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VOL. 8, ISSUE 119, BHOPAL | MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** 

Cong concerned about my grave, I am concerned about ...



#### **HOLLYWOOD**

**Priyanka recalls crying to Nick after** being body shamed ...



#### **SPORTS**

**WPL 2023: Saika Ishaque has** been a real find for this ...



# WATER ON EARTH OLDER THAN OUR SUN, HAS INTERSTELLAR ORIGIN

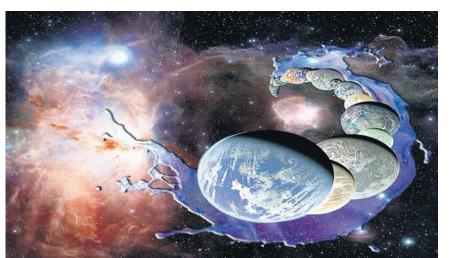
- **USING THE ATACAMA LARGE MILLIMETER/SUBMIL-**LIMETER ARRAY (ALMA) TELESCOPE, ASTRONOMERS **DETECTED GASEOUS WATER IN THE PLANET-FORM-**ING DISC AROUND THE STAR NAMED 'V883 ORIONIS' **ABOUT 1300 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM EARTH.**
- THIS WATER CARRIES A CHEMICAL SIGNATURE THAT EXPLAINS THE JOURNEY OF WATER FROM STAR-FORMING GAS CLOUDS TO PLANETS. AND SUP-PORTS THE IDEA THAT WATER ON EARTH IS EVEN **OLDER THAN OUR SUN.**
- WE CAN NOW TRACE THE ORIGINS OF WATER IN **OUR SOLAR SYSTEM TO BEFORE THE FORMATION OF** THE SUN." SAID JOHN J. TOBIN. AN ASTRONOMER AT THE NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY IN THE US AND LEAD AUTHOR OF THE STUDY PUB-LISHED IN NATURE.

Team Absolute New Delhi

ater that you drink and use for daily chores was formed in the interstellar space long before our Sun came to life, a study has revealed, finding the missing link for water in our solar sys-

When a cloud of gas and dust collapses, it forms a star at its centre. Around the star, material from the cloud also forms a disc. Over the course of a few million years, the matter in the disc clumps together to form comets, asteroids, and eventually planets.

Tobin and his team used ALMA, in which the European Southern Observatory (ESO) is a partner, to measure chemical signatures of the water and its path from the star-forming



cloud to planets.

Tobin's team studied a slightly heavier version of water where one of the hydrogen atoms is replaced with deuterium -- a heavy isotope of hydrogen.

Because simple and heavy water form under different conditions, their ratio can be used to trace when and where the water was formed. The composition of the water in the disc is very similar to that of comets in our own solar system.

However, observing the water turned out to be tricky.

In the future, they hope to use ESO's upcoming Extremely Large Telescope and its first-generation instrument METIS. This mid-infrared instrument will be able to resolve the gas-phase of water in these types

#### WITH H3N2 AS PREDOMINANT SUB-TYPE, COMBINATION OF VIRUSES CAUSING INFECTIONS

# IT IS SPREADING

- One should wear a mask in crowded places. While coughing and sneezing, the mouth and nose should be covered completely.
- Along with this, touching the eyes and nose repeatedly should be avoided since the virus enters the body through hands.
- Any medicine, even antibiotics should not be taken without consulting the doctor and special attention should be paid while con-
- suming medicines. According to physicians, viral infection can easily spread from one person to another. When a person infected with influenza coughs or sneezes, its droplets can spread up to one metre in the air and can infect a healthy person.

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total of 3,038 lab-confirmed cases of various subtypes of influenza including H3N2 have been reported till March 9 by the states, as per the latest data available on IDSP-IHIP (Integrated Health Information Platform).

This includes 1,245 cases in January; 1.307 in February and 486 cases till March 9.A real-time surveillance of cases of Influenza like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) presenting in OPDs and IPDs of health facilities is undertaken by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre



### **SOUNDS ALERT**

Patna: The state health department of Bihar is on an alert mode after a woman tested positive for H3N2 flu. The victim was suffering from cold, cough and fever and went to the Institute (RMRI) Agam Kuan in Patna for treatment. During testing, she was found to be positive of H3N2

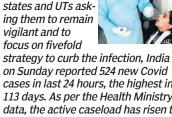
Following the new version of H1N1 spreading in the country, the Union ministry of health and family welfare has written letters to every state to make adequate arrangements for the disease.

The doctors are suggesting to the patients to take healthy diet and seasonal fruits. They are also advised to use mild hot water for drinking. Antibiotics are not effective in the treatment of H3N2 influenza.

for Disease Control (NCDC). Apart from H3N2 influenza, two other important circulating influenza are Influenza A H1N1, Influenza B Victoria. The ICMR data, however, reports a combination of respiratory viruses ranging from Covid-19 virus, swine flu (H1N1), H3N2, and the seasonal Victoria and Yamagata lineages

#### **India reports 524 Covid** cases, highest in 113 days

New Delhi: A day after Health Ministry wrote to states and UTs asking them to remain vigilant and to focus on fivefold



cases in last 24 hours, the highest in 113 days. As per the Health Ministry data, the active caseload has risen to 3,618 which is 0.01 per cent of the total cases. The ministry conducted total 96,170 Covid tests on previous day. The death toll due to Covid infection in the country stands at 5,30,781, as per the data. While the record rate stands at 98.80 per cent. The total number of people who have recovered from the Covid infection has risen to 4.41.56.093.

of influenza B viruses, as responsible. Meanwhile, the Covid infection has also reported a spike after four months as daily Covid cases were reported 524 on Sunday. An integrated surveillance of Influenza like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) for the detection of human influenza virus and SARS-COV-2 virus

#### **DOCTORS IN UP WARN** AGAINST SELF-MEDICATION

Lucknow: With influenza A subtype H3N2 virus claiming two lives in India, one each in Karnataka and Haryana, doctors in Lucknow have urged people to avoid selfmedication.

Sheetal Verma, senior faculty department of microbiology at King George's Medical University (KGMU) said, "The influenza A virus sub-type H3N2 is nothing new but as people are experiencing longer spells of cough, selfmedication should be strictly avoided. There is nothing to panic. This variant does not lead to a pandemic but taking precautions against it will certainly help."

She said that it is better for people experiencing fever, cough or respiratory distress to consult a doctor instead of buying a drug overthe-counter because this flu variant is different.

According to doctors, the precautions people should take include -keeping body immunity adequate and avoiding close contact with unknown people, particularly avoiding crowded places.

is ongoing through structured ILI/SARI surveillance network of 28 sites, an official said. The surveillance network is comprised of 27 DHR-ICMR's Virus Research & Diagnostic Laboratories and country's National Influenza Centre (WHO-NIC) housed at ICMR-National Institute of Virology Pune. also a WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Influenza Surveillance & Response System (GISRS). During the period of first nine weeks of this year, the surveillance network has monitored the human influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2 infection in SARI and ILI cases

### Centre opposes same-sex marriage

'NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH SOCIETAL MORALITY, INDIAN ETHOS', SAYS IN SC.

In an affidavit, the central government said the notion of marriage itself necessarily and inevitably presupposes a union between two persons of the opposite sex. This definition is socially, culturally, and legally ingrained into the very idea and concept of marriage and ought not to be disturbed or diluted by judicial interpretation, it added.



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he central government has told the Supreme Court that living together as partners and having sexual relationship by same sex individuals, which is decriminalised now, is not comparable with the Indian family unit -- a husband, a wife, and children born out of the union -- while opposing pleas seeking recognition of samesex marriage

It stressed that same-sex marriage is not in conformity with societal morality and Indian

The affidavit said the institution of marriage and the family are important social institutions in India that provide for the security, support and companionship of the members of our society and bear an important role in the rearing of children and their mental and psychological upbringing also.

The Centre stressed that despite the decriminalization of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right for same-sex mar-

riage to be recognised under the laws of the country.

The affidavit said that considerations of societal morality are relevant in considering the validity of the legislature and further, that it is for the legislature to judge and enforce such societal morality and public acceptance based upon Indian ethos.

The Centre said that marriage between a biological man and a biological woman takes place either under the personal laws or codified laws namely, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 or the Special Marriage Act, 1954 or the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.

The Centre's response came on a batch of petitions challenging certain provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, Foreign Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act and other marriage laws as unconstitutional on the ground that they deny same sex couples the right to marry or alternatively to read these provisions broadly so as to include same sex

#### **PM INAUGURATES WORLD'S LONGEST RAILWAY PLATFORM** IN HUBBALLI

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the world's longest railway platform, and the country's first green Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), in Karnataka's Dharwad district, an official said. The railway platform at Siddharudha Swamiji Railway Station in Hubballi is 1,505 meters (over 1 km) long. Earlier, the length of the platform was 550 meters.

According to sources in South Western Railway, the platform has now entered the Guinness Book of

PM Modi has also inaugurated the country's first eco-friendly, green IIT campus in Dharwad city, built at a cost of Rs 852 crore.

Appreciating the project, the Prime Minister also took a tour of the campus along with Union Minister for Mine, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, and other dignitaries, an official said.

### 'KIDNEY, LIVER FOR SALE' POSTER IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM RATTLE PEOPLE

Thiruvananthapuram Agencies

idney, Liver for poster that appeared in front of a house at Manacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, making people initially think that it was a prank played by someone or to troll the govern-

Two phone numbers were also provided along with the advertisement. When the numbers were dialed, they were found to be genuine. The man who had put up the board was Santhosh Kumar (50), of Manacaud Puthen Road.

Santosh said that he was working at a fruit shop where he met with an accident while lifting a sack. He had to undergo treatment, and now did not have any money. He wanted to



sell a piece of the family land at Manacaud junction. However, there was a dispute with his brother over the land.

His brother told media persons that the property was in the name of their mother and now in the name of six siblings, including Santhosh.

Santhosh said that his wife took some tuition classes for children but after Covid-19, this also stopped.

In such tough conditions, the family said that they did not have any other means other than selling their vital organs.

### NTA can now access CUET scores admission procedures at their

Team Absolute New Delhi

here are many universities across the country which have not yet registered for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) process. Despite this, these universities will also be able to use the CUET score for undergraduate

Last year, CUET was conducted for the first time. A total of 14.9 lakh students had registered themselves for the exam, which took place in five weeks in 450 centres.

This year, more than 15 lakh students are expected to appear in this examination, due to which the National Testing Agency (NTA), which will be conducting the exam, has doubled the centres as compared to last time to around 1,000.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) estimates



Even universities not registered with

that more than 200 universities will offer admission to undergraduate courses on the basis of

CUET score this year. A total of 89 universities had implemented the CUET last year and 168 universities so far have given their approval to

UGC believes that where CUET students will not have to appear for different entrance exams for different universities, universities can also avoid the hassle of conducting separate

According to UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar, with the implementation of CUET, the representation of students from rural areas is increasing in universities, as they are no longer worried of scoring 90 per cent in Class 12 examinations to get

admitted in colleges. Students, who secure only 60 per cent marks in Class 12 exams, can also ensure admission in universities by giving

Regarding the exam syllabus, UGC said that the syllabus of CUET UG is being restricted to Class 12 only. In such a situation, students will not face any problems related to it.

As per the UGC, the academic session of the first year in all Central universities across the country will start from the first week of August.

#### **OPPN TO MEET KHARGE TO CHALK OUT HOUSE STRATEGY**

New Delhi: Like-minded opposition parties will meet on Monday at LoP Mallikarjun Kharge's office in the Parliament premises to chalk out a strategy for the remaining part of the Budget Session.

The Congress Parliamentary party will also be meeting on the same day to devise party strategy for both Houses.

The Budget session of Parliament will resume from Monday and the opposition is preparing to corner the Central government on various issues, including Hindenburg report on Adani, inflation and hike in petroleum product prices and growing

unemployment. According to reports, 35 bills are pending in both the Houses. The second leg of the Session

will have a total of 17 sittings and will continue till April 6.

### nation

### **CONG CONCERNED ABOUT MY GRAVE, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENT: PM MODI**

Mandya (Karnataka) | Agencies

aking an emotional appeal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on Sunday that the opposition Congress was "only concerned about his grave", and added that, "my concern is about development".

Addressing a mega public rally here after inaugurating the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, PM Modi said, "When leaders of Congress party are busy digging grave for Narendra Modi, I am busy with project implementation of Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway.

The Congress leaders are cherishing the dream of my funeral," he

"Before 2014, there was a Congress government which looted the poor. No concern was shown for the poor. For the development of Karnataka, the people must choose a double engine government.

"People of the country blessed me with power in 2014. The government for the poor got installed then. From



the past nine years, the life of the poor has been made better with the schemes by the central government.

"We will repay the love of the people with interest. There has been talk of a 10-lane expressway. The social media also discussing the project. The photos of Bengaluru-Mysuru highway have gone viral.

"In the last nine years, more than three crores of poor people have been provided with houses. The beneficiaries are also in Karnataka. More than Rs 600 crore cash has been transferred to three lakh farmers," PM Modi stated.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "Even people of Pakistan and

China like Narendra Modi's leadership. They are dreaming of having a leader like him. Even the US citizens have appreciated him, he added.

In another event Prime Minister Modi on Sunday suggested people to be careful of those who ridicule India on foreign soil.

He said this while addressing a public rally in Karnataka's Dharwad city after inaugurating the world's largest railway platform at Siddharudha Swamiji Railway Station in Hubballi - located in Dharwad district.

"For the world, India is like the mother of democracy. A few years ago, I got an opportunity to inaugurate the statue of social reformer Basavanna.

Today, someone is insulting Basaveshwar," he said, indirectly targeting Congress leader Rahul

"People should be careful of those who ridicule our country from foreign soil. They talk against our 'Bharat' which is the mother of democracy," Modi said

### **Delhi: Two brothers killed** in stray dogs' attacks

A case under Section 302

of the IPC was also lodged.

about a child going missing.

fied as Aditya, the younger

The child was later identi-

The police were told that

for post-mortem.

brother of Anand.

Team Absolute New Delhi

wo brothers -- aged five and seven -- have died after they were bitten by stray dogs in the national capital's Vasant Kunj area, an official said on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Anand, 7, and Aditya, 5. Both used to reside at a "jhuggi" near a forest

The police said the deaths have been reported within a span of two days.

A senior police officer said that on March 10, at around 3 p.m., an information regarding a seven-year-old child going missing was received.

After a search, Anand's body was found in a secluded place."There were multiple injuries on his body that seemed to have been caused by some animal bite. Later, it was learnt there are many

Aditya, along with his cousin stray dogs in the forest area that often attack goats and Chandan (24), went to pigs," the police said. answer the call of nature at a

The body of the child was tance from Aditya. After sent to Safdarjung Hospital some time, when Chandan returned, he found Aditya in The police said that two an injured condition, surrounded by stray dogs," a days later, on March 12, they received another complaint police officer said.

The post-mortem of both children has been done and further action will be taken based on the postmortem

place close to the forest area.

"Chandan was at some dis-

### 2-year-old minor girl raped in Gurugram

**Gurugram** | Agencies

two-year-old minor girl has allegedly been raped here at a residential society in Sector 81 by an "unknown person", the police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at around 2 p.m. at the society premises when the girl was playing

When she was outside, a truck had entered society to pick up household items. The vehicle was parked close to the spot where the minor girl was playing.

The victim's mother, after the truck left, noticed that her daughter was injured, and was also crying. She then raised an alarm, the police said. The police were informed and a team reached the spot which rushed the victim to the Civil Hospital from where she was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung hospital for further treatment.

The police suspect the truck driver could be behind the incident. The minor girl has report-



edly received grievous injuries in her private parts. The condition of the victim, who is currently hospitalised, is said to be stable. Her mother works as a domestic help.

Based on her mother's complaint, a case under the POCSO Act has been registered at the Kherki Daula police station, the police said. "We are probing the case from all possible angles and checking the CCTV footage. The accused will be nabbed soon," a police

#### **COUPLE ENDS LIFE AFTER FAMILY DISAPPROVES RELATIONSHIP**

Muzaffarnagar: A young couple have allegedly died by suicide in Muzaffarnagar

Pankaj (23) and Shivani (20) were pulled up by the girl's family over their relationship

Moments later, Pankaj killed himself by consuming poison and his girlfriend, Shivani also followed suit.

Circle Officer (Budhana), Vinay Kumar Gautam, said, "The two victims were distant rela-

They consumed poisonous substances and died during treatment at the hospital. Bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Further action will be taken based on the inves-

### Want discussion on 'burning issues' in Parliament, says Kharge

Team Absolute New Delhi

ongress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who met Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday ahead of the second part of the Budget session, said that they want discussion on every burning issue.

Kharge said that he met Dhankhar ahead of the Parliament's resuming session to seek his cooperation.

"We, as Opposition parties, are keen to play a constructive role in making the government accountable and would want discussion on every burning issue facing the nation," he said.

Earlier Dhankhar chaired



a meeting of party leaders in Rajya Sabha ahead of the forthcoming second part of the Budget session at his residence. He also met met the

members of the panel of Vice Chairmen of the house.

Like-minded opposition parties will meet on Monday at Kharge's office to chalk out

strategy for the remaining part of the budget session.

The Congress Parliamentary party will also be meeting on the same day to devise party strategy for both houses of the parlia-

The Budget session of Parliament will resume from Monday and the opposition is preparing to corner the Central government on various issues, including Hindenburg report on Adani, inflation and hike in petroleum product prices, and growing unemployment.

According to reports, 35 bills are pending in both the Houses.

The second leg of the Session will have a total of 17 sittings and will continue till

### DA CRISIS: BENGAL GOVERNOR HAS AGREED TO MEDIATE, CLAIM AGITATORS

Kolkata Agencies

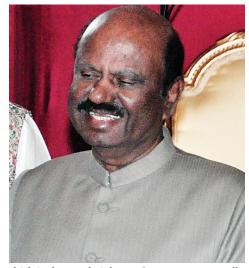
**T**est Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has agreed to mediate between the state government and agitating government employees to find out an amicable solution to the ngoing stir and fasting agitation over the demand of payment of dearness allowances.

A five-member delegation of the joint forum of state government employees, the umbrella organisation spearheading the movement in the matter, met the Bose at Governor House on Sunday morn-

Emerging out of the meeting, the delegation members claimed that the Governor has assured them that if the state government agrees, he is ready to play the role of a mediator on this count.

On late Saturday evening, Bose from his official Twitter handle sent an appeal to state government employees to withdraw at least their fasting agita-

"Governor is deeply pained that the hunger strike of the aggrieved employees is entering its fourth week. The issues involved may be complex but there is always a simple way out. What is of paramount importance is the precious life of our brothers who are on a continuous fast for a cause



those who are on the perilous fast to kindly end it find an acceptable way out of the imbroglio," his Twitter message read.

After getting the message, the delegation of agi-

tating employees met the Governor on Sunday.

"We had been demanding a tripartite meeting involving the state government and the Governor. The Governor has assured us that he will attempt to arrange that. He is himself a former government employee. So, he understands that our demand for ending DA arrears are justified. The Governor has assured us of initiating the needful from within his constitutional provision," a member of the delegation told media persons after meeting the gover-

However, he added, that the agitations will not be withdrawn right at this moment. "We will see how fruitful the Governor's attempts on this count. On the basis of that we will decide over our future course of agitation," the delegation member said.

Currently the gap of the state government employees with their counterparts in the Union government stands at 32 per cent and this gap is even after the West Bengal minister for finance (independent charge) Chandrima Bhattacharya announced an additional three per cent DA for the state government employees in February.

Besides continuous fasting agitations for over four week, the forum already observed a one-day strike on Friday and a two-day pen-down strike before that in February.

### **OPS urges Centre to roll back** on proposed hike in toll rates

Chennai Agencies

A JADMK's deposed Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam (OPS) on Sunday urged the Central government to cancel the proposed hike in toll rates which is to be implemented from April 1.

Noting that as per reports available a hike of 10 per cent is expected from April 1 onwards, he, in a statement, said: "The increasing of toll rates meant additional financial burden on the people. It would lead to a hike in freight rates of all goods, including essential commodities. The hike in toll rates would have a

chain reaction." OPS said that the people

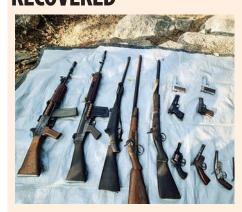


expect the rates to be withdrawn with immediate effect. He said that the national

highways on which toll was being collected were not being maintained properly, and some toll plazas do not comply with the minimum

60 km gap norm. Panneerselvam also called upon the Central government to reduce the number of toll plazas in the state, and urged the Tamil Nadu government to exert preassure on the Centre in this regard.

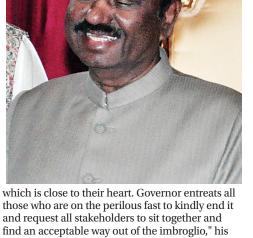
#### **TERRORIST HIDEOUT BUSTED AT J&K'S** HANDWARA, ARMS RECOVERED



**Srinagar:** A terrorist arms dump in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara was busted and a cache of arms and ammunition recovered, police said on Sunday.

"Police in Handwara following a specific input, launched search operation in Shalnar Hangnikoot area of Vilgam. During search of the area, long-standing dump of arms and ammuni-

tion was unearthed," police said. An AK 47 rifle, two AK magazines, 75 AK rounds, 10 grenades, 26 UBGL grenades, eight UBGL boosters, two flame throwers, five rocket shells and three rocket boosters were recovered from the hideout, an official said, adding that an FIR has been registered and further investigation is in progress.



and request all stakeholders to sit together and

# ISKP case: Accused were paid to create unrest in India, says NIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

he National Investigation Agency (NIA) which conducted raids on Saturday in connection with its probe into the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) case, said on Sunday that the accused were paid through crypto-currencies by their foreign-based handlers to create unrest in India.

The ISKP is an affiliate of the Islamic State group. Raids were conducted on Saturday at four locations in Seoni (Madhya Pradesh) and one location in Pune (Maharashtra).

An official said that searches were conducted at the houses of one Talha Khan at Pune and Akram Khan at Seoni.

This case was initially registered by the Special Cell of Delhi Police after the arrest of a Kashmiri couple -- Jahanzaib Sami Wani, and his wife Hina Bashir Beigh from Okhla in Delhi. The couple was found to be affiliated with ISKP.

During the investigation, the role of another accused, Abdullah Basith -- who was already lodged in Tihar Jail in another case being investigated by the NIA, also emerged. The NIA carried out searches at three other

locations in Seoni in the Shivmogga IS conspira-



The places searched included the residential and commercial premises of suspects, Abdul Aziz Salafi and Shoeb Khan. "In the Shivammoga case, as part of a conspiracy hatched from abroad, the accused persons Mohamed Shariq, Maaz Muneer Khan, Yasin and others, after getting instructions from their abroad-based handler targeted public and private properties, such

as warehouses, liquor shops, hardware shops, vehicles and other properties belonging to members of a particular community and committed over 25 incidents of arson and sabotage," the NIA

The official said that the accused even carried out a mock IED blast. The NIA said as part of the larger conspiracy, the accused Mohamed Shariq planned to carry out IED blast at Kadri temple,

Mangalore on November 19, 2022. However, the IED had exploded "prematurely".

Abdul Salafi is a Maulana at the Seoni Jamia Masjid, while Shoeb sells automobile spare parts. Salafi, along with his accomplice Shoeb, were found actively propagating pernicious ideas, such as "voting in elections is sinful for Muslims".

The group led by Maulana Aziz Salafi was in the process of radicalising gullible Muslim youth of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and many southern states through provocative and inflammatory speeches on YouTube.

They were also trying to bring together such radicalized individuals in Seoni district.

Initial examination of the suspects brought out the fact that "they are radically motivated individuals, who totally abhor the idea of democracy in India, and were preparing to carry out Jihad against the people who believe otherwise", an official said. They were using social media plat-

forms for dissemination of false propaganda. In furtherance of such efforts, Aziz Salafi was also in contact with the accused, Maaz Muneer Ahmed of Karnataka, who had procured the explosive materials for the trial blast. Maaz was arrested by NIA in November 2022.



### madhya pradesh

## **SHIVRAJ TURNS TO BULLDOZER TO** SHORE UP HIS IMAGE IN POLL-BOUND MP

Whether the 'bulldozer action' initiated against criminals in Madhya Pradesh will be a blessing for the ruling BJP or the opposition Congress will get an edge by terming it an illegal measure would be known only after the results of the assembly elections to be held later this year.

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

s of now, the saffron party's move appears to have been successful in building Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's image as someone who is tough

Insiders in the Madhya Pradesh BJP

claimed the 'bulldozer action' had become the need of the hour with rising criminal activities especially against women. Chouhan, who has developed an image of 'mama' (maternal uncle), concluded that the rising crimes against women and other criminal activities was denting the image of 'mama', and therefore, he had to take some bold action to counter the accusations being hurled at him from every corner.

As a result, Chouhan started using the same language -- 'those involved in crime against women will be buried' or 'rapists will be ruined' -- as his counterpart and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Some senior BJP functionaries, meanwhile, pointed out that law and order had never been as much a challenge in Madhya Pradesh as in UP.

Rajneesh Agrawal, secretary of the



Madhya Pradesh BJP, claimed that prompt action was needed, and therefore, Chouhan decided to punish criminals without giving them much time. "Sometimes society demands some tough action from the government and this is what CM Chouhan did through the bulldozer action. Criminals need to live in fear, not society. The move has reestablished people's faith in the BJP's governance. Houses were bulldozed which were

built illegally or of those who were involved in serious crimes. The government machinery has always taken action against criminals, but the criminals often escape from punishment due to long procedures of punishment. Bulldozer action is prompt action, which does not give much time to criminals," Agrawal added justifying his party's bulldoz-

Sources told correspondent that the bull-

dozer action was initiated solely by Chouhan and he monitors each and every action.

Shivraj's bulldozer action was criticised by the opposition Congress especially when communal violence broke out in Khargone in April last year, following which the state administration bulldozed several houses belonging to Muslim families. The Congress leadership accused the BJP of targeting one particular community or a section of society for political vendetta. However, the government has maintained that the action was 'unbiased'.The Congress questioned the BJP's bulldozer action saying Chouhan's long tenure has an unimpressive track record when it comes to the rule of law in Madhya Pradesh. "The NCRB data says that Madhya Pradesh is number one in tribal atrocities, it is on top in Dalit atrocities and it is a disappointing government when it comes to rapes and POCSO charges, that's why they think that this UP model will benefit them. But people know that the BJP had bulldozed the people's verdict in Madhya Pradesh in 2018, the voters will avenge that by bulldozing the immoral Madhya Pradesh BJP government in 2023," said Mithun Ahirwar, a MP Congress spokesperson.

#### **BJP's 'Tradition' counter to Congress** jab at Scindia over viral video



Team Absolute Bhopal

he BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit has come up with an explanation for a viral video that shows Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stopping state party chief VD Sharma from addressing a public event and taking over the podium.

The visuals from an event in Shivpuri district, organised to mark the translocation of tigers to Madhav National Park, had sparked a row. A video shows the announcer calling out Mr Sharma's name. As the state BJP chief is about to speak, Mr Scindia approaches the podium. He is seen speaking briefly to Mr Sharma, who returns to his seat with a smile as the Union Minister takes over.

At the time, Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was

The Congress took a swipe

at Scindia, saying that it was his "family's tradition to sideline other leaders".

Clarifying on the issue, the BJP's state media in-charge Lokendra Parashar said that it is a tradition for the state party chief to address an event at the end. "In the Bharatiya Janata Party, the honour of the President is the highest. The Congress cannot understand this. The president is the most honourable and hence, his speech comes right at the end," he said.

Scindia, the BJP leader said, intervened during the function as a mark of respect to the state BJP chief.

Earlier, Congress' media cell chief KK Mishra had tweeted, "It was politics. That's why Scindia stopped VD Sharma from giving a speech at a government function in Shivpuri. It is the Scindia family tradition to sideline other leaders and surge ahead."

### Encroachers shoot arrows, throw bombs to foil eviction drive

Team Absolute Bhopal

hirteen people were injured in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur district after an anti-encroachment exercise by the forest department sparked a violent clash with illegal occupants of forest land.

Shocking visuals of the standoff showed the encroachers using crude bombs, bows and arrows and countrymade firearms to stop the anti-encroachment team from approaching.

The incident took place on Saturday, when the team reached Ghaghrala forests following reports of encroachment and illegal felling of trees. They were attacked by at least 150 people armed with bows and arrows, stones, country-made bombs and other

firearms. Videos show the team members in

riot gear struggling to move forward in the face of the offensive. Some villagers accompanying the forest team also suffered serious injuries."Around 200 encroachers have arrived nere in the forest for three days. We r



information that they were carrying countrymade bombs and open firing to spread fear. The DFO informed the SP and Collector about the matter in writing," forest department official RP Rai was quoted as saying by news agency.

A forest department personnel and a villager were hit by arrows in the back and shoulder. The injured were admitted to Burhanpur District Hospital and their condition is learnt to be out of danger. According to reports, the encroachers have taken shelter inside the forest and are not allowing anyone to enter the woods Further investigation is un

### Indore turned coloured in Rangpanci

3 KM LONG HAIL CAME OUT FROM RAJWADA, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OF THE CITY DRENCHED IN COLOR-GULAL

Team Absolute Indore

n Rangpanchami, the sky became colorful due to rain in Indore. As far as the eye could see, colors were seen flying from the ground to the sky. The enthusiasm of the people was at its peak. As the ger progressed, the number of people

More than 5 lakh people participated in Ger. Many people arrived with their families in this historic ger of the city. The process of getting out of ger longer than 3 km continued even after 3 pm. Here in the colonies and streets of the city, people applied color to each other. At the same time, people were also seen playing colors around Sarafa Bazar and Gopal Mandir. People participating in the ger were pelted with colours. There people danced and sang happily Elderly



people were also seen dancing with their friends.

This year is the golden jubilee year of Rasiya Corner Gear. The Ger started after worship at the Hariram temple in Old Rajmohalla. In Ger, especially band instruments, dhol tashe, 3 DJ

ing water with drums. Saffroncoloured missiles that could fire up to 100 feet on five water tankers also joined the GIR. 500 youths came out wearing saffron helmets giving the message to the youths to wear helmets while driving. Big saffron flags symbolizing Hindu Sanatan Dharma

were included on all the vehicles involved in the Ger. Moral club's ger came out from

Rajwada via Sarafa route. This time, the Moral Club also made vigorous preparations regarding Ger. A Tasha party of 70 people was called from Mumbai for Ger. Apart from this, gulal was blown up to 60 feet from different vehicles with 4 blower machines. 6 missiles were included from 40 thousand liters of water tanker. Special arrangements were made for the inclusion of Ger's name in UNESCO. Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava also participated in the gathering of Municipal Corporation, In this, councilors and BJP leaders were also seen moving forward sitting in tractors. This time people are being showered with water because of the corporation. This year the Municipal Corporation's ger was taken out for the first

### Public cooperation, participation atmosphere has been created in the state: Chief Minister

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is necessary to encourage the positive and constructive work being done by the people of the state. The state government is especially sensitive and active in this direction. An atmosphere of public co-operation and public participation has been created in the state, and small children celebrating their birthdays by planting saplings is a reflection of this. Voluntary organizations are also active in plantation. Public participation can bring revolution in the state. In this direction, the people of village Gujarkheri in Narmadapuram district have presented a unique example of public cooperation. The villagers got the financially



weak daughter Deepa married with pomp. Chief Minister Chouhan told that the father of daughter Deepa Vishwakarma had passed away a few years back. His father worked as a carpenter by profession. The youth of Gujarkheri came forward for the marriage of Deepa, who was living in a struggling financial condition. With the help of the villagers, he organized a social media group and arranged Rs 1.5 lakh and got his daughter Deepa married with pomp. Local police and social workers also helped in the marriage. This initiative of the youth of Gujarkheri is definitely inspirational and exemplary. Chief Minister Chouhan was discussing with media representatives after planting saplings in the garden located in Shyamala

# Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings along with the members of Paropkar Mahila Mandal

embers of Paropkar Mahila Mandal along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Neem and Karanj in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Girl child Mishka Bondria along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted a sapling on her birthday. Dr. Sadhna Gangrade, Dr. Varsha Choubey, Kavita Aggarwal, Sunil Dubey, Rahul Choubey and. Sunil Gangarade of Philanthropy Mahila Mandal, active in the field of women empowerment, women-welfare and environment-protection, also plant-



Sadhna Gangrade presented an essay booklet 'Mann Ka Mogra' focused on interper-

traditions, rituals and life values to Chief Minister

#### 2 arrested over Pro-Khalistan message, threatening Narendra Modi stadium

Absolute Ahmedabad

wo persons were arrested from Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh by Gujarat police in connection with a bulk video and voice message released allegedly by a pro-Khalistan group threatening to storm Narendra Modi Stadium ahead of the India-Australia cricket match that started on March 9 in Ahmedabad, an official said

on Sunday. Ahmedabad police's cyber crime cell traced the origin of the message to a facility set up in Rewa in the neighbouring state for call spoofing and arrested two persons from there, the official said.

The bulk message, urging people to stay safe at home as

a pro-Khalistan group planned to storm the cricket stadium and install its flag, was released ahead of the India-Australia cricket match that was witnessed by Prime Minister Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese "We have arrested two per-

sons from Rewa district and busted a facility set up there for call spoofing. We traced the threat video message from the facility and recovered 11 SIM boxes, around 300 SIM cards, 4-5 routers," Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Iitendra Yaday said. He identified the accused as Rahul Kumar and Narendra Kushwaha, who hail from Satna in MP. "The threat was issued on a recorded mes-

sage, and the call is jumped,

spoofed in such a way that it

becomes difficult to locate them. We have busted the centre from where the call was being spoofed. Further investigation will reveal who all are behind the recorded message," Yadav said. The messages, released purportedly by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, founder of US-based terrorist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice', threatened to disrupt the cricket match, with police saying it was aimed at creating panic among people.

"People of Gujarat, stay home and stay safe on March 9 (the day of opening of match between India and Australia) because pro-Khalistani Sikhs are going to storm Narendra Modi stadium and install Khalistani flag," said message relayed through bulk messaging and

### The color of development is raining on the land of Sheopur: Chief Minister Chouhan

There will be no dearth of funds for the progress of backward districts like Sheopur. Arrival of Cheetahs, National Highway, Broad Gauge Rail and Medical College will create history for the development of Sheopur. Project launched Announcement of opening of college in Baroda, Inauguration of development works worth more than one thousand crores, Foundation stone was laid in the presence of Union Minister Tomar and Scindia.

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Sheopur is changing, the Ganges of development is flowing here. Many schemes are run by the central and state government for development and public welfare. Government, people's representatives, administration and residents of Sheopur together take a pledge that they will cooperate in every possible way with full commitment in this race of progress and development. Along with this, 100 percent implementation of government schemes should be ensured in Sheopur. Chief Minister said that our government is dedicated to poor welfare and development. The color of development is raining on the land of Sheopur on Rangpanchami. After arrival of cheetahs, national highway, broad gauge rail, the gift of



medical college in Sheopur is creating a new history of development. There will never be any shortage of funds for the progress of backward districts like Sheopur.

Chief Minister Chouhan attended the foundation stone laying ceremony of Rs 768 crore Medical College building, Munjhari Major Irrigation Project, Premsar-Rinikheda Mudhla road and CM Rise Government Model Higher Secondary School build-

ing and development works worth Rs 245 crore 41 lakh in Sheopur today. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Chambal Micro Irrigation Project costing Rs 167 crore 58 lakh. During this, the sisters of Sheopur presented a 51 feet long rakhi to Chouhan for implementing Ladli Bahna Yojana in the state. Chief Minister also announced to open a college in Baroda. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that if the sisters are strong then the family and the society will be strong. Our aim is to make the life of sisters simple and pleasant. Sisters should not be troubled for their small needs and money requirement, therefore arrangements have been made to provide 1000 rupees to sisters every month in Ladli Bahna Yojana. Families whose annual income is less than two and a half lakh rupees, who have less than 5 acres of land, Sisters of such family will be eligible for the scheme.

#### EDITOR'S SPECS

#### SUSHMA SETH WINS META LIFETIME **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023**

→age, film and television actor Sushma Seth will be conferred with the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award. She will be felicitated during the award ceremony on March 29 at Kamani Auditorium in the national capital. Teamwork Arts and Mahindra Group have also announced the jury members -- theatre director Amal Allana; theatre and film actress Arundhati Nag; award-winning theatre director Bruce Guthrie; theatre director Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award recipient actor Mohan Agashe; award-winning theatre artist and actor Shernaz Patel; and Director of India Habitat Centre and President of the Delhi Music Society Sunit Tandon. The announcements come ahead of the week-long META and Festival to be held from March 23 to 28 in the Capital, during which ten-shortlisted plays will be performed. Over 400 entries representing languages like Assamese, English, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Marwari, and Tamil were received. This year's Lifetime Awardee, Sushma Seth started her career in the 1950s, and was a founder member of the Delhibased theatre group Yatrik. Her first movie was 'Junoon' (1978) and is known for her role as 'dadi' in the TV soap 'Hum Log' that aired in the 1980s. Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts & Festival Producer, added, "META 2023 will present awards in 14 categories including the Lifetime Achievement Award. The 13 competitive categories are for Best Play, Best Director, Best Stage Design, Best Light Design, Best Innovative Sound Design, Best Costume Design, Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male), Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female), Best Original Script, Best Ensemble and Best Choreographer."

# A SPARKLING START TO WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CRICKET IN INDIA

#### Yajurvindra Singh

he Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) should be complimented in organising the Women's Premier League. It was inaugurated by some dance sequences by young Bollywood stars, however, it sparkled through a dashing innings played by India's captain, Harmanpreet Kaur. This was the ideal beginning to a tournament that could change the face for the betterment of women's cricket in India, forever.

The WPL being played in the line of the fastest-growing sports event in the world, the Indian Premier League, is a platform that highlights professionalism to the core.

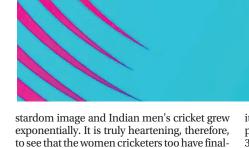
In India, cricket has always had a serious following, however, it was looked upon as just a sport to play and enjoy. 'Amateur' was the way in which it was perceived and professionalism came about once it was suitably commercialized. The early days of Indian cricket were a good example of cricketers going to England to play in various club and county leagues to earn money during the Indian off-season.

The great Indian all-rounder, Vinoo Mankad, opted out of an Indian squad that was to tour England in 1952, because of his commitment to play for a club in the thenfamous Lancashire League. His retort to everyone was that he needed the money to live.

Fortunately for India, Mankad's club allowed him to represent India and they were compensated for the matches that he missed while doing so. After a serious and humiliating loss that India suffered at Old Trafford against England, Mankad was recalled to bolster the side. He stood out like a knight in shining armour, through his stupendous feat at the Lord's by his brilliant performance, the bestever by an Indian cricketer.

Indian cricket still did not accept professionalism. Russi Surti and Farokh Engineer were both not considered for selection for India's tour to the West Indies in 1971, solely because they were playing in Australia and England, respectively.

One saw the gradual change of recognition and realisation that came about in Indian Men's cricket. They were seen as professional athletes and were being compensated for their efforts. The multi-media world gave them a



mindset and approach to the game. In the initial matches of the WPL, one can see that apart from a few top Indian players, foreign players are hogging the show. The issue that arises is that as paid professionals, the mental approach to how one plays changes quite significantly. Playing for one's country, state or club team is totally different from being paid to play. This is why in the earlier days; male cricketers went overseas to play professional cricket.

ly made their mark. However, with such expo-

sure, they need to completely change their

Unfortunately, the simplest calculation that arises is the money that one is paid vis-a-vis one's performance on the field. This brings about pressure which is quite different from what one normally encounters.

The Indian women players, apart from a few, are still in a nascent stage as regards the game of cricket and their mental approach to it. The system in India has still not been fully put into place to deliver 57 quality players. The 30 foreign players have played franchise-based cricket before and are therefore more wellversed in how to approach their game. This is where many of the young, unknown and inexperienced Indian players are finding it difficult

A couple of areas that need significant improvement amongst the Indian cricketers are fitness and fielding. Playing under lights in a stadium full of loud energetic spectators can be quite unnerving. Furthermore, one is also aware of the millions watching one's every move on the multi-media platforms and this too can be frightening for one not yet at ease with it. One is, therefore, seeing plenty of fumbling while fielding as well as dropped catches. Nerves play a big part in it.

The WPL, like the IPL, will be superb for the growth of women's cricket in India. Parents, many of them reluctant to let

their girls play the game

because of various reasons,

may look at it as more acceptable. To see one's daughter or relative on television and earning while doing so, is in itself a wonderful feeling for ones near and dear ones

The platform is now set for Indian women's cricket to progress by leaps and bounds. However, there is still a long way ahead for them to reach the quality of cricket which will make them proud. To do so, a proper structure of academies, tournaments and infrastructure needs to be put in place.

The BCCI have the capabilities and funds to make their dream come true.

The spark that has been ignited in Women's cricket through WPL needs to light a flame that will keep it burning for years to come. Cricket will now not be called a 'Gentleman's game' but one which is played by 'Gentleladies' as

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former India cricketer. The views expressed are personal)

### international

### **UK WORKING ON A PLAN FOR TECH FIRMS AFTER SILICON VALLEY BANK COLLAPSE**

**London** Agencies

he UK government is working on a plan so that UK tech firms caught up in the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) won't run out of cash, it has said, the media reported.

The Treasury said it wanted to "minimise damage to some of our most promising companies in the UK" after the US bank's failure last Friday, BBC reported.

US regulators shut down the bank on Friday in what is the largest failure of a US bank since 2008.

The bank's UK subsidiary will be put into insolvency from Sunday evening, BBC reported.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey have been holding talks over the weekend in response to the collapse of SVB UK.

The Treasury said on Sunday morning that the issue is a "high priority".

19 PEOPLE KILLED IN

ATTACK IN DR CONGO

killed in an overnight attack in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC), local sources said on Sunday.

The attack, which took place in the

village of Kirindera in the territory of

Beni of the eastern province of North

Kivu, killed at least 19 civilians, Carly

Nzanzu Kasivita, former governor of

North Kivu, told journalists on Sunday

morning, attributing the attack to the

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)

rebels, Xinhua News Agency reported.

including a health center, were set on

fire by the rebels, he said.

Several buildings in the village,

The attack came two days after

another attack blamed on the ADF

rebels on Thursday in two villages of

the Beni territory, where at least 44

people were killed. The ADF was

founded in the 1990s by several oppo-

sition movements in Uganda.

Defeated by the Ugandan army, these

rebels remained active in eastern

DRC, which led to joint operations

between the DRC and Uganda to hunt

down the ADF rebels, who are now

also an affiliate of the Islamic State in

central Africa.

Kinshasa: At least 19 people were



It said the bank's failure could hit HK tech companies hard was "working at pace" on a solution.

It added it would "bring forward immediate plans to ensure the short term operational and cashflow needs of Silicon Valley Bank UK customers are able to be met", BBC reported.

More than 250 bosses of UK tech firms signed a letter addressed to Hunt on Saturday calling for government intervention.

SVB collapsed in the US after failing to raise \$2.25bn to plug a loss from the sale of assets, mainly US government bonds, that were affected by higher interest rates.

Its troubles prompted a run on the bank in the US and sparked investor fears about the general state of the banking sector, BBC reported.

SVB specialised in lending to earlystage businesses, and the company banked nearly half of US venturebacked technology and healthcare companies that listed on stock mar-

### Iran unveils final prototype of indigenous jet trainer

Tran has unveiled the final prototype of a jet trainer that can help pilots learn tactics and techniques of air and air-to-surface combats, state media reported.

Dubbed Yasin, the aircraft can also be tasked with close air support, said Iranian Defence Mohammadreza Ashtiani at a ceremony held to launch an aircraft assembly line in Tehran, according to official news agency IRNA

Equipped with homegrown subsystems such as ejection seats, avionics, engines and landing gears, the final prototype is much upgraded and developed in tactical terms compared to the first one unveiled in October 2019, according to a report by semi-official Tasnim news agency. A domestically-

of the Organization of Ukrainian

orated with Adolf Hitler's govern-

ment during the early stages of the

Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union,

He was later arrested and impris-

oned by the Germans over disagree-

ments about the future of Ukraine.

After the war, Bandera fled to West

The Ukrainian Insurgent Army -

the OUN's military wing founded in

1943 - positioned itself as a guerilla

Germany, where in 1959 he was

assassinated by a KGB agent.

RT reported.

Nationalists (OUN). Bandera collab-



developed airborne weather radar has also been installed, said the report.

Ashtiani said the aircraft can accomplish a wide range

of missions and will help significantly reduce the length of training, while improving its quality, Xinhua news agency reported.

#### Iran arrests over 100 for involvement in students' poisoning

**Tehran** Agencies

ran's Interior Ministry has said that more than 100 people in 11 provinces have been arrested on charges of involvement in the recent incidents of student poisoning at the country's schools.

The Ministry announced the arrests in a statement on Saturday published on its website, listing the provinces as Tehran, Qom, Zanjan, Khuzestan, Hamedan, Fars, Gilan, West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Kurdestan and Khorasan Razavi

The statement noted for some of the arrestees who used poisonous substances as a "mischievous" way to escape classes, and the authorities have given them necessary warnings and instructions, Xinhua news

agency reported Some other arrestees are



individuals with "hostile motivations," the statement added, noting they sought to cause fear and anxiety among people and students. The authorities are investigating them to find out if they are connected to terrorist

More than 700 students in over 30 schools across Iran have fallen victim to mysterious poisoning cases since November 30, 2022, when the first case was reported in the Qom province. Most of them were soon released from the hospital after receiving treat-

### Putin's ally proposes renaming Ukraine after Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera

ormer Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has proposed renaming Ukraine after notorious Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera. His suggestion came after Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky told his government to consider a proposal to change Russia's name, the media reported.

On Friday, Zelensky instructed authorities to "thoroughly study" the proposal to officially rename Russia to 'Moscovia'. He was reacting to an online petition, which argued that the name 'Russia' provided grounds for "further encroachment" on the history of Kievan Rus, a medieval state from which both Russia and Ukraine trace their origin, Russia Today (RT)

Many Ukrainian nationalists claim that their homeland is the only true heir of Rus.



The name 'Moscovia' dates to the Grand Duchy of Moscow and was historically used by some authors to describe the Russian state, RT reported.On Saturday, Medvedev, who served as Russian president between 2008 and 2012, and currently serves as deputy chairman of the Security Council, fired back in a

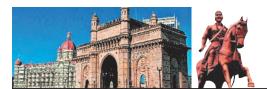
post on his Telegram channel. "Our response?... Only the Schweinisch Bandera-Reich," he wrote. The word "schweinisch" means "piggish' in German.

encing the idolisation by some Ukrainian politicians of Stepan Bandera, a World War II-era leader

force fighting both Soviet and

German troops. Its agents committed multiple atrocities against Polish, Jewish and Russian civilians, RT reported. Bandera and his followers are honoured as heroes in

modern Ukraine, with streets and Medvedev was apparently referbuildings named after them. Nationalists hold annual torchlit processions on Bandera's birthday in Kiev and other cities, RT reported.



### maharashtra

# AHEAD OF G-20 MEET, BMC CRACKS THE WHIP ON DUST POLLUTERS, WARNS STRICT ACTION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

aking serious cognizance of the dust pollution choking Mumbai ahead of the G-20 meet, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Sunday set up a high-level committee to monitor and strictly implement pollution control measures.

BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal said a 7-member committee headed by Additional Municipal Commissioner, Western Suburbs, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar will submit a report within a week on measures to control dust in the air, the main cause of air pollution.

The city is currently experiencing bad air days due to changes in wind speed condition, and dust arising from over 5,000 development or construction projects at various sites underway.

Following the receipt of the panels' report next week, from April 1, the BMC will start strict implementation of its recommendations in the city with stringent action against the defaulters, including stopping the construction



projects/works.

The Committee will include top officials of the environment, infrastructure, solid waste management, development planning, executive engineer, and a nominee of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.Chahal reviewed the preparations for the upcoming 3-day G-20 meeting here from March 28, and the status of the Mumbai beautification

projects in which all Additional MCs, DMCs, AMCs and HoDs were present.

On the Mumbai Beautification
Project, 500 works taken up in
December 2022 are nearing completion
and another 320 works have been initiated, comprising revamp of electric
poles, footpaths, etc., and top officials
have been ordered to monitor and
speed these works up.

### *3 HELD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT WITH GOLD WORTH RS 1.40 CR*



Mumbai: Three foreign nationals were held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, by Customs officials for allegedly attempting to smuggle three kg gold worth Rs 1.40 crore by hiding it in their undergarments, officials said on Sunday.

A senior Customs official said that arrests were made on March 10. "The three foreign nationals arrived at Mumbai Airport from Addis Ababa. They were intercepted on the basis of intelligence inputs. Gold was found to be concealed in their undergarments and in sole of their footwear," said the official.

The official said that the gold was seized under Section 110 of the Customs Act and the passengers were placed under arrest under Section 104 of the Act. They were produced before a court which remanded them to 14 days judicial custody.

## Confused with US's SV Bank crisis, besieged SVC Bank threatens legal action

Team Absolute Mumbai

ours after the crisis affecting the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the US, hit the headlines, panic gripped customers of a 116-year-old Mumbai-based entity, the SVC Bank.

Scores of customers flooded the SVC Bank -- earlier known as 'Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank' -- wanting to know the status and safety of their deposits.

Hoping to allay their clients' apprehensions, the SVC Bank issued a statement late on Saturday pointing to the case of a 'mistaken' identity and clarifying that it had no links with the SVB, USA, and even threatened legal action against mischief mongers

Among them were an anxious Twitteratti who asked: "@SVC\_Bank: Heard rumours about bank default, please confirm".

The SVC Bank reply was: "You have got the Twitter handle wrong. We are SVC Bank, erstwhile Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank, one of the leading & strongest cooperative banks in India with a legacy of 116 years. We have no relation to Silicon Valley Bank".

The SVC Bank added that it is an Indian multi-state scheduled urban cooperative

bank which operates only in India.
"It has proven, robust and strong funda-



mentals with a total business of over Rs 31,500 crore and a Net Profit of over Rs 146 crore (FY21-22)," the bank said.

It urged its members, customers and other stakeholders not to pay attention to baseless rumours and mischief-mongering by unscrupulous elements insinuating similarities in brand names.

"SVC Bank reserves the right to take due legal action on rumour mongers for tarnishing its brand image," the bank threatened.

# Drugs detected in export consignment at Mumbai airport, 3 held

Team Absolute Mumbai

ustoms Officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport have intercepted an export consignment containing 10 lakh tablets of narcotics, valued at Rs 21 crore, an official said on Sunday.

Later on, raids were conducted at different states which led to the arrest of three persons.

"Based on an intelligence developed by Central Intelligence Unit (CIU), Mumbai Customs Zone III, one export consignment destined for South Sudan with declared description as TRA-MADOL-X225 containing approximately 10 lakh tablets, was intercepted and examined," said the official.

examined," said the official.

The official said that the test results confirmed it to be

Tamol-X

Tam

"Tramadol" which is a psychotropic substance and whose export is restricted under Section 8(c) of NDPS

"These contraband drugs worth \$2.6 million or over Rs 21 crore in international illicit market were seized. Searches were conducted at Bengaluru, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) and Mumbai and three persons have been arrested so far," said the official. Further investigation is

### US-NRI booked for smoking, rowdiness on Al London-Mumbai flight

Team Absolute Mumbai

An unruly passenger flying on an Air India London-Mumbai flight was tied up on his seat for allegedly smoking in the aircraft toilet, misbehaving with passengers, attempting to yank open the door mid-air, and finally landed in the arms of the Mumbai Police, officials said here on Sunday.

The passenger has been identified as one Ratnakar Trivedi, 37, a US NRI and the shocking incident happened on the AI flight which landed here Saturday morning.

As his behaviour seemed to go out of control, the AI flight crew managed to pin him down, dumped him on his seat and tied up his hands and legs for the remainder of his journey.

The AI crew told the police that the passenger behaved in a wild and uncontrolled manner aboard the flight, he was detected smoking in the toilet as the smoke-alarm went off, though smoking is banned on Indian



flights.

When the crew accosted him and threw away the cigarette, he started screaming and abusing at the flight crew and at one point, Trivedi tried to open the door of the aircraft mid-air, scaring other fliers.

Later, as a precaution, the crew

members managed to pin him down and tied him up on his seat where he remained till the flight landed here.

One of the co-passengers, who was a medico, came and examined him to ascertain whether he was misbehaving in a drunken state or had some mental condition, while the police have sent his samples to the lab and the test reports are awaited.

Meanwhile, the Sahar Police, which detained Trivedi, has lodged a case against him invoking various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Aircraft Act.

# Tyre burst not act of god, pay compensation: Bombay High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A tyre burst is not an act of God but human negligence, the Bombay High Court remarked while rejecting an insurance company's plea against compensation to the family of a man killed in a car accident.

A single bench of Justice SG Dige in its February 17 order dismissed the appeal filed by New India Assurance Company Limited against a 2016 ruling of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal directing it to pay Rs 1.25 crore to victim Makarand Patwardhan's family.

On October 25, 2010, Patwardhan (38) was travelling from Pune to Mumbai with two colleagues.

The colleague who owned the car was speeding in a rash and negligent manner when the rear wheel burst and the car fell into a deep ditch, killing Patwardhan on the spot.

The tribunal in its order had noted the victim was the sole bread-earner of his family. The insurance company in its appeal said the compensation amount was exorbitant and excessive and that the tyre burst was an act of God and not negligence on the part of



he driver.

The High Court, however, refused to accept this contention and said the dictionary meaning of "act of God" was "an instance of uncontrollable natural forces in operation." "It refers to a severe unanticipated natural event for which no human is responsible. The bursting of a tyre cannot be termed as an act of God. It is an act of human negligence," the court said.

Ilgence," the court said. It added there are various reasons for tyre burst such as high speed, underinflated, overinflated or second-hand tyres, and temperature.

"The driver or owner of the vehicle has to check the condition of the tyre before travelling. The burst of tyre cannot be termed a natural act. It is human negligence," the order said.

Merely stating a burst of tyre is an act of God cannot be a ground to exonerate the insurance company from paying compensation, the High Court added.

#### IRON ROD CRASHES ON MUMBAI AUTORICKSHAW, KILLS MOTHER-DAUGHTER

Mumbai: In a freak mishap, an iron rod fell from a building onto a passing autorickshaw below and killed a woman and her minor daughter travelling in it, the BMC Disaster Control said here

late on Saturday.

The incident occurred
near the Western Express
Highway at Jogeshwari
around 6 p.m. on Saturday.

As the autorickshaw cruised by, an iron rod hurtled down from the seventh floor scaffolding of a 16-storey under-construction building on the three-wheeler, critically injuring the duo.

A passing private vehicle stopped and rushed them to the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital for treatment.

Doctors later said that while the mother, Shamabano Asif Shaikh, 28, was dead before admission, her 9-year old daughter Aayat succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

# Man accused of rape, blackmail of polish colleague over 6 years

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai man charged with sexually assaulting his colleague, a Polish national, allegedly sent her lewd photos, shot her private videos and threatened to leak them to her relatives and co-workers.

The accused Manish Gandhi is Chief Operating Officer of a Mumbai firm the woman joined in 2016, according to reports. The FIR registered by

Mumbai Police says that Manish, who is now on the run, sexually assaulted the Polish woman several times over a six-year period, starting November 2016.

The woman has alleged that her harassment started with Manish sending her his private photos.

Later, when the two travelled together for work to Germany and other parts of India for work, the accused allegedly raped her several



times. He also shot her private photos and threatened to leak them to her relatives and others working in the company, she has alleged.

Manish has been charged with sexual assault, criminal intimidation and relevant provisions under the Information Technology Act.
"The case has been registered against the accused
Manish Gandhi in Mumbai's
Amboli police station under relevant sections of Indian
Penal Code," Mumbai police have said, adding that they are searching for the accused.

### 100 MINS, 12 BLASTS, 257 DEAD: MUMBAI'S FIRST TASTE OF TERROR, 30 YEARS ON

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Till March 1993, Mumbai (Bombay) was one big 24x365 party destination, a city that never slept and where all seemed obsessed with minting money -- from the poor pavement-dwellers to the wily politicians to the pompous tycoons, and even big bulls like Harshad Mehta and his cohorts, who had then shot into limelight.

One warm afternoon of March 12, 1993, 'terror' abruptly knocked in -- and knocked out the city's mega-ego a dozen times with 12 coordinated mega-blasts -- starting at around 1.30 p.m.

Barely 100 minutes later, the country's commercial capital was on its knees, the police launched investigations, politicians gave speeches and the final (official) bloodied body count stood at 257, another 1,400 injured and some others 'missing'.

Soon, it came to light that the Mumbai terror blasts were out of 'vendetta' for the barbaric two-phased communal riots of December 1992 - January 1993 that shook the city as a fallout of the demolition of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

The perpetrators were the city's dreaded mail a haddles, along with help from a

The perpetrators were the city's dreaded mafia baddies, along with help from a variety of cops and customs officials, unknown Pakistanis, and even a prominent film star - all of whom orchestrated the country's deadliest and biggest (in terms of casualties) terror strike ever.

As things appeared to normalise, Mumbai was again caught napping on a cool evening of November 26, 2008 -- when it became the theatre of a dastardly terror strike that killed 175 (including nine terrorists) -- which ended after over 60 hours. Though separated by 15 years -- and even a 'century' on the calendar -- the

strike that killed 175 (including nine terrorists) -- which ended after over 60 hou Though separated by 15 years -- and even a 'century' on the calendar -- the ultra-hits on Mumbai had glaring differences and similarities -- as comparisons between them became inevitable over the years.



For instance, the two strikes came when the city seemed completely off-guard, one on a weekend-leading Friday afternoon and the other on a mid-week Wednesday evening, both saw the smuggling of explosives quietly and terrorists sneaking in unhindered from the unlikely and unguarded Arabian Sea route. In 1993 bombs were placed by hired foot-soldiers at 12 strategic locations spanning the length of the city and partly into the suburbs, but in 2008, sophisticated automatic weapons were used by the 10 Pakistani fidayeens to spray bullets on the gullible people in a surgical manner covering a tiny area of south Mumbai.

The first one (1993) saw the perpetrators quietly planting the RDX bombs at 12 selected spots and scooting, with some lowly operatives later pressing the trigger in tandem with others, the second one (2008) witnessed the trigger-happy attackers coming headlong, randomly raining bullets or lobbing grenades at 12 targeted locations, often in direct 'encounters' with the Indian security personnel.

The ratty Mumbai mafia secretively, but allegedly supported by Pakistan, implemented the 100-minute-long 1993 blasts, but in 2008 10 heavily-armed Pakistani gunmen, knowingly or unknowingly helped by the Mumbai mafiosi holed up in that country, executed the 60-hour-long operation. After 1993, several of the prime movers-and-shakers like Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar and Ibrahim Mushtaq Abdul Razzaq Memon, alias 'Tiger Memon', and other fearsome ones still elude the Indian laws, and post-2008, baddies like Lashkar-e-Taiba's Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi is at large and remains among India's 'Most Wanted'.

Both terror hits case trials -- 1993 and 2008 -- have practically ended and may be revived as and when the other absconding accused can be brought here and tried. Mumbai after 1993 remained vulnerable and faced another half-dozen strikes like -- two killed in a Ghatkopar BEST bus bomb blast (December 2002), one killed in a bicycle bomb explosion (January 2003), 10 killed in Mulund suburban train blast (March 2003), four blown up a bus bomb explosion in Ghatkopar (July 2003), 50 snuffed out in the twin bomb blasts at Zaveri Bazar and Gateway of India (August 2003), and the monstrous killer bombs planted in seven suburban trains killing 209 commuters (July 2006).

However, things seemed to have improved after 2008 terror strikes with only one major incident reported from Mumbai -- the killing of 26 people in the coordinated triple blasts one each at Opera House, Zaveri Bazar and Dadar (July 2011) in 10 minutes

# THEY WERE INSEPARABLE!

Leonardo DiCaprio ha out with Gigi Hadid a

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio was "hanging out all night" with supermodel Gigi Hadid at a recent Hollywood party. The actor was first linked to model Gigi towards the end of last year and although the pair were said to have called it quits, a source has claimed that the pair were inseparable at Darren Dzienciol and Richie Akiva's Annual Pre-Oscar Party, which was held over the last couple of days, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

A source told UsWeekly: "Leo and Gigi were hanging out together all night. There was no PDA, but they never left each other's side. Tobey hung out with Leo and Leo hung out with Gigi. Leo was only flirting with Gigi and only had eyes for her!"

The Hollywood duo was recently spotted together in Milan, but a source has insisted that the relationship between the 'Titanic' star and Gigi is strictly platonic.

In February, an insider claimed that although the two "get along well", her priori-

The source said': "The two get along well and were enjoying time together with friends. Gigi's priority is her daughter and her business and that's what she's focusing on right

Gigi - who has Khai, two, with former One Direction star Zayn Malik - and Leonardo love spending time together.

However, they're not involved romantically. The source added: "Gigi and Leo spent time together in Milan but they are just friends and are not dating."

Another source said that Gigi and Leonardo'srumoured romance just "fizzled" out.The source said at the time: "She hasn't seen him for a while. She just decided that she was done with him. "They are at very different places in life. She prioritises being a mom.'



# Priyanka recalls crying to Nick after being body shamed

Los Angeles | Agencies

ndian actress Priyanka Chopra was left in tears in front of her husband Nick Jonas after being body shamed for not being 'sample size'.

Taking part in a panel at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival, the actress revealed that a hurtful body shaming was the cause of her breakdown, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Priyanka sat down with Amazon Studios head Jennifer Salke at the kick off of the festival, and recalled what had happened to her one day before. "Someone told me yesterday that I wasn't sample-sized I was hurt and I discussed it with my family, and I cried to my husband, and my team," she

..., and I felt really bad about the fact that I'm not sample size," the actress continued sharing her thoughts on being had shamed.

"And that's a problem, apparently, and

most of us are not, and sample size is size Unfortunately, the incident was not a first ed. "In my job, the pressure is so intense you can't really show the chinks in your Aside from being body shamed, 'The

for Priyanka. "I've been told many things that are difficult to hear," she candidly stat-

White Tiger' actress pointed out other kinds of demeaning comments thrown at her.

"I have had times when I may have said something, and it's been misconstrued," she explained, "and you see people saying the meanest and nastiest things not just about me, about my child, about my family members, and I think sometimes people forget you are even human.'

The 'Unfinished' author further gave advice on how to deal with hateful com-

"I think what you have to do is surround yourself with people who love you and surround yourself with people who care about you, and not about what you can bring the table and not about what you can do for me," she said. "People who want to see you smile and be enriched. It doesn't have to be a room full of people, I can count them on my hands."

Camila Morrone

**ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY** 



#### JENNA ORTEGA IS SHOCKED BY 'WEDNESDAY' HUGE SUCCESS

Los Angeles | Agencies

ctress Jenna Ortega never thought 'Wednesday' would be so popular. The actress Family' franchise alongside the likes of Hollywood stars such as Catherine Zeta-Jones and Christina Ricci but admitted that she thought the show surpassed her expectations, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I didn't expect the reaction. The ('Wednesday') cast and I, I remember, we used to talk about it in Romania (where the show was filmed), we were like, 'Hey, what do you think will happen with the show?' That was it that was the most we ever really got into

"So I thought it wasn't going to be watched. That it will be a nice little gem that someone finds, but," she told The Sunday Times. Jenna started her career on the Disney Channel series 'Stuck in the Middle' and went on to explain that the level of fame she experiences now as a result of playing Wednesday as "intimidating" as she admitted she was able to live a "normal

life" before the Netflix hit propelled her to success. She said: "I used to do a Disney show when I was younger. I was a little bit of a public figure, used to get recognised, or whatever." "When I look back, I think I was so out of place. I didn't understand

where I was and you start to see Hollywood for the first time, and it's a bit intimidating, a bit off-putting. I felt like I was a people's princess. I didn't really feel like myself. Then it started to slow down and I lived a pretty normal

Los Angeles | Agencies

inger Jason Derulo recently surprised a restaurant waiter with a tip of \$5000 (almost over Rs. 4 lakh) which was enough to cover the latter's college fee for the next semester. The waiter, whose name is Jordan Schaffer, shared a video of his and the musician's interaction at the restaurant on TikTok. "Jason Derulo tipped me \$5000 at Charleston's Restaurant in Omaha," Jordan wrote over the clip, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In the footage, Jordan could be heard saying: 'Wow, my heart's beating really fast," while standing over Jason's table.

The 'Savage Love' crooner then praised him and his friend: "You guys are really awesome man." Jordan then personally thanked Jason by saying to the camera: "Hey Jason, thank you. You just paid for a semester at my college. I can't thank you enough."

He added: "I hope you and your family have a wonderful time in Omaha. And I hope you see us again. Thank you so much." Jordan went on to unveil the receipt and it was

written that Jason forked out \$795.99 for the outing. The total showed \$5,795.99 after the whopping tip."Dude, check it out," the waiter said. "I can't believe this." This arrived months after Jason opened up about his key to success. When speaking to E!'s digital series 'DRIVE!', he said: "My downfalls and when I have low moments, those moments really drive me. At my lowest lows, it's like, 'Dang, I gotta really sink

my teeth in and just go for





### KOHLI MAKES A MAGNIFICENT 186, **AUSTRALIA TRAIL BY 88 RUNS**

Ahmedabad | Agencies

alismanic batter Virat Kohli showed impeccable grit, discipline and concentration to make a magnificent 186 as India took a 91-run lead over Australia after being bowled out for 571 in their first innings during the fourth Test at Narendra Modi Stadium.

At stumps, Australia reached 3/0 in six overs of their second innings and trail India by 88 runs with one day left in the match. Travis Head made all the runs, as he and makeshift opener Matthew Kuhnemann, in place of an injured Usman Khawaja, negotiated the tricky six overs from Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Shami.

If Shubman Gill was the talk of the town with his sparkling 128 on Saturday, it was Kohli's turn to be in the spotlight on Sunday to break his drought for a Test century which lasted 1025 days, 41 innings and more than three years.

His determined 364-ball stay at the crease was Kohli simply at his grittiest



best, hitting 15 boundaries, running hard for his ones and twos while enthralling a sizeable Sunday crowd.

He was also supported by a nice 44 from KS Bharat and an excellent 79 from Axar Patel. For Australia, Nathan

Lyon and Todd Murphy took three wickets each while Mitchell Starc and Matthew Kuhnemann took a scalp

All partnerships for the first six wickets by India ran for more than 50 runs. In the first session on Sunday, Kohli didn't hit a single boundary. But from the second session onwards. he stroked wonderful boundaries to give India a sizeable lead, especially with Shreyas Iyer unavailable due to a lower back complaint and had to be sent for scans. Axar reached his fifty in 95 balls

Sports

with a single off Murphy and then attacked Kuhnemann with a big swipe over mid-wicket for six. He then moved across to sweep Murphy through mid-wicket for four, before slog-sweeping twice off Kuhnemann for sixes. Murphy bowled outside offstump and Kohli went for the slogsweep, but holed out to deep midwicket, bringing an end to India's innings as well as to Kohli's wonderful knock.

#### **Brief scores**

Australia 480 in 167.2 overs and 3/0 in six overs trail India 571 in 178.5 overs (Virat Kohli 186, Shubman Gill 128; Todd Murphy 3/113, Nathan Lyon 3/151) by 88

**Premier League** 

### Bournemouth stun Liverpool, Man City keep up pressure on Arsenal

their fourth consecutive defeat. Ben Chilwell's volley

put Chelsea 1-0 up against

his former club, with Patson

Daka equalizing in the 39th minute before Kai Havertz

put Chelsea back ahead deep

Harry Kane scored twice

and Son Heung-min also got

bad week in which they were

Champions League with a 3-

1 win at home to Nottingham

into first-half injury time.

on the scoresheet, as Tottenham recovered from a

knocked out of the

**London** | Agencies

iverpool were brought crashing back down to earth following last weekend's 7-0 thrashing of Manchester United, when they were beaten 1-0 away to Bournemouth.

Liverpool controlled nearly 70 per cent of the ball, but the best chance of the game was a 70th-minute penalty that Mohamed Salah blasted high and wide, and some brave defending from Bournemouth did the rest.

Erling Haaland's 78thminute penalty took Manchester City to within two points of league leaders Arsenal as Pep Guardiola's side won 1-0 away to Crystal Palace. A close game was decided after Ilkay Gundogan was felled by a clumsy Michael Olise challenge in the Palace penalty area, and Haaland made no mistake

from the penalty spot. Chelsea's recovery continued at the expense of Leicester City, who slipped to

Joe Worrall netted an 81stminute consolation for Forest, while the win strengthens Spurs' grip on fourth place.

Leeds United came back from a goal down twice to take a 2-2 draw at home to Brighton.

Dwight McNeil scored in the first minute and Everton held on for a vital 1-0 win at home to Brentford, continuing their improvement under

### **Golf Good finish for Vani and Pranavi** in Women's South African Open

Cape Town | Agencies

**7**ani Kapoor and Pranavi Urs finished in Top-20 in the high-profile Investec South African Women's Open golf champi-

Vani, who was in Top-10 after three rounds, and needed a strong final round to make a bid for Top-5 from overnight tied eighth, did get an under-par round but her final round of 1-under 71, still saw her drop to tied 12th at 8-under total.

Pranavi had her best round of the week with an exciting 3-under 69 that included a four-in-a-row birdie run and an eagle, but she also dropped a double bogey and two other bogeys. At 7-under she was tied 16th.

Ashleigh Buhai, the winner of the 2022 AIG Women's



British Open shot a final round of 68 (-4) to win the title at Steenberg Golf Club. Buhai held a four-shot lead since the midway mark and maintained that tempo.

Vani had only one birdie and one bogey on the front nine and on the back nine. she had two birdies against one bogey. After seven pars on the front nine, Pranavi

bogeyed the eighth and birdied the ninth and she carried on from there for three more birdies in a row till 12th. Later a double bogey on 15th and a bogey on 17th cost her dearly, but an eagle finish saw her bounce back a little for

del Sol rankings.

69.Aditi Ashok continues to

lead the 2023 Race to Costa

## Angelo Mathews' 115 helps Sri Lanka set 285-run target

Christchurch Agencies

Teteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews' 14th Test century has opened the door for Sri Lanka to claim a spot in the World Test Championship final, helping the visitors set a target of 285 for New Zealand at the end of day fours play at Hagley Oval. Matthews slammed 115 and was involved in

stands of 105 and 60 with Dinesh Chandimal (42) and Dhananjaya de Silva (47 not out) respectively to carry Sri Lanka to a second-innings total of 302. At stumps, New Zealand reached 28/1 and need

257 runs more on an interesting Day 5 to complete the highest successful chase in Test cricket at Hagley Oval, beating Australia's 201/3 in February

Despite a nervous half-hour in the early nineties, Mathews moved to his century with boundaries off back-to-back deliveries, swatting Blair Tickner through mid-wicket before booming a shot through covers off the back foot in a gritty knock which last-



Sri Lanka began Day 4 by building a target-setting platform, adding 67 runs and only losing nightwatchman Prabath Jayasuriya (6) in the morning session. Matthews and Chandimal worked into their partnership, facing 218 balls between them

before the latter was bowled by a Tim Southee beauty after taking the new ball.

It brought de Silva to the crease, whose smart acceleration moved Sri Lanka's lead past 250 in the evening session. His 47 not out included vital runs with the tail to move the team past 300, before Kasun Rajitha's wicket of Devon Conway in the fifth over of New Zealand's reply meant the tourists made evening inroads with the ball.

But they would also need a victory in the second Test of the series, to be held at Basin Reserve from Friday, and for Australia to prevent an India win in the ongoing final Test of their Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Ahmedabad.

#### **Brief scores**

Sri Lanka 355 and 302 in 105.3 overs (Angelo Mathews 115, Blair Tickner 4-100, Matt Henry 3-71) lead New Zealand 373 and 28/1 in 17 overs (Tom Latham 11 not out; Kasun Rajitha 1-5) by

### Brenda Fruhvirtova lifts ITF Women's Open, defeats India's Ankita Raina

Bengaluru | Agencies

op-seed Brenda Fruhvirtova gave an impressive demonstration of her fighting skills while beating India's Ankita Raina 0-6, 6-4, 6-0 to clinch the ITF Women's Open singles title at the KSLTA Stadium on Sunday.

KP Balaraj, the founder of KPB Family Trust, Sunil Yajaman, Joint Secretary of KSLTA, and Shruthi Iyer, Mrs India Universe 2021, attended the prize distribution function.

Cutting back to the match, the proceedings had a different beginning to it as Fruhvirtova, a World No. 163 from Czech Republic, did not look sharp in the first set against Raina, the

Fruhvirtova served 4 double faults and committed several unforced errors as Raina never gave her any footing. The Indian grabbed the first set 6-0, converting all the 3 break-



points.

The second set began in the same manner with Raina building a 3-0 lead and a quick end to the match loomed. But a break in the fifth game proved to be the turning point in the match as Fruhvirtova soon levelled the scores at 3-3 and then she converted a break point in the 9th game to take a 5-4 lead.

The Czech girl served out the game and took the match

**Indian Wells** 

into the deciding third set. Raina looked shaken after the loss of the second set and was hardly in the picture in the third set.

There was a chance for Raina to effect a break in the fourth game but Fruhvirtova raised her game just in time to hold the serve. Fruhvirtova ended the match with a crushing forehand after two hours and 19 minutes of intense bat-

#### **KVARATSKHELIA HELPS NAPOLI CONQUER ATALANTA, MAINTAIN TOP POSITION**

Rome (Italy)| Napoli bounced back from last week's defeat against Lazio by beating Atalanta 2through Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's

Amir Rrahmani steered his header into the net on Eliif

With the win, Napoli sit on top with 68 points, 18 clear of second-placed Inter Milan. The Azzurri are



Madrid (Spain) | Agencies eal Madrid put the pressure on La Liga eader FC Barcelona on Sunday with a relatively comfortable 3-1 win at home to Espanyol. Joselu's powerful finish in the eighth minute put

Jr scored an individual goal to equalize just 14 minutes Eder Militao then powered in a header off the underside of the bar in the 39th minute and Marco Asensio, who

the 93rd minute, reports Xinhua. Iago Aspas scored twice as Celta Vigo continued their recovery with a 3-0 win at home to Rayo Vallecano, who

came on as a 70th-minute substitute, added a third in the VAR overturn two yellow cards initially shown to

Pathe Ciss conceding an own goal in the 52nd minute. Justin Kluivert's 74thminute goal separated the two sides in a match that saw

Osasuna players Sergio Herrera and Chimy Avila. Valladolid ended up with

came in the second half, with

La Liga

Real Madrid beat Espanyol as



in their 1-1 draw away to bottom-side Elche. Darwin Machis went off

injured with all of the substitutes on the pitch. Tete Morente levelled for Elche in the 96th minute and in the remaining five minutes of injury time; Roque Mesa and Martin Hongla were both dismissed after seeing second

#### Alcaraz makes winning start, Swiatek rolls past Claire Liu in opener

Indian Wells (USA) Agencies

fter missing nearly two weeks of action as he recovered from a right hamstring injury, World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz made a winning return to the court, beating Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-3, 6-3 in the Indian Wells Masters to enter the third round.

Red hot from the start, Alcaraz dropped just one point on serve in the opening set and broke in his first return game as he raced to a 3-0 lead. Set two was tighter, with Kokkinakis effective in fighting power with power for stretches, but Alcaraz's speed,



defence and consistency were too much to overcome after another early break Defending champion Iga Swiatek also eased into the round of the Indian Wells Masters with a comfortable 6-0, 6-1 victory over American Claire Liu. The world No. 1 won the first 11 games of the match before easing to victory in just over an hour, the fifth time this season she's

dropped just one game in winning a match.

The top seed will next face 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu in a battle of former Indian Wells champions. In other actions, Australian Open finalist Elena Rybakina won the battle of major champions, edging Sofia Kenin in two tiebreaks to advance to the third round of the tournament. The No.10seeded Rybakina handed Kenin a 7-6(6), 7-6(5) loss to advance to Monday's third round. There she'll meet the winner of the match between No.21 Paula Badosa and Nuria Parrizas Diaz.

### magical moment.

0 in Serie A first half on

After a goalless Saturday, Napoli tipped the balance of the tie on the

hour mark, when Kvaratskhelia made a sensational solo effort by twisting and turning to make the defenders dizzy before powerfully drilling home.

The Partenopei sealed the win in the 77th minute as

waiting for Eintracht Frankfurt for the second leg of the UEFA Champions League last-16 round on Wednesday. Elsewhere, third-placed Lazio failed to capitalize on Inter's defeat after a 0-0 draw with Bologna.

#### **Bundesliga**

### BAYERN BEAT AUGSBURG TO STAY ATOP IN GERMANY

Berlin (Germany) | Agencies

enjamin Pavard had a first-half brace as Bayern Munich came from behind to beat Augsburg 5-3 in the 24th round of the

Augsburg enjoyed a fairy-tale start on the road on Saturday as Mergim Berisha benefitted from Pavard's poor clearance attempt and drilled the ball past Bayern goalkeeper Yann Sommer to score with two minutes played, reports Xinhua.

Bayern turned up as the match progressed and restored parity with 15 minutes gone when Joao Cancelo finished off a solo run with a well-

placed low shot. The German giants' comeback was completed four minutes later as Pavard utilised Sadio Mane's overhead kick before hammering it into the bottom right corner.

Augsburg couldn't hold the pace and Bayern wasn't done with the scoring. Pavard wrapped up his brace in the 35th minute after slotting home a rebound with a scissors kick from close

Things went from bad to worse for Augsburg in the closing stages of the first half, when Leroy Sane headed home to make it four. Augsburg showed signs of life after the break

as Berisha converted a penalty on the hour Bayern restored its three-goal advantage

through Alphonso Davies, who made the most of Cancelo's pinpoint cross into the box in the 74th

Augsburg's resilience still wasn't broken as the "Fuggerstadter" reduced the arrears in the injury time after Ruben Vargas' square pass allowed Irvin Cardona to make it 5-3 on the scoreboards.



# 'Gwalior boy at Times Square'

KARTIK VISITED NEW YORK FOR THE FIRST TIME & EVEN GOT FEATURED ON TIMES SQUARE

Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood actor Kartik Aaryan visited New York for the first time and even got featured on Times Square Kartik took to Instagram, where he shared a reel of him visiting the Big Apple. In the clip, a swarm of fans are seen greeting him and even performing his hooksteps from the songs picturised on

Kartik. He captioned: "Gwalior Boy on Times Square Thank you New York city and to all the Fans for showering me with so much love and making my First Trip to the city memorable and full of surprises YY, You have my Heart. Thank you to the wonderful team for all the efforts.

You have my Heart. Thank you to the wonderful team for all the efforts.

On the work front, Kartik, was recently seen in 'Shehzaada', will next be seen in a slew of films including 'Satya Prem Ki Katha' and the third installment of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'. He

also has 'Aashigui 3' and Kabir Khan's untitled next film.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Radhika Madan resumes shooting of her seventh film. However, what makes it special is that in nine years of her career, she is shooting in her hometown, New Delhi, for the first

Radhika did six projects last year, which are slated to release this year. Hopping on to her next, the 'Angrezi Medium' actor began shooting for her next earlier this year.

Beginning the next schedule of her film, Radhika Madan has reached her hometown Delhi and expressed her happiness of shooting in her city through an Insta story.

The actress said: "9 years in the industry and this is the FIRST time I'm shooting in MY

Looking forward to an incredible slate of releases this year, Radhika already had her first release of 2023 with 'Kuttey' and is looking forward to 'Kachhey Limbu', which premiered at TIFF.





Monica Chaudhary praised Ranbir for making her comfortable on the sets of her bollywood debut movie

Team Absolute Mumbai

A ctress Monica
Chaudhary, who is
known for 'Apharan' and
'Dark 7 White', talked about
her Bollywood debut with
Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha
Kapoor-starrer film 'Tu Jhooti
Main Makkaar' and the kind
of response she's getting for
her role of Kinchi in the film.
Being a huge fan of Ranbir,
she also found herself fortunate to get an opportunity to

work with him. She praised Ranbir for making her comfortable on the sets and said: "I'm such a huge fan of his work and all of a sudden he is my co-actor. I didn't know how to behave or act but honestly, once I was on set, this question didn't even come to my mind. Because I never felt I'm a newcomer or outsider and they are already stars." "Of course, I had that respect that they are my seniors but it was so comfortable. But having said that he vould constantly make sure if I'm missing or forgetting something like camera angles, he would

whisper in my ears and advise me

to face the camera in the right direction," she added.

Monica is playing the character of Kinchi Dabbas, who is Manu's (Anubhav Singh Bassi) wife. Sharing details of her role, she said: "I'm essaying the character of Kinchi and she is Manu's wife, and Tinni's (Shraddha Kapoor) best friend. She keeps scolding these people and is very edgy. You can see many shades in her character when you watch the film, and she will make you giggle and laugh." I knew at that moment that this film was going to be amazing. I really thanked God that day for making me a part of this team and giving me this opportunity."

She concluded with the kind of response she is receiving for the film and her role: "I am receiving a lot of positive feedback about my work. People are sharing videos from the theatre where audiences are laughing at my jokes. It's an overwhelming experience, and I feel grateful for the validation it brings to me as an actor as my jokes landed well. I have been getting a lot of calls for quite some projects, so fingers crossed that something amazing will happen soon."



**Hyderabad:** Actor NTR Jr is known as a family man who prefers spending time with them over other things. During a recent interview, when the journalist showed him pictures of his sons, his reaction made the netizens ago 'Awwww!!'

When the news anchor of KTLA News showed him an Instagram post with his sons and wife, his reaction was: "Oh my God! Look at them. I am

already missing them"
When quizzed about whether his sons know he is attending the Oscars, the young tiger replied: "They know I am an actor but right now they are not aware that I have come to Oscar but yes I am excited to tell my kids one day that you know what I have been to the Oscar's and I have walked on Red Carpet and how it's a proud feeling to represent our country

The actor is all set to walk the red carpet tonight at the 95th Academy Awards for RRR.



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A fter many speculations going around about the breakup of Tejasswi Prakash and Karan Kundrra, the 'Ishq Mein Ghayal' actor has said that with the blessings of fans, their bond is getting stronger with each passing day

He tweeted: "Thank you for all the wishes love and prayers.. its because of you that we grow tenfold.. Stronger Each Passing Moment"

Although, he has not made any direct comment about the breakup rumours, fans have taken his post positively and wished for their long term relationship. The trolls and rumours around their breakup started with the earlier tweet of Karan in which he wrote a shayari.

"Na teri shaan kam hoti..na rutba ghata hota..jo ghamand mein kaha..wahi hass ke kaha hotaa."After his post, many started discussing their relationship and guessing what exactly has happened to him.In fact, Tejasswi also dropped a video in which she can be seen grooving on a song and she wrote in the caption: "Hold up".

However, Tejasswi in her



interview with Zoom TV, talked about their relationship and said: "I am in love. I am a little superstitious. I feel the more I talk about it, the more people tend to take the jinx off the beautiful things in your life."

Karan and Tejasswi started dating after their participation in 'Bigg Boss 15'. They keep sharing their posts and videos and fans call them TejRan. They are among the famous TV couples.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Karan is currently seen in the show 'Tere Ishq Mein Ghayal' which also stars Gashmeer Mahajani and Reem Shaikh in the lead. On the other hand, Tejasswi is part of Ekta Kapoor's 'Naagin 6'.





