

# absolute india

VOL. 8, ISSUE 113, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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## WOMEN CONSTITUTE JUST 19% OF THE SALES WORKFORCE IN INDIA: REPORT

- The IT services and retail sectors have shown to be the most inclusive for women, with 27 per cent and 23 per cent of women respectively working in sales roles.
- On the other hand, the pharmaceutical (10 per cent), manufacturing (14 per cent) and automotive industries (14 per cent) have an opportunity to take more proactive measures to address the gender gap and create a more inclusive and diverse sales workforce.
- The report suggests organisations use a skills-first approach to hiring that can not only ensure sales teams and talent hiring pipelines are more inclusive for women, but also provide them with equal opportunities to pursue a career in sales. It also bodes well for the overall business.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Women are just 19 per cent of the sales workforce in India, according to a report released on Thursday. The report by online professional network LinkedIn shows that women occupy only 13 per cent of sales leadership roles in India. "There remains a concerning gender gap in sales roles across the country but there is hope on the horizon

as employers proactively combat unconscious bias by embracing skills-first hiring. This approach values a professional's ability and contribution over their gender, said Ruchee Anand, Senior Director, Talent and Learning Solutions, LinkedIn India, in a statement. "Diversity is important across all job functions and especially in sales because it boosts creativity, encourages innovation, and inspires a skills-first culture -- all of which is key to business growth and success today.

Adopting this skills-first mindset will also ultimately lay the foundation for increased boardroom diversity, bringing a wealth of fresh perspectives and ideas to India's business world," she added. While there is a gender gap in the sales workforce, the data on women in sales shows that tier-I cities such as Hyderabad (26 per cent), Bengaluru (25 per cent), and Chennai (22 per cent) have the most number of women sales professionals in the country. But, sales organisations in tier-II cities such as Ahmedabad (14 per cent), Lucknow (13 per cent), and Jaipur (13 per cent) promise vast potential to bring more women into their workforces. Further, the report showed that a majority (62 per cent) of women hired in sales today come from non-sales functions like marketing and business development. This highlights the value of having the right transferable skills, which allows women more opportunities to transition to sales roles. It also indicates that many organisations are already combating unconscious bias by focusing less on degrees, gender, or previous sales experience, and more on finding talent whose skills match the role. The report is based on an analysis of over three million LinkedIn profiles of sales professionals in India.



## 91 SPRINGBOARD, GOOGLE EMPOWER 183 INDIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Whopping 183 women entrepreneurs are now ready to take their startups to the next level after completing their mentorship programme provided by 91Springboard, a co-working firm in partnership with Google for Startups (GIS), the companies said on Thursday. The 'Level Up' programme is a nationwide virtual accelerator programme aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs. As part of its first cohort, which was formed in August 2022, the companies vetted and selected 183 women founders from 360 applications. About 71 mentors provided masterclasses, peer meetups, tools and expertise for three months to build and scale their businesses. With the start-up culture percolating into deeper pockets of the country, the Cohort 1 included women entrepreneurs from cities, such as Chandigarh, Surat, Indore, Pune and others in addition to the top metro cities. "Lately, we have witnessed a surge of women entrepreneurs becoming self-reliant and independent. It is great that our government is sup-

porting them. This collaboration with GIS for Level Up will boost the confidence of the founders and assist them in their journey," said Anand Vemuri, CEO, 91Springboard, in a statement. "Women founders still comprise a very small fraction of the overall pie and we think programmes that facilitate and enable this representation are very timely and highly important. We are pleased to collaborate with 91Springboard for this," added Nicole Yap, Partnership Manager, Google for Startups. The entrepreneurs were given insights and guidance from accomplished mentors from Google and other leading corporations. The mentors acted as sounding boards, and worked with the women founders on their challenges and to work out strategies to scale their business from X to 10X. Through the course of the programme more than 200 hours were spent on mentoring the founders with over 12 hours in formal networking. The companies are calling for applications for the Cohort 2 of the Level Up programme, scheduled to start in March.

## Lily Collins dishes on her obsession with interior design



Los Angeles: Actress Lily Collins has recently become obsessed with interior design. The 33-year-old 'Emily in Paris' actress, who is the daughter of musician Phil Collins and his second wife, Jill Tavelman, has revealed that she loves looking for interior design inspiration on Instagram, reports [aceshowbiz.com](https://www.aceshowbiz.com). Asked about the last "Instagram rabbit hole" she went down, Lily, who is married to director Charlie McDowell, told Glamour magazine: "Interior design." Looking at lamps and chairs because we're redesigning a space right now. And then you start clicking on these amazing homes, and then you're looking at tile colours and wall colours and rugs. "It's so funny because as a kid, I remember my mom always talking about interior design, and I was more interested in clothing and pop bands and stuff. And then she's like, 'One day you're going to care more about interiors and antiques and designs.' I was like, 'No, I'm not.' And now it's literally what I want to spend my money on," she continued. Lily previously admitted to being inspired by the "boldness" of her "Emily in Paris" character. The brunette beauty plays Emily Cooper in the hit Netflix series, and Lily confessed to loving her character's sense of style. She shared: "I think Emily's boldness of choice and not being afraid of mixing things has rubbed off on me." Lily has always been passionate about fashion. However, starring in the show has made her more courageous than ever. She explained: "I always loved fashion growing up, so I've never been afraid of it, but I've just not always thought it would work on me. Throwing in those little influences here and there - Emily encourages me to do it more."

## WPL 2023: VERY GOOD CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS WILL COME: ANJUM CHOPRA

Niharika Raina | Mumbai

With women's cricket in India all set to witness a revolution in the form of inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) starting from March 4 through the clash between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants, former India captain Anjum Chopra thinks the tournament will bring very good changes, improvements and more of respect for the game and players. "Yesterday, when I reached the hotel from airport, I saw big boards with 'Aali Re' written alongside photographs of Harmanpreet Kaur, Pooja Vastrakar, and Yastika Bhatia (of Mumbai Indians). This is the first change as I had never seen hoardings of women cricketers in India. I have seen outside, but not in India before. Hoardings are there in Mumbai and advertising looks beautiful in the whole stretch, especially when it is night," Anjum said. "When one will go through that stretch, the eyes will immediately recognise the players in the hoarding. There is an awareness being created and whether 35,000 or 40,000 come in the stadium, there's an expectation that following of women's cricket will multiply around them to increase the following." "When following increases, then the

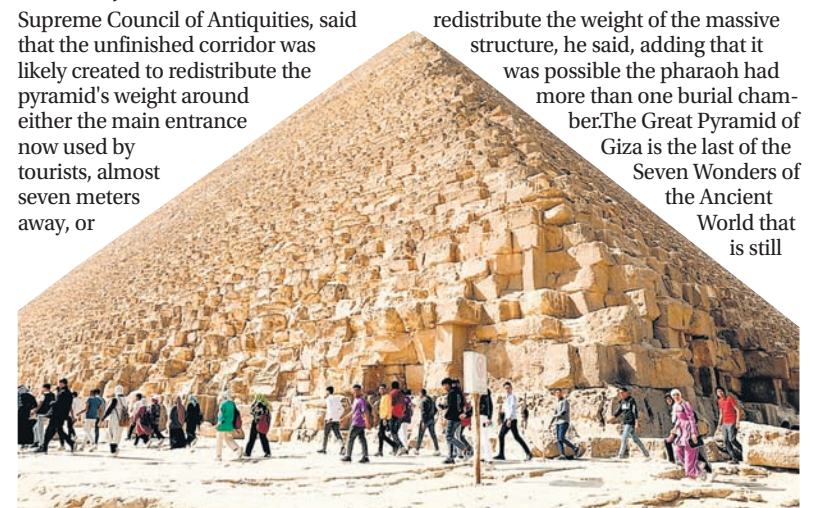


respect also increases and when respect word comes in between, then one can think about the societal change which can definitely come in. It's not just about playing; it's about everything else as well. I feel that slowly or even quickly, very good changes and improvements will come, so as more of respect," said Anjum, the WPL Expert for Sports18 and JioCinema, while replying to a question from correspondent in a select virtual roundtable on Saturday. With WPL all set to begin, Anjum also feels that one should now get on the ride to enjoy watching women's cricket and feel the realisation of a long-standing dream.

## Hidden corridor discovered in Great Pyramid of Giza

CAIRO | Agencies

The Egyptian government has announced the discovery of a hidden 9-metre-long and 2.10-metre-wide corridor behind the 4,500-year-old Great Pyramid of Giza, known as Khufu Pyramid, which "will lead to further findings". Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ahmed Issa said that "the discovery is a result of the international 'ScanPyramids' project that was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Antiquities to study the structure of the pyramids without using harmful drilling methods", reports Xinhua news agency. "It will lead to further findings," he added. An international team, consisting of experts from Egypt, France, Germany, Canada, and Japan, has been working on analyzing a cavity behind the pyramid's north face that was first discovered in 2016, he added. Scientists used non-invasive and non-destructive surveying techniques called muons radiography. Also addressing the same press conference, Mostafa Waziri, head of the



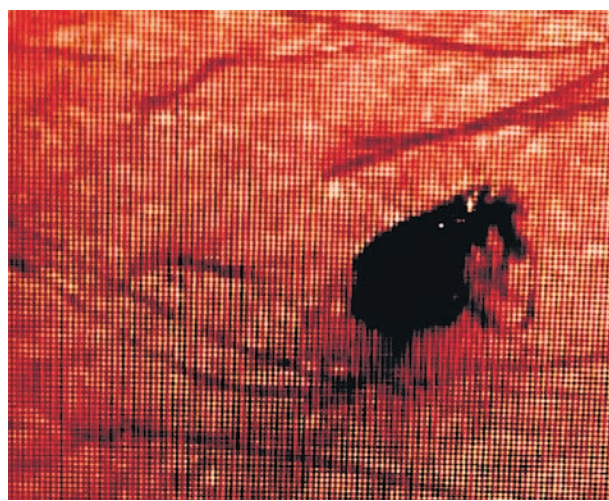
Supreme Council of Antiquities, said that the unfinished corridor was likely created to redistribute the pyramid's weight around either the main entrance now used by tourists, almost seven meters away, or redistribute the weight of the massive structure, he said, adding that it was possible the pharaoh had more than one burial chamber. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the last of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that is still standing today. It was constructed as a monumental tomb around 2560 BC during the reign of the Pharaoh Khufu, or Cheops. Built to a height of 146 meters (479 feet), it now stands at 139 meters and was the tallest structure made by humans until the Eiffel Tower in Paris in 1889.

## Indian researchers find antibiotic combo best for severe scrub typhus

New Delhi | Agencies

Severe cases of the mite borne scrub typhus disease may be better treated by a combination of antibiotics rather than single-drug therapies, according to a study by a team of Indian researchers. Severe Scrub Typhus caused by the bacteria Orientia tsutsugamushi leads to a life-threatening infection, which primarily affects rodents, and is transmitted to humans (zoonoses) by the larvae of trombiculid mites. The disease typically presents as a fever that may be associated with headaches, coughs, shortness of breath, and brain symptoms, like confusion and disorientation. About six per cent of the patients infected with scrub typhus could die in spite of diagnosis and treatment. One-third of the patients develop severe disease that affects multiple organs in the body and leads to lethally low

blood pressure. Death rates in severe disease can reach up to 70 per cent without treatment and 24 per cent with treatment. The team of researchers including from Christian Medical College in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, and PGIMER Chandigarh in a study of 800 adult patients demonstrated that treatment with intravenous doxycycline and azithromycin is more effective than using either drug on its own. The findings, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, showed that antibiotic combo therapy led to an early discharge of patients -- by day seven -- from hospital. The patients also had fewer persisting complications, such as respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), hepatitis, hypotension/shock, meningoencephalitis, and kidney failure. The overall mortality rate in this study was 12 per cent. "This trial provides evidence that combination therapy with



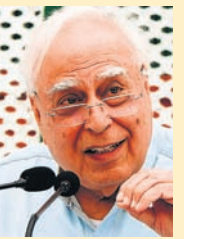
intravenous doxycycline and azithromycin is a better therapeutic option for the treatment of severe scrub typhus than monotherapies of either drug. This new evidence will change treatment guidelines and save the lives of thousands of people with scrub typhus in the future," Prof George M Varghese, from CMC's Department of Infectious Diseases, said in a statement. Scrub typhus is a major public health threat in India and other South Asian countries. It is estimated that in endemic regions, about a billion people are at risk of contracting the infection, while a million people get infected and 1.5 lakh people die from it every year. As Orientia tsutsugamushi

is a bacterium which multiplies and survives inside host cells, it is important that the antibiotic reaches high concentrations within host cells as well. This study found that when both azithromycin and doxycycline were administered together to patients with severe scrub typhus, the bacteria were cleared away quicker and patients improved faster. This could be because doxycycline and azithromycin stop the bacteria from producing proteins through different, but complementary, mechanisms. The combination of the two drugs may have resulted in a more complete blockade of protein synthesis and consequently reduced bacterial growth and multiplication. As combination therapy quickly controlled bacterial growth within the first week of infection, severe disease may have been prevented and resolution of symptoms might have quickened, the researchers said.

## Kapil Sibal launches website to help citizens fight injustice

New Delhi:

Independent MP Kapil Sibal on Saturday announced that he will launch a website, titled 'Insaf ke Sipahi', to help citizens fight against injustice and appealed to the opposition Chief Ministers and parties to help him in the initiative. Addressing a press conference here, Sibal said during the official launch on March 11 at the Jantar Mantar, he will also unveil a vision document for the country. He asserted that this was not a political move but a catalyst for change. "Any change which had been brought in the country, lawyers were at forefront and now I want to ask why lawyers are silent?" he said. The Independent MP said lawyers should raise their voices, adding that "I want to start a movement as there is injustice everywhere be it business, journalism, people and opposition". He said in the country there will be lawyers standing in every corner to help the public on every issue. Sibal alleged that the elected government have been destabilised and that among 121 cases of ED, 115 are against opposition leaders









# WORLD'S FIRST 'BAMBOO CRASH BARRIER' INSTALLED ON MAHARASHTRA HIGHWAY

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a unique achievement, the world's first 200-metre long bamboo crash barrier has come up on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha region of eastern Maharashtra, officials said here on Saturday. The bamboo crash barrier in Nagpur has been christened as

'Bahu Balli' and underwent rigorous testing at various government-run institutions on different parameters. These included tests at the National Automotive Test Tracks in Pithampur, Indore, it secured the Class 1 in the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute in Roorkee, and has been given accreditation by the

Indian Road Congress. 'Bahubali' is born out of the Bambusa Balcooa bamboo species - which grows in West Bengal and north-east - that has been treated with creosote oil and coated with recycled high density polyethylene (HDPE). The recycling value of the bamboo crash barrier is stated as 50-70 per cent compared with 30-50 per

cent for steel barriers. The achievement has been described as remarkable for the bamboo sector and the country as a whole as this crash barrier offers a perfect alternative to steel. Besides, it addresses environmental concerns and its aftermath and is a rural agro-friendly industry, boosting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, said the officials.

# DAY AFTER ATTACK, MNS LEADER REJECTS POLICE SECURITY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after the Mumbai Police detained at least two persons in connection with the attack on Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande, the latter declined to accept police security, here on Saturday. On Friday evening after he was pounced upon from behind with a cricket stump-wielding assailant, Deshpande said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde called him up, enquired about his health and then deployed two Mumbai Police personal bodyguards. "I thank the CM for this gesture and humbly say that I do not need this security. I shall not be cowed down by such attacks and my activists can look after me. We all know who is behind the assault on me, they might need the security now," Deshpande told mediapersons. He recounted the incident on his Friday morning walk near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park gate No. 5 when he noticed an unknown man following him closely. "Suddenly, that person hit me from behind and I raised my right arm to protect myself, but his other associates lunged in, one hit me in my



legs and I fell down... As they started assaulting me, members of the public raised a hue and cry and rushed towards me, and seeing this the attackers scooted," Deshpande said. However, despite repeated queries, he declined to pinpoint or name the person/s who may be allegedly involved in the attack. "I have told the police everything... those who came to play 'cricket' with the stumps, and even

their 'coach', everything will emerge in the next few days," declared Deshpande. However, he suspects that the assault may be linked with his complaint lodged a couple of days ago demanding a probe into the BMC's Covid-19 contracts, but refused to elaborate. Soon after the attack at around 7 a.m. on Friday, the Mumbai Police had registered a case and set up at least six teams to probe the issue which kick-started a huge political controversy, and a ruckus in the Legislative Assembly. The police also scanned local CCTV footage and finally zeroed in on two suspects who were identified and picked up from Bhandup suburb early today, and further probe in on. Deshpande sustained grievous injuries in his right arm and legs, including a fracture, and after treatment at the Hinduja Hospital was discharged a few hours later. Alleging the involvement of his political rivals for the attacks, the Bharatiya Janata Party and MNS leaders have demanded a thorough probe into the role of the Sena (UBT) and its leaders MLA Aditya Thackeray, MP Sanjay Raut plus others, and if found evidence is found, then their immediate arrest.

# After 10 weeks, actor Sheezan Khan gets bail in Tunisha Sharma suicide case

Team Absolute | Palghar

A Vasai court on Saturday granted bail to teleserial actor Sheezan Khan who was arrested and spent nearly 10 weeks in jail for his alleged involvement in the suicide case of his ex-girlfriend and co-actress Tunisha Sharma. Sharma, 21, was found dead during the shooting of the serial, 'Ali Baba: Dastaan-E-Kabul' on the morning of December 24, 2022, and a day later, Khan, 27 was nabbed for alleged abetment of her suicide, which sparked a huge controversy. Additional Sessions Judge R. D. Deshpande has granted a conditional bail of Rs One Lakh to Khan, ordered him to deposit his passport, not to leave the country without the court's permission. Sharma committed suicide on the sets of the teleserial erected at Naigaon in Vasai town after which the Waliv Police Station arrested Khan on charges of abetment. Khan and Sharma were in a relationship but had broken off just a couple of weeks before the latter's death, ostensibly caused as she was in a deeply disturbed state of mind. Later, Tunisha's mother Vanita Sharma and her uncle Pawan Sharma had alleged that Khan and his family were pressurising her to adopt Islamic practices, plus other contentions that drove her to end her life,



and demanded their arrest on charges of abetment to suicide. Khan's mother and actor-sisters Falak Naaz and Shafaq Naaz hit back at the Sharma family for falsely implicating them, and addressed the media on how Tunisha was allegedly subjected to suffering by her own family, not giving her money, neglecting her mental health problems, among others. In mid-February, the Waliv Police filed its voluminous 524-page chargesheet in the case, naming Khan as an abettor to Sharma's suicide, besides listing 31 witnesses and other evidence, and are likely to file a supplementary chargesheet later. Arguing for bail, Khan's lawyer Sharad Rai had pointed out that the investigations are over, the chargesheet has already been filed and hence his client should be granted bail, though there was opposition from the Special Public Prosecutor Sanjay More on various grounds.

# Vande Bharat train to run on Mumbai-Goa route soon: Minister

Team Absolute | Thane

A Vande Bharat semi-high speed express train will be operated on the Mumbai-Goa route soon, Union Minister of State for Railways Raosaheb Danve has informed a delegation of legislators from Maharashtra. This information was shared by Niranjana Davkhare, a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council representing the Konkan graduates constituency. The delegation of legislators met Danve on Friday. During the meeting, the Union minister told the group that a Vande Bharat Express train will be operated between Mumbai and Goa, Davkhare said in a release. This express train will be



operated between Mumbai and Goa on the lines of the ones introduced recently on Mumbai-Shirdi and Mumbai-Solapur routes to curtail travel time, Danve said. The electrification of the Mumbai-Goa railway route has been completed and the new train service will be introduced following an

inspection, the minister told the delegation. The delegation discussed several issues concerning railways in Thane and Konkan region with the minister during the meeting. Issues like allotment of stalls to the railway project-affected persons or their relatives, mobile stalls at each railway station for farmers,

raising the height of platforms to reduce the gap between them and trains, taking measures to prevent flooding due to the railway bridge at Mahad in Raigad, also came up for discussion, the release said. The delegation discussed with Danve the demand to extend the Sawantwadi-Diva train service till Dadar, rehabilitation of those residing along the railway tracks under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) scheme, and other issues, it added. The legislators also demanded that the Mumbai station in Thane be renamed as Mumbra Devi station. Danve assured them that action will be taken after the state government submits a proposal to this effect.

# "Winds Of Change": Sharad Pawar on BJP's defeat in key Maharashtra poll

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With the Bharatiya Janata Party losing its bastion of Kasba Peth in Pune city to the Congress in the recently-held Assembly bypoll, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar said the development indicated that winds of change were blowing across the country. The former Union minister was speaking to reporters at Baramati, his hometown in Pune district. "BJP's defeat in the Kasba Peth Assembly bypoll proves that people are considering an alternative. Winds of change are blowing across the country," he said. The BJP on Thursday failed to retain the Kasba Peth Assembly seat, its stronghold for nearly three decades, as Congress candidate Ravindra Dhangekar defeated the saffron party nominee Hemant Rasane in a keenly contested bypoll, which had become a prestige battle between the ruling coalition and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The BJP has represented Kasba Peth in the state Assembly for the last 28 years. Girish Bapat, the current BJP Lok Sabha MP from Pune, won the prestigious seat five times till 2019. The bypoll was held on February 26 and votes were counted on Thursday. Mr Pawar said, "BJP has negligible presence in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra



Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal and Karnataka, which goes to polls this year. At the time of casting their votes, people will remember how BJP topped the Congress governments." He termed the Supreme Court's verdict on the appointment of election commissioners (ECs) a good decision for democracy. In a far-reaching verdict, the top court on Thursday ruled that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and ECs will be done by the President on the recommendation of a committee, comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India (CJI), to maintain the "purity" of the electoral process. Sharad Pawar said the NCP has done well in Nagaland as it won seven of the 12 seats it contested in the recently held polls to the 60-member Assembly. "We are the number two party there. Party general secretary Narendra Verma has been deputed to Nagaland as an observer," he said.

# Licences of 6 cough syrup makers suspended in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The licences of six manufacturers of cough syrups in Maharashtra have been suspended for violation of rules, the state government has told the Legislative Assembly. Food and Drugs Administration Minister Sanjay Rathod gave this information in the Assembly on Friday while replying to a calling attention notice by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Ashish Shelar and others. A cough syrup made by a firm based in Uttar Pradesh's Noida was alleged to have caused the death of 18 children in Uzbekistan last year. Noida police on Friday said they had arrested three employees of the firm. Rathod said the Maharashtra government had initiated an inquiry against 84 out of 108 manufacturers of cough syrups in the state. Four of them were directed to stop production while the licences of six companies were suspended, he said. As many as 17 firms were served show-cause

notices for violation of rules, the minister added. Shelar referred to the deaths of 66 children in Gambia allegedly because of cough syrups imported from India. But the minister said that the company which was facing the charge of violation of rules, in that case, was based in Haryana and did not have any manufacturing unit in Maharashtra. "We have, however, taken strict action against the violators of rules. We are ensuring that the World Health Organization's GMP (good manufacturing practices) certification-related rules and Certificate of Pharmaceutical Products are complied with while exporting products (from the state)," he added. Presiding officer Sanjay Shirsat said if 20 per cent of manufacturers faced raids because of suspected violation of rules, it needs to be taken very seriously as it was akin to playing with people's lives. Rathod said of the 996 allopathic drug manufacturers in the state, 514 export their products.

# Western Railway to run summer special trains on special fare

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Western Railway on Saturday in a press release said that has decided to run four summer special trains on special fare for various destinations and one Holi special train between Bandra Terminus and Bhavnagar. The decision is taken "for the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand," it said. The trips of Bandra Terminus - Jabalpur are also being extended, it said in the release. Train No. 09075/09076 Mumbai Central - Kathgodam (Weekly) Superfast Special (34 TRIPS) Train No. 09075 Mumbai Central - Kathgodam Superfast Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Wednesday at 11.00 hrs. & will reach Kathgodam at 14.30 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 08th March, 2023 till 28th June, 2023. Similarly, Train No. 09076 Kathgodam - Mumbai Central Superfast Special will depart from Kathgodam every Thursday at 17.30 hrs. & will arrive Mumbai Central at 20.55 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 09th March, 2023 till 29th June, 2023. This train comprises AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class, and



General Second-Class coaches. This train will run from 12th March, 2023 till 25th June, 2023. Train No. 09185/09186 Mumbai Central - Kanpur Anwarganj Superfast Special (Weekly) (32 Trips) Train No. 09185 Mumbai Central - Kanpur Anwarganj Superfast Special will depart from Mumbai Central every Saturday at 11.05 hrs. & will reach Kanpur Anwarganj at 15.35 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 11th March, 2023 till 24th June, 2023. Similarly, Train No. 09186 Kanpur Anwarganj - Mumbai Central Superfast Special will depart from Kanpur Anwarganj every Sunday at 18.40 hrs. & will arrive Mumbai Central at 22.30 hrs., the next day. This train will run from 9th March, 2023 till 29th June, 2023. Similarly, Train No. 09091/09092 Udhna - Hisar Superfast Special will depart from Udhna every Wednesday at 01.10 hrs and reach Hisar at 22.25 hrs, the same day. This train will run from 8th March, 2023 till 28th June, 2023. Similarly, Train No. 09092 Hisar - Udhna Special will depart from Hisar every Thursday at 00.15 hrs and reach Udhna at 00.05 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 9th March, 2023 till 29th June,

# 18 BANGLADESHI NATIONALS ARRESTED IN MAHARASHTRA FOR ILLEGAL STAY



Thane: Police have arrested 18 Bangladeshi nationals, including 10 women, from Maharashtra's Thane district after they were found living illegally in the country, an official said on Saturday. The arrest was made by the Navi Mumbai police during the intervening night of March 1 and 2, he said. "The police had received a tip-off that some Bangladeshi nationals will gather to celebrate the marriage anniversary of one of them at a building in Navi Mumbai's Ghansoli area. Acting on it, the officials of Navi Mumbai police's crime branch raided the premises at night," the official of Rabale police station said. Ten women and eight men were held during the operation as they were found residing in the locality since the last around one year without any valid documents like visa and passport, he added. An offence under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and also the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 was registered against them and investigation is on, the police said.





# KIM IS READY TO DATE AGAIN BUT DOESN'T WANT A RELATIONSHIP WITH A CELEBRITY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is ready to date again but has told her friends she doesn't want a relationship with a celebrity.

The mother of four has asked friends to set her up, but insisted she doesn't want to date any celebrities, reports female-first.co.uk.

A source told PEOPLE: "Kim hasn't been dating, but is ready again. She took a breather after Pete (Davidson), but she is interested now. She would love to date someone who isn't famous in Hollywood. She thinks someone in finance would be perfect."

"Kim has a lot of things going on that make her happy. She would love to share it all with a partner too."

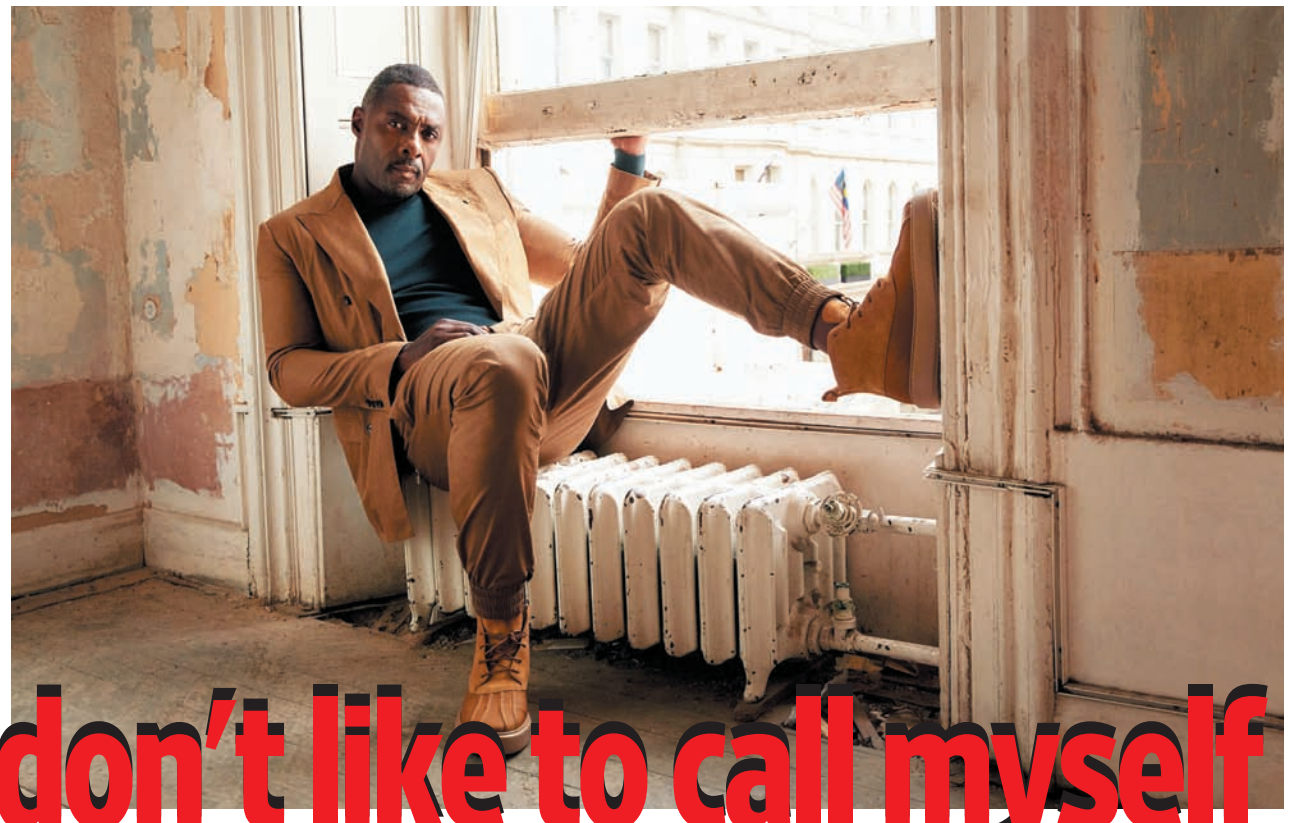
Thrice-married Kim recently revealed she is open to having more kids and remarrying one day.

She said: "I am. I am (such a romantic). I have this fantasy in my head, like fourth's time's a charm, it's gonna -"

"I feel, like honestly, my last marriage was my first real (one) - the first one, I just don't know what was happening. The second one, I felt like I wanted to be married so badly because all my friends were at that place and that's where I should have been, and I didn't accept that that just wasn't where I was and see that that was okay." "And now, I feel like I would definitely take my time - and I would be okay for a forever partnership as well. I would want a marriage, but I'm so happy to take my time."

Kim was previously married to music producer Damon Thomas from 2000 to 2004, and former NBA player Kris Humphries from 2011 to 2013, although she famously filed for divorce just 72 days after they wed.

## WITH A CELEBRITY



# I don't like to call myself a Black actor: Idris Elba

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Idris Elba created a tizzy on social media in February after he said that he stopped calling himself a "Black actor" because it created limitations for his career.

The Luther actor was immediately accused of renouncing his blackness, although actors such as John Boyega came to his defence and argued that critics weren't paying attention to his message about damning Hollywood stereotyping, reports Viral.

"I feel as I get older - I'm 50 now - we all have fears of saying too much, over-sharing and whatnot," Elba now told The

Guardian in a new interview.

"And in this day and age, it's really difficult to have an opinion if you're in the public eye because it gets overly scrutinised, taken out of context, thrown into some sort of bullshit, zeitgeisty social media argument."

Elba pointed to the controversy around his "Black actor" comment as proof that social media is a "conflict incubator," adding, "Me saying I don't like to call myself a Black actor is my prerogative."

"That's me, not you. So for you to turn around and say to me, I'm 'denying my Blackness', on what grounds? Did you hear that? Where am I denying it? And what for? It's just stupid. Whatever."

In his Esquire U.K. interview, Elba noted that "as humans, we are obsessed with race and that obsession can really hinder people's aspirations, hinder people's growth. Racism should be a topic for discussion, sure. Racism is very real. But from my perspective, it's only as powerful as you allow it to be."

"I stopped describing myself as a Black actor when I realised it put me in a box," the actor said.

"We've got to grow. We've got to. Our skin is no more than that: it's just skin. Rant over."

As Elba's detractors accused him of renouncing his Blackness, Boyega took to Twitter to re-direct the discourse to the kind of stereotyping that Elba was calling out in the first place.

"I think we should fixate on who is typecasting and putting actors in boxes because of this," Boyega wrote. "Not on making weird adjustments for them. We continuously focus on what we have to do so they don't do this or that. Very worrying. We BLACK and that's that."

Elba took to Twitter after his Esquire interview to tell off his detractors, writing: "There isn't a soul on this earth that can question whether I consider myself a BLACK MAN or not. Being an 'actor' is a profession, like being an 'architect,' they are not defined by race. However, if you defines your work by your race that is your Prerogative."



# 'I love my face tatt'

Cardi B's new ink has divided her fans but she insists she's loving the design

Los Angeles | Agencies

Cardi B has no regrets about her recent huge tattoo despite disapproval of fans. The 'Bodak Yellow' rapper showed off her latest tattoo on social media and was immediately met with a mixed reaction. The songstress posted the first close-up of her hugely visible face marking, which is a tribute to her one-year-old son, reports Mirror.co.uk. The red ink across her jawline spells out the tot's name Wave and she's revealed how much she loves the artwork. In the caption of her post, she wrote: "I love my face tatt," before adding a red-heart emoji.

The image she used was taken from her latest venture alongside hubby Offset as they took part in a McDonald's campaign. Cardi stunned in the snap as she glammed up in a halter neck white gown with crystal details. Her makeup and hair were immaculately presented, while her nails were over-the-top in length as she fed her man a chip. Mirror.co.uk further states that the picture wasn't met with overwhelming support - even though the official McDonald's account liked the post. One user wrote: "Why? What was the reason?," while another questioned: "Is this some early april fools?" Another joked that she will soon be covered in face tattoos, sharing an image of another woman with an array of visible markings.



# LADY GAGA MIGHT DISAPPEAR FROM THE SPOTLIGHT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Lady Gaga hints at quitting spotlight after 15 years. She explained that she prefers life away from the red carpet at home, reports Mirror.co.uk. The pop sensation exploded onto the global stage back in 2008 with the release of her chart topping single 'Just Dance'. She then grabbed attention on red carpets around the globe by dressing in bizarre outfits - from dresses made from Kermit - the Frog puppets to clothes made of meat.

All the while she continued to release pop tunes that sold millions of copies and segwayed into the world of acting by nabbing starring roles in movies and TV shows including 'A Star is Born' and 'House of Gucci'. Mirror.co.uk further stated that Gaga said she prefers a slower pace of life these days - and wishes she knew that she didn't have to be jumping for attention all the time like she was in her younger days. She told 'Wallpaper' magazine: "I'm interested in living more of a life of solitude. It's really nice to just have time to be alone, and be expansive, and know that you're enough. I wish I could tell my younger self that."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kaz Crossley

# Jonathan Krisel to direct 'Pokemon Detective Pikachu' sequel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jonathan Krisel will be directing 'Pokemon Detective Pikachu' sequel. Jonathan Krisel, co-creator of 'Portlandia', is in negotiations with Legendary Entertainment to direct the sequel to the live-action 'Pokemon' movie from 2019. Chris Galletta will write the script, reports Variety.

Krisel co-created, wrote and executive produced IFC's sketch comedy show 'Portlandia', which starred fellow co-creators Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein in a multitude of oddball situations around Portland, Oregon.

He also co-created, wrote and directed FX's 'Baskets', starring Zach Galifianakis as a rodeo clown. Previously, Galletta wrote the 2013 coming-of-age comedy 'The Kings of

Summer'.

The original 'Pokemon Detective Pikachu' starred Ryan Reynolds as a talking, coffee-loving Pikachu who fancied himself as a Sherlock Holmes. The electric mouse teams up with Tim Goodman, a down-on-his-luck Pokemon trainer played by Justice Smith, to find Tim's missing dad. The cast included Kathryn Newton, who's currently starring in 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania', Suki Waterhouse, Ken Watanabe, Rita Ora and more.

It was the first live-action 'Pokemon' movie ever made, after the hit video game franchise has sold more than 440 million video games sold worldwide, tens of billions of Pokemon cards, and more than 1,200 episodes of the popular anime series.







# 'I MISS PLAYING HOLI'



## Shraddha Kapoor recalls celebrating Holi at Big B's residence in her childhood

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is busy promoting her film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' along with her co-actor Ranbir Kapoor, expressed excitement over the release of the film coinciding with the festival of colours, Holi. She recalled celebrating the festival at megastar Amitabh Bachchan's place during her childhood days.

She shared: "I miss playing Holi. Our film is releasing on Holi, so I am very excited about it. But I'm not sure if I'll get a chance to play or not. As a child, I used to play in the building, and one memorable Holi for me was when I went to Amitabh Bachchan ji's place."

The actress, who is known for her movies such as 'Luv Ka The End', 'Aashiqui 2', 'Ek Villain', 'Haider', 'Chhichhore', among others, shared further that what she loved most about the Holi celebration at

Big B's place was the huge gathering of people and they used to pick up each other and throw them in the tub.

"I remember how people used to pick up each other and throw them in the tub, and I thought to myself, someone should pick me up and throw me in the tub but unfortunately that never happened," she added.

She appeared on Kapil Sharma's reality show along with Ranbir Kapoor to talk about their film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar'.

## Kangana calls 'power couple' Virat-Anushka a 'good example' on visiting temple

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actress Anushka Sharma and star Indian cricketer-husband Virat Kohli were at Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain to seek blessings.

Videos and photographs have been doing the rounds on social media, where the couple can be seen sitting inside the temple. The couple sat next to each other as Virat interacted with one of the priests.

In a video clip, Anushka was seen wearing a light pink saree, Virat chose a white number. He seemed to keep his head down as he prayed, with the priest seated beside him. At one point, the priest leans in and talks to him as well.

As star couple Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli paid a visit to a temple in Ujjain, actress Kangana Ranaut couldn't stop praising the two calling them a "good example".

Kangana shared their video of their visit to the temple on Saturday and also called them a 'power couple'.

She wrote on her Instagram story: "Such a good example this power couple is setting, not only it brings them the blessings of Mahakaal, but also in some way it glorifies the Dharma and a civilisation, which is built on Sanatana."

"Also on micro level this increases tourism in the temple/state and over all helps the nation with its self-esteem and economy both."

Anushka and Virat, who are fondly called 'Virushka', visited the temple on Saturday morning, a day after the third Test match between India and Australia in Indore.

On the work front, Kangana is currently shooting for Chandramukhi 2. Helmed by P. Vasu, it is the sequel to the Tamil horror comedy film Chandramukhi which features Rajinikanth and Jyothika.

## 'SUCH A GOOD EXAMPLE THIS POWER COUPLE IS SETTING'



## I fear that my daughter may not recognise me after I shave: Ranbir

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt welcomed their daughter last year in November and the actor is often seen talking about their first baby, Raha Kapoor. Recently, he spoke about his bond with his daughter and how she is used to his look with a beard and that is why he is scared that she might not recognise him with a clean shaved face.

He said: "I have grown this beard for the movie. Since my daughter Raha was born, she has only seen me in this look. I don't have the fear that my beard will prick her, but I do fear that she may not recognise me after I shave."

Ranbir came on the singing reality show, 'Indian Idol 13', to promote his film 'Tu Jhoothi Mein Makkar' along with his co-star Shraddha Kapoor.

For Ranbir, his daughter's love is most special to him and her smile makes him happy.

"She has this habit of only looking into my eyes while giving me a smile, and I believe that she has not really looked below my eye level. I am sure she will get used to my clean-shaved look as well, but it will break my heart if she does not recognise me," he added.

As Holi is around the corner, the 'Wake Up Sid' actor enjoyed performances by the contestants on the 'Holi special' episode of the singing reality show.

Ayodhya's Rishi Singh performed with the 'Superstar Singer 2' contestant Sayisha Gupta on the popular Holi song 'Balam Pichkari' from the film 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' and Ranbir was so impressed with their performance that he joined them on stage and shook his legs along with Rishi and Sayisha.

After the performance, he remembered shooting for the song for eight days and the challenges of completing it. He also praised the contestants for their performance.

"In those 8 days of shooting, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Kalki, Deepika, and I had a blast. We would drink bhang (cannabis), hiding from everyone so that no one gets to know. I have many fond memories of this song and I get to relive those memories because of this wonderful performance," he added while recalling his shooting experience for 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' along with his co-actors.



## Rutuja Sawant shared her dreadful casting couch experience

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**'P**ishachini' actress Rutuja Sawant shared how she once encountered the casting couch in the initial years of her career and called it one of the scariest incidents of her life.

Rutuja said: "It's an ordinary thing for a struggling actor to audition a lot, so at the age of 20 when I was looking for work, one day I got a call from an agent who asked me to come to his office for a meeting. The agent, instead of discussing the work, tried to get close to me and grab me. I got so scared that I ran away from that place."

She said: "That incident gave me a lesson to be

more careful when I meet people whom I don't know. I stopped going to any meetings alone after that incident, I always used to take a friend along to meetings. Even today, I usually cross-check the details of the person I am going to meet regarding work." "Unfortunately, many new actors had to face such bad experiences and newcomers easily fell victim to it. But I believe that there are good and bad people everywhere, you just have to play safe and keep yourself a priority," Rutuja concluded.

Rutuja Sawant is known for her roles in shows like 'Mehndi Hai Rachne Waali' and 'Choti Saardarni'.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sharvari