

# absolute india

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## 'Not concerned who belongs to BJP or Congress': SC on pleas against ED Director's extension

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally observed that it is not concerned with the political affiliations of the petitioners, who have challenged the third extension given to ED Director S.K. Mishra and also the CVC Amendment Act 2021.

During the hearing, a bench of Justices B.R. Gawai and Vikram Nath orally observed: "We are not concerned with who belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party and who belongs to Congress."

The bench made this observation after the amicus curiae, senior advocate KV Viswanathan submitted that his submissions will be purely on the law and he is not concerned with the politics of the petitioners or the individual cases.

In the previous hearing in the matter on Monday, Viswanathan told the Supreme Court that the extension was illegal, citing the apex court's decisions in Vineet Narain & others v. Union of India and Common Cause v. Union of India to support his contention. He further added that the issue was not about the incumbent director at all, rather it was about the principle.

On Tuesday, the top court was informed that Solicitor



General Tushar Mehta was not available to argue the matter. The bench expressed its discontent with unavailability of Mehta and adjourned the hearing to Thursday, while noting it had clearly stated during the last hearing that this matter would start at the time specified.

The bench added that the SG had assured that the matter would not be adjourned and this is not fair to the court.

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that the PIL challenging the extension of tenure of the Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED) Sanjay Kumar Mishra has been filed with the intention of protecting Congress leaders who are facing money laundering charges.

Listing the petitioners - Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jaya Thakur (both Congress), Saket Gokhale and Mahua Moitra (both Trinamool Congress), the affidavit said the eminent leaders of these parties are under investigation of ED.

"It is respectfully submitted that certain leaders of the aforesaid political parties are under investigation of the Directorate. The investigation is strictly going on in accordance with law which is reflected from the fact that in most of the cases, either the competent courts have taken cognizance of the offence of constitutional courts have refused to grant any relief to such leaders of the above political parties," said the affidavit, filed by the Centre in the apex court.

### ELECTORAL BONDS CASE NEEDS TO BE HEARD BY A CONSTITUTION BENCH!

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to take up the petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme on April 11 to examine whether the matter should be heard by a constitution bench.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, representing a petitioner, contended before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that the aspect in this matter deals with core of the finances of political parties and this issue requires an authoritative pronouncement. Pointing at the questions framed by him for the consideration of the court, Farasat said the court may consider this matter having been heard by a constitution bench. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, also representing one of the petitioners, said, "we will only benefit, if it is a constitution bench. It will not harm anybody. Yes, this issue goes to the core of our democratic existence. Rs 12,000 till now and the largest party gets more than two-third".

The bench, also comprising justice P.S. Narasimha, asked the Centre's counsel, whether she is ready to argue on the aspect of referring the matter to a constitution bench. The counsel replied that the Attorney General R. Venkataramani, who was not present in the courtroom during the hearing, would have to argue whether a reference should be made to the constitution bench or not. After hearing submissions, the top court scheduled the matter for hearing on April 11, to examine whether petitions should be referred to a constitution bench.



Women in traditional costumes take out a scooter rally on the eve of 'Gudi Padwa' in Nagpur on Tuesday, March 21, 2023

### UNION MINISTER GADKARI GETS RS 10 CR EXTORTION CALLS FROM ALLEGED MAFIOSI

Nagpur | Agencies

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has been targeted for the second time in two months, with calls from alleged mafiosi demanding extortion money, police said here on Tuesday.

The Union Minister's office near the Orange City Hospital here received at least three calls from a person claiming to be Jayesh Poojari - two in the morning and one around noon and they informed the Nagpur police. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police



Rahul Madane, the caller made a demand for Rs 10 crore failing which the

Minister could face harm, and now the police have beefed up security around Gadkari's home and offices here.

The call was traced to a Mangaluru-based woman working for an event management company and now the police are trying to ascertain whether she made the call or Poojari.

On January 14, the same person had made a call to Gadkari's office, claiming he was henchman of the mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, and demanding Rs 1 billion payout.

### Video of people feasting on chinkara meat triggers outrage in Jodhpur

Team Absolute | Jaipur

A purported video has gone viral on social media which shows a carcass of a chinkara (Indian gazelle) hanging from a tree in Jodhpur district with around 10-12 people cooking and consuming its meat. The video has left the entire Bishnoi community enraged, sparking protests across Rajasthan.

As per officials, there were over 10 hunters who first killed the chinkara and then cut it into pieces by hanging it upside down from a tree. They then cooked the meat and consumed it. The group even filmed the entire act and shared it on social media. The clip is believed to be from a farm at Pannasingh Nagar in Luni.

The video has enraged the Bishnoi community, which is known for protecting and preserving flora and fauna in the Thar Desert region for long.

The Bishnoi Tiger Force has now submitted a memorandum along with 'evi-



dence' to Commissioner of Police Ravidutt Gaur, and Chief Conservator of Forests, S.V. Murthy, demanding the arrest of all the people seen in the video under the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

The community members informed the authorities that poachers are regularly hunting chinkara in and around the border areas of Jodhpur, Barmer and Pali districts.

The chief of Bishnoi Tiger Force, Ram Pal Bhawad, said, "We also demanded

the formation of flying squads for regular patrolling of the region. We have been assured that stern action will be taken against the culprits within two days. If nothing happens, we will hold a symbolic demonstration at the district collectorate on Thursday.

Wildlife activists said that many poachers set up their base on the Jodhpur-Barmer border and engage in hunting chinkaras which they sell to groups such as these and even to hotels.

### 'Bunch of illiterate people from top to bottom': Kejriwal on Delhi Budget row

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Addressing the ongoing Delhi Assembly session over the budget row, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that "there is a bunch of illiterate people from top to bottom".

He said, "Yesterday, the news was going on that the budget for advertisement was more than that of infrastructure. While the budget of infrastructure is Rs 20,000 crore and that of advertisement is Rs 550 crore. There is a bunch of illiterate people from top to bottom."

"Today the budget of Delhi was to be presented in the House. But the Centre put a hold on that and we couldn't present the budget today (Tuesday). This is not only a constitutional crisis, it is an attack on the constitution," CM Kejriwal said.

He said that it is against the basic structure of the Constitution that the budget of Delhi is being sent to the Centre. However, we follow this tradition, but for the first time such an intervention has come to the fore.

Kejriwal further said, "We had the option to go to the court on the issue but we replied their four observa-



tions. Finally, the Centre has approved the budget."

On the observation noted down by Lt Governor V.K. Saxena, Kejriwal said, "As per the constitution, LG has no such right to make any observations. The Constitution and the order of the Supreme Court say that except in three cases, the LG will approve all the files, he has no right to write on the files."

Accusing Centre for delaying in budget approval, the CM claimed, "The officers are all scared of the

Centre. They got an order from the MHA to stop the budget file for three days. Our minister called repeatedly and then file was sent at six in the evening. What did they get...this is what made Kejriwal bow down. This was done only to satisfy the ego."

"I appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that we do not need to fight. Where there is a fight in the house, state and the country, they get destroyed. If we work together we will progress," Kejriwal said in his address to the House. After the address of the

Chief Minister, the House has been adjourned for Wednesday. Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot will now present the budget on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP Working President Virendra Sachdeva and Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri in a joint press conference on Tuesday alleged that Kejriwal is again intentionally telling lies to defame the central government.

Delhi BJP spokespersons Harish Khurana and Praveen Shankar Kapoor were also present during the press conference.

Virendra Sachdeva said that every year the budget proposal of the Delhi Government is sent to the Union Home Ministry for approval through the Lt. Governor and the date of the budget is given only after the approval of the Ministry but the Kejriwal government did not wait for the approval of the budget and announced the date itself.

He said that Kejriwal kept patting the back of his government in the assembly session after Lt. Governor's address but during the session he did not mention that there were some objections on the budget which had to be rectified and resent.

### H3N2 virus: How to protect children?

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the rising number of flu infections caused by H3N2 virus, children have been particularly affected, said doctors on Tuesday.

Doctors have reported a disturbing rise in H3N2 cases among children, especially those below the age of 5 years. According to media reports, infants and preschoolers have also been admitted in ICUs in Delhi and Pune.

Classic symptoms of H3N2 infection include cough, cold, body ache, diarrhoea, vomiting and fever.

But when "it gets complicated it can lead to ear infections, pneumonia and in severest of the cases it can even lead to severe respiratory distress requiring oxygen and ventilator at times," Dr. Saurabh

Khanna, Lead Consultant, Paediatrics & Neonatology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS.

"Amongst children, those with asthma and other comorbid illnesses such as obesity, lung disease, neurological problems, and heart diseases are at an increased risk," said Dr. Amita Kaul, HOD & Senior Consultant Paediatrics, Surya Mother & Child Super Speciality Hospital, Pune.

Fever in some cases could go as high as 104-105 F, vomiting, loose motion, cough/cold and in extreme cases convulsions and drowsiness. Symptoms usually last for 5-7 days. A persistent cough can also be seen in some patients lasting for a longer period.

"If the cough is there for more than a week, it is advised to consult your paediatrician. Don't overuse



the counter medication for cough for children less than 6 years," Kaul said.

"The primary reason for the

spike is due to lowered immunity. We had far less exposure to H3N2 during the last two winters due to Covid-19. Another reason for the

spike is the lack of adequate flu vaccination," Dr. Rajesh Bharadwaj, ENT Specialist, consultant on Practo, told IANS.

Kaul said getting sufficient rest, increasing fluid intake, and diversifying their diet to include micronutrients can help children fight the virus.

"Parents must judiciously use fever medicines, do not overuse as it can affect kidney function, practise tepid sponging in case of fever and provide children with a high protein diet. When stepping outside, it is important they avoid crowded areas and if they do they must wear a mask," Kaul said.

The doctors also advised people to get regular flu vaccines every year, use masks, wash hands regularly and stay away from crowded places which act as medium of super spread of the virus.

### TN MAN WHO DIED OF COVID WAS INFECTED WITH OMICRON XBB VARIANT

Chennai | Agencies

A 27-year-old man who had died of Covid-19 in a private



hospital in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi was infected with the Omicron-XBB variant, officials said on Tuesday.

The whole genome sequencing report of the youth confirmed the presence of XBB variant.

Whole genome sequencing done on samples of patients tested Covid-19 positive have found that the two variants of Omicron, XBB and BA.2 and their sub variants were dominant in 95 per

cent of the samples.

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian also told media persons that Omicron continued to be the dominant variant in Covid positive cases in Tamil Nadu.

The Omicron and its sub variants have been present in the Covid samples since December 2021 since the third wave of Covid. It has been dominating the other samples like Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants.







EDITOR'S SPECS

CO-INFECTION WITH 'SUPERBUG' SPIKES COVID VIRUS REPLICATION BY 15-FOLD

Researchers have identified a protein found in superbugs that enhances SARS-CoV-2 replication by 10- to 15-fold. Global data shows nearly 10 per cent of severe Covid-19 cases involve a secondary bacterial co-infection -- with Staphylococcus aureus, also known as staph A, being the most common organism responsible for co-existing infections with SARS-CoV-2. The study, published in the journal iScience, revealed that the addition of a "superbug" -- methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) -- into the mix could make the Covid-19 outcome even more deadly. While the mystery of how and why the combination of these two pathogens contributes to the severity of the disease remained unresolved, the researchers identified a protein -- IsdA -- found in all strains of staph A which boosts SARS-CoV-2 replication by 10- to 15-fold. The findings of this study are significant and could help inform the development of new therapeutic approaches for Covid-19 patients with bacterial co-infections. Interestingly, the study also showed that SARS-CoV-2 did not affect the bacteria's growth. This was contrary to what the researchers had initially expected. "We started with an assumption that SARS-CoV-2 and hospitalisation due to Covid-19 possibly caused patients to be more susceptible to bacterial infections which eventually resulted in worse outcomes," said Mariya Goncheva, Professor of biochemistry and microbiology at the University of Victoria. "Bacterial infections are one of the most significant complications of respiratory viral infections such as Covid-19 and Influenza A. Despite the use of antibiotics, 25 per cent of patients co-infected with SARS-CoV-2 and bacteria, die as a result. This is especially true for patients who are hospitalised, and even more so for those in intensive care units. We were interested in finding why this happens," said Goncheva, who conducted the study while at University of Western Ontario.

Efforts to Control Gun Culture in America

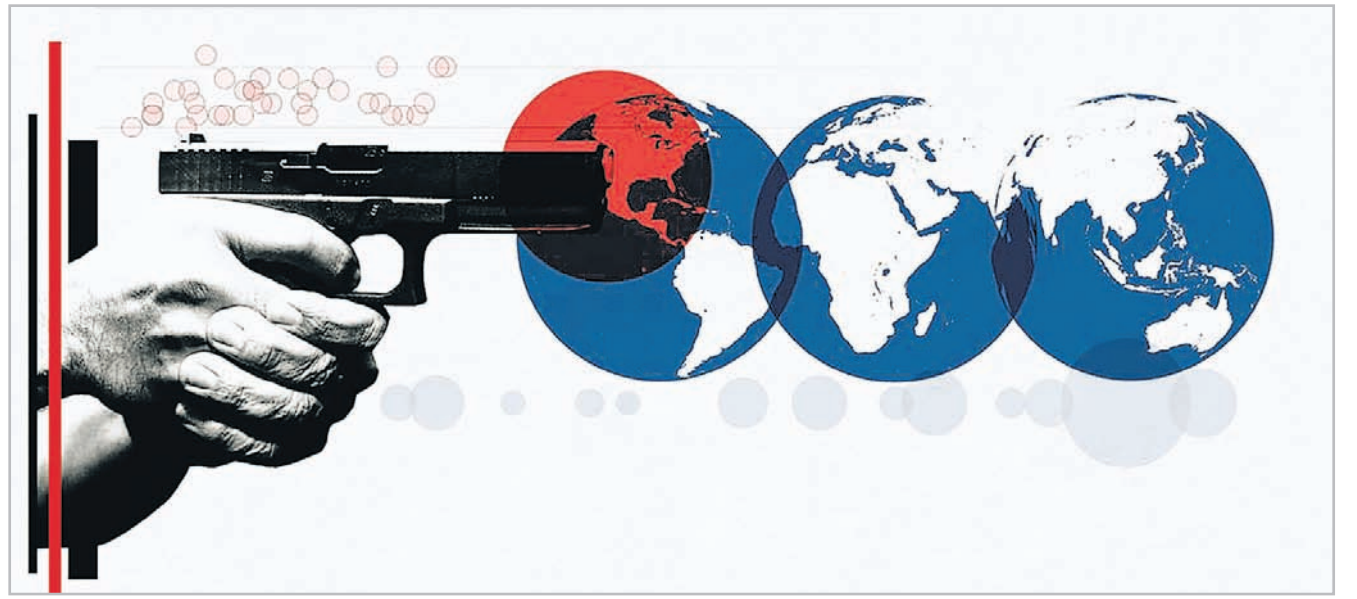
Lalit Garg

America, which speaks the language of violence, which supports violence, which brings a storm of weapons in the world, when it itself started becoming a victim of violence, then its time of self realization. The biggest difficulty of the modern civilization of America has been that violence has become so comfortable here that everything has been answered only in the language of violence. The environment of violence there has become so strong that the people there have become very insecure in their own homes due to the gun-culture there. After taking the brunt of the easy availability of guns for a long time, the people there have started opening a front against it at their level and President Joe Biden has been forced to sign an executive order related to curbing the misuse of weapons.

In June last year, a large number of people took to the streets demanding a change in the law related to the purchase and sale of guns. What is needed is that along with giving relief to the victims of this problem, strict laws should be brought on the buyers of guns as well as its manufacturers and sellers. Like in America, gun-culture flourishing in Punjab also needs to be controlled.

In America, such news kept coming every day that some madman started firing indiscriminately with his gun somewhere in the school or sometimes in the market and people were unnecessarily killed in it. One of the major reasons behind this is the easy availability of all kinds of guns to the common people there and the use of these guns for indiscriminate firing on trivial matters and hysterics, which continues to be a cause of deep concern. There is always a fear of some major untoward happening due to the whims of a crazy person in the life of the common people, their beliefs and loyalties have been so wounded that there is no protective shield like trust between man and man. It is difficult to say who hides such an ugly and insane mind within the clean faces. America's arms race and technological race is pushing the entire human race into a corner from which it has become difficult to return. Now, along with the world, America itself is a victim of these weapons and violent mentality.

The entire humanity is moaning and suffering because of the bad culture that America has spread in the world to establish supremacy over the world and to flourish its arms business. America has talked about the New World Order, it has talked about open-



ness, it seems that the "world man" is suffocating and wants to come out of the suffocation. See the irony that America is the most powerful and secure country in the world but its citizens are the most insecure and feared citizens. There are more prisoners in the jails there than in any other country in the world. There have been many such incidents that suddenly some madman started firing at a restaurant, hotel or gathering and a large number of people were killed. In 2014, guns were used in 68 per cent of the total 14,000 murder cases registered in the US. A study commissioned by the government itself revealed the fact that about 1300 children under the age of 17 are injured by guns in America every year. The US administration will have to curb not only the 'gun culture' but also the weapon culture, now it will have to change its mindset to make the world livable.

The United States has seen at close quarters the consequences of petty quarrels or unnecessary paranoia after carrying a deadly weapon, where it kills hundreds of people every year. Any sensitive society should see and understand this situation as a serious problem. It is not without reason that in America, where most families have had different types of guns; voices have started rising against this weapon culture. It was very important to raise this voice, according to the saying that sooner or later, America's eyes are open, and then a message of peace and non-violence will go to the world with America. Certainly, it was absolutely necessary to control this culture of violence in America.

Because America is today the biggest hub of crime in the world and today it is a victim of the culture of violence it spread in the world. It is obvious that the incidents of firing there have been taking the lives of hundreds of people, which were not incidents of Islamic terrorism, and then what was it? It is a question that exposes American civilization. Is this a product of America's materialistic and violent culture? Realizing the mental trauma and other difficulties of the victims, US President Joe Biden on Tuesday took a meaningful initiative towards curbing gun abuse. Under this, the 'background check' done during the sale of guns will be improved. Through this, Biden has directed the cabinet to create a better government system to support communities struggling with gun violence. It is not hidden that the kind of mental trauma and other difficulties that those who lose a loved one in unprovoked firing have to deal with.

The mentality of 'do what you want' thrives where the values of human relationships have ended, where children grow up independent in an individualistic system. In the situation of 'not in a good mood', an event is just an event, it neither gives happiness nor sorrow. In such a situation man dwarfs his infinite powers. This is a stereotypical way of expressing inner turmoil. Such people do not have a decent and non-violent way of living right. There is no recognition of time. In such people, there is no special concern for dignity, etiquette, intimacy of relations, peaceful co-existence

etc. Material comforts become the ultimate goal of life. Such isolation among American citizens is fueling deep frustration, intense resentment, and venomous vindictiveness. They become mentally ill and commit murder using dangerous and deadly guns available with them. Actually, the psychology associated with having a weapon in hand works behind firing a gun in a fit of rage on trivial matters.

Even so, much of the distortion and brutality in the nature of violence depends on the availability of weapons. Such incidents of murder usually happen because a man in a frenzy who could not control his anger or frustrations had a gun available when he was angry. Such cases are common, in which even after reaching the peak of anger and excitement in a mutual debate, two people or parties are reconciled, because they did not have weapons at the time of the dispute.

America is becoming a cultureless country - this nation is riding on physical development and weapon culture. The citizens there can keep as many arms as they want. In some places even a license for arms is not required. There are very few homes in America that do not have a gun or pistol. This weapon culture of America is connected with its birth. It has become prosperous on this weapon culture and has ruled the world. Today the same violent weapon culture is taking a heavy toll on its own.

international

RUSSIA OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION: PUTIN TELLS XI ON UKRAINE PEACE PLAN

Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the Kremlin, has said his country is "always open for a negotiation process". Putin made the remarks on Monday in response to China's "plan settle ongoing Ukraine crisis".

The plan aimed to "end the Russia-Ukraine war" was released by China in February. However, the US has warned it could be a "stalling tactic", the BBC reported.

"The world should not be fooled by any tactical move by Russia, supported by China or any other country, to freeze the war on its own terms," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was quoted as saying by the British broadcaster.

"Calling for a ceasefire that does not include the removal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory would effectively be supporting the ratification of Russian conquest," Blinken added.

Talks between the two leaders lasted four and a half hours on Monday, according to Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. Further formal meetings are expected to follow on Tuesday.



Xi, who called Putin his "dear friend," praised his Russian counterpart, saying the country's development had "signifi-

cantly improved", CNN reported. "Both sides exchanged in-depth views on the Ukraine issue," reported Xinhua news agency, describing the leaders' meeting as "in-depth and candid."

OMICRON SUBVARIANT XBB.1.5 ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 90% NEW COVID CASES IN US

Los Angeles: The highly transmissible Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 now accounts for over 90 per cent of new Covid-19 cases reported in the US, according to the latest estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

XBB.1.5 was estimated to account for 90.2 per cent of all Covid-19 cases in the country in the latest week ending March 18, Xinhua news agency reported.

It was up from 88.8 per cent a week before and 86.3 per cent two weeks prior, CDC data showed. The prevalence of XBB.1.5 has kept increasing since late 2022.

The second most prevalent strain BQ.1.1 only accounted for 3.5 per cent in the latest week.

The CDC first started tracking XBB.1.5 in November 2022, when it accounted for less than 1 per cent of cases nationwide. Since then, the strain is spreading quickly in the US.

While XBB.1.5 is spreading easier, scientists said it does not seem to cause more severe disease.

PTI leader, 9 others killed in attack on vehicle

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and nine others were killed when the vehicle they were travelling came under attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Abbottabad district, according to authorities.



Confirming the incident which took place on Monday, Abbottabad District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Tufail told Dawn news that a rival group had opened fire on the vehicle near Havelian's Langra village which caused the fuel tank to explode.

He said that the vehicle caught fire and was completely destroyed, adding that 10 people, including PTI leader Atif Munsif

Khan, died on the spot.

The DPO told Dawn news that a heavy police contingent reached the spot and initiated a search operation for the perpetrators but an FIR was yet to be registered.

Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Mahmood Khan strongly condemned the "attack" on Atif and said such an assault on a political leader was "very tragic".

Low birth rates problematic for ageing EU population: Expert

Barcelona | Agencies

The average age of the European population has gone up by 2.5 years in the past decade, according to Eurostat data published recently.

In Spain, the average age has climbed by 4.3 years, the highest rise in the EU behind Portugal (4.7 years).

However, a Spanish expert told Xinhua news agency on Monday that although half of Europeans are now over 44.4 years old, the main concern is the lack of children being born.

"We are one of the places in the world where people live longest, and this fact that we die later makes the average age go up," said Albert Esteve, director of the Center for Demographic Studies (CED) in Barcelona.

Half the population in Spain is over 45 years old (46.2 for women), according to Eurostat, but the average age is highest in Italy (48 years), followed by



Germany (45.8), Portugal (46.8), Greece (46.1) and Croatia (45.5).

"Where we're starting to see the effects is in schools with fewer pupils, and in communities where much fewer children will be born, which means many of the major effects will be noted at the bottom rather than the top of the population pyramid," Esteve said. The low birth rates driving the rise in the average age of the European population are widespread, but particularly pronounced in Southern countries such as Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Biden okays bill to declassify intelligence info on Covid origins

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has signed a bill to declassify intelligence information on the origins of the Covid pandemic, which has so far claimed more than seven million lives globally.

"Today, I am pleased to sign into law, the 'Covid-19 Origin Act of 2023'," Biden said in a statement on Monday.

"We need to get to the bottom of Covid-19's origins to help ensure we can better prevent future pandemics. In implementing this legislation, my administration will declassify and share as much of that information as possible, consistent with my constitutional authority to protect against the disclosure of information that would harm national security," he said.

Under the new legislation, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines has 90 days to declassify all information on possible links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of Covid.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been a major centre of coronavirus



research, CNBC.com reported.

The push to make public classified information on the origins of the pandemic comes after the US Energy Department, last month, concluded with "low confidence" that the Covid-19 virus leaked out of a laboratory in China.

In 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also agreed to the lab leak claim with "moderate confidence".

Earlier this month, FBI director Christopher Wray told Fox News that the pandemic likely began with a lab inci-

dent in Wuhan, China.

"The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan," Wray was quoted as saying. "Here you are talking about a potential leak from a Chinese government-controlled lab."

In 2021, Biden had directed the Intelligence Community to use every tool at its disposal to investigate the origin of Covid-19 in 90 days.

In the report, the intel agencies concluded that the coronavirus had not been developed as a biological weapon, but could not determine if it had infected humans as a result of contact with animals or from a laboratory accident.

It added that, without new information, intelligence agencies would not be able to offer a better judgement on whether the virus emerged via animal-to-human transmission or a lab leak.

Biden in his statement said that the "work is ongoing".

"My administration will continue to review all classified information relating to Covid-19's origins, including potential links to the Wuhan Institute of Virology,"

he added.

More than two years after the pandemic, the origins of Covid-19 remain unclear.

It has been a political and scientific debate with scientists and politicians globally contending that the coronavirus jumped into people from bats, or have been leaked from a laboratory.

A recent analysis conducted by international scientists found the deadly pandemic may have originated in raccoon dogs from the Wuhan market in China. They found genetic material from raccoon dogs in samples from the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market that tested positive for Covid.

While the analysis didn't prove the raccoon dogs were infected with the virus, it provides some additional data that is consistent with a possible virus spillover from animals to people.

The study was based on samples from GISAID -- an international database, however, soon after the samples disappeared from that database.

The World Health Organization has called on Beijing to release those samples.





## I WON'T BE DANCING TO 'SAAMI SAAMI' ANYMORE:

# RASHMIKA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has said that she will not be dancing to the popular number 'Saami Saami' from 'Pushpa: The Rise' anymore.

Rashmika interacted with her fans in a question and answer session.

When a fan told her that he wants to groove with her to her famous Saami Saami song, Rashmika said she's danced too many times to the song.

She wrote back: "I've done saami saami step toooooo many times.. That now I feel like I'll have issues with my back when I get older.. why you do this to me re.. ?? let's do something else when we meet."

She was also asked if she would be working with Thalapaty Vijay, to which Rashmika replied that she is manifesting that.

One even asked her if she likes Malayalam cinema, to which Rashmika replied: "Are you kidding.. loveeeeeee Malayalam cinema.. Malayalam films are just so pure and people are fullllll love."

The actress also told a fan, who enquired about her performing Lavani at an award event, that she will speak Marathi "little little".

"It was surreal. Learnt some new Marathi phrases well.. soon I'll manage to speak like little little.. ?? hopefully!" Rashmika said. Rashmika is now looking forward to the release of 'Pushpa: The rule' starring Allu Arjun.



## Virat was nervous, made unamusing joke during first meeting with Anushka

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It's been over five years that Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma tied the nuptial knot with Indian cricketer Virat Kohli. But, their fans have always been curious over how the love took its course and most importantly how the two met given that they come from different sectors and industries.

Recently, Virat shed light on his first interaction with his wife in a casual chat with his former Royal Challengers Bangalore team-mate and close friend AB de Villiers on his 'The 360 Show'.

Kohli revealed that he was nervous meeting Anushka for the first time and was shaking ahead of an advertisement shoot.

Kohli said on the podcast, "I remember this was 2013, I was just named captain for the Zimbabwe tour. My manager came to me and told me that I was going to shoot with Anushka Sharma. As soon as I heard this, I was so nervous. Like how the hell am I gonna do this. I was really nervous".

The Indian batsman also remembered cracking an unamusing joke about her heels when they met for the shoot but eventually hit it off after a few get-togethers.

"Out of nervousness, I didn't realise how tall she was. So the first thing I told her when I saw her heels was, 'Didn't you get anything higher to wear?' and she was like 'Excuse me?' It was so bad, I was so nervous. But then I figured out that she was a normal person and when we got talking, I realised our background was so similar. From there on, we became friends and then gradually we started dating, it didn't happen instantly," he added.



## Mouni Roy teams up with Jubin Nautiyal, for a Bengali track

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni Roy teams up with playback singer Jubin Nautiyal and music composer Payal Dev for the song 'Dotara' which hit the airwaves on Tuesday.

The track is sprinkled with Bengali flavour and presents the electrifying chemistry between Jubin and Mouni, who don interesting avatars, while indulging them in a yester-year narrative.

Talking about the song, Mouni said: "'Dotara' takes you on a ride back in time and into a different era. I felt like a princess with these regal looks and the vibe on the set was something else. It's a fun and beautiful music video."

The music video for the song has been directed by B.L.M Studios with its music composed by Payal Dev.

The lyrics have been penned by Vayu, and have a contemporary feel.

Jubin said: "It's a pleasure working with Payal Dev and our collaborations have always been well received. I had a fun time donning a new getup and role playing in the music video alongside Mouni Roy. We had a blast on sets and I can't wait for the audience's reaction."

Payal said: "Jubin Nautiyal and I always enjoy teaming up and 'Dotara' was another such great collaboration. We also brought in a Bengali essence with some lyrics in Bengali that makes this track really distinct and standout."

'Dotara' presented by T-Series is sung by Jubin and Payal. The track is out on T-Series' YouTube channel.



## HITEN TEJWANI IS MY FAVOURITE OFF-SCREEN PERSON: NITI TAYLOR

Mumbai: 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' actress Niti Taylor talked about her co-actor Hiten Tejwani and said that although in the show he is a father-like figure onscreen but offscreen, he is her best friend.

She said: "Although Hiten sir is my father figure onscreen, off-screen he is my favourite person on set. We enjoy each other's company a lot, there's so much to learn from him and it honestly helps me a lot when I perform. Typically, we have a lot of emotional scenes where Prachi (Niti) tries to be a perfect daughter and never disappoints him, but behind the cameras, we keep humming songs and enjoy dancing to songs that he plays from his collection."

Niti, who is known for working in 'Ghulam', 'Ishqbaaz', 'Laal Ishq' and also for participating in the dance reality show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10' and for appearing as a guest on 'Bigg Boss 16', called him a great friend who always gives good advice when needed and listens to all her problems.

Niti added: "He listens to my problems and gets back to me with some solid advice. He's genuinely a great co-star, and an equally amazing human being to have as a friend. Our whole cast and crew have become a tight-knit family which makes work feel like play."

'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shakti Mohan

## Talent and hard work matter, not followers: Himanshi Khurana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant Himanshi Khurana said that having a number of followers on social media can never assure good work and for getting opportunities, what matters is talent and hard work.

She said: "When I started my career in the industry, I didn't have the same number of followers as I do today but getting work was never an issue and, I don't think followers are more important, the talent and hard work get you good projects."

Himanshi is known for her work in Punjabi films like 'Sadda Haq' and she also entered the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss



13' as a wild card contestant. Apart from Punjabi films, she has also done several music videos.

While discussing the importance of social media followers in the industry, she shared: "Having a good amount of followers and a huge fan base can be fruitful sometimes but otherwise it depends on how good you are at the job." Talking about the importance of real talent in the industry, she added: "There are several people who have been working in the industry for years who might not have a good number of followers. But their talent on screen speaks louder. So, these artists have a special place in the audience's heart just because of the talent they showcase on the screen and not because of their social media presence."

Meanwhile, Himanshi is wrapping up her shoots for her upcoming film, 'Fatto De Yaar Bade Ne' whose release date has still not been announced.





# भारतीय नववर्ष एवं चैत्र नवरात्रि पर्व के आरंभ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

विक्रम संवत् २०८०



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

नूतन वर्षारंभ और चैत्र नवरात्रि का यह पावन अवसर सभी के जीवन में सुख, समृद्धि और प्रसन्नता लेकर आये और हमारा मध्यप्रदेश नित नए प्रगति के शिखरों को छुए, यही मेरी कामना है।

**शिवराज सिंह चौहान**  
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश