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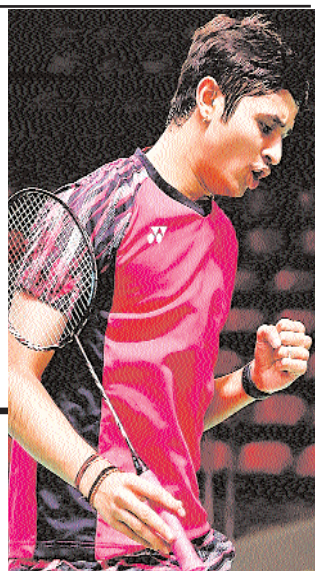
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Social media 'trust or distrust' buttons may help curb spread of fake news

“Over the past few years, the spread of misinformation, or ‘fake news’, has skyrocketed, contributing to the polarisation of the political sphere and affecting people’s beliefs on anything from vaccine safety to climate change to tolerance of diversity. Existing ways to combat this, such as flagging inaccurate posts, have had limited impact.”

Tali Sharot, Professor, University College London

LONDON | Agencies

The addition of ‘trust’ and ‘distrust’ buttons on social media, alongside standard ‘like’ buttons, could help to reduce the spread of misinformation, finds a new experimental study. Incentivising accuracy cut in half the reach of false posts, according to the findings published in eLife. For the study, the team sought to test out a potential solution, using a simulated social media platform used by

951 study participants across six experiments. The platforms involved users sharing news articles, half of which were inaccurate, and other users could react not only with ‘like’ or ‘dislike’ reactions, and repost stories, but in some versions of the experiment, users could also react with ‘trust’ or ‘distrust’ reactions. The researchers found that the incentive structure was popular, as people used the trust/distrust buttons more than like/dislike buttons, and it was also effective, as users

started posting more true than false information in order to gain ‘trust’ reactions. Further analysis using computational modelling revealed that after the introduction of trust/distrust reactions, participants were also paying more attention to how reliable a news story appeared to be when deciding whether to repost it. Additionally, the researchers found that after using the platform, those who had been using the versions with trust/distrust buttons ended up with more accurate beliefs.

ODISHA TRAIN TRAGEDY

CBI REGISTERS FIR, TAKES OVER PROBE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday said that an FIR has been lodged in the Odisha triple train accident case. “We registered the case upon the request of the Ministry of Railways and with the consent of the Odisha Government. The incident relates to the train accident involving the Coromandel Express, Yashwantpur-Howrah Express, and a goods train at Bahanaga Bazar in the state of Odisha on June 2, 2023,” said the CBI.



the Coromandel Express, SMVP-Howrah Superfast Express, and a goods train collided and derailed on Friday evening near Bahanaga Bazar Railway station in Balasore, Odisha.

The official stated that the CBI has taken over the investigation of the case previously registered at Balasore GRPS in District Cuttack, Odisha. A CBI team is already present in Balasore, Odisha.

On Sunday, the Railway Board recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Balasore train accident in Odisha.

In one of the horrific tragedies, at least 278 people died while over 1,000 were injured when 21 coaches of

Congress again targets Centre on CBI probe

New Delhi: The Congress has again targeted the Centre for recommending a CBI probe into the Odisha train tragedy and also accused it of shifting the focus away from its “failures” by bringing in new conspiracy theories.

Addressing a press conference here at the party headquarters on Tuesday, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said: “Instead of finding out what caused this grave accident, the government is now spinning conspiracy theories and shifting the focus away from the issue of safety. Once again the Modi government is shifting the focus away from its own ‘failures’. The government has refused to prioritise the safety of citizens. The reality is, accidents are happening because safety of passengers is not the priority of this government.”

Culpability of railway staff not been ascertained in FIR: CBI

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Tuesday that it has accessed a copy of the FIR lodged in connection with the Balasore train accident that left 275 people dead.

The FIR states that the culpability of specific railway employees has not been ascertained at present, and it will be determined during the course of the investigation.

The FIR was filed after a written complaint was submitted by Ranjeet Nayak, OPS SDRPO, Cuttack.

The FIR states that at 6:55 p.m. on June 2, due to a collision between Train No-12841 Howrah-Channel Coromandal Express and Train No-12864 Yesvantpur-Howrah Express, the carriages of both the trains capsized, causing the death hundreds of passengers. The FIR also mentions that the specific culpability of railway employees has not yet been determined and it will be established during the course of the investigation.

BSF jawan killed, 2 Assam Rifles troopers shot at in Manipur encounter



Team Absolute | Imphal

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed and two Assam Rifles personnel were shot at in a fierce gun battle with suspected militants in Manipur, officials said here on Tuesday.

During a combing operation, which was launched at Serou in Kakching district on Monday night and continued till Tuesday morning, the suspected militants fired at the security forces.

Defence sources said that the injured Assam Rifles personnel were evacuated to Manipukhri in Imphal.

During the preliminary search, two AK series rifles, one 51mm mortar, two Carbines, huge quantities of ammunition and warlike

stores have been recovered from the area. Sanitisation operations are currently underway and further details are awaited. “Extensive area domination operations by the Assam Rifles, BSF and Manipur Police were undertaken in the Sugnu and Serou areas. Intermittent firing between security forces and the insurgents took place throughout the night. Security forces effectively retaliated to the fire,” the sources said. Meanwhile, a defence release said that multiple incidents of violence, arson and firing in Sugnu and Serou in the past 48 hours necessitated the redeployment of additional troops. The troops were tasked to beef up ongoing extensive area domination operations, ambushes and measures to prevent violence.

Statements of WFI chief's aides, workers recorded; minor records fresh version

New Delhi: As a part of the ongoing probe into the sexual harassment case, the Delhi Police visited the residence of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda and recorded the statements of his associates and workers, an official said on Tuesday. “We had visited Gonda as a part of investigation and recorded the statements of Singh's associates and workers, including the driver at his house. The team checked their IDs and noted their addresses while recording the statements. We are collecting evidence and collaborating with victims' statements,” said the senior police official privy to the investigation.

Once all the evidence is collected, a report will be submitted in court, he added. Meanwhile, the official also said that the 17-year-old wrestler on whose complaint a case under POCSO act was registered at Connaught Place police station against Singh, has now recorded a fresh statement under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the magistrate in court. Refusing to divulge more details, the official said that as the case is very sensitive, only limited information can be shared.

Bajrang Sena extends support to Congress in poll-bound MP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The slogan ‘Jai Shri Ram’ is normally associated with the saffron camp. But on Tuesday evening, the same slogan reverberated in the headquarters of Madhya Pradesh Congress, with the saffron colour taking over the grand old party's head office here.

This happened after the workers of ‘Bajrang Sena’ reached the Congress headquarters in large numbers to extend their support to the party ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year.

Raghunandan Sharma, the national convener of Bajrang Sena, along with his supporters joined the Congress in the presence of former Chief Minister and state Congress President Kamal Nath.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamal Nath began his speech with ‘Jai Sri Ram’.

The veteran Congress leader, who claims to be a devotee of Lord Hanuman, said, “Bajrang Sena has decided to support the Congress, which means they are supporting the truth. Madhya Pradesh has become a state of scams under the BJP, be it the Mahakal Lok or Naramada scam. We have to protect our culture.”

Former state minister and ex-CM Kailash Joshi's son Deepak Joshi, who also recently jumped ship from the BJP to the Congress, accompanied the leaders of the Bajrang Sena. Joshi said that Kamal Nath has done a lot of work for the protection of cows during his 15-month tenure as the Chief Minister.

Talking to reporter Bajrang Sena leader Pateria said, “Bajrang Sena is not merging with the Congress. Some of our leaders have joined the Congress and they have resigned from Bajrang Sena. Ours is an issue-based support to the Congress.”

ICAI, HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL TO DEVELOP A CUSTOMISED EXECUTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

“The newly-designed programme will have multiple options for the learners. It will be available in residential, virtual and hybrid modes. However, it will be finalised only after the approval of the Union Cabinet.”

ICAI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Harvard Business School, the US, will be joining hands to develop a customised executive educational programme for CA institute members.

Besides, the ICAI will also reach out to as many as 48 countries for the ICAI revised international curriculum. “We are going to sign a



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Harvard Business School. The institute has also sent the MoU to the Union Cabinet for final approval. After we get a nod from the government, we will sign the MoU,” ICAI President Aniket Sunil Talati told reporter. Talati said that the ICAI has already signed an MoU with several nations, including Nepal, Oman, Kenya, Tanzania, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the

UAE, Afghanistan, Russia, Poland, Nigeria and Maldives. On the issue of revised curriculum, Talati said that presently the ICAI is working on revising the scheme of education and training in alignment with the International Education Standards (IES), National Education Policy 2020 and global requirements. He said that the curriculum of the chartered accountancy course is

designed, developed and updated from time to time so that the members of the profession can become the valued trustees of world-class financial competence, good governance and competitiveness. Both the institutions have planned to design a specific module for CAs. Through this international initiative, there will also be a specific programme for Indian CAs. The programme will be available for four weeks.



Power to summon accused should be used by court after satisfaction on evidence, says SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has said that the power of summoning a person as accused during the trial should not be mechanically exercised by a court.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Pankaj Mithal said: "The court holding a trial, if it intends to exercise power conferred by Section 319, CrPC, must not act mechanically merely on the ground that some evidence has come on record implicating the person sought to be summoned."

The bench said that court's satisfaction preceding the order the reunder must be more than prima facie as formed at the stage of a charge being framed and short of satisfaction to an extent that the evidence, if unrebutted, would lead to conviction.

"What is essential for exercise of the power under Section 319, CrPC is that the evidence on record must show the involvement of a person in the commission of a crime and that the said person, who has not been arraigned as an accused, should face trial together with the accused already arraigned," it said.



The bench said Section 319, CrPC, which envisages a discretionary power, empowers the court holding a trial to proceed against any person not shown or mentioned as an accused if it appears from the evidence that such person has committed a crime for which he ought to be tried together with the accused who is facing trial.

"Such power can be exercised by the court qua a person who is not named in the FIR, or named in the FIR but not shown as an accused in the charge-sheet," said the bench.

The apex court dismissed a plea by a plea by Jitendra Nath Mishra against the Allahabad High Court's June 1, 2022 order, dismissing his petition to quash a summoning order

issued by the special court in a case related to assault and abuse under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The trial court went by the deposition of the woman victim to summon the appellant.

The top court said: "We are of the view that any expression of ours while dealing with each and every point urged on behalf of the appellant could result in prejudice; and thereby hinder a fair trial hence, adopting a cautious approach, we propose to restrict our consideration solely to the question as to whether the evidence adduced by the complainant and his wife in course of recording of their depositions did justify the Special Court to make the order it did."

Concluding the order, it said: "The Special Court is encouraged to expedite the trial. But, in the process, it shall proceed uninfluenced by reason of its order under Section 319, CrPC having been upheld by the High Court and this Court. The points raised on behalf of the appellant, recorded above, if raised before it as well as other points, if any, shall be given the consideration the same deserve."

Free power to all including tenants, says K'taka CM

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced that 200 units of free electricity will be provided to all domestic consumers, including those living in rented accommodations in the state.

While interacting with reporters after garlanding the statue of former Chief Minister D. Devraj Urs on his 41st death anniversary, Siddaramaiah stated "There is no need to pay for the electricity bills up to 200 units. This will apply to even those who live on rent. It will not be applicable to commercial buildings," he reiterated.

The guidelines for availing the benefit for Gruha Jyothi scheme, under which free electricity will be provided, specified that the beneficiary must mandatorily link the Customer ID and Account ID with the Aadhaar card. The guideline also mentioned that if the consumer has more than one connection in his name, only one connection would be considered.

These guidelines created confusion and raised a question mark over the majority of people who live in rented accommodations across the state and electricity connections to their houses will be in the name of their house owners who own multiple properties.

K. J. George, Minister for Energy explained that since the majority of the people who live



Govt hikes power tariff by Rs. 2.89 in Karnataka

Bengaluru: The Congress government in Karnataka has hiked power tariff by Rs 2.89 per unit from June. The people of the state will have to pay the hiked tariff if they fall in the more than 200 units slab. Meanwhile, the opposition BJP has condemned the hike, saying that the Congress government has betrayed the people of Karnataka by increasing power tariff.

"It is like giving free power on one hand, and snatching the same on the other," the BJP said. The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KSSIA) has warned of a shutdown against the power tariff hike. The KSSIA maintained that it would be forced to shut shop under the new tariff

in rented accommodations have voted the Congress to power, the government will protect their interests and ensure that even they get the benefit of Gruha Jyothi scheme.

The Congress government has also merged the Bhagya Jyothi, Kuteera Jyothi and Amruta Jyothi schemes into Bhagya Jyothi scheme in Karnataka.

Kejriwal to meet Akhilesh for support against Modi govt ordinance



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Tuesday that he, along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, would meet Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav to seek support against the Modi government's ordinance.

Prior to this, Kejriwal had met with CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on this matter.

"Tomorrow, Bhagwant Mann and I will meet Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow to seek support for the people of Delhi against the unconstitutional ordinances of the Central Government," Kejriwal tweeted.

Kejriwal also requested meetings with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi twice, but the Congress is yet to respond. Kejriwal has stated that the centre's ordinance is an unprecedented act that contradicts the principles of democracy and disregards the sanctity of the judiciary.

Nitish Kumar has become blacklisted now, says BJP leader

Team Absolute | Patna

While the Bihar government is thinking of blacklisting the construction company after the Aguwani (Khagaria)-Sultanganj (Bhagalpur) four lane road bridge collapsed on Sunday, BJP state president Samrat Chaudhary claimed that Nitish Kumar is blacklisted now.

"The people of Bihar have seen how the Nitish model was hanging in the air and collapsed in the water," Chaudhary said while referring to the bridge collapse. He added that Nitish Kumar is blacklisted now.

"After the bridge collapsed last year, what action had been taken against the company or officials? The Nitish Kumar government became blacklisted in front of the peo-



ple of Bihar. Nitish Kumar is clarifying things but people of Bihar had seen how the bridge flew in the air last year and collapsed again on Sunday. This is the actual Nitish model of governance in Bihar," Chaudhary said.

Meanwhile, the Bihar government has issued a notice to SP Singla Construction Pvt Ltd and also suspended an executive engineer.

"We have issued a show cause notice to the managing director Niraj Saksena and asked him to clarify why the Bihar government should not blacklist your company. The company has been given a time period of 15 days to submit its reply," said Pratyay Amrit, additional chief secretary in the road construction department.

"We have also suspended an executive engineer of Khagaria who was looking after the construction of that bridge. Preliminary investigation reveals lapses by him during inspections of the bridge," Amrit said.

AAP suffers setback as its leader Uday Singh Chauhan joins BJP in Gujarat

Gandhinagar | Agencies

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Gujarat faced a significant setback on Tuesday as its leader Uday Singh Chauhan, who had contested the elections from the Balasinor constituency in Mahisagar district, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Chauhan's move to join the ruling party is seen as a blow to the AAP's prospects in the state. The formal induction took place at the party's state office, Kamalam in Gandhinagar, in the presence of CR Paatil, the state president

of the BJP.

Chauhan's decision to switch sides comes after several AAP councillors in Surat had also defected to the BJP, weakening the AAP's presence in the region. Welcoming Chauhan to the BJP, CR Paatil presented him with a traditional topi (cap) and a saffron-coloured scarf, symbolising his new association with the party. Supporters of Chauhan, who accompanied him, also joined the BJP, boosting the party's ranks in the area. Prominent leaders, including Gordhan Zadafia, deputy state president of the BJP, were present during



the induction.

Explaining his reasons for joining the BJP, Chauhan cited the development-oriented politics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He emphasised that his alignment

with the party's ideology predated his membership and clarified that his departure from the AAP was due to personal reasons.

Chauhan pledged his dedication to working towards securing a resounding victory

for the Panchmahal Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 elections.

Chauhan had contested the 2022 assembly elections from Balasinor on an AAP ticket but faced defeat at the hands of the BJP candidate. Securing the third position, Chauhan received 39,569 votes, accounting for 28.22% of the total votes cast. In October 2022, he parted ways with the Congress and joined the AAP. However, circumstances have now led him to leave the AAP and align with the BJP. The Balasinor constituency encompasses parts of the Mahisagar and Kheda districts.

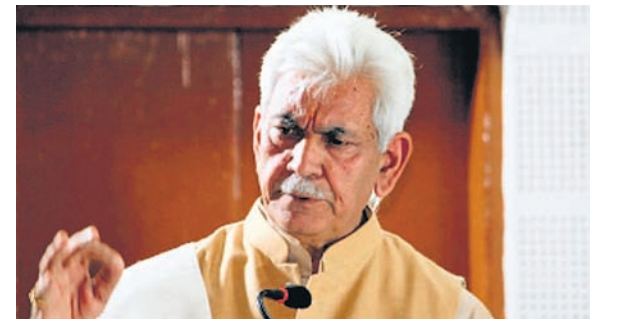
MORE YATRI NIWAS TO COME UP FOR AMARNATH YATRA: J&K L-G

Jammu | Agencies

J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that four to five more Yatri Niwas will come up for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

Sinha, who is also the chairman of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), told reporters on the sidelines of an official function here that new Yatri Niwas will come up at Baltal, Nunwan Camp and one at entry point to Kashmir.

"This will help accommodate pilgrims and facilitate them smoothly. A road from Chandanwari to Baltal is also in the pipeline.



"DPRs (detailed project reports) of the road stretch will be completed shortly. The road will save the time of pilgrims and help more devotees have a glimpse of the holy Shiv Lingam at the cave shrine of Amarnath," he

said. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union minister for housing and urban development Development said his ministry will approve all the Yatri Niwas suggested by the UT administration.

Fake policeman held for extorting Rs 50,000

Gurugram: A man has been arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 50,000 from a person, posing as a fake police officer, police said.



According to the police, the victim filed a complaint on June 1, that a person contacted him through a website and sought service from him. The suspect called the complainant to Cyber Park Sector-39, Gurugram and made him sit in a Swift DZire car, the suspects then introduced themselves as policemen and threatened to send him to jail for committing a cyber crime, police said. The victim remained in the car, meanwhile another person who introduced himself as a senior police officer, demanded Rs 1 lakh, the victim then transferred Rs 50,000 from his brother's account to the account mentioned by the suspects. The accused threatened the victim of dire consequences if he revealed the matter to anyone, and asked him to arrange the remaining amount. Following a complaint, a case was registered at the Sadar Police Station. During the probe, police nabbed one suspect, who was identified as Sunil Kumar, from Jaipur in Rajasthan on Monday.

"The accused has confessed that he along with his associates was involved in the crime. A Swift DZire car was also recovered from his possession used in the crime," Jaswant Singh, the investigating officer of the case, said.

Sixth anniv of Mandsaur firing: Kamal Nath reminds of farmers' pain in poll bound MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the sixth anniversary of the Mandsaur police firing in which six farmers were killed, former chief minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress head Kamal Nath said he has 'no hope for justice from the farmers' killers'. Nath mentioned the word 'killer' to the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP government and accused it of saving those who opened fire on protesting farmers.

Addressing a gathering of local farmers of Mandsaur and party workers on Tuesday, Kamal Nath said six years have passed since six farmers of Mandsaur were killed in police firing but the BJP government did not submit reports in the assembly. "Farmers were protesting for 'samarthan moolya' for their crops, but they were killed by the BJP government. What is more horrible is that not a single report of that incident has been placed in the

assembly so far. I have no hope for justice from those who killed farmers," Nath said while addressing the gathering on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the incident on Tuesday.

Nath added that the BJP government wanted to save the culprits. "It is the responsibility of all of us to overthrow such an anti-farmer government. On the anniversary of the farmers' massacre, I pay my humble tribute to all the martyred farmers," he said.

Nath held CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan responsible for the distress of farmers in Madhya Pradesh. He claimed that the income of Madhya Pradesh's farmers has plunged to very low levels among all the major states of the country.

"The Congress government had promised to waive off farmers' loans, and 27000 farmers have benefited, but our government was toppled through a conspiracy. Lakhs of farmers have become



defaulters. The Shivraj government has also stopped the loan waiver for the farmers," Nath said.

On June 6, 2016, six farmers were killed in police firing at Pipla Mandi in Mandsaur district. The farmers were protesting in support of their

demands, which included better price for their produce.

On the anniversary of the firing last year, the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi had launched his party's campaign for the Madhya Pradesh assembly polls

from Mandsaur and announced a "farm loan waiver" within ten days of his party coming to power in the state.

In the November 2018 assembly polls, the Congress wrested power from the BJP in Madhya Pradesh after a gap of 15 years. However, after coming to power, the then Home Minister Bala Bachchan had given a clean chit to the MP police. Bala Bachchan had in 2019 informed the House that the police action was valid and they followed standard procedure. They did it in self-defence and to protect private and public property, he said.

Meanwhile, the state BJP unit accused the Congress of playing politics over the deaths of farmers. "Congress is doing dirty politics on the deaths of farmers. People of Mandsaur are well aware of the Congress greed for power, which is why they voted for the BJP in 2018 and the Lok Sabha polls in 2019," the BJP MP said.



REHEARSAL IS BEING DONE BY PUTTING 1 RUPEE BEFORE 1 THOUSAND IN THE ACCOUNT OF LAADLI BAHNA'S

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Laadli Bahna Yojana being implemented for women by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government of Madhya Pradesh is being considered as a game changer in view of the upcoming assembly elections. This is the reason that the government does not want to make any mistake in this scheme and there should not be any hindrance in the transfer of one thousand rupees to the women's accounts, therefore, before June 10, one rupee each is being transferred to their accounts. To woo half the population in the state, the Shivraj government has implemented the Laadli Bahna Yojana. Under this scheme, applications have been filled from eligible women and the first installment of one thousand is to be transferred to their account on June 10. Rehearsals are being done for the women who have filled the applications to get the required amount on June 10.

According to the information received from the sources, the accounts of all women are linked to Aadhaar and to test whether the



amount reaches the accounts of these women in a single click, for the last few days, through banks, one rupee each has been transferred to the accounts of the concerned women. The reason for the women in whose account this single rupee is not reaching is also being searched. Also, the problem is being resolved

due to which this single rupee did not reach his account. This rehearsal is being done so that on June 10, no single woman who has applied for Laadli Bahna is disappointed.

It has been told that among the eligible women of Laadli Bahna Yojana, there are many women whose accounts are not linked to

Aadhaar or they have accounts in more than one bank, so the problems are coming out from rehearsal which become a hindrance in the transfer of funds. Can That's why banks are active for the last few days and one rupee is being deposited in the accounts of eligible women as a rehearsal. There are five crore 40 lakh voters in the state, of which the number of women is more than two crore 60 lakh. The number of women eligible for Laadli Bahna Yojana in the state is one crore 25 lakh. This is because the state government has implemented this scheme for women in the age group of 23 years to 60 years. Along with this, some conditions have been fixed in which the woman's family member should not be in central or state service, annual income should not exceed two and a half lakhs, she should not have more than five acres of land and there should be no four wheeler in the house.

In response to the Shivraj Government's Laadli Bahna Yojana, the Congress has promised to start the Nari Samman Yojana when it comes to power, in which Rs. More than two crore 60 lakh women will get this amount.

Girl falls into borewell in Sehore, rescue operation underway

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two and a half year old girl fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district on Tuesday and the district administration along with State Disaster Rapid Force (SDRF), have begun rescue operations, officials said.

The incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon at Mungavali village of Sehore, home district of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The boy girl has been identified as Srishti Kushwaha.

A parallel hole is being dug by a couple of digging machines.

"As soon as the information was received, the district administration has started the rescue operation. The SDRF team immediately reached the spot and started the process of rescuing Srishti from the borewell,"



Sehore district administration said.

Chief Minister Chouhan said he has directed local administration to take prompt action to rescue the girl.

"I have received information regarding the girl fell into a borewell. I have instructed the local administration to take necessary steps. I am also in constant touch with the administration. The rescue team is trying to save the baby girl safely. I pray for the well being of the daughter," Chouhan said on his official Twitter handle.

Public mandate will decide MP's next CM: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Veteran leader and Madhya Pradesh Congress unit head Kamal Nath has said that the Assembly elections were just a few months away and the public mandate would decide the next Chief Minister.

Nath's remarks came at the time when a verbal exchange has erupted among some of his party colleagues over the Chief Ministerial face of the Congress.

He said that he took charge of Madhya Pradesh

Congress in May 2018 and at times most of the people were not knowing how he works. "But, the situation has completely changed now and it is because of my 15-month government during which I worked for the people of Madhya Pradesh with determination that now everyone knows how Kamal Nath works," Nath said while addressing a press conference in Mandsaur district on Tuesday.

The Congress leader said it is up to the people who they want to make their next Chief Minister. "What Congress leaders have said, I

have heard that, but the elections are five months away from now and public mandate will make it clear who will be the next CM," Nath added.

The former Chief Minister further stated that tickets for the upcoming Assembly elections will be decided with the consultation of local leaders. "Party's local leaders will have greater involvement for any kind of decision we take. We are consulting with local leaders to finalise candidates and tickets will be given accordingly," Nath responded on whether district level party workers will

MP Lokayukta seek documents of 'Mahakal Lok' corridor project

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta has sought all documents pertaining to the 'Mahakal Lok' corridor project as it has initiated a probe into the project.

The Lokayukta has issued an ultimatum to the Ujjain Smart City, which developed the project, to submit the documents related to construction of the corridor.

Sources told reporter that the Lokayukta has initiated a probe in the matter on the basis of separate cases, including irregularities in tendering process and the collapse of six Saptarishi idols.



The Lokayukta has clearly warned responsible authorities to hand over documents pertaining to the projects else special police establishment (SPE) will be instructed to proceed with seizures of the same.

A case was registered after the collapse of the six idols on May 28. Meanwhile, the second complaint was also filed regarding alleged corruption in the project. The Lokayukta has also sought tender documents as part of its probe into the toppling of Saptarishi idols. "Lokayukta has initiated a probe to find out when the deci-

sion was made to use fibre-reinforced plastic for the idols in Mahakal Lok and also weather this decision was made maintaining transparency in the system. The agency is also assessing if the idols were manufactured in compliance with standard procedure," said in official source. Earlier, the Lokayukta had claimed that the probe was initiated taking a suo moto cognizance on the matter on the basis of various media reports following the collapse of the Saptarishi idols.

Following this, a team of Lokayukta had visited the Mahakal Lok corridor for inspection.

Damoh school's 'hijab' row exacerbates, govt official faces ink attack

Bhopal: A Madhya Pradesh government official, who was the part of investigation team in a case related to a hijab controversy that broke out at private school in Damoh, was attacked by a group of people on Tuesday, as per a video going viral on social media.

As per the video of the incident, the official was sitting inside the vehicle, when two persons came, threw ink on him and shouted slogans: "Jai Sri Ram".

The official said he was attacked for investigating the hijab row issue in Ganga Jamuna Higher Secondary School in Damoh. "I know those have threw ink on me. I will lodge a police complaint against them. They are doing all this because of hijab controversy in Ganga Jamuna school," the official was heard as saying. The 'hijab' row has now taken a communal shape as the leaders of the ruling BJP have claimed that a alleged nexus was operating of conversion of Hindu girls. The BJP leaders claimed at least three Hindu girls forcibly converted into Islam, whereas, three female school teachers, during the investigation, have denied the allegation claiming the girl students changed their religion at their own wish.

ED makes arrest in MP housing society land fraud case



Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Dilip Sisodiya alias Deepak Jain Madda as part of its ongoing investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) under the illegal sale and alienation of lands of housing co-operative societies in Madhya Pradesh.

Sisodiya was produced before a special PMLA court which sent him to seven-day ED custody.

The ED initiated the PMLA investigation based on vari-

ous FIRs lodged in Indore in the case of illegal sale and alienation of lands of housing co-operative societies by Sisodiya in connivance with other builders and developers. The investigation revealed that various accused persons in connivance with each other illegally sold and alienated huge parcels of prime land belonging to co-operative societies located in Indore.

An ED official said that Sisodiya connived with various persons to defraud the housing societies by way of sale of huge parcels of land belonging to the societies at undervalued rates to various persons by flouting the rules applicable for such societies.

The co-operative societies had huge landholding at prime locations of Indore as they were granted exemption under Section 20 of the Urban Land Ceiling Act, due to which they could acquire lots of land which were exceeding the landholding limit prescribed for various persons. "Sisodiya entered into some of these societies either directly as the office-bearer through manipulated elections or indirectly influenced the decision-making by placing his known persons in the key positions. As on date, the market value of these lands pertaining to numerous societies is estimated to be more than Rs 1,000 crore," the ED said.

The ED had earlier raided the premises of Sisodiya and others, which resulted in the seizure of Rs 91.21 lakh in cash and various other incriminating documents.

Dalit Groom refuses to get off horse, crowd throws stones at Baraat



Team Absolute | Chhatarpur

Stones were thrown at a Dalit groom's wedding procession in an attempt to stop him from riding a horse in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district last evening. The stone-throwing continued even after two police teams intervened, and three policemen were injured in the incident. A case has been registered against 50 accused - from an OBC community - who were involved in the attack and 20 people have been named, said Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Sanghi.

When the groom, accompanied by around 50 baraatis, was leaving the district's Chaurai village for the bride's home in Sagar district's Shahgarh last evening, the procession was spotted by a group of villagers who tried to prevent him from riding the horse. After he refused to get off, the angry crowd began pel-

ting stones at the procession.

Police teams led by the SP reached the spot, but the stone-throwing continued. Three policemen were injured while attempting to control the situation and the teams managed to get the crowd to disperse after a few hours. The procession was given police protection and it reached its destination late in the night. SP Amit Sanghi told NDTV that the accused have been charged under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and under sections of the Indian Penal Code pertaining to assault, rioting, stone-throwing and damaging property. "Efforts are on to ensure peace prevails in the village," he added. A similar incident had taken place in the district in February as well, when a constable was stopped from riding a horse to his wedding. His procession was also given police protection and was accompanied by 100 police personnel.

Along with CM Chouhan children planted Peepal sapling

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling of Peepal along with the children of GAIL employees in GAIL campus of Jhabua. He told the children about the importance of trees and plants and motivated the children to plant saplings on their birthdays, parents' birthdays and getting good marks in exams and other achievements in life.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that it is necessary to save and increase greenery to maintain life on earth. It is the human and moral duty of all of us to serve the environment. We all must plant saplings on every important occasion of life.



Special campaign will be conducted from June 7 to 22 to resolve pending cases of PMAY (Urban)

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that the unprecedented 8 years of successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) are going to be completed on June 25, 2023. Before the 8th anniversary of the scheme, a special campaign will be launched by the Urban Development and Housing Department from June 7 to 22, 2023 to resolve the pending cases in the scheme. In the campaign, a target has been set to complete 100 percent work of pending MIS attachment, geo-tagging of first level/unique, not starting

of houses and incomplete houses against the first installment in all the projects. Guidelines along with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) have been issued to all the urban bodies for this special campaign. Urban bodies will also be rewarded for doing excellent work. Teams will be formed on the basis of pending cases at the civic body level. The parties will collect the documents of the eligible beneficiaries and inspect them. Along with this, the work of MIS attachment and unique level geo-tagging will be done daily. In this special campaign, a target has been set to speed up the scheme by clearing all the pending works, so that more and more people can get the benefit of the scheme.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Bihar bridge collapse will affect water biodiversity in region

Collapse of Khagaria-Bhagalpur bridge over the Ganga river will have a long-lasting effect on the water biodiversity of the region, as per environmental experts. Ashok Ghosh, the professor of Mahavir Cancer Institute and former chairman of Bihar state pollution control board said: "Such a big chunk of concrete structure falling into the Ganga will have a big environmental effect for a long time. It will deeply hurt the water biodiversity of the river in this region. The water-borne animals will be adversely affected by it." "Unlike silt, the concrete structures used in the making bridges are non biodegradable materials. Hence, there is no question of the concrete structures dissolving in water. The iron rods may turn into rust after coming in contact with water but it is a slow process which takes years. Also, the ongoing projects of cleaning the river will also suffer a big jolt due to the bridge collapse," Ghosh said. Bihar is located in the low lying area of Himalayan range. As a result, a large number of rivers like Kosi, Kamla Balan, Gandak, Parman, originate from Himalaya and its water cross various North Bihar districts to finally fall in Ganga river. The biggest challenge of the state government is the silt carried by these rivers and its accumulation in the low-lying areas of North Bihar and in the Ganga river. It makes the rivers more shallow by disturbing the natural drains. It turned worse after the drainage system of various districts were developed in an unplanned manner. The water comes from the Himalayan range but does not return or exit to other sides due the ill drainage system.

BHARAT LIVES WITH THE AGE-OLD CONCEPT OF AKHAND BHARAT

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Traces of Indian culture and civilization go beyond Afghanistan in the west and Indonesia in South East Asia. More and more information, facts and revelations have started pouring in with the passage of time due to concerted research about length, breadth and its longevity. But myopic Indian media has the tendency of making a non-issue an issue and questioning anything that glorifies Indian civilization and also that puts the government of the day in a bad light. Interestingly self-proclaimed holier than thou Indian media fails to see Sengol being part of India's millennium old cultural voyage and its handing over to Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1947 is termed as fake history but the same media gets divine vision and intellect in interpreting an almost 2300-year-old depiction in a mural in the newly inaugurated Parliament in present context giving cannon fodder to China and Pakistan.

Putting record straight, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi educated Indian as well as foreign media that the mural is an artwork that depicted the spread of Ashokan Empire, when he says, "The mural in question depicts the spread of the Ashokan Empire and the idea of responsible and people-oriented governance that he [Ashoka] adopted and propagated." Bagchi rejected conjectures that the issue figured in bilateral talks between PM Modi and his Nepalese counterpart. But India's western and northern neighbours seized upon the opportunity, which are always in the lookout for such occasions, to make a mountain out of a molehill. Their social media zombies were ready to cause mayhem on phone screens and tried their bit. Indian government also watered-down their narrative that if there was any protest reported in Nepal.

Apparent objections were on depiction of Lumbini, Uttarapath, Purushpur and Taxila on the mural in question as part of India's Akhand Bharat plan. Social media was flooded with messages that opposition leaders asked the visiting Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to take up the matter with India to get the mural removed from Parliament building but the MEA was categorical in saying that the issue did not figure in bilateral discussion. Now, the question is, can any political separation deny the fact that India and Pakistan are still part of the Indus (Sindhu) Water Treaty shown in Mural, the very name India purportedly comes from Indus however India's civilizational identity is with Bharat? Can present-day India forget Takshshila where Vishnugupt (Chanakya) was a teacher and assisted Chandragupta, the grandfather of Ashoka, to unite India? Lumbini, where Gautam Buddha was born, is Sakya Muni for many in India for his lineage from Sakya, which was one of the ten republics of [Akhand] Bharat during 6th Century BC. So, no political boundary is strong enough to restrict the concept of Akhand Bharat that exists in the mind, heart, lifestyle and behaviour of every civilizational Indian. The reference of Uttarapath is as old as Panini's Ashtadhyayi where he lists the various kingdoms along the 'Uttarapathenahritam'. Pakistan can ignore these facts which



considers its history starting after 1947 and remains in denial mode for cultural links with India instead looks towards Arabic nations which link at Pakistan in disdain. But some Nepalese leaders denying this cultural unity is not only strange but unfortunate as its cultural connection with India is inseparable.

So for India, when PM Modi visited Lumbini on May 16, 2022 on the occasion of the Birth anniversary of Mahatma Buddha and inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport, it was for cultural integration as an international airport in Kushinagar would help tourists and pilgrims to get easy access to Lumbini contrary to misinformation campaign that India is on some imaginary expansionist mission. Lumbini and Kushinagar are the places where Mahatma Buddha took birth and died, respectively. Further, four-laned Ram Janaki path is being built from Ayodhya to Janakpur. A Buddhist circuit is drawn connecting Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar and Lumbini. PM Modi's constituency has always been an important seat of Lord Shiva for not only people but PMs and former Royals of Nepal have been visiting Varanasi for education and pilgrimage. Nepal Royals are also associated with Guru Gorakhnath. Ram Van Gaman Path Marg too has Nepal and Sri Lanka in them and similarly Krishna corridor plans connect many cities. Cultural connect transcends political boundaries which is not unilateral as once a Maoist Guerrilla, Prachanda appears to have overcome the dichotomy of his faith and political ideology when he performed Rudrabhishek at Mahakaleswar Temple in Ujjain to please Lord Shiva. He gifted loads of Rudraksha beads to the temple. Better sense seems to have prevailed upon him?

What binds India and Nepal together is their Hindu identity, so each other's security concerns are of paramount importance. Therefore, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's meeting with the Nepalese PM was certainly not a curtsy call and certainly something more that meets the eye. Issues like mushrooming Madarsa along Indo-Nepalese border, contraband trade, outlaws committing crime and getting lost in

Nepal and ISI operatives making a foothold on Nepalese soil to conspire against India might have figured in their meeting. There is no denying the fact that some bilateral issues have been plaguing India and Nepal relations including border issues but the relation hit a low when Nepal published maps in which it included Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura regions as their territory and got Parliament nod over them which was rejected and vehemently opposed by India. Both the countries are capable enough to handle these issues but here enters China poking its nose in every India-Nepal issue. It succeeded upto certain extent in alienating Nepal from India by helping Maoist in Nepal to overthrow Monarchy taking away its identity of being the only Hindu nation in the world in the bargain.

Actually, mishandling of the 1989 blockade aggravated minor differences between the two countries into distrust in which China played an iniquitous role. Further developments like the comprehensive Peace Accord in 2006 ended Monarchy and after the 2008 elections, the Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic which had the blessings of China. India has gone wrong with the Manmohan Singh government outsourcing its Nepal policy to the Communist Party of India - Marxist, which in turn is accused of owing its allegiance to China. Whenever India-Nepal tried to iron out their differences, China was always there to sabotage the move in an attempt to expand its influence in South Asia. Fanning Pahadi versus Madheshi divide in Nepal has been its favourite gameplan. For further its cause, China not only supplied oil but arms too during 1988-89 to disturb Indo-Nepal relations. India has been trying every bit to throttle the Chinese attempt with the Indian Prime Minister giving a HIT formula for Nepal during one of his visits to Nepal to help the country to build highways (H), information highways (I) and transways - transmission lines (T). The Indian PM promised to double power supply to Nepal. Even during the visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister from May 31 to June 3, 2023 around half a dozen projects related to connectivity, linkages, and oil supply were inaugurated and a similar number of MoU were signed including cross border payments. Infrastructure, energy security and connectivity have been key to the bilateral relations.

So, the Akhand Bharat controversy is nothing but an attempt by anti-India forces to put India into dock as there has always been stoic silence on various other interpretations and narratives being uttered in public spaces in India but anything Hindu or talking about Ancient culture, civilization and Hindu identity always draw controversy. But India always aspired and tried for cultural conquest and the PM inaugurating a temple in Abu Dhabi is a move in the same direction. So, Bharat is always ready, forthcoming and is living with the concept of Akhand Bharat from ages.

(Vinod Kumar Shukla is a freelance journalist based in Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

international

MIKE PENCE FILES OFFICIAL PAPERWORK TO JOIN 2024 RACE

Washington | Agencies

Former US Vice President Mike Pence has filed the official paperwork to join the 2024 presidential race and is slated to announce his bid on Wednesday to enter an increasingly crowded field for the Republican Party's White House nomination.

The 63-year-old, who considers himself "a Christian, a conservative and a Republican, in that order", will formally launch his campaign with a video, speech and townhall event in the early voting state of Iowa on Wednesday.

Launching his campaign will put Pence face-to-face with former President Donald Trump, reports the BBC.

Relations between the two soured after Trump turned on Pence for lacking "courage" after the latter refused to help overturn the 2020 election results. They have largely kept their distance since January 6, 2021, when pro-Trump rioters stormed the US Capitol and were heard chanting "Hang Mike Pence!".



On his part, Trump had said that Pence "very greatly disappointed me" on the day the electoral votes were certified. Calm and soft-spoken, Pence began his career in conservative politics as a talk radio host. He was elected to the House in 2000 and served

for debates against incumbent President Joe Biden in 2020. But Christie has become a critic of Trump since the Capitol riot, calling the latter "a TV star, nothing more, nothing less".

until 2013. When Pence was the Governor of Indiana from 2013-17, he passed the largest tax cut in the state's history and signed bills to restrict abortion and protect religious freedom. Besides Pence, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is planning to announce his candidacy on Tuesday at a town hall event in New Hampshire, where the first Republican primary election will be held.

Floods in Haiti kill 42, displace thousands

Port-au-Prince | Agencies

At least 42 people have died and 13,000 others displaced after heavy floods triggered by torrential rain inundated homes across Haiti, according to a statement issued by the country's Civil Protection Agency.

The statement issued on Monday said that 85 people were injured, while 11 others remain unaccounted for after intense rainfall over the weekend caused several rivers throughout Haiti to overflow, which in turn sparked flash floods, flooding, rockslides and landslides, reports CNN.

The displaced and mission persons were reported from five of Haiti's 10 departments: West, Nippes, South-East, North-West, and the Center.

"My government, in concert with national and inter-



national institutions, is taking urgent measures in order to meet the demands of the hour," Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry tweeted on Monday.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned on Monday that flooding could resume with more rain in coming days.

"In the event of another heavy rainfall, the water-logged soils will be unable to prevent further flooding, rockslides and landslides,

and the provisional death toll could rise even higher," CNN quoted the Office as saying.

The danger is expected to continue through hurricane season, which began on June 1. Meanwhile, emergency response teams and aid organisations have been mobilised.

"We'll start providing hot meals to displaced people in the coming hours & are mobilising ready-to-eat rations & dry food," the World Food Programme said in a tweet.

RUSSIA OPEN TO DIALOGUE WITH US ON ARMS CONTROL: KREMLIN

Moscow: Russia remains open to a dialogue with the US on arms control as it is "extremely important", but Moscow is waiting for specific proposals from Washington, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said.

During a daily briefing, Peskov called it "important and positive" the recent statement by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that the US is ready for nuclear talks with Russia without preconditions, Xinhua news agency reported. "We hope that it will be supported by actual steps through diplomatic channels. And then it will be possible to consider the proposed formats of dialogue," he told reporters. "It is very difficult to rely on statements to the press on such an important and sensitive issue, especially when we are experiencing an acute shortage of mutual trust in our bilateral relations," he said.

Ukrainian forces advancing around Bakhmut: Minister

Kiev | Agencies

Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar has confirmed that troops were making advances on the eastern front around the city of Bakhmut, which she described as the "epicentre of hostilities".

Without confirming if the much-awaited Ukrainian counter-offensive had started, the Minister in a social media post on Monday said that "despite stiff resistance and the enemy's attempts to hold their positions, our military units advanced in several directions during the fighting", the BBC reported.

She said in Orikhovo-Vasulivka and Paraskoviivka, Ukrainian troops gained from 200m to



1,600m, while in Ivanivske and Klishchiivka they advanced between 100m and 700m.

All four villages are located within several kilometres of Bakhmut and the battle for the city in the Donetsk region has been the longest and bloodiest of the war that began in February 2022.

On Tuesday night in his regular video message to the nation, President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked Ukrainian fighters for delivering "the news we

are expecting" on the Bakhmut direction.

"The enemy knows that Ukraine will win. They see it. They feel it thanks to your strikes, soldiers, and in particular in Donetsk region," he said.

In the early hours of Tuesday, air raid sirens were activated all over Ukraine, with officials in Kiev reporting that air defence systems were in operation in the capital region. Also on Tuesday morning, the Russian Defence Ministry said that Ukrainian forces had carried out a military operation in southern Donetsk on Monday in an attempt to advance, but it was stopped after the Ukrainians suffered "heavy losses", reports CNN.

AUSTRALIA UPDATES EL NINO STATUS FROM 'WATCH' TO 'ALERT'

Canberra | Agencies

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) on Tuesday shifted its El Nino outlook from "watch" to "alert", suggesting that there was a 70 per cent chance of an El Nino event developing this year.

"While the models show it's very likely the tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures will reach El Nino levels during winter, we have seen some movement in the atmosphere towards El Nino conditions," said BOM Senior Climatologist Catherine Ganter.

"While our El Nino alert criteria have been met, these changes will need to strengthen and sustain themselves over a longer period for us to consider an El Nino event," Ganter said.

During El Nino, there is a higher chance of drier weather in eastern Australia and it's more likely to be warmer than usual for the southern two-thirds of the country, reports Xinhua news agency.



But Ganter noted that even if an El Nino develops, its impact can vary depending on where people live, as well as from event to event.

On June 1, the BOM released its winter long-range forecast, noting that large areas of Australia are likely to see

below-average rainfall along with warmer temperatures from June to August.

The change in the status from "El Nino Watch" to "El Nino Alert" did not affect the long-range forecast by the BOM



AMRUTA FADNAVIS 'OFFERED' TO HELP EXTORTIONIST BOOKIE, FASHIONISTA: CHARGE SHEET

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have said that Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had offered to help out a bookie Anil Jaisinghani from the cases lodged against him if they were false as he claimed.

In its 733-page charge sheet filed before the Special ACB Court on May 18 -- some details of which are now available -- this conversation took place a couple of days after Amruta lodged a case against the fashionista Aniksha Jaisinghani, the (then) absconding bookie and her father Anil Jaisinghani.

The DyCM's wife had filed a complaint with Malabar Hill Police Station on February 20 after the sensational case blew up with allegations of bribes, extortion, blackmail, threats to Amruta by the Jaisinghani father-daughter duo.

The charge sheet includes an



exchange of certain WhatsApp chats between Amruta and the Jaisinghanis of Feb. 22 - two days after she lodged the police complaint.

In one such chat, Amruta assured Anil that "if you are wrongly framed, I can talk to Devenji (her husband Devendra) and tell him to do justice, but I can't succumb to the demands which Aniksha had made about earning illegal money. I know I have not done anything wrong and you and Aniksha, with an intention to blackmail me have operated from day one."

Amruta added that most of the

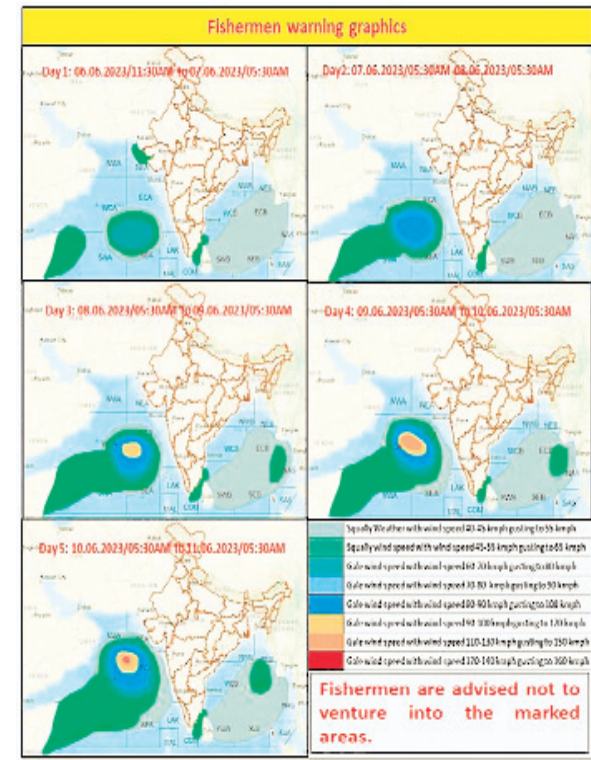
videos which Aniksha had threatened to use against her, would "defame me for some time", but after the truth came out, it would not have any effect. "If u are really doing it to get justice, then tell me what u really want me to do,"

Amruta asked Anil, who responded with several audio messages, as per the charge sheet. In another message, Amruta said even if she agreed to help out Anil, it was not because of the videos with which Aniksha had been blackmailing her. She demanded of Anil on what assurance he could provide that he would not start demanding more after the cases against him were withdrawn, the manner in which Aniksha had been insisting her to earn illegal money through betting rackets. Anil contended that Aniksha did what she thought would help him

get out of the cases and she had recorded the calls and meetings for their own protection and not to harm Amruta, and it was only information (on betting rackets) she wanted to pass on. In another chat, Amruta agreed to meet Aniksha to understand his cases and even assured to speak with Devendra after he finished the Pune (Assembly) bypolls campaign.

Amruta also contended that her relations with her husband (Devendra) had reportedly soured since 2019 and she apprehended a divorce after this case, as per the charge sheet. Incidentally, Amruta had blocked Aniksha a day before filing her police complaint and then Anil started communicating with the DyCM's wife. Among other things, Anil accused Amruta for accepting dollars from Aniksha at the office of a leading music and film production house and his daughter had given a bag of Rs 98 lakh to one of her (Amruta's) staffers.

CYCLONIC STORM MOVES NORTH IN ARABIAN SEA, MAY SKIRT MUMBAI: IMD



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A cyclonic depression forming in the south-east Arabian Sea is now moving towards the far north and will intensify over the east-central part in the next 12 hours, the IMD said here on Tuesday.

The depression is moving at a speed of 11 km/hour since this morning and is in the same region, around 950 km west-southwest of Goa, around 1,100 km southwest of Mumbai, 1,190 km south southwest of Porbandar (Gujarat) and 1,490 kms south of Karachi (Pakistan), said the IMD.

This depression is likely to move nearly northwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm over the east-central Arabian Sea and adjoining southeast areas over the next 12 hours, it added.

CBI files FIR against Mumbai Customs official, aides for corruption

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has lodged an FIR against Dinesh Fuldiya, the then Deputy Commissioner of Customs at UB Centre in Maharashtra's Raigad district and two of his aides, for allegedly clearing goods imported from Gulf countries without paying customs duty by engaging in unfair practices, an official said. Fuldiya, who is currently posted at DGARM, Mumbai, allegedly bought a washing machine, ceiling fan, microwave, Apple headphones, shoes, dairy milk products from Provile, and a massage chair using the bribe amount.

A senior CBI official said that they received a complaint regarding certain Customs clearing agents being involved in clearing goods without paying proper customs duty by using the



passports of individuals who spent two years abroad to receive items from Gulf countries and evade customs duty. It was revealed that the imported goods were significantly undervalued. The clearing agents in India, in collusion with their accomplices in Gulf countries and Customs officials, imported electronic items disguised as household items along with other unidentified goods.

The official mentioned that between December 2020 and August 2021,

Fuldiya conspired with Sudhir Padekar, Ashish Kamdar, and others to defraud the department.

"In this conspiracy, dutiable goods were imported under the 'Transfer of Residence' provision by private individuals, and the same goods were cleared without any charges. The clearing agents obtained passports from various individuals who had lived abroad for more than two years and used these passports to clear shipments of household items for other ineligible persons," said the official.

The official said that the reason behind using other people's passports was that, according to Customs provisions, individuals, who have lived abroad for more than two years, can import used household goods from abroad and claim exemption up to Rs 5 lakh under the Transfer of Residence Provision.

Mumbai man with knife in neck rides bike to hospital, survives; becomes social media hero

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

In a shocker, a Mumbai businessman stabbed with a rusty knife in the neck by his brother sped in a streak of blood on his motorcycle to a hospital 1 km away and survived the ordeal after getting timely treatment, police said here.

The incident occurred on June 3 morning when Tejas Jaydev Patil, 30, was stabbed in the neck by his younger sibling Monish, 28, when he was sleeping at their home in Sanpada suburb.

Displaying courage and presence of mind, Tejas, with the knife still sticking into his neck and profusely bleeding, called up his father-in-law in Ulwe where his wife had gone for some medical checkups, hopped onto his motorcycle and sped off straight to the MPCT Hospital emergency ward.

The medics immediately took him to the ICU where Dr. Prince Surana and his specialists' team comprising Dr. Vinod Pachade, Dr. Aditya Patil and Dr. Maunith Bhuta saw that



Patil had suffered an 8 x 1.5 cm deep wound and other injuries on the head, face, the knife had pierced 60 percent into the delicate right side area of the neck from which blood kept flowing out.

"We had to perform the surgery very carefully to remove the knife, while ensuring that no surrounding region or nerves or artery get damaged as it could lead to permanent disability or threat to life. The knife was completely jammed and it took a lot of pressure to remove it. It's a miracle there was no dam-

age to the carotid artery or the nerves in the area or else he would have succumbed instantly," the hospital head Dr. Surana told reporter. Patil underwent a four-hour long successful surgery. Fortunately, the knife missed jabbing any of the major blood vessels supplying blood to the brain or any critical nerves that could have caused permanent damage, added Dr. Surana.

He added that since Patil is recovering well, he is likely to be discharged on Wednesday or Thursday, even as the young patient has become a hero on social media networks for his guts and presence of mind to rush to the hospital on his own.

In his subsequent police statement, Patil said that his brother was a partner in his water tanker business, but also was an alcoholic due to which he did not concentrate on his duties. However, he is still not clear why Monish chose to make a life-threatening attempt on him. Meanwhile, the police have launched a manhunt for Monish who is absconding after committing the crime.

Impending cyclonic storm forces NCP to postpone Silver Jubilee bash

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Due to the possibility of a cyclonic storm building up with consequent rainy weather in the state, the Nationalist Congress Party has postponed its Silver Jubilee celebrations scheduled in Ahmednagar on Friday, a top leader said here on Tuesday.

Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar told mediapersons that the IMD has informed of a low-pressure zone forming on the west coast of the state with a high possibility of it turning into a cyclonic storm, Biparjy.

In such an eventuality, the IMD has predicted the likelihood of heavy rain lashing large parts of the state soon, even as the regular monsoon onset (June 10) has been delayed by four-five days.

"In order to avoid inconveniencing the NCP workers, office-bearers, the ordinary citizens and the administration, we have decided to postpone the party's 25th anniversary programmes at Kedgaon, Ahmednagar, scheduled on



June 9," Pawar said.

To mark the momentous milestone in its history, the NCP had planned a grand event in Ahmednagar which would have also served to kickstart the party's 2024 election campaign.

The party had planned to flex its political muscles with the top leadership, including NCP President Sharad Pawar and others, who were slated to address the massive gathering expected in Ahmednagar.

Matheran's Toy Train derails, all passengers safe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A toy train heading from Maharashtra's popular Matheran hill station to Neral has derailed, but no passenger suffered any injury, railway officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place at around 5.30 pm on Saturday when one of the wheels of the train's engine derailed near Jumma Patti station, located some 95 km from Mumbai, they said. This happened a day after the horrific triple train crash in Odisha in which 278 people died and 1,100 were injured.

The toy train, which left from Matheran at around 4 pm on Saturday, had 90 to 95 passengers onboard, the officials said. No passenger suffered any injury, a railway spokesperson said.

The passengers immediately de-boarded the train and left for their destination by cabs, he said.

The train was re-railed at around 9 pm and was brought back to Neral station, located at the foot of Matheran hills, by



10.30 pm, as per the railway staff.

The incident led to the cancellation of the last train from Neral to Matheran and hence, fares of the passengers of both the trains were refunded, he said.

The toy train moves on a slow speed and sometimes in case of derailment of coaches, the support staff travelling along with the train just lift them and

put them back on tracks, the spokesperson said.

A senior railway official said the toy train operation will be suspended between Neral and Matheran during the monsoon. The Neral-Matheran toy train is more than 100 years old. This is one among the few mountain railways (section) in India.

"Only False Assurances": Sanjay Raut slams centre amid row over railway 'Kavach'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday hit out against the Narendra Modi-led Central government over the Balasore train tragedy, demanding the government to fix responsibility for the incident. He also criticized Central government for too much talk about the indigenously developed anti-collision system 'Kavach' without actually widely implementing it. "They (Central government) talked about 'Kavach' but it's not there. They only give false assurances," Sanjay Raut said.

He pointed out the resignations of Madhavrao Scindia and Lal Bahadur Shastri from Railway ministerships when major train tragedies happened during their respective tenures.

"Madhavrao Scindia and Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned (from ministership) on moral grounds. Is it not the responsibility of the Central government and the railway minister," he asked?

Many opposition parties raised their criticism against the Modi government over the Balasore train tragedy. Many of the leaders also demanded the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Congress also questioned the Centre instituting a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) enquiry on the incident. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said that



the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), or any other law enforcement agency, cannot fix accountability for technical, institutional and political failures.

He said, "consistently flawed decision making has made travelling by rail unsafe and has in turn compounded the problems of our people."

"Unfortunately, the people in charge - your goodself and Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw - do not want to admit that there are

problems. The Railway Minister claims to have already found a root cause, but yet has requested the CBI to investigate. The CBI is meant to investigate crimes, not railway accidents. The CBI, or any other law enforcement agency, cannot fix accountability for technical, institutional and political failures. In addition, they lack the technical expertise in railway safety, signalling, and maintenance practices," read the letter from Kharge.

DIAMOND MERCHANT CHEATED OF RS 5.37 CRORE IN PROPERTY DEAL; THREE BOOKED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai police have registered a case against three people, including the owner of a construction company, for allegedly cheating a diamond merchant of Rs 5.37 crore in a property deal, an official told the news agency on Tuesday.

The diamond merchant had on Monday lodged a complaint with the Dadar police in central Mumbai, following which an offence was registered by the police, an official said.

A case under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code was registered, he said, according to the news agency.

According to the complainant, a fellow diamond merchant and his son, who also own a construction firm, had approached him in 2016 saying that they

were building a housing and commercial project at Vakola in the western suburbs and they required funds of Rs 3 crore, the official said, as per the news agency.

Against the sum, the accused promised to give the complainant floor space index (FSI) of 11,000 sq ft at Rs 5,000 per sq ft in the Vakola project and said they would draft an agreement for the same, he said.

The complainant initially gave the suspects Rs 2 crore and after a few days, paid an additional amount of Rs 12.5 lakh, the official said.

In February 2017, the accused persons again demanded money from the complainant, who transferred the same in installments, he said.

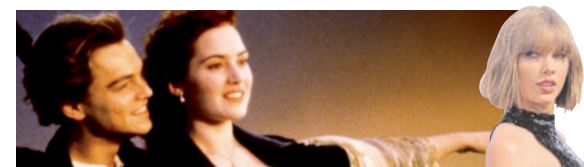
The complainant shelled out Rs 5.37 crore over a period of one and half years in the property deal, but did not get what

he was promised or get his money back, the official said, adding that no arrests have been made in this connection as yet.

Meanwhile, in another case in Thane, the police arrested three persons for allegedly cheating a businessman from Sawantwadi in Maharashtra of Rs 12 lakh by promising to get his money doubled quickly, an official said on Tuesday.

Four persons allegedly called the victim from Sawantwadi in Ratnagiri district to Bhiwandi in Thane on May 29 with Rs 12 lakh in cash, senior police inspector Sachin Gaikwad said.

When the victim came on a bypass road in Bhiwandi, one of the accused took Rs 12 lakh from him, while another accused walked along side claiming he had double the amount.



Beyonce splurges around \$2,500 at Chicken Shop for her pop-up event

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Beyonce Knowles spent 2,000 pounds (\$2,500) at fried chicken chain Chicken Shop. The 'Formation' singer curated an exclusive event at the FLANNELS x Beyonce Renaissance pop-up, which opened on London's Oxford

Street this week to mark her week of gigs in the city, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The pop diva treated her guests to 50 Straight Up Burgers, 20 Korean Vegan Burgers, 200 portions of three Naked Tenders, and 75 servings of fries, which were supplied by the chain's Baker Street restaurant. John Nelson, Chicken Shop

CEO, told BANG Showbiz: "At Chicken Shop, we're big fans of Beyonce and have watched in excitement as 'Bey-mania' swept London this last week, so it was an honour to know we were her Fried Chicken Shop of choice when it came to satisfying the cravings of her guests at the Flannels exclusive event. Our Baker Street team was totally

buzzed to serve over 300 meals for the big night!"

The brand shared photos of Beyonce's huge order on Instagram.

They captioned the post: "Bow down, because we're buzzing to learn Queen Bey is Crazy in Love with Chicken Shop fried chicken! That's right, @Beyonce catered her exclusive

event at Flannels X Beyonce Renaissance pop-up on Oxford St last night, treating all her guests to a helping of our Straight Up Burger, Naked Tenders and House Fries! Big up our Baker Street team who served up over 300 portions of delicious fried chicken fries like absolute pros #NextLevelFriedChicken."



Amber Heard to share 'her truth' about domestic abuse in explosive memoir

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Amber Heard is contemplating writing her autobiography. The 'Danish Girl' actress is reportedly keen to start "sharing her truth" with an explosive tell-all memoir, in which she would lay bare the details of her turbulent two-year marriage to Johnny Depp and their bitter court battle after he successfully sued her for defamation over an op-ed she wrote about being a victim of domestic abuse, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The 37-year-old actress - who is currently living in Madrid, Spain, with her two-year-old daughter Oonagh - would be looking for around \$15 million for her story but is ready to speak out after being harassed online during last year's trial, according to sources from RadarOnline.com. The insider said: "She won't be silenced. She feels she was treated very badly during the trial. She feels like she's the victim here."

Meanwhile, Camille Vasquez, one of the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor's lawyers for the trial, recently admitted she has thought about writing a book, in part about the legal battle, but stressed there's "nothing in the works at the moment."

She told People magazine: "We've thought about that. Ben [Chew, co-counsel] and I have joked that we should write a book together, maybe about the trial. I feel like my story is maybe half written. I feel like there's still a lot left to do. While the trial was a significant portion of my career... the real story about who I am and my path, there's still more to be written and to be done. I do have a title in mind. Maybe one day." Camille and the rest of Johnny's legal team have "often"

been in touch with the 59-year-old actor since the trial and are planning to attend one of his Hollywood Vampires gigs later this summer. She said: "The last time I spoke to [Johnny] on the phone was probably a few months ago, but we text often."



ELLIOT PAGE FINDS DATING MORE 'FUN' SINCE HIS TRANSITION

Los Angeles | Agencies

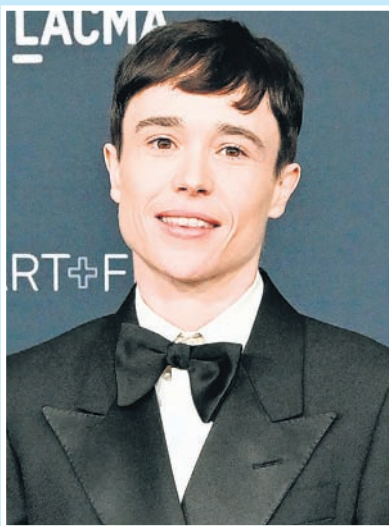
Actor Elliot Page is having more fun dating since his transition. The 36-year-old star, who was previously married to Emma Portner from 2018 until 2021, was born female and lived as Oscar-winning actress Ellen Page but came out as a trans man in December 2020 and has now revealed that he finds interacting with others "much easier" than before, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The actor told the LA Times, "It's the most fun I've ever had dating. Interacting with people feels so much easier and more connected, because I'm not feeling lost in myself and not seen in the right way. In the past, I always had an intense crush or fixated on an ex. Right now, there's none of that. Like, 'Whoa, I'm alone', and it feels really good."

However, 'The Umbrella Academy' actor remains unsure whether he wants biological children but is open to the idea of possibly adopting someone "older and in need of a home" in the future as he reflected on the "inspirational" change his own mother has gone through since he came out.

He added, "At least ones of my own, like, a baby and that whole thing. But in the future, who knows? I'd adopt someone who is older and needs a home and someone to love them. I think it's really inspiring that (my mother) has changed and become such an advocate and ally. It took her time to break out of the ideas she grew up with."

In terms of his career, Elliot remarked that he now wants to play characters that reflect himself in real life.



Emma Watson spotted with American businessman on Italian holiday

Los Angeles | Agencies

English actress Emma Watson has been spotted with an American businessman following her split from boyfriend Brandon Green.

The 'Harry Potter' star, 33, dated the son of one-time King of the High Street Sir Philip Green for 18 months before going their separate ways over the Christmas period, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The actress has now been enjoying a trip to Italy with Ryan Walsh as they visited Venice - a city she once spent time in with her ex-beau. Emma is said to love someone who can "match her intelligence" and has always had "brainy" boyfriends.

A source told The Sun, "From Brandon, who is an executive at his dad Philip Green's company, she has been linked to tech CEOs William 'Mack' Knight, Brendan Iribe and Brendan Wallace. Ryan is a very intelligent man too and Emma seems to be enjoying spending time with him."

The source further mentioned, quoted by 'Mirror.co.uk', "They have known each other for some time and now she is single she is making sure she enjoys herself."

Ryan is believed to work in tech and founded a consultancy firm in Los Angeles three years ago.

Since getting her degree from Brown's University after finishing the 'Harry Potter' franchise, Emma has since set up two film production companies and directed herself in a Prada commercial.



AL PACINO 'EXCITED' TO WELCOME FOURTH CHILD AFTER PATERNITY TEST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Al Pacino is looking forward to becoming a father again at the age of 83.

The Academy Award-winning actor will welcome his fourth child into the world in just a few weeks as his 29-year-old girlfriend Noor Alfallah is eight months pregnant, his spokesperson has confirmed.

Now an insider close to Al has claimed that he has "always loved" being a dad so is looking forward to the new arrival. "Al loves being a father and always has. He is excited. Being a parent is and always was an important part of Al's life," the insider told People, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Al and 29-year-old Noor, who previously dated Sir Mick Jagger and billionaire Nicolas Berggruen, have been romantically linked since April 2022 when they were pictured having dinner together.

The "Scent of a Woman" actor previously explained he "gets a lot" out of fatherhood and finds it "upsetting" not being involved in his children's lives. He told The New Yorker in 2014, "I'm responsible to them. I'm a part of their life. When I'm not, it's upsetting to me and to them. So that's part of the gestalt. And I get a lot from it. It takes you out of yourself."

Three years ago, Al's ex-girlfriend Meital Dohan admitted one of the reasons why their two-year romance came to an end was because the "Godfather" star - who is 39 years older than her - didn't want to have any more children.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joy Corrigan



WTC FINAL

INDIA AIM TO END ICC TITLE DROUGHT IN CLASH WITH FORMIDABLE AUSTRALIA

Agency | London

The Rohit Sharma-led India will be desperate to break their barren run in ICC events and win the coveted 'mace' when they face Pat Cummins' formidable Australia in the much-awaited World Test Championship (WTC) final at the Kennington Oval, here on Wednesday. Undoubtedly, India's team has been the most consistent one over the past two WTC cycles. They have also managed to reach knockout phases of major white-ball tournaments over the last 10 years but a trophy has eluded them. On the other hand, Australia will be looking to add to their enviable collection of world titles after missing a spot in the WTC final last cycle. As far as the competition between the two sides is concerned, India have dominated Australia in the recent past. They have won their last four Test series against Australia -- two at home and two away -- all by 2-1 margins. Once again, eyes will be on India skipper Rohit Sharma, who is coming from an ordinary form in IPL 2023 and will certainly have that pressure to lead from the front with the bat. However, a day before the start of the 'Ultimate Test', the 36-year-old was hit on the left thumb while batting in the nets. Rohit, who was taking throwdowns, was seen holding his left thumb following a hit in the nets but he did



not appear to be in pain or a lot of discomfort. The good thing for India is that Cheteshwar Pujara has spent a decent amount of time in England this season during his County stints. Not only batting, but his advice on pitch and weather will also be valuable to the team. And once again, there will be huge expectations from Virat Kohli, who had a superb IPL 2023 season with the bat. Ajinkya Rahane has also made his India comeback after an amazing IPL 2023 season with CSK and his experience will be valuable. India's top five batters are almost certain but there is a dilemma over the wicket-keeper's slot. K.S. Bharat's superior glove-work gave him the chance over Ishan Kishan during the home series against Australia, but in English conditions where keepers spend far less time up to the stumps negotiating a sharp turn and inconsistent bounce, India could be tempted to

back Kishan's counter-attacking skills and left-handedness. However, the biggest question the Indian team management faces, though, is whether to play four fast bowlers and just one spinner in Ravindra Jadeja or pair him with R. Ashwin. The likes of Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Umesh Yadav are likely to be India pacers for the all-important game. On the other hand, the Pat Cummins-led Australia have already confirmed that Scott Boland will take the place of injured Josh Hazlewood. Thus the rest of the spots in their XI almost pick themselves. In all likelihood, David Warner will open the innings with Usman Khawaja, followed by Marnus Labuschagne, Steven Smith, Travis Head, Cameron Green and Alex Carey -- which is a solid batting line-up. The mainstay of the Australian batting line-up -- Labuschagne and Smith -- were

also part of the County cricket in England this season and it will certainly help them in countering the Indian bowling line-up. And the likes of Pat Cummins, Scott Boland, Mitchell Starc, Cameron Green and Nathan Lyon, form a lethal bowling attack and will test the Indian batters for sure. As far as pitch and weather are concerned, the Oval track typically tends to offer plenty of bounce, which could enthrall bowlers, both fast and slow, on either side, as well as allow batters to play their shots if there isn't too much sideways movement. However, the ground has never previously hosted a Test match as early as June, so it will be interesting to see. The forecast promises a clear, bright start to the Test match but there could be rain on Saturday, Sunday and Monday -- the scheduled fourth, fifth and reserve days. Notably, both Australia and India have struggled at The Oval ground, which has hosted 104 matches so far. India have played 14 Test matches at this venue, winning two, losing three and drawing seven of them. The last time India played at The Oval, it won by 157 runs against England in 2021. On the other hand, Australia have played 34 matches at this venue, winning seven, losing 17, and drawing 14 of them. The last time it played at The Oval, it lost by 137 runs against England in 2019.

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, KS Bharat, Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, Cheteshwar Pujara, Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane, Mohammad Shami, Mohammad Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadakt, Umesh Yadav.

Australia: Pat Cummins (captain), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Michael Neser, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Josh Inglis, Todd Murphy, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, David Warner.

French Open: Sabalenka ends Svitolina's run to reach maiden semifinal in Paris



Agency | Paris

World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka ended the brilliant resurgence of former World No.3 Elina Svitolina in straight games to book her maiden entry into the women's singles semifinals at the French Open on Tuesday. Australian Open winner Sabalenka, who had never been past the third round in Paris in five prior appearances, defeated Svitolina 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals at the Roland Garros. For a place in her second Grand Slam final of the year, she'll

next face unseeded Karolina Muchova, herself a former Top 20 player, as the Czech beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in Tuesday's other quarterfinal. Facing Svitolina for the third time overall, and for the first time in three years, Sabalenka earned control of the match in the middle of each set. She won three straight games from 4-3 in the opener, after those seven went with serve, and won four in a row from 2-0 down in the second set. To replace Swiatek at the top of the rankings, Sabalenka must outperform the Pole here in Paris.

Muchova beats Pavlyuchenkova

Paris/Agency: Czech tennis player Karolina Muchova defeated 2021 finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2 in the French Open quarterfinal and booked herself a maiden spot in the final four on Parisian clay. With a win in an all-unseeded Roland-Garros quarterfinal between two former Top 20 players returning from injury, Muchova reached the second Grand Slam semifinal of her career, following the 2021 Australian Open. Muchova, whose career-high ranking is No.19, had fallen to No.235 last August. But her comeback has gathered pace this year: she had reached two WTA 1000 quarterfinals in Dubai and Indian Wells, as well as the last 16 in Rome, to rise back to her current ranking of 43. Her overall 2023 record now stands at 24-7.

Singapore Open: Rajawat causes upset; Srikanth advances as Sindhu, Saina, Prannoy, and Lakshya crash out

Agency | Singapore

On a day when top singles players PV Sindhu, H.S. Prannoy, Saina Nehwal and Lakshya Sen made their exit from Singapore Open 2023, Orleans Masters champion Priyanshu Rajawat started his campaign with a brilliant win over world No.15 Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan here on Tuesday. Seeded Kidambi Srikanth, the former World No.1 and World Championship silver medallist, and the men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also advanced to the second round in the BWF World Tour Super 750 event. In women's singles first round, London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal went down to seventh-seed Thai shuttler Ratchanok Intanon, the 33-year-old World No.33 losing 13-21, 15-21 in 33 minutes. Compatriot



Aakarshi Kashyap lost to Supanda Katethong of Thailand 17-21, 9-21.

Lakshya Sen put up a brilliant fight as he won the first game but lost the next two to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in three games, 21-18, 17-21, 13-21 in a match that lasted nine minutes over one hour. Rajawat, the 21-year-old World No.39, kept the Indian flag fluttering as he defeated Tsuneyama 21-12, 21-15 in straight games to enter Round of 16 on Tuesday playing at Singapore Indoor Stadium - 3. The Indian men's singles shuttler will face Japan's Kodai Naraoka in a pre-quarters encounter on Thursday. While Rajawat grabbed the spotlight, it was a mixed day in the event for India as ace Indian shuttlers Sindhu and Prannoy crashed out after suffering losses in their respective first-round matches. Coming into the tournament as the defending champion, Sindhu lost 21-18, 19-21, 17-21 to the reigning world champion and

No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the women's singles opening round BWF Super 750 event. This was Sindhu's tenth loss against Yamaguchi but she still leads the head-to-head tally against the Japanese 14-10. On the other hand, Malaysia Masters winner Prannoy failed to break his losing streak against world No. 3 Kodai Naraoka of Japan as he suffered a 21-15, 21-19 loss in the men's singles first round. This was Prannoy's fourth loss against the Japanese shuttler in as many matches. World No. 23 Srikanth defeated world No. 29 Kantaphon Wangcharoen of Thailand 21-15, 21-19 while the men's doubles pair of Arjun and Dhruv went past the French pair of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar 21-16, 21-15 in their first round. Rajawat, got the better of a higher-ranked player, quelling early resistance by his opponent.

Agency | Kakamigahara (Japan)

The Indian women's hockey team came from behind to record a thrilling 2-2 draw against Korea in their third game of the Junior Asia Cup 2023, here on Tuesday. Yujin Lee (15') and Jiyon Choi (30') found the back of the net for Korea, while Deepika Soreng (43') and Deepika (54') scored a goal each, enabling India to secure a draw and maintain their position at the top of Pool A. With a 1-0 lead, Korea entered the second quarter with an assertive approach and played a pressing game to dominate India with a 2-0 lead. The third quarter began with India upped their game and began bisecting Korea's backline, which paid off when Deepika Soreng (43') scored a field goal to pull one back for the team. Keen to hold on to their advantage, and were



focused on keeping possession of the ball in the fourth quarter, that didn't stop India from finding the equaliser as Deepika (54') calmly converted a penalty stroke to level the score. India will next play against Chinese Taipei in the fourth and last Pool A game on June 8.

Messi wants to return to Barcelona, says his father

Team Absolute | Madrid

Lionel Messi's father has said that if possible, his son wanted to return to FC Barcelona for next season. Jorge Messi made a brief declaration to the press while he was in Barcelona to meet with Barca president Joan Laporta over Lionel's possible move back to the club he left two years ago to join Paris Saint-Germain. "(Lionel) Messi wants to return to Barca and I would be delighted if he returned," confirmed Jorge on Monday, adding "It's an option: Am I confident he can return? Yes. This declaration follows words from Barca coach Xavi Hernandez, who said he would be delighted to welcome the 35-year-old back to the club, a Xinhua report said.



KSSM Shooting Championship: Rahi Sarnobat clinches gold

Bhopal: Olympian and reigning Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat is back with a bang in the domestic circuit, winning the women's 25m Pistol gold at the 21st Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial (KSSM) Shooting championship, here. Rahi, representing Maharashtra, shot 36 in the final on Monday, to emerge triumphant ahead of Esha Singh of Telangana, who shot 31 in the 50-shot final. The host state's Chinki Yadav was third with 28-hits. Rahi also topped qualification with a score of 582. Devanshi Dhama of Uttar Pradesh also shot the same score but was second on lesser inner 10s. Esha was third with 581. Haryana's Vibhuti Bhatia, won the junior women's 25m pistol with state-mate Tejaswini coming second and Maharashtra's Riya Shirish Thatte, third.



Jyoti Chouhan becomes first Indian player to score in Cup final in Europe



Team Absolute | New Delhi

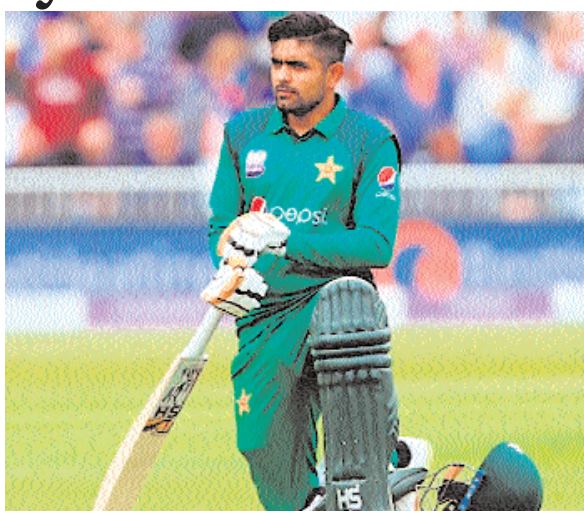
Jyoti Chouhan has made history in women's football becoming the first female player from India to score a goal in the final of a competition in Europe. Jyoti scored for her club ZNK Dinamo Zagreb in the final of the Croatia Women's Cup against ZNK Split on Sunday, according to reports reaching here on Monday. Jyoti, the first Indian player to score a hat-trick in European football, scored the second goal for her team soon after half-time on Sunday as they led 2-1. However, her effort went in vain as midfielder Aida Hadzic scored twice in the 74th and 87th minutes to

seal a 3-2 victory for defending champions Split. Jyoti has had an impressive stint with the Croatian club, scoring a hat-trick against ZNK Agram a few weeks ago. Jyoti, who hails from Sardapur in Madhya Pradesh, is on a year-long contract with ZNK Dinamo Zagreb, the ladies' side of multiple-time Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb, becoming their first overseas recruit before the start of this season. Till last year, Jyoti has represented Gokulum Kerala and helped win the Indian Women's League last season. She and her Gokulum teammate team mate Soumya Guguloth are the first overseas recruits of ZNK Dinamo Zagreb.

Babar Azam, Chamari Athapaththu lead ICC Player of the Month nominations

Agency | Dubai

International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday revealed the latest crop of outstanding international performers shortlisted as the candidates for the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month Awards for May. In the men's section, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has been nominated alongside Bangladesh batter Najmul Hossain Shanto and Ireland's middle-order batter Harry Tector. The Pakistan skipper and holder of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy is nominated for his perform-



ances at the latter end of his side's series 4-1 victory over New Zealand. Babar joined Imam-ul-Haq for a century second-wicket stand on May 3, finishing with 54 off 62 balls, as his side went on to post 287/6. The skipper stepped up a gear in the next match two days later, claiming Player of the Match honours in his side's 102-run win to go 4-1 up. He compiled 107 (117), his 18th ODI century, helping the hosts to 334/6. Bangladesh batter Shanto is shortlisted for the first time following a prolific spell of run-scoring as his side triumphed over Ireland. He claimed the Player of the

Series award for 196 runs across the tourists' hard-fought 2-0 sweep. Tector becomes Ireland's first nominee for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award since Paul Stirling was shortlisted back in January 2021 and his maiden nomination comes on the back of a sustained period of good form in international colours. Sri Lanka boasts two nominees for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for May. Captain Chamari Athapaththu led the side to series victories over Bangladesh in ODI and T20Is, scoring well in both formats.





Ileana D'Cruz & her 'baby nugget' enjoy soaking up some sun at beach

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mother-to-be and actress Ileana D'Cruz shared a picture dressed in a bright yellow bikini as she soaked up some sun in her "baby-moon".

Ileana took to her Instagram stories, where she shared some pictures having a gala time at the beach. Without revealing the destination, Ileana flaunted her blooming baby

bump in one of the images.

She captioned it: "Soaked up some lovely sunshine. Think baby nugget loved it too."

Other pictures showed her feet covered in sand and anklets made out of sea shells, which she captioned: "Sandy toes, happy heart".

Ileana made the announcement on social media about her pregnancy in April. However, she did not share the details about the father of her unborn child.

Earlier several reports claimed that

Ileana is dating Katrina Kaif's brother Sebastian Laurent Michel.

Guneet Monga Kapoor says 'Kathal' an effort to speak about absurdity of our reality

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Oscar winner Guneet Monga Kapoor has shared that her latest film 'Kathal', which stars Sanya Malhotra in the lead, is an effort to speak about the absurdity of our reality.

The film is a satirical comedy about a local politician whose prized jackfruits go missing and a young police officer (played by Sanya) is adamant to solve this bizarre case to prove herself.

The story is inspired by similar real-life incidents that have happened in the past, like an IAS Officer that cut practice sessions at a Delhi stadium short so that he could walk his dog. Guneet Monga Kapoor, who has co-produced the film, said, "When Yashowardhan Mishra (director) and Ashok Mishra (the writer) approached us with the idea of 'Kathal', Achin and I instantly knew this was a project Sikhya Entertainment could voice and lead. We made 'Kathal' with the hope of speaking about the absurdity of our reality, and with the headlines we're seeing now, it's all the more validating that sometimes reality is stranger than fiction."

The movie also stars Anant V. Joshi, Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav, Raghubir Yadav, Brijendra Kala, and Neha Saraf, in prominent roles. Director Yashowardhan Mishra said, "'Kathal' is a colourful bouquet of the bizarre that we see all around us nowadays. We wanted to make a sharp social satire which gently nudges the audi-



ences towards critical thinking about the world we live in." He added, "It's been really rewarding seeing the response and love for this quirky film of ours, and it's been an honour being able to tell this peculiar story based on true-ish events".

'Kathal - A Jackfruit Mystery', produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor's Sikhya Entertainment and Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, is streaming on Netflix.

Ayushmann invests in food trucks for Chandigarh LGBTQIA+ community

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is empowering the LGBTQIA+ community in Chandigarh by turning them into entrepreneurs on Pride Month.

Ayushmann has invested in building food trucks for the community so that they can become self-reliant through food business. The food trucks are being called 'Sweekar', a relevant take on the importance of acceptance for the community in today's society.

Dhananjay Chauhan, the first transgender student of Panjab University and an active voice for the community in the state, tweeted the pictures of the food truck and wrote: "Thank you so much Ayushmann Khurrana for supporting Transgender. Without your help our dream will never fulfil. Chandigarh Administration and Panjab University can provide a space to



Transgender to start Food Business."

Ayushmann said: "According to me, an actor should try and have a social responsibility. It is the love of the people that put us in a position where we can do our bit to empower people and communities thereby raising awareness on important issues. I have always believed that inclusivity is the primary pillar for nation building.

"Every individual must do their bit to help as many people as possible. We have to also encourage others to do the same. Once we realise how symbiotic we are as a society and how we can only thrive by being together, we will achieve our bigger goal of creating a harmonious, co-existing world that celebrates diversity." Ayushmann further said: "I'm thrilled that on the occasion of the Pride Month, this is a step to empower members of the transgender community in Chandigarh to become self-reliant by turning them into entrepreneurs. I will always support the LGBTQIA+ community in my own way."



Ridhi Dogra, Barun Sobti's ideas of love clash in upcoming series trailer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The trailer of their upcoming series "Badtameez Dil", which was unveiled on Monday, presents the journey of a girl who believes in old-school romance and a guy who is an ardent believer of modern-day love.

The trailer, which is 1 minute and 35 seconds in length, follows the opposing ideologies of its leads essayed by Ridhi Dogra and Barun Sobti. While Ridhi's character sticks to conventional methods of love, Barun's character has some twisted ideas about love as his characters says in the trailer, "Shaadi usse karo jisse dosti ho aur sex usse karo jo hot ho (marry someone whom you can call a friend, and have sex with the one who is hot)".

About "Badtameez Dil", Ridhi said: "Classic romance is such a feel-good emotion to capture on the screen and 'Badtameez Dil' has done that job perfectly! It portrays the problems that a lot of couples face

these days while falling in love, but they fail to resolve these differences and opt for the easy way out. I think 'Badtameez Dil' will definitely help a lot of audiences with a different perspective on how to tackle such issues."

She added: "There's a warm, familiar, happy, comforting feeling with old world romance. Stories about lovers and their unique love stories are forever loved and grab the audience's hearts. I am thrilled to say that this is my first ever rom com of any sort. I have never ever played a character like Liz. Coz I've never played a rom com heroine. I've always portrayed strong protagonists and trust me I am so looking forward to the audience seeing me in a genre that is the oldest genre in the world I have never been a part of."

Set in London, the show also stars Minissha Lamba, and Mallika Dua. The trailer takes the viewers on a rollercoaster ride of friendship, romance, heartbreak and family drama.

Shreyas Talpade: I was the second choice for most of my films

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Shreyas Talpade, who is known for his work in 'Kaun Pravin Tambe', 'Iqbal', 'Om Shanti Om' and the 'Golmaal' franchise, shared how all of his roles were given to him as a second choice after someone else had said no to them.

He made the revelation recently on his YouTube channel Ninerasas.

In the video, Shreyas thanked the stars for rejecting these roles as that paved a way for these opportunities to reach him.

He said: "I am so happy that I have got these opportunities, and I don't think that who was the first choice matters. If it's written in my destiny, it is bound to come to me, and I keep this positive outlook towards everything in life."

Shreyas is currently looking forward to being seen in upcoming movies Emergency, Kartam Bhuktam, and Single Salmaa. Another one of his amazing series is Majhi Tujhi Reshingaath.



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