

absolute india

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SC COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDS ELEVATION OF 17 ADVOCATES, 3 JUDICIAL OFFICERS AS JUDGES OF THREE HCS

DISAGREE WITH GOI

'SHARING ARTICLE CRITICAL OF PM CAN'T DENY JUDGESHIP'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has reiterated its recommendation for elevation of advocate R. John Sathyan as a judge of Madras High Court, after the Central government returned his file citing that he had shared an article critical of the Prime Minister. The collegium, in a statement, said that all the consultee-judges at the relevant time had found him suitable for elevation. The statement cited an Intelligence Bureau (IB) report, which said: "As per open sources, two posts made by him, i.e. sharing of an article published in 'The Quint', which was critical of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi; and another post regarding committing of suicide by medical aspirant Anitha, who ended her life in 2017 since she was unable to clear NEET, portraying it as a killing by 'political betrayal' and a tag stating 'shame of you India' came to notice." The collegium said all the consultee-judges had a favourable opinion about suitability of Sathyan. "The Intelligence Bureau has reported that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. Sathyan belongs to the Christian community. The IB report notes that he does not have any overt political leanings," said the statement.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the elevation of 17 advocates and three judicial officers as judges of three high courts - Madras High Court, Allahabad High Court, and Karnataka High Court.

A statement uploaded on the apex court website said: "The Supreme Court collegium in its meeting held on January 17, 2023 has approved the proposal for elevation of the following advocates as Judges in the Madras High Court: Venkatachari Lakshminarayanan, Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri, Pillaipakkam Bahukutumbi Balaji, Ramaswamy Neelakandan, and Kandhasami Kulandaivelu Ramakrishnan."

In another statement, the collegium said in its meeting held on January 17 has approved the proposal for elevation of the following judicial officers as judges in the Madras High Court: Periyasamy Vadamalai, Ramachandran Kalaimathi, and K. Govindarajan Thilakavadi. The collegium also approved the proposal for elevation of the following advocates as judges in the Allahabad High Court: Prashant Kumar, yed Qamar Hasan Rizvi, Manish Kumar Nigam, Manjive Shukla,



Anish Kumar Gupta, Nand Prabha Shukla, Arun Kumar Singh, Deshwal, Kshitij Shailendra, and Vinod Diwakar.

'BEING CRITICAL OF POLICIES DOESN'T ESTABLISH IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS': BACKS ADVOCATE FOR BHC JUDGE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium has reiterated its earlier proposal to elevate advocate Somasekhara Sundaresan as a judge of the Bombay High Court, emphasising that the views on social media attributed to the candidate, do not furnish any foundation to infer that he is biased, and also being critical of important policies of government doesn't suggest strong ideological leanings.

The collegium in a statement, said all citizens have the right to free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. It noted that expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit, and integrity.

GOOGLE'S PLEA REFUSED TO STAY CCI ORDER IMPOSING RS 1,337.76 CRORE FINE

New Delhi: In a setback to Google, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to interfere with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) decision, declining to stay operation of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) order imposing Rs 1,337.76 crore fine on the tech giant.

The bench said any expression of opinion of this court on merits would affect the case before the NCLAT. It added that the findings by the CCI cannot be said to be without jurisdiction or with manifest error.

The Chief Justice said the compliance with the order of the CCI is extended by a further period of one week.

Google moved the apex court after the setback at NCLAT, which did not stay the CCI order on abuse of dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem case.

GRAPPLERS TO FILE FIR AGAINST WFI PREZ IF GOVT DOESN'T TAKE ACTION



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Top Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Thursday continued to slam Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, saying the women grapplers will an FIR against him if the government does not take action on the sexual harassment allegations.

Speaking to media persons here, the Asian and Commonwealth Games champion said it's hard to imagine that female wrestlers in the country are not safe. She urged the government to set the right precedent by punishing the guilty. Vinesh's comments come a day after several wrestlers, including Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia, protested against the functioning of the WFI and its president. On Wednesday, Vinesh alleged that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and a few other coaches at national camps in Lucknow sexually harassed female wrestlers. "If action is not taken, 4-5 women wrestlers will file an FIR in the matter.

If this is happening with wrestlers like us, then imagine how safe the situation is for other women," Vinesh said. We are getting support from all corners and I request Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji to support us like he has always been supporting the athletes. We will continue to protest till their demands are meant. We are not afraid of Brij Bhushan anymore," she added. IANS has also learnt that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh might be asked to resign from the WFI president post on January 22 after an Emergency Council Meeting here.

Earlier, the meeting between the Sports ministry officials and the delegation of four wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh and Sakshi Malik failed to yield results as protesting grapplers were not satisfied with the response. Speaking to reporters, Bajrang said that they didn't get any "satisfactory response" from the ministry and the protest will continue till the Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh-led Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) gets dissolved.

'Not surreptitious about gay advocate's orientation'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium has expressed its disagreement with the Centre for returning the proposal to appoint advocate Saurabh Kirpal, who is openly gay, as a Delhi High Court judge, saying "every individual is entitled to maintain their own dignity and individuality, based on sexual orientation". Saurabh Kirpal is son of former Chief Justice of India B.N. Kirpal. The collegium said: "The Collegium resolves to reiterate its recommendation dated 11 November, 2021 for appointment of Saurabh Kirpal as a Judge of the Delhi High Court which needs to be processed expeditiously. Moreover, it has been stated that the candidate's 'ardent involvement and passionate attachment to the cause of gay rights' would not rule out the possibility of bias and prejudice."

PM seeks 'concurring govt' at Centre, state, city, launches BJP's BMC campaign

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Head of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lavished projects worth nearly Rs 39,000 crore, including the second phase of two Metro lines, with a promise of more and speedier development for the future as it is imperative to have a government that is on the same wavelength at the Centre, state and the city.

"For a city like Mumbai, fast development is not possible without the Central and state and local government seeing eye-to-eye. There is no shortage of funds, but only it must be utilised for the right purposes. It should not remain locked up in bank or pocketed," he said.

Virtually appealing for a vote to the BJP in the upcoming BMC polls, Modi said that it was necessary to have a government at all levels which work in tandem, and the present "double-engine" regime was doing "a marvelous job".



Addressing a rally at Bandra Kurla Complex, Modi patted Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, and said that Mumbai suffered for a brief period (during the Maha Vikas Aghadi rule) when the "double engine" government was not in office and development projects languished.

"But now they are back and the city is progressing briskly," he said. The PM came to Mumbai this evening for a few hours to inaugurate, dedicate, lay foundation stone for various projects, launch welfare schemes and take a ride on the new Mumbai Metro Line 2A and Line 7 from Gundavali station to the airport station.

NZ PM TO STEP DOWN NEXT MONTH AFTER 6 YRS IN POWER

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Thursday announced that she will step down next month after being in power for six years, saying she no longer has "enough in the tank" to lead. "I had hoped that I would find what I needed to carry on over that period but, unfortunately, I haven't, and I would be doing a disservice to New Zealand to continue," the BBC quoted the Prime Minister as saying to reporters. Ardern, who became the youngest female head of government in the world when she was elected Prime Minister in 2017 at the age of 37, said that the six "challenging" years in the job had taken a toll.

Godda coal project

Tribals clash with cops, several including SDPO injured

Ranchi | Agencies

Five security personnel including Mahagama's SDPO Shivshankar Tiwari and about a dozen villagers were injured in a clash between security forces and local tribals on Thursday during the demarcation of land for the ECL coal project in Godda district.

While the tribals attacked with arrows and stones, the security forces lathi-charged them. Water cannon and tear gas were used to disperse the crowd. There is also information of aerial firing. More than a dozen villagers have also been taken into custody.

Amid the sloganeering by the villagers, the officials of ECL (Eastern Coalfields Limited) started demarcation and levelling of land on the acquired land in Taljhari village with the help of bulldozers and JCBs. Godda DC Jishan Qamar and SP Nathu Singh Meena are also camping at the spot.

On Wednesday, a team of ECL and administration officials along with 1,000 police and security force personnel had reached Taljhari



village for demarcation of the land. Thousands of women, men and children gathered in protest with traditional weapons, sticks and rods.

ECL has acquired 125 acres of land in Taljhari village of Boarjhar block during the last five years for expansion of its Rajmahal coal project. Since 2018, efforts are being made by ECL to start the process of mine expansion there, but due to strong opposition from the surrounding villages including the ryots of Taljhari, coal mining could not be started there till now.

GOVT TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON NEW IT RULES ON CURBING MISINFORMATION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government will hold consultations with stakeholders on the proposed amendments in the IT rules pertaining to curbing misinformation, on January 24. The rules have been drafted to ensure fact checking and prevent misinformation or patently false and untrue or misleading information on social media and other intermediary platforms. The ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) had earlier invited comments from both stakeholders and general public on the new IT rules.



It had also earlier initiated public consultation on amendments proposed to IT rules in relation to online gaming, for which the last date was January 17, 2023.

This has now been extended to January 25, 2023.

In addition to this, government has also sought comments and suggestions on both the above-mentioned amendments from the general public by January 25, 2023.

Study traces higher rainfall in northern Bay of Bengal than in other parts of India for last 10,000 yrs

Regions surrounding the northern Bay of Bengal (BoB) received higher precipitation than the other parts of India for the last 10,200 years, said a new study that traced the dynamics of the Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall over 10,000 years.

New Delhi | Agencies

Agriculture in India is heavily dependent on the Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall (ISMR). According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Bengal Basin or the 'Bengal region' being located at the trajectory of the Bay of Bengal branch of the ISMR is very sensitive to changes in the ISMR long-term record (beyond the range of the instrumental period) for the past ISM variability



in the region was available. The BSIP, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), for the first time, reconstructed the history of the ISM variability

from this region by using both biotic and abiotic proxies that predate instrumental records (records taken before 19th century). In the hydro-climatic history of the Bengal region published in the journal "Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology", a team of scientists show that a heavy ISMR was witnessed during 10.2 ka-5.6 ka by this region and the ISMR decreased since 4.3 ka. The ISM

again got strengthened between 3.7 ka and 2.1 ka following which it switched to a drier mode for some time. The ISM regained its strength during 0.2-0.1 ka. Of the weakened phases, weakening around 4.3 ka was the most severe, and had an adverse impact on the ecosystem. The study can help understand long-term trends of climate change impact on the ecosystem and may help mitigate future climate extremes.

GOVT SLAMS BBC DOCUMENTARY ON PM MODI

New Delhi: The government on Thursday criticised a BBC series on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, terming it "a biased propaganda piece".

"The documentary is a reflection on the agency that has made it. We think it is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset are blatantly visible. Can't dignify such a film," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

The two-part BBC series "India: The Modi Question" has evoked sharp reactions.

The outline summary of the series says that it's "A look at tensions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and India's Muslim minority, investigating claims about his role in the 2002 riots that left over a thousand dead".



CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT VS PILOT: RAJ CM 'COMPARES' HIS EX-DEPUTY TO CORONA

Jaipur | Agencies

The differences between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot which seemed to have settled down during former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra have again started coming out openly.

On Thursday, a video of CM Gehlot's pre-budget conversation with employees' organisations surfaced in which without naming Pilot, the veteran Congress leader compared his junior party colleague to 'Corona'. During the conversation on Wednesday, when the leader of the contractual employees, Shamsher Khan complained to the Chief Minister on not meeting anyone, Gehlot interrupted and said: "You are right... but now I have started meeting, I had met last Monday. What happened was that Corona came first and then came a big 'Corona' inside our party."

"Sometimes by-elections, sometimes Rajya Sabha elections. Even in the Rajya Sabha elections, votes were being cast somewhere and we were



at different places. It was a bad time. The time that has passed... in a different way. Despite this, with your cooperation, blessings, support and blessings, we have come up with wonderful schemes, because of which everything has been covered. If our budgets were not good then you and I would not have been able to do what we are talking about," he said. The Chief Minister told the employee

leaders: "The damage which happened in four years has been our own, the way the days have been spoiled; don't meet, don't mingle and then I got corona thrice. Post covid got heart stunts. I agree with your complaint. Now, I am meeting... see you on Monday and will let you know the time if I go out for urgent work."

It needs to be mentioned here that Pilot is also attacking the government

regarding the paper leak in his Kisaan Sammelans. On Wednesday, Pilot raised questions on the CM's clean chit to the officers-politicians in the paper leak in Jhunjhunu's Gudha. Shortly after that statement, there was a pre-budget meeting of the Chief Minister.

In this, Gehlot mentioned "the corona of the party", in front of the employees.

Process to declare Ram Setu a national heritage monument underway: Centre to SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central government on Thursday told the Supreme Court it was examining the issue in connection with declaring the Ram Setu a national heritage monument.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, asked petitioner Subramanian Swamy, a former Rajya Sabha member, to make a representation to the government, if he wants.

The bench, also comprising Justice P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, said that Justice Narasimha will not be part of the proceedings as he had earlier appeared in the matter as counsel.

The top court noted that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the process is currently underway in the Ministry of Culture. "He states that the petitioner may submit additional communication if he may so wish," the bench said.

The bench asked the Centre to take a decision on the issue and granted Swamy



the liberty to move before it again if he is not satisfied.

The two-judge bench, comprising the Chief Justice and Justice Pardiwala, disposed of Swamy's interim application on the issue.

During the hearing, Swamy said he does not want to meet anybody. "We are in the same party; it was there in our manifesto... I will come again," he said. Mehta said the process is underway.

Swamy informed the top court that in 2019, the then

Culture Minister Prahlaad Patel had called a meeting on the issue and recommended declaring the Ram Setu as a national heritage monument. He submitted: "The issue is that they have to say 'yes' or 'no'."

On January 12, the Centre had told the Supreme Court it would file its response by February first week on a plea filed by Swamy seeking a direction to declare the Ram Setu a national heritage monument.

Sex racket found running opposite police station in Bihar's Sitamarhi

Patna | Agencies

A flesh trade racket running in front of women police station in Bihar's Sitamarhi was busted on Thursday and five women and the house owner arrested, police said.

The district police received a tip-off from a Delhi-based NGO called GBI, whose officials contacted Sitamarhi's Superintendent of Police.

The SP immediately constituted a raiding team headed by DSP, HQ, Rakesh Ranjan. He, along with a team of women police station, made a plan and a NGO member was sent in the house posing as a decoy customer.

"The NGO employee, posing



as a customer, went there and cracked the deal with the house owner. Then, he signalled to us that the sex racket was running in the house, so we raided there with a women police team," Ranjan said. "We have arrested 5 women in the house who

were involved in flesh trade. Besides them, we have also arrested the house owner named Mohammad Insha. The raiding team also seized objectionable items including some condoms and medicines from the house," Ranjan said.

CLASH BETWEEN POLICE AND MAOISTS IN JHARKHAND'S PALAMU

Ranchi | Agencies

A clash between the security forces and Maoist organisation TSPC, took place in Palamu district of Jharkhand on Thursday.

In the encounter that occurred in the Manatu police station area of the district, 60 to 70 rounds were fired by both the sides. As per the police, the Maoists escaped through the jungle and there is a possibility of some of them being injured. The police have recovered many items from the spot, including an airgun.

District SP Chandan Kumar Sinha said that the clash continued for about 15 to 20 minutes.

The police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had received information that a squad of TSPC's top Commander Shashikant had been seen in the area, following which they were conducting a search operation there. The Maoists, upon seeing the police and the security personnel, fired upon them.

The district police and the CRPF's 134 Battalion personnel returned the fire. Search operations by the police are underway in the area.



Joshimath crisis: Cracks develop in GMVN guest house

Joshimath | Agencies

Cracks have developed in the walls of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam's (GMVN) guest house in the holy city of Joshimath in Uttarakhand.

The cracks were noticed in the building, located near Gandhi Maidan, on Wednesday by a team of officers and scientists who had been staying in the guest house, after arriving in the city to study the causes of the land subsidence in Joshimath and to find ways to deal with it.

As soon as the cracks were detected, the employees informed the District Tourism Officer of Chamoli.

Earlier, slight cracks had been seen in the walls of four rooms on the first floor of the guest house which have now increased.

The cracks have now emerged on the walls of other rooms and offices.

The tiled floor in some areas of the ground floor has started breaking up.

Following this, the building is likely to be declared unsafe soon. Fine cracks have been



noticed in the Sanskrit College buildings, being used as relief camps for the 23 affected families shifted there.

A local resident said that the cracks were old and similar cracks could be seen all over the city. Apart from this, cracks have appeared in the buildings behind the police station.

A policeman said that there is a big pit behind the police station where the cracks have increased in two days.

So far, 258 families have been shifted to safer places, including 8 families who were shifted on Wednesday.

Burqa-clad girls stopped from entering UP college

Moradabad | Agencies

The controversy over burqa erupted once again on Thursday when some students of a college in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad were denied entry for wearing it.

The incident took place at the Hindu College, Moradabad.

The girls have alleged that they were not being allowed to enter the college premises and they are being compelled to remove their burqa at the gate. A scuffle allegedly broke out between the students, the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha workers, and the college professors who remained adamant about sticking to the prescribed rules.

A video has gone viral on the



social media.

Meanwhile, the college professor, Dr A.P. Singh, said that they have implemented a dress code for the students here and anybody who refuses to follow it, will be barred from entering the college campus.

Members of the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha submitted a memorandum to include the burqa in the dress code for college and allow the girls to attend their classes wearing it.

UNNAO CUSTODIAL DEATH: DELHI HC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO KULDEEP SENGAR

New Delhi | Agencies

The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted two weeks' interim bail to the expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar's in the custodial death case of a rape victim's father, in view of his daughter's wedding.

Sengar was sentenced to life term imprisonment for raping a minor girl in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. On Monday, a division bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Poonam A. Bamba had granted Sengar interim bail in connection with the rape matter while imposing certain conditions. The bench had asked Sengar to report to the concerned Station House Officer on a daily basis during his bail period from January 27 to February 10 and furnish two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each.



DCW CHIEF DRAGGED NEAR AIIMS, ACCUSED APPREHENDED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal was allegedly dragged by a car for 10-15 metres when she was reprimanding a drunk man who had stopped near her and asked her to sit in his car.

When she went near the driver's side, he quickly rolled up window, her hand got stuck and she was dragged.

According to Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), on January 19, a PCR call was received at 3:11 a.m. that a woman has been dragged near AIIMS bus stop.

"The call was made by Garuda 1 (special patrolling vehicle in South district) to the control room at 3:10 a.m. The patrol vehicle had seen the woman on the pavement opposite AIIMS Gate number 2 area at 3:05 a.m and had stopped to enquire from her whether she was in distress," said the DCP. "The



woman mentioned that a person driving the Baleno car, who was drunk, stopped near her and asked her to sit

in the car with a bad intention. When she refused he went and again came back after taking a U-turn from the service lane. He once again asked her to sit in the car," said the official. "She refused and went near the driver's side window to reprimand him. The car driver quickly rolled up the window, as such that her hand got stuck and she was dragged for 10-15 metres," the official added.

"The said Baleno vehicle was apprehended by the PCR vehicle and Garuda at 3:34 a.m. The woman was identified as Swati Maliwal. A written complaint was taken from her. The driver of the vehicle and complainant were sent for medical examination," said the DCP.

A case under section 323/341/354/509 IPC and 185 MV Act has been registered at Kotla Mubarak Pur police station.

The accused identified as Harish Chandra, a resident Sangam Vihar, has been apprehended, said police.

Soon Delhi to Jaipur in 2 hrs, Vande Bharat Express to reduce travel time

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As per the Indian Railways, the premium service of the Vande Bharat Express connecting New Delhi and Jaipur will start soon, which will reduce the travel time between the two cities from four hours to just two hours.

Travelling by other trains on the New Delhi-Jaipur route normally takes about four hours.

So far, eight Vande Bharat Express trains are running on different routes in the country with the latest one being the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express connecting the two states.

Other Vande Bharat Express trains include New Delhi-Varanasi, New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Gandhinagar Rajdhani-Mumbai and Howrah-New Jalpaiguri.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said: "Vande Bharat is an excellent train. It can travel 0-100 km in 52 seconds, while other trains in the world take 54 to 60 seconds.



India's designs are even better than aeroplanes. It can provide the most comfortable travel experience."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the inauguration of Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam

Vande Bharat Express, said that seven Vande Bharat trains (running already) had covered a cumulative distance of 23 lakh km, which is equivalent to 58 rounds of the earth.

Modi added that more than 40

lakh passengers had travelled in these trains so far. Vande Bharat Express train has 14 AC Chair Car coaches and two Executive AC Chair Car coaches with a capacity of 1,128 passengers.

17 families in Gujarat's Bhutavad village face social boycott



Modasa | Agencies

Seventeen families of the barber community in Gujarat's Bhutavad village have been facing social boycott after a youth from the community married an upper caste woman.

One of the affected, Prabhudas told media persons, "A youth from our community has married a woman from Chaudhary family (Patel), even we are against this love marriage, yet, upper caste members are socially boycotting Nai families living

in the Bhutavad village since the last one week. They have stopped selling milk and other groceries to Nai families, children are not allowed to attend school, and a pregnant woman is treated badly."

Women and children are worst affected, complained Manjulaben. "Though males tried to talk to upper caste males, they are adamant and are not allowing us to live in the village," she alleged and demanded that the district administration should

immediately intervene.

Prabhudas said, "We have submitted a memorandum to the Collector office and pleaded to rehabilitate the village."

District Collector Narendra Meena said: "On Wednesday evening, the issue was brought to my knowledge. I have instructed the Sub Divisional Magistrate and local officers to visit the village and address the issue within 24 hours."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Vindhya Janta Party** (name of the party) The office of the party is located at **House No-MIG-1-86, Padamdhar Colony Rewa in Huzur, Tehsil of Rewa, Dist-Rewa, Madhya Pradesh-486001** (give full address). This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:-

President/Chairman : Umesh Kumar Shukla
Vice-President : Shaikh Ram Tiwari
General Secretary : Abhishek Pratap Singh
Treasurer : Rambali Gupta

If any one has any objection to the registration of **Vindhya Janta Party** (name of the proposed Party) they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



RUN FOR SCIENCE MARATHON ORGANIZED

Participants recited slogans of Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An atmosphere of zeal, passion and enthusiasm for the promotion of science was witnessed at TT Nagar Stadium on Thursday morning. The occasion was the Run for Science Marathon. The purpose of the marathon was to connect people with the 8th India International Science Festival.

More than 1500 students from various schools and colleges of the city participated. Principal Secretary Science and Technology Nikunj Srivastava flagged off this marathon of about three and a half kilometers from TT Nagar Stadium. The marathon passed through Mata Mandir, TT Nagar Stadium and ended at NRC Bhawan located in MANIT Campus. During this, tremendous enthusiasm was seen among the participants.

The enthusiasm of the participants who came to take part in the marathon was worth seeing. Despite the bitterly cold wind, people of all ages came to participate in the marathon. During this, the participants were holding banners and flags related to the progress of science, its benefits in life and the promotion of science. Slogan of science is a beautiful gift to humanity, we should not distort it was written on banner. The Science of Today is



- the Technology of Tomorrow. Talking about development with science, we do something, you do something. Slogans like explaining science to the people, removing superstition and evil practices... were written. Along with this, the participants also raised slogans of

Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan. Arvind Ranade, Executive Director, INSA said that science and technology have made our lives easier. It is necessary that we use science and technology in the right direction. The participation of the public is very important in spread-

ing the message of the Science Festival from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to every corner of the country. He said that only through successful events like Science Festival, India would be able to establish itself as a knowledge centre in the world.

All science colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnics and ITIs should be connected with the International Science Festival - Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Chouhan has said that the eighth Indian International Science Festival being held in Bhopal should be used to develop scientific attitude of the students of the state. A large number of school and college level students should be involved in the festival. This event will help in understanding scientific concepts and attracting youth towards new trends in science. The effort should be that the students get inspiration and guidance from this event. India's ancient scientific contribution and outlook should also be presented in the festival.

Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the preparations for the eighth Indian International Science Festival to be held at MANIT Bhopal on January 21. In the meeting held at Samata Bhavan, Principal Secretary Science and Technology Nikunj Srivastava along with officials of Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology and Vigyan Bharti Sanstha were present.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the



achievements made by the youths of Madhya Pradesh in the field of Science should be publicised using social media. All science colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnics, ITIs etc. of the state should be linked virtually with the various activities to be held in the festival.

It was informed that the Eighth International Science Festival is being held at MANIT Bhopal from January 21 to 24. This program being conducted by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Vigyan Bharti is being coordinated at the local level by the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology. The main objective of the programme is to promote science and technology to reach among the general public and celebrate science as a festival.

The program will have 15 major components.

- Artisans Technology Village-Vocal for -Local focusing on the technology of Indian artisans,
- Face to Face with New Frontiers in Science for exchange of idea among researchers,
- Guinness World Records,
- International Science Film Festival of India,
- Mega Science and Technology Exhibition
- National Social Organisation and Institutions Meet,
- New Age Technology Show,
- Science through Games and Toys,
- Startup Conclave,
- State Science and Technology Councils Conclave,
- Student Innovation Festival,
- Students Science Village,
- Vagyanika-Science Literature Festival,
- Young Scientist Conference,
- Mentoring and Counseling Scientific discussions

Ex - CM Kamal Nath flags off Rahul-Kamal Nath Sandesh Yatra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

PCC president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath flagged off the 1464 kilometre Rahul-Kamal Nath Sandesh Yatra "Mile Kadam, Judee Watan", from his residence, here on Thursday. State Working President of Backward Classes Department Pawan Kumar Patel also joined the flag off programme. Addressing the Yatra, Nath said that this Sandesh Yatra is on the lines of Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by former Congress President Rahul Gandhi to protect the Constitution, in the country.

He added that there is an effort to unite all against the increasing hunger, inflation, unemployment, atrocities on farmers, labourers, public and fear prevailing in the society.

The in-charge of the Yatra Pawan Patel said that this Yatra will be going to complete a journey of 6200 kilometres which will be taken out in the entire state.

He said that in this yatra, padayatra, street meeting, public relations, Gandhi Chaupal, Hath se Hath Jodo Abhiyan, dialogues with representatives of OBC, SC, ST, minority com-



munities and social workers, meeting with office bearers of Congress party, meeting with the office bearers of Mandalam-Sector, meeting at hospital and hostel, programme of tree plantation will be done side by side by the members of the Yatra.

The Yatra started from Bhopal, will pass through the blocks and rural areas of Raissen, Narsinghpur and Damoh districts etc. and will go across Madhya Pradesh. He urged Congressmen and common citizens to participate in maximum numbers in this message journey being carried out against the mismanagement of the state government and the Government of India.

36 PASSENGERS INJURED AS 2 BUSES COLLIDE IN KHANDWA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Khandwa: As many as 36 passengers were injured when two buses collided head-on in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district on Thursday, a senior official said. The accident took place near Rajur village on the Khandwa-Harda highway when a private bus, while trying to overtake a dumper truck, collided head-on with another bus coming from the opposite direction, Khandwa collector Anup Kumar said. As many as 36 passengers, travelling in the two buses, suffered injuries in the crash, he said. The injured persons were admitted in the district hospital here, Kumar said, adding none of them was on serious condition. More details in the matter are awaited.

Digvijaya Singh demands VVPAT slips be put in 'microchip free' ballot box and used for declaring poll results

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress Rajya Sabha member and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh on Thursday demanded that voter verifiable paper audit trail slips be put in a "microchip free ballot box" and election results be announced on the basis of VVPAT only. "Our main issue is that the box in which the voter drops the VVPAT slip should not have any microchip in it and the results of the polls should be declared on the basis of it only," Singh said over phone from Pathankot in Punjab while participating in the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra. VVPAT system keeps a physical trail of all votes cast. It allows voters to verify their votes are cast as intended.

Earlier in the day, Singh put out a series of tweets over electronic voting machines (EVMs) and remote voting machine (RVM). "We are grateful to ECI



(Election Commission of India) for organising All Party Meeting on RVM. In the interest of our Indian Constitution and Democracy ECI like Caesar's wife should be above suspicion," he tweeted. ECI held consultations with political par-

ties earlier. His comments come days after the ECI held consultations with recognised national and state political parties on its proposal on remote voting, aimed at facilitating casting of votes by migrants. But a majority of opposition parties have asked for a broad-based consensus over many areas, including the definition of domestic migrants. "There is a huge Trust Deficit on the issue of EVM. No machine with a Chip is tamper proof. This is a Universal Truth. The questions raised by Civil Society Activists and Political Parties have to be addressed by ECI to their satisfaction," his second tweet read. "Not suggesting voting by ballot paper". The Congress leader clarified that he was not pressing for voting by ballot papers. "I am not suggesting voting by ballot paper. What I am suggesting is a very simple and reasonable demand. Voting by EVM with a slight modification.

Review meeting of the project related to Depression patients conducted at AIIMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal, in collaboration with Harvard Medical School; SANGATH and National Health Mission (MP), conducted a collaborative research project titled "Optimized" through international funding from National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), USA. This project is aimed at identifying the most suitable treatment strategy for Depression, which is the leading cause of mental health-related morbidity across the world. Patients of Depression are subjected to



either of two standard treatment approaches, including antidepressant medications (ADMs) and psychological interventions. This research work, which will also involve Whole Genome Analysis of the patients' blood samples, will lead to the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Machine Learning (ML) algorithms for predicting the optimum treatment modality for every patient of

Depression. No such study has ever been conducted across the globe in Depression. Moreover, for the first time in the world, AI-based treatment algorithms will be developed in primary care settings in this study. Patients reporting to PHCs of Bhopal will get the benefit of expert consultation of psychiatrists from AIIMS Bhopal and also receive

treatment free-of-cost at their doorstep. The project review meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof Dr Ajai Singh, and was attended by the Principal Investigator from Harvard Medical School Prof Dr Vikram Patel and Co-Principal Investigator from Vanderbilt University Prof Steve Hollon. Dr John Naslund from Harvard Medical School and Dr Daisy Singla from University of Toronto joined as co-investigators, along with other members of support staff.

Man gives triple talaq to 4th wife as she finds out about other 3, case filed

Indore: Police in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city have booked a 32-year-old man from Rajasthan for allegedly giving instant 'triple talaq' to his fourth wife, an official said today.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act bans the practice of instant 'triple talaq' and entails imprisonment up to 3 years.

Rishina Kandhari visited Pench Tiger Reserve and spotted five tigers

Team Absolute | Bhopal | Mumbai

TV actress Rishina Kandhari, who is currently seen in the show 'Na Umar Ki Seema Ho', gets candid about her interest in wildlife photography and recalls her first wildlife safari to Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and spotting five tigers.

She shares: "My interest in wildlife photography came in immediately after the lockdown got over. When I went on my first wildlife safari in 2020, I had no idea what it was going to be like. But to my surprise it was beautiful, call it beginner's luck I spot-

ted 5 tigers." The actress says that the experience was so good that again she went to Pench Tiger Reserve. She adds about the skill of capturing animals taught to her by a guide. "Wildlife is mesmerizing and one can get lost in its beauty. While capturing a tiger, my guide asked me to click the picture as it won't wait for us or pose. Luckily in the nick of time, I clicked one shot and I was so happy that the picture came perfectly. I realize that it is very important to enjoy wildlife with your eyes for a blissful experience. Yet I do like taking pictures as I have learnt it professionally."

Foundation Day was celebrated by the Department of Biochemistry, AIIMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The foundation day of the department of biochemistry was celebrated on 19th January. The program was focused about the journey of the department since its establishment in 2012 under the PMSSY. The program started with the poster display event of PG/ research/MBBS/fellow and nursing students. All students have enthusiastically presented their work related to biochemistry. The welcome address was given by the Head of the department Prof. Jagat R. Kanwar.



video clip was shared showing departmental facilities in teaching, diagnostic, research and work done under different extramural research projects received by the faculty of Biochemistry by funding agencies like ICMR, DST, DBT, BIRAC, TRDI was reviewed.

The chief guest of the function honorable Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh has encouraged the department with his kind words and suggested that clinical students should be encouraged from the beginning of their career towards research and so that Clinical Researchers will be developed from AIIMS Bhopal.

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DEMAND NOTICE
 (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
 Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFESI Rules):

S. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice / as on Date
1.	Govind Ram Sachdev, 2. Asha Sachdev, 3. Hare Madhav Mobile, 4. Rohit Sachdev, S/No. 1 to 4 are R/o. Flat No. 03, First Floor, Tuba Tower, Situated at Plot No. 61, Tehsil Huzur District Bhopal, Friends Co-operative Society Village Semra Kalan, Behind Ashoka Garden Police Station, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462001, 5. Govind Ram Sachdev, 6. Asha Sachdev, 7. Rohit Sachdev, S/No. 5 to 7 are R/o. Lat No. 02, First Floor, Village Semra Kalan, Tehsil Huzur, Friends Co-operative Society, Tube Tower Situated on Plot No-61, Dist. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462001, 8. Hare Madhav Mobile, Shop No 253a Pragati Nagal, Ashuka Garden, Bhopal, M.P. 462021, 9. Govind Ram Sachdev, 10. Asha Sachdev, both residing at: D-12, Samrat Colony, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, Huzur, Bhopal, Govindpura, Madhya Pradesh 462023, 11. Asha Sachdev, 6/18 Mihal No. (6,7), Kent Ward (2), Sagar, Madhya Pradesh 462023, 12. Rohit Sachdev, C/o Hare Madhav Mobile, Shop No 253a Pragati Nagal, Ashuka Garden, Bhopal, M.p. 462021, 13. Govind Ram Sachdev C/o Hare Madhav Electronic, Shop No-1, House No. 253, Pragati Nagar, Ashuka Garden, Bhopal, M.p. 462021.	08-11-2022	13-01-2023	Loan Account No. LNBH00HL-08180010892 of Rs. 11,79,966.86/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh, Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Six and Eighty Six Paise Only) as on 10.01.2023 and an amount for Loan Account No. LNBH00HL-05190050145, LNBH00HL-05190050146 & LNBH00HL-08190054573 for Rs. 14,70,855.96/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Five and Ninety Six Paise Only) as on 11.01.2023 and in total of Rs. 26,50,822.82/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two and Eighty Two Paise Only).

Description of Immovable property / properties mortgaged: a) All that piece and parcel of Flat No. F-02, Kharsa No. 852, in the building known as "Tuba Tower" Plot No. 61, Admeasuring 525 Sq. Ft., i.e. 48.79 Sq. Mtr., situated at Friends Co-operative Society, Gram Samera Kala, Ward No. 71, Tehsil Huzur, District Bhopal, M.P. Within The Limits Of Bhopal Nagar Nigam, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, And Bounded As: East: Colony Road, West: Staircase, North: Flat No. F-3, South: Colony Road.
 b) All that piece and parcel of Flat No. F-03, Kharsa No. 852, in the building known as "Tuba Tower" Plot No. 61, Admeasuring 643 Sq. Ft., i.e. 59.75 Sq. Mtr., Situated At Friends Co-operative Society, Gram Samera Kala, Ward No. 71, Tehsil Huzur, District Bhopal, M.p. Within The Limits Of Bhopal Nagar Nigam, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and bounded as: East: Colony Road, West: Lift, North: Other's Property, South: Flat No. F-2.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences. Please note that as per section 13(1) of the SARFESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL, together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 20.01.2023
 Place: Bhopal

Sd/- Authorised Officer
 (Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)



EDITOR'S SPECS

ASI all set to begin excavation at Purana Qila again

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is all set to begin excavation at Delhi's Purana Qila again. Officials said that the objective of the latest excavation is the exposure and preservation of the trenches that were excavated in the previous years (2013-14 and 2017-18). During the closure of the previous season's excavation, evidence of layers predating the Mauryan period was found. During this season's excavation, focus would also be to accomplish the traces of Painted Grey Ware finding in stratigraphic context. Identified as an ancient settlement of Indraprastha, a continuous habitation of 2500 years at Purana Qila was established in earlier excavations. Officials said that the excavation will be led by Vasant Swarnkar and would be the third season of excavation at Purana Qila after excavations in 2013-14 & 2017-18. The findings and artefacts unearthed in earlier excavations comprises PGW, belonging to 900BC, an earthen pottery sequence from Maurya to Shunga, Kushana, Gupta, Rajput, Sultanates and Mughal periods. Excavated artefacts such as sickles, parers, terracotta toys, kiln-burnt bricks, beads, terracotta figurines, seal and dealings etc. excavated earlier are now displayed at the Archaeological Museum inside the fort complex. Purana Qila, the 16th-century fort, was built by Sher Shah Suri and second Mughal emperor Humayun. The fort is standing on a site with thousands of years of history. Prof B.B. Lal also carried out excavation works inside the fort and its premises in the year 1954 and 1969-73.

India: The flavour of the season

Vinod Mirani

Indian films, Hindi as well as regional, enjoy a certain overseas market. But that is limited to the Indian diaspora settled across various countries. Films help them keep in touch with their native country and also their native states, languages and culture.

Of course, Hindi films enjoyed a greater market abroad because of the larger reach of the language. One sees, however, that Hindi films are losing ground to films from the South. In India as well as with the Indians abroad! Also, the proportion of the non-Hindi-speaking Indians in other countries has increased manifold over the years, thanks to the tech boom.

Add to that the fact that the South has now taken a contemporary approach to filmmaking while keeping its intrinsic values, such as family, loyalties, relationships, and, most of all, keeping the fervour and spirit of nationalism.

With these basics of filmmaking intact, South Indian films have not only captured the Hindi market, but with their contemporary approach and excellent use of technology coupled with imagination, they are also gaining some ground with foreign audiences. From Japan to the US, S.S. Rajamouli's 'RRR' has taken viewers by storm.

The film has done a business of Rs 1,200 crore ('KGF2', Rs 1,100 crore and 'Kantara', Rs 425 crore). Compare this to the biggest Hindi grosser of the year, 'The Kashmir Files', which collected Rs 300 crore. Mind you, 'The Kashmir Files' is not considered a mainstream film and, ironically, the mainstream film fraternity is not even prepared to acknowledge its success. Now that this film has made it to the shortlist of one of the 301 films eligible to be screened at the Oscars, one hears no cheer from fellow filmmakers.

'RRR' has made its first mark overseas. The 'RRR' song, 'Naatu Naatu', won the Best Original Song award at the Golden Globes last week. To their credit, the team behind this success presented itself in their native costumes and rooted



for each other!

Compare this to Hindi filmmakers, who can't even laud the success of a fellow producer. The Hindi film industry is flooded with fly-by-night aspirants, posing as filmmakers who pretend to know better than the best and thrive on publicity and hope to make money without merit to earn it.

Rules only for films to follow

After the 'Pathaan' song 'Besharam Rang' was released on the digital media, a lot of hulla-baloo followed. Social media handles, especially on Twitter, went berserk. The song's choreography was found to be unacceptable, to put it mildly. The print media and television news channels joined the bandwagon.

Not to be outdone, politicians, who never let an opportunity pass to gain some mileage, joined the ban brigade. Hindu-wadis had a problem with Deepika Padukone wearing a saffron bikini; Islam-wadis claimed that the way Shah Rukh Khan is portrayed in the film is very unlike a person from the

Pathan community. It was a sensual song shot to evoke a reaction and not just any other romantic song.

There was a time when certain South Indian films, especially the Malayalam ones, were dubbed in Hindi for a specific audience. These films had a lot of intimate moments between men and women. In these films, bits of porn films were interpolated.

Such films attracted their maximum audience during the night shows, for no one wanted to be seen even around a cinema screening such films. But those who watched such films, and these had a captive audience, headed straight for the red light area of the city. Where that facility was not available, it led to instances you read in the media the next day. The audience consisted of mostly labourers, daily wage earners and cabbies working away from their homes and families.

Who needs such South Indian films now if you have Hindi mainstream stars willing to do the needful!

People often create ruckus and try to stall a film's release. Especially when some communal/religious or political

groups get involved. A film like 'PK' needed police protection during its initial days. Some people never get a release in certain states. This happens only because cinema managements fear damage to their property. Eventually, such films make it to television channels or OTT platforms and are therefore out of reach of the fanatics.

The question that arises now is that why is there differential treatment to films, whereas OTT platforms, where the content is bolder than 'Besharam Rang', get away without any control? When the same film or song is shown on OTT, there is no problem.

Why do hell-raisers, drunk with power, pick only on films while so much more vulgarity, violence and gore is being peddled on OTT platforms day in and day out? Why is it that most OTT content has to carry a generous, explicit footage of sex? How does one explain a child walking into his grandfather's house only to find him doing it in doggy style ('Arya' on OTT)?

Why do film and content makers think that titillating songs or sex scenes

will draw the audience? This display of unwanted content, in fact, makes such films and web series unwatchable with family members at home.

This practice of showing filthy content has been going on since the early OTT web series, 'Sacred Games', was aired. All this in the name of creative liberty! Since when did depicting sex or, more so, unnatural sex qualify as creative art? And yet there is no move to discourage such content makers. Democracy and freedom of expression are touted. And the social media Rudalis raise hell.

The Censor Board works on the principle that content, as in films, is subject to scrutiny because they are made for public exhibition. At least, films carry ratings of A, UA, and so on, and cinemas won't allow children.

OTT content, too, is available on television screens, computers as well as smartphones and children today are smarter than the smartphones and have access to all that they should not be watching.

Let alone censorship, OTT content does not even carry a warning against cigarette smoking that feature films are compelled to carry! The rule applies to even the film publicity material, which is meant to be screened to a producers' body before it is put on display.

So how come all the publicity designs of the film 'Ved' produced by Riteish Deshmukh (he's playing the lead too) shows him in the various acts of smoking from lighting a cigarette to exhaling smoke?

It seems like this rabble-raising is limited to films that serve the cause of various political, religious, fanatical and other groups with vested interests. A film is known for a Salman Khan or a Shah Rukh Khan and so on. They are big stars and their names help serve the cause of troublemakers. Who will care if you find faults with some OTT programme?

The Government propagates One Country One... Whatever for just about everything. OTT content

international

3 INDIAN-AMERICANS NAMED 2023 PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

New York | Agencies

Three Indian-Americans are among 60 scholars who would be joining the 2023 Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS) programme to collaborate and create meaningful change in the US and around the world.

Neil Vora, Sonia Singhvi and Anahita Dua will join the eighth annual PLS class, which begins on January 24 in Washington, DC.

The class, which was selected after a rigorous application and review process, comprises service members, educators, physicians, public servants, and corporate professionals.

Neil Vora, is a physician with Conservation International where he leads its efforts on pandemic prevention. He served for nearly a decade with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including as an Epidemic Intelligence

Service officer and a Commander in the US Public Health Service (USPHS). "Throughout his career, he has focused on the link between human health and the health of the planet - particularly as it relates to the increasing threat of "spillover" of viruses from animals to humans because of the destruction of nature," his profile on Conservation International read.

From 2020-2021, Neil developed and led New York City's COVID-19 contact tracing programme, overseeing a team of over 3,000 people.

His programme traced more than half a million people who had contracted the virus.

Sonia Singhvi is Global Head of Culture, Inclusion, & Diversity with Boston-based Alexion Pharmaceuticals. According to her LinkedIn profile, Singhvi is a "strategic, patient-centric, biopharmaceutical executive with over 20 years of

industry experience across multiple therapeutic and functional areas".

Her project aims to advance health equity, improve patient outcomes, and enhance diversity in clinical trials. Anahita Dua is a vascular surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

Dua completed her vascular surgery fellowship at Stanford University Hospital, her general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin and her medical school in the United Kingdom.

She specialises in advanced endovascular (minimally invasive) and traditional (open) limb salvage techniques for treating peripheral arterial disease and critical limb ischemia, diabetic limb disease, aortic disease, carotid disease, thoracic outlet syndrome and venous disease.

The Presidential Leadership Scholars is a partnership among the

presidential centers of George W Bush, William J Clinton, George H W Bush, and Lyndon B Johnson.

Over the course of several months, the scholars will travel to each participating presidential centre to learn from former presidents, key former administration officials, business and civic leaders, and leading academics, according to a PLS press statement.

"They will study and put into practice varying leadership principles and exchange ideas to help maximize their impact in the communities they serve," the statement read.

The latest class joins an active network of more than 400 scholars whose efforts include, providing quality, trauma- and survivor-informed healthcare at no cost to gender-based violence survivors; providing support to and improving the lives of recently resettled refugee and immigrant families; and addressing the workforce crisis in trade industries.

Shehbaz undermined Pak by begging India for talks: Oppn

Islamabad | Agencies

Opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former human rights minister, Shireen Mazari has asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to stop blabbering on issues where he lacked clarity of thought and merely undermined the country.

"The joker we have for Imported PM should really stop blabbering on issues where he lacks clarity of thought & merely undermines Pak. Here he goes begging India for talks saying Pak has 'learnt its lesson'. An absurd statement coming from the head of govt. Part of regime change agenda," she said in a tweet.

Sharif had during his recent trip to Abu Dhabi, he asked the United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to facilitate dialogue with India and vowed sincere talk with the arch rivals, if a channel were to open, Dawn reported.

Sharif, in an interview to Al-Arabiya news channel, confirmed that he had sought Al-Nahyan's help for the dialogue, while noting that Pakistan had "learnt its lesson" and "was



ready for peace". "I have requested Mohammed bin Zayed -- that he's a brother of Pakistan and the UAE is a brotherly country. He also has good relations with India, he can play a very important role to bring the two countries on the talking table and I give my word of honour that we will be talking to Indians with sincerity of purpose," he said.

The Prime Minister met Al-Nahyan on January 12 in Abu Dhabi during his two-day visit to the UAE.

Arctic polar vortex grips most of Italy

Rome | Agencies

Most of Italy is under the grip of an Arctic polar vortex, bringing with it the coldest weather so far this winter, with most of the Italian peninsula hit by snow, icy rain, hail, and gale-force winds.

It is the first time the country has experienced severe weather this winter, which has led to at least one death, and is expected to increase energy consumption amid high energy prices, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to local news reports, a 21-year-old woman died when high winds toppled a tree on a rain-slicked road in Caserta, near Naples, crushing her car.

Meanwhile, the Italian weather site Il Meteo said that heavy rainfall had resulted in rivers overflowing their banks in L'Aquila, the capital of the central region of Abruzzo, and in Salerno, south of Naples.

A major state highway was also



closed due to a landslide in Avellino, east of Naples, and property damage was reported in Rome due to intense rain and hail in parts of the city.

Harsh weather forced some coastal cities to restrict access to their ports.

Last year was the warmest in Italy since records began in 1800. The summer months were unusually hot and dry, followed by bouts of heavy rain and wind in the fall, and an unseasonably warm start to the winter. Earlier this month, the Italian agricultural union Coldiretti said the warm winter was putting the agricultural sector at risk.

Zelensky calls on the world to act faster against new Russian attacks

Kiev | Agencies

In his virtual address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called on the world to act faster and more decisively in an effort to prevent new Russian attacks on his war-torn nation. While addressing the 'Restoring Security and Peace' session in English on Wednesday, the President said: "Three years ago, I participated in the World Economic Forum for the first time. It was the time when the world was fighting Covid-19. It fought and won. Now the world is fighting against (Russian President Vladimir) Putin. And in three years, we will be discussing new challenges and threats in Davos. What will it mean? It will mean we will definitely overcome the current threat."

"History repeats itself. At first, the world either fails to notice or underestimates a threat. Then it unites to resist it. And then the world wins. Every time, the same outcome occurs." "The world overcame Nazism, apartheid, pandemics, indiffer-



ence towards climate change, financial crises and the Kremlin strain. The world will overcome again.

"This is how much can be said in a matter of minutes. This is how much can be understood in a matter of minutes. The world will overcome again. The time is right to make it happen faster."

Zelensky then went on to mention the tragedy on Wednesday in Brovary city, where 14 people, including Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky, died in a helicopter crash, reports Ukrayinska Pravda.

The participants of the session observed a minute of silence in memory of all those whom Ukraine lost during the almost 11 months of the war.

The President emphasised that Ukraine has experienced thousands of such minutes, "including three minutes on January 14. Three minutes is the time it took for the Russian missile to travel hundreds of kilometres, hit a residential block in Dnipro and kill at least 45 people".

The President added that "the world can't keep up with changes and challenges".

FIRE IN ARMENIAN MILITARY BARRACKS KILLS 15 SERVICEMEN

Yerevan:

At least 15 servicemen were killed in a fire that broke out in the barracks that belong to a unit of the Armenian Armed Forces, the country's Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

Three other servicemen were seriously injured and have been hospitalised, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying in a statement.

The fire broke out at 12.30 a.m. on Thursday in the barracks of the engineering and sniper company of a military unit.

The Ministry said that the fire, which completely burned down a building with an area of 104 square metres, had been extinguished by early Thursday morning.

It did not however, mention the cause of the blaze.

A local TV channel said the commander of Armenia's second corps was sacked because of this tragedy.





PM Modi's Mumbai visit

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ARRIVES IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday evening arrived in Mumbai where he was received by a host of state dignitaries including the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis, Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and other cabinet ministers.

The Prime Minister held a public rally at the MMRDA ground in Bandra Kurla Complex, PM inaugurated various infrastructure projects including Mumbai Metro lines 2A and 7, comprising a 35-km long elevated corridor stretching from Andheri to Dahisar. PM Modi also inaugurated 20 Aapla Davakhana (health clinics) named after Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray during his visit to the city. Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7, worth around Rs 12,600 crore was flagged off by PM Modi. The metro line 2A connecting Dahisar E and DN Nagar (yellow line) is around 18.6 km long, while metro line 7 connecting Andheri E - Dahisar E (red line) is around 16.5 km long. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of these lines in 2015. He inaugurated projects worth near-

PM said that for the first time since Independence, India has the courage to dream big and realise it. Across the world, there is positivity about India as everyone knows that the country is going forward on the basis of its strength and optimal use of its potential, Modi said after inaugurating and laying foundation stone of projects worth Rs 38,000 crore in Mumbai. There is an extraordinary confidence in India and the country is progressing well with its futuristic vision and modern approach, he said.



The projects launched and inaugurated today will help Mumbai improve its standard of living and transform the city and nearby areas, he concluded.

ly Rs 38,800 crore in the city and also laid foundation stones of various other projects.

The premier was presented with a traditional Maharashtra turban, figurine of Chhatrapati Shivaji and a model of the Metro at the MMRDA ground at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). Opposition and other political leaders in Maharashtra have criticized the Prime Minister's visit. The visit is being seen as an opportunity by the BJP and

OFFICES NEAR PM'S EVENT ALLOWED EMPLOYEES TO LEAVE EARLY

In the wake of traffic restrictions in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) of Mumbai where Prime Minister Narendra Modi would take part in an event on Thursday evening, police have advised offices and establishments in the area to allow their employees to leave early, an official said. The police have also asked the establishments in the area to report immediately about any suspicious activity by a person, suspicious e-mails, any other such cyber incident including hacking, he said. In view of the advisory, some of the offices permitted their employees to leave after 12 noon. The police also asked the establishments to check if their CCTVs are in working condition. According to police, flying activities, including use of drones, paragliders, and remote-controlled micro-light aircraft, were not allowed under the limits of police stations at BKC and nearby areas in Mumbai from noon till midnight in view of the PM's visit.

CM Eknath Shinde said, at the event, people of Maharashtra are fortunate; PM Modi inaugurated (various projects and two lines of Mumbai Metro) on 19 January. A few people wanted PM Modi to not get to do this, but just the opposite is happening. MVA Govt had halted development works in Maharashtra.



Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena to use it to display a united front and the might of their alliance.

Mocking the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, Shiv Sena (UBT) in its mouth-piece 'Saamana' said that the Prime Minister's visit to the city was just another 'campaign for his party', not for any welfare of the state. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in a statement, on Wednesday said that the Maharashtra government led by Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnis had invited the Prime Minister to Mumbai to hide its failure and throw dust in the eyes of the public.

Deputy CM, Devendra Fadnis on Thursday said that the state has started walking rapidly on the path to development since the day double-engine government is back in office. 'In 2019, you said that the double-engine government had changed Maharashtra and asked the government be brought back to power.' Trusting CM, he said, people have brought back the government. 'But some people indulged in foul play and for 2.5 years, there was a government that the people did not like.' He concluded.



NOT EVEN MP WRITTEN BEFORE MY NAME ON INVITATION: ARVIND SAWANT

South Mumbai Member of Parliament and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Arvind Sawant on Thursday said that PM Modi's visit to Mumbai was being organised for publicity ahead of the upcoming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections.

He said these projects to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister were completed during the tenure of former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Today, it is being inaugurated only keeping in mind BMC elections, he said. Sawant also expressed strong displeasure for the invitation for the Prime Minister's event at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). He slammed the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and said that the event is held by the state government and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and not by the BJP.

Talking to reporters, Sawant said, unfortunately, PM Modi is not often seen acting as the Prime Minister of the country. 'Earlier, the Maharashtra government officials had come to invite me to PM Modi's event. The invitation had names of five other MPs but not mine. Even the envelope was blank, with no name on it.'



Two accidents claim 11 lives, injure 24 on Mumbai-Goa highway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least 11 persons were killed and another 24 injured in two separate accidents on the Mumbai-Goa Highway in Raigad and Sindhudurg districts, here on Thursday, officials said.

In the first incident, nine persons of a family were killed instantly when their car collided with a truck which purportedly lost control around 4.45 a.m., at Repoli village near Goregaon, said Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath S. Garge.

'The truck was proceeding towards Mumbai and the Eco car coming from Mumbai was bound for Guhagar when the tragedy struck,' said Garge. Five men and three women, and a minor girl, perished on the spot, but a four-year-old boy had a lucky escape in the truck-car collision. He was pulled out in a badly injured condition from the wreckage and has been rushed to the Mangaon government hospital.

In the second incident, at least two passengers were killed and 23 others hurt

when a private bus overturned on the highway around dawn. The passenger bus was proceeding from Mumbai to Goa and suffered the mishap at a treacherous curve near a bridge on the Gad River, officials said.

Local villagers along with rescue teams, fire brigade and police are at the two accident sites even as traffic was badly hit on both sides on this busy highway.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed pain and grief over the loss of lives and offered condolences to the bereaved families.

According to preliminary reports, in the Raigad crash, the speeding truck driver reportedly lost control and crashed into the Eco car coming in from the opposite direction resulting in the disaster.

Later, Garge said that the highway was cleared of the vehicle wreckage and traffic had resumed as normal in both directions. The work of identifying the victims and informing their families is currently on and the exact causes of the two accidents are being investigated, local officials said.

Ending days of dilly-dallying, MVA 'unites' for MLC biennial polls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ending a long bout of suspense, the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) broke the stalemate over two crucial seats in the January 30 biennial elections for the Maharashtra Legislative Council, here on Thursday.

The trio of Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) formally declared that the MVA will support independent candidates Shubhangi Patil in the Nashik Graduates' constituency and Sudhakar Adbale in the Nagpur Teachers' constituency. The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the MVA allies before it was announced to the media. State Congress President Nana Patole, NCP leader Jitendra Awhad, Sena's (UBT) leader of opposition in the council, Ambadas Danve, Congress' Ullhas Pawar, Atul Londhe and other leaders from the three parties attended the meeting. While Shubhangi Patil is backed by the Sena (UBT), Sudhakar Adbale enjoys the backing of Congress. Both will now be officially supported by the MVA.

The other three MVA-endorsed candidates are: Dheeraj Lingade (Congress) in Amravati



Graduates' constituency, Vikram Kale (NCP) in Aurangabad Teachers' constituency and Balaram Patil (PWP) in Konkan Teachers' constituency. Dismissing the allegations levelled by the ruling Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BSS-BJP) leaders that the MVA is faction-ridden and its leaders don't see eye-to-eye, Patole said that 'there is complete coordination and proper understanding among the three opposition allies'. The MVA leaders also slammed the BJP on major issues confronting the country like spiralling inflation, growing unemployment and resentment on other counts, besides accusing the saffron party of breaking other parties and backstabbing to grab power. It warned that the people of the state 'will now teach them a lesson'.

MAN, 67, COLLAPSES DURING WORKOUT AT GYM, DIES

Palghar: A 67-year-old man died while working out at a gym in Vasai town of Maharashtra's Palghar district on 18 January, police said.

Pralhad Nikam was doing his regular exercise at the gym around 7.30 pm when he felt giddy and collapsed, they said. 'He was rushed to a nearby hospital, but he was declared dead there,' a police official said.

The cause of his death could not be known yet, and his body was sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, he said.

Rakhi Sawant detained by police, FIR filed by Sherlyn

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rakhi Sawant has been detained by Amboli police because of a complaint filed by actress Sherlyn Chopra. She alleged that Rakhi was defaming her and circulating her obscene videos and photos online.

As per the media reports, she was going to launch her dance academy today, however, because of the FIR filed by Sherlyn, now she has been detained for questioning.

Sherlyn in her tweet has claimed that Rakhi has been arrested. She also added that her anticipatory bail application has been rejected. She tweeted: 'Amboli Police has arrested Rakhi Sawant in respect of FIR 883/2022. Yesterday, Rakhi Sawant's ABA 1870/2022 was rejected by the Mumbai session court.'

After her post, many social media users shared their reactions. While a few of them expressed their concern as her mother is not keeping well, others said that Sherlyn's tweet is not factual and

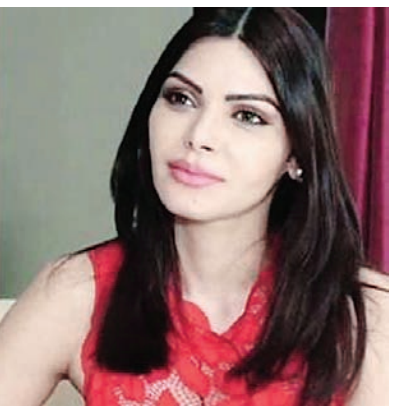


she is being interrogated only.

Last year also Sherlyn filed a complaint against Rakhi for using derogatory language against her.

Earlier, Rakhi Sawant told the media that Sherlyn is a 'porn star' and showed her pictures and videos.

She told the media: 'Look at this, Sherlyn Chopra is a porn star. You will



find her such pictures and seductive videos only. She runs a sextortion racket where she seduces and then blackmails powerful individuals'. Rakhi was already in the headlines because of her marriage with Adil and later news of her miscarriage also created a stir. Adil called it fake and asked everyone not to believe such rumours.

Five arrested for running a medical college admission racket

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

Police claimed to have busted a big racket cheating students to the tune of Rs 3.30 crore under the pretext of facilitating admission in medical colleges and have arrested five persons in this connection. The accused had cheated students from Navi Mumbai town in Thane district, neighboring Mumbai, Gujarat and other places, Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Milind Bharambe told reporters.

The gang members, operating for the last five to seven years, would contact students getting less marks in the pre-medical National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and offer them admission in medical colleges by charging a hefty amount, he said.

The accused persons claimed to have influence in the managements of seven prominent medical colleges in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and also produced

fabricated admission letters before the victims to gain their confidence and get money in cash or through the digital mode, the official said.

They used to get the details of students from the websites where they had applied for admissions, he said. The accused would take the students to the medical colleges and the office of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) to show their influ-

ence and get them fake admission letters, the official said. Bharambe said the police got the first complaint when the accused allegedly cheated a student from Chhattisgarh and took Rs 33.5 lakh from her by promising to get her admission in a medical college in Nerul area of Navi Mumbai. The accused also gave her a fake admission letter, he said. The Nerul police registered an offence in this connection.

Three booked for duping MBBS aspirant of Rs 21 lakh

Thane: Police in Maharashtra's Thane city have registered a case against three persons for allegedly cheating a woman aspiring medical student of more than Rs 21 lakh, an official said on Thursday. A complaint in this connection was lodged by the victim's father, a welder, at the Kapurbawdi police station on Wednesday, he said. 'The victim, who has cleared her Class 12 exam with 95 per cent marks, aspired to pursue an MBBS course. She came across a career consultancy services firm, which had its office at Kapurbawdi here. When the victim approached the firm, its operators promised to arrange for her admission for which they quoted certain fees,' an official said. They assured that she would get admission to a Bengaluru-based medical institute. On that promise, they demanded money from her on several occasions with the collective amount of Rs 21,41,800, he said.

Tunisha Sharma death

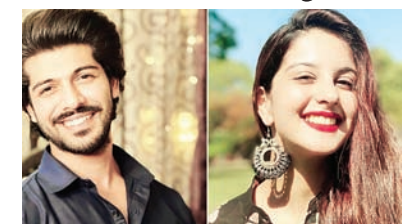
Sheezan Khan could threaten witnesses, says court in bail rejection order

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sheezan Khan, who is in jail for allegedly abetting the suicide of co-actor Tunisha Sharma, had not cooperated during custodial interrogation, had deleted some WhatsApp chats and was also in a position to threaten material witnesses if released on bail, a court in Maharashtra's Palghar has said. The details of the Vasai court's January 13 order rejecting the bail plea of Khan was made available on Thursday.

The order also said 'just prior to the alleged incident, something is appeared to have happened between them in the make-up room of applicant, which forced her to commit suicide'.

Additional Sessions Judge RD Deshpande, in his order, said, 'During custodial interrogation, according to prosecution, the applicant (Khan) did not cooperate and did not tell anything



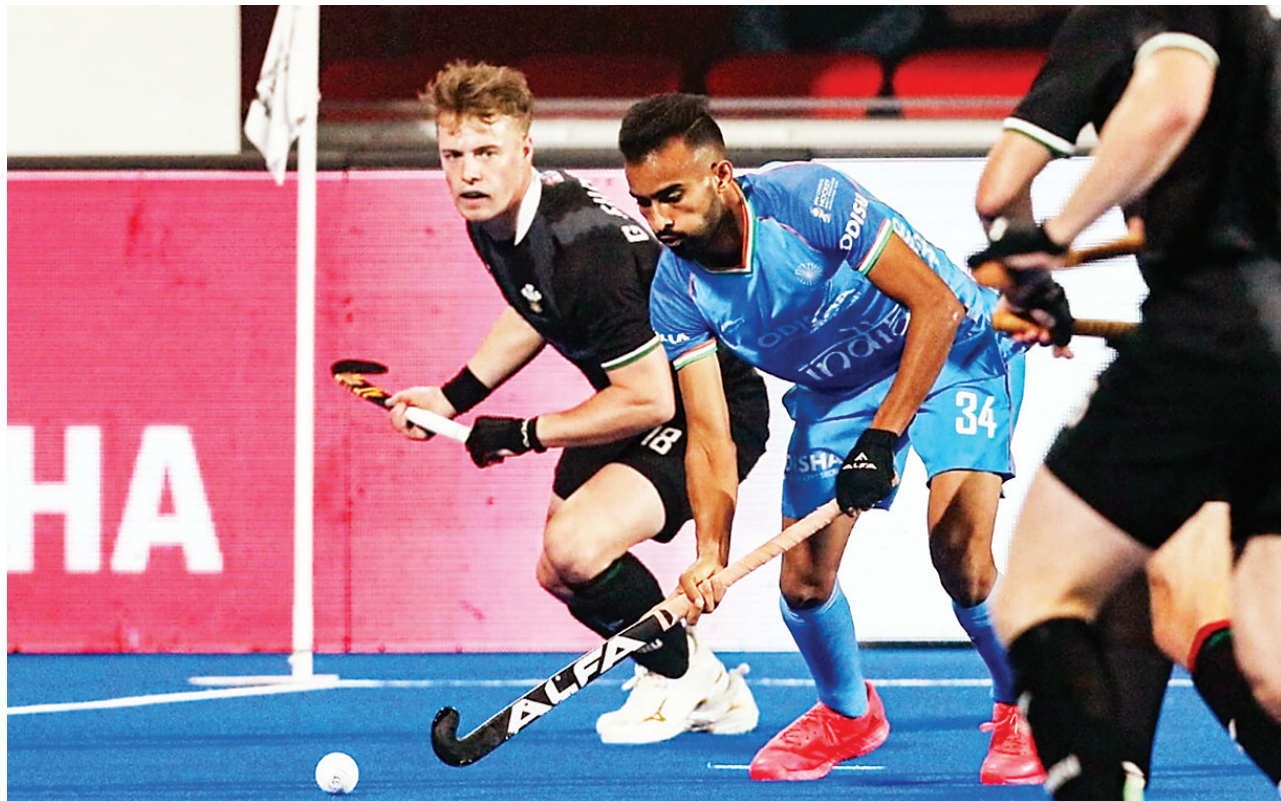
about the dialogue between him and deceased from 2pm to 2:45pm (on the day of the incident) and that is the main cause in the commission of suicide by deceased Tunisha.' The court said investigation in the death was in progress, and it was a 'matter of concern for the prosecution that the applicant has deleted WhatsApp chats and messages between him, the deceased and his friends'. The mobile phones of Khan and Sharma had been sent to the forensic laboratory in Mumbai for retrieval of deleted messages, and it is also needs to be probed if the accused had deceived

more girls in similar fashion, the court order said. The order also said the witnesses in the case were co-stars of Khan, who is the main character in the serial, and 'it is likely if he comes out at this stage then he is likely to threaten the material witnesses from telling truth to the police'. The applicant can cause 'disturbance in the investigation' and 'serious prejudice would be caused to the prosecution' if he is given bail as statements of material witnesses were yet to be recorded under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the order said. 'Under such circumstances and to give reasonable and proper opportunity of carrying out fair investigation to the prosecution, applicant needs to be behind the bars for some more period,' the judge said in the order. The order said the accused kept 'relations with her for a period of two months and immediately broke up such relationship'.



Hockey World Cup

India beat Wales by 4-2



Rourkela | Agencies

India defeated Wales 4-2 in the Pool D match of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela.

Wales will go back home with their heads held high. India went all guns blazing in the second half and was putting Wales under all kinds of pressure. Wales responded by doing the unthinkable and scoring twice.

Akashdeep Singh was the star for India as he scored two goals. Apart from him, Shamsher Singh and Harmanpreet Singh scored one goal each. For Wales, Gareth Furlong and Jacob Draper scored one goal

each and gave a tough challenge to India but in the end the hosts had the last laugh. India will now be facing New Zealand in the crossover game on Sunday to fight for a spot in the quarterfinals.

NETHERLANDS THRASH CHILE 14-0 TO SEAL QUARTERFINALS BERTH



Bhubaneswar | World No. 3 Netherlands on Thursday became the first team to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, completing their league engagements with a 14-0 thrashing of Chile at the Kalinga Stadium.

The Netherlands, the three-time winners of the Men's World Cup, finished unbeaten in Group C with nine points from three wins. The Netherlands thus sealed a direct berth in the quarterfinals while Malaysia and New Zealand will go through the crossover matches.

Janssen opened the scoring in the 6th minute off their first penalty corner and then added goals in the 29th minute, 34th min and 44th minutes as the Dutch scored at will against Chile, who were totally out-classed and overwhelmed by their opponents. Brinkman scored his first goal in the 25th minute and added two more in the 33rd and 5th min, off a penalty corner, to complete his triple. Bijen struck in the 40th and 45th minute as the Netherlands completely dominated the match.

Derck De Vilder (22nd in), Thijs Van Dam (23rd min), Terrance Pieters (37th min), Justen Blok (42nd min) and Teun Beins (58th min) contributed a goal each to the Netherlands' score.

The Dutch virtually parked themselves in Chile's half of the turf and earned 17 penalty corners in all, of which they converted six. In the final quarter, Chile managed to make some good attacks and bagged two penalty corners but could not capitalise on them.

India Open

Injury forces Chirag-Satwik pair to withdraw from the second-round clash



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major blow, India's top men's doubles pair Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, the defending champions, on Thursday pulled out of their second-round match of the India Open Super 750 tournament due to injury concerns, Badminton Association of India (BAI) said.

The star duo withdrew from the match against the Chinese pair Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi due to a groin injury suffered by Satwik. On Tuesday, the World No. 5 pair registered an easy 21-13, 21-15 opening-round win over

Scotland's Christopher Grimley and Mathew

The defending men's doubles champions were vying for their career's second Super 750 title at India Open 2023, having won the French Open last year after beating the Taipei duo of Lu Ching-Yao and Yang Po-Han.

The Indian duo had scripted history after their 2022 French Open as they became the first Indian men's pair to win the Super 750 title.

The Indian contingent has had mixed results in the event so far with PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth, H.S Prannoy making early exits in the first two days.

LAKSHYA SEN CRASHES OUT IN SECOND ROUND; AXELSEN, LOH KEAN YEW ADVANCE

New Delhi | Defending champion Lakshya Sen's unbeaten run at the India Open 2023 came to an end after he went down fighting in a thrilling three-game contest against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in the men's singles second round at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Sen won the opening game but Gemke fought back by engaging the Indian in long rallies to win 16-21, 21-15, 21-18 in the BWF World Tour Super 750 event, organised by the Badminton Association of India.

Gemke will now face top seed and compatriot Viktor Axelsen, who got the better of China's Shi Yu Qi 21-16, 16-21, 21-9 earlier in the day.

Also advancing to the next round were fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, third seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore and fifth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in men's singles and top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, Spaniard Carolina Marin and He Bingjiao of China in women's singles. The second-round clash between Sen and Gemke kept the spectators glued to their seats in the decider as Sen fought back from 8-14 deficits to make it 13-14. The two players then engaged in energy sapping rallies, one even extending to 69 shots. It, however, ended in a heart break for the Indian as he hit a net tap long to hand victory to Gemke after an hour and 21 minutes battle.

England thrashes Spain 4-0

Bhubaneswar | Riding on a superb defensive display, England shut out Spain 4-0 in their last league match of Pool D and set them up in the prime position to top the standings and bag a direct spot in the quarterfinal of the ongoing Hockey World Cup.

England and Spain went into the match with the English needing to win to finish on top of the table. Spain needed to win to secure the second spot.

Phil Roper (10th min), David Condon (21st min), Nicholas Bandurak (50th min) and Liam Ansell (51st) scored for England as they made a good start, quelled a fightback from Spain in the second and third quarter before scoring twice in the final quarter to seal a comfortable victory. England thus finished the group phase of the 2023 World Cup unbeaten and without conceding a goal.



Hashim Amla quits all forms of cricket to concentrate on coaching career

London | Agencies

South Africa opener Hashim Amla, who has joined MI Cape Town as a batting coach for SA20, has announced his retirement as player from all forms of cricket.

The South African batting legend has informed Surrey Country Club that he will not play for them in the County Championship 2023. Amla had played a key role in helping Surrey win the Championship in 2022, the last season of his contract with the county club.

A few months back he embarked on a coaching career, joining MI Cape Town as a batting coach in the ongoing SA20.

Amla quit international cricket after South Africa's campaign ended in the 2019



ODI World Cup. He had bowed out of Test cricket earlier in the same year after a match against Sri Lanka at Gqeberha in February ending a two-decade career that stretched from 200 40 2019. On Wednesday he officially informed Surrey that he would not return to help them defend the title they won in 2022. He rejoined

Surrey in 2019, having also represented the county as an overseas player in 2013 and 2014. He had earlier had stints with Derbyshire, Hampshire, Nottinghamshire and Essex. He also represented Kings XI Punjab in the IPL and Kwa-Zulu Natal, Dolphins and Cape Cobras in South Africa's domestic competitions.

ATHLETIC, ATLETICO AND VALENCIA ADVANCE AS OSASUNA BEAT TITLE-HOLDERS BETIS

Copa del Rey

Bilbao (Spain) | Agencies

Athletic Club Bilbao continued their good form in the Copa del Rey knockout competition by qualifying for the quarterfinals with a 1-0 win at home to Espanyol.

The win on Wednesday night means the teams from the Basque Region have now reached the last eight of the tournament for four consecutive seasons.

Oscar de Marcos scored the only goal of the game in the 26th minute after the full-back ran onto a smart backheel from midfielder Oihan Sancet, who had been fed by an intelligent pass from the impressive Oier Zarraga.

Athletic completely dominated the first half, which was played almost entirely in the Espanyol half, with the visitors sitting deep with a five-man defense.

The second half saw visiting coach Diego Martinez make an attacking change, bringing on winger Aleix



Vidal, but although Espanyol looked to push forward more, Athletic continued to control the majority of the ball.

The home side's problem this season has been turning possession into clear chances, and that happened again after the break. The home side had 16 corners in the game but failed

to trouble young Espanyol keeper Joan Garcia from any of them.

However, with central defenders Yeray Alvarez and Dani Vivian in excellent form, Espanyol never got a look in and ended the game without managing a single shot on target.

Cup holders Betis were knocked out of the competition following a

nerve-wracking penalty shootout at home to Osasuna after SeXin, reports Xinhua.

Betis looked to be on their way to the last eight after William Carvalho put them ahead in the 61st minute, but defender David Garcia kept Osasuna's hopes alive with a last-minute equalizer. Salaby put Betis back in front in the 12th minute of extra time, but Ruben Garcia's strike at the start of the second period took the game to penalties. Last season's beaten finalists Valencia enjoyed a comfortable evening away to second-division Sporting Gijon. Edinson Cavani scored twice, and Justin Kluivert also netted to put Valencia 3-0 up before the break. Samuel Lino added a fourth midway through the second half to see Valencia through with no real problems.

Second-half goals from Alvaro Morata and Marcos Llorente booked Atletico Madrid's place in the quarterfinals as they won 2-0 away to second-division Levante.

Australian Open

Sania Mirza, Kazakh partner Anna Danilina win women's doubles opening round

Melbourne | Agencies

Playing in her last Grand Slam tournament, India's ace tennis player Sania Mirza started her Australian Open campaign with a women's doubles first-round win, partnering with Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina.

The Indo-Kazakh pair defeated Ukrainian-Belgian pair Anhelina Kalinina and Alison Van Uytvanck 6-2, 7-5. Sania and Anna will face the Ukrainian-Belgian duo of Anhelina Kalinina and Alison Van Uytvanck in the second round on Friday.

Meanwhile, Competing in their first Grand Slam together as a pair, the Indian men's doubles wildcards Yuki Bhambhani and Saketh Myneni lost to 14th seeds John Peers of Australia and Andrea Mies of



Germany 6-7(5), 7-6(4), 3-6.

Another men's pair Ramkumar Ramanathan and his Mexican partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela suffered a 6-3, 5-7, 3-6 loss at the hands of Greek pair Stefanos Tsitsipas and his brother Petros.

DJOKOVIC SURVIVES INJURY SCARE TO SAIL INTO THIRD ROUND

Melbourne | The nine-time champion Novak Djokovic on Thursday survived an injury scare to reach the third round of the Australian Open, beating Frenchman Enzo Couacaud here at Rod Laver Arena.

The player, struggling with his left leg, edged past Couacaud 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-0 in three hours and four minutes. He will lock horns with former World No. 3 Grigor Dimitrov, who defeated Laslo Djere 6-3, 6-2, 6-0, in the third round. The Serbian is chasing a record-tying 22nd Grand Slam trophy and reclaims No. 1 spot in the ATP Rankings if he wins the title. As the second set wore on, Djokovic became hampered by his left hamstring injury. Playing with heavy strapping, the fourth seed blanched after stretching for a ball at 4-4, calling for a medical timeout when trailing 4-5.

His movement was clearly compromised and Couacaud took full advantage. When Djokovic let slip the second set in a tie-break, it was unclear how his body would react for the rest of the match. But the Serbian locked in and improved physically, winning 12 of the match's final 14 games.



Inter defend Supercoppa title with 3-0 win over rivals AC Milan

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) | Agencies

Inter Milan lifted their seventh Supercoppa trophy as the Nerazzurri defended their title after a comfortable 3-0 win over archrivals AC Milan.

The Supercoppa is a traditional clash between the previous season's Serie A and Coppa Italia champions. Inter entered Wednesday night's game as the defending champion and Coppa Italia holders, while AC Milan won the Scudetto last season.

It took just 10 minutes for Inter to break the deadlock in the Milan Derby as a great passing move sliced Milan's defense apart; when Edin Dzeko flicked on Matteo Darmian's pass for Nicolo Barella to roll across, unmarked Federico Dimarco



drilled it home at the back post. AC Milan had a chance to level, but Rafael Leao saw his curler palmed away by goalkeeper Andre Onana, while at the other end, Inter doubled the lead in the 20th minute when Dzeko committed Sandro Tonali's defense to smash it in from a tricky angle, news agency Xinhua reported. The Rossoneri had more ball possession throughout the game, but Inter were more efficient and sealed the game in the 77th minute when a long pass

found Lautaro Martinez, who turned around to shake off Fikayo Tomori before finishing with a curler.

The seventh Supercoppa title made Inter move into the second place on the tally, levelling with their city rivals, while Juve top the list with nine. This is the second Cup competition involving European clubs held in Saudi Arabia this month. A few days back, Barcelona defeated Real Madrid in the Supercopa de Espana (Spanish Super Cup) in Riyadh.

SHRADDHA IS CURIOUS TO FIND 'WHAT'S MOST DIFFICULT PART OF LOVE IN 2023'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor is amping up the curiosity for her upcoming release, 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' in which she stars opposite Ranbir Kapoor.

On Thursday, the actress shared a social media post stating that her mind is clouded with thoughts of what's the most difficult part of modern love of the year 2023.

The trigger for the question came after she saw the trailer of the film which will be open to public consumption only by Monday. But, for now the thought seems to be simmering in her mind and has

asked for aid from her followers to share what they think is the most difficult part of love in current times.

Shraddha uploaded a picture of herself smiling. She captioned the picture, "2023 ke pyaar mein sabse mushkil kya hai? A question that stuck with me after watching the trailer of Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar. Excited to read your answers!!!"

'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', which brings Shraddha and Ranbir together for the first time on screen, is modern-day rom-com with a fresh and contemporary take on love and relationships. The first look of the film, which dropped on the Internet a few days back, has already created waves with the audience getting eager to dig more about the film.

'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' is directed by Luv Ranjan, produced by Luv Films' Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, and presented by T-Series' Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar. It is set to have a festive release worldwide in cinemas on the occasion of Holi on March 8, 2023.

Alia's Hollywood debut movie to release in August

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt's Hollywood debut film 'Heart of Stone' starring Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan is set to release on August 11. The film will be clashing with her husband Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal'. Streaming giant Netflix shared the release date of the movie along with a slew of other titles through a teaser video on

its social media platforms on Wednesday.

Helmed by Tom Harper, 'Heart of Stone' is intended to be the first instalment in a series akin to Tom Cruise's 'Mission Impossible'. The movie also stars Sophie Okonedo, Matthias Schweighofer, Jing Lusi and Paul Ready in addition to Gal, Jamie, and Alia. The clip also showed teaser footage of 'Extraction 2', 'Murder Mystery

2', 'Rebel Moon' and 'The Killer'. Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler's 'Murder Mystery 2' will release on March 13. 'Extraction 2' is the second instalment of Chris Hemsworth's 'Extraction' which will drop on June 16. Alia will next be seen in 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' with Ranveer Singh, Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi. The film is set to hit the theatres on April 28.

'My character has different layers'

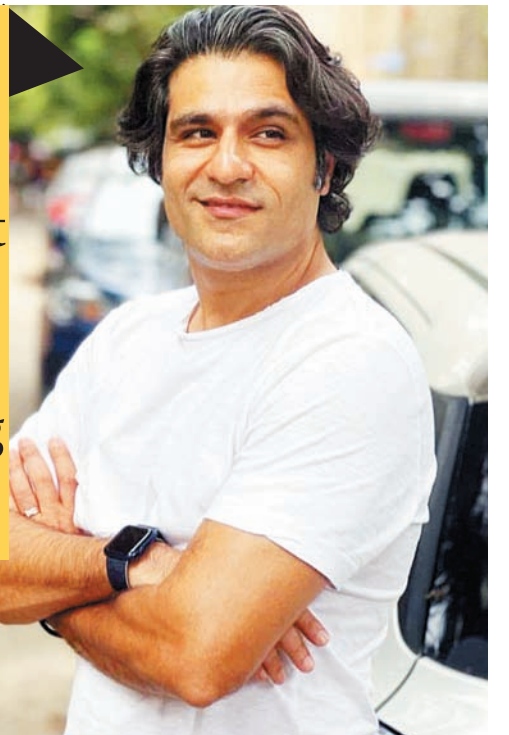
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sunny Hinduja will be seen playing an antagonist in Rohit Dhawan's

'Shehzada' starring Kartik Aaryan. Talking about his role, Sunny said: "It has always been on my wishlist to work with the talented director Rohit Dhawan, my role has been specially created by Rohit along with the help of writers. Sarang is a very interesting role, an out-and-out Hindi masala commercial antagonist." "My character has different layers, Rohit helped me create nuanced detailing of the character and I have never done anything like this before. It has been a great experience collaborating with the cast, crew, and entire team. I can't wait for the audience's feedback."

'Shehzada' is an action-drama, an official Hindi remake of the Telugu blockbuster 'Ala Vaikunthapuramulo'. Sunny's recently released 'Thai Massage' on Netflix has been making noise on the OTT platform. His upcoming projects include 'The Railway Men' and a few more unannounced exciting projects.

Sunny Hinduja turns antagonist for Kartik Aaryan in upcoming movie



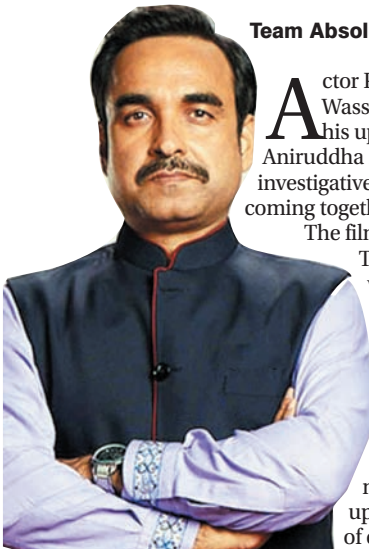
Pankaj Tripathi wrapped up the shoot for his upcoming movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is loved for his work in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Mirzapur' and 'Masaan', has wrapped up the shoot for his upcoming movie 'Father'. The film, which is directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, has been shot entirely in Kolkata. It is an investigative drama with a heart-warming story of a dysfunctional family coming together.

The film also stars Sanjana Sanghi of 'Dil Bechara' fame and Parvathy Thiruvothu of 'Bangalore Days' in lead roles. In the film, Pankaj will be seen playing father to Sanjana.

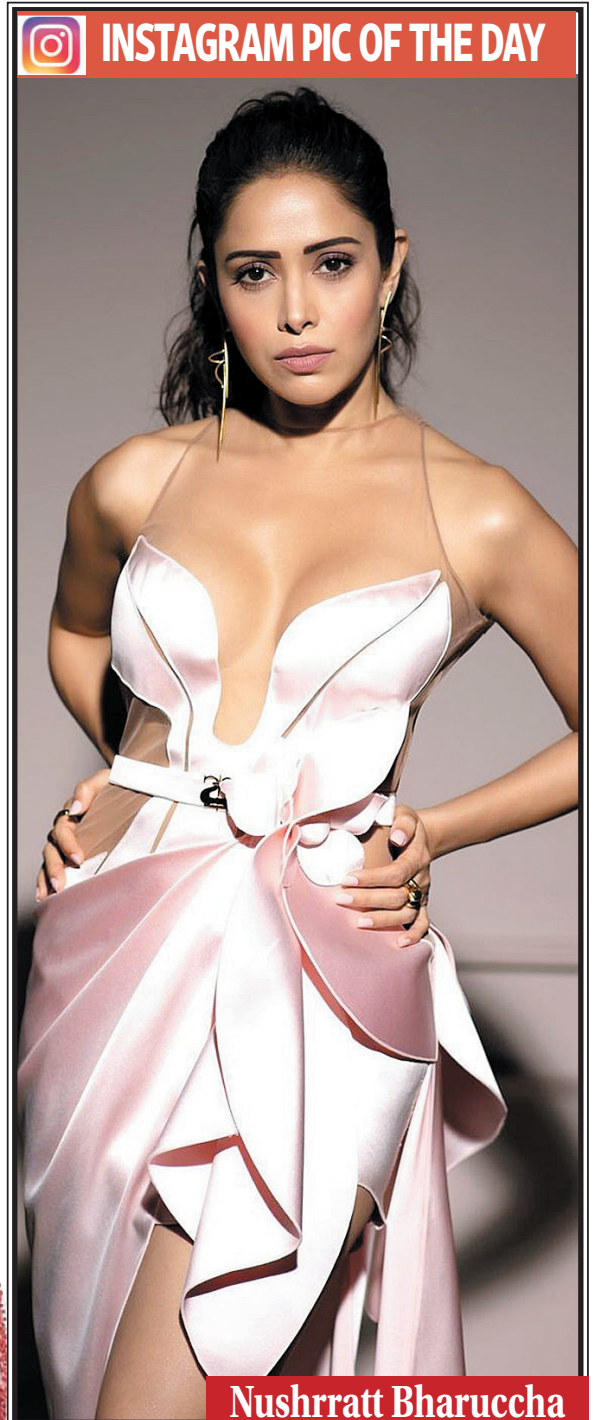
Talking about the film, Pankaj said, "I had great fun shooting the movie. It's a beautiful story of a father and daughter. How their bond is and how far they can go for each other. It's a relationship drama as well as a thriller." He further mentioned, "The film has extremely talented actors and a director with a very clear vision. That film was shot in Kolkata and that city has so much culture in it. It was a wonderful experience for me." Before this, Pankaj had teased about his highly anticipated upcoming movie 'Main Atal Hoon', where he is portraying the role of ex-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



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'Bigg Boss 14' fame Nikki Tamboli recalled going through mental stress and emotional breakdown after the demise of her brother Jatin Tamboli and how now she is trying to overcome that depressing phase. She also opened up about the kind of roles she is willing to take up in future. Nikki said: "I've been getting a lot of offers since getting out of 'Bigg Boss' but wasn't in the right frame of mind to make the right decisions. Dealing with the pain of losing a loved one, these last two years has been a real struggle." "I was lost and it was difficult to stay positive while missing my brother. I was going through a phase of complete despair, even when I would smile in the company of thousands of people, I was dying inside." She added: "Time flies but memories which he has left behind always keep playing on loop in front of my eyes. I even faced some rejections and also said no to some music videos. I guess whatever happened, it happened for a reason and maybe something much better is in store for me." Nikki shared about the kind of roles she is willing to do and added: "I feel I have the confidence to accept newer challenges and it's time to hit back hard. I would love to do the kind of roles that demand a lot of action and willingness to work in a biopic. I've been looking at scripts and keeping my options open but I needed something that I can connect to and can see myself doing."

THESE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN A REAL STRUGGLE: NIKKI TAMBOLI



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