cent to close at 18,203.40 points. The markets saw the broader indices like the BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 lose 0.59 per cent, 0.58 per cent and 0.48 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP lost 0.19 per cent while BSESMALLCAP gained 0.44 per cent. Markets lost on three of the five trading sessions and gained on two sessions. The Indian Rupee was under pressure and lost 50 paise or 0.61 per cent to close at Rs 82.66 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones had a quiet week and gained on three of the five trading sessions. Dow gained 126.01 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 33,426.53 points. While the debt limit resolution will eventually happen, as of now it continues to remain in a state of flux and is causing markets to remain confused. The primary and fresh issue of units from Nexus Select Trust which is a consumption based real estate offering listed on the bourses on Friday. Units which were issued at Rs 100, debuted on the bourses at a discovered price of Rs 102.27 on BSE and Rs 103 on the NSE. They closed day one at Rs 104.26 on BSE and Rs 104.29 on NSE. Gains made were 4.26 per cent on BSE and 4.29 per cent on NSE. The largest Public Sector bank SBI, reported excellent numbers for the quarter ended March 23 and also its annual results for the year ended March 23. The company reported a net profit of Rs 18,093 crore for the quarter ended March 23 against Rs 15,477 crore in the previous year. For the year ended March 23 the net profit was Rs 55,648 crore against Rs 35,373 crore in the previous year. The bank has declared a dividend of Rs 11.30 for the year. This is the first bank and only the second company in India to declare an annual profit of over Rs 50,000 crore. RBI has declared a dividend of Rs 87,416 crore for the year 22-23 against Rs 30,307 crs paid for the previous year. This almost three times payment would go a long way in ensuring that the government is able to manage its resources well for the year which would have otherwise seen an impact from divestment target not being met. The hardly in circulation Rs 2,000 note has been withdrawn by RBI, but would continue to remain legal tender. The common man has been given time till September 30 to exchange these notes from banks till then. Immediately rumour mills have begun talking about the impending issue of Rs 1,000 note to offset the loss of a high denomination note. The week ahead would see May futures expire on Thursday (May 25). The current value of NIFTY at 61,729.68 points is higher by 288.35 points or 1.61 per cent. While the bulls are ahead its not a comfortable lead and things could change in four trading sessions. It would be an interesting fight between the bull and bears for control of this series. The highs in the week gone by were made on Monday itself at levels of 65,562.67 points on BSESENSEX and at 18,458.90 points on NIFTY. Markets never recovered to challenge these levels during the week thereafter. This is even though FPIs continue to be buyers through the week barring one day. Coming to the week ahead, there would be resistance at 18,300-18350 levels on NIFTY and at 62,025-62,175 levels on BSESENSEX. If these levels are crossed, the next resistance would be at the top made on Monday at 18,460-18,480 levels corresponding to 62,600-62,700 on BSESENSEX. On the support side reasonable support exists at levels of 18,000-18,050 or 61,150-61,300 levels. If this is violated, then the next level would be at 17,850-17,900 or 60,700-60,850 levels. The strategy for the week would be to continue to focus on midcap and Smallcap space. Results and therefore surprises continue in this space. The one heavyweight result which was pending has been declared by SBI and even after an excellent



set of results there was virtually no impact on the share price. Results were declared on Friday and on that day, it gained Rs 0.90 to Rs 575.05. For the week, the share lost Rs 3.05 or 0.53 per cent. By and large while there would be intraday volatility, on a weekly basis, we would remain range bound. Trade cautiously. (Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

international

YOON, BIDEN, KISHIDA COULD HOLD TRILATERAL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON

Seoul | Agencies

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, his US counterpart Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida could hold a trilateral summit in Washington as early as July, an official said here on Monday. "The possibility of holding a South Korea-US-Japan summit this summer in Washington is being talked about," the presidential official told Yonhap News Agency. The development comes a day after Biden had proposed such a summit when he met with Yoon and Kishida on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Hiroshima on Sunday. The three countries have been strengthening trilateral cooperation to deal with growing challenges stemming from North Korea's nuclear program, and China's military and economic assertiveness. During their brief meeting on Sunday, the three leaders agreed to



upgrade trilateral cooperation to a new level, Yoon's office said. If the Washington meeting is realised, it will be the first time the leaders of the three countries will be meeting specifically for that purpose, not on the margins of a multilateral gathering. "Over the long term, this could develop into a form of shuttle diplomacy between the leaders of South Korea, the US and Japan," another presidential official said, referring to the leaders regularly visiting each other's countries, as done by the leaders of South Korea and Japan.

20 kids dead as fire rips through school dorm in Guyana



Georgetown | Agencies

At least 20 children died in their sleep after a fire ripped through a school dorm in Guyana, the media reported on Monday. The fire occurred at around 11.40 p.m. on Sunday night at Mahdia Secondary School in central Guyana, with

President Irfaan Ali calling it a "major disaster", reports sun.co.uk. "This is a horrific incident and its tragic, it is painful and I cannot imagine the pain of the parents and of the children, and as a country we will have to deal with this," the President was quoted as saying in a statement. Five planes have reportedly

taken off to support the health officials, with plans to transport seven children to Georgetown for treatment. According to local media, many children remain unaccounted for. Mahdia town is known for gold mining, and the school houses students from surrounding towns and villages in the region.

BIDEN HONOURS INDIAN-ORIGIN NYPD COP WITH PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF VALOR

New York: An Indian-origin New York Police Department (NYPD) officer and nine others were honoured by President Joe Biden with the Medal of Valor, the nation's highest award for bravery by a public safety officer. Sumit Sulan was honoured at a White House ceremony last week for shooting a gunman who ambushed and killed officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora as they responded to a domestic violence call in Harlem, New York City, on January 21, 2022. "A very dark day for the city of New York could have been more -- even more tragic, with a much higher body count, if it weren't for Detective Sulan," President Biden said at the Medal of Valor Ceremony. According to a White House statement, the three officers put themselves in the line of fire to protect a mother and son from an armed man threatening violence in their home.

Imran Khan sees 80% chances of his arrest on Tuesday

Islamabad | Agencies

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said there was an 80 per cent chance of his arrest on Tuesday when he will be in Islamabad to pursue pre-arrest bail in various cases. In an interview with CNN, the PTI chief said that PDM was aligned with the party and was "dismantling the democratic system to keep me out", Dawn reported. Right now, he said, over 10,000 workers had been arrested and his party's entire senior leadership was in jail. Referring to violence and arson attacks on state buildings and army installations on May 9 following

his arrest, Khan said: "The way they have used the pretext of arson, they have used that reaction after my arrest to dismantle the party." Claiming that hundreds of women and children have been jailed, the PTI chief said: "They are now trying to try us in military courts." The former premier said he did not have any problem with the army "knowing they have been entrenched", recalling that he had worked with former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa before "the switched horses". He claimed the ruling coalition wanted to "bump him off" because it was scared of losing elections. Asserting that there was still a threat to his life, the

PTI chief said he had predicted that a religious fanatic would be used to kill him like a former Punjab governor was assassinated, Dawn reported. Responding to a question, he said Pakistan is passing through "unpredictable time" and expressed the fear over the coalition government not holding the national elections later in October this year. "My worry now is that they won't hold the national elections even in October. I fear they will hold the elections when clear that PTI will not win." Khan said the situation had deteriorated to such an extent that even the decisions of judges and courts were being discarded, Dawn reported.

Rome | Agencies

ITALY'S MT. ETNA ERUPTS, FLIGHTS HALTED TO SICILY

Italy's Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has erupted, forcing flights to eastern Sicily's largest city, Catania, to halt. In a report on Monday, The Weather Channel said that Catania was hit hard by the falling ash following the eruption on Sunday. As a result, the city's airport was closed. Taking to Twitter, the airport said: "Flight operations remain suspended until tomorrow (Monday) morning at 9 a.m. or in any case until safety conditions are restored. Go to the airport only if the flight schedule is confirmed. Info with airlines." It is not uncommon for Catania's airport to pause its activities, as Etna, also one of the tallest active volcanoes in Europe, is in an almost constant state of activity. Experts are unsure how long this eruption will last, but the one in early 2021 had lasted for weeks.





MAHARANA PRATAP LOK WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN BHOPAL: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Maharana Pratap is a symbol of country's valour. Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap Lok will be constructed in Bhopal. It will be a tribute to his sacrifice, penance, struggle and gallantry. The life and works of Maharana Pratap will be depicted in the memorial. Along with this, the contribution of his seven associates Bhamashah, Punjabhil, Chetak and others will also be pictorially depicted. The construction of Maharana Pratap Lok will be meaningful so that the future generations can be aware of Maharana Pratap's struggle to protect his culture and freedom and his ability to stick to the values of life and imbibe the values accordingly. Stories of bravery and valour of Maharana Pratap will be taught in school curriculum



in the state. Along with this, Maharana Pratap Welfare Board will also be constituted. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebrations at Lal Parade Ground. **Maharana Pratap's personality is inspirational for all** Chief Minister Chouhan said that the personality and work of

Maharana Pratap inspires all of us. We also get inspiration from Maharana Pratap to serve all the sections of the society with honesty and truthfulness and to take the state forward on the path of progress and development. Maharana Pratap is also a symbol of building a glorious, magnificent nation along with valour, self-respect and independence. A glo-

rious, magnificent, prosperous, flourishing and powerful India is being built under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India's respect has increased among the rich and powerful countries of the world. **Holiday on the birth anniversary of brave personalities is just an attempt to repay their debt** While saluting Maharaj Chhatrasal Bundela, Chief Minister Chouhan said that there was a belief about him that "Chhatta tore raj mein, dhak-dhak dharti hoye-jit-jit ghoda mukh kare, tit-tit fateh hoye". This is the land of the brave hearts. Giving holiday on the birth anniversaries of such brave men is just an attempt to repay their debt. Recalling the commitment of Maharana Pratap to protect the motherland, he said that it is my vow that those who are against the country and state will not be spared. It is our religion to eliminate terrorists.

Kamal Nath slams V.D. Sharma over accusations of anti-Sikh riots

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Monday hit back at BJP's state unit President V.D. Sharma, a day after he claimed that central agencies investigating 1984 anti-Sikh riots would also frame charges soon against the former. Veteran Congress leader said Sharma made false allegations in an attempt to hide his involvement in corruption. Nath said no one could raise fingers against him in the last 45 years of his political career, and even an inquiry committee on the matter setup by BJP government has given him clean chit on anti-Sikh riots. He also claimed that the committee was setup by the BJP government and some people tried to make false accusations against me. "Now, when the elections are just five months away in Madhya Pradesh, and the BJP leaders have nothing to say against me, they are trying to mislead the people through their false propagandas," Nath said while responding queries regarding Sharma's allegation in Anuppur district on Monday.



He further said Sharma has now started making false accusations against him to hide his failure. "Anti-Sikh riots occurred in 1984, but not a single person lodged an FIR against me so far. Around eight years back, the BJP government formed an inquiry committee, which also made it clear that I am innocent," Nath added. On Sunday, Madhya Pradesh BJP President V.D. Sharma had also said that central agencies investigating the matter have found the role of Kamal Nath in the riots.

MP cop shoots 3 of a family, his body later found on railway track

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shocking case in Madhya Pradesh, a police constable on Monday opened fire on three persons of a family, and later his body was found on a railway track. The incident took place in Berchha village of Shajapur district. Addressing media persons, a senior police official said that upon receiving information of the shooting, a team rushed to the spot and found one person dead of bullet injuries, while the two others, including a woman, were rushed to a nearby hospital. Preliminary investigation revealed that the deceased constable, identified as Subhash, was in a relation-



ship with the woman and he took the drastic step on suspicion that she was betraying him. "While we were searching for the accused, we received information that a body had been found on a railway track. When we reached the spot, the per-

MAN BRUTALLY PLUCKS PEACOCK FEATHERS ON VIDEO

Madhya Pradesh: A disturbing incident of a man stripping the feathers off a peacock in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, has sparked outrage on social media. The video of the incident, shared by the perpetrator on his social media accounts, has rapidly gone viral, attracting widespread condemnation and calls for strict action. Authorities have identified the accused and launched a search to apprehend him. Police officials are actively investigating the matter and have urged the public to provide any information that could lead to the accused's arrest. According to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Gaurav Sharma, the youth involved in the incident was identified based on the bike's number seen in the viral video. In the video, the accused, identified as Atul, can be seen forcefully pulling out the peacock's feathers while his friend looks on.

Ex-Union Minister Uma Bharti hospitalised after feeling unwell

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Union Minister Uma Bharti was admitted to a hospital late on Saturday night after she felt unwell, the ex-Madhya Pradesh chief minister said in a Twitter post on Sunday. The 64-year-old Bharti tweeted: "Last night around 11 o'clock, I was taken to the Smart City Hospital near my residence when I suddenly fell ill. In all my tests, I was found to be healthy but extremely tired and weak." "According to doctors, the only treatment is bed rest for a few months. You (addressing the netizens) please don't forget that I have worked hard in public life since I was 6 years of age, i.e. almost 55 years," she wrote on Twitter. Union Minister for Civil Aviation and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia



on late Sunday evening posted on Twitter that he had received information about the ill health of Uma Bharti. "Learnt that former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and member of my family, respected Uma Bharti is unwell. I pray to God for her speedy recovery," Scindia wrote on his official Twitter handle.

Portal of Ladli Bahna Yojana will be opened for newly married women: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the portal of Ladli Bahna Yojana will be opened for newly married women and eligible women will be registered. Making the life of women easy is the priority of our government. With this in mind, schemes including Ladli Lakshmi, Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah and Ladli Bahna Yojana were implemented. Chief Minister Chouhan virtually participated in the mass marriage sammelan organized under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana in Kesli district of Sagar from the residence office and blessed the newlyweds. 240 couples



married the knot in the conference. Chief Minister Chouhan said that marriage is a sanskar, it is a bond of souls united forever. He hoped that the newly-married couples would

continue to stay in love, enhance the honour and prestige of both the families, fulfill the seven vows and also contribute towards the welfare of the society. Chief Minister

Chouhan instructed the Collector Sagar that the benefits of the government schemes and programmes should be provided to the newly-weds.

In 'Mission MP', Congress promises free electricity, Rs 500 gas cylinder, and old pension scheme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After registering an emphatic win in Karnataka, Congress has set its eyes on Madhya Pradesh which is slated for an election later in the year. Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, Congress has promised free electricity and a comeback of the old pension scheme if the party is voted to power. Referring to the "guarantees" the Congress has implemented in Karnataka, a few days after taking reins of the party, the party said in a tweet that it kept its promises in Karnataka and will do so in Madhya Pradesh too. In a tweet, the Congress said, "Congress' promise to the people of Madhya Pradesh. Gas cylinder: Rs 500; 1,500 per month to every woman; Electricity: 100 units waived, 200 units halved; farm loan waived; old pension scheme will be applicable. We kept our promise in Karnataka - now we will keep it in MP. Jai Janata-Jai Congress." Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that as promised, the Congress government has in



principle approved the five guarantees announced in the party's manifesto before the elections. The chief minister was addressing the media about the decisions taken in his first cabinet meeting after assuming office. According to preliminary estimates, Rs 50,000 crore is required annually to fulfill the 5-guarantees. Newly sworn-in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that during the party's previous term, the government had fulfilled 158 out of the 165 promises it had made. "We have kept our promises. Along with fulfilling the promises, we have implemented more than 30 new schemes such as Indra Canteen, loan waiver, Vidya siri, Shoe Bhagya, Pashu Bhagya etc., which were not included in the manifesto."

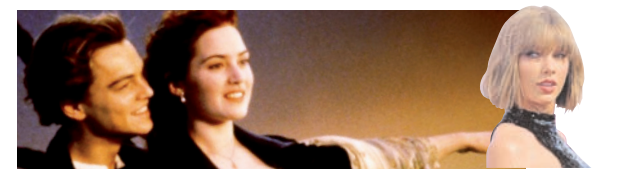
MP BJP chief rules out impact of Karnataka defeat on state politics

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As questions are being raised on whether the saffron party will be able to retain power in Madhya Pradesh after defeat in Karnataka Assembly elections, the BJP's MP chief, V.D. Sharma has ruled out all speculation. Sharma, who is also an MP from the Khajuraho Lok Sabha constituency, termed BJP's defeat in Karnataka a 'lacuna'. He claimed that the BJP has done a lot of development works in Madhya Pradesh in the last 20 years of its rule. He said that the BJP lost Karnataka elections due to some lack in implementation, "but the scenario will be completely different in Madhya Pradesh. We accept that the Congress managed to win more seats in Karnataka, but our vote percentage has increased. We have also taken it as a lesson and are working to fill the gaps which we lacked in Karnataka," Sharma added. When asked about the growing perception that Karnataka's loss will have a huge impact in Madhya Pradesh, he ruled out all these perceptions saying both states have different dimensions and the issues are also very different in these two states. "People of Madhya Pradesh are well aware of how the BJP government has made developments. The state has witnessed growth especially after Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government came into power," Sharma added. He said the loss in one or two Assembly elections would not change the perception towards PM Modi. "If the perception is being made after Karnataka elections, then they should also talk about BJP's win in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. There is no leader in the opposition who can stand against PM Modi. He is a global leader and people have faith



in his commitment and leadership," Sharma further said. However, there has been a buzz in Madhya Pradesh that strained relationship between Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and V.D. Sharma has left senior leaders of the party distressed. They have reportedly told the state leadership to resolve their differences as the countdown for the MP Assembly elections begins. Lack of unity among the top leadership may have a huge impact in the upcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh. While, in the Madhya Pradesh unit of the Congress, the party leadership has made it clear that the last word in every decision will be Kamal Nath's. This has also come to be accepted by Digvijaya Singh, who is the other tall Congress leader in the state.



Miley Cyrus feels 'uncomfortable' performing at large venues



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Miley Cyrus said that performing in such large venues makes her uncomfortable and she would much rather perform in smaller, more intimate spaces for friends and family. "It's been a minute," Cyrus said about touring to British Vogue, reports Variety. "After the last (headline arena) show I did [in 2014], I kind of looked at it as more of a question. And I can't. Not only can't, because can't is your capability, but my desire. Do I want to live my life for anyone else's pleasure or fulfillment other than my own?" Cyrus' last arena show was the Bangerz Tour back in 2015. The tour lasted 78 shows and stopped at venues such as the O2 Arena in London and the Barclays Center in New York City. Some fans thought Cyrus might be planning a new arena tour to support her eighth studio album "Endless Summer Vacation," which was released in March. It seems unlikely based on her latest comments, although perhaps Cyrus will tour in other kinds of venues such as Radio City Music Hall in New York City. "Endless Summer Vacation" includes Cyrus' smash single 'Flowers', which is the fastest track to cross 1 billion streams in Spotify's history at 112 days. "The reception to 'Flowers' has been absolutely wild," producer Michael Pollack told Variety earlier this year amid the single's blockbuster success. "It's not lost on me how much of a unicorn this record is and how few times in your career you get to be a part of something like it."

Helen Flanagan makes a confession following split from Scott Sinclair

Los Angeles | Agencies

Helen Flanagan concerned fans after she made an honest confession about life as a single mum following her split from ex-fiance Scott Sinclair. The couple share three children together - Matilda, Delilah, and Charlie - and Helen sadly announced they had split last July after being together for 13 years, reports Mirror.co.uk. In a recent make-up free selfie posted on Instagram, the former 'Coronation Street' star revealed that she was struggling after a tiring day. "Tired, overwhelmed, hormonal and I've eaten rubbish all day," Helen captioned the snap, which showed her relaxing in her dressing gown. Mirror.co.uk further states that the 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here' star spoke about the toll of her split from the Bristol Rovers winger, and revealed that Scott had moved in with his mum as they try and figure out co-parenting. "I was with Scott aged 19-31, so that's why I get on so well with his mum," she told The Sun, as she confessed the kids see their dad "all the time."



She said: "It's really nice; it's pretty drama free as I get on really well with her. The kids see their dad all the time, they see their nana a lot, and we're always in Birmingham a lot to meet with the kids halfway." The couple began dating in 2009, and the footballer had popped the question while on holiday in Disneyland Paris in 2018.

Seoul | Agencies

'10 years of BTS'

Major Landmarks in Seoul will be turned purple next month in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the K-pop superband BTS since its debut.

According to music industry sources, Hybe, the K-pop powerhouse behind the group, and the Seoul metropolitan government are discussing jointly holding various events to commemorate the anniversary, reports Yonhap. Creating a special event place, called 'ARMY Road', after the name of the band's global fandom, at the city's major landmarks is also one of the plans in discussion, the sources said. City officials expect the events will help boost Seoul's tourism industry, which has been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BTS has been holding its own commemorative events and festival weeks around its debut day, which falls on June 13. Even during the period when large in-person events could not be held due to the pandemic, it had large-scale online meet-and-greet events for fans to interact with other fans around the world.

As this year is a significant year marking its 10th anniversary, similar events are expected to be held even though some members are on their mandatory military duty. "We're going to announce when our plans for the events are decided," a Hybe official said on condition of anonymity.

The K-pop septet will release a memoir, titled 'Beyond The Story: 10-Year Record of BTS' in honour of its 10th anniversary in South Korea and the United States, and a commemorative stamp in the home country.

Seoul city to turn purple to celebrate 10th anniversary of BTS next month



'Felt Helpless & Frustrated'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence and her producing partner Justine Ciarrocchi touched down at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday to promote their label's first ever documentary feature 'Bread and Roses', a harrowing and emotional look at the lives of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

After two decades of American occupation, the nation fell once again to the insurgent group, which moved quickly to strip women of basic rights - simple freedoms like the ability to work, appear in public without a male chaperone and receive an education, reports Variety.

"It all just collapsed in a matter of days," Lawrence recalled to Variety. "I was watching this from America, where Roe v. Wade was about to be overturned. We felt helpless and frustrated with how to get these stories off of the news cycle and into people's psyches. To help people be galvanised and care about the plight of these women."

In the infancy of building their production company Excellent Cadaver, Lawrence and Ciarrocchi pursued Afghan filmmaker Sahra Mani ('A Thousand Girls Like Me') to help capture the stories of the suppressed women on the ground. The finished film, which was received with tears at its world premiere on the Croisette, is comprised largely of video filmed by its three subjects. Crews could not safely enter Afghanistan, nor could Mani, who had been abroad working when the Taliban took over the country.

"The director was given footage from women using their cell phones, there was one trusted camera person that was used occasionally," Lawrence said. Another central character, a successful dentist forced to give up her practice under the Taliban, gave Lawrence a new appreciation for her own liberties.

"It makes me think about when I was little, how much I hated going to school. We take for granted that education is a way out for these women. (Our subject) had all of that stripped away and can't even go outside without a chaperone. It's a right to have as a human, to have something to do every day and be productive in society," she said.

'Bread and Roses' is currently for sale out of the Cannes film market. Lawrence and her partner are hopeful that the film will receive worldwide distribution, warning that its themes are more relevant than one would suspect in places like America.

"There is not much separating us from these other countries," said Lawrence.

Jennifer Lawrence made 'Bread and Roses' after feeling 'helpless' for Afghan women

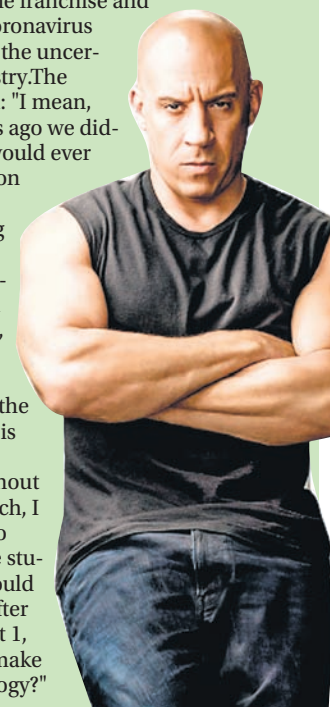
'Fast X' director weighs in on Vin Diesel's hint at trilogy

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Louis Leterrier is open to more 'Fast and Furious' movies. The director is sitting at the helm for the next two films in the high-speed franchise, which were thought to be the final installments in the long-running series, but he has now echoed star Vin Diesel by suggesting that there could yet be more pictures, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Let's see what this one does. You know what's beautiful about this franchise is that the audience gave love and then the franchise kept growing and delivered for the fans, but also surprised them. Don't shove it down people's throats, but give people what they love. So let's see (what happens next)," Louis said to Entertainment Weekly. Louis admitted that "it's hard to give an answer" as to whether 'Fast X Part 2' will bring the curtain down on the franchise and pointed out that the coronavirus pandemic highlighted the uncertainty in the film industry. The French filmmaker said: "I mean, who knows? Two years ago we didn't think that movies would ever exist anymore. Knock on wood, count my lucky stars that we're making giant movies that are now being seen by millions of people around the globe. It's amazing, and I'm so happy that we're part of this summer where it feels like the excitement for movies is back."

The actor said: "Without tipping the hat too much, I can say this, Going into making this movie, the studio had asked if this could be a two-parter. And after the studio saw this Part 1, they said, 'Could you make Fast X, the finale, a trilogy?'"



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Madelyn Cline



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The role of a werewolf is on the bucket list of many actors as it brings together many elements of magical realism, fantasy and drama, and Bollywood star Varun

Anupam Kher injures his shoulder while shooting; says, 'Dard to hai'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood star Anupam Kher injured his shoulder while shooting for his upcoming film 'Vijay 69'.

Anupam took to Instagram, where he posted a picture of himself in a sling.

He wrote: "Aap sports film karo aur aap ghaayal na ho!! Aisa kaise ho sakata hai? Kal vijay69 ki shooting ke dauran kandhe mein achi khaasi choth lagi."

He shared that the injury does hurt.

"Dard to hai par jab kandhe par sling lagaane vaale bhaiya ne bataaya ki unhone hi SRK or Hrithik Roshan ke kandhon ko is sling se sajaaya tha to pata nahin kyon dard ka hasaas thoda kam ho gaya."

He added: "Par waese agar thoda zor se khaansun toh muh se halki si cheekh zaroor nikalti hai! Photo mein muskuraane ke koshish genuine hai! Ek do dinon baad shooting jaari rahegi."

"Waese maa ne suna to boli, 'Aur dikha apni body duniya ko!! Tujhe nazar lag gayi!' Maine jawaab diya, 'Maa! Girte hai shahasvaar hi maidaan e jang mein. Vo tiphall kya girega jo ghutno ke bal chale!' Maa jhaapad maarte maarte rukh gayi."

The film will narrate the life of a man who decides to compete in a triathlon contest at the age of 69.

VARUN FEELS 'BHEDIYA' MOVIE 'ENRICHED' HIM AS AN ACTOR

Dhawan is no different. The actor, who essayed the titular role of a wolf in his film 'Bhediya', has shared that the role enriched the actor in him.

'Bhediya' is a horror-comedy and it follows the hilarious and spooky travesties of Bhaskar's (Varun Dhawan) life after he is bit by the mythical creature in the dense jungles of Arunachal Pradesh. As Bhaskar finds himself mysteriously transforming into the shape-shifting werewolf, his friends and he set out on a mission to find some much needed answers that only lead to more twists, turns and lots of laughter.

Talking about the film, Varun said: "'Bhediya' is not just an exciting werewolf tale but an emotional rollercoaster that promises to keep you hooked. Playing Bhaskar was an once-in-a-lifetime experience that enriched me tremendously as an actor. I can still remember the excitement I felt when I first read the script. And now as it premieres digitally, I am reliving that thrill."

Actress Kriti Sanon, who essays the role of a mythical creature, said: "The movie holds a special place in my heart as it gave me the opportunity to play a character that I had no reference point to. Moreover, the unique and thrilling script introduced a new genre in Indian cinema. I believe that 'Bhediya' has paved the way for more such innovative concepts, and I am excited for viewers to see how we have brought this unique concept to life on screen."

Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film also stars Deepak Dobriyal, and Abhishek Banerjee.

'PRINCESS ARIEL IS ONE OF MY ABSOLUTE FAVOURITES,' SAYS JANHVI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Janhvi Kapoor is a fan of Disney princesses and said Ariel from the 'The Little Mermaid' is one of her absolute favourites.

Janhvi was seen celebrating 'The Little Mermaid' at a special theme inspired party with little girls. With lots of cakes, hugs and love, Janhvi relived her childhood and shared a sneak peek of the magical world of princess Ariel with her fans.

She said: "My Friends, Khushi and I have grown up watching and reading about Disney princesses and princess Ariel is one of my absolute favourites!"

Janhvi added: "I just love her colourful, fun spirit and how she goes about achieving her dreams. I cannot wait to watch the film and relive my childhood with my girlfriends!"

Disney India is set to release 'The Little Mermaid' on May 26.

On the work front, Janhvi will next be seen in 'Bawaal', 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi' and Telugu film 'Devara'.

Can't wait to showcase my passion for cinema: Mouni Roy

Mumbai | Agencies

Actress Mouni Roy is all set to make her debut at the ongoing prestigious Cannes Film Festival and said that she "cannot wait to showcase her passion for cinema" at the global platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Mouni, who has collaborated with eyewear brand Lenskart for the event, said: "I am exhilarated to announce my debut at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Representing Lenskart at Cannes and being a part of this iconic celebration of creativity is my greatest honour."

"I am grateful for this incredible opportunity and cannot wait to showcase my unique style and passion for cinema on this global platform."

On the work front, Mouni will be seen in 'The Virgin Tree'. It also stars Sanjay Dutt and Palak Tiwari among many others.

RASIKA REVEALS ABOUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND HER ROLE OF 'BEENA TRIPATHI'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rasika Dugal, who is known for 'Humorously Yours', 'Delhi Crime' and 'Mirzapur', spoke about the inspiration behind her role of Beena Tripathi in the crime-drama show 'Mirzapur'.

In the show, the actress essays the character of a sensual woman, who despite her simple way of dressing oozes charm and sensuality.

Reflecting on the preparation process, Rasika said: "Initially, I was nervous. I wondered if I would be able to pull off the part. I thought maybe the role was more suited for someone more voluptuous or stereotypically 'sexy'."

She further mentioned: "However, a memory of a young girl I met at a party years before I was to start work on Mirzapur became my inspiration. She was from a small town, dressed in a simple pair of jeans and a T-shirt. She was a singer. Otherwise she looked like a shy young girl but the moment she started to sing, she transformed into a sensual, stunning woman who commanded your attention. That image stayed in my mind and became my inspiration."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Rasika recently completed shooting for the third season of 'Mirzapur' which is due to release this year. She has explored diverse genres and portrayed different roles in her upcoming projects - 'Adhura: Supernatural Thriller', 'Spike: Sports Drama', 'Lord Curzon Ki Haveli: Black Comedy Thriller', 'Fairy Folk: Improv Comedy', and 'Little Thomas: Dramey'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ruhani Sharma