

## Egypt's former leader Mubarak freed, six years after overthrow: Lawyer



**Egypt (KC):** Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president overthrown in 2011 and the first leader to face trial after the Arab Spring uprisings that swept the region, was freed on

Friday after six years in detention, his lawyer said. He left the Maadi Military Hospital in Cairo where he had been detained, heading to his home in Heliopolis.

"Yes, he is now in

his home in Heliopolis," Mubarak's lawyer, Farid El Deeb told Reuters when asked if Mubarak had left the hospital. Heliopolis is an upscale neighbourhood

where the main presidential palace from which Mubarak once governed is located. The 88-year-old was cleared of the final murder charges against him this month, after facing

trial in a litany of cases ranging from corruption to the killing of protesters whose 18-day revolt stunned the world and ended his 30-year rule. Mubarak was initially arrested in

April 2011, two months after leaving office, and has since been held in prison and in military hospitals under heavy guard. For all the latest World News, download Indian Express App now.

## Odisha seeks additional central forces

**BHUBANESWAR(KC):** With massive deployment of Central forces on the other side of Odisha border, the State Government has pressed the Ministry of Home Affairs for mobilisation of two more battalions of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to strengthen anti-Maoist operations.

Currently, 16 battalions of Central forces are present in the State. However, their number in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand is over 100 battalions which has created an imbalance of sorts.

Director General of Police KB Singh, who had a meeting with Special DG (Central Zone) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Kuldeep Singh here on Thursday, also raised the matter and requested that two battalions be mobilised by the Centre for augmenting counter-Maoist operations in southern and western parts of the State.

Of the 16 battalions of Central forces de-

ployed in the State, eight are from CRPF while one is a CoBRA unit.

Singh said the State Police has proposed joint operations with CoBRA battalions in areas bordering Chhattisgarh. "We are re-evaluating the locations and planning to change the strategies of anti-Maoist operations as movement of Red rebels has been reported from

newer areas, specially in Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput," he said. The rebels killed two tribals in a space of one week in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts and both were targeted because of their perceived proximity to police. The DGP said police are also looking to assess the areas which are potential targets of the Maoists so that security measures could be augmented. The meeting also discussed how civilian lives could be protected in Malkangiri, Rayagada and Kalahandi.

In Niyamgiri hills of Rayagada and Kalahandi, the CPI (Maoist) has killed at least six tribals in the last one year.

Maoists to establish better courier system

The DGP also acknowledged that continued pressure from Central forces on the Maoists in neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand has forced the rebels to seek haven in newer areas in



Odisha. "This is the reason why we have sought more forces so that the mismatch in deployment could be reduced," Singh told this paper.

The meeting was attended by ADG (Intelligence) Sunil Roy, IG (Operations) RP Koche, IG CRPF KK Sharma, DIG, Special Intelligence Wing Narasingh Bhola and DIG, CRPF TN Khuntia.

## Odisha panchayat polls: BJD claims win in 220 blocks

**BHUBANESWAR(KC):** The process of panchayat polls came to a close on Thursday with election to the posts of vice-chairperson of panchayat samitis. Meanwhile, the BJD claimed that candidates supported by it won in 220 of 307 blocks where polling was held.

The BJP, which emerged as a serious challenge to the ruling BJD in Zilla Parishad (ZP) elections, has been able to win panchayat samiti vice-chairperson posts in 28 blocks. However, several BJP leaders claimed that candidates supported by the party have won in more than 50 blocks.

In Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj districts where the BJP had

swept the ZP elections, the BJD has emerged winner in panchayat samiti vice-chairperson polls.

While BJP supported candidates have won in five blocks, JMM supported candidate has won in one block.

After the announcement of results of panchayat samiti vice-chairperson elections, Congress claimed that the party's grassroots support base has not eroded. In the election to panchayat chairperson posts, BJD supported candidates had won in 218 blocks, while Congress backed candidates had won in 45 blocks. BJP candidates had won the posts in 29 blocks while Independent and others had won in 15 blocks.

## NEET exam to be conducted in 103 cities this time: HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar



**NEW DELHI(KC):** The government has increased the number of cities where the NEET examination would be conducted from 80 to 103 to make it easier for the students to reach the venues.

A mobile app has also been developed to help the nearly 12

lakh students, who are expected to take the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test or NEET, locate the nearest test venue.

"The NEET examination, which is a medical entrance test that was conducted by the CBSE, got a better response. Therefore we have

increased number of city centres," HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters outside the Parliament.

"Earlier it was conducted in 80 cities. Now we have increased to 103 cities with thousands of centres and the new choice to the students

for selection of nearby cities have been given. The exams are being conducted under the Health Ministry guidelines," the HRD minister said.

The number of students appearing for the examination has also increased from 8 lakh to about

12 lakh this time, he said.

The HRD Minister said that an App has been made to help students locating the nearest examination centre.

Health Minister JP Nadda said "We have also included regional languages in the test. CBSE has

agreed for this and accordingly the number of examination centres have also been increased."

Thanking Javadekar, Nadda said that increasing the number of cities having examination centres is a great relief for students.

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Shahid Kapoor with his wife Mira.

**Kaatru Veliyidai music review: Rahman of yore is back, for most parts**

**Mumbai(KCN):** It's been four days since Mani Ratnam and AR Rahman dropped their soundtrack for the former's upcom-

ingly persistent sense of Déjà vu throughout the soundtrack; each one reminding the listener of one of Rahman's own earlier

brief yet effective A Capella intro, only to be joined by an affably eager string set, augmenting Arjun Chandy, Haricharan

brand of singing has the kind of soulfulness that one has come to associate with the ever-so-dependable Shreya

the trademark scale shifts. One could visualise Rahman drowning in his own tranquil excellence. Haricharan and

OST is 'Saarattu Vandiyala'. The absolute gem is the closest we have got to the 90's Rahman an entire generation grew



ing directorial, 'Kaatru Veliyidai,' out for public savouring.

Four days on, the album is still unravelling itself, as has been oft stated, to grating effect, while personifying a Rahman soundtrack. But as repetitive as the phrase has come to be, it surprisingly still holds credence, much courtesy its creator's enviable consistency.

'Kaatru Veliyidai' is not novel, innovative or sensational for that matter. What it is, however, is a piquant concoction of all the musical elements indigenous to Rahman. This one is truly for the fans, the old ones and new.

There's a furi-

gems.

'Nallai Allai' starts off with an ambient melody that takes one back to his gorgeous 'Mannipaaya' from his universally acclaimed work for Gautham Menon's 'Vinnai Thaandi Varuvaaya'. The gorgeously crafted strings base might seem too good for the misleadingly insipid melody on first listen, however Rahman's decision to go for a melody that might seem 'too simple' for some, grows on you gradually. A lot of the credit must also go to Sathya Prakash and Chinmayi.

'Azhagiye,' which had been the first song to be released, is the quirkiest of the lot, starting off with a

and Jonita Gandhi's dedicated vocal collective. The Punjabi interlude, alluding to the film's pan-Indian cinematic, might stick out but blends in thanks to an otherwise cracker of a composition, which culminates in a euphorically harmonic crescendo.

'Vaan,' the film's grand love ballad, has the quintessential romanticism of Rahman, reminding you of songs right from the evergreen 'Ennavale' to the relatively more recent 'Sahara Pookkal'. The orchestration has the intricate hands of Rahman running wild all over it, with an infectious bass line running gleefully amok through the song. Shashaa Tirupati's

Ghoshal, but her effectiveness is such that you don't miss the latter, 'Vaan' being the kind of song that would go to Shreya, on any other day.

'Tango Kelaayo,' possibly the weakest song of the lot, albeit a competent composition, is eerily reminiscent of ARR's superlatively genius yet gruesomely underappreciated 'Hawa Hawa' from 'Rockstar,' thanks to the parallels derived between their shared Latino skeleton and orchestral structure. However, the song suffers from the clamouring of multiple layers, which often might seem forceful. The song has his inimitable 'Ragabhedams' and

Diwakar are adequate, yet seem unfairly inconsequential in front of the vehemently outperforming Rahman base they croon against.

'Jugni,' a completely North Indian number, have the excitable Tejinder Singh and Rahman himself behind the mic. The song has a visible 'Slumdog Millionaire' hangover, but it works like a dream, thanks to its Electronica-driven orchestration, which takes one back to Rahman's achingly nostalgic-triggering 'Hey Goodbye Nanba' and 'Yakkai Thiri' from Mani Ratnam's own 'Ayutha Ezhuthu'.

However, all said, done and revisited, the star of the

up to admire, in a long, long time. The spunky melody is rooted firmly to all things folk, reminding one of his ever-so-young soundtrack for 'Taj Mahal'. Tipu, Rahman, Nikitha Gandhi and AR Raihanah are perfect, complementing each other with much panache. The avid fan will find it really, really hard to let go of this one.

'Kaatru Veliyidai' might not be Rahman's best of works, but it still reiterates his unparalleled, orchestral charm and gives you that Déjà vu, you so often have been craving. At that, it excels, and how!

# Maruti Suzuki hikes prices by up to Rs 8,014 with immediate effect

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Friday hiked prices of its entire product range

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement. "The hike in car prices is because of increase in com-

modity, transportation and administrative costs," it added.



modity, transportation and administrative costs," it added. 5 Instances Of BJP-Shiv Sena Standoff

between Rs 2.45 lakh and Rs 12.03 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). In August last year, MSI had hiked the prices of its compact SUV Vitara

the price hike was between Rs 1,500 and Rs 5,000. Last year, various car makers like Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra &

Brezza by Rs 20,000 and that of premium hatchback Baleno by Rs 10,000. On a select range of models,

Mahindra, Nissan, Toyota, Renault, Mercedes-Benz India and Tata Motors had announced hikes

# India's investors brace for taxation hike, less friendly budget

**Mumbai(K-CN):** India's investors brace for taxation hike, less friendly budget Among the potential to raise tax measures could involve a second consecutive annual hike in the Securities Transaction Tax for futures and options markets, currently set at around 0.05 percent for every 10 million trades.. (Representational image)

Investors in India are bracing for higher taxes and fewer incentives from the government's annual budget on Feb 1 as the focus shifts to wringing out revenues to finance giveaways and higher public investment. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is widely seen as being friendly to businesses and investors, it not expected to announce any dramatic moves at a time when the economy is under pressure from a cash squeeze.

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5 Instances Of BJP-Shiv Sena

Standoff Among expected measures are a hike in a transaction tax on

ernment on Friday provided some, but not all, key clarifications. lower corporate tax rates or provide incentives to sectors hit by government's sur- improve India's competitiveness rankings and attract foreign investors," said Rajesh creased since Modi said in December that market participants needed to make a at around 0.05 percent for every 10 million trades. India could also lower the

stock derivatives trading and a less beneficial approach to long-term capital gains tax exemptions, according to analysts. India could also provide additional details for new rules in April that will crack down on tax havens, after the gov-

Foreign portfolio investors are also seeking clarity behind "indirect transfer" rules that could increase tax liabilities for overseas funds. But any negative impact from such measures could easily be offset should the government also

prise decision in November to abolish high-value banknotes, analysts said. "We can certainly see a sensitivity for investor concerns, and the government wants to do things like ease the cost and complexities of doing business,

H Gandhi, a tax partner at Deloitte Haskins & Sells. "However, at the same time the government has revenue pressures as it seeks to meet its fiscal targets." Expectations for higher taxes for investors have in-

## Sania Mirza-Ivan Dodig through to Australian Open mixed doubles final

Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Ivan Dodig made their way to the mixed

Sebastian Cabal in the final who got the better of Elina Svitolina/Chris

out. Before the start of the second set, Groth received treat-



doubles final at the Australian Open by getting the better of the Aussie pairing Samantha Stosur-Sam Groth. In a contest that lasted an hour and 18 minutes, Mirza-Dodig emerged triumphant by 6-4, 2-6, 10-5.

Stosur and Groth had earlier beaten the much fancied but wildcard pairing of Leander Paes and Martina Hingis in the previous round.

Mirza and Dodig will face Abigail Spears/Juan

Guccione 7-6, 6-2 in the other semifinal on Margaret Court Arena.

India's other mixed doubles pairing in Rohan Bopanna and Gabriela Dabrowski had lost in the quarterfinals to Mirza-Dodig.

In the semifinal, all four players struggled with their serves with as many as seven breaks of serves - five of them coming in the opening set with the men struggling to serve it

ment on his neck and was forced into taking a medical timeout with the physio tending to him for an extended period.

In the deciding match tiebreak, Dodig served out with an ace and a strong serve to give the Indo-Croatian pairing an 8-3 lead. Mirza would then go on to close the match on the second set point opportunity with Dodig playing well at the net to hit the volley into Stosur's body.



"fair contribution" to nation-building, without providing any details.

Among the potential measures could be a second consecutive annual hike in the Securities Transaction Tax for futures and options markets, currently set

time threshold for long-term capital gains.

Currently, investments sold after at least a 12-month holding period are exempt from taxes, while anything below that is taxed at up to 20 percent of the gains.

For foreign investors, the budget is expected to provide guidelines behind the General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) that will start in April that are intended to crack down on tax avoidance.

The government eased some of the doubts on Friday by saying that GAAR would not apply for foreign investors based in a jurisdiction for genuine commercial reasons, while saying investors meeting key conditions of individual tax treaties would not be subject to GAAR.

Overseas portfolio investors will also seek more details after India's tax department said in December that foreign companies with more than 50 percent of their assets in India could be liable to pay indirect transfer taxes when exiting from their investments.

The comment was seen as potentially ensnaring foreign funds that have more than half of their portfolios invested in India.

# I have no regrets as I have always said right things: Virat Kohli

**DHARMASHALA(K-CN):** Virat Kohli believes that if his con-

Trump. All these for his critical comments about Steve Smith's

"I have always stuck by the right things. Always done

good luck to them," Kohli said without referring to a section

are the things I need to improve on as a cricketer and as a person, what my teammates and close people think of me. These things (criticism) do not matter to me so much. They have never mattered. I have faced this initially in my career, I have faced this many times before."

Asked about former Australia captain Michael Clarke coming out in his support, Kohli said that cricketers in general are empathetic towards their own breed.

"See as cricketers, you understand exactly what goes on - during a series, in the game, on the field. I am sure those guys can relate to it. Everyone's doing their jobs. If they (Australian media) want to write something good or bad, it's your own personal choice. I am not going to sit here and say write good things about me or bad things about me. It's your own choice. Everyone has their own conscience to sleep with at night and same applies for everyone," the skipper said.



science is clear, there is no harm in standing by what he feels is right.

A section of the Australian media had taken on the Indian captain on behalf of its cricket team, with wide ranging comments from "leader of snakes" to comparing him to the US President Donald

'DRS Brain Fade' and later allegations of Australian fielders making fun of India physio Patrick Farhart.

Asked about how he has been able to manage the roller coaster ride of emotions, Kohli's reply was matter of fact but with a tinge of sarcasm in it.

the right thing, always said what I wanted to because I feel it is right. I have no regrets about it. I have nothing to go back and change. The only thing -- I am surprised so many people are getting affected by just one individual, so good luck to them. If it's selling their news,

of Australian media and former players, who have been relentlessly critical of him.

For Kohli, what matters most is what his teammates think of him.

"It's something that's happening on the outside (world). What I try to do is look inside as to what

## India vs Australia: I will play only if I am 100% fit, says Virat Kohli

Indian skipper, Virat Kohli said that he will play in the fourth Test at Dharamsala only if he is 100 per cent fit. A final call on his fitness is expected later tonight or tomorrow before the game.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the match Kohli said, "Only if I am 100% fit, will I take the field. The fitness rules apply for everyone. I don't know the magnitude of risk involved, that can be told by the physio. But if I pass the fitness test then I shall take the field."

When asked how he felt after batting in nets feeling, the Indian skipper said, "I did bat. But its different from the competition on the field. When you are on the field, you have reactive moments and it

is then that the magnitude of your injury comes out. Hence, those things have to be kept in mind. The physio wants to give more time and then we will take a call later tonight or tomorrow before the game."

Kohli added that he wanted to be a part of the team but also had to be sensible about taking the call. "I want to push myself to be fit but at times you have to understand where your body stands. It's an impact injury hence I need to give more time. But as a player as captain I want to push myself and play tomorrow."

However, Kohli also stated that at this stage the injury has a chance of getting aggravating while fielding. "While batting there is no problem but

it is on the field where I have to be careful as

on the outside. So these things do not matter. I

plined then it will reap



there are chances that it might get aggravated. I have taken medication and it needs a few more hours and then we will take a call."

Meanwhile, reacting to Australian media's heavy criticism, Kohli refused to be drawn into any sort of controversy. "It is something that happens

have face this before and I have no regrets about what I do."

The Indian skipper also credited the visitors for playing some really good cricket and facing upto the task. Speaking about pitch Kohli said that it will offer good pace but if one is disci-

its benefits. "It will be an evenly contested game and both the batsman and the bowler can make an impact throughout the five days."

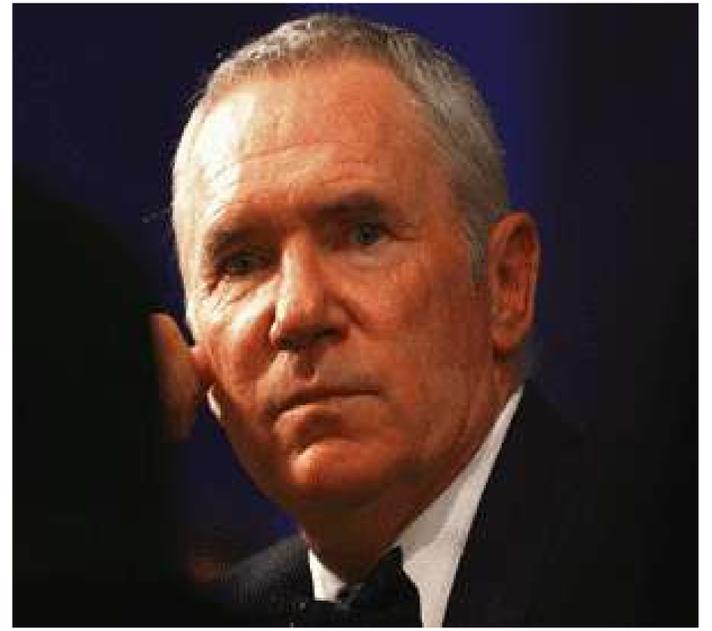
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## Series win for Australia in India would be one of the best achievements: Allan Border

**MELBOURNE(K-CN):** Former captain Allan Border says a win for Steve Smith's team in the ongoing

foxsports.com.au. "We talk about the Ashes and what that means, but we go through little periods

Australia entered India as underdogs. "I'm surprised we're in this position, 1-1 going into the last



Test series in India would count as one of the "very best achievements" in Australian cricket history.

The high-voltage rubber is locked at 1-1 heading into the fourth and final Test in Dharamsala.

"It's right up there with the very best achievements by any team, because (winning in India) has been the holy grail of Australian cricket. It would be unbelievable," Border told series in England, said.

## It feels amazing to win gold medal at World Cup with world record, says Ankur Mittal

The year so far has been a game-changer for Anukur Mittal and the double trap shooter feels he is finally reaping the rewards of putting in the hard yards over the past few years. The 24-year-old burst onto the scene with a silver medal at the season-opening ISSF World Cup in Delhi last month. Less than a month later, Mittal has done one better, winning the double trap gold at the ISSF World Cup for shotgun in Acapulco, Mexico.

"All the hard work pays off here," Mittal told PTI after his triumph.

Not surprisingly, the Delhi-based shooter who hails from Sonapat, Haryana, called the world record-equalling feat the "best achievement" in his fledgling career.

"It feels amazing, to have won a gold medal in an ISSF World Cup away from home, and that too with a world record. This is my highest medal. I am really happy about my performance," he said.

It has not yet fully struck him and the feeling will definitely take time to sink in.

"It's a totally different, usually the feeling will strike when I get back home."

In the final at Club de Caza, Mittal pipped his Australian rival James Willet, to whom he lost out at the capital's Karni Singh Shooting Range, exacting his revenge in less

where you don't win there and then you win them back and it's all fantastic. But it has been achieved before both home and away, whereas India is one of those places where we've had such little success going right, right back."

Border called the stunning 4-0 Ashes victory in 1989, with a team described as "possibly the worst side to ever tour England", the watershed moment of his career.

Like in the 1989

Test," Border admitted. "Even batting out the last day in the third Test, that was a huge achievement. That alone just shows how far the side's come as a group. But even if it's a drawn series, 1-1, that flies in the face of all us experts. And I say that because I was one of (the experts who wrote Australia off), I thought we'd struggle given our recent form in the sub-continent and just historically," Allan said.

than a month.

Mittal equalled the world record set by Willet in Delhi, recording 75 hits in the final - the same as his Australian rival. Asked if the revenge was complete, the unassuming marksman preferred not to read too much into it.

"I wouldn't call it a revenge. James is great shooter and winning and being defeated is all part of the game. The conditions in the finals range I would say were perfect. Wind affected most of the qualification rounds, but in the afternoon it was not so strong," Mittal had said after the award ceremony.

The World Cup gold and silver aside, the double-trap shooter's achievements include gold and bronze at the Asian Shooting Championships in 2014 and 2016 respectively. Even as the double trap event is on its way out as part of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) aim to attain gender equality in its Olympic Programme by 2020 Tokyo Games, Mittal is not thinking about it as yet.

The fact that the event will be there at next year's Asian Games and Commonwealth Games is comforting for Mittal. "It's at least there till the Commonwealth and Asian Games next year, so I am focusing on it," Mittal had said.

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