

absolute india

VOL. 11, ISSUE 91, MUMBAI | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02

Ashok Chavan's 'Mumbai Congress chief' gaffe first...



HOLYWOOD > 06

Selena Gomez shares loved up pictures with boyfriend Benny Blanco ...



SPORTS > 07

IND v ENG: If the pitch stays green, there's every chance two...



Farmers protest 2.0: Police use tear gas to disperse protesting farmers, barricades damaged

DELHI BORDERS TURNED INTO 'BATTLEZONE'

Protesting farmers called it a day after hours of clash with police on their way to Delhi today, declaring "ceasefire" and promising to "try again tomorrow". For Delhi and its neighbouring states, it was a flashback to 2020-21 as thousands of farmers tried to make their way towards the national capital, facing off with the police at practically every state border. The Haryana police went all out to stop them from entering the state, throwing all they had at the protesters -- drones carrying tear gas canisters, water cannons, cement barriers, sandbags and tyre deflators.

▶ To stop the farmers from entering the national capital, the police along with the paramilitary forces have been deployed as security measures on Delhi borders, including at Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur, with cement blocks and pickets with nails installed on the approach roads.
▶ Delhi Police implemented section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) citywide and fortified the borders as a precautionary measure
▶ A total of 114 companies, including 64 from paramilitary forces and 50 from the Haryana Police, have been deployed across various districts. Equipped with anti-riot gear, these units are stationed in the border areas and sensitive districts. Additionally, surveillance technologies such as drones and CCTV cameras are being utilised to monitor any disruptive activities



Even a drone has been deployed to drop tear gas shells on the protesters. Some of the empty shells, collected by protesters and shown to the media at the spot, expired in 2022.

Earlier in the day, thousands of farmers, led by over 200 unions under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, embarked on the 'Delhi Chalo' protest march towards the national capital after several hours of a high-

level meeting with farmer leaders and two Union ministers -- Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda and Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal, in Chandigarh remained inconclusive.

At the meeting, the Union ministers were favouring a committee on the issue of the MSP but the farmer leaders turned that down. The Centre also agreed to withdraw the cases against the farmers registered during the 2020-21 agitation. Also the Centre

did not make any commitment on a loan waiver. Farmers have planned to enter Haryana from Shambhu border in Patiala, Moonak in Sangrur, Dabwali in Muktsar and Ratia in Mansa. The Haryana Police have sealed all four entry points by putting up barricades, boulders, tippers filled with sand and barbed wires and iron spikes, impacting the movement of vehicular traffic with huge traffic snarls. Security has also been beefed up along the Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri

DELHI GOVT WON'T CONVERT BAWANA STADIUM INTO TEMPORARY JAIL

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has denied Centre's request to convert Bawana stadium into temporary prison in the national capital, saying the farmers demands are genuine. Turning down the request, Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot said: "The demands of the farmers are genuine. Secondly, it is the Constitutional right of every citizen to make a peaceful protest. It is therefore, incorrect to arrest the farmers." "The Central Government, in fact, should invite them over for talks and try to find a solution of their genuine problems. Farmers of the Country are our 'annadata' and treating them in this way by arresting them would be like rubbing salt into their wounds. We cannot be a party to this decision of the Central Government," the reply further stated. "Hence, approval cannot be given for converting a stadium into a jail," it added.

STILL OPEN TO DISCUSS DEMANDS OF FARMERS: UNION MINISTER MUNDA

Chandigarh: After the second round of talks with farmer union leaders remained "inconclusive" on late Monday, Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda said the government is still open to discuss their demands. Besides Munda, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal was also present in the second round of discussions with farmer leaders in Chandigarh. "There was a serious discussion with farmers on every topic. The government wants to bring every solution through talks. We reached an agreement on some issues. But there were some issues for which we said that a committee should be made for a permanent solution," Munda told the media after the meeting.

MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAMS AT DELHI'S EXIT & ENTRY POINTS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Traffic jams were witnessed at the entry and exit points of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as police and paramilitary personnel equipped with anti-riot gear placed multiple layers of barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and walls of containers in view of the 'Delhi Chalo march' call of farmers.

Long queues of vehicles were seen from 7 a.m. on the Gurugram- Delhi national highway. "I knew about the farmers coming towards Delhi today so I planned to go to office an hour earlier

from my house in sector 32 Gurugram but seeing the traffic situation it seems that I will reach my office at Barakhamba road one hour late," said Ankush, who was stuck in the jam for at least an hour.

A traffic official said that over two lakh people travel between Delhi and Gurugram each day during the working hours. "It's advisable to utilise the Metro for commuting as security measures have been implemented. Additionally, we're continuously striving to redirect traffic through alternative routes," said a traffic cop. Following the heavy barricading at the Singhu border, vehicles

coming towards Delhi were also seen moving at snail's pace.

At Tikri border, amid police checking and barricading, there were over two kilometres long queues of vehicles.

Similar scenes were also witnessed at the Ghazipur border with police blocking link roads and only allowing a single lane on highway on both carriageways for vehicles to enter and exit the national capital. A significant traffic congestion also occurred near the Rajokri border, causing severe inconvenience to commuters who found themselves trapped in their vehicles for hours.

PM's "Third Term" Pitch, South push at grand 'Ahlam Modi' event in UAE

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a massive cultural programme in Abu Dhabi this evening, applauded the growing synergy between India and United Arab Emirates and the direction it would take in his "third term". There were also thanks the expat Indians, who, he said, were responsible for the burgeoning partnership with the Gulf nation he was visiting for the seventh time. There were



also promises that "Modi's guarantee" will work every time.

"Modi ki guarantee means guarantee pura hone ki guarantee (Modi's guarantee means that every guarantee will be met)," he declared at the "Ahlam Modi" pro-

gramme at the Zayed Sports City Stadium, attended by thousands of expat Indians.

"This is the time to hail the friendship between India and the UAE. In this historic stadium, every heartbeat echoes the same sentiment. Long live Bharat-UAE friendship," PM Modi said at the event, which started with national anthems of the two countries. One of the ways, he hinted, was taking India's UPI to UAE to build a system where money transfers can be made directly.

STUDENT ENDS LIFE IN KOTA, FOURTH SUICIDE THIS YEAR

Jaipur: A student from Chhattisgarh, pursuing coaching for JEE in Rajasthan's Kota, has committed suicide, said police on Tuesday.

Shubhkumar Chaudhary was found dead on Monday making it the fourth student suicide in Kota in the last 20 days, confirmed officials. The officials said, "On Monday night, a student from Chhattisgarh committed suicide by hanging himself. The student was preparing for JEE while staying in Kota for two years. The result of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Mains was declared on Monday night. Soon after, the student committed suicide." Chaudhary (16) lived in a hostel, said DSP Bhavani Singh, adding, "Shubhkumar was a student of Class 12. This morning when his parents called, there was no response.

They immediately called the warden who pushed open the gate of his room where the student was found hanging from the fan." Police officials said that the student had also pursued Class 11 from here. The reason for suicide has not been revealed yet.

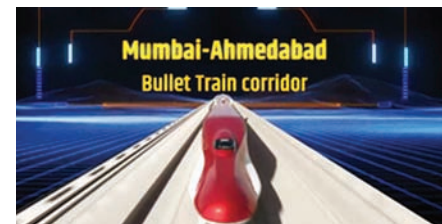
Bullet train to cut 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad travel to 2 hours

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday shared a video of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad 'Bullet train' corridor which will cut the travel time on the 508 km route between the two cities to a mere 2 hours.

"Stay tuned for #BulletTrain in Modi 3.0!," the minister posted on X.

The video highlights some of the features of the state-of-the-art train project being built with an investment of Rs 1.08 lakh crore. These include: The Bullet train is expected to touch a maximum speed of 320 kilometres per hour on the route. The corridor will feature a slab track system, a technology to be used



for the first time in India. As many as 24 river bridges, 28 steel bridges, and seven mountain tunnels are being erected for the Bullet train route. The corridor will also have a 7 km undersea tunnel. The video describes the project as "a marvel of world-class engineering" and the "future of India."

MP govt removed chairmen and vice-chairmen of all corporations and authorities

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh government has removed the chairmen and vice-chairmen of all corporations, boards and authorities with immediate effect. All of them were appointed by the previous Shivraj government and given the status of cabinet ministers and ministers of state. Now Dr. Mohan Yadav government has taken a big decision to remove them. Orders for cancellation of appointments have been issued by the concerned departments. There is a possibility of appointments on all these posts only after the Lok Sabha elections. The previous government had made appointments in about half of the corporations in the election year. Now the government will appoint new leaders here afresh. More than a dozen ministers had to face defeat in the assembly elections. Now, according to the political equation, the defeated leaders can be adjusted here.

Former Damoh MLA Rahul Lodhi had left Congress and joined BJP, but lost the by-election.



He was made the Chairman of Warehousing and Logistics Corporation. Bada Malhara MLA Prayumna Lodhi was the president of Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation. He also joined BJP from Congress. Won the by-elections but was defeated in the recently held assembly.

Sumawali MLA Andal Singh Kansana was

elected president of Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation after his defeat in the by-election. Now he is a minister in the government. Former MLA of Dimani Girraj Dandotia lost the by-election and was made the President of Madhya Pradesh Energy Development Corporation. Narendra Singh Tomar won the election from

his seat in the assembly elections.

Former Gohad MLA Ranveer Jataw was the president of Sant Ravidas Madhya Pradesh Handicrafts and Havkarsha Development Corporation. He lost the by-election and his ticket was canceled in this assembly election. Former pro-Scindia MLA Jaswant Jataw was the president of Madhya Pradesh State Livestock and Poultry Development Corporation. Jaswant Jataw's assembly ticket was cut. Former Gwalior MLA Munalal Gogal was the chairman of the State Burden and Farm Development Corporation. Lost the by-election and did not get ticket in this election.

Former Morena MLA Raghuraj Kansana was made the chairman of Madhya Pradesh Backward Class and Minority Finance Development Corporation. He has also lost in the by-elections and also lost the assembly elections. Apart from these, Nandram Kushwaha, who was the 2018 candidate from BSP in Pithivri Assembly, was the vice president of Madhya Pradesh State Livestock and Phukut Development Corporation.

'Vigilant and active': Will take action against those spreading fake news & rumours, says CBSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday said that the board is vigilant and active in identifying and taking action against those spreading fake news and rumours.

"CBSE is closely monitoring the situation with the help of law enforcement agencies to take stern action against persons involved in circulating fake news on social media platforms under various provisions of IPC and IT Act," the CBSE said.

The Board said that it has been observed in the past that during exam time certain unscrupulous elements make an effort to spread rumours on YouTube, Facebook, X, Telegram and other social media platforms about paper leak to claim to



have access to question papers of exams.

The board said that miscreants also circulate fake pictures/videos of question papers which they claim that they have access to question papers which could be made available against payment of money. The CBSE annual examinations of class X & XII are scheduled to be held from 15 February upto April 2 and the board has made elaborate arrangements for smooth and fair conduct of examinations. The CBSE said that it will take action against a student under 'Unfair Means' rules and various sections of IPC if found indulging in spreading fake news.



ASHOK CHAVAN'S 'MUMBAI CONGRESS CHIEF' GAFFE FIRST RATTLES BJP, THEN EVOKES A MIRTHQUAKE

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Decades old habits die hard. In an unintentional slip of tongue, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, who joined the BJP on Tuesday after jumping ship from the Congress, inadvertently addressed BJP's Mumbai chief Ashish Shelar as 'Mumbai Congress President'.

Deputy CM and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, seated beside him, immediately corrected him that "its BJP President" as Chavan sportingly repeated the correct version and admitted his error, even as the gathering momentarily seemed rattled by his utterance.

Fadnavis, by then laughing, commented that "it's a 50-year old habit" and Chavan, obviously feeling sheepish and embarrassed, grinned, nodded in agreement and reminded the gathering that "this is my first press conference at the BJP office".

As the sombre atmosphere suddenly turned jovial, there were guffaws at the gaffe from the dignitaries on the dais and the audience, plus the horde of mediapersons who recorded Chavan's political faux pas



for posterity.

"Please pardon me... I have just joined the BJP after 38 years in the Congress and this is my first press conference in the BJP office, please understand," Chavan said in a pleading tone.

But soon all was forgotten, and the innocent blunder seemed to

have strengthened his camaraderie among old friends in the new party having a different ideology.

Chavan, 66, joined the BJP in a high-profile event in the presence of the party's state unit President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Fadnavis, Ashish Shelar and other senior colleagues, promising to

"launch a new chapter in public life".

However, hours later, an unforgiving Congress unleashed a verbal assault on Chavan, labelling him as a "coward, who backstabbed the party which gave him so much in life, and fled the field" at a crucial period with the Lok Sabha elections round the corner.

Top Congress leaders, including AICC General Secretary Ramesh Chennithala, state unit chief Nana Patole, Congress Legislature Party leader Balasaheb Thorat and leader of opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadetiwar, even questioned if Chavan got scared of the central investigating agencies for his abrupt decision that apparently threw the entire Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) into a disarray.

The bitter outbursts notwithstanding, Fadnavis warmly described Chavan as a "leader of national stature", guaranteeing that he would be assigned responsibilities befitting his experience and seniority, probably starting with a Rajya Sabha nomination for the biennial elections this month, and possibly some more plum posts in the future.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind calls for boycott of Surya Namaskar programme in Rajasthan schools



Jaipur | Agencies

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Tuesday asked the Rajasthan government to withdraw the order regarding the Surya Namaskar practice in schools with immediate effect.

BJP government in Rajasthan has issued orders to conduct Surya Namaskar in all schools from February 15, the day of Surya Saptami.

The Jamiat has called upon the Muslim community across the state to boycott the

Surya Namaskar programme. Jamiat has also challenged the matter in the Rajasthan High Court. The next hearing will be held on Wednesday.

The organisation has called it an open interference in religious matters and has appealed to the Muslim community not to send students to school on Surya Saptami on February 15 and boycott the function. Jamiat State General Secretary Abdul

Wahid Khatri said that Jamiat has clarified that in the majority Hindu society, Surya

is worshiped as a deity. "The verses in this practice and the actions like Pranamsanna, Ashtanga Namaskar etc. are a form of worship and worship of anyone other than Allah is unacceptable in the religion of Islam. It is not possible for the Muslim community to accept this in any form or situation," he said. He said that the programme will harm the democratic structure of the country and will put a question mark on the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'.

Court frames charges against all 9 accused in Kanhaiya Lal murder case

Jaipur | Agencies

A special NIA court on Tuesday framed charges against all the nine accused involved in the 2022 Kanhaiya Lal murder case.

Charges have been framed against all accused of being involved in terrorist activities, murdering Kanhaiya Lal who was a tailor, while being involved in a conspiracy.

The NIA court, in fact, framed charges against the accused in all sections which were included in the charge sheet presented earlier, said officials.

The court was told that the accused hatched a criminal conspiracy by forming a group on WhatsApp.

The investigation against the accused has also proved that all the accused were involved in a criminal conspiracy.

The charges of murder and insulting other religions while being involved in terrorist activities against them have also been considered proven. Acting tough, the court also framed charges against one Farhad for involvement in terrorist activities, murder and conspiracy while the NIA had only imposed the section of Arms Act against him in its charge sheet. However, the accused's lawyer



Akhil Chaudhary said that he will appeal against this order in the High Court.

On June 28, 2022, Kanhaiya Lal was brutally murdered by Mohammad Riyaz Attari and Ghaus Mohammad by slitting his throat.

The NIA has declared Salman and Abu Ibrahim, residents of Karachi, Pakistan, absconding, and declared Ghaus Mohammad and Mohammad Riyaz Attari, Mohsin Khan, Asif Hussain, Mohammad Mohsin, Wasim Ali, Farhad Mohammad Shaikh a.k.a. Babla, Mohammad Javed and Mohammad a.k.a. Muslim Khan as the main accused.

On February 9, 2023, the NIA special court had taken cognizance of murder, terrorist activities, criminal conspiracy including UAP Act and Arms Act.

SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA ACCUSES SP OF 'DISCRIMINATION'; QUILTS AS GEN SECY

Lucknow | Agencies

Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the post of General Secretary of the party on Tuesday.

In a letter to SP President Akhilesh Yadav, Maurya has accused the party of discrimination.

Maurya wrote, "If there is discrimination even in the post of national General Secretary, there is no justification for continuing in such a discriminatory and unimportant post."

Maurya added, "Ever since I joined the Samajwadi Party, I have continuously tried to increase its support base. On the day of joining the SP, I had given the slogan '85 versus 15'. (B.R.) Ambedkar talked about 'Bahujan Hitay Bahujan Sukhay', while Ram Manohar Lohia said 'Socialists Bandhi Gant, Pichda Paavai Sau Mein Saath'."

He alleged that the party continuously neutralised these slogans and filed the nominations and symbols of hundreds of candidates in the 2022 Assembly elections. "There were only 45 MLAs, whereas after the 2022 Assembly elections, this number increased to 110. Thereafter, without any demand, you sent me to the Legislative Council and immediately after this you made me the national General Secretary. Thank you very much for this honour," he said. Maurya added that he had suggested last year that caste-based census should be conducted, and reservation of Scheduled Castes,



Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes should be saved." There was a proposal to carry out a Rath Yatra for a state-wide programme to protest against the sale of national assets to private hands, to which you agreed. There was no positive result either. As per the intention of the leadership, I did not consider it appropriate to say it again," he

wrote. Maurya also expressed his unhappiness at being targeted by a section of SP leaders over his statements on Sanatan Dharma, which also made him the target of a section of the society.

However, in his resignation letter to Akhilesh Yadav, Maurya also said that he will continue to work to strengthen the party without any post.

AAP Wants To Contest 6 Delhi Seats In Lok Sabha Polls, Offers 1 To Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The AAP on Tuesday said it wants to contest six seats in Delhi in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and offer just one to the Congress. The party asserted that the Congress, which is the senior INDIA bloc ally, does not even deserve even one seat considering its performance in the previous polls in the national capital.

Addressing a press conference here after Aam Aadmi Party's political affairs committee meeting, party's national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said they have been waiting for more than a month for the seat sharing talks to resume for Delhi but there has been no communication (from the Congress).

"There have been two official meetings between Congress and AAP on January 8 and January 12. The talks happened in a good atmosphere but there were no results.

"Following these two official meetings, there has been no meeting in the



last one month. We were told that Congress party's (Bharat Jodo Nyay) Yatra is going on and there will be delay. We got to meet senior Congress leaders during this but even they had no idea," he said.

The AAP and the Congress have already announced that they will go solo in Punjab in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls since their state leaders have been opposed to forging any alliance in the state. As seat sharing talks have not been held regarding Delhi for over a month, Pathak said he was "sitting with a heavy heart". "These things would not have been necessary if there would have been talks," he added.

Announcing the seat sharing proposal from the AAP, he said they plan to contest six out of seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and offer one to the Congress.

"Congress has zero seats in Lok Sabha and zero seats in the assembly. In the MCD elections last year, Congress won nine wards out of 250. If you see on merit basis and on statistics, Congress does not deserve one seat. But keeping in mind the alliance dharma, we offer them one seat," he added.

He said if talks do not happen, they will announce the names of six candidates for Delhi in the next few days.

COURT ORDERS RAMPUR SP TO ARREST JAYA PRADA AND PRODUCE HER IN COURT

Rampur (UP): The MP/MLA court in Rampur has ordered the superintendent of police to arrest and produce actor-turned-politician Jaya Prada in court on February 27.

The Superintendent of Police was ordered to form a special team and arrest the former MP and present her in the court. Senior prosecution officer Amarnath Tiwari said that the former MP did not reach the court on Monday for hearing even after a non-bailable warrant had been issued against her for the seventh time.

Former MP Jaya Prada, is 'absconding' in two cases related to violation of code of conduct.

IAF trainer jet crashes in Bengal, no casualty or damage to property

Kolkata | Agencies

An AJT Hawk aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) met with an accident soon after take-off from the Air Force Station at Kalaikunda in West Bengal on Tuesday afternoon, forcing both pilots to bail out.

Before leaving the aircraft though, the pilots ensured that it crashed into an uninhabited site, causing no damage to life or property on the ground.

A spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence in Kolkata confirmed the crash and said that both pilots are safe. The AJT Hawk is primarily an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) that takes rookie IAF pilots through their second stage of training before they advance to fighter jets.

The Air Force Station Kalaikunda in West Midnapore district is home to



two squadrons of AJT Hawks. These aircraft are twin seaters. Apart from the trainee, there is an experienced instructor on board to monitor her/his flying skills and take over during emergencies. The Hawks were originally procured from BAE Systems and are now produced under licence at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

(HAL) in Bengaluru. Since their inception, the Hawks have saved the lives of several young pilots.

Before they were inducted, the rookies would undergo the second stage of training in Mig-21 aircraft that are far more difficult to handle, particularly during take-offs. Several young lives were lost in crashes then.

1 dead, 4 including JCO hurt as rival groups clash in Manipur



Imphal | Agencies

One person died while four others, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), sustained injuries in a gun-fight between two armed groups in Manipur's Imphal East district on Tuesday, the police said.

Heavy firing took place between the two rival groups at Khamenlok in Imphal East district. The deceased person has been identified as Sagolsem Loya, while three

injured persons have been shifted to a hospital in Imphal. On receipt of the information, security forces moved in to control the situation. A JCO, who was part of the security team, was hit by a bullet on his right calf as the rival groups attacked the security forces, who also fired back as the armed cadres fled. The JCO has been evacuated by helicopter to the Military Hospital at the Leimakhong Military station where his condition is stated to be stable.

PURE EV Unveils X Platform 2.0 Limited Edition Variants for ePluto Series with a peak speed of 72 KMPH

Hyderabad | Agencies

PURE EV is thrilled to announce the launch of the X Platform 2.0

Limited Edition Variants for the ePluto 7G, PRO, and MAX models. This exclusive release is set to offer enhanced speed, improved mileage, and an unparalleled user experience.

The X Platform 2.0 Limited Edition Variants build upon the acclaimed X Platform, incorporating 12 standout features that set the standard for electric scooters. Additionally, PURE EV has taken innovation a step further by redefining speed numbers, particularly in the ecoMode, where riders can now enjoy speeds ranging up to 58 KMPH across all three variants (7G, PRO, and MAX). This surpasses industry standards, providing a sig-



nificant advantage over competitors who offer a maximum of 35 KMPH in similar modes.

This transformative feature eliminates the need for constant mode switching, providing users with a seamless

and enjoyable urban commuting experience. The Mileage numbers have seen significant improvements, meeting the demands of long urban commutes. Adding to the excitement, the Limited Edition Variants feature a

revamped Sports mode, contributing to an overall increase in speed to 72 KMPH.

What sets these Limited Edition Variants apart is not just the increased speeds but also the meticulous performance optimization that has resulted in mileage improvements. PURE EV has fine-tuned each model, ensuring that the enhanced speeds do not compromise the impressive Mileage/Charge numbers.

PURE EV's foray into the X Platform 2.0 Limited Edition Variants is poised to set new benchmarks in the electric scooter market. By combining speed enhancements with an unwavering commitment to addressing user needs, the company aims to contribute significantly to the ongoing evolution of the electric mobility industry.

UP Constable has Rs 5 cr house with swimming pool, BMW and Audi

Kanpur | Agencies

He has a sprawling 12-room house built over two floors, with a swimming pool and a huge parking lot where he parks his BMW, Audi and a Toyota Fortuner, among other sedans and hatchbacks.

All the premium vehicles have VIP registration numbers -- all ending with 0078 - matching the city's vehicle registration code (UP78). The only discordant note in this fairytale existence is the fact that the owner of these luxuries is just a Constable in the UP Police. Shyam Sushil Mishra, 58, a dismissed Constable of UP Police's Anti-Corruption Wing (ACW), has now been booked following a complaint by his own department. Mishra joined service as a Constable in 1987 on a meager salary and was first posted at the very police station where an FIR was regis-



tered against him on Monday - Chakeri. He was earlier booked in connection with the murder of former BSP functionary Pintu Sengar in 2020 and was arrested and sent to jail. He is currently out on bail.

Graft cases against him were frequent all through his career. He faced several departmental probes and was suspended several times.

ACW Inspector Chatur Singh, who lodged the FIR against Constable Mishra at Chakeri police station said, "He was also booked in 2019 in a Disproportionate Assets case in Lucknow on a complaint filed by one Ramakant.



Ex-Maha CM Ashok Chavan joins BJP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan formally joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with which he will start his new political inning, here on Tuesday.

Chavan, 66, was accorded a warm welcome to the BJP by state President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, Mumbai chief Ashish Shelar and other senior leaders, at the state party headquarters here this afternoon.

Other seniors like Pravin Darekar, Girish Mahajan, Harshavardhan Patil, were also present to receive Chavan at the BJP office.

He was officially inducted into the BJP with Bawankule signing his membership form amid cheers and applause by the gathering and celebrations outside the BJP office in his hometown Nanded.

Earlier this morning, speaking to mediapersons, Chavan said that he would start a new chapter in his political career with the BJP from now.

The two-time ex-CM is likely to be nominated as a BJP candidate for the upcoming biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra.

On Monday, Chavan dropped a bombshell when he abruptly quit the Congress Party, with which he was associated for over 40 years, and also as the sit-



Chavan, former Maharashtra Chief Minister, is seen here on Tuesday, describing him as "a leader of national stature" whose entry will benefit the BJP and the state MahaYuti government.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis lavished praise on former CM Ashok Chavan here on Tuesday, describing him as "a leader of national stature" whose entry will benefit the BJP and the state MahaYuti government.

"The state BJP unit, in consultation with the central party, will decide on a befitting role for Chavan who is a leader of national stature," said Fadnavis, hinting at the possibility of a Rajya Sabha nomination for the newly inducted leader.

He, along with BJP state President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, city chief Ashish Shelar and other party bigwigs, accorded a warm welcome to Chavan who quit the Congress on

Monday and joined the saffron party this afternoon.

Earlier, the two-time CM Chavan, 66, was formally inducted into the BJP with which he will start his new political innings at the state headquarters.

Other seniors like Pravin Darekar, Girish Mahajan, Harshavardhan Patil, were also present to witness Chavan's high-profile entry to the BJP.

Bawankule signed Chavan's membership form amid cheers and applause by the gathering and celebrations erupting outside the BJP office in his hometown Nanded.

In his address, Chavan said that he was launching a new chapter in his political life and would sincerely fulfil any responsibility assigned by the BJP.

"I had served the Congress till now with full dedication and I shall continue to do so even here. Nobody told me to go, it was my personal decision. I have not made any demands from the BJP, nor have I contacted any other (Congress) leaders," said Chavan.

To a question, Chavan reiterated that he had emerged clean from the Adarsh Society scam with the Bombay High Court giving a decision in his favour.

Chavan assured that he would strive to get the maximum number of seats for the BJP in the upcoming (Parliament/Assembly) elections in Maharashtra.

Case against 6 for cheating stock market trader of Rs 89 Lakh

Team Absolute | Thane

The Navi Mumbai police have registered a case against six cyber fraudsters for allegedly cheating a stock market trader of Rs 89 lakh, an official said on Tuesday.

The victim, Abhishek Anandkumar Jain (41), is a resident of Kharghar in Navi Mumbai. Based on his complaint, the case was registered on February 12, he said.

As per the complaint, the six accused lured the victim into investing in the stock market. They did not reveal their names to him and used mobile phones, social messaging apps, and websites to communicate with him.

Between December 25 last year and February 9 this year, he transferred a total of Rs 89 lakh into various bank



accounts mentioned by the accused. However, when the victim later tried to retrieve his invested amount along with the returns through a mobile application, he failed to do so, he said.

Realising that he had fallen victim to a scam, the vic-

tim approached the police and filed a complaint, he said. A case under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including cheating, and the Information Technology Act, was registered at the Cyber police station in Navi Mumbai.

Sharad Pawar petitions SC against EC decision recognising Ajit Pawar's side as 'real' NCP

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Sharad Pawar faction has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the decision of Election Commission (EC) recognising the faction led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar as the 'real' Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and allotting it the party's 'clock' symbol.

As per the details available on the website of apex court, the plea arraying Ajit Pawar as respondent has been filed through advocate Abhishek Jekaraj on Monday



Sharad Pawar has already filed a caveat last week, saying that it should be heard, before the top court

proceeds to pass any order.

A caveat serves as a notice submitted to an appellate court by a litigant who wishes to be heard in case any orders are issued regarding an opponent's appeal that challenges the decision made by the lower judicial or quasi-judicial body.

The NCP split in July last year, with a faction led by Ajit Pawar rebelling against his uncle and NCP founder Sharad Pawar to join the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra. After that, both sides laid claim to the party name and symbol.

Man sentenced to 7 years RI for sodomising boy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a man to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for sodomising an 11-year-old boy.

Special judge D S Deshmukh on Monday found the accused, a resident of the Wagle Estate area, guilty of charges under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The judge sentenced the accused to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed

a fine of Rs 5,000 on him. The sum will be paid as compensation to the victim.

Special public prosecutor Vivek Kadu informed the court that the accused, who worked in a public toilet, lived in the same locality as the victim.

The man allegedly lured the boy with a chocolate and sodomised him on different occasions between March 15 and 17, 2018, he said. The accused was caught by the police and based on a complaint by the victim, he was booked under section 377 of the IPC and POCSO Act.

MMRDA gets nod for MTHL connector joining Chirle-Pune expressway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has got the green signal for its proposed connector for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) at Chirle which will be linked with the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, officials said in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The new Chirle connector, estimated to cost around Rs 1000 crore, is expected to slash travel time between south Mumbai and Pune by an hour.

MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee announced the



The connector is slated to start soon and will comprise two six-lane elevated roads,

one connecting Chirle-Gavhan Phata, and other linking Palaspe and the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

The project is slated for completion in around 30 months and it will prove a boost to the people travelling from Mumbai to Pune via MTHL as they can skirt the busy Sion-Panvel Highway or pass the Vashi Toll Post before getting on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

The country's longest sea-bridge, MTHL was opened in January and it has substantially cut travel time from Mumbai to Panvel, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Navi Mumbai and the upcoming New International Airport, Pune and Goa highways, coastal Konkan and other key regions.

CM Eknath Shinde inaugurates Panvel-Shil Phata flyover

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde on Tuesday inaugurated the Panvel-Shil Phata flyover on NH-48 (Old Mumbai Pune Highway), the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) said. According to an official statement, the road at Kalyan Phata Junction is being heavily utilised, and the projects of infrastructure development that are underway in the surrounding regions are bound to result in furthermore elevation of traffic. The flyover is anticipated to make a valiant contribution toward traffic decongestion at NH-48 by regulating traffic movements from JNPT and Thane. Moreover, people who frequent this route will start saving a significant proportion of their time and money, in addition to reducing their regular fuel consumption.



CM Shinde said, "MMRDA is making huge and successful leaps toward infrastructure development and sustainability through a series of ambitious and innovative projects from time to time. This flyover is one of the intuitive projects that are essential in redefining transportation infrastructure in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), and I feel elated to have inaugurated

this brilliant endeavour."

The Shil Phata flyover in its entirety is equipped with 3 + 3 lanes covering a total width of 24 metres, and it extends for a length of 739.5 metres. The length of the viaduct is 300 metres, while the approach toward the Mumbai side (A1) and the approach at the Panvel side (A2) are of lengths 271.5 metres and 168.0 metres, respectively. The cost of this project was estimated to be around Rs 45.68 Crores. It constitutes a dual carriageway, with each arm facilitating 3 separate lanes adding up to a width of 12 metres. One arm of the dual carriageway will serve Panvel Bound traffic, whereas the other arm will ensure the smooth movement of Thane Bound traffic. As the inauguration enables the utilisation of the Panvel Bound flyover, the Thane Bound flyover is eagerly anticipated to be inaugurated within the next two months.

Adani Electricity unveils India's First Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd has launched the country's first state-of-the-art Advanced Distribution Management System to fix power supply glitches within a short time for its 31.50 lakh consumers, officials said here.

The Network Operations Centre (NOC) -- which can locate a power disruption within seconds in its entire jurisdiction before it can lead to a large power outage -- has come up at Powai.

The NOC can also predict and prevent power outages to help quick remedial actions, and help balance the flow of power across the entire network which can reduce the amount of energy that is lost and potentially reduce electricity bills.

The ADMS-power NOC collects data from a network of sensors, which is then analysed in real-time to give a complete picture of the city's electricity infrastructure, and helps pinpoint and address problems even before they become significant issues for the customers and complaints pour in.

The ADMS will help identify the precise location of the fault that arises between two customer sub-stations (CSS) -- equipment generally found in housing complexes that 'steps down' electricity volt-



age before supplying to the users in the vicinity. There are 7,100 CSS' in the Adani Electricity's jurisdiction in Mumbai, and the new system will prove particularly beneficial in the coming summer months when there are frequent power issues which would henceforth be resolved quickly within 15-20 minutes instead of the average 34 minutes now.

Adani Electricity consumers will enjoy uninterrupted power supply for essential tasks and leisure with few power cuts, shorter duration of outages with quicker restoration times owing to ADMS' intelligent insights, improved power quality with consistent voltage and frequency to ensure seamless operation of all devices and appliances, and enhanced service excellence.

"The launch of the NOC with India's first ADMS marks a major highlight for Mumbai's power landscape. We are making the city power network more reliable and efficient. By using advanced technology, the power network can predict and fix

problems faster, improve the flow of electricity, and contribute to a greener future. This will make the city brighter and more resilient," said Adani Electricity's Managing Director, Kandarp Patel.

Aspen Tech's spokesperson, M.V. Rudresha said the company is proud to partner with Adani Electricity to enhance Mumbai's distribution system through its OSI monarch software platform, and as a partner to Adani Group, they digitally transform them by optimizing the assets to run faster, longer, safer and greener.

The ADMS platform is not only relevant for today, but is future ready as well by creating an ecosystem for analytics-based monitoring and maintenance practices in the interest of Adani Electricity's customers.

The system will enable Adani Electricity to enhance the services being provided to 31.5 lakh Mumbaiers through advanced situational awareness and quick response to the events in the network.

Thane: Deputy chairperson of the Maharashtra legislative council Neelam



Gorhe on Tuesday said a special consideration needs to be made for orphaned children in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) housing scheme, reported a news agency. Neelam Gorhe virtually inaugurated a conference themed "From Struggle to Strength: Navigating and Networking for Homeless Children," organised in collaboration with Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College Thane and Being Me in association with Jeevan Samvardhan Foundation. Speaking on the occasion, Gorhe expressed concern about the exploitation of orphaned and homeless children, leading to trafficking and hazardous labour condi-

tions, the news agency reported.

She also emphasised the need for special consideration for orphaned children in the PMAY housing scheme. Deliberations during the conference and resolutions will be forwarded to the concerned authorities for action, it was stated.

Meanwhile, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has emerged as a beacon of hope, providing affordable housing solutions across the nation. Launched in 2015, this ambitious initiative by the Government of India has made significant strides in addressing the housing needs of the economically weaker sections, transforming lives and communities.

ED transfers money laundering probe against Sameer Wankhede to Delhi



Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's top investigating agency, ED, Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that it has transferred the probe into a money laundering case against Sameer Wankhede.

Enforcement Directorate (ED) said that the case has been transferred from Mumbai zone director of the Narcotics Control Bureau, to its Delhi office, a news wire reported. Wankhede, who has moved the high court here seeking to quash the case, should instead move the Delhi High Court, it said. Wankhede, who approached the Bombay High Court last week, has also sought a temporary stay to the investigation, and protection from "coercive action" (such as arrest) until his petition is decided. On Tuesday, his lawyer

Aabad Ponda argued before a division bench of Justices P D Naik and N R Borkar that the ED's action of transferring the probe was "malafide".

"Till Friday, the ED was sending summonses to persons asking them to appear before its Mumbai office. But now after this petition was filed by Wankhede, the probe has been transferred to Delhi," advocate Ponda said.

This was done only to ensure that Wankhede did not get a hearing on Thursday before the Bombay HC which had last year granted him interim protection from coercive action in a case of corruption and extortion registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the lawyer claimed.

Advocate Hiten Venegaonkar, appearing for the ED, defended the transfer of probe citing administrative reasons. "The entire proceed-

ings are already transferred to Delhi. The entire cause of action lies there now. All papers have been sent to Delhi. There is nothing here now," he said.

The bench said it would hear the matter on February 15 (Thursday) along with Wankhede's petition filed last year against the CBI case.

The ED registered a money laundering case against him after taking cognisance of the CBI's First Information Report (FIR) where he was accused of demanding Rs 25 crore bribe from Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's family to spare his son Aryan Khan in an alleged drugs case.

Wankhede, a 2008-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Customs and Indirect Taxes cadre, in his plea said the ED's case "smacks of malice and vendetta".



EDITOR'S SPECS

WHY GOVT NOT READY FOR TALKS, SAY FARMER LEADERS?

Urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clarify why the government is not ready for a discussion with protesting farmers, Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee General Secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said on Tuesday that "it seems Punjab and Haryana are not parts of India anymore". On Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' protest march, he said in the five-hour-long meeting on Monday, "we put forward the situation of Haryana". "They are sending police and using water cannons in each and every village of Haryana. They are torturing farmers in Haryana. It seems that both these states are not a part of India anymore, they are being treated as international border," Pandher said in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib ahead of moving towards the national capital. After the second round of talks between farmers' unions and the Centre remained inconclusive, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clarify why his government is not ready for a discussion with farmers and farm labourers in the context of the Gramin Bharat Bandh call on February 16. Clarifying his farm outfit stand on the ongoing protest, another farmer leader Darshan Pal said, "We didn't give the 'Dilli Chalo' call. However, organisations other than SKM have the right to protest and it is the responsibility of the Union government to treat such protests in a democratic manner instead of adhering to excessive state repression." Meanwhile, UP BJP Kisan Morcha Kameshwar Singh said that as part of the Gram Parikrama Abhiyan, the party functionaries would establish a dialogue with farmers to get their feedback which would be accounted for by the party minutely. The development comes at a time when farmers are agitating in support of their demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee crop MSP.

A TECH-SAVVY GUIDE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Today's digital world is reshaping the way we connect with our loved ones. Traditional courtship rituals have evolved, making room for virtual meetups, personalized digital gestures, and innovative ways to nurture relationships. Join us as we explore how Valentine's Day has adapted to changing times with the help of technology, making it easier than ever to connect and create meaningful memories with your partner. Embrace the fusion of technology and romance, creating a celebration that reflects the innovation and connection of the digital era.

Intelligent Oven to enhance your special celebration:

As you prepare and relish an intimate Valentine's Day dinner with your loved one, consider using the Siemens IQ 700 oven which comes with an AI voice assistant. The cutting-edge technology allows you to control the oven remotely using your smartphone. With just a few simple instructions you can ensure that a perfect dish is ready to impress your loved ones before time. This will allow you to spend less time in the kitchen and more time creating unforgettable memories with your partner. Bid adieu to the traditional cooking methods and embrace the convenience and efficiency of intelligent devices.

Smart Home Automation:

Create a cozy and romantic ambiance for your Valentine's Day dinner with smart home automation. Use smart bulbs or LED light strips controlled



via a smartphone app to adjust the lighting to your desired mood. Whether you prefer soft and intimate lighting or bright and cheerful hues, you can easily customize the ambiance to suit the occasion. With smart home automation, you can set the perfect lighting scene for your romantic dinner, enhancing the atmosphere and setting the way for a memorable evening together. Simply dim the

lights or change the color scheme with a few taps on your smartphone, transforming your dining space into a romantic setup.

Set the mood with your personal voice assistant:

Simplify your Valentine's Day celebrations with the help of a voice assistant device. Say goodbye to stress and hello to convenience on this special

occasion, with a voice assistant device by your side. Whether you're busy preparing a delicious meal, exchanging heartfelt gifts, or simply enjoying each other's company, let your voice assistant handle the details so you can focus on what truly matters - creating treasured moments with your partner.

Portable Bluetooth Speaker for music on the go:

Enhance your Valentine's Day celebrations with a Bluetooth speaker that delivers high-quality sound and versatility. Gift your partner a stylish and portable speaker, perfect for playing your favorite love tracks during your romantic dates or spontaneous at-home dance parties. With its compact size and wireless connectivity, the Bluetooth speaker becomes a go-to companion for any occasion. They can take it on outdoor adventures, picnics in the park, or even use it as a bedside speaker for relaxing bedtime tunes.

A Virtual Reality Adventure:

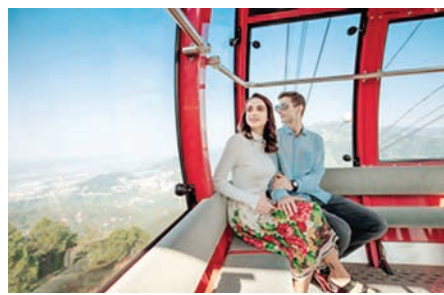
Transport yourselves to romantic destinations with a virtual reality getaway. Step into a world of adventure and excitement as you and your partner explore immersive virtual landscapes together. With VR technology, you can embark on thrilling adventures, solve puzzles, or even compete in multiplayer games - all from the comfort of your own home. So, put on your headsets, grab your controllers, and get ready for a Valentine's Day adventure like no other. With VR gaming, love knows no bounds.

6 exceptional properties where lovebirds can nestle in luxury, culture, and nature

As Valentine's Day approaches, couples begin the search for the perfect getaway to celebrate their love. From the vibrant hues of the Great Rann of Kutch to the historic lanes of Fort Cochin, and from the untamed wilderness of Gir National Park to the serene landscapes of Himachal Pradesh, several diverse destinations promise an unforgettable experience. Here are 6 exceptional properties where lovebirds can nestle in luxury, culture, and nature's embrace during Valentine's Day.

Rann Utsav - The Tent City, Gujarat

Experience the magic of the globally famed Rann Utsav, set against the mesmerizing backdrop of the Great Rann of Kutch. The Tent City is a heavenly abode offering a unique blend of luxury and cultural heritage. Couples can indulge in traditional folk performances, witness the breathtaking beauty of the white desert under the moonlit sky, and savour the delectable flavours of Gujarati cuisine. With luxury tents equipped with all modern amenities, crafted by local artisans, this exclusive retreat is an irresistible destination where every moment is a celebration of life. The ruins at Dholavira, the Harappan site, the 'Road to



Heaven' en route to Dholavira, camel safaris, and stargazing in the desert are also some other activities that you can partake in when staying at The Tent City. The Rann Utsav Tent City is operational till March 27, 2024.

Brunton Boatyard, Fort Cochin, Kerala

For couples who share a love for history, Brunton Boatyard in the historical Fort of Cochin is the prestigious address to explore. This five-star hotel, with its interiors reflecting a blend of English, Portuguese, and Dutch influences, brings alive the 19th-century Malabar charm. Every room at the property overlooks the sea,

promising romantic vistas of lazy ships, fishing boats, and possibly dolphins, right from the comfort of your cozy balcony. The scent of colonial history will surround your special one as she takes a tour of the historic Fort Cochin area where the hotel stands. Though little remains of the fort itself there are legacies of its proud history to be seen everywhere. As Fort Cochin was under the possession of the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British at different points in time, the region still bears the influence of European architecture and heritage.

Aramess Gir, Gujarat

Nestled on the outskirts of Gir National Park, Aramess Gir offers an unparalleled luxury experience in the heart of nature. It's an eco-village-style lodge where couples can embark on thrilling wildlife safaris led by skilled naturalists, enjoy local cuisine, and relax in exquisite Kothis and havelis with private pools and courtyards offering exclusive views of the forest. It's a haven for nature-loving couples seeking an intimate escape. At Aramess Gir, guests are taken into a world where nature unfolds in its most

majestic form, guided by highly skilled naturalists who are not only adept at tracking but also proficient in sharing comprehensive insights about the jungle's inhabitants, including the elusive Asiatic lions. Encircled by 18 square kilometers of lush teak forests, the property serves as a sanctuary where chital deer, blue bulls, and an extensive variety of bird species thrive in their natural habitat.

Jetwing Vil Uyana, Sigiriya

Jump at the opportunity of the Visa-free travel to Sri Lanka! A scenic 3-hour drive from the Colombo airport, this Garden of Lakes has been conferred one of the best 15 eco-resorts in the world! And there are more reasons for couples to explore this luxury resort - their unique 'dwellings', the spa, and the eco-system within are experiences in themselves. Choose from Forest-dwelling with a pool or Paddy-dwelling with views of infinite greens - there are more options to pick from.

international

ISRAELI AIR RAIDS 'CAUSE HEAVY CASUALTIES' IN RAFAH; 2 HOSTAGES FREED

Gaza | Agencies

Hamas-run Health Ministry has said that more than 100 Palestinians were killed and 160 others injured in the Israeli army's heavy air strikes on southern Gaza's Rafah and surrounding areas.

Moreover, 164 Palestinians were killed and 200 others wounded in Israeli raids across the enclave over the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll from the ongoing conflict to 28,340, and injuries to 67,984, the ministry was quoted as saying on Monday by Xinhua news agency.

The Israeli military carried out some 40 airstrikes on the Rafah area in the early hours of Monday, with intensive ground shelling, Palestinian eyewitnesses told the news agency.

"A large number of injured victims suffering from (traumatic) amputations and severe burns fled to our hos-



pital," said Suhaib Al-Hams, Director of Al-Kuwaiti Hospital in the city crowded with displaced people.

Al-Hams added that the Kuwaiti

Hospital, one of three hospitals in Rafah, suffers from a severe shortage of medicines and cannot deal with "this large number of victims".

PTI to seek justice from courts against Feb 8 poll 'rigging': Imran

Rawalpindi | Agencies

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will challenge the results of the February 8 general elections in the Supreme Court, said party founder Imran Khan during an informal talk with the media in Adiala jail, a media report said.

On Monday, the party had demanded immediate resignation of Pakistan's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, accusing him of dereliction of his constitutional and legal duties and playing the role of a facilitator in what it termed as 'poll fraud', The Express Tribune reported.

The PTI further insisted that not only should CEC Raja step down, but the members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should also tender their resignations, the report said.

It alleged that they colluded to strip PTI-backed candidates of the mandate bestowed upon them by the people in the February 8 general elections, marred by widespread reports of rigging. The PTI chief also dismissed any notion of an alliance with either the PML-N, PPP or MQM-P, as he instructed PTI Information



Secretary Raof Hassan to gather all political parties except these three to raise their voice against the alleged rigging.

On the next Prime Minister of Pakistan, Khan said a decision has not been taken yet regarding the nomination of the next PM, adding that the party will "consider it".

However, the PTI founder nominated Ali Amin Gandapur for the slot of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, The Express Tribune reported.

ANOTHER SIKH SEPARATISTS HOUSE HIT BY GUNFIRE IN CANADA

Toronto | Agencies

The house of a Sikh separatist, associated with pro-Khalistan leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who is a designated terrorist in India, has been hit by gunfire in Canada's Ontario province, a media report said.

The incident comes just days after multiple shots were fired at the Surrey home of Simranjeet Singh - a "friend" of banned Khalistan Tiger Force leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist in India, who was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in British Columbia last year.

According to The Guardian, a bullet hole was found in the window of an unfinished house, belonging to Khalistan supporter Inderjit Singh Gosal, in Brampton on Monday.

While no injuries were reported, the Peel Regional police could not rule out



that more shots were fired at the house.

But they confirmed that a single bullet hole had been found with Constable Tyler Bell-Morena of Peel Regional Police saying it is "too early" to link the shooting to Gosal's role in the Khalistan movement.

Gosal recently announced that a pro-Khalistan rally would be

held outside the Indian consulate in Toronto on February 17.

According to the report, Gosal works closely with Pannun, who is the chief legal counsel of the outlawed Sikhs for Justice and was the target of a foiled assassination bid in the US. The shooting incidents come just as India and Canada accused each other

of interfering in their "internal affairs".

Recently, Canada named India as a "foreign threat" that could potentially interfere in their elections, months after they accused New Delhi of playing a role in the killing Nijjar on Canadian soil in June last year. India categorically denied the allegation levelled by Canadian agencies of "interference" as "absurd" and "motivated". Further, India said that it is Canada that has been interfering in India's internal affairs. India has time and again asserted that the "core issue" with Canada is the space it gives to separatists, terrorists, and anti-India elements on its soil.

"It is not the government of India's policy to interfere in democratic processes of other countries. In fact, quite on the reverse, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Nepal importing over 3 lakh roses from India for Valentine's Day

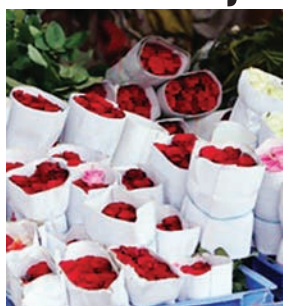
Kathmandu | Agencies

As demand for red roses surge ahead of the Valentine's day, Nepal is importing over 3 lakh stems of long-stem roses from India.

Nepal Floriculture Association President Bahadur Tamag said: "The demands for red roses stand at 3,00,500. Only ten per cent of the total demands are met by local productions and we are forced to procure over 90 per cent roses from India to meet the demand during Valentine's Day."

Delhi, Bangalore, and Kolkata are the largest suppliers of red roses to Nepal, he added. Only 23,000 rose stems will be fulfilled by the domestic market. A long stem rose costs Rs 80 to Rs 100. Out of the total demand, as much as 60 per cent will be consumed in Kathmandu and the rest will go outside Kathmandu.

With the pandemic almost over, there is excitement among the youths to celebrate



Valentine's Day just like before the Covid time.

"We failed to produce the roses to meet the domestic demands, said Tamag, adding that it is expected that rose trading around Valentine's Day will surpass Rs 30.50 million.

India has been the regular market for Nepal for importing different kinds of floriculture products. Last year, only 100,800 stems of roses were sold out during Valentine's Day but the number will grow significantly this year because of the no fear of any pandemic like Covid, said Tamag.





WATER CANNON FIRED ON CONGRESSMEN, MANY LEADERS INCLUDING PATWARI-SRINIVAS ARRESTED



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Police fired water cannon and tear gas shells on Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress workers

during the assembly siege. As soon as the workers reached Shivaji Nagar intersection (in front of Red Cross Hospital) for the assembly, the police stopped them by placing barricades.

During this, PCC Chief Jitu Patwari and Youth Congress National President Srinivas tried to cross the barricade and go towards the Assembly.

Police used water cannon and tear gas shells to stop them. One shell hit the face of Youth Congress State Vice President Prashant Parashar. After this, the police arrested Congress leaders including Jitu Patwari, Srinivas Biwi, Vikrant Bhuria.

Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar and Deputy Leader of Opposition Hemant Katore are also included in the siege. Youth Congress is protesting against increasing unemployment in the state, Harda firecracker factory blast, crime, women insecurity and government breaking promises. Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Hemant Katore told Dainik Bhaskar - We are raising the voice of the youth of Madhya Pradesh because they ask every day when will they get employment? We assure them that we will raise their voice in the House. When we discuss in the House, the government runs away from the discussion. During the demonstration, National President of Youth Congress Srinivas Biwi said that the way Madhya Pradesh government has betrayed the youth, they should be ashamed. Mohan Yadav is a remote control Chief Minister, who has nothing in his hands.

Hamidia Hospital Ambulance drivers' allegation: Parking operator asks for commission before taking the dead body

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Parking and operation of dead body in Hamidia Hospital has become a bone of controversy. Often at night, two groups here threaten and beat each other's people. Recently a video of this also went viral. Now a written complaint has been lodged by about 11 ambulance drivers at Kohfiza police station. In which serious allegations have been made against parking operator Narendra Goswami.

It has been said in the written application that the parking operator asks for commission before taking the dead body. If he doesn't listen to him, he threatens to beat him and even kill him. In this matter, parking operator Narendra says that these are the people who are not paying the fixed rent of Rs 2,000 per month. When they were asked for fare, they started making false allegations. People named Salman



and Arif are behind this. Who often commit hooliganism in Hamidia campus. Patients and their families are being troubled by this ongoing dispute regarding parking which is two to two and a half times the fare being charged from their family members.

The family members have to pay two to two and a half times more fare to take the dead body from Hamidia to the mortuary. This situation has persisted for the last one and a half to two years. From the hospital management to the administration, till now no strict steps have been taken on this matter. Due to which the hospital system is being badly affected.

Nature camp organized in Van Vihar National Park-Zoo

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Van Vihar National Park, with a view to develop awareness among the students about forests, wildlife and environment and sensitivity towards nature conservation, a one-day nature camp was organized for the students of government schools of Bhopal city and its surrounding villages. In this sequence, today on 13th February, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential Girls Hostel Deepshikha School T.T. 50 students and 02 teachers of Bhopal city participated in the said nature camp. Bho, Khaliq from Bhopal Birds were present in the program as resource persons. The participants were given interesting



activities related to bird watching, butterfly, wildlife viewing, information about forestry activities existing at the site, forest, wildlife and environment and their curiosities were quenched by providing information by the subject expert. Their curiosities were satiated by providing

information about forestry activities existing at various places in Van Vihar and information related to forests, wildlife and environment. Apart from this, wild animals like tiger, leopard, bear, crocodile, crocodile, chital, sambar, nilgai etc. were also observed.

The voters of the country have decided, "Modi government for the third time": CM Dr Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav reached Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday to attend the meeting of cluster in-charges of Bharatiya Janata Party. During his one-day stay, Dr. Yadav attended 3 cluster category meetings of 5 Lok Sabha constituencies including Azamgarh-Lalganj-Ghosi-Ballia and Salempur falling under Azamgarh cluster and discussed the party's strategy in view of the Lok Sabha elections, brainstormed on topics like taking the schemes of Modi government to the masses and the party's target of crossing 400 in the Lok Sabha elections, including the important role of workers.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi makes us proud. We find the impact



of Modi ji every day, in every type of incidents, we find his influence. We all are seeing that Uttar Pradesh is leading the entire country.

The kind of environment that is visible after Ayodhya, under the leadership of the illustrious Prime Minister, his work has not only won the hearts

of the people but Modi ji's face has come in front of everyone as an example of the possibilities of development. By realizing the dream of a grand temple at the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, the day of 22 January was immortalized in history. It is the glory of Modi ji that even in a

Muslim country like Arabia, he is going there to inaugurate the temple. Referring to the recent release of Indian Navy officers from Qatar, he said that Modi ji has increased India's fame at every step. Narendra Modi ji has done the work of glorifying the biggest post of democracy in India.

Attacking the opposition, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Indi Alliance is like a brick in some places, a stone in some places, a pair like Pandora's family. After all, the gathering of selfish people does not last long. There was only one speculation which was visible in front of everyone. He said that whether it is Mamata's party or AAP's party, everyone has taken their own path.

Congress could only make imaginary dish. Congress had hatched a conspiracy to come to power by making all its efforts. I was already confident and now the public has also seen that their conspiracy did not succeed.

AIIMS Bhopal Pioneers Medical Drone Delivery for Remote Areas

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal achieved a milestone on Tuesday with the successful completion of its first-ever drone test under the visionary leadership of Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, the institute's Executive Director. This landmark achievement marks a significant advancement in medical logistics, promising to revolutionize the delivery of healthcare services to remote and underserved regions. In the inaugural trial, AIIMS Bhopal orchestrated the seamless delivery of life-saving medications from its facilities to the Gauharganj Primary Health Center (PHC) in a mere 20 minutes via drone. Furthermore, the drone efficiently transported a patient's blood sample back to the institute from the remote location, showcasing the technology's potential to facilitate urgent medical interventions.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh emphasized the initiative's importance in extending timely medical assis-



tance to tribal populations residing in distant areas. The primary objective of deploying drones for medical logistics is to ensure swift and accessible healthcare services to as many individuals as possible, particularly in geographically isolated regions.

The drone embarked on its historic journey from AIIMS Bhopal at approximately 12:30 pm and returned from the Gauharganj PHC at around 1:45 pm, under the vigilant monitoring of Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh. Throughout the mission, the team meticulously tracked the drone's trajectory via GPS technology, ensuring its safe

navigation and efficient operation. Operating at speeds of up to 120 km/hr and covering distances of 100 km per trip, the medical drone holds immense potential in augmenting the existing healthcare infrastructure. AIIMS Bhopal has designated specialized personnel, including drone operators and pilots, to facilitate the loading and unloading of medical supplies, thereby streamlining the delivery process. The successful implementation of medical drone delivery positions AIIMS Bhopal as a trailblazer in leveraging cutting-edge technology to address healthcare challenges.

"JASHN-E-URDU" PROGRAM AT GAUCHAR MAHAL FROM 16 TO 18 FEBRUARY

Bhopal: A three-day "Jashn-e-Urdu" based on the theme of freedom from colonial mentality in literature will be organized at Gauhar Mahal from 16 to 18 February by Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, Sanskriti Parishad, Culture Department. Culture, Tourism, Religious and Endowment Minister Dharmendra Bhav Singh Lodhi will inaugurate the event. Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism Shiv Shekhar Shukla and Director Culture N.P. Namdev will also be present.

Director of Urdu Academy, Dr. Nursat Mehdi said that in view of the above objectives, Urdu Academy has organized the "Jashn-e-Urdu" program in the entire state throughout the year, based on the theme of "liberation from colonial mentality" in literature, in which lectures, dialogues based on many important topics will be organized. And seminars etc. will be organized.

In this, Sufiyana Mehfil, Rakse Sufiyana, All India Mushaira, Chilman Mushaira Shayrat, Mehfil Tanzo Mizah, Regional Mushaira, Baitbaazi, Open Mic, Calligraphy, Exhibition and Book Fair etc. will also be the main attractions of the program. On this occasion, one will also be able to meet world famous scholars, writers, film and theater artists.

Ensure continuous efforts to improve quality of education in CM Rise Schools

Team Absolute | Bhopal

School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh has said that CM Rise School is a great initiative taken by the state government. Ensure continuous efforts to improve the quality of education in these schools. He instructed to the departmental officers to ensure arrangements for running the school within the time limit set in the plan. Principal Secretary School Education Rashmi Arun Shami and Commissioner School Education Anubha Srivastava were also present in the meeting. It was told in the meeting that 275 CM Rise school buildings are being constructed in the state worth Rs. 9 thousand 641 crore by six agencies. PIU of Public Works Department is constructing 129 buildings at a cost of about Rs 4 thousand 409 crore. Minister Singh instructed the technical wing



of the School Education Department to continuously monitor the construction of the building.

It was told in the meeting that 3 consultant agencies are also helping in the implementation of the action plan of CM Rise School. These agencies are helping in leadership development of teachers, innovative methods of teaching and personality development of students. The examination results for the academic session 2022-23 were also discussed in the meeting. It was told that the

examination results of students in these schools are better than other schools. Five students of CM Rise School have found place in the merit list of class 10 and 12 board examination. CM Rise School Yojana has received the prestigious Skoch Award. According to the new National Education Policy, about 7 thousand teachers were given academic training. Along with this, participation of more than 60 thousand parents was ensured in the Srijan programme.

Congress leader of Pandhurna district joins BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Many Congress leaders of Pandhurna joined BJP in front of Bharatiya Janata Party State President and MP Shri Vishnudutt Sharma at the BJP State Office on Tuesday, impressed by the policy of Bharatiya Janata Party.

In front of Vishnudutt Sharma, former district president and MP representative of Pandhurna



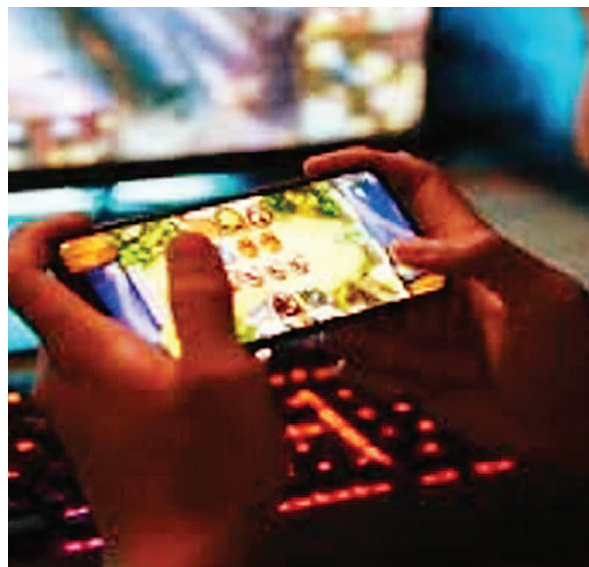
Ganesh Padmakar, Treasurer of City Congress Committee and former President of NSUI Rahul Tompe, senior Congress workers Dadu Sambare, Harshad Popli, Tinu Balpande, Rajat, Gopal. Many workers of Youth Congress including Rode, Balak Gonde, Yogesh Sonekre, Ravindra Kamde, Kunwarlal Chaudhary and Shri Omprakash Wadhwa took membership of Bharatiya Janata Party.

28 percent GST will be imposed on online gaming in Madhya Pradesh, Congress says government is legalizing gambling and betting

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh government will charge GST on online gaming. The central government has imposed 28 percent GST on it. The state has brought ordinances twice to amend the Madhya Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act. Now Madhya Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Amendment Bill has been passed in the Assembly. Congress members walked out in protest and then the amendment bill was passed by voice vote.

While presenting the Madhya Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Amendment Bill, Deputy Chief Minister Finance Jagdish Deora said that the trend of online betting, casino, gambling,



horse racing, lottery or playing online games has increased. This is social evil. This is also having adverse

effects and the government is not able to get tax. The central government has brought it under the ambit

of GST and imposed a tax of 28 percent.

This was opposed by Congress MLAs Ramiwas Rawat, Abhijeet Shah and Abhay Mishra. Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar alleged that the government is going to legalize gambling and betting. Other MLAs said that by legalizing online gaming, people will play more online games. This is not good.

In response to this, the Finance Minister said that it has been decided to impose GST only to prevent addition to online gaming. On this, Congress MLAs created a ruckus and walked out of the House shouting slogans. Meanwhile the bill was passed in the House. After this the proceedings of the House have been adjourned till 3 o'clock.

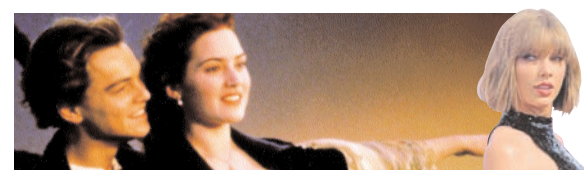
Now potholes on roads will be filled with mobile phones in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Now potholes on roads will be filled with mobile phones in Madhya Pradesh. To improve the condition of bad roads, the government is soon going to launch a mobile app which will help in improving the condition of the roads. With the help of this mobile app, people's frequent complaints regarding roads will



reduce. Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh gave information about this app in the Assembly. Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh gave this information in the Assembly in response to the question of BJP MLA Chandarani Gaur during the Question Hour in the Assembly. Giving information, he said that the government is coming up with a big plan.



Selena Gomez shares loved up pictures with boyfriend Benny Blanco

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Selena Gomez is enjoying cozying up with her boyfriend as the singer, 31, and her 35-year-old boyfriend Benny Blanco showed their love for each other on Instagram. Selena posted a series of photos of the two cuddling with one another. She captioned the post, "My bes fwend," Blanco replied: "Das my bes fwend", reports 'People' magazine. The first photo shows Selena, wearing a matching sweatpant look, hugging the DJ from behind as he cooks fresh meatballs.

As per 'People', the second image has more PDA on display -- the singer can be seen sitting on Blanco's lap as he wraps his arm around her chest and plants a kiss on her shoulder. She is wearing a low-cut metallic nude dress and black coat, while Blanco matches in a nude suit.

The next two photos show the couple's goofy side, with one showing Selena sticking her tongue out and her beau mid-sentence, and the other a more candid snap of them two in the kitchen.

On Sunday, Selena also shared a photo of her and Blanco wrapping their arms around each other as they cozied up against a red velvet sofa. The sweet moment was followed by a selfie of the singer and her close friend Nicola Peltz Beckham in the same surroundings.

The BFFs matched in white tops in the photo as Peltz, 29, pouted with a red cup, and the 'Only Murders in the Building' actress gave a gentle smile.



Jennifer Lopez says 'This Is Me ... Now' may be her 'last album ever'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Jennifer Lopez has confessed 'This Is Me... Now' could be her last ever album. The 'On The Floor' hitmaker, 54, has admitted her new record -- which is all about her relationship with Hollywood actor husband Ben Affleck, reports Female First UK. The singer told Entertainment Tonight: "We did a bunch of different album covers. We try to do stuff that's very special for the fans and do collector's items and things like that that they can have forever and ever. The truth is I don't even know if I'll ever make another album after this. It's such the quintessential kind of Jennifer Lopez [Lo] project and I really feel very fulfilled, so they really will be collector's items at a certain point."

Asked about it being her last studio collection, Jennifer said: "Don't tell Benny (Medina, manager and collaborator) that that's what I'm thinking - this might be my last album ever."

Jennifer further explained, "I feel like it's the end of a kind of an era for me and the beginning of a new one, so I would never say never, but right now I feel like I really put my heart and soul into this and I'm very excited and it definitely took a lot out of me."

As per Female First UK, 'This Is Me... Now' is a follow-up to 2002's 'This Is Me... Then'.

Meanwhile, Jennifer recently dropped a huge hint she could be set for her first global tour in 12 years. The 'Jenny from the Block' singer and actress believes her upcoming record is well "suited" to a "live experience".

She told Zane Lowe on Apple Music 1, "I kept telling my team, I was like, 'You have to understand, I'm going to perform these songs. I'm going to bring them to life onstage, and it needs to be down in the ground. We got to dig. And they understood it and they gave it to me. I really want to (tour). I believe that there's nothing that's more suited to being live and having a live experience than this record."

She added, "I don't have any official kind of 'this is it right now', but I am very keen to get out there and perform this music for sure."

Katy Perry reveals she's leaving 'American Idol'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry has said that she is leaving 'American Idol'. The singer and the show judge, 39, announced her exit from the show after seven seasons on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live'. She teased that she has more projects, including new music, come later in 2024, reports 'People' magazine.

"I think this probably will be my last show, my last season for 'American Idol', Perry confirmed. "I mean I love Idol so much. It connected me with the heart of America, but I feel like I need to go out and feel that pulse to my own beat, you what I'm saying Jimmy?"

As per 'People', when asked what her fellow judges Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie said about her leaving, Perry responded, "Well they'll find out tonight."

She then explained that her co-judges "know that I have some things planned for this year."

She added, "So it's going to be a very, very exciting year for all girlies! The 'Roar' singer shared about Bryan, 47, and Richie, 74, "I love them so much", as she also shared that the pair were aware of her plans to exit Idol after seeing her "in the studio."

"They figure I've been in the studio for a while so they figured something is coming," she continued. "I love the show so much but I wanna go and see the world and maybe bring new music."



John Lennon resented Muhammad Ali for making Beatles 'look stupid'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Late musician John Lennon disliked late boxer Muhammad Ali because he made The Beatles "look really stupid", claims photographer Harry Benson.

The band met the boxer on their first trip to the US in February 1964, when they were both on the brink of megastardom, but the meeting reportedly didn't go well as the legendary fighter -- who was still known by his birth name Cassius Clay at the time -- insulted the group, leaving them unimpressed.

Photographer Harry Benson had taken the 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand' hitmakers to meet Ali -- who died in 2016 aged 74 -- when he was preparing for his Sonny Liston fight and they were waiting to appear on 'The Ed Sullivan Show', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He recalled to the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "Ali dwarfed them. Just the repartee of Ali:



"You think you're good-looking? You're not that good-looking - you're tiny, small, little men. Look at me!"

"They didn't like it - Lennon and Paul McCartney in particular. He didn't particularly like their singing, and told them that...Afterward, John said to me, 'He made us look really stupid, and it's your fault, Benson.'"

According to the photographer, Lennon, who died in 1980 and his bandmates, Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Ringo Starr and the late George Harrison, refused to speak to him for three months as a result.

George previously described the boxer as "quite cute" and claimed Ali was "clamouring" to meet the group, but Harry didn't remember it the same way.

He said: "He couldn't care less about them."

When Ali died in 2016, Paul shared a photo from their meeting as he paid tribute to the "beautiful, gentle" man.

He wrote: "I loved that man. He was great from the first day we met him in Miami... He was a beautiful, gentle man with a great sense of humour."

Blake Lively responds to hubby Ryan Reynolds' Super Bowl joke about where she was

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Blake Lively is back home after Super Bowl weekend. The 'Gossip Girl' actress, 36, posted an Instagram Story in response to her husband Ryan Reynolds' Instagram joke questioning where she was -- even though Lively had been shown alongside Taylor Swift multiple times on TV that night.

Posing in front of the same 'Deadpool' trailer background as Reynolds, 47, did in his post, Lively wrote, "Honey, I'm home. My day was good. Yours?", reports 'People' magazine.

Blake Lively was alongside Swift at Super Bowl in Las Vegas, which saw the 'Love Story' hitmaker's boyfriend Travis Kelce help bring the Kansas City Chiefs to victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

As per 'People' magazine, the 'Gossip Girl' alum cheered on the Chiefs wearing a red Adidas tracksuit and white cropped tank top. Rather than go all-out sporty, however, she paired the look with stiletto heels and retro '80s-style curls.

Reynolds -- who tied the knot with Lively in 2012 -- hilariously took to Instagram to ask "Has everyone seen the #Deadpool trailer?"



Also has anyone seen my wife?"

He then shared a shot of Lively's arm, featuring multiple bangles and a 'Deadpool' charm, with the caption, "Found my wife."

Kate Winslet says 'life was quite unpleasant' after 'Titanic' fame

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kate Winslet has revealed she was not prepared for the kind of added attention she got after 'Titanic'. The 1997 film directed by James Cameron became a box-office hit and made Kate and her co-star Leonardo DiCaprio megastars. "I felt like I had to look a certain way, or be a certain thing, and because media intrusion was so significant at that time, my life was quite unpleasant," Kate told Porter Magazine, dead-line.com. The actress added: "Journalists would always say, 'After Titanic, you could have done anything and yet you chose to do these small things...' and I was like, 'Yeah, you bet your f***in' life I did! Because, guess what, being famous was horrible.'" "I was grateful, of course. I was in my early twenties, and I was able to get a flat. But I didn't want to be followed literally feeding the ducks." At 48 years old now, Kate says the word fame is "ridiculous" and doesn't consider it a "burden" anymore. "(Titanic) continues to bring people huge amounts of joy," she notes. "The only time I am like, 'Oh god, hide, is if we are on a boat somewhere.'" Kate has been open about her struggles with the media in her 20s,



which made her self-conscious about her body. In an interview published by Vogue in September 2023, Kate talked about why she had to be brave to film a topless scene for the film 'Lee'. "I had to be really f***ing brave about letting my body be its softest version of itself and not hiding from that," she told the publication. Kate said it all "stems from having been subjected to the most awful scrutiny and judgment, and, actually, I would go so far as to say bullying, from mainstream media when I was in my 20s."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jasmine Sanders



UWW LIFTS SUSPENSION OF WRESTLING FEDERATION OF INDIA

Lausanne (Switzerland) | Agencies

The United World Wrestling, the global governing body for the sport, has lifted the suspension on the Wrestling Federation of India with immediate effect. UWW had placed the WFI under provisional suspension on August 23 last year after the Indian body failed to hold an election in due course.

The UWW Disciplinary Chamber decided that it had sufficient grounds to impose the provisional suspension on the body as the situation in the federation prevailed for at least six months.

The UWW Bureau met on February 9 to review the suspension among other topics and considering all the elements and information, it decided to lift the suspension under the following conditions:

The WFI has to re-convene the



elections of its Athletes' Commission. The candidates for this commission shall be active athletes or retired for

no longer than four years. The voters shall be exclusively athletes. These elections shall take place during tri-

als or any senior national championships where this operation can take place, but no later than July 1, 2024. The WFI has to immediately provide UWW with written guarantees that all wrestlers will be considered for participation without any discrimination in all WFI events, in particular trials for the Olympic Games and any other major national and international events. This non-discrimination includes the three athletes who protested against alleged wrongdoings by the former President.

UWW remains in touch with the wrestlers and will follow up with them in the coming days.

This also means that Indian wrestlers will be able to compete under their country's flag at the next UWW event. Under the suspension, the Indian wrestlers had to compete under a UWW flag.

Smriti Mandhana jumps to No. 4 in latest ICC Women's ODI Rankings

Dubai | Agencies

Making a significant leap of two places, Smriti Mandhana has claimed the No.4 spot in the Women's ODI batters in the latest ICC rankings. England's Nat Sciver Brunt, Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu and Australia's Beth Mooney are occupying the top three spots.

Mandhana's ascent was fueled by her consistent displays with the bat, particularly in the bilateral series against Australia, where she showcased her prowess with scores of 34 and 29 at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Her stellar performances not only secured victories for her team but also propelled her up the rankings ladder.

Ashleigh Gardner dropped three places down to No.22, while Phoebe Litchfield also slipped two places. Tahliia McGrath gained four places up to No.30 in the batting rankings.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt faced a downturn in fortunes, slipping to fifth place after a lacklustre performance against Australia. Opening the batting against the formidable Alyssa Healy and company, Wolvaardt struggled, managing only seven



runs at an average of 2.33. Her disappointing outing saw her relinquish her previous ranking, making way for Mandhana's ascent.

But it wasn't just the batters who witnessed shifts in their rankings; the all-rounders and bowlers also saw movements.

South Africa's Eliz-Mari Marx's remarkable rise, gaining 34 places to No. 75 in the all-rounders' rankings, showcased the depth of talent emerging in the sport. Meanwhile, Australia's Kim Garth's ascent to No.36 and Alana King's climb to No.19 underscored the competitive landscape of women's cricket.

PGTI Players Championship: Arjun Prasad fires 62 for the opening round honours

Kolkata | Agencies

Delhi-based Arjun Prasad fired an exceptional eight-under 62 to take the opening round honours in the INR 1 crore PGTI Players Championship 2024, the first event of the season, being played at the Tollygunge Club here on Tuesday. Defending champion Sachin Baisoya (63), another Delhi golfer, was a shot behind in second place.

The four players bunched in third place with scores of 64 included rookie Stepan Danek of the Czech Republic as well as Udayan Mane, Karan Pratap Singh and local lad Mohammad Sanju.

Arjun Prasad, who turned 25 years of age on Monday, made sure he celebrated his birthday in style with a sizzling round of golf on Tuesday that featured two



eagles, five birdies and a bogey. Prasad, who endured a tough season in 2023 due to a wrist injury, picked up four

birdies on the front nine after leaving himself a few short birdie putts. After his bogey on the eighth, Arjun was on a roll once again with two eagles including a chip-in and a birdie between the 10th and the 13th that helped him soar to the top of the leaderboard. Arjun said, "It was a pretty solid day for me. I created good chances with the wedges and my putting was on point as I was able to hole a lot of putts. Places where I missed the greens, I was able to make up and downs. At this course, you need to hit the tee shots well and get in good positions to give yourself more birdie opportunities." Sachin Baisoya's round of 63 featured eight birdies and a bogey. Manu Gandas, the 2022 PGTI Order of Merit champion, was tied for seventh at 65 along with Rahul Gangjee and four others.

India's oldest Test cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad passes away aged 95, BCCI expresses grief

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has expressed its profound grief at the passing away of Dattajirao Gaekwad, former India captain and India's oldest Test cricketer.

"The Board expresses its heartfelt condolences to Gaekwad's family, friends, and admirers," the BCCI wrote on X.

Gaekwad, who captained India on a tour of England in 1959, passed away in his hometown Vadodara on Tuesday. He was 95 and acknowledged as India's oldest Test cricketer since 2016.

Gaekwad played in 11 Tests and led the team during India's Tour of England in 1959. He toured England in 1952 and 1959 and West Indies in 1952-53. Blessed with a rock-solid defence and delightfully crisp shots, Dattajirao Gaekwad made his Test



debut in Leeds, in the first Test of the 1952 tour of England. He opened the innings despite having never done

that previously even at the domestic level. He had to pull out of the team in the 1953 tour of the West Indies

when he collided with Vijay Hazare while going for a catch in the second Test and dislocated his shoulder.

Under his captaincy, Baroda won the Ranji Trophy in the 1957-58 season, beating Services in the final. Gaekwad, who scored 219 against defending champions Bombay during the season, scored a century in the final against Services.

Gaekwad captained India for the first time on the tour of England in 1959 as Hemu Adhikari, who led the Indian team in the fifth Test against the West Indies, was unavailable.

In 11 Test matches, Gaekwad scored 350 runs with a top score of 52, his only Test fifty coming against the West Indies in 1958-59. He played 110 first-class matches, scoring 5788 runs, hitting 17 centuries and 23 half-centuries. An occasional leg-spinner, Gaekwad also picked 25 wickets in First-class matches with a best performance of 4-117.

IND v ENG: If the pitch stays green, there's every chance two seamers will play: Olie Pope

Rajkot | Agencies

England Vice-captain Olie Pope, has revealed the possibility of bolstering their pace attack with an extra seamer as England prepare for the pivotal third Test against India starting on Thursday at Rajkot.

With the series delicately balanced at 1-1, every decision holds the weight of destiny. The Rajkot pitch, adorned with a verdant carpet, whispered secrets of a contest tilted towards seam mastery.

Mark Wood with his left leg strapped but determined unyielding, epitomized England's resolve as he honed his skills in the nets. Olie Robinson, with sweat glistening like pearls of determination on his brow, stood ready as another option in the quest for victory.

On Tuesday, two days before the third Test begins on Thursday, the Rajkot pitch had a covering of green grass. "If it stays like that, there's every chance two seamers will be played," batter Pope told BBC Sport.

"I don't want to give away too many secrets, but at the minute there's a little bit more grass on it. It looks like a pretty good pitch. We always like to make a decision here the day before the Test begins because conditions can change, especially with the heat on it all day."

England captain Ben Stokes will play his 100th Test in Rajkot, 11 years after making his debut against Australia in Adelaide. Stokes, 32, will



become the 16th England man to reach the milestone, the latest landmark in a storied career.

Olie Pope, spoke with reverence, a disciple honoring his mentor. "What a legend of the game," said Pope. "There are so many great memories from his career. It's a credit to him. What he has put his body

through - he gives 110% to every Test he plays and plays everyone like it is his last. You never know what you are going to get.

"He can do ridiculous things in the field, with the bat and with the ball. Long may that continue over the next few years."

Doha | Agencies

Former World No.1 Naomi Osaka returned to her winning ways as she defeated No.15 seed Caroline Garcia 7-5, 6-4 in the first-round at the Qatar Open, WTA 1000 event.

With her 1-hour and 28-minute win on Monday night, Osaka avenged her first-round loss to Garcia earlier this year at the Australian Open, which was Osaka's first Grand Slam appearance since her maternity leave began at the end of 2022.

In the second round, Osaka will take on Petra Martic of Croatia. Former Top 15 player Martic needed to go the distance on Monday before squeaking past Dutchwoman Arantxa Rus 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(5) in just under three hours of play.

Osaka won the first match of her comeback this season, against Tamara Korpatsch in Brisbane, but had lost her next three in succession. Now



she is back on track, garnering her first win over a Top 50 player since she beat Belinda Bencic at the Miami Open in March of 2022. "I feel like I'm a much better player now. I think in Australia my returns

weren't as good, and I don't feel like I was as focused as I am now," Osaka said. "I think that definitely made a difference, especially against such a good server like she is," she said.

I-League 2023-24 Eddie Hernandez hat-trick fires Mohammedan Sporting back in form

Naihati (West Bengal) | Agencies

Honduran footballer Eddie Hernandez struck a hat-trick as Mohammedan Sporting shrugged off their blues since the restart to re-establish their form and function at the top of the I-League 2023-24 table with a 5-1 victory over a hapless Rajasthan United FC at the Naihati Bankimanjali Stadium on Tuesday.

Hernandez was the star of the day as he scored in the 27th minute, the 44th minute and the 88th minutes. Fanaï Lalremsanga opened the scoring in the 21st minute while Mirjalol Kasimov converted a penalty in the 64th minute for Mohammedan Sporting William Pauliankhum struck in the

29th minute to reduce the margin for Rajasthan United as the winners led 3-1 at half-time.

With 31 points from 14 matches, the Kolkata side, who gathered only one point from their last two matches, remain the leaders in the points table.

In a back-and-forth first half, Mohammedan Sporting started the stronger but somehow never seemed to display the stability that had defined them in the early weeks of the season. There was to be no comeback though as Mohammedan put on a clinical show in the second half to wrap up the victory. A 64th-minute penalty - awarded for Amritpal Singh's blatant foul on David Lalhlansanga - was converted by Kasimov to extend the lead.

I am pretty certain Cummins will lead SRH in IPL 2024: Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar backed Pat Cummins to lead Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season 2024.

SRH bought Cummins for a whopping Rs 20.50 crore at the auction last December last year. Travis Head (Rs 6.80 crore) was their other expensive buy at the auction.

Gavaskar, speaking on Star Sports, hailed the move as a game-changer for SRH, citing Cummins' leadership qualities and all-around skills as pivotal for the team's success.

"I think Pat Cummins was a smart buy, maybe a little over-expensive. Smart buy because he will bring the leadership aspect to their team, which was lacking the last time around," said Gavaskar.

"Last time around, some of the bowling changes that we saw in crucial



games were just head-scratching, and that cost them matches. So now with Pat Cummins coming in, I am pretty certain that he will be the captain of the team and that will make a huge difference," the former India captain added.

Cummins' ability to deliver with both bat and ball adds an extra dimension to SRH's arsenal. Gavaskar referenced

Cummins' blistering 14-ball half-century for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2022 as a testament to his prowess as an all-rounder.

SRH's overhaul didn't stop with Cummins. They also splashed Rs 6.80 crore on Travis Head, the explosive Australian batsman known for his ability to single-handedly change the course of a game. Gavaskar identified Head as the perfect fit for the opening slot, envisioning an electrifying partnership with either Mayank Agarwal or Rahul Tripathi. "Travis Head is the kind of batter who can take the game away from you. He did that in the World Cup finals. He is just the ideal No. 1 in a 20-overs game for the SunRisers Hyderabad."

"So, he and whoever opens with him, whether it's Mayank Agarwal or whether it's Rahul Tripathi, who started as an opener and then went in the middle, if he comes in the opening slot again, then it will be entertaining batting for sure," Gavaskar stated.

PKL 10: Patna Pirates fight back to beat Telugu Titans, qualify for playoffs

Kolkata | Agencies

Patna Pirates showcased a stunning come-from-behind win to become the fifth team to qualify for the playoffs stage of Season 10 of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) as they clinched a 38-36 victory over Telugu Titans in their clash at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Manjeet starred for Patna Pirates with eight points, while Telugu Titans skipper Pawan Sehrawat's superb 16-point show went in vain.

Patna Pirates were the in-form team coming into the game with a seven-game unbeaten streak, but they were handed a rude jolt by a resurgent Telugu Titans. Pawan began the onslaught as he produced two back-to-back multi-point raids and some woeful defending from the Patna Pirates saw Telugu



Titans inflict an All-Out within four minutes.

Telugu Titans had a shock 10-3 lead, which further increased as Patna Pirates' defence simply failed to click. Pawan ran circles around the men in green and brought up his Super 10 in the 15th minute, at which point the scorecard read 20-12 in Telugu Titans' favour. Patna Pirates upped the ante in the final five minutes of the half as Sandeep Kumar produced a couple of key raids and a strong tackle from Krishan Dhull on Pawan saw the Telugu Titans reduced to just 2 men.



Seema Biswas: Express my gratitude to Edinburgh International Film Festival jury for conferring me with Best Actress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Seema Biswas, who has been feted with the Best Actress award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival for her work in the film 'Sir Madam Sarpanch', is chuffed on being conferred with the honour. The film also bagged the Best foreign Feature Film award at the festival.

Reacting to her win at the festival, the actress told: "I feel very proud to be a part of 'Sir Madam Sarpanch'. I enjoyed working on this film working with an array of talented artists and it was a memorable experience for me.

"I got to know about the film being honoured with the Best foreign Feature Film award and me being feted with the Best Actress award at the



Edinburgh International Film Festival, I express my deepest gratitude to the jury for conferring me with this honour and I hope that the audience is across the world show their love for this film."

Director Praveen said, "It's truly heartening to see a political satire film on women's empowerment garnering accolades at international film festivals."

Winning Best Film and other prestigious awards is not only a remarkable achievement for the film but also the film's success underscores the impact of creative storytelling in fostering societal change and highlights the universal relevance of its themes."

Producer Suneel Sajani said, "It was an honour and a privilege to work with such great talent. 'Sir Madam Sarpanch' is a great film."

Rakul Preet Singh, Jacky Bhagnani opt for eco-conscious nuptials

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood couple Rakul Preet Singh and Jacky Bhagnani, who are all set to get married on February 21, will be having an eco-friendly wedding in the picturesque locale of Goa.

The three-day affair, starting on February 19 and culminating in their marriage on February 21, stands out for its green initiatives.

Sources reveal that the couple has skipped on paper invites in favour of digital-only announcements to guests. In keeping with their eco-friendly theme, the wedding will feature no firework displays.

Taking their commitment a step further, Rakul and Jacky are working with experts to assess and offset their wedding's carbon footprint. These specialists will calculate the environmental impact of their festivities and advise on the quantity of trees to be planted to balance it out. Following this advice, the couple plans to plant these trees, symbolising their dedication to the environment either immediately after their wedding or the next day.

On Monday, their digital wedding card surfaced and the opening card had the hashtag #ABDONOBHAGNA-NI.

After dating for a few years, Rakul and Jacky chose Goa to be their wedding venue as they had reportedly fallen in love in the same location, according to reports.



Deepika Padukone, Lily Collins, Dua Lipa, others to present BAFTA Awards 2024

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who was recently seen in the action film 'Fighter' is set to present an award at the upcoming edition of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards.

The actress earlier presented the song 'Naatu Naatu' at the 95th Academy Awards, last year.

They took to the stories section of her Instagram and shared the news with her followers as she expressed her gratitude.

The actress shared a screenshot of the list of presenters from the BAFTA website. It read, "Presenters confirmed to date include (in alphabetical order) -- Adjoa Andoh, Andrew Scott, Bryce Dallas Howard, Callum Turner, Cate Blanchett, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Daisy Edgar Jones, Daryl McCormack, David Beckham, Deepika Padukone, Dua Lipa, Emma Corrin, Emma Mackey, Gillian Anderson, Himesh Patel, Hugh Grant, Idris Elba, Indira Varma, James Martin, Jack O'Connell, Keegan-Michael Key, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Lily Collins, Marisa Abela, Rebecca Ferguson, Sheila Atim, Taylor Russell."

However, the categories in which they will hand out remain unconfirmed. At the ceremony, Hannah



Waddingham will perform a special cover song, while Sophie Ellis Bextor will sing Murder on the Dancefloor, which recently regained popularity two decades after release because of

'Saltburn'. BAFTA Film Awards will take place on Sunday at the Royal Festival Hall in London. Indian audiences can watch the ceremony on Lionsgate Play.

Sikandar Kher: I am very loyal, just like my character Daulat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sikandar Kher personally relates to his character Daulat from 'Aarya Antim Vaar' in Areal life. "I am very loyal, just like my character Daulat. Whatever I do, I try to make it very identifiable. What qualities I would like to have in my character, like his staunch loyalty. Similarly, I am also very, very loyal to friends and people in general; that is there naturally," Sikandar said.

The actor added: "Aarya's fans have been amazing. You guys have given us so much love; you've given Daulat so much love, and I love you for that. I hope you continue giving us that much love because we love making it, and we love shooting for it."

"I love working with Ram, Amita, and RME. The more love you guys give, the more work we will do. 'Aarya' is one of the best experiences I have had working in my career ever."



MP/MLA court orders Rampur SP to arrest Jaya Prada and produce her in court



Team Absolute | Rampur (UP)

The MP/MLA court in Rampur has ordered the superintendent of police to arrest and produce actor-turned-politician Jaya Prada in court on February 27. The Superintendent of Police was ordered to form a special team and arrest the former MP and present her

in the court.

Senior prosecution officer Amarnath Tiwari said that the former MP did not reach the court on Monday for hearing even after a non-bailable warrant had been issued against her for the seventh time.

Former MP Jaya Prada, is 'absconding' in two cases related to violation of code of conduct.

Akshay Kumar shares first look from 'Sarfira'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar's next film has been titled 'Sarfira'. The actor on Tuesday, took to his Instagram and shared the first look from the film in which he can be seen opening his arms while smiling and leaning backwards while riding a bike. In another shot, he can be seen standing against an ATR 42 flight of Air Deccan. He wrote in the caption, "Dream so Big, they call you crazy! #Sarfira releasing only in cinemas on 12th July, 2024. #MaarUdi".

The film, which also stars Paresh Rawal, Radhika Madan and Seema Biswas in pivotal roles, is written and directed by Sudha Kongara, from a script penned by Sudha Kongara and Shalini Ushadevi, with dialogues by Pooja Tolani. It is the Hindi remake of the 2020 Tamil film 'Soorarai Pottru' which was directed by Sudha Kongara.



Kerala film director Prakash Koleri found dead at his residence

Team Absolute | Kochi

Kerala film director Prakash Koleri (65) was found dead at his residence in Wayanad on Tuesday. His first film 'Mizhiyithalil Kanneerumayi' was released in 1987, while his last was 'Pattupusthakam' in 2013.

Other films directed by Koleri are 'Avan Anandapadmanabhan'; 'Varum Varathirikilla'; and four others besides he wrote scripts also.

Living alone at his home in Wayanad, he was reported to be missing for the last two days. His relatives broke open the house and found him dead.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Malaika Arora