

UK BEGINS FIRST HUMAN TRIAL OF NEW ZIKA VACCINE

- The vaccine is being trialled by the University of Liverpool.
- India is also reportedly developing a vaccine against Zika.
- Although now not as prevalent as during its peak in 2016, Zika remains an ongoing threat, with thousands of cases of the mosquito-borne virus reported each year, mainly in countries close to the equator.
- Pregnant women continue to be the population at highest risk for the infection as the virus can cause severe foetal birth defects.

LONDON | Agencies

The UK has begun the first human clinical trials of a new Zika vaccine, after it showed promising results in animal studies.

It's hoped that the vaccine, designed to be suitable for use during pregnancy, will generate highly protective and long-lasting immunity.

Having shown promising results in animal studies, the vaccine has now moved into a 'first in human' Phase I trial.

If successful, the new trial could lead to a major breakthrough in tackling the Zika virus, for which there are still no approved vaccines or treatments available anywhere in the world.

"Zika should not be forgotten especially since climate change is contributing to the spread of the Aedes mosquitoes (the mosquitoes that can carry the Zika virus) to countries where immunity is not there. Vaccines like ours will enable us to be better prepared for the next Zika outbreak," said Dr Krishanthi Subramaniam, a tenure-track research fellow who led on the studies demonstrating the effectiveness of the vaccine to lower virus levels in animals.

Liverpool researchers used an approach to develop a vaccine based on studies to understand immunity to Zika and other related viruses.



The trial is open to healthy individuals aged between 18-59.

Healthy volunteers recruited to the trial will receive two doses of the new vaccine to evaluate its safety, tolerability and its ability to produce an immune response.

The vaccine will be assessed in groups of four volunteers at a time, with numbers increasing as evidence of safety accumulates.

Up to 40 volunteers in this phase of work is planned which will be taking place over the next nine months.

In addition, the performance of the vaccine will also be assessed in people who have had exposure to other viruses that circulate in the places where Zika virus is found, such as dengue virus, or yellow fever vaccine.

The vaccine work was supported by a 4.7 million pounds Innovate UK SBRI Vaccines for Global Epidemics award and includes collaborators from the University of Manchester, the UK Health Security Agency and industry.

Call to accelerate replacement of diesel school buses

- Led by the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE), a coalition of 34 organisations made the goal of all-electric school bus fleets in Canada the central focus of this year's national Healthy Environments for Learning Day (April 27).
- The joint call for urgent action by relevant decision-makers nationwide closely follows the publication in January of new scientific evidence from British Columbia that even "brief diesel exhaust exposure acutely impairs functional brain connectivity".
- While adult subjects were studied, the new research raises further concerns about impaired brain function and learning ability of children breathing diesel fumes.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Health and environmental advocates have called on communities, school boards and governments at every level to accelerate the electrification of school buses, replacing tens of thousands of diesel-powered school buses spewing toxic fumes that can seriously harm child health and interfere with learning.

Other research has warned that diesel exhaust may impede child neurodevelopment, spatial learning, attention and memory, and contributes to a myriad other physical and mental health problems, as well as climate change.

"Faced with the existential threat posed by climate change and mounting scientific evidence of the harm to children caused by traffic-related air pollution, including diesel exhaust, more comprehensive and urgent action is needed to bring electric school bus transportation to all communities across Canada," the declaration says. It underlines that "electric school buses are a viable solution that eliminates diesel bus emissions and exemplifies local action on climate change". The majority of Canada's 50,000 school buses use diesel fuel. Each year,



school buses make 792 million trips to carry roughly 2.2 million children to and from school. CPCHE Executive Director Erica Phipps said: "Buses operating close to schools mean that all children, not just those riding the buses, can be exposed to and affected by diesel exhaust. CPCHE and its collaborators have called on all levels of government to: Accelerate the shift to all electric school bus fleets across Canada, through policy and funding measures that support electric bus procurement, operation and infrastructure; Prioritise electric school bus adoption in communities facing disproportionate exposure to traffic-related air pollution; and Promote and celebrate the electric school bus as a way for children, families and communities to learn about and participate in climate action through the transition to zero-emission transportation in Canada.

Along with the call for government action, the campaign is promoting videos and other educational resources to catalyse and inform local efforts to support the shift.

Plant seven trees to get bail: UP Official's unique initiative

Bijnor | Agencies

Inmates in Bijnor jail in Uttar Pradesh will now have to give an undertaking that they will plant at least seven trees if they wish to get a bail.

The initiative has been started by Mange Ram Chauhan, presently posted as SDM in Bijnor district. He had launched a similar initiative when he was posted in Amroha district.

As part of the drive, he began taking undertakings from those accused of CrPC sections 107/116/151 and seeking bail. "They had to plant trees on their property, nurture them and provide pictorial evidence of it in court hearings," the SDM said. "Similarly, the two guarantors, too, were supposed to plant one sapling each. Humans cannot survive without plants.

When the surroundings are green and pure with plants, then society also thrives and remains healthy," he told reporters. The SDM's effort have apparently borne fruit and he said that so far, close to 20,000 saplings of various tree species have been planted as part



of the initiative in Amroha and Bijnor districts.

I'VE BEEN TERRIBLE AT PARTNER WORK: HRITHIK ROSHAN

Mumbai: Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan spoke about a dancing style he wishes to learn and said that it is "partner work" he is terrible at. Hrithik said: "I've been terrible in partner work. I feel relaxed when it's just me, but when it's partner work, there is a certain synchronising and coordinating, there's beauty in that. I have never been able to achieve that. I am very fascinated with Ballet. Just the long lines, the expanse and flight of it." "I had the opportunity in Guzaarish to train in the dance form and it was an incredible experience. It was like a ball and I was holding the ball and swirling. During the take, I was not able to get three turns - you know, the pirouettes. Finally, after two hours, we had lunch, and then we tried again. In a single take, somehow it happened."

Hrithik also revealed to IMDb that some of the signature dance steps he enjoyed throughout his career are The Bang Bang title track, Ghungroo from War and It's Magic from Koia Mil Gaya.

Speaking about his way of working, Hrithik said: "If you tell someone, I want one month to rehearse, and if it's coming from me, they will think I'm joking.

Ancient DNA research confirms West Eurasian genetic imprints in Pattanam

Hyderabad | Agencies

The archeological site at Pattanam, on the southwestern coast of Kerala's Ernakulam district, is believed to be part of the ancient port city of Muziris.

Historians consider the city of Pattanam to have played an instrumental role in trade and cultural exchanges between India and the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean regions.

At the Pattanam archeological site, scientists and archaeologists have found human bones, storage jars, a gold ornament, glass beads, stone beads, utilitarian objects made of stone, copper, and iron, pottery, early Chera coins, brick wall, brick platform, ring well, wharf with bollards and a six meter long wooden canoe parallel to the wharf structure



about 2.5 meter below surface level. "These structures indicate a vast urban settlement. The excavations suggest that the site was first occupied by the ingenious 'Megalithic' (Iron Age) people, followed by the Roman contact in the early historic period. It appears that the site was continuously occupied at least from the

2nd century BC to the 10th century AD," said Dr Cherian, from PAMA Institute for the Advancement of Transdisciplinary Archeological Sciences, Ernakulam.

Scientists used the DNA from human skeletons to pinpoint the generic ancestry of the people found in the region.

Gorakhpur's 'Jhadu Baba' is a businessman who cleans up streets daily

Once he was going to Jaipur, when he found a book was lying on the seat next to him. There was some mention about Mahatma Gandhi and cleanliness in the book. Showing the book, Shukla's wife told him that if he wants to keep his surroundings clean, then he should learn it from Gandhi ji.

- Famously known as 'Jhadu Baba', Mahesh Shukla of Gorakhpur's Gorakhnath area can be found sweeping the streets daily morning.
- Sweeping is his passion. He is a businessman by profession and runs a computer and camera shop in the city's Shahi Market.
- Shukla has been regularly cleaning his locality and surrounding areas since 2008. He cleans different neighbourhoods between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Shukla says that he does not do this for gaining any fame, but it is included in his habit. "Due to the awareness, now about 700 to 800 people are associated with us. I do all this work with my own money."

Vivek Tripathi | Gorakhpur

For the last 15 years, he comes out daily with a broom in his hand and cleans up the streets of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh to awaken the spirit of cleanliness among people.

He further says that the cleaning work is going on in different parts of the city. "On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the cleaning work is done in Gorakhnath, Rajendra Nagar and Shastri Nagar respectively. While on Thursday and Sunday, I clean Ramgarh Tal area," he elaborates.

"So far, around Rs 10 lakh has been spent on this work. There is an expense of about five brooms every week. Apart from this, the kit also includes water bottles. Honoring the cleaning staff of our area is also included in our routine," Shukla adds.

"Actually, about 30-40 families reside at the street where I live. There was an electric pole next to my house. People used to throw the garbage there. In search of



food, animals used to scatter the garbage and I used to feel very bad then. When interrupted, people used to start fighting. Since the garbage was usually disposed of

by women, debating with them seemed inappropriate," Shukla recalls.

It worked out, but there were some hesitations in his mind initially, due to which, he used to collect the garbage in late night using broom so that no one should see him cleaning the garbage. Slowly, people started realising that "Shukla ji picks up our garbage" and about 50 per cent people stopped throwing garbage near the pole. All this took about six to seven months. His street became clean due to the initiative started by him and the efforts of the people. "Then I turned to the main road and the parks," he says. The broom and the rest of the kit remain lying in the car. "Wherever I go by car. The morning routine starts with the broom itself. I have also gone to Indore, which is one of the best cities in terms of cleanliness, to see the arrangement there."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also honoured him for his initiative.

I would love to see Kohli captain again: Ravi Shastri

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri recently spoke about Virat Kohli's current mindset and his thoughts on stylish batter's captaincy.

He also shared his views on emerging talent Arshdeep Singh and his potential to play in all formats of the game.

Speaking to ESPNcricinfo, Shastri spoke on how Virat Kohli's headspace is at the moment.

"As opposed to last year when we were sitting in discussing does he need a break, does he not need a break, you know he seemed to have the burden of the whole world on his shoulders. Now, refreshing. You know, you feel that enthusiasm, that passion for the game, that energy and enjoyment has come back which for me was the best thing to see. See, runs you might get or you might not get but when you have that sense when you see someone that the passion, the enjoyment and the drive is back again is good, specially a player of his quality."

Further asked if Kohli would have had his objections to leading the squad, Shastri said, "Not at all, it's about leading your country and these are circumstances where you got to put your best foot forward. Your regular captain is



injured is he's not part of the team. So seeing what's at stake, you know beating England in England, 2-1 up. I mean how many teams can beat England and Australia in the same year."

SEBI SEEKS MORE TIME FROM SC FOR HINDENBURG-ADANI PROBE

'COMPLEX MATTER'

Sebi, in an application moved in the apex court, said: "Applicant/SEBI most respectfully submits that keeping in view the forgoing circumstances, it would take further time to arrive at verified findings and conclude the investigation... for ascertaining possible violations related to mis-representation of financials, circumvention of regulations and/or fraudulent nature of transactions in respect of 12 suspicious transaction-sa... given the complexity of the matter, SEBI in the normal course would take at least 15 months for completion of the investigation of these transactions, but is making all reasonable endeavours to conclude the same within six months."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking six-month extension to complete its probe into the Hindenburg allegations of "stock manipulation" by the Adani Group. Sebi submitted that in order to conduct a proper investigation and arrive at verified findings, it would be just, expedient and in the interest of justice that the apex court extends time to conclude the investigations by at least six months. The apex court, in an order passed on March 2, had set a deadline to submit a status report on May 2, while asking Sebi to expeditiously conclude the investigation and file a status report. Sebi said that replies and documents/information received from the companies would require

reconfirmation and reconciliation, as well as independent verification. "The applicant/SEBI also respectfully submits that in respect of the investigation/examination relating to 12 suspicious transactions, prima facie it is noted that these transactions are complex and have many sub-transactions and a rigorous investigation of these transactions would require collation of data/information from various sources along with detailed analysis, including verification of submissions made by the companies," the application said. It also said that this analysis would include detailed examination of the following: Financial statements of listed entities and unlisted entities; financial statements of offshore entities involved in the transactions; disclosures filed with the stock exchanges including annual reports, balance sheets, quarterly financial state-

ments and other event-based disclosures; minutes of the meetings of their board of directors and audit committee, wherever applicable; bank statements of the concerned entities for the relevant period (the allegations span over a 10 year period); connections/relations are amongst entities, both domestic and overseas; and, contracts and agreements, if any, entered between the entities along with other supporting documents. "The applicant/SEBI further submits that this process of seeking bank statements from the offshore banks would entail taking assistance from offshore regulators, which may be time consuming and challenging. The applicant/SEBI submits that only thereafter, analysis would have to be conducted for the voluminous bank statements," said the application. Sebi said that as is the case in most investigations, every layer of information received often leads to further layers of information that are required, sought, obtained and analysed and this process is particularly time consuming where there is a complex web of transactions. In its order passed on March 2, the Supreme Court had announced an expert committee to examine India's investor protection framework in response to petitions following the crash in Adani Group securities against the backdrop of the Hindenburg Research report released in January. The Adani Group had rejected the report. The apex court had noted that it appears that Sebi is seized of the investigation into the allegations levelled against the Adani Group companies.

Protesting wrestlers receive copy of 1 FIR lodged against WFI chief

The Delhi Police will provide security to seven wrestlers, including a minor, who have come forward with allegations of sexual exploitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, said an official.

Won't resign: Brij Bhushan

"Resignation is not a big deal but I am not a criminal. If I resign, it will mean that I have accepted their (wrestlers') allegations. My tenure is almost over (next month). The government has formed a three-member committee and elections will be held in 45 days and my term will end after the elections."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Saturday said that a copy of one of the two FIRs lodged against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who is accused of sexual harassment, has been handed over to the top grapplers who are protesting at the Jantar Mantar here. On Friday evening, the police have registered the FIRs against the WFI president in response to the allegations made by the women wrestlers. However, the copy of the other FIR registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has not been given to the wrestlers as it will be given only to the victim's family, the police added. The wrestlers, led by Vinesh Phogat, had reached the Connaught Place police station on Saturday morning. On Friday, Delhi Police had informed the Supreme Court that they will register an FIR and in the evening, two FIRs allegedly were finally registered against the outgoing WFI chief in connection with the sexual harassment allegations made by women wrestlers. Investigation into both the FIRs is being taken up in right earnest, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, Pranav Tayal said.



Priyanka, Kejriwal joins protesting wrestlers

New Delhi: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday visited the wrestlers protesting against WFI chief. Priyanka Gandhi accused the Centre of "protecting" the outgoing WFI chief. Speaking to reporters, the Congress leader said, "I don't have any expectations from the Prime Minister, because if he had been concerned about these wrestlers, then he would have at least called them and spoken with them. He had called them for tea when they won medals. So, call them, talk to them, they are our girls. There are serious allegations against this person, he should first resign and be removed from the post." Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also met the wrestlers protesting at the Jantar Mantar and urged people to come forward and support the athletes. Kejriwal said, "Regardless of political affiliation, be it the BJP, Congress or AAP, all those who love the country should support the protesting wrestlers. While we will provide them with all the necessary support, I appeal to the Central government to refrain from cutting off basic facilities such as water and electricity."

Mukhtar Ansari gets 10-year jail term in MLA murder case

Ghazipur: The MP-MLA court in Ghazipur on Saturday sentenced gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to 10 years in jail for the kidnap and murder of BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Ansari. Mukhtar Ansari, who's lodged in Banda Jail, was presented through video conferencing. In 2005, seven people, including Krishnanand Rai, were murdered in Basaniya Chatti under the Muhammadabad police station. In 2007, a case was filed under Gangsters Act against Ansari brothers in connection with the kidnapping and murder of Rai. Apart from the Rai murder case, there is also a case of kidnapping and murder of Nandkishore Rungta against Mukhtar Ansari.



ED raids BYJU's; claims it remitted Rs 9,754 cr to foreign jurisdictions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted search and seizure operations at three premises of Raveendran Byju and his company 'Think & Learn Private Limited' in Bengaluru under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), an official said on Saturday. The company runs a popular online education portal by the name of BYJU's. During the searches, various incriminating documents and digital data were seized. "FEMA searches also revealed that the company has received foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs 28,000 crore between 2011 and 2023. Further, the company has also remitted Rs 9,754 crore to various foreign jurisdictions during the same period in the name of overseas direct investment," said the official. According to the ED, the company



has booked around Rs 944 crore in the name of advertisement and marketing expenses, including the amount remitted to foreign jurisdiction. It alleged that the company has not prepared its financial statements since financial year 2020-21 and has not got the accounts audited which is mandatory. Meanwhile, BYJU's legal team spokesperson said that the recent visit by officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to one of their offices in Bangalore was related to a routine inquiry under FEMA.

Delhi court extends Sisodia's ED custody in excise policy case

New Delhi: A court here on Saturday extended former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia's custody till May 8 in connection with the excise policy case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). On Friday, Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Court had denied bail to Sisodia holding that the evidence, prima facie, "speaks volumes" of his involvement in commission of the offence. The judge had also said that the purported medical condition of Sisodia's wife was not a reason to grant him bail in this case. Additionally, he stated that it was impossible to rule out the potential of Sisodia influencing key witnesses in the case. The judge noted that the alleged offence against Sisodia was a "serious economic offence of money laundering" and that he has not been accused of committing the offence in his personal capacity, but rather in his official capacity as a public servant overseeing the Excise Ministry and serving as Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister. On Thursday, the same court extended Sisodia's judicial custody till May 12, in the case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

25 per cent Mumbai Metro fare concession from May 1

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Citizens aged above 65 years, 'divyang' (disabled) persons and students up to Class 12 can avail of a 25 per cent concession in the fares of Mumbai Metro - Line 2A and 7 - from May 1, celebrated as Maharashtra Day, said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday. A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said that the benefit will be extended to thousands of holders of the National Common Mobility Card (Mumbai One). The discount will be given on Mumbai One passes for 45 or 60 trips, it said. Shinde called the move a gift to Mumbai residents from Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Ltd (MMMOCL), which operates and maintains Metro Lines 2A and 7, and the



Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). Metro 2A (yellow line) connects Dahisar E and DN Nagar in Andheri West, while line 7 runs between Andheri E and Dahisar E (red line). To avail of the concession, divyang persons will need to submit valid documents like medical or government certificates for disability, while senior citizens will have to provide age proof. Students will have to show their or their parent's PAN card along with school ID to be eligible for the concession, said the statement. These documents can be shown at any ticket window on the Line 2A and 7 route, it said. Shinde said his government has made travel free for senior citizens on state transport buses, while women can avail of a 50 per cent concession in bus fares.

Defamation Case: Gujarat HC to resume hearing Rahul Gandhi's appeal on May 2

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court said on Saturday that it will resume hearing the appeal of Congress leader and former MP Rahul Gandhi against his conviction in a criminal defamation case on May 2. Rahul Gandhi was convicted in March by a metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat for making a remark about the 'Modi surname' during campaigning in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The matter is being heard by Justice Hemant Prachchhak after Justice Geeta Gopi recused herself from the case. Senior Congress leader and lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi is appearing on Rahul Gandhi's behalf.



Rahul Gandhi had filed a criminal revision application in the Gujarat High Court challenging the order of the Surat sessions court declining a stay on his conviction. He was sentenced to two years in jail, which led to the disqualification of his Lok Sabha membership. If the high court allows his plea, it could pave the way for Rahul Gandhi's reinstatement as a Member of Parliament. After his conviction, the Congress was granted bail and given 30 days to file an appeal.

ChatGPT shows better empathy to patients than doctors

- There has been widespread speculation about how advances in artificial intelligence (AI) assistants like ChatGPT could be used in medicine.
- The study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, compared written responses from physicians and those from ChatGPT to real-world health questions.
- A panel of licensed health care professionals preferred ChatGPT's responses 79 per cent of the time and rated ChatGPT's responses as higher quality and more empathetic.

NEW YORK | Agencies

ChatGPT outperforms physicians in providing high-quality, empathetic advice to patient questions, according to a study. "The opportunities for improving health care with AI are massive," said John W. Ayers from the Qualcomm Institute within the University of California San Diego. "AI-augmented care is the future of medicine," he added. In the new study, the research team set out to answer the question: Can ChatGPT respond accurately to questions patients send to their doctors? If yes, AI models could be integrated into health systems to improve physician responses to questions sent by patients and ease the ever-increasing burden on physicians. "ChatGPT might be able to pass a medical licensing exam," said Dr. Davey Smith, a physician-scientist, co-director of the UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute, "but directly answering patient questions accurately and empathetically is a different ballgame."



According to researchers, while Covid-19 pandemic accelerated virtual health care adoption, making accessing care easier for patients, physicians are burdened by a barrage of electronic patient messages seeking medical advice that have contributed to record-breaking levels of physician burnout. To understand how ChatGPT can help, the team randomly

sampled 195 exchanges from Reddit's AskDocs where a verified physician responded to a public question. The team provided the original question to ChatGPT and asked it to author a response. A panel of three licensed health care professionals assessed each question and the corresponding responses and were blinded to whether the response originated from a

physician or ChatGPT. They compared responses based on information quality and empathy, noting which one they preferred. The panel of health care professional evaluators preferred ChatGPT responses to physician responses 79 per cent of the time. ChatGPT messages responded with nuanced and accurate information that often addressed more aspects of the patient's questions than physician responses, the study showed. Additionally, ChatGPT responses were rated significantly higher in quality than physician responses: good or very good quality responses were 3.6 times higher for ChatGPT than physicians. The responses were also more empathetic: empathetic or very empathetic responses were 9.8 times higher for ChatGPT than for physicians. However, the team said, the ultimate solution is not throwing your doctor out altogether. "Instead, a physician harnessing ChatGPT is the answer for better and empathetic care," said Adam Poliak, an assistant professor of Computer Science at Bryn Mawr College.



COURT REJECTS MADHYA PRADESH GOVT'S PLEA TO WITHDRAW 11-YR-OLD CASE AGAINST EX-MLA

A special court has rejected the Madhya Pradesh government's plea to withdraw an 11-year-old criminal case against former MLA Raghuraj Singh Kansana.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Last week, the state's Home Department had agreed to withdraw the 2012 case against the Gwalior-based BJP leader, who is accused of attempt to murder, obstructing public servant in discharging duties and voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant and dacoity.

While hearing the matter, Special Judge of the Gwalior District Court Sushil Kumar Joshi noted that the case involves serious offences, including rescuing criminals from the police custody.

"Hearing of the case is at the final stage, therefore, allowing its withdrawal would neither be in the interest of law nor public," the

court's order said.

In May 2012 when Kansana was the Morena panchayat chairman (then with Congress), a team of Delhi Police had arrived in the district to arrest his brother Sanjeev Singh Kansana in a non-bailable warrant issued by a court in the national capital.

After the Delhi Police took Sanjeev to the Morena City Kotwali, Raghuraj Singh Kansana and his aides freed him from custody and allegedly opened fire at the police team. In response, the Madhya Pradesh Police booked Raghuraj Singh Kansana and aides under IPC sections 307, 186, 353, 332, 224, 225, 398 (attempt to murder, obstructing public servant in discharging duties and voluntarily causing hurt to a

public servant and dacoity) and also provisions of the MP Dacoity and Kidnapping Affected Areas Act.

However, this is not the first time when Madhya Pradesh government attempted to withdraw the case against Raghuraj Singh Kansana.

In 2018 when he was elected as Congress MLA from the Morena seat, then then Kamal Nath-led government proposed to withdraw the case.

However, the state's law department in 2020 conveyed its disagreement to the Home Department.

Few months later, the Madhya Pradesh Congress suffered a major political jolt when Jyotiraditya Scindia along with 22 MLAs, including Raghuraj Singh Kansana, shifted to the BJP.

Infant dies on mother's lap after ambulance arrives 3 hrs late

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A six-month-old infant has died due to the unavailability of an ambulance in the Datia district of Madhya Pradesh.

The death of a severely ill infant in the lap of his helpless mother at a community health centre (CHC) allegedly due to unavailability of ambulance has exposed the condition of public health services once again in Madhya Pradesh.

According to reports, a Scheduled Caste woman Renu Jatav, a resident of Baderi village, rushed her child to the Indergarh CHC at 11 a.m. on Thursday.

As the infant was suffering from acute pneumonic symptoms, the doctors present at the CHC referred the child to the Datia district hospital after preliminary treatment.



The helpless mother kept waiting for '108 Ambulance' for more than three hours despite the doctors repeatedly making phone calls.

It was more shocking that there were two ambulances (funded out of the MLA Local Area Development Fund) parked at the CHC, but their services weren't reportedly provided to the hapless mother, as she couldn't afford to pay the bill.

After repeated phone calls, 108 ambulance arrived after three hours, but till then the child had died in her mother's lap. Renu, the mother of the deceased child, blamed

the inadequate treatment at the CHC and delay in ambulance behind her child's death.

Taking cognisance of the matter, a team headed by the SDM, district's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), local police station in-charge and tehsildar was sent by Datia District Collector to the Indergarh CHC on Friday to investigate the entire incident.

The team recorded statements of all stakeholders of Thursday's incident. Based on the recorded statements of all stakeholders, the enquiry team will fix responsibility for the alleged negligence. Asked about the delay in arrival of 108 Ambulance, Datia CMHO R. B. Kurele, said, "There is clear cut government protocol to first call on priority the free '108 Ambulance' at the earliest for a patient.

The family members celebrated the birthday of the infants by planting saplings with the Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of neem, guava and jamun in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. On the birthday of boy Abhijit Singh Pawar, his family members Abhijit Singh Pawar, Ajay Singh Pawar, Shailendra Singh Pawar, Vidya Singh Pawar and Cheshtha Singh Pawar planted saplings. On the birthday of girl child Nitya Ahirwar, her parents Pratiksha Ahirwar and Sunil Ahirwar planted saplings. Ritesh Singh Chauhan, Bharat Singh, Bhairavlal Ahirwar and Abhishek Malviya also participated in the plantation along with the Chief Minister.



4th Integrated Toxicology Session (ITS) held at AIIMS Bhopal with the theme "Celphos"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 4th Integrated Toxicology Session (ITS) with the theme "Celphos" was held on 28th April, 2023 at AIIMS Bhopal. The multidisciplinary event is the latest iteration in the esteemed ITS sessions scheduled quarterly (every 3 months). The guest speaker, Dr Vivekanshu Verma, from Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, working in the field of clinical toxicology for years, author of several books on toxicology was invited for sharing his experience of treating celphos poisoning patients. Celphos is a commercially available rodenticide and insecticide with a high prevalence of poisoning in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab amongst the people involved



in agricultural work.

Participants from various departments of the institute including Medicine, Pharmacology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine & Toxicology expressed their views during various

presentations organized in a brisk jam packed session of about 3 hours on the fateful Friday evening, in discussions on Celphos.

Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Niranjan Sahoo, Asst. Prof, FMT, was

extended to all in attendance and Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal who has praised these sessions in the past and encouraged such types of integrated events in furthering the awareness of poisons, their management and creating a critical mass of advocates for development of registries and other preventative measures.

Studies ranging from basic research to clinical cases of medical management, from homicidal to accidental deaths, rare manifestations of poisonings, insights into the psychological aspects of suicidal trends of deaths, the technology to manage and monitor the poisoning and other topics of medico-legal significance were disseminated.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY ORGANIZED AT SANT HIRDARAM GIRLS COLLEGE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On 29th April 2023, Saturday Prize Distribution Ceremony was organized by Literary Committee in joint association with Traffic Police, Bhopal and NGO Kunjal Welfare Society for the Essay Writing Competition on the topic Role of public transport in safe and smooth traffic. The objective behind organizing this essay writing competition was to encourage and enhance the critical writing skills of the students which also helps them in systemizing their thoughts and improving communication skills.

Dr. Dalima Parwani, Principal congratulated the winners and the participants of the competition and said that it provides an opportunity to voice their ideas. She further added that the pen is mightier than sword and essay writing is a very sensitive form of self-expression. It is a harmonious blending of



thoughts and expressions.

27 students from different streams participated with full zeal and enthusiasm. The medium of expression was Hindi and English. The essay was judged on their con-

tent, organization, relevance to the theme, and novelty of ideas.

Reading the essays was an enriching experience for all the jury members.

Pragya Gupta secured first posi-

tion, Deepika Inda, second position and third position was bestowed to Ms. Pooja Vishwakarma. Prizes were given to the winners and certificates were handed over to all the participants.

Dr. Neha Gupta, Coordinator of Literary Committee expressed her gratitude towards the Principal, DCP Traffic Police, Bhopal, NGO Kunjal Welfare Society, Management and students for successfully conducting the competition and prize distribution. She laid emphasis on organizing such competitions as they encourage the youth to recognize their ownership and responsibility as they are the creators of the future policy making and by providing them a choice to express their views on the type of World they wish to create.

The Management appreciated the commendable efforts of Literary Committee and extended best wishes for future endeavours.

Agri Tech Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Workshop Conducted at SISTec

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sagar Group's Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) Ratibad conducted a one-day agri-tech workshop at its campus today. The workshop was organized by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell under the Central Government's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan initiative. The workshop's purpose was to encourage agri-tech in dairy farming with agriculture and rural development using scientific and engineering approaches. Dr. Prashant P. Yogi, a distinguished expert with 32 years of experience in agri-tech was the keynote speaker for the day. In his



address, Dr. Yogi discussed various aspects of agri-tech and shared solutions for technologies in dairy farming highlighting entrepreneurship. The workshop also witnessed the presence of stakeholders from public repre-

sentatives, and farmers of Ratibad, Tilakhedi, Sarvar, Nandni, and Badjhiri. Dr. Manish Billore, Principal SISTec-R thanked the speaker for his valuable contribution to making students aware of agri-tech skills.

WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER HUSBAND STOPS HER FROM GOING TO BEAUTY PARLOUR

Indore: A 34-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide in Indore in Madhya Pradesh after her husband stopped her from going to a beauty parlour, a police official said on Friday.

The woman hanged herself in her home in Scheme Number 51 area of the city on Thursday, Sub Inspector Umashankar Yadav said. "Her husband has told us he stopped her from going to a beauty parlour and she hanged herself from a fan in a fit of rage. Post mortem has been carried out and the case is being probed from all angles," Yadav added.

DISTANCE EDUCATION SHOULD BECOME A MEDIUM OF SELF-RELIANCE: GOVERNOR PATEL

Smart learning tools should be developed in distance education in regional languages. Governor inaugurates two-day national conference of Bhoj University

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that distance education should become a medium of self-reliance. Necessary cooperation should be provided by the educational and training institutes in the placement of students of vocational and employment-oriented courses. In this regard the possibilities of distance education system should be discussed in the conference. He said that the basis of education and training courses should be according to the needs of employment, business and industry. Quality education should be made available in distance learning for making efficient, proficient and skill upgradation in knowledge science, technology, academic field. The combination of courses should also be done with the participation of experts of repute in the respective field, subject and distance learning method.

Governor Patel inaugurated the two-day national conference of Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University, Bhopal today at R.C.M.P. Noronha was addressing at the Academy of Administration and Management. The conference was held to discuss the topic "National Education Policy-2020 Implementation: Open and Distance Education, Perspectives, Opportunities and Challenges for Educational Institutions". The Governor was presented with souvenirs of the conference, the books Adapting "ICT to DINEP-2020 in Higher Education" and "Library and Information Service in New Normal" and Tulsi plant, shawl, quince, mementoes in the programme.

Governor Patel said that it is necessary for the expansion of distance education system that language should not become a barrier in the development of



knowledge and skills, for this smart learning tools will have to be developed in distance education in regional languages. He said that distance education can become an effective tool in efforts to increase access to education and make it student-friendly in a state like Madhya Pradesh with vast territory. Distance education can be decisive in including remote, rural areas,

deprived classes, scheduled castes, tribes, women and other backward classes in the mainstream. He said that there is immense scope for expansion of distance education system in making education personalized. The need is to make the system student friendly. The arrangements should be such that the deprived sections, women, Be tailored to the needs of the poor and

the residents of remote areas. According to the need of the student, it is also necessary to provide teaching material through artificial intelligence. Patel said that instead of considering all the students of the course as equal, education should be arranged keeping in view the social, economic and geographical conditions. It is necessary that the courses of open and distance education should provide essential professional skills and knowledge to the students. The basis of teaching-training should be according to the needs of employment, business and industry. Apart from making them skilled and efficient in the field of knowledge, science, technology, academics, students should also get opportunities for skill upgradation in distance learning. Education should be arranged keeping in view the geographical conditions. It is necessary that the courses of open and distance education should provide essential professional skills and knowledge to the students. The basis of teaching-training should be according to the needs of employment, business and industry.

Apart from making them skilled and efficient in the field of knowledge, science, technology, academics, students should also get opportunities for skill upgradation in distance learning. Education should be arranged keeping in view the geographical conditions. It is necessary that the courses of open and distance education should provide essential professional skills and knowledge to the students.

The basis of teaching-training should be according to the needs of employment, business and industry. Apart from making them skilled and efficient in the field of knowledge, science, technology, academics, students should also get opportunities for skill upgradation in distance learning.

Kylie is Jenner worried Kardashians' 'beauty standards' will harm her daughter

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kylie Jenner has voiced concerns about her family's "beauty standards" in a new episode of 'The Kardashians'.

The make-up mogul has said that she doesn't want her daughter to follow her footsteps, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"All of us just need to have a bigger conversation about the beauty standards that we're setting. I don't want my daughter to do the things I did," said Kylie, who has Stormi, five, and Aire, 14 months, with Travis Scott.

In the trailer, Kylie doesn't go into detail about her beauty choices. However, she recently confessed to having had lip fillers.

Speaking to *HommeGirls*, Kylie shared: "I think a big misconception about me is that I've had so much surgery on my face and that I was some insecure person, and I really wasn't! Yeah, I love full lips and wanted full lips, but growing up I was always the most confident person in the room. I was the girl performing for everyone."

Kylie confessed to feeling insecure about her lips. Despite this, the reality star insisted she doesn't regret having fillers. She said: "I had my one lip insecurity thing, so I got lip filler, and it was the best thing I've ever done. I don't regret it. But I always thought I was cute."

Meanwhile, Kylie also recently described make-up as a form of "self-expression."

The reality star - who has enjoyed huge success with her Kylie Cosmetics brand - told *People*: "I really see make-up as a form of self-expression."



NEXT SUPERMAN HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO HAS ALL THE HUMANITY: JAMES GUNN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker James Gunn said that his upcoming DC Studios movie, 'Superman: Legacy' hasn't found its leading man just yet but the production is considering "some really great choices."

On the red carpet for Marvel's 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3', MCU actors, Pom Klementieff and Will Poulter also teased whether or not they'd join the director for his upcoming DC movie.

Gunn said exactly what he is looking for his Clark Kent, reports *Variety*.

"The next Superman has to be someone who has all the humanity that Superman has but he's also an alien," Gunn told *Variety*'s Marc Malkin. "It's gotta be somebody who has the kindness and the compassion that Superman has and be somebody who you want to give a hug. As for whether or not Gunn is recruiting 'Guardians' star Chris Pratt for the role, he said: "It's not Chris Pratt. If he was a few years younger, maybe."

The DC Studios co-head announced in December that he was writing the upcoming feature, and in March he was then confirmed as the 'Superman: Legacy' director. He recently revealed that



"costumes, production design and more are now up and running."

Klementieff, who plays Mantis in the 'Guardians' movies, said that she's talking to Gunn about crossing over to DC world. "We've had conversations and were making plans already. But nothing is confirmed yet." She has her eye on one character, but said she can't reveal who it is "just that she's always" thought the character was fucking cool. "Though Klementieff may be joining Gunn for 'Superman: Legacy,' MCU newcomer Poulter intends to stay with Marvel. He revealed he hasn't even thought about auditioning as Gunn's Superman. "Not until just now," chuckled Poulter. "No, I'm very grateful to be in this for the period of time that I am. Grateful for that alone."



After 'Guardians Vol. 3', Zoe Saldana won't return to play Gamora

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Zoe Saldana is done playing Gamora in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

While speaking with *The Hollywood Reporter* for a cover story on filmmaker James Gunn and the development of the *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie series, Saldana, reaffirmed that she will no longer play the character after *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* releases on May 5, reports *People*.

"I don't think this is the end for the *Guardians*," the actress said, noting that she originally only expected to portray Gamora for the property's original 2014 movie. "It is the end for me, for Gamora."

The article covers how Saldana and co-stars Chris Pratt, Karen Gillan and Dave Bautista and more actors supported director Gunn during his months-long estrangement from Marvel after he was fired from future *Guardians* movies in 2018. He was later reinstated in 2019. In the piece, Saldana, who reportedly visited Gunn at his home in the wake of his firing, said she gave a speech thanking the *Guardians* crew on her last day of filming for the new movie.

"I thanked James for just his time and his patience and his guidance and his friendship," she told the outlet.

'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3' releases May 5.



ANNE-MARIE IS INSPIRED BY HER 'LOVE OF MUSICAL THEATRE' IN THE NEW ALBUM

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Anne-Marie has reportedly been inspired by her love of musical theatre, and specifically 'I'd Do Anything' from 'Oliver!' on her new album.

The singer is said to have finished work on her upcoming third record - the follow-up to 2012's 'Therapy' - and has seemingly channelled 'I'd Do Anything' from the iconic musical 'Oliver!' on one of the songs after appearing on the West End when she was younger, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

A source told *The Sun* newspaper's bizarre column: "Anne-Marie has been working really hard on this album for the best part of two years and is super proud of the record. "Like with 'Therapy', lyrically it's been inspired by her own experiences but the sound has advanced."

"One track is a nod to her musical theatre days and inspired by 'I'd Do Anything.'"

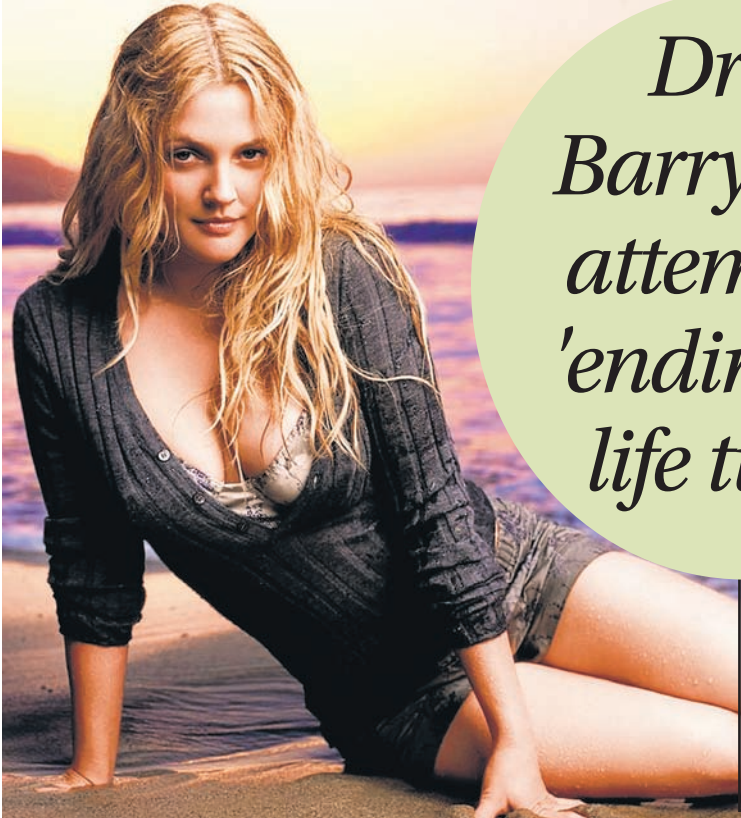
Anne-Marie previously admitted her experience in musical theatre meant it was a shock when she got signed to her first record deal aged just 17.

She told *TimeOut* magazine: "I was like: 'what the f*** is this world?' I was so invested in musical theatre, when you become other people and sing other people's songs."

"Then, all of a sudden, it was like: 'Who do you want to be? What music do you want to make? What do you stand for?'" I don't f***** know. I'm still figuring that s*** out." Despite the demands of fame and life as a

Top 40 artist, Anne-Marie has remained self aware and learned to shrug off people who might dismiss her music for being "just pop." She added: "I could have only sung songs written by someone else. But it doesn't bother me if people don't see I tried really hard at writing a song."

"If they don't appreciate it, I don't get mad. As long as I know that I'm speaking my truth and that it could touch one person, then I'll do it."



Drew Barrymore attempted 'ending her life twice'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Drew Barrymore got candid about going through her darkest time. When discussing suicidal thoughts with Madison Beer on 'The Drew Barrymore Show', she said that she tried to end her life twice.

She made the honest confession after her guest shared her own story.

The singer first explained: "I feel like I was sort of putting on this facade and living this role I had been assigned for so long and it all caught up to me one day and then one day turned into weeks and months and, honestly, I feel like it was at least year that I was always in this sort of, like, suicidal ideation mindset."

"It felt very normal to me to think about that at the end of every day, and then that wasn't until I ended up actually making an attempt," Madison further noted. "It was, thankfully, obviously unsuccessful."

"I don't know, it just all became too much. I wasn't successful and I want to do something with that," Madison continued. "I want to be able to say I made the choice to live and, what am I gonna do now? What does that mean?" Barrymore later stated that she could relate to Madison because she also attempted to "end her life twice."

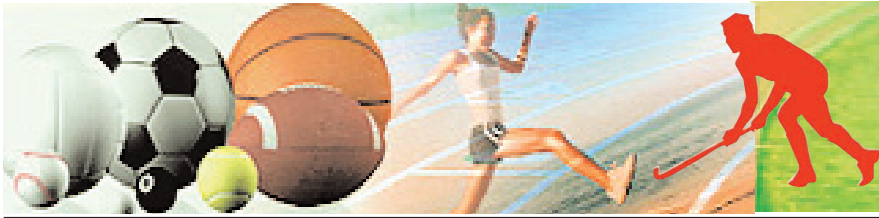
She said: "Everybody struggles, so I related on levels that are difficult to talk about and I want to thank you because you're discussing stuff right now that I want to make you feel safe about because I've been there."

Drew, who made her acting debut at the age of five in 1980's 'Altered States', has been open about her struggle with mental health. She was 13 when her mother admitted her to the Van Nuys Psychiatric Hospital near Los Angeles, California, for an 18-month stay.

"I was a real wild child and I just got so out of control that no one knew what to do with me," Drew recalled when revisiting the facility in 2021. "They drove me here in the middle of the night and they walked me through those two doors and when you go through those two doors you do not come out."



Emily Miller



IPL 2023

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD BEAT DELHI CAPITALS BY 9 RUNS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mitchell Marsh's all-round performance (4-27 and 63 off 39) went in vain as Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by nine runs in Match No. 40 of IPL 2023 at Arun Jaitley Stadium, here on Saturday. Brilliant attacking fifties by Abhishek Sharma (67 off 36) and Heinrich Klaasen (53 off 27) propelled Sunrisers Hyderabad to 197-6 against Delhi Capitals despite Mitchell Marsh's four-fer (4-27). Apart from Abhishek and Klaasen, most of the SRH batters struggled to get going as the team lost wickets at regular intervals. On the other hand, barring Marsh, who bowled a maiden and bagged four wickets, none of the DC bowlers made a mark. In reply, the likes of Marsh and Phil Salt (59 off 35) smashed the fifties and lower down the order, Axar Patel (29 off 14) also tried his best but it was not enough as Delhi suffered their sixth defeat of the sea-



son. Chasing a big total, Delhi Capitals lost the wicket of skipper David Warner in the very first over of the innings bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a two-ball duck.

It was again Markande, who brought SRH back in the game by removing the dangerous Salt. His spin partners Abhishek and Akeal then got rid of Manish Pandey

(1) and big fish Marsh in quick succession. Youngsters Priyam Garg (12) and Sarfaraz Khan (9) also failed to grab the opportunity as Delhi were left struggling to 148-6 after 16.5 overs. With 49 needed off 18 balls, Delhi had hopes from all-rounder Axar Patel and Ripal Patel and both did well to collect 14 runs from Bhuvneshwar to bring down the equation to 35 runs off 12 balls. But Natarajan bowled an excellent over and gave away just nine runs. Delhi Capitals needed 26 runs off the last over to win and seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar gave 16 runs to ensure the win for SRH.

Brief scores

Sunrisers Hyderabad 197/6 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 67, Heinrich Klaasen 53; Mitchell Marsh 4-27) beat Delhi Capitals 188/6 in 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 63, Philip Salt; Mayank Markande 2-20) by 9 runs.

Vijay Shankar, Noor, Little star in powering Gujarat to 7 wicket win



Kolkata | Agencies

Noor Ahmed and Joshua Little were impressive in taking two wickets in middle overs while Vijay Shankar stepped up at the right time to overcome a scare in middle overs and smash a blazing 51 off just 24 balls to lead Gujarat Titans to top of the IPL 2023 points table with a seven-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on Saturday. Post the play starting after 45 minutes of rain delay, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, com-

ing in for an injured Jason Roy, slammed a scintillating 39-ball 81, laced with five fours and seven sixes. But apart from Andre Russell, the birthday boy, smashing a 19-ball 34, with two fours and three sixes, no other batter stepped up as Kolkata made 179/7. In reply, at 98/3 in 12 overs, after Shubman Gill fell for 49, chasing 180 seemed far-fetched for Gujarat. But for a team that has carved a reputation for acing chases, Shankar started the turnaround by slamming two fours and five sixes while sharing a decisive match-

winning partnership of 87 runs in just 6.3 overs with David Miller, who was unbeaten on 32, to win with 13 balls to spare.

Brief scores

Kolkata Knight Riders 179/7 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 81, Andre Russell 34; Mohammed Shami 3-33, Noor Ahmad 2-21) lost to Gujarat Titans 180/3 in 17.5 overs (Vijay Shankar 51 not out, Shubman Gill 49; Sunil Narine 1-24, Harshit Rana 1-25) by 7 wickets.

Bundesliga

Bochum secured a 1-1 draw over Dortmund

Berlin | Agencies

Front-runners Borussia Dortmund missed the chance to extend their lead atop the standings as stubborn Bochum secured a 1-1 draw in the curtain raiser of the 30th round of Bundesliga. The hosts caught a fairy tale start on home soil as Anthony Losilla unleashed a hammer from 17 meters into the top left corner to break the deadlock with only five minutes played, reports Xinhua. Dortmund remained unimpressed and restored parity two minutes later when Sebastian Haller squared the ball into the path of Karim Adeyemi, who beat Bochum goalkeeper Manuel Riemann from close range.



Bochum remained on the front foot as Takuma Asano tested Dortmund custodian Gregor Kobel with all time and space in the 12th minute. Both sides continued to exchange attacks as Jude Bellingham forced Riemann into action inside the box in the 26th minute before Asano's shot from a promising position got blocked for a corner nine minutes later. The BVB increased the pressure after the restart, but they couldn't overcome Riemann, who defused the dangerous shot from

Youssef Moukoko in the 75th minute before neutralizing Bellingham's well-placed shot with a diving save two minutes later. The visitors thought they had eventually taken the lead, but Mats Hummels' header was ruled offside in the 90th minute. Dortmund kept it bowling but couldn't snatch a win as Bochum's defense stood firm and wrapped up a vital point in the relegation battle. "The first half may have been entertaining for the spectators but for me as a coach, it was a nightmare. The second half was a battle for us. It is hard to keep a quality team like Dortmund at bay, but my boys did well. It is a lucky but important stalemate for us," said Bochum coach Thomas Letsch.

Chinese pair wins mixed doubles at WTT Star Contender Bangkok

Bangkok | Agencies

China's Lin Gaoyuan and Chen Xingtong rallied from two games down to win the mixed doubles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Star Contender 2023 here. Lin and Chen were trailing by 0-5 in the third game after losing the previous two against Lim Jong-hoon and Shin Yu-bin of South Korea, but turned the tide and forced the match into the decider before they won by 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-8, reports Xinhua.



Both Lin and Chen returned later for the semifinals of men's singles and women's singles. Chen went through another five-game thriller 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-4 against Adriana Diaz from Puerto Rico to advance to her third final of the tournament after women's doubles and the mixed finals. Lin had an easier match in the men's singles semifinal when he strolled past teammate Yuan Lichen in three straight sets and also secured his third berth for finals in the tournaments.

Satwik/Chirag make history for India, reach final

Dubai | Agencies

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian duo since Dinesh Khanna in singles in 1965 to enter the final of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Saturday. The Indian duo sealed a spot in the summit clash after their opponents, the Tokyo Olympic champions Chinese Taipei's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin, retired midway through the second game of their semifinal clash. The 22-year-old Satwiksairaj Rankireddy from Amalapuram in Andhra

Pradesh and the 25-year-old Mumbai-born Chirag Shetty had won the first game 21-18 and were going neck-and-neck with their Chinese Taipei opponents at 13-14 when Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin withdrew, giving them a walkover. The Indian duo had themselves assured a medal after 52 years in the men's doubles category when they got the better of Indonesia's experienced duo Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in straight games 21-11, 21-12 in the quarterfinals. Chirag and Satwik are the lone Indians remaining in the fray in the Asian Championships.

India have thus far won only one gold in the Asian Championships since it was initiated in 1962 – the gold won by Dinesh Khanna in men's singles in 1965. Satwik and Chirag will be hoping to bag the second gold for India in this mega event. Apart from the gold won by Dinesh Khanna, India has won 17 bronze medals in various categories in the Badminton Asia Championships since 1962. Whatever medal they win on Sunday will be the biggest medal in their career. The Indian duo have won five titles on the BWF World Tour and have twice finished runners-up.

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the Round of 16 at the Madrid Open after defeating Colombia's Camila Osorio 6-4, 7-5 on Saturday. A champion in 2019, Sabalenka will face either Magda Linette or Mirra Andreeva for a spot in the quarterfinals. Coming off a strong 6-4, 6-3 wins over Sorana Cirstea in her opening round, Sabalenka held off a spirited challenge from Osorio. Now ranked No.115 and coming off a one-month injury break, Osorio made good on her main-draw wild card to



advance to the third round of Madrid for the first time. Sabalenka's power game ultimately proved too tough to solve for Osorio. After falling behind an early break at 3-1, Osorio gamely battled her way back into the match. She fended off two break points to close the gap to 3-2 and then, with the Spanish crowd behind her, the 22-year-old broke Sabalenka to level the first set. Sabalenka quickly settled her-

self after her error-prone stretch. She broke Osorio for a second time to lead 5-4 and held her nerve in a deuce game to serve out the opening set. With a set in the pocket, the reigning Australian Open champion clinically moved through the early stages of the second set. After Sabalenka built a double-break lead at 4-1, Osorio took a medical timeout to assess her left hip and leg. On the resumption, Osorio broke Sabalenka for the first time in the set and closed the deficit to 4-3. Osorio continued her march towards a comeback, breaking Sabalenka again as she served for the match at 5-4.

MEDVEDEV STARTS HIS CAMPAIGN WITH WIN AGAINST VAVASSORI

Madrid (Spain) | World No. 3 Daniil Medvedev made a rock-solid start to his Madrid Open campaign with a 6-4, 6-3 win against Italian qualifier Andrea Vavassori on Saturday. Medvedev stayed patient against the World No. 164 Vavassori, notching a late break of serve in each set to complete an 82-minute triumph. With the win, Medvedev improved to 2-3 in Madrid, where he also reached the third round in 2021. Despite frequently acknowledging he does not feel his most comfortable on clay, the 19-time tour-level titlist hopes his opening victory can be the foundation for a bigger run in the Spanish capital. The 27-year-old is now 32-4 for the year. He is chasing his fifth tour-level trophy of the season in Madrid, where he now prepares for a third-round clash against another qualifier, Alexander Shevchenko.



Men's World Boxing Championships

HUSSAMUDDIN AND SHIVA THAPA TO LEAD TEAM INDIA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two-time Commonwealth Games medallists Mohammad Hussamuddin and World and Asian Championships medal-winner Shiva Thapa will lead the Indian challenge in the Men's World Boxing Championships scheduled to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 30- May 14. The draw ceremony will take place on Sunday and the bouts will start from May 1. Hussamuddin and Shiva Thapa will lead the 13-member Indian team in the Men's World Boxing Championships. The 29-year-old Hussamuddin, the youngest of six brothers, four of whom are boxers, won bronze medals in the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games. In Tashkent, he will be competing in the men's 57 kg category and will be a medal contender. Shiva Thapa, who won bronze in the 2015 World Championship in Doha, is the most successful boxer in the Asian Championships with one gold, three silver and two bronze



medals in his kitty. In Tashkent, Shiva will be hoping to emulate his gold in the 2013 Asian Championships in Amman, in the 63.5 kg category. Govind Sahani, silver medallist in the 74th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Bulgaria and a gold medallist in the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament,

will be India's competitor in the men's 48kg in the event being organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA). Sahani will be playing in his second World Championships in the upcoming tournament and will be looking to be among the medal winners. The 2021 World Youth

Championship gold medallist Sachin Siwach will be competing in the 54kg weight category having come back strongly and won gold in the Nationals after missing the Asian Championship in Jordan in October 2022 following surgery for appendicitis days before the championships.

Cairo Shotgun World Cup

RANKING ROUND FINISH FOR GANEMAT SEKHON

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Ganemat Sekhon, shot well to qualify third in the women's skeet competition at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Cairo, Egypt, before bowing out in eighth place in the ranking round. Gurjoat Khangura in the men's skeet, however, missed a top-eight finish, when he went out in a shoot-off for the final qualifying spot. Those were the best Indian results on Day 3 of the competitions which saw the first medals being awarded. Rio Olympic champion Gabrielle Rossetti of Italy won the men's skeet even as teenaged



Chinese Jiang Yiting, sealed a first World Cup win with a triumph in the women's skeet competition. Ganemat shot a perfect 25 in the fifth and final qualifying round earlier in the day to finish with a score of 117. That tied her with Italian Chiara Di Marziantonio whom she beat in a shoot-off 2-1 to claim the third spot behind Yiting and German Nadine Messerschmidt who

shot 121 and 118 respectively. Maheshwari Chauhan shot 118 to finish 18th among contenders while Darshna Rathore shot 110 to end in 26th place. Sanjan Sood, playing for ranking points, shot 104. In men's skeet, Gurjoat began the day in 11th place and then shot 23 in the final round to find himself tied with six others on 120 and vying for the eighth and final qualifying spot. He missed his second bird in the shoot-off to be among the first to bow out and finish in 13th place. Britain's Mitchell Brooker-Smith won the shoot-off after hitting 12 consecutive birds.

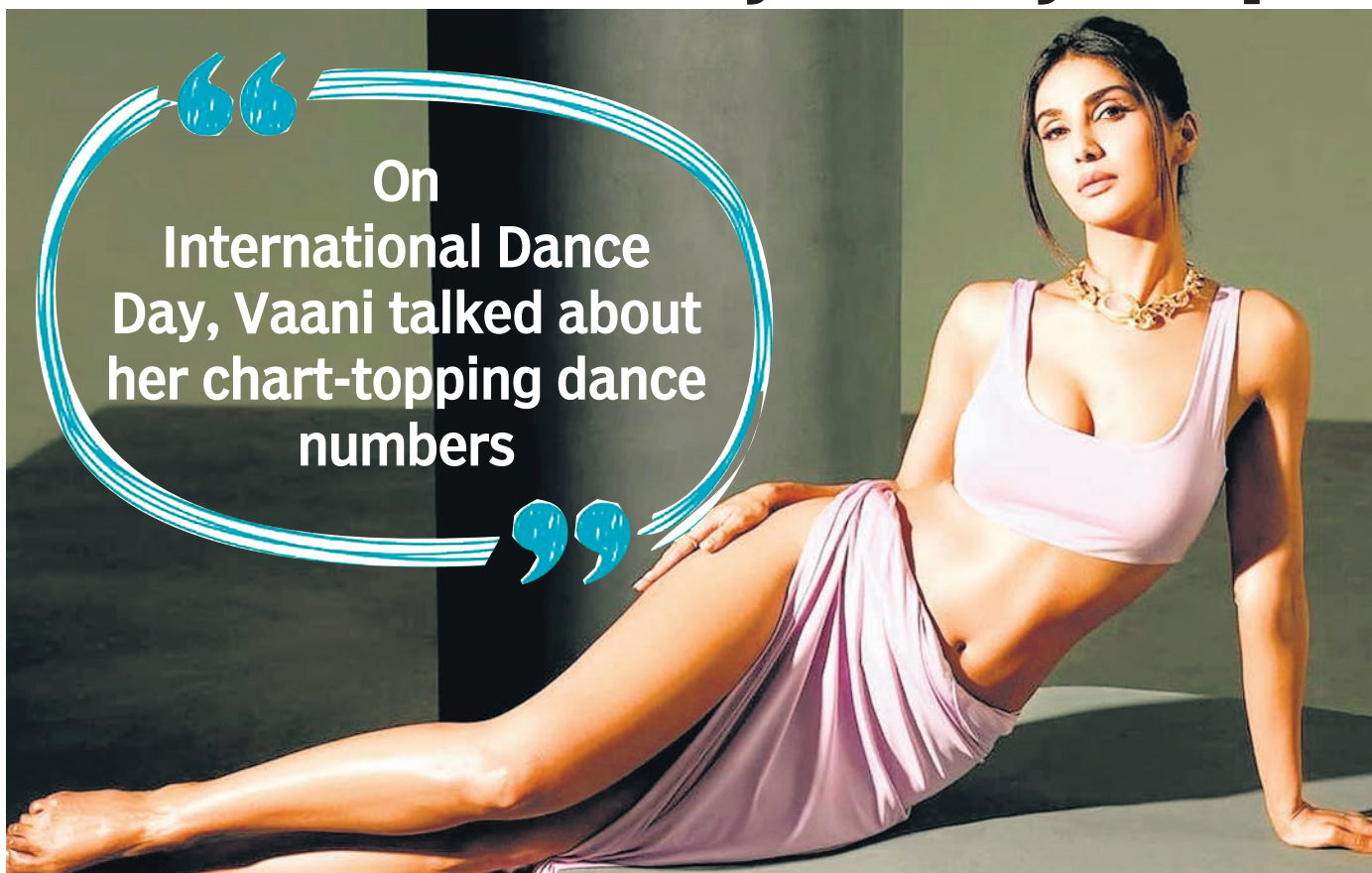
Madrid Open

Sabalenka advances to Round of 16



'Indian film industry is truly unique'

“
On
International Dance
Day, Vaani talked about
her chart-topping dance
numbers
”



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor finds dancing one of the best parts of being an Indian film heroine.

She said: "Our Indian film industry is truly unique because an actor is required to not only perform scenes brilliantly but is also expected to nail the intricate song and dance sequences that are so intrinsic to our films and

culture and traditions."

"I'm fortunate to be a part of this vibrant industry that celebrates songs and dances in its full glory and I'm grateful that I have some of the biggest all-time dance hits to my credit. To have blockbuster songs like Ghungroo from War, Nashe Si Chad Gayi, or Ude Dil Befikre from Befikre, among others, is very gratifying."

Preparing for a dance number on screen inspires her to do her best.

She said: "Audiences and the industry have given me so much love and appreciation for my songs and I couldn't be more thankful. I feel dance is a great way of expressing yourself. I do that constantly through dance. It liberates me as a human being and as an artiste. I had never received formal training as a dancer until I entered the Hindi film industry."

"So, the recognition that I have got for it is all the more gratifying.

I recall at the time of shooting for all these songs, I really had to put in a lot of effort. For many many hours, I would keep doing the same step, over and over again to avoid any retakes. I have worked really hard to give my best to these songs and I'm glad that they became such huge successes."

Vaani Kapoor will soon be seen in the web series 'Mandala Murders' and an upcoming untitled film for Maddock Films.

ISHA TALWAR ENJOYS PLAYING HARMONIUM WITH DIMPLE KAPADIA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Isha Talwar shared her experience of practicing harmonium with veteran actress Dimple Kapadia on the sets of 'Saas, Bahu aur Flamingo'.

Isha said: "The silliest thing I think I did around Dimple was to take my harmonium to her room and practise the Sargam. I am not an expert and also, I usually practice alone because it's the safest option. But when Dimple discovered the harmonium, I played the basics for her in her room and we practiced like little children do."

Isha has worked in regional as well as Hindi films. She was seen in 'Tubelight', 'Article 15', 'Sharmaji Namkeen', 'Run Baby Run', among others.

The actress also acted in web shows like 'Mirzapur', 'Roz Roz', and many more.

Sharing how Dimple enjoyed singing and playing the harmonium with her, Isha said: "She sang along and that beautiful memorable afternoon ended up with me getting a big warm hug and some sweet anecdotes from her about her life."

The show is all about giving a new dimension to a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship, and an attempt to redefine it.

In the show, veteran actress Dimple is playing the role of a woman, Savitri, who runs a company and uses it as a cover for her drug business.

She is the most important female person of the family which consists of four women including her two daughter-in-laws and a daughter.

Produced by Maddock Films, the series is directed by Homi Adajania and stars Dimple Kapadia, Radhika Madan, Angira Dhar, and Isha Talwar in pivotal roles along with Ashish Verma, Varun Mitra, Udit Arora, Deepak Dobriyal and Monica Dogra.

'Saas Bahu aur Flamingo' releases on May 5 on Disney+Hotstar.



KRITI SANON IS A 'TEARFUL SITA' IN THE UPCOMING MOVIE'S POSTER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of 'Adipurush' have dropped a new motion poster from the film featuring Kriti Sanon on Sita Navami. Kriti took to Instagram, where she shared the motion poster, where she is seen wearing an ivory saree with saffron coloured dupatta covering her head. She has tears in her eyes when she looks at the camera. The song Jai Siya Ram plays in the background. Kriti captioned the motion poster: "The eternal chant, Jai Siya Ram. The righteous saga of Siya Ram." The makers had also revealed new posters on Ram Navami. Directed by Om Raut, Kriti plays Janaki, inspired by Sita from the Hindu mythology text 'Ramayana'.

'Adipurush' also stars Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan and Sunny Singh.

For the shoot, we went to the Kumbh Mela for 10 days: Hrishitaa Bhatt

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Hrishitaa Bhatt, who is currently seen hosting the TV musical series 'Rangoli', shared her experience working with Tigmanshu Dhulia and Jimmy Shergill in 2003 crime drama 'Haasil'. As the movie is completing 20 years, the cast including Jimmy, Hrishitaa, Brijendra Kalra, Varun Badola, and the director, graced 'The Kapil Sharma'. Hrishitaa remembered working with Tigmanshu and Jimmy and said: "I have noticed that Tigmanshu and Jimmy have a habit of being completely silent. Earlier, when we were filming for 'Haasil', they would communicate using just two words. Being a 19-year-old girl from Mumbai, I used to be confused about their behaviour." The actress further added how she was completely opposite to both of them: "It's hard to believe, but I talk a lot. When I first met Tigmanshu and Jimmy, their reserved nature made me anxious as I didn't know if they would speak or not. Even while making the movie 'Haasil', they remained just as quiet, and to this day, they haven't changed. She added: "The film we made was heavily influenced by Tigmanshu's real-life experiences, and we shot scenes without any scripted dialogues. Sometimes I spoke my own lines, and other times Jimmy did the same. We captured the atmosphere of the moment to make the movie, and it was a challenging process, but the end result was fantastic."

She shared about shooting for the film during the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj: "For the shoot, we went to the Kumbh Mela for ten days and used guerrilla-style filming with a hidden camera, without anyone's knowledge. During that time, Jimmy was holding my hand while we ran, and people mistakenly thought he was abducting someone." "It was a chaotic ten days, but somehow, we managed to make the film with Irrfan, Jimmy, and me. We had no idea at the time that the movie would become a historical success. I believe that the fun environment we had during the shoot was unique and cannot be replicated, and the film has even inspired some of the movies made today."

Back then, it definitely set a benchmark," concluded the actress.



You can overcome your fears only by facing them: Karanvir Sharma

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Rabb Se Hai Dua' actor Karanvir Sharma, who is seen as Haider in the show, talked about overcoming his fear of heights while shooting a sequence in which he has to save Ghazal (Richa Rathore) from committing suicide by jumping off a cliff. Sharing the incident, the actor said that it was quite a challenging scene for him as he is scared of heights.

Karanvir said: "I believe you can overcome your fears only by facing them and that is why I decided to perform this stunt on my own despite having altophobia. I am really afraid of heights and never thought I would be able to perform such stunts. When I got the opportunity, I didn't want to miss it and decided to face my fear."

He has been part of several TV shows and films including 'Siyaasat', 'Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahaani', 'Zid', 'Blank', 'A Thursday', and many more.

The actor said it was not easy for him to be on the cliff for three to four hours and it turned out to be an unforgettable moment for him. "Being on that cliff for three to four hours was one of the most difficult times of my life and only I know how I was feeling. Nevertheless, it was an experience that I will never forget, and I can finally say I have faced and have overcome my fear," he added. 'Rabb Se Hai Dua' airs on Zee TV.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mahlagha Jaber