

# absolute india

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## INDIAN STUDENTS LOOK FOR NEWER DESTINATIONS TO CHASE MEDICAL EDUCATION DREAMS

**Ukraine is a popular destination among MBBS aspirants partly due to the cost-effectiveness. Both Russia and Ukraine attract a substantial number of students from India for the MBBBS and BDS courses. But now all Indian students in Ukraine are forced to return home in the middle of their courses.**

According to the National Medical Commission's (NMC) regulations for Foreign Medicine Graduates (FMGs) issued in 2021, transfer from a foreign university to an Indian university in the middle of an MBBS programme is not permitted because the entrance guidelines and selection criteria differ.



Ganesh Bhatt | New Delhi

The Russia-Ukraine war is likely to push Indian students to explore the options for MBBS in the countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Spain, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and the UK because of the lower cost of medical course there.

NMC's regulations for Foreign Medicine Graduates provide a 10-year window for students to obtain their degrees, complete their internships (one year in Ukraine and India respectively) and apply for Foreign Medicine Graduates Examination to receive their licenses. Since an MBBS degree in Ukraine takes an average of six years to complete and taking into consideration the additional two years required for internships, it therefore leaves the candidates with only two years to apply for their license in the 10-year window.

However, given the current crisis, there is no way of knowing when these

students will be allowed to return to Ukraine to finish their studies. As a result, the 10-year window may pose a difficulty for them, as they will no longer be able to apply for a license to practice medicine in India if they do not complete the courses within that time frame. With the situation between Russia and Ukraine escalating every day, a decision regarding relaxations for MBBS students can be expected.

Pavan Choudhary, Chairman, Medical Technology of India said, "The Russia-Ukraine war is likely to push Indian students to explore other options for MBBS abroad as these two countries attract a substantial number of students from India for the course. Countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Spain, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and the UK, among others,

may gain popularity because of the lower cost of the courses there".

It is heartening to note that some states are stepping up to help the displaced students viz, the Consortium of Deemed-to-be Universities of Karnataka has offered to take one thousand medical students returning from Ukraine. Further Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also urged the private players to expand in the medical education sector.

Sanjay Bhutani, Director, Medical Technology Association of India said, "The uncertainty a war brings is taking a toll on the returned Indian students who were studying medicine in Ukraine. But with The National Medical Commissions (NMC) easing the requirements for medical graduates on the 12 month necessary internship pro-

gram in their respective institutes by allowing them to continue their remaining internship in India by assigning additional 7.5 per cent seats in Indian medical colleges for Foreign Medical Graduates. We are hopeful that the fate of approximately 18,000 students will also be in their favour to ensure that there is no delay for these future healthcare providers to serve our already burdened healthcare system due to the existing pandemic and now the political unrest."

Dr Rimy Dey, Committee head Post Graduate Studies, IMA-JDN (Indian Medical Association - Junior Doctors Network) said, "The Ukraine situation has garnered a state of dubiety upon the future of thousands of Indian students who were pursuing their medical courses from Ukraine. Such unprecedented situations demand unusual solution. Rehabilitation of these medical students should be given utmost priority. Absorption into the current Indian medical schooling system may not be possible in a trice, but some effective solution in the form of medical student exchange programme or off-campus or online classes to continue medical education should be sought.

As a state of uncertainty looms over the careers of these students in different phases of their medical career, instead of burdening them further, the Government, competent medical authorities, NMC, IMA, Association of medical students and teachers should come together proactively to thwart the doubts and come up with a strong and effective solution."

## WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP JHULAN BECOMES LEADING WICKET-TAKER

HAMILTON | Agencies

Veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami on Saturday added another cap to her glittering career. In India's third match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup against the West Indies, Jhulan became the leading wicket-taker in the history of Women's Cricket World Cup by dismissing West Indies spinner Anisa Mohammed.

Anisa flicked to mid-wicket fielder, becoming Jhulan's 40th overall scalp in the tournament and was able to overtake Australia's Lyn Fullston's record since 1988 of 39 wickets at an average of 11.94.

Almost 17 years ago, Goswami took her first World Cup wicket, dismissing Inoka Galagedara of Sri Lanka on March 22, 2005.

Since then, she has dismissed 40 different batters, never getting the same batter out twice at a World Cup, with Anisa her seventh victim from the West Indies. That first wicket back in 2005 may have been the only scalp she took in her debut World Cup match, but it was the first and only time she would end with an economy lower than one.

Jhulan produced figures of eight overs, three maidens, five runs and one wicket, and she was just getting started, taking

13 wickets in the 2005 tournament in South Africa, her highest at a single World Cup. The 2009 World Cup was less fruitful, taking just four wickets but her best performance came against hosts Australia in the third-place play off, dismissing opener Leah Poulton and tailender Rene Farrell for figures of two for 21 as India won by three wickets.

After taking nine wickets on home soil in 2013, Jhulan was back in the double figures in 2017 as India lost out to England



by nine runs in the final. The 39-year-old took three for 23, one of two times where she has taken three wickets in an innings to move to 10 for the tournament.

Her highest wicket haul came in 2005 as she produced figures of four for 16 against the West Indies only four days after delivering four for 27 against England.

## Maximum temperature to see gradual rise from March 17: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maximum temperatures are likely to see gradual rise over most parts of the country from March 17, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, overall rainfall activity is likely to be below normal over most parts of the country during the week till next Thursday.

Maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal by 2-4 degrees Celsius over many parts of northwest, central, east, north-east India, and north Peninsular India and near normal over remaining parts of India.

The IMD also said that a heat wave at isolated pockets is likely over Gujarat and adjoining areas during some days of the week.

Various broad scale features, sea conditions and model guidance indicate that no cyclone-



nesis is expected over the north Indian Ocean region during next two weeks.

However, conditions are favourable for development of a cyclonic circulation over the central parts of south Bay of Bengal during the weekend leading to enhanced convective activity over the region.

## How 'Manmohan Singh' and 'Mulayam Singh' voted for BJP

At a time when politics is dividing people on almost every issue, there is one family where 'politicians' of various hues live together in perfect harmony and peace.



Ambedkar Nagar | UP

At a time when politics is dividing people on almost every issue, there is one family where 'politicians' of various hues live together in perfect harmony and peace.

The home of Mithali Lal, 57, in Hyderabad village under the Jalalpur Assembly constituency in Ambedkar Nagar district, is amusingly unique. The farmer has named all his seven children after well-known politicians so that they can get respect in society.

"Children made fun of me because of my name and even the teachers joined them. So, I decided to give such names to my children which get them respect and not ridicule," he says. Mithali Lal's son are named Mulayam Singh, Kalyan Singh, Rajnath Singh and daughter Jayalalitha, who died in 2013. Then there is Bal Thackeray, Zail Singh and

Manmohan Singh in the family too.

Mulayam runs a medical shop in Ambedkar Nagar, while Kalyan and Rajnath work in factories, Zail Singh owns a furniture shop, and Manmohan and Thackeray are still in school. Asked whom they have voted for in the Assembly polls on Thursday, Zail Singh says, "We have got a number of benefits from the government, and hence supported it."

The family has also got the house under the PM Awas Yojana. Talking about his father's decision to name the children after political leaders, Manmohan says: "At times, people ask me 'are you Manmohan Singh?' However, the name is so strong that everybody at least takes cognisance of me."

"Mithali Lal adds, "My endeavour is that my children should take pride in their name, and I think that they are getting respect."

## The industry has not been able to stereotype me: Manoj Bajpai

Sukant Deepak | New Delhi

Making it a point to do diverse films across genres in the last two years, actor Manoj Bajpai says that it is important that he works with different directors willing to explore newer themes and not afraid of new treatments.

"Some of the films I am doing are for the festival circuit, some are for consumption by adult audiences while others can be absorbed across age groups. This is besides the OTT work. If there is something that this industry has not been able to do, it is to stereotype me," he says.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF), the actor, who was recently seen in OTT series like 'The Family Man', 'Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari', and 'Silence... Can You Hear it?' feels that the medium has immense potential and brought forth a massive range of content for everybody.

"It has proven to be a real revolution. So many young directors are exploring distinct themes. There was a time when smaller films would not get a chance to show at theatres -- maximum a week or so. This has changed now. Also, look at the range of content in different languages. Even if you don't speak the language, there is access to films from down South. Newer talent is emerging every day. It is no longer about huge budgets. OTT



has led to some great democratisation.

Stressing that self-regulation is way better than any censor, the actor feels that the viewer should be given the freedom to decide what works for them. "Even the courts say that individuals should feel free to discard whatever does not suit their sensibilities. As far as the consumption of content by children goes, even I have a small daughter. It is for the parents to guide them on what they watch. Filmmakers have nothing to do in this."

Talking about his biography by Piyush Pande -- 'Kuch Pane Ki Zid' (Penguin), the actor says that he did not interfere with Pande's methodology and process. "He spoke to a lot of people who know me, many of who did not really compliment me," he smiles. Adding that he enjoyed the fact, Bajpai says, "I think I am strong enough to take criticism on the chin." Happy that the book is in Hindi and therefore accessible to a vast majority of the population, the actor who confesses to missing theatre terribly adds, "I am quite pleased with the response it has been generating." Even as many books are being adapted into films, Bajpai opines that it is not fair to compare the two once the movie has been made. "We must remember that both are very different mediums, and call for distinct treatments."

## Call to back protection of at least 30% of planet

The Campaign for Nature emphasizes that indigenous peoples and local communities must be central partners in the development and implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the global agreement must ensure free, prior and informed consent is a central element of the 30x30 target.

Established in 2020, the Campaign for Nature's Global Steering Committee is one of the largest groups of independent global leaders working together for the protection of biodiversity and the halting of climate change.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Led by former US Senator Russ Feingold and comprised of eight former heads of state, two former Prime Ministers, six former ministers, and four environmental and indigenous and local experts, the Campaign for Nature's Global Steering Committee (GSC) has said the success of an upcoming global biodiversity agreement hinges on the adoption of the global, science-backed 30x30 target. In a statement, they urged governments that have not yet endorsed the global 30x30 goal to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC), a group of countries championing the target on a global scale.

In the statement, the GSC welcomed the endorsement of the 30x30 goal in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



report. The UN study asserted that the protection of 30-50 per cent of the world's land and ocean is required for maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale. And the GSC urged countries worldwide to seek to close the current biodiversity funding gap of \$700 billion through reduced harmful subsidies and increased global spending. They also endorsed a recent call by NGOs to developed countries to provide at least \$60 billion annually in international finance for biodiversity that would support efforts to protect biodiversity in the developing world. The GSC released their statement on the eve of the UN Convention on Biodiversity's third and last round of negotiations -- set to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, March 13-27 -- before the final biodiversity agreement, known as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, is signed by more than 190 countries later this summer at a summit in Kunming, China.



# BYPOLLS IN BENGAL, CHHATTISGARH, BIHAR & MAHARASHTRA ANNOUNCED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission on Saturday announced that by-elections in the states of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra will be held on April 12.

"The Commission has decided to hold the by-election to fill vacancies in the states of West Bengal - Asansol (Parliamentary Constituency) and Ballygunge, Chhattisgarh - Khairagarh, Bihar - Bochahan (SC) and Maharashtra - Kolhapur North," the Election Commission said.

According to the EC, the date of issuing gazette notification is March 17 and the last date of nominations is March 24. The last date of scrutiny of nomination is March 25 and the candidature can be withdrawn till March 28.

The date of polling will be April 12 and the votes will be counted on April 16, Saturday. "The Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) in



which the whole or any part of the Assembly constituency going for election is included," the EC said. The

Commission said it has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in the by-elections in all the polling stations. Adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, Aadhaar Card, MNREGA Job Card, Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt/PSUs/Public Limited Companies, Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MCs and Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, can also be shown at the polling station.

## PUNJAB CM-DESIGNATE WITHDRAWS SECURITY OF 122 EX-MLAS

Chandigarh: In an obvious message against VIP culture, Punjab Chief Minister-designate Bhagwant Mann on Saturday withdrew security of 122 former legislators, minister and the VIPs, including state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife, ahead of his swearing-in. The former ministers included Manpreet Singh Badal and Pargat Singh, both of the Congress who have lost the election. However, the list does not have names of former Chief Ministers -- Capt Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal and Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Badal and state Congress chief Sidhu. However, Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur, who is an ex-legislator, are among those whose security cover was withdrawn.

# Mann meets Governor, stakes claim to form AAP govt

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Punjab Chief Minister-designate Bhagwant Mann on Saturday met Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhawan here and staked claim to form the Aam Aadmi Party government.

He is set to take oath on March 16 as the 17th Chief Minister of Punjab.

Earlier, Mann was elected the AAP's legislature party leader at a meeting of the party legislators in Mohali near here on Friday.

The AAP had swept the poll results by winning 92 of the 117 seats.

Mann won from Dhuri by over 58,000 votes. In his directive to newly elected party legislators, Mann asked them to spend maximum time in their constituencies, not in capital Chandigarh, and not to hanker for Cabinet berths.

"We have to work for all those places where we went to seek votes. All MLAs must work in the areas from where they have been elected, not just stay in Chandigarh," Mann was quoted as saying after he was elected the leader of



the AAP Legislative Party -- a formality ahead of his swearing-in. After registering a landslide victory, Mann announced that the new Cabinet would take oath of office at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district, and not at the Raj Bhawan. Mann, who dons Bhagat Singh's trademark 'basanti' (yellow) turban, also said that no government office will carry photographs of the Chief Minister. Instead, photos of Bhagat Singh and B.R. Ambedkar will be put up on the walls of all government offices.

# Delhi shocker: 3-yr-old girl raped, accused held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police has arrested a 21-year-old man for raping a 3-year-old girl child in the national capital, an official said here on Saturday.

According to the official, the incident took place on Friday morning at the Punjabi Bagh area of west Delhi after which the girl child was admitted to a nearby hospital. "The 21-year-old accused man has been arrested," DCP Ghanshyam Bansal told reporter, adding he was known to the victim and used to reside in a nearby shanty. Accordingly, the police registered a case under sections 363 (Punishment for kidnapping) and 376 (Punishment



for rape) of the Indian Penal Code and section 6 (Punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act. "The accused was arrested on the same day of the incident," the senior official said. As per latest reports, the condition of the girl is stable and she has also

been discharged from the hospital," the DCP said, adding further investigation is underway. According to the data compiled by Delhi Police, during the year 2021, as many as 1,969 women were raped in the national capital, 21.69 per cent more than the previous year. In 2020, the figure stood at 1,618.

# Fake call centre busted in Gurugram, 38 including 9 women held

GURUGRAM | Agencies

In a major breakthrough, a team from the cyber crime police station of Gurugram Police has busted a fake call centre and arrested 38 persons, including nine women, who used to dupe people on the pretext of recovering loans given via online Chinese and other loan applications.

As part of their modus operandi, the accused used to edit photos of their victims with nude (obscene) photos and send them to their friends and relatives through WhatsApp. The culprits then used to send threat messages through WhatsApp to the victims.

The police have recovered Rs 1.70 lakh in cash, 27 laptops and 44 mobile phones from their possession. According to the police, the SHO of cyber crime police station, Bijender Singh, received information that a fake call centre located on the first floor of Plot No-26 in Udyog Vihar Phase-1 was being run without



prior permission and extorting money from innocent people. A team was constituted which conducted a raid at the fake call centre on Friday and arrested 38 persons in connection with the case.

"The arrested persons disclosed that the owner of the call centre was Abhinav, a resident of Kheri Hojardpur village in Jhajjar district, and Shantanu Kaushik from Rohini, Delhi," said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP

(Crime). Their accomplices, Manish Kumar from Delhi and Pradeep Kumar from Bhiwani, used to provide secret information of the victims to them, which they used to threaten people.

# JD(U), NPF to support BJP government in Manipur



IMPHAL | Agencies

The Janata Dal (United) and the Naga People's Front (NPF) on Saturday announced to support the BJP-led government in Manipur, party sources said.

The JD(U), which fielded 38 candidates in the recent Assembly elections, won six seats, while the NPF, which put up 10 nominees won five seats against four seats it won in the 2017 Assembly polls. National office secretary of

the JD(U), Mohammad Nisar, said in a statement that in the interest of the people of Manipur, the party has decided to support the BJP in the formation of the government.

The JD(U) would like to appeal to the BJP to honour the mandate reposed on the party and fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people of Manipur, the statement said.

It said that the party legislators have unanimously elected Khumukcham Joykisan Singh as the leader of the legislature party of

JD(U) in the presence of Afaq Ahmad Khan, national General Secretary, in-charge of northeast region.

NPF Secretary General Achumbemo Kikon said the party supports the BJP government keeping in mind its association with the saffron camp since 2017.

NPF sources said the party is likely to seek a few Cabinet berths in the new ministry.

The BJP secured absolute majority on its own and retained power in Manipur for the second consecutive

term by winning 32 seats in the 60-member Assembly.

The BJP came to power in Manipur for the first time in 2017, in alliance with four National People's Party (NPP) MLAs, four NPF members, the lone Trinamool Congress MLA and an Independent member.

The BJP's estranged ally NPP, which won seven seats, has announced to play the role of opposition party in Manipur.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Friday met Governor La Ganesan and resigned from his post. The Governor asked him to continue in his office until the new government takes charge.

There is no confirmation yet as to when the next Chief Minister would be chosen, or when the new BJP-led government would assume office.

Before the elections, the BJP had informally declared that Singh will be the party's chief ministerial face and will head the next government.

# FEMALE QAZI PERFORMS NIKAH IN DELHI



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a rare move, a female qazi solemnised the 'nikaah' (Muslim wedding) of late President Zakir Husain's great-grandson here.

Gibran Rehan Rahman and Ursula Ali's nikaah took place on Friday at the residence of the country's third

President, which was attended by close friends and family.

At the ceremony, qazi Syeda Saiyadain Hameed invoked passages from the Quran as explicated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in his Tarjuman ul Quran - the outcome of his 27-year-long rigorous study of the holy scripture. The nikaah concluded with a call to cele-

brate the union of the bride and groom as equals in marital, legal and spiritual partnership, by quoting a passage from the Quranic Surah. The nikaah is performed with three repetitions of 'Ijab' (offer) and 'Qabool' (acceptance) which is administered by a Qazi to the bride and groom.

# CONSTABLE DIES AFTER HAIR TRANSPLANT IN PATNA

Patna: A constable of Bihar Military Police (BMP) died of a cardiac arrest, just a day after he underwent hair transplant here, an official said on Saturday.

The family members of the deceased claimed that he underwent hair transplant at a private clinic called 'Enhance' on Boring Canal Road on Wednesday and died due to the reaction of medicines the next day. The doctors and nursing staff of the private clinic have fled after the incident.

Manoranjan Paswan, a native of Kamal Bigha village under Rajgir police station in Nalanda district and posted in Gaya, was in Patna for undergoing hair transplant.

After getting the hair transplant, as soon as Paswan returned home, he started complaining about itchy skin. His friend Kamal Kumar took him to the clinic the next day but Paswan's health deteriorated further, post which staff members of the clinic took him to a private hospital.

According to police, Paswan was admitted in the ICU where a plastic surgeon, cardiac surgeon, internal medicine and ICU specialists were treating him. However, after an hour, Paswan died.

# MILITANTS KILL CRPF TROOPER ON LEAVE IN J&K'S SHOPIAN



Srinagar: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper on leave was killed by militants on Saturday in J&K's Shopian district. Police sources said a CRPF trooper, Mukhtar Ahmad of Chek Chotipora village in Shopian district was fired upon by militants on Saturday evening.

"The trooper sustained severe injuries and was shifted to hospital where doctors said he was dead on arrival." "The trooper had come home on leave", sources said. The area has been surrounded for searches. Two days back, militants killed an army soldier in Budgam district who had come home on leave.

# Out of 60, 48 members of Manipur Assembly crorepatis, 25 have criminal cases

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Of the 60 members of the new Manipur Assembly, as many as 48 are crorepatis with average assets of winning candidates amounting to Rs 3.75 crore, while 23 per cent of them have criminal cases and 18 per cent have serious criminal cases registered against them.

This was revealed by the Manipur Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) that analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all 60 winning candidates in the Manipur Assembly elections, results of which were declared on March 10.

The BJP won 32 seats, National People's Party (NPP) won seven, Janta Dal (United) six, Congress five, Naga People's Front five, Independents three while Kuki People's Alliance won two seats.

Criminal cases

Out of the 60 winning candidates analysed in 2022, 14 (23 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves. In 2017, two (3 per cent) MLAs had declared criminal cases against them.

A total of 11 (18 per cent) winning candidates have declared serious criminal cases against them. In 2017, two (3 per cent) MLAs had declared serious criminal cases against them.

Party-wise, seven (22 per cent) out of the 32 winning candidates from the BJP, four (80 per cent) out of five



from Congress, one (14 per cent) out of seven from NPP, one (17 per cent) out of six from JD(U) and one (33 per cent) out of three Independents have declared criminal cases against them in their affidavits, the ADR analysis

showed. Five (16 per cent) out of 32 winning candidates from BJP, four (80 per cent) out of five from Congress, one (14 per cent) out of seven from NPP and one (17 per cent) out of six from JD(U) have declared serious criminal cases against them in their affidavits.

## Crorepati candidates

Out of the 60 winning candidates analysed, 48 (80 per cent) are crorepatis, as compared to 32 (53 per cent) in 2017.

Party-wise, 25 (78 per cent) out of 32 from BJP, six (86 per cent) out of seven from NPP, all five (100 per cent) from Congress, five (83 per cent) out of six from JD(U), five (100 per cent) out of five from NPF and two (67 per cent) out of three Independents have declared assets worth more than Rs 1 crore. The average of assets per winning candidate is Rs 3.75 crore, compared to Rs 2.16 crore in 2017.

The average assets per winning candidates for BJP is Rs 2.91 crore, Rs 3.45 crore for NPP, Rs 2.80 crore for JD(U), Rs 6.20 crore for NPF, Rs 4.38 crore for Congress, Rs 64.29 lakh for Kuki Peoples Alliance, and Rs 12.22 crore for three Independent candidates, the ADR analysis said.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manish Kumar Singh R/at 602, K Block, Maple Tree Apartments, New Jail Road, Sanjeev Nagar, Bhopal, Pin:462038, have changed my minor child's name from NISWARTH SINGH to ARUNODAY SINGH vide affidavit BC-328505 dated 11 February 2022 before notary PL Vishwakarma (REG NO:17147) at Bhopal.

## CHANGE OF NAME

Anupam Tomar alias Mona Singh R/at 602, K Block, Maple Tree Apartments, New Jail Road, Sanjeev Nagar, Bhopal, Pin:462038 shall henceforth be known as ANUPAM SINGH vide affidavits BC328509, BC-328510, BC-328511 dated 11 February 2022 before notary PL Vishwakarma (REG NO:17147) at Bhopal.

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Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.



Warren Bennis

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## RUSSIA THREATENS TO DESTROY CONVOYS CARRYING FOREIGN WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE, AS

# LEGITIMATE TARGETS

▶ **UKRAINE HAS CLAIMED THAT THE RUSSIAN COMMAND HAS ENLISTED RECRUITS AND "ALTERNATIVES" -- CONSCRIPTS WHO WORK AS COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS INSTEAD OF MILITARY SERVICE -- AGAINST UKRAINE.**

▶ **A VIDEO MADE PUBLIC BY THE UKRAINIAN SECURITY SERVICE SHOWS A MAN SAYING THAT HIS UNIT, WHICH WAS ABANDONED IN UKRAINE, WAS FORMED FROM "ALTERNATIVE CONSCRIPTS" WHO WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE DEPLOYED FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS OR EVEN TOURS OF DUTY.**

▶ **ACCORDING TO THE CAPTURED "ALTERNATIVE", THEIR MILITARY TASK WAS TO DIVERT FIRE FROM THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES WHILE SOME MORE TRAINED PERSONNEL CARRIED OUT MILITARY OPERATIONS.**



### OVER 1,500 CIVILIANS IN MARIUPOL KILLED

**Kiev:** Ukrainian authorities have said that 1,500 civilians have been killed in Mariupol as Russian forces have continued its assault on the besieged port city. In a social media post late Friday night, the Mariupol City Council said that at least "1,582 civilian residents of Mariupol have been killed by Russian occupying forces over the 12 days of the city's blockade, and ruthless firing on residential neighbourhoods", reports the *Ukrayinska Pravda* newspaper. Meanwhile, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said that authorities will again try to evacuate stranded people from Mariupol as many earlier attempts have failed due to the Russian bombing and shelling.

Ukrayinska Pravda reported. At the same time, Ryabkov noted that he "would not say that Russia's proposals on security guarantees remain fully in force, as the situation has changed".

### PEOPLE IN MARIUPOL BEING FORCED TO MELT SNOW TO DRINK

**New Delhi:** The Deputy Mayor of Mariupol has claimed that people in the besieged Ukrainian city are being forced to melt snow to drink, and chop wood to cook and keep warm in sub-zero temperatures, the BBC reported. Mariupol, a city of about 400,000, has been subjected to days of heavy Russian bombardment. Deputy Mayor Sergei Orlov said the city's residents were running dangerously short of food and water, adding that there is "no electricity, no water supply, no heating, no sanitary system". Satellite images have revealed the scale of destruction in city where residential areas have been flattened, a shopping centre destroyed and a maternity hospital attacked. The southern port city has used at least one mass grave to bury the dead, the BBC report said. The city, which had a pre-war population of roughly 300,000, is surrounded by Russian forces and has sustained heavy damage.

### RUSSIA'S ROSATOM TAKES OVER UKRAINE'S ZAPORIZHZHYA NUCLEAR PLANT

**New Delhi:** A top Ukrainian official on Saturday claimed that the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, which was captured by Russian forces on March 4, has been taken over by Rosatom, Moscow's state nuclear company. In a social media post, Petro Kotin, chief of Ukraine's state nuclear company Energoatom, said: "Representatives of the so-called military-civil administration came to the station and gathered the management. They did not give their names, they only said that they were representatives of the military-civil administration. It was earlier reported that Rosatom, which operates several hundred Russian nuclear energy enterprises, is involved in the capture of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, said the *Ukrayinska Pravda* newspaper.

## CGST OFFICIALS BUST SYNDICATE OF FIRMS INVOLVED IN TAX EVASION OF RS 85 CRORE



Team Absolute | New Delhi

**C**GST Delhi East Commissionerate officials have busted a syndicate of seven firms which were engaged in GST evasion of more than Rs 85 crore. Initially, five firms were detected which were availing and utilising fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"During investigation it was learnt that the syndicate was using two more entities namely, Shree Mahaveer International and Gravity Enterprises," said an official on Friday.

A communication was also received from GST, Gujarat that a car registered in the name of one of the syndicate firm Blue Water Expotrade Private Limited was intercepted by them in Ahmedabad.

"FastTags of trucks were affixed on the car to create false movement of export goods from Delhi to Mundra port. The E-way bills in respect of the fake supply were issued by Shree Mahaveer International," said the official.

On March 10, the GST officials conducted search at the residential

premises of Rakesh Kumar Jain, proprietor in Shree Mahaveer International and Partner in Gravity Enterprises.

Jain, in his voluntary statement, admitted that bogus invoices were received and issued from these syndicate firms without actual supply of goods.

It was evident that Jain was using multiple firms to avail and pass on fake ITC on bogus invoices and E-Way Bills without actual supply of goods. The quantum of GST evaded by him is more than Rs 85 crore.

"Therefore, he was arrested on March 10 for committing offences specified under Section 132(1)(b)&(c) of the CGST Act, 2017 and produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Patala House Courts, New Delhi," he said. Investigation, so far, has unearthed fake ITC racket by seven firms namely -- Vibe Tradex, Prime Mark Expotrade Private Limited, Blue Water Expotrade India Private Limited, Transglobe Tradex Private Limited, Tirupati Overseas, Shree Mahaveer International and Gravity Enterprises.

Further investigation in the case is under progress.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**R**ussia has said that convoys carrying foreign weapons to Ukraine will become "legitimate targets" for the Russian armed forces.

Sergei Ryabkov, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister, said Russia has warned the United States of the consequences of arms transfers to Ukraine.

Convoys with foreign weapons recklessly supplied to Ukraine will become legitimate targets for the Russian armed forces, he said.

He also added that lists of retaliatory personal sanctions against the US and the West are ready and will be made public soon.

In addition, Ryabkov said that Russia could resume a security dialogue with the US if Washington is ready for it,

## INDIA, CHINA AGREE TO CARRY FORWARD TALKS TO RESOLVE BORDER DISPUTE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**I**ndia and China discussed resolving the existing border dispute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during the 15th round of Corp commanders level talks held on Friday, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

Both countries carried forward their discussions from the previous round held on January 12, 2022 for the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector.

The joint statement issued by the Ministry of Defence in India on Saturday stated that the 15th round China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side on March 11, 2022.

The two sides carried forward their discussions from the previous round held on 12th January 2022 for the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector.

"They had a detailed exchange of



views in this regard, in keeping with the guidance provided by the State Leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," said the statement.

They reaffirmed that such a resolution would help restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western Sector and facilitate progress in bilateral relations.

"The two sides also agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector in the interim," the statement said.

### CBSE RELEASES TERM-II DATE SHEET 2022 FOR CLASS 10 AND 12

**New Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the date sheet for Class 10 and Class 12 Term-II Board Examination 2022.

The CBSE Class 10 and 12 examination will commence from April 26, 2022. The first term exams have already been held. As per the CBSE notification, the exams will be conducted in single shift and will start from 10.30 a.m.

As the schools were closed due to the pandemic, the CBSE has given more gap between the two papers for almost all the subjects in both the classes.

"Wherever the gap is a little lesser, such examinations have been kept at a later date so that students can get sufficient time for preparations," said the CBSE Board in a statement. The board also said that other competitive examinations including JEE-Main have been taken care of while preparing the date sheet.

## Health Ministry approves reduction of cut off by 15 percentile to fill vacant PG seats

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he Union health ministry has approved the reduction of cut off by 15 percentile, across all categories for the NEET PG exam.

In an official communication to the National Board of Examinations, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) has said that it has been decided by the health ministry to reduce the cut off by 15 percentile across all categories.

"After due discussion and deliberations, it has been decided by the MoHFW in consultation with NMC with prior approval from HFM to reduce the cut-off by 15 percentile across all categories i.e. the qualifying percentile for general category may be reduced to 35th percentile, for PH(Gen) to 30th percentile and for reserved category (SC/ST/OBC) be reduced to 25th percentile," said the MCC's letter to the NBE with the name of Dr B Srinivas, ADG (ME) and member secretary MCC.

Welcoming the government step, Dr Rohan Krishnan, President of the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) Doctors Association, said that the cut off has been reduced to 15 percentile for all categories which is a good step.



"The examination was delayed twice due to Covid and the counselling process was also delayed due to the pandemic and court cases. This is the admission of 2021 batch which is taking place in 2022 due to delay. Still around 6,500 seats are vacant so we were expecting such steps from the government," he said.

Talking about the impact the cut off reduction would have on the students, he said: "Reducing the cut off does not mean reducing the merit criteria any way."

### FOUR TERRORISTS KILLED IN 3 KASHMIR ENCOUNTERS

**Srinagar:** At least four terrorists were killed in three separate encounters in Kashmir's Pulwama, Ganderbal and Handwara districts, officials said on Saturday. Of the four terrorists, two were killed in Pulwama, and one each in Handwara and Ganderbal.

According to the authorities, two terrorists belonged to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit and the two others were from Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

Meanwhile, security forces managed to capture one terrorist. "We had launched joint operations at four to five locations on Friday night. So far two terrorists of the JeM including one Pakistani killed in Pulwama, one terrorist of LeT killed each in Ganderbal and Handwara.

### CWC to meet tomorrow to discuss poll debacle

**New Delhi:** After humiliating defeat in the five state elections, the big Sunday Congress Working Committee meet could be a stormy one as resignations may pour in from the leaders who have been involved in election management. Speculations apart, the CWC may witness a stormy session. The CWC members loyal to the Gandhis may offer to quit. If such things happen, the Congress has to choose a new leader and sources say that party may have to continue with the interim President and majority of the CWC members may suggest Priyanka Gandhi's name.

The highest decision making body of the Congress -- the Congress Working Committee (CWC) is to meet on Sunday at 4 p.m. to discuss the poll debacle in five states. The meeting comes in the wake of the G23 leaders putting pressure on the party to advance the internal polls and had met at Ghulam Nabi Azad's residence.

Sources also said that it is necessary to fix the accountability for the poll debacle and urgent changes are required in the composition of the CWC.

## Only 29% IT workers wish to stay with current employers globally

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**I**T workers are more inclined to quit their jobs than employees in other functions, with a 10.2 per cent lower intent to stay than non-IT employees -- the lowest out of all corporate functions.

Even in Europe, the best performing region, only four in 10 IT workers (38.8 per cent) have high intent to stay.

Only 19.9 per cent of IT workers who are 18 to 29 have a high likelihood to stay, compared to 48.1 per cent of those aged 50-70 years.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**O**nly 29.1 per cent of IT workers have high intent to stay with their current employer globally, but the number is much lower in Asia (19.6 per cent), according to a new Gartner report. "While talent retention is a common C-level concern, CIOs are at the epicentre, with a huge chunk of their workforce at risk," said Graham Waller, vice president and distinguished analyst at Gartner. "CIOs may need to advocate for more flexibility in work design than the rest of the enterprise, as IT employees are more likely to leave, in greater demand and more adept at remote working than most other employees," Waller added. The IT talent retention challenge varies by age group and region. For example, IT workers aged under 30 report two and a half times less likelihood to stay



than those over 50. Data shows that more flexible and human-centric work policies can reduce attrition and increase performance. "Progressive enterprises are empowering people and teams to decide when they do their best work and pioneering new schedules such as the four-day week," said the report. Most organisations are now planning for a hybrid

future that recognises employees can be fully productive remotely for 'heads-down' work, while the office is best suited for certain work activities such as human connection and collaboration. "CIOs who adopt a human-centric work design will out-hire, out-retain and out-perform those that revert back to industrial-era work paradigms," said Waller.

## Seven dead in Delhi slum fire

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**A**s many as seven people, including an 11-year-old child, were charred to death in a major fire that broke out at Gokalpuri village of the national capital, an official said on Saturday.

The official informed that they received a call about the fire incident around 1.00 a.m. near pillar no 12, Gokalpuri village in north east Delhi after which as many as 13 fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service.

"Seven charred bodies have been recovered from the huts," Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg told IANS, adding that the fire was in around over 60 huts.

The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained and the inferno was brought under control in four hours around 3.45 a.m. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Devesh Kumar Mahla said that in the incident at least 30 shanties were reduced to ashes along with their belongings and seven lives have been lost. "Food and shelter arrangements are being made for the evacuees," the official said.





## WILL NOT LEAVE ANY STONE UNTURNED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE POOR IN THE STATE: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that no stone will be left unturned for the honor and welfare of the poor in the state. The government is continuously working in the interest of the poor. In this sequence, today "Sahariya Special Project" has been launched under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Karahal, a tribal development block of Sheopur district. In this project, 19 thousand 166 beneficiaries of Sahariya community have been sanctioned houses worth Rs 260 crore. Chouhan was addressing the inauguration of Sahariya special project and inauguration of development works worth Rs. 150 crore and Bhoomi-Poojan program at Karahal.

Chouhan said that "Sahariya Special Project" is a wonderful scheme in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Today is a day of joy, happiness and happiness for the poor families of Sahariya society. He said that with the construction of 19 thousand 166 houses, the life of Sahariya families would change. The Chief Minister said that the state government is the government



of the poor, farmers and mothers and sisters, until all of them are uplifted, I will not sit still.

Chouhan said that the government has taken a pledge that every poor should be given a pucca house. Provision has also been made in the budget for this. He said that arrangements for cement and other materials should be made together for the houses to be built in

such a large number, so that the beneficiary can get the material at low rates and they do not have to go astray. He also directed the District Collector to make arrangements in this regard. The Chief Minister said that bricks should be procured from self-help groups which are manufacturing bricks, so that the groups also get benefits. Those who do wrong in this work will not be

spared.

Congratulations to the women of Self Help Groups of Aajeevika Mission. He said that the women of the group are making good profit by producing soap, detergent, guava, herbs and spices. He also talked about their economic and social upliftment by connecting the needy mothers and sisters with the groups. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that financial assistance is being given to those running shops on footpaths under the street vendor scheme. Along with this, provision of special marks in police constable recruitment is being considered for such tribal youth, who are physically strong and agile. Along with this, arrangements have been made to connect more and more youth with employment by organizing employment fairs in every district. The Chief Minister said that youth are being linked with employment by arranging vehicles to be used in Ration Aapke Gram Yojana. Under the scheme, the responsibility of distribution of ration from village to village has also been entrusted to the tribal youth. He said that action would be taken to add the deprived families in the eligibility list from getting ration.

## Seizure of explosives rekindles memories of Petlawad blast

Gelatin sticks and detonators were seized from a house in Petlawad in Jhabua district on Saturday, police said.

Team Absolute | Jhabua

Gelatin sticks and detonators were seized from a house in Petlawad in Jhabua district on Saturday, police said.

Over six years ago, explosives had triggered a massive blast claiming 89 lives and leaving nearly 100 injured in this town, located 45 km away from the Jhabua district headquarter. "We have seized

28 gelatin sticks and as many detonators from the house of one Abdul Hamid (51), a resident of Kumar Mohalla on a tip-off," Petlawad Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Sonu Dabar said.

We are interrogating the accused to know the source of these explosives and the motive, the police officer said, adding that Hamid has been booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code and

the Explosive Substances Act. In September 2015, at least 89 people were killed and nearly 100 injured after mining explosives stored in a building in Petlawad exploded, ripping through a crowded area.

Gelatin sticks and detonators are commonly used for breaking rocks for mining, digging wells and clearing the hilly terrain for laying roads.

## CM PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTES TO LATE BHAWANI SINGH CHOUHAN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Sehore this morning and laid a wreath on the mortal remains of Late Bhawani Singh Chouhan. He consoled the bereaved family. Chief Minister Chouhan's wife Sadhana Singh was also with him.

Late Chouhan was the father-in-law of Narendra Singh Chouhan, brother of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan. He was undergoing treatment in the hospital due to ill-health. He passed away on the night of Friday March 11. Chouhan met the family members including late Bhawani Singh Chouhan's son Shri Rahul Singh Chouhan and after paying homage, he also participated in the last journey.



## Alliance Air flight skids off runway at Jabalpur airport, passengers safe

A major accident was averted in Madhya Pradesh after an Alliance Air aircraft with 55 passengers on board skidded off the runway at Jabalpur airport on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A major accident was averted in Madhya Pradesh after an Alliance Air aircraft with 55 passengers on board skidded off the runway at Jabalpur airport on Saturday.

As per the information received, an Alliance Air ATR-72 aircraft skidded off the runway while landing, but fortunately no injury was

caused to any crew member or passenger.

In an official statement, Alliance Air said the aircraft shot off the runway by 10 metres. Flight ATR72-600 was scheduled to land in Jabalpur at around 1:15 pm, bringing 55 passengers and five crew members from Delhi.

"We are grateful that all passengers and crew of the flight are safe. Our first priority is to evacuate the passengers without compromising their safety. While we follow the laid down policies as per the regulatory authorities and have strict checks in place in order to ensure complete safety of our passengers and crew, we regret the unfortunate incident," said Alliance Air in a statement.

It further said action has been initiated in the matter and cockpit crew members have been de-roasted.

"Taking a strict note of the incident, an investigation has been initiated. The findings of the same shall be shared with the regulatory authorities, and we shall ensure that all required corrective actions are put in place," it added. The flight left onlookers and passengers scared on Saturday after it had a runway excursion while landing at the Dumna Airport in Jabalpur. As per the information received, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also ordered an probe into the matter.

A runway excursion is when an aircraft skids off the runway during take-off or landing. The aircraft can veer off its route while speeding up on the ground due to several factors, including weather circumstances, technical issues, or even a miscalculated approach to the runway.

## CM CONGRATULATED THE TALENTED BOXING PLAYERS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended heartfelt congratulations to the talented boxers of Madhya Pradesh Boxing Academy Anand Yadav, Amar Singh and Rishabh Singh for entering in the finals of Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championship. These players have defeated the players of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This contest is going on at Amman (Jordan). Boxers Anand Yadav, Amar Singh and Rishabh Singh have learned the nuances of sports from coach Roshanlal at Taty Topo Nagar Stadium, Bhopal. It is noteworthy that the academies of various sports in Madhya Pradesh prepare the players for their best performance at the international level.

## BJP will break record of 173 seats in 2023 polls: Uma Bharti

Uma Bharti refused to comment on whether she would be a candidate for the 2023 Assembly polls in MP or the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP leader and former Union Minister Uma Bharti on Friday said her party would win more seats in the 2023 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh than the record 173 in the 2003 polls.

A day after the BJP won Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa comfortably, Bharti said her party's performance in 2023 in MP will "throw up a surprise."

The record of 2003, when the BJP won 173 seats in the 230-member House and

dislodged the Congress dispensation under Digvijaya Singh, will be broken in 2023, she told reporters.

The BJP was witnessing a surge and the Congress, which is now devoid of ideology, would get decimated in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as well, which will see polls next year, she said.

She, however, refused to comment on whether she would be a candidate for the 2023 Assembly polls in MP or the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP retained power in UP and Uttarakhand comfortably as the two states are buzzing with change and



development, she said.

She also said the Aam Aadmi Party, which swept Punjab, would not be able to repeat the performance in MP as such experiments "won't work in a big state."

## Aim for Success with Positive Thinking, There Will Be Victory: Mishra

Winners of the 32nd National Kayaking-Canoeing Competition Awarded



Team Absolute | Bhopal

If you aim for success with dedication and hard work maintaining a positive attitude, then you will definitely get success. Home Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said this while awarding the winners of the 32nd National Kayaking-Canoeing Competition held on Friday. Mishra expressed his gratitude to the Sports and Youth Welfare Department and All India Kayaking-Canoeing Association for organising the national competition in the memory of Late Sanjeev Singh of the Indian Police Service. Director General Home Guard Pawan Kumar Jain, ADG Ashok Awasthi and officials of National and State level Kayaking-Canoeing Association were present.

Mishra said that it is a matter of pride for us that the national competition is being organised in Bhopal. He extended his best wishes to 729 players from different states participating in the competition. Mishra said that water sports activities in the state would definitely get a boost due to the competition being held in Bhopal. Talented players of our state will be encouraged to move ahead in this field. He said that sportspersons of the state are bringing laurels to the state at national and international level in kayaking and canoeing. Such events will definitely be beneficial and players will become strong contenders for medals in various competitions of international level.

Expressing happiness over the event, Home Minister Mishra said that such events should be organised continuously. This will definitely encourage the children and will also remain health conscious. He said that with the advent of TV and mobile, the interest of children towards sports has decreased. The children are cut off from the field. Due to modernization, our youngsters spend time in front of TV mobiles. Internet, Facebook, WhatsApp etc. have not only taken the children off the field, but also made them careless towards their health. These types of events will definitely increase the interest of the children towards sports, they will remain conscious about their health. He congratulated everyone for a better event.

## CM PLANTED A SAPLING OF MOGRA



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling of Dudhiya Mogra in the State Hangar Complex. Chouhan is continuously planting saplings every day as per his resolve. Doodh Mogra is a 6-7 feet tall perennial white flowering plant. In different states it is known by different names like Tagar, Chandni, Nandi Vardhan etc. Its charm is captivating in the rainy season.

## Manzar Bhopali asks Munawwar Rana to leave UP to honour his words

Home minister says no need to leave UP, it has Ramrajya under Yogi Adityanath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Noted Urdu poet from Bhopal Manzar Bhopali has reminded another noted Urdu Poet Munawwar Rana of his words that he would leave Uttar Pradesh is chief minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath became CM again.

Manzar has also posted two photographs of his farm house on his Facebook page-one of the photos shows the farm house with open gates



and another shows a house inside. He has invited Rana to stay at his farm house in Bhopal. Manzar has written addressing Munawwar Rana, "Guzarish! Munawwar Bhai ghar hazir hai. Uttar Pradesh me Bhajpa ki sarkar ban gayi. Munawwar Rana ne kaha tha agar aisa hua to Uttar Pradesh chhod denge. Maine Bhopal me unke live apne farm house par ek ghar taiyar karaya hai. Agar wo Madhya Pradesh aana chahte hain to Bhopal unki seva ke liye taiyar hai. (A request! Munawwar Bhai I offer my house. Uttar Pradesh has BJP government

again. Munawwar Rana had said if this happened he would leave UP. I have got a house constructed for him at my farm house premises. If he wishes to come to Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal will serve him)." Besides this satirical comment the Bhopal Urdu poet has a word of advice too for Munawwar Rana- Speak less and love all.

Home minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said Mishra too has joined Manzar Bhopal but advising the UP poet not to leave the state as, he says, UP has Ramrajya under leadership of chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

## VYAPAM SCAM: MADHYA PRADESH HC GRANTS CONDITIONAL BAIL TO NINE EX-OFFICIALS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted conditional bail to nine former officials of private medical colleges accused of cheating, forgery among other offences related to pre-medical test PMT-2013 for admissions to MBBS course under the multi-crore Vyapam scam.

The court in its order stated that in the event of arrest, the petitioners may be released on their furnishing a personal bond amount of Rs 1 lakh. A division bench of Justices S Nagu and MS Bhatti on Friday imposed certain conditions on the accused persons, including that they will not seek unnecessary adjournments during the trial. The court allowed

bail applications of SN Vijaywargiya, the former chairman of Peoples College of Medical Science and Research Centre in Bhopal, Dr Ajay Goenka, the then secretary of Chirayu Charitable Foundation Bhopal and Suresh Singh Bhadoria, the then chairman of Mayank Welfare Society Indore. The others granted bail were former members of Chirayu Medical College and Hospital's admission committee Dr Ravi Saxena, SN Saxena and Dr VH Bhavsar, former dean of Peoples College of Medical Science and Research Centre Dr Vijay Kumar Pandya, Arun Kumar Arora, a former employee of Index Medical College Indore and former dean of Chirayu Medical College and Hospital Dr Virendra Mohan.

## Vaccinated Children Are Our Brand Ambassadors: Sarang

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang said that the children who got vaccinated are our brand ambassadors. He urged the children to encourage others to get vaccinated as well. Their parents and teachers have also played an important role in getting the children vaccinated. Sarang was addressing the Lucky Draw prize distribution function held at Katju Hospital.

Sarang said that vaccine is an effective way to fight against corona. We have to take care that we do not get infected and no other person can get infected through us. For this it is necessary to get both doses of the vaccine. He said that with the help of social institutions, we



have reached this stage by winning the battle against corona. The Prime Minister prepared the vaccine programme in such a way that everyone gets the vaccine on time and everyone can be safe. Sarang said that the government and society worked together against corona under the leadership of Prime

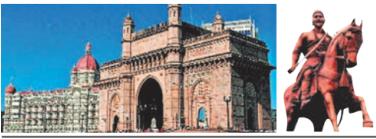
Minister Narendra Modi. To deal with this pandemic, the biggest challenge was to administer the vaccine made by the country's scientists in a short time to crores of Indians, which was accomplished under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh. Sarang said

that today all the countrymen are safe only because of the massive vaccination done in the third wave of Corona. Children in the age group of 15 to 17 years who completed both the doses of Corona Vaccine were felicitated by Care India at Katju Hospital. Minister Shri Sarang felicitated the children selected in the lucky draw. It is noteworthy that in collaboration with district administration Bhopal, Care India and Indusind Bank, an incentive scheme has been started to motivate children to apply the second dose of the vaccine. 89 students who took the second dose were selected through a lottery system. As an incentive, one child was given a laptop, three a tablet, five a bicycle, 30 a copper water-bottle set and 50 were given pens.

## APPROVAL OF 2.5 THOUSAND CRORES FOR NH ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed gratitude to the Central Government for sanctioning Rs. two and half thousand crore to Madhya Pradesh for road construction works. Chouhan has said that a network of roads is being laid in the country under the efficient leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. Madhya Pradesh is also getting its benefit. On behalf of all the people of the state, the Chief Minister Chouhan has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi and Gadkari for the gift of National Highways and other routes to Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan said that Rs. 1162 crore 80 lakh has been approved for the four laning of Indore-Edlabad Section of NH-347BG (203 km) in Indore and Khargone and 1352 crore 56 lakh rupees for Ujjain-Badnawar section (69 km) in Madhya Pradesh. The total length of both the routes will be 272 km. He said that this is a big gift to Madhya Pradesh in the form of National Highways and other routes.



# FADNAVIS ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE MUMBAI POLICE

BJP WILL FORM GOVT. IN MAHARASHTRA IN 2024: FADNAVIS

## BJP leader mocks Sena, Congress's dismal performance in Goa

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Exulting after the BJP's electoral triumph in four States including Goa, former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP's Goa election in-charge, asserted that his party would form the government in Maharashtra after the 2024 Assembly election with full majority.

Speaking in Mumbai where he was welcomed by jubilant party workers near the party's Nariman Point office following the BJP's triumph in Goa, Fadnavis said the party's next target was to rid the Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) of corruption.

"We want to rescue the civic body from the clutches of corruption. The BJP is not against any party [read Sena] per se, but against corruption," said Fadnavis.

In a bid to checkmate the Sena, the BJP has been eyeing the cash-rich BMC, which is the Sena's power and resource base in Maharashtra and has been controlled by the Uddhav Thackeray-led party for more than two decades.

Remarking that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'magic' had shone through in the Assembly election results, Fadnavis said whether it was the Covid-19 pandemic or any other crisis, Modi had managed to create a trust among the country's electorate that saw it being translated into votes.

The BJP's long-standing alliance with the Sena unravelled after the two saffron parties bickered over the Chief Minister's post following the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly election. Consequently the Sena formed an alliance with the ideologically opposed NCP



and the Congress to keep the BJP out of power despite the latter emerging as the single-largest party with 105 seats.

"Targeting the Sena, Fadnavis said the Uddhav Thackeray-led party was a non-entity in the Goa electoral contest. "The Sena was loudly boasting that its fight was with the BJP... in reality, they were competing with the 'none of the above' [NOTA] votes. Even with its combined alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Sena-NCP's vote share is barely a little over the NOTA votes," Fadnavis said.

The NCP-Sena alliance secured a combined vote share of 1.32% of which the Sena's share was a dismal 0.18% while the NOTA vote figure stood at 1.12%.

The Sena was eager to form an alliance with the Goa Congress to take on the BJP only to be rebuffed by the latter. Despite Sena leader Sanjay Raut's professions of his party being in the reckoning in Goa, the Sena has scant presence with its candidates performing even more dismally this time than in the 2017 Assembly election.

Fadnavis, however, said that a senior police officer called to inform him that police will visit his residence to take the required information and there was no need for him to visit the BKC cyber police station.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai cyber police have issued a notice to senior Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis, asking him to appear before them on Sunday in connection with a case of alleged illegal tapping of phones, an official said on Saturday.

Fadnavis, however, said that a senior police officer called to inform him that police will visit his residence to take the required information and there was no need for him to visit the BKC cyber police station. Fadnavis slammed the Maharashtra government alleging that it had been brushing away the case for the past six months.

Addressing a press conference here today, Fadnavis said, "Mumbai Police has sent me a notice under Sec 160 CrPc, asking me to appear before them at BKC Cyber Police Station at 11 am tomorrow. I will go there and record my statement.

"As a Leader of Opposition, I have the privilege to not reveal where I got the information from but I was Home Minister once and I understand my responsibility. If an offence was falsely registered and if the police wants some help, I will respond.



So, I will go to the Police Station tomorrow," said Fadnavis. The BJP leader alleged that the state government was attempting to protect scamsters involved in the case. "Had the government caught the scamsters and those who are being probed by CBI on time and not brushed the matter under the carpet for six months, then I need not have exposed it. The State Government wants to protect them and somebody who has exposed this is being called to the police station," he said. On February 26 this year, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil claimed that former Commissioner Rashmi Shukla had tapped phones of political leaders like Nana Patole, Bachchu Kadu, Sanjay Kakade and Ashish Deshmukh. "FIR registered against former Pune CP Rashmi Shukla on the basis of inquiry report. During her tenure, she tapped phones of some political leaders on the pretext that the politicians were linked with the drugs business," said Patil.

"She falsely took the permission which is against the Indian Telegraph Act. She tapped phones of leaders like Nana Patole, Bachchu Kadu, Sanjay Kakade and Ashish Deshmukh," added the Maharashtra Home Minister. an FIR against Rashmi Shukla in the Maharashtra phone tapping case. The case was registered under section 26 of the Indian Telegraph Act. constituted a three-member high-level committee headed by the then Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Pandey to investigate the phone tapping cases for the period of five years from 2015 to 2019. The high-level committee was tasked to find out whether the phones of various political leaders were tapped illegally for undesirable political or any other purpose. The committee was asked to submit a detailed report of the probe and fix the responsibility of the person (if any) responsible for such cases. The committee has now submitted the report to the government. According to the report, it is found that the phone tapping was done during the tenure of then Pune Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla. Accordingly, an FIR has been filed by Pune city police against her under section 26 of the Indian Telegraph act. There were allegations of phone tapping levelled by several MLAs including Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole. The controversy over phone tapping had erupted in 2020 after audio clips purportedly having a telephonic conversation between Union minister Gajendra Singh and Congress leaders surfaced. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday questioned Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey in relation to a corruption case against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

# CBI records statement of Mumbai CP in Maha corruption case

## Tehseen Poonawala in 'Lock Upp': I slept with industrialist's wife on husband's request

Political analyst and entrepreneur Tehseen Poonawala, who was recently seen on the reality show 'Lock Upp', revealed an interesting secret to save fashion designer and co-contestant Saisha Shinde from nomination.

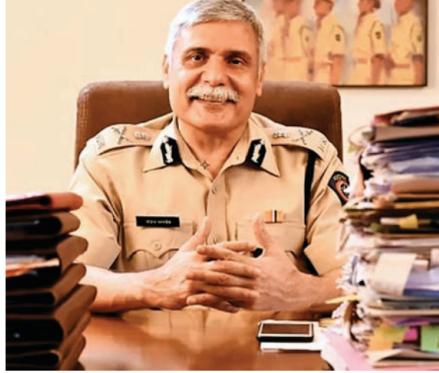
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Political analyst and entrepreneur Tehseen Poonawala, who was recently seen on the reality show 'Lock Upp', revealed an interesting secret to save fashion designer and co-contestant Saisha Shinde from nomination. He shared that once he slept with an industrialist's wife on request of her husband.

Bollywood actress and host Kangana Ranaut asked Tehseen that you can save one person from nomination this week on the show. But for that she puts the condition that he has to share a secret about him in front of everyone. Tehseen opted to share a secret and save Saisha from nomination. Tehseen told that once he had to sign a contract and had to sleep with a big industrialist's wife. "I slept with a big industrialist's wife for one whole night" because her husband requested that he sleep with his wife.



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recorded the statement of Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey, on an audio conversation submitted by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Parambir Singh to the probe agency and the Supreme Court.



month from dance bars and restaurants in Mumbai. He made these allegations when he was removed from police commissioner's post after Antilia case. Deshmukh has denied all the allegations levelled against him. On April 21, 2021 the CBI had filed an FIR against Deshmukh and had initiated a probe. The CBI also scanned his financial transactions of the last three years. The CBI also gathered information about the business dealings of Deshmukh. The CBI has prepared a list of the business associates of Deshmukh. The transactions made between them was reportedly scanned.

On November 1, 2021 Deshmukh was placed under arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a PMLA case pertaining to the alleged posting and transfer of officials.

sation submitted by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Parambir Singh to the probe agency and the Supreme Court.

In the audio clip, Pandey, who used to be then DGP Maharashtra, had allegedly tried to influence Singh to

withdraw the complaint against Anil Deshmukh, the former Maharashtra Home Minister.

Singh had accused Deshmukh of misusing his post and that it was Deshmukh who asked him to collect Rs 100 crore every

## Maharashtra HSC Exams 2022: Students, teachers allege mass cheating, unfair means, officials yet to respond

Mass cheating and unfair means of writing the examination have been alleged at various centres during the Maharashtra HSC Exams 2022. Multiple students and teachers have been storming social media with videos of such instances. State and MSBSHSE Officials are yet to respond and given an official confirmation regarding these allegations.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reports of mass cheating has been reported as some centres for the Maharashtra Higher Secondary Board Exams 2022. Multiple videos have gone viral on social media of mass cheating taking place. Students and teachers from centres where such incidents did not take place, have been asking officials to respond and take action accordingly. Videos of the incidents showcasing students sitting

together and writing the exam have been going viral on Twitter. Although, the centres haven't been confirmed, it is alleged that the centres were for the Maharashtra HSC Exams 2022. "This is injustice with students who are working hard for preparation of exams, please do something about this," stated a professor on Twitter. Students can also be seen copying answers from their textbooks, note books and phones. Many videos of students recording what is happening have been in circulation

since the exams began on March 4, 2022. "This is so depressing, I'm not a topper student but I have been preparing for these exams. This is not fair to the rest of the students," stated one such distraught student. Mass cheating has been reported in some centres. Students have been asking the authorities to take action against such centres and the students, teachers participating in this. Students have also asked for authorities to look into alternative modes of testing such as internal

assessments to bring all the students to one level of fair testing. Multiple tweets and posts have been addressed to the authorities of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education. Students, professors have also reached out to the State Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad as well as the Chief Minister of the State, Uddhav Thackeray. MSBSHSE and state officials are yet to address these allegations and provide confirmation of instances of mass cheating.

## NSE, IBA to set-up domestic bullion spot exchange

Stock exchange major NSE and India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) will soon launch the 'Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange' as per SEBI guidelines.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stock exchange major NSE and India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) will soon launch the 'Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange' as per SEBI guidelines.

A NSE statement on Saturday said that India is the second largest consumer of gold, and it is first time that a domestic bullion spot exchange is being set up under the aegis of SEBI.

"This joint initiative by NSE and IBJA will not only offer the much-awaited platform to the industry players for the spot market bullion

transactions but also act as a step in the direction of giving an opportunity to investors and consumers to directly participate on the exchange platform," the statement said.

As per the statement, the proposed business framework shall cater to 'B2B' segments of the industry and is expected to play a pivotal role in integrating the value chain participants in the entire bullion ecosystem.

"This exchange shall bring in efficiency as well as transparency in the price discovery of bullion and at the same time offer confidence to the investors about the quality of metal being delivered through the exchange platform," said Vikram Limaye, MD & CEO, NSE.

"We are also happy to be working with IBJA in this initiative and we are sure that with their expertise and large member base, we will be able to aid the overall development of the bullion spot market as well as witness significant participation from the market players."

## AAP expresses disappointment over Maharashtra State Budget 2022-23

AAP also called out the state government for its inability to address the problem of unsustainable and ever-increasing fiscal debt in the state.

for education and public health is done by the government. The Delhi Government budget outlay for 2021-22, is Rs 69,000 crore. It must be noted that this is more than double the value of the outlay of Rs 30,940 crore from 2014-15, when AAP first came to power. The Maharashtra government on the other hand, has presented a fiscal deficit of Rs 24,353 crores in 2022-23, and it's debt has crossed Rs 6,00,000 crores. The MVA doesn't care to present any outcomes as a part of its budget, keeping the citizenry in the dark as regards the achievements of provisions of the previous year's Budgets, said

party. "Who will take Maharashtra government and cannot perform even the most rudimentary functions, because of massive loan interest payments and fiscal mismanagement? They should take lessons from the AAP Government in Delhi, which had converted a fiscal deficit of Rs 3,942 crore in 2013-14, to a fiscal surplus of Rs 113 crore in 2017-18, and continues to run one of the most fiscally prudent budgets in In Maharashtra, we can only see the government make big-ticket announcements without actually delivering on them, and hardly any benefits ever reaching the Aam Aadmi."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

AAP expressed disappointment over the Maharashtra State Budget 2022-23. It said, there is nothing for the Aam Aadmi; no emphasis on adequately increasing state expenditure

## 5000 OLD BUSES OF MSRTC TO BE REPLACED BY ENERGY EFFICIENT AND ECO FRIENDLY BUSES

Sources said these buses will be given to Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

If all goes according to plan, over 5000 old buses of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) will be replaced by energy efficient and eco friendly buses in coming two years. Currently MSRTC has around 16500 buses in its fleets.

On Friday the state government in its budget plan announced provision of 3,000 eco-friendly buses for Maharashtra. Sources said these buses will be given to Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.

Apart from that the procurement of 1500 eco friendly and energy effi-



cient buses also announced in last budget i.e. in 2021-2022 and procurement of around 700 such type of buses also announced in 2020-2021.

Confirming the development a senior officials of Maharashtra Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) said, due to pandemic procurement process of these buses got delayed but now tendering process for the procurement of 700 buses, (announced in 2020-2021) is on we are hoping that delivery of this lot will be started by end of this year.

Apart from that MSRTC administration admitted that the need for increased security and surveillance at Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus stands, which are in dilapidated condition. "We want to give better services to commuters using State

transportation. Not only must the security be enhanced, but facilities must also improve" said a senior officer of MSRTC. Recently a three member committee, which was set up in November 2021 to find a sustainable route for MSRTC not only rejected merger of the state transport corporation with the state government but also came up with a plan to revive the MSRTC. "Reduction in its fuel operated fleet and slowly switching to E-buses, development of its depots and bus stand will need of hours" suggested the committee. Currently MSRTC suffering from the cumulative losses of Nearly Rs 10 000 crore.



## BAFTA 2022 GALA DINNER

London | Agencies

Amy Jackson looked sensational as she led the star-studded arrivals alongside Talulah Riley at the British Academy Film Awards 2022 Gala Dinner at The Londoner Hotel on Friday night. The actress, 30, sent temperatures soaring as she flaunted her hourglass figure in a thigh-split black gown which featured a plunging neckline. Meanwhile, Talulah, 36, commanded attention in a shimmering green maxi dress also featuring a thigh-split and chic stripes as she made her red carpet debut with her Love Actually boyfriend Thomas Brodie-Sangster, 31. And the stars were out in force to support the event, with Tess Daly seen putting on a leggy display in a white mini dress featuring a plunging neckline and sleeves as she posed up a storm alongside her dapper husband Vernon Kay who sported a navy suit and a matching polo sweater. Gazing into each other's eyes, the power couple certainly looked loved-up as they led the entrances at the star-studded event. The Strictly Come Dancing host added inches to her enviable frame with a pair of nude heels while accessorising her look with dazzling gold earrings and wearing her glossy blonde locks in a tousled ponytail.



## Cate Blanchett developing film, TV projects with her production company

Los Angeles | Agencies

Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who was recently seen in 'Don't Look Up' and 'Nightmare Alley', has taken the onus for developing film and TV projects as she's changing the landscape of audio-visual content through the Dirty Films banner she co-founded with her husband, Andrew Upton, reports 'Variety'.

'A Manual for Cleaning Women', her first collaboration with Pedro Almodovar in his English-language debut; Indigenous Australian filmmaker Warwick Thornton's 'The New Boy' and the Apple TV Plus series 'Disclaimer' from Alfonso Cuaron are some of the projects that are there in the pipeline of Dirty Films.

As per 'Variety', Blanchett will star in each in addition to producing, building on her resume of dual credits that includes 'Carol', 'Stateless' and 'Mrs. America'. Similar to how she chooses acting roles, the Dirty Films team (which also includes Coco Francini and Georgie Pym) takes a "filmmaker-driven" approach.

Chalking up the company's "incredibly eclectic" selections to its principals' Australian heritage, the actress told 'Variety', "No matter the budget or the genre, films are born out of interesting conversations, so that's where we begin." She explains, alluding to Australia's birth by colonial invasion, "It's a small country in terms of population, but we individually punch above our cultural weight, because we have such a mix of cultural influences, in a great way - also in a painful way. We have a very interesting perspective on the world." For her, having a creative stake in the project is a bigger aspiration than just finding a role for herself, "People often assume that when you have a production company, you are simply trying to develop materials for yourself. Sometimes that's the case, and you do need to be in something." The two-time Oscar-winner appeared in all six episodes of the miniseries that ultimately landed at Netflix. "I knew that I had to be in it in some way because of the material. No one wanted to make a project that was ostensibly about refugees and asylum seekers", she concluded.

## Shawn Levy to direct 'Deadpool 3'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Shawn Levy, the director of 'Free Guy' and the recently released 'The Adam Project', is set to enter the Marvel Cinematic Universe as he has been signed to direct the third instalment of the anti-hero film 'Deadpool', reports 'Variety'. Ryan Reynolds will be essaying the role of 'merc with a mouth' for 'Deadpool 3'.

Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, who penned the first two 'Deadpool' films, will write the third movie based on the 'X-Men' comic book character, created by Rob Liefeld.

As per 'Variety', Lizzie Molyneux-Loeglin and Wendy Molyneux, Emmy-winning writers of 'Bobs Burgers', had been previously tapped to write "Deadpool 3," but Reese and Wernick will instead return for a third outing.

Besides Reynolds, the details with regards to other cast members are still under wraps. The second 'Deadpool' film introduced Josh Brolin as Cable and Zazie Beetz as Domino. Reynolds also shared the news on Twitter with an image featuring his characters in 'Deadpool', 'The Adam Project' and 'Free Guy'. He tweeted, "The third film in my Shawn Levy trilogy will be a tad more stabby."

## Sony halts business, ops in Russia including 'Spider-Man: No Way Home'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sony Pictures is halting all businesses in Russia following the Putin administration's invasion of Ukraine. The move comes two weeks after the premiere studio paused the theatrical release of its anti-hero film 'Morbius' in Russia, reports 'Variety'.

The decision would entail home entertainment releases, such as that of box office hit 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' and any television distribution deals.

Sony Pictures Entertainment chairman and CEO Tony Vinciguerra wrote in a memo to staff on Friday, accessed by 'Variety', "We stand with many businesses around the world who have now paused their business operations in Russia, and in support of the humanitarian efforts currently underway in Ukraine and the surrounding region."

"Two weeks ago, we paused the upcoming theatrical release of 'Morbius' in Russia. Since then, we have also halted our planned home entertainment releases,

including 'Spider-Man: No Way Home,' and any future television distribution deals. And just this morning, Crunchyroll suspended its anime streaming service in Russia," the letter further read.

As per 'Variety', Sony Group Corporation has also donated \$2 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the international NGO Save the Children to provide humanitarian aid to the people stuck in war-torn Ukraine.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gabrielle Union

## SANDRA OH REVEALS HOW THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER EQUATION EVOLVES IN 'TURNING RED'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Canadian-American actress Sandra Oh, who has voiced the character of Ming Lee in the upcoming animated comedy film, 'Turning Red', recently revealed that her character too undergoes transformation in the coming-of-age story along with her daughter Mei Lee.

Voicing for Ming Lee, Mei's overbearing mother who is aware of her daughter's weird abilities, Sandra Oh said her character in the film is hypervigilant. She said that though Ming doesn't want her daughter to hide anything from her, "Ming is carrying a secret of her own."

She revealed that "Ming has to go through a little bit of a transformation herself. She loves her daughter deeply but has to accept her for the young woman she is turning out to be."

Excited about the movie being set in Toronto, Oh added, "When you come in for a recording session, they show you what they've animated. The opening sequence, when Mei is walking down the street, I knew exactly what corner that is. That was so exciting because you feel the personal investment in the storytelling."





## WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

# SMRITI, HARMANPREET HAMMER CENTURIES IN INDIA'S 155-RUN THRASHING OF WEST INDIES

Hamilton | Agencies

India survived a whirlwind blitz from Deandra Dottin to win their third match in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup by 155 runs at Seddon Park on Saturday. After India posted a mammoth 317/8, with Smriti Mandhana top-scoring with 123 while Harmanpreet Kaur slammed 109, West Indies threatened to take down the target.

But once Deandra fell for 62, the chase fell apart and West Indies were all out for 162 in 40.3 overs. Deandra began by cracking two fours through cover and over slip off Meghna Singh. Jhulan Goswami teased her on the off-stump line but Deandra replied with successive boundaries over mid-wicket and extra cover.

But Deandra continued to plunder boundaries, including a six over long-on off Deepti Sharma to reach her fifty in just 35 balls. Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Pooja Vastrakar were brought in but were unable to stop the boundary flow. Hayley's drive off backfoot through cover brought the century of West Indies in just 12 overs. After crossing the 100-run mark in just 12 overs, West Indies began to implode as Sneha Rana drew a top-edge from the slog-sweep of Deandra and was



safely caught by short fine leg. A sustained pressure of dot balls resulted in Kycia Knight trying to pull Meghna but found fielder at fine leg. In her next over, Meghna got the big wicket of captain Stafanie Taylor, who nicked a shaping away delivery to the 'keeper. Sneha got one to turn and bounce away from Hayley, who looked to cut but edged behind to keeper. Pooja, returning for her second spell, got Shemaine Campbelle to slice straight to backward point. In the next over, Rajeshwari trapped Chinelle Henry plumb lbw and effected the run-out of Aaliyah Alleyne. With Anisa Mohammed flicking to a tumbling short mid-wicket, Jhulan grabbed her

40th scalp in World Cups and also became the leading wicket-taker in the history of the tournament. Chedean Nation fell to a run-out from Deepti and Sneha finished off the match with a caught-and-bowled dismissal of Shamilla Connell.

### Brief scores

India 317/8 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 123, Harmanpreet Kaur 109; Anisa Mohammed 2/59, Aaliyah Alleyne 1/26) beat West Indies 162 all out in 40.3 overs (Deandra Dottin 62, Hayley Matthews 43; Sneha Rana 3/22, Meghna Singh 2/27) by 155 runs.

### SMRITI SHARES 'PLAYER OF THE MATCH' AWARD WITH HARMANPREET

Hamilton: In a heart-warming and classy gesture at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, opener Smriti Mandhana chose to share her 'Player of the Match' award with batter Harmanpreet Kaur after India won by 155 runs against the West Indies. While Smriti hit 123 runs in 119 balls, Harmanpreet slammed 109 in 107 balls. The duo was also involved in a 184-run partnership, rescuing India from 78/3 to posting 317/8 in 50 overs, their best-ever total in the history of World Cup and highest total of the ongoing edition of the tournament. In the post-match presentation ceremony, one was curious over Smriti and Harmanpreet standing together in front of the Player of the Match trophy. Smriti, adjudged by the commentators to be Player of the Match, then revealed about her decision to share the award with fellow centurion Harmanpreet in an excellent gesture.

# Pink ball Test: Sri Lanka 86/6 at stumps, trail India by 166 runs on Day 1

Bengaluru | Agencies

Sri Lanka were 86-6 in their first innings at stumps, trailing by 166 runs against India on the opening day of the second and final Test (pink ball game) at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, here on Saturday.

Niroshan Dickwella (13 off 29) and Lasith Embuldeniya (0) were unbeaten at the crease at the end of the day's play in Bengaluru.

After bowling out India for 252 in their first innings, Sri Lanka didn't show much application during their batting. Angelo Mathews (43 off 85) was Sri Lanka's top scorer on Day 1 while Jasprit Bumrah (3/15), Mohammed Shami (2/18) and Axar Patel (1/21) were the wicket-takers for India.

Earlier in the day, India won the toss and opted to bat first but the hosts got off to a poor start as Mayank Agarwal was run-out on four. In the second over of the innings, there was an appeal for a leg-before against Agarwal that was turned down. The Indian batters thought they could sneak in a run and Mayank ran down the pitch. However, there was some



confusion from Rohit at the other end and the Sri Lankans took full advantage and ran Agarwal out. Hanuma Vihari then joined Rohit Sharma at the crease. The duo added 19 runs for the second wicket before Lasith Embuldeniya dismissed Rohit for 15. However, Virat Kohli, who got loud cheers at his IPL home ground, and Vihari steadied the Indian innings. Vihari punished the short balls and stitched a handy 47 runs stand for the third wicket before Vihari fell to Jayawickrama on 31. Soon, Kohli was also trapped in front of the wicket on 23 by Dhananjaya de Silva before the Tea break. Resuming the second session at 93/4, runs

came quickly for India as Rishabh Pant played some attacking shots. With seven boundaries, Pant raced to 39 off 26 balls before being cleaned up by Embuldeniya. Ravindra Jadeja (4), who came to bat next didn't last long as Embuldeniya scalped another wicket. R Ashwin then joined Shreyas Iyer at the crease and helped the hosts regain stability by forging a handy 35-run stand for the seventh wicket.

### Brief scores

India 252 all out in 59.1 overs (Shreyas Iyer 92, Rishabh Pant 39; Praveen Jayawickrama 3/81) Sri Lanka 86-6 after 30 overs (Angelo Mathews 43; Jasprit Bumrah 3/15)

# Mithali Raj breaks record for most matches captained in history of Women's World Cup

Hamilton | Agencies

India captain Mithali Raj on Saturday went past Australia batting great Belinda Clark's record for most matches captained in the history of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

Belinda had captained Australia in 23 matches and Mithali, with the ongoing match against the West Indies at Seddon Park, has now captained India in 24 matches of the showpiece event.

"Mithali Raj breaks the record for most matches captained in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup," said the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Twitter. At the start of the tournament, Mithali had become the first crick-



eter to appear in six editions of Women's Cricket World Cups, joining legendary batters in men's cricket Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.

In 23 matches, Belinda had 14 wins, eight losses and one no result against her name.

She also lifted the World Cup twice in her captaincy reign, doing so in 1997 and 2005. Co-incidentally, Mithali and Belinda are the only two captains to have been skippers for their respective teams in more than two editions of the Women's Cricket World Cup.

## HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

# INDIA WOMEN LOSE TO GERMANY IN SHOOT-OUT

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

India made a hash of their experience and home conditions as they were held 1-1 by a young inexperienced Germany before the visitors won the shoot-out 2-1 to gain a bonus point from the first match of the Women's FIH Pro League double-header here on Saturday.

It was a game of two halves as Germany held possession in the first period and India in the second. The hosts took an early lead via Navneet Kaur in the fourth minute but Germany equalised within a minute through Carlotta Sippel and the two teams remained locked 1-1 till the end of the match despite creating several chances. The two goalkeepers kept their respective teams in the hunt by pulling off some good saves. In the end, Germany had the last laugh as they won the shoot-out 2-1.

The Indians could not play their best game against the inexperienced Germans at the Kalinga



Stadium. The teams remained 1-1 at the end of 60 minutes of regulation play. In the shoot-out, Germany held their nerve to take the bonus point. While neither side showed great finishing in the

shoot-out, credit should go to German goalkeeper Wichmann as she saved four attempts and made a great video referral to take a penalty stroke overturned on a technicality.

## 2ND TEST, DAY 1

# Khawaja's ton puts Australia in strong position against Pakistan

Karachi | Agencies

Usman Khawaja's unbeaten century (127) and Steve Smith's fifty (72) put Australia in a strong position against Pakistan on the opening day of the second Test of the three-match series, here on Saturday.

Australia went to stumps on 251/3 on Day 1, with Usman Khawaja and night-watchman Nathan Lyon (0) unbeaten at the crease.

Pat Cummins-led Australia won the toss in Karachi and opted to bat first. David Warner and Usman Khawaja, after surviving the tough opening spell from Pakistan pacers, dominated with the bat, as they made full use of the fresh pitch in the first half of the opening session.

Shaheen Shah Afridi started brilliantly against the two left-handers, occasionally asking them questions



with his swinging full-length deliveries. Alongside Shaheen in the opening spell, Hasan Ali, who made his comeback into the Pakistan XI, was very accurate and troubled the batters with his tight outside off-stump line. Warner, who got off to a shaky

start, survived two close leg-before-wicket calls off Hasan but looked in sublime form after that.

Khawaja also danced down the track to hit a six off Sajid in the 17th over, followed by another six from Warner in the same over. It looked

like Khawaja and Warner would race to a century opening stand before Faheem Ashraf broke through to end the stand on 82.

After the break, Khawaja and Smith continued their strong batting show as the hosts failed to take any wickets in the second session of the day. The southpaw played some exquisite drives as he closed in on his century while Smith batted patiently throughout the second session. Pakistan could have taken the wicket of Khawaja off the last ball of the day had Imam-ul-Haq not dropped the catch at forward short leg.

### Brief scores

Australia 251/3 (Usman Khawaja 127 not out, Steve Smith 72; Hasan Ali 1-31, Faheem Ashraf 1-32) vs Pakistan

# Athletics: Focus on sprinters in season's first Indian Grand Prix

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

At the start of a season that includes big events like Commonwealth and Asian Games, the focus will be on quarter milers Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom and Arokia Rajiv in the Indian Grand Prix 1 Athletics Meet at the Chandrasekharan Nair Police Stadium here on Sunday.

Amoj, Noah and Rajiv, who were part of the Indian 4x400m relay team that set the Asian Record in the Tokyo Olympic Games in August last, as well as Amlan Borgogain and Nalubothu Srinivas will all be in action on Sunday. While Amoj Jacob and Noah Nirmal Tom will headline the 400m race, the others will battle it out in the 200m sprint, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) informed in a release on Saturday.



Similarly, Hima Das, S Dhanalakshmi and AT Daneshwari will make the women's 200m, an event to watch while Priya H. Mohan, MR Poovamma and Dandi Jyothika Sri can make for a very competitive 400m contest at the start of the season in which the Indian sprinters will try to overcome the disappointment of the women's team not making it to the Olympic Games.

The Indian sprinters will take centre stage as they will showcase early form in the

season that will see major competitions like World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

A total of 90 athletes, including 30 women, will compete in 14 events. Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m), Abhishek Pal (men's 5000m), Karanveer Singh (men's shot put), Lili Das (women's 1500m) and Sharmila Kumari (women's javelin throw) will have to deal with the pressure of going into their events as favourites.

# Faf du Plessis named RCB captain for IPL 2022

Bengaluru | Agencies

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has been named the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain and will lead the side in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), starting from March 26.

His name was announced at an event called 'RCB Unbox' here on Saturday. The event was also attended by Dinesh Karthik and Harshal Patel. Du Plessis, who represented Chennai Super Kings until last year, was purchased by the Royal Challengers for Rs 7 crore at the mega auction last month. RCB have



been looking for their new leader since Virat Kohli stepped down from the post

last year, citing workload management. Kohli had led the side since 2011.

## ISL 2021-22

# Hyderabad FC put one foot in final with a 3-1 win over ATK Mohun Bagan

Bambolim (Goa) | Agencies

Hyderabad FC put one foot in what would be their first-ever final after scripting a come-from-behind 3-1 win over ATK Mohun Bagan in the first leg of the 2021-22 Indian Super League second semi-final at the Athletic Stadium, here on Saturday.

Roy Krishna helped ATKMB take the lead but the former finalists' joy was short-lived as Bartholomew Ogbeche (45th) equalised on the cusp of halftime, only for Yasir Mohammad (58th) and Javier Siviero (64th) to gloss over it.

The two teams will go up against



each other again on Wednesday for the second leg with ATKMB needing to find the back of the net at least twice to stand a chance of advancing

to their second successive summit clash. Yasir Mohammad's corner was not cleared by ATKMB defenders and the ball fell to Juanan who saw Ogbeche at the right place at the right time. Sandesh Jhingan shook his head, knowing he could have done better when Ogbeche beat him for the goal as both teams headed back into the tunnel locked at 1-1.

The second half belonged to Hyderabad as they pumped in two goals in the space of six minutes to script a comeback after an underwhelming first 45 minutes. It was a double blow for ATKMB as not only did Yasir Mohammad score a goal

after Jhingan and Tiri collided in an attempt to clear the ball near the box with Yasir smashing home from outside the box, but Tiri had to be stretchered off. Minutes later, Siviero headed in from a corner to make it 3-1. Ogbeche was everywhere in the second period for Manolo Marquez's side, his spade-work helping Yasir Mohammad get the goal. At the other end, Joni Kauko fired a volley wide from a Hugo Boumous cut-in from the byline. In the dying minutes, ATKMB desperately looked for a goal to trim the margin with substitute Kiyan Nassiri coming closest as he found the post from close range.



## Samantha shuts down trolls over bold looks

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who stole the limelight with her sizzling appearance at the Critics Choice Awards, was trolled for her bold, revealing looks.

A few Telugu tabloids went further to relate her dressing sense with her divorce. Samantha hence, took to her social media handles to slam her trolls. The 'Rangasthalam' actress wrote, "As a woman, I bear firsthand knowledge of what it means to be judged. We judge women based on what they wear, their race, education, social standing, appearance, skin tone, and the list goes on and on." Samantha continues, "Making snap judgments about a person simply based on the clothes they wear is quite literally the easiest thing one can do. Now that we're in the year 2022, can we finally stop judging a woman based on the hemlines & necklines she adorns and focus instead on bettering ourselves?" She further added, "Turning that judgment inward and training it on one's own is evolution! Projecting our deals on someone else never did anyone any good... lets gently rewrite the way we measure and understand a person." Despite the actress' absolutely stunning looks at the event, she was trolled for her bold choice, as most of her critics felt the dress was 'quite revealing'. Sharing the same collage of pictures, 'The Family Man-2' actress Samantha simply shut down her critics.

In a world of devastation, we seek refuge in love songs for hope: Shilpa Rao

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Celebrated Bollywood playback singer Shilpa Rao, who has come up with the new love ballad - 'Kaisi Teri Baatein' with co-singer Suyyash Rai, says that the purpose of art and music is to heal and represent people in suffering.

In conversation with reporter, Shilpa said: "My new song talks about the basic and small things of daily life in a love relationship. We tend to celebrate the big days of life in love when we are in a relationship. But when any destructive things happen outside, all we look for is the smallest things and habits that make us feel 'home'. Perhaps that is why in a world that is going through so much devastation, we seek refuge in love songs, for hope."

The song is written by Kaushal Kishore, composed by Siddharth Singh and Suyyash Rai. Suyyash, who has also lent his voice for the song, was featured in the music video alongside Priyal Gor.

Shilpa is known for delivering several superhit Bollywood songs like 'Khuda Jaane', 'Bulleya' and many more.

As an artist she believes that the whole purpose of art in every form, be it - music, cinema, painting, architecture, dance, theatre - is to represent reality.

## Rana Daggubati's Ikonz gets funding from Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Rana Daggubati's venture Ikonz has got funding from global technology stalwarts Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos. The 'Baahubali' actor who is excited about the same has expressed his happiness over the funding.

Rana Daggubati said, "As an IP owner, the world of blockchain presents both incredible possibilities as well as challenges on the best way to identify and focus on the best and most credible opportunities."

"A world-class blockchain aggregation company is the best way I and other IP owners could have found to start managing and monetising IP assets on a global stage in mul-



iple formats be NFTs, avatars, or even basic rights management", the young entrepreneur explains.

"I am excited to begin this new chapter as a co-founder at Ikonz we are happy to partner with the Indian biggest IPs such as 'Amar Chitra Katha', 'Tinkle', and SureshProductions and lead away into the meta-verse", Rana Daggubati's statement says.

Ikonz is a platform that helps manage digital assets and monetise digital IPs, NFTs across metaverses. Founded in August 2021, Ikonz has been providing its services as a wealth-building platform that helps IP owners, artists and other established icons manage their digital assets.



## Akshay Kumar gets nostalgic as he recalls his late dad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood's action superstar Akshay Kumar recalled how his late father, who would diligently watch all of his son's films, many times, on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

He came on the show as a special guest with Arshad Warsi, Jacqueline Fernandez, Kriti Sanon and director Farhad Samji to promote their new and upcoming film 'Bachchan Pandey'.

Host Kapil Sharma asked Kriti Sanon about her mother who is known to fight for her daughter when it comes to internet trolls. The actress said that her mother is the most honest and unfiltered person that she knows of. On this note, Akshay Kumar also spoke about his father, who would support him through thick and thin.

"Parents are like that only and I believe they should be like that! Whenever my films would be released, my father would see the film at least 14 to 15 times. Then sometimes, he used to randomly ask his friend, 'Aur, Kya kar raha hein?.. koi nai? Chal aa picture dekhta hein.' (What's going on? Let's go and watch a movie) He would himself buy the tickets, have snacks during the intervals and while watching the film, he would tap his friend's shoulder and say, 'that's my son'."

"So, that's what daddies and mummies are like and so, this is not astonishing that Kriti's mother fights for her. All mothers are like that," he added.



## Charrul Malik: Budding actors are ready to work for less pay

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Opportunities are limited in showbiz and actors asking for less money are preferred at times, says actress Charrul Malik, who is currently seen as Rusa in Sanjay and Binaifer Kohli's 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai' and 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan'.

She adds that this often leads to there being a scarcity of work for others and might lead to insecurity. "People are insecure because sometimes it happens that once you get good work then people expect to get that kind of work again. So, the break in between gets quite long. I have seen my friends in the acting line, they sit idle for quite a long time. In that period if you do something constructive, then you can survive. If you lose your cool then it gets difficult," she says. Adding: "Today, some budding actors and other artists get ready to work with less pay as well. Opportunities get killed for those who are seasoned and are working for a long time. I am happy to see these budding artists moving forward in their careers but there are some people who keep getting work repeatedly and you don't get a chance. Ours is not like a full-time job where you get a fixed salary. In this field, it's like a per-day basis, so you can get a little insecure. In today's time, your branding is really important." However, confidence in yourself is the way to go forward, adds the actress.

## Javed Akhtar celebrates live-in relationships in his new song

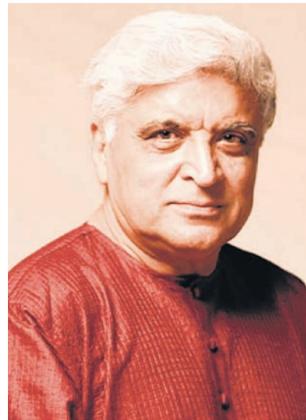
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar has penned a new song titled 'The Live-in', which is set to release on March 14. The song showcases the evolving world of millennials and the trend of living together instead of directly getting married.

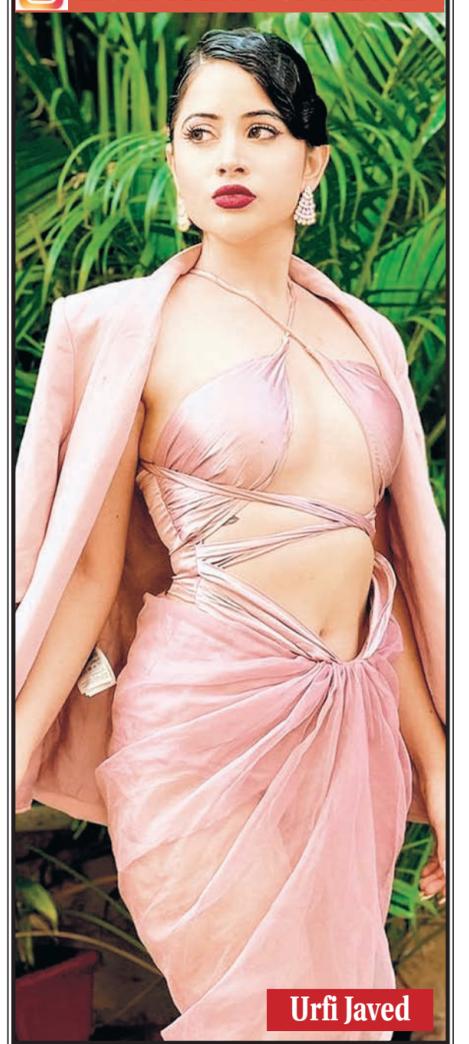
It tells how with changing times, society also changes and so do people's habits and their lifestyle. The song destigmatises the concept of living-in and presents it as the new normal.

Composed by music director Shamir Tandon, the track is a step in a fresh direction as it aims to educate the minds of the older generation about the equal importance of living in with the one.

Mohit Chauhan, and Nikhita Gandhi, whose last hit 'Jugnu' gained unprecedented popularity, have gone behind the mic for the song, the music video of which has been directed by Aditya Datt.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Urfi Javed