

## After Imran Khan, ex-Pak FM Shah Mehmood Qureshi arrested: Report

Chennai, May 11 2023: Imran Khan arrest news: Pakistan plunged into violence and riots after the arrest of the former PM over multiple corruption cases.

Ex-Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi - a close aide of ex-prime minister Imran Khan - has been arrested in Islamabad, Pakistani broadcaster Geo TV reported Wednesday evening. News of Qureshi's arrest came hours after Imran Khan - whose arrest Tuesday sparked violent clashes and riots in that country - was remanded to the custody of a Pakistani anti-corruption agency for eight days in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust case. In initial reports Geo TV said Qureshi's arrest was part of the anti-corruption agency's 'crack down' on the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party led by Imran Khan, 70.

Apart from Qureshi, authorities also detained



Asad Umar, the PTI's secretary-general. Both are in a police station in the federal capital. Reports say cops are trying to arrest senior PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry as well. PTI leaders are being rounded up to maintain law and order, sources told the Pak broadcaster.

"The court has approved eight days of physical remand of Imran Khan," a lawyer for the ex-PM told news agency AFP on the phone after an Islamabad court's

closed-door hearing.

Shortly before that another court indicted him in the 'Toshakhana' corruption case - a separate matter that sees him accused of illegally selling state gifts received during his time as PM (2018-22) and stored in a national treasury.

Set up in 1974, the Toshakhana is a department that stores precious gifts given to Pak heads of state, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials.

Khan was sent to the custody of the National Accountability Bureau in the Al-Qadir Trust case, in which he is accused of looting 50 billion Pakistani rupees.

The NAB sought custody of Khan for 14 days and the court initially reserved its verdict, only to announce a U-turn and send the ex-PM to the agency.

Khan was arrested Tuesday and that was followed by massive protests across Pakistan, with his followers storming police stations and clashing with security forces. At least four deaths have been reported so far amid the fighting.

The Army has been deployed in Pakistan and nearly 1,000 people have been arrested in the province of Punjab, Pak's most populous, police told news agency AFP. "Police teams arrested 945 law breakers and miscreants..." officials said, adding 130 officials had been injured in the violence.

## Thank you to the people of Karnataka for coming out in large numbers to vote for a progressive future - Rahul

Chennai, May 11 2023: The state is mainly witnessing a three-cornered contest between the ruling BJP, the Congress and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular). As polling wound up Wednesday evening in the Karnataka assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi thanked the voters of the state and lauded party leaders for a "well-run, dignified and people-oriented campaign." Voting came to an end for the Karnataka Assembly elections at 6 pm, with data showing a turnout of 65.69 per cent till an hour before that.

"I want to thank the



Babbar Sher workers and leaders of Congress for a well-run, dignified and solid people-oriented campaign. Thank you to the people of Karnataka for coming out in large numbers to vote for a progressive future," he said in a tweet. According to the voter turnout figure for the polls to the 224-member Assembly,

Ramanagara recorded the highest turnout of 78.22 per cent, while the lowest polling was from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) South limits (parts of Bengaluru city) at 48.63 per cent, election officials said.

The state is mainly witnessing a three-cornered contest

between the ruling BJP, the Congress and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular).

A total of 5.31 crore electors were eligible to cast their vote. The EC set up 58,545 polling stations across the state, while there are 2,615 candidates are in the fray.

## On Karnataka exit poll results, Shivakumar says 'don't believe in these numbers'

Chennai, May 11 2023: Exit polls predicted a tight contest between the Congress and the BJP in the Karnataka Assembly polls with most pollsters giving an edge to the grand old party.

Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said he doesn't believe in exit poll results projecting a hung assembly in Karnataka and asserted that his party will get at least 146 seats in the 224-member House. Shivakumar, who contested from the Kanakapura assembly constituency, said the situation to form a coalition with any party will not arise.

Most pollsters have predicted a hung assembly with Congress emerging as the single largest party. However, India Today-Axis My India and News24-



Today's Chanakya have projected a clear majority for the Congress party. While India Today-Axis My India has projected 122 to 140 seats for Congress, Today's Chanakya has projected 120 seats with an error margin of 11 seats.

"My first reaction is that I don't believe these numbers (exit polls). I stand by my numbers that we will cross 146 seats. People are highly educated and are looking at larger interests because the double engine has failed in Karnataka. The situation will not arise

(to form alliance with any party)," Shivakumar said.

While the ABP News-C Voter exit poll predicted that the Congress would get 100-112 seats, BJP 83-95, JD(S) 21-29, the Republic TV-P MARQ forecast that the Congress will get 94-108 seats, the BJP 85-100 and JD(S) 24-32. The India TV-CNX exit polls gave the Congress 110-120 seats and the BJP 80-90 seats. They predicted 20-24 seats for the JD(S).

The TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat exit poll stated that the

Congress is likely to get 99-109 seats, the BJP 88-98 and the JD(S) 21-26 while the Zee News-Matrise Agency predicted that the Congress would get 103-118, the BJP 79-94 and the JD(S) 25-33.

The News Nation-CGS poll said the BJP would get 114 seats, the Congress 86 and the JD(S) 21. The Suvarna News-Jan Ki Baat forecast that the BJP was likely to win 94-117, Congress 91-106 and the JD(S) 14-24.

Times Now-ETG exit polls gave 113 seats to the Congress and 85 to the BJP. It predicted 23 seats for JD(S). The result of the three-cornered contest between the ruling BJP, the Congress and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular) will be announced on Saturday.

## 'Idiotic': Devendra Fadnavis rebuts Oppn on Eknath Shinde's future after SC verdict

Chennai, May 11 2023: Eknath Shinde has declined to comment, saying that he will only speak after the constitution bench of the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on Thursday.

The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government is stable and the opposition claim that Shinde will have to step down as chief minister after the Supreme Court verdict on the Shiv Sena's split was "idiotic", deputy chief minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday.

Shinde has declined to comment, saying that he will only speak after the constitution bench of the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on Thursday.

Fadnavis, however, responded to the buzz around the verdict. "The government is stable. Shinde will not resign. He will continue as chief minister and we will contest the next elections under his leadership," Fadnavis told reporters, an attempt to brush aside



the persistent rumours that Shinde will have to make space for BJP leaders.

Back in June last year, Fadnavis was widely expected to take oath as chief minister but was nudged to step aside by the BJP leadership to make space for four-time legislator Eknath Shinde.

It was argued that this would allow Shinde to stake his claim on the mantle of the Shiv Sena, dent Uddhav Thackeray's ability to hold on to his bastion in Mumbai in the civic polls, and rob him of his biggest argument against the rebellion: that the BJP would never make a Sainik the CM.

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut claimed the Supreme Court verdict will show whether the judiciary is independent or under pressure.

"The judgement will show whether there is democracy in the country, whether it is running as per the Constitution and whether the judiciary is independent or under pressure. We are awaiting justice," Raut told reporters. "One can say it will also indicate what is the future of the country," he added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said he believes in the Constitution. "Let's wait

for 24 hours," he said.

Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan said the verdict will show how effective the anti-defection law is. Chavan said he expected the Supreme Court to clarify the role of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution which seeks to prevent defections.

Shiv Sena legislator Sanjay Shirsat said he decided to back Eknath Shinde only after taking into account the legal position. "We rebelled (against Thackeray) only after examining legal aspects. The verdict will be within the framework of the Constitution," Shirsat said.

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## UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meets with The Kerala Story team in Lucknow. See pics

Chennai, May 11 2023: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath greeted the makers of The Kerala Story in Lucknow. The movie will be tax-free in the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with team behind The Kerala Story on Wednesday in Lucknow. Lead actor Adah Sharma, director Sudipto Sen, producer and creative Vipul Amrutlal Shah were present to talk and mingle with the political leader. A day earlier, the Hindi film was declared tax-free in the state. (Also read: The Kerala Story producer Vipul

Shah responds to backlash, says film 'is not against Muslims or Islam')

The team behind The Kerala Story met up with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in Lucknow

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In the meetup, the filmmakers along with Adah talking to the Chief Minister about the film. Vipul asked the politician to see the film. He is expected to watch the film in special screening with the rest of the cabinet at the Lok Bhawan on May 12.

Vipul told "Uttar



Pradesh government and Yogi ji have taken this step and boosted our morale a lot strengthened

our thinking. He has sent a very powerful message to the people due to audiences are watching

this film in large numbers. So we are very thankful to the CM that it happened."

Sudipto added, "We came to thank the Honorable Chief Minister to declare the

film tax-free and giving a chance to the citizen of Uttar Pradesh to watch this film."

Released in theatres on May 5, there have been calls to ban the film in states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Kerala Story also stars Yogita Bihani, Siddhi Idnani and Sonia Balani in lead roles.

Earlier, producer Vipul shared that the Hindi film is not 'against Muslims or Islam' but against terrorism instead. They had made the film to share stories of victims and their families. He also revealed that many people had changed their mind after seeing the

film and had apologised afterwards.

The Kerala Story crossed the ₹ 50 crore mark on its fifth day of release, earning ₹ 11.14 crore on Tuesday at the box office. It has earned ₹ 56.86 crore at the domestic box office so far and will be released internationally on May 12.

On Tuesday, Malayalam actor Tovino had questioned the facts presented in the film. He had said, "I'll not deny the fact that this happened. But three out of 35 million — cannot be generalised and giving misinformation is very bad."

## GOP Rep. George Santos arrested on 13 federal charges, including theft and fraud



Chennai, May 11 2023: NY Republican Rep. George Santos arrested on 13 federal charges, including theft, fraud, money laundering, and making false statements.

According to an announcement by the Department of Justice, Republican Representative George Santos of New York has been apprehended on multiple federal charges. The charges include 13 counts such as theft, fraud, money laundering, and making false statements. Santos is accused of falsifying his life story, deceiving people about his finances, and enticing his supporters to donate money to a company he managed, which he then utilized for personal expenses such as luxurious clothing and credit card bills. Additionally, he allegedly lied about his finances on congressional disclosure forms and received unemployment benefits while being employed at an investment firm and running for Congress. Newly elected Republican Representative from New York George Santos attends the US House of Representatives voting

for new speaker at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. Santos, whose extensive lies have made political headlines since his election last year was arrested and charged by federal prosecutors on May 10, 2023. Santos was charged with seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public funds, and two counts of making materially false statements to the House of Representatives.(AFP)

(FILES) In this file photo taken on January 04, 2023 Newly elected Republican Representative from New York George Santos attends the US House of Representatives voting for new speaker at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. Santos, whose extensive lies have made political headlines since his election last year was arrested and charged by federal prosecutors on May 10, 2023. Santos was charged with seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public funds, and two counts of making materially false statements to the House

of Representatives.(AFP)

Even before assuming his role in office, Santos had found himself embroiled in several scandals. He claimed to be a successful Wall Street dealmaker with a significant real estate portfolio and a former college volleyball star, but none of it was true. In reality, he had never worked for any of the major financial institutions he had previously claimed to be associated with, nor had he attended college. Moreover, his financial struggles prior to his political career raised questions about the source of the large sum of money he claimed to have loaned his campaign and affiliated political action committees.

On Wednesday morning, Santos was taken into custody and currently remains in detention. He is scheduled to be arraigned on Wednesday afternoon at the federal court in Long Island, New York. The indictment accuses Santos of masterminding a scheme to deceive supporters of his congressional campaign into sending

money to a company he managed in Florida, which he then used for his personal expenses. According to reports, thousands of dollars in campaign donations were spent on Santos' extravagant designer clothing and credit card bills.

In spite of bipartisan pressure to resign, the newly-elected Republican representative, George Santos, announced his intention to run for reelection in 2024. Santos' fellow New York Republicans have called for his resignation following the revelation of his fabrications, and some have amplified their criticisms since the news of his criminal charges became public.

In a statement, U.S. Attorney Breon Peace stated that the indictment is meant to hold Santos accountable for multiple alleged fraudulent schemes and blatant misrepresentations. Peace added that the combined allegations in the indictment accuse Santos of relying on repeated dishonesty and deceit to reach the halls of Congress and enrich himself.

## Punjab and Haryana HC quashes govt's order to remove Jalalabad municipal council chief



Chennai, May 11 2023: The Punjab and Haryana HC has quashed the February 17 order of the Punjab government removing Vikas Deep, president of the Jalalabad municipal council.

Chandigarh

The Punjab and Haryana high court has quashed the February 17 order of the Punjab government removing Vikas Deep, president of the Jalalabad municipal council.

"In view of serious allegations raised against the petitioner, conscientious exercise in accordance with law should have been undertaken and an order having serious consequences should not have been passed in a lackadaisical manner. An order of such nature should reflect reasoning with seriousness the matter deserves," the bench of justice Lisa Gill and justice Ritu Tagore observed remanding back the matter to the state government to decide the same afresh after considering the facts

and circumstances.

The court said a copy of vigilance report and any other material relied on be supplied to the petitioner within a week who shall be at the liberty to respond within a week thereafter. The matter be decided within two weeks thereafter, the bench said.

Congress' Vikas Deep was removed as the Jalalabad municipal council on February 17 this year and on February 27, Natalia Mukhija, a Congress turncoat, was elected as the president.

In the high court, Deep had blamed Jalalabad AAP legislator Jagdeep Goldy Kamboj for his removal. It was alleged in the plea that a complaint alleging bungling in the development works by nagar council, Jalalabad, and nagar panchayat, was filed by Kamboj before the chief minister.

A vigilance inquiry was marked on the basis of the complaint. The petitioner was never

associated with the inquiry by the vigilance and after this one-sided exercise, the chief vigilance officer submitted a report on the basis of which show-cause notice was issued in October 2022. He was not issued copy of the vigilance report and subsequently in February, he was removed with the orders of principal secretary, local government department.

The court observed that perusal of the removal order would reveal that there is copious narration of facts by the authority. Reference has been made to the report of chief vigilance officer. Reference was also made to comments of the CVO, which were called for by the authority, besides reply to the show-cause notice issued to the petitioner.

"Thereafter, while referring to comments of the chief vigilance officer, it is observed that allegations of misuse of power and

misuse of funds of MC Jalalabad are proved. Non-application of mind by the authority in question is reflected clearly as there is not a shred of reasoning available," the bench observed, adding that there was nothing on record to indicate that the relevant record was looked into, examined and considered by the competent authority before passing the removal order.

It also recorded that the petitioner was a democratically elected candidate and serious allegations of misuse of his position were levelled against him. "It is a settled position of law that it is necessary to supply to the affected person, the entire material on which reliance is placed as admitted serious consequences flow from such orders, therefore a casual approach cannot be countenanced in any manner," the bench observed on the argument that he was not even provided with the vigilance report.



## Talent and infleuncer marketing platform Social Edge launches their grooming school iGlam with Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali at Amir Mahal

Chennai, May 11 2023: Social Edge, an innovative and futuristic branding platform which taps and creates influencers from local talent will be providing a one stop solution to clients with all aspects of branding to enhance returns while investing in people who are from Tamil Nadu.

The journey is driven by the force of grooming the local talents towards global standards, rather than brands outsourcing from other cities and states, we want to build the best from our own culture and state.

Mr Vinayak Gupta states, "While coming from a Marine and a



diversified corporate background in senior roles, it is my passion which brings me to embark on the Journey of branding and curating while understanding the needs to a corporate. We want to work with multiple channel partners to make this a success, from fashion designers to choreographers!"

Laying the right

Foundation is the most critical, therefore we are starting as of today our own School by the name of 'iGlam by Social Edge' in Chennai - Tamil Nadu, which has a rich cultural heritage and a huge potential for talent, here we will monitor the grooming from the start of our students who will become our Brand Ambassadors of

tomorrow representing us in various platforms including beauty pageants, modelling, acting, influencer marketing and more.

"I have always focused on grooming as an important tool in bringing yourself to the top of the chain. Our school will help individuals to be presentable, hygienic, pageant and silver screen ready, while social edge will represent them and their rights." Says Ddevjani founder of iGlam. iGlam school's first batch is starting 1st June We look forward to be working with more and more who align with our vision.

## Meeting of Heads of Railways Administration of SCO Member States held under the Chairmanship of India

Chennai, May 11 2023: A Meeting of Heads of Railways Administration of SCO Member States was held from 8-10 May 2023 under the Chairmanship of India.

The Meeting was attended by the Heads and Representatives of the Railways Administration of the SCO Member States (Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of



Pakistan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan).

The meeting was chaired by Ms Jaya Varma Sinha, Member (Operations &

Business Development), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways.

The SCO Member States adopted the Work Plan for 2023-2025, approved the

draft Action Plan for implementation of Concept of Interaction between Railway Administration of the SCO Member States.

The deliberation focused on improving regional rail connectivity, Infrastructure development, Multimodal transportation, Use of latest technology including digitization for facilitating trade and economic activities among the SCO Member States.

## Jitendra Singh chairs the first Steering Committee Meeting of Deep Ocean Mission

Chennai, May 11 2023: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that in the years to come, "Blue Economy" will be major contributor to India's overall economy and the Deep Ocean Mission announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the core component of it.

The Minister was chairing the first-ever high-level Steering Committee Meeting of Deep Ocean Mission today at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi. The Committee consists of Union Ministers of State



of Environment, External Affairs, Defence and Finance in addition to Vice Chairman NITIAayog.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Deep Ocean Mission is part of Government of India's Blue Economy initiative. The mission, said the Minister, heralds India's ushering into an era of "Blue Economy" which is going to play a major part in building India's overall economy during the years to come.

The Deep Ocean Mission is a high-level multi-ministerial, multi-disciplinary programme for better understanding

of the deep sea living and non-living resources of the Indian Ocean and will aid in India's efforts to attain the Blue Economy status.

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State, Ministry of Defense, Suman K Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood,

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and other senior officers of various ministries attended the meeting.

The Mission Steering Committee (MSC) is the highest Policy making body constituted under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM). The MSC will provide broad policy direction to the mission and exercise the main programme and governance for the deep ocean sector and advise the other committee in policy and implementation strategies. The MSC chaired by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today reviewed the progress of DOM of various components.

## Business Mint hosted a momentous Nationwide Awards Event in Chennai

Chennai, May 11 2023: The Business Mint, a leading market research company founded by Mr. Vinay Kanth Korapati, hosted its 45th Nationwide Awards ceremony for the first time in Chennai. The event took place on 10th May, 2023 at Hotel Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chennai.

The event was a grand success, with an impressive turnout of 300 delegates and 100 participants. Nominations for the awards came pouring in from various industries, including Healthcare, Real Estate, Hospitality, Fintech, IT, Design and Architecture, e-commerce, Education, and more.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including A. M. V. Prabhakara Raja,



Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Virugambakkam, Chennai, and Nitinsathya, an accomplished actor and film producer.

Ms. Anjana - Founder of Lead To Animation; Dr. Rajarathna Thangavel - Founder & Director of Eyementor; Mr. Marshall Emmanuel John - Proprietor of The Pinnacle Foundation; Mr. Tharun Vikash Babu - Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Tharun Vikash Properties; Ms. Priyanka Gupta, Digital Strategy

Product Manager - IIFL Home Finance Ltd received the awards along with other awardees.

The Business Mint Nationwide Awards platform for exploring networking opportunities and nurturing talents, which in turn stimulate the growth of economic entrepreneurship and add a significant portion to the nation's GDP. The event highlighted the remarkable range of these awards, which constantly motivate, acknowledge, and

encourage the achievers of various industries.

"We are thrilled to have organized the 45th Nationwide Awards ceremony in Chennai and are extremely grateful to all the participants, guests, and sponsors who made this event a grand success," said Mr. Vinay Kanth Korapati, Founder of The Business Mint. "We look forward to continuing to recognize and honor outstanding achievements in various industries and contribute to the growth of the nation's economy."

The Business Mint Nationwide Awards is one of the most prestigious award ceremonies in the country, and the success of this year's event is a testament to its growing popularity and influence.

## Two-day 'Operation Vigil': 177 FIRs registered against drug smugglers, criminals, say Punjab Police



Chennai, May 11 2023: Punjab Police registered 177 FIRs against anti-social elements and drug smugglers across the state under its two-day special operation 'Operation Vigil', which began on Tuesday.

The special DGP said the purpose of conducting the state-wide operation was to boost public confidence and increase the presence of the cops to deter anti-social elements.

The special DGP said the purpose of conducting the state-wide operation was to boost public confidence and

increase the presence of the cops to deter anti-social elements. (HT Photo/ Sameer Sehgal)

Punjab Police registered 177 first information reports (FIRs) against anti-social elements and drug smugglers across the state under its two-day special operation 'Operation Vigil', which began on Tuesday.

Special DGP, law and order, Arpit Shukla said police teams recovered 2.5kg heroin and over three quintals of poppy husk, besides, other narcotics, pharma drugs and huge quantity of illicit

liquor and lahan (raw material used to make liquor) during the state-wide operation.

Over 17,500 cops under the supervision of gazetted-rank officials conducted checks at 185 railway stations, 230 bus stands, 1,198 hotels/serais and 715 market places/malls across the state. During the operation, 3,405 suspected people were rounded up for questioning, police said in a statement.

A total of 79 inter-state and 318 inter-district hi-tech nakas (checkpoints) were also set up in the state for thorough search of

suspected vehicles/persons, while ensuring minimum inconvenience to people, said the special DGP, adding that police teams have issued challans to 1,596 vehicles, besides impounding 60 vehicles.

The special DGP said the purpose of conducting the state-wide operation was to boost public confidence and increase the presence of the cops to deter anti-social elements. Police teams have carried out at least 221 flag marches across the state during this two-day operation, he added.