

# absolute india



VOL. 9, ISSUE 115, BHOPAL | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02  
'Parivarvad a threat to democracy', PM Modi attacks Oppn...



**HOLYWOOD** > 06  
South Korean actress Kim Bo Ra announces marriage plans ...



**SPORTS** > 07  
My biggest pain is I don't enjoy my success as much as I should...

## CENTRE ROLLS OUT 200 CNG STATIONS ACROSS 17 STATES IN BIG PUSH TO GREEN ECONOMY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday dedicated to the nation as many as 201 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across 17 states and India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijapur in Madhya Pradesh as part of the Modi government's push towards a green economy.

These stations will promote the usage of CNG in the transport sector and household kitchens as a greener alternative to conventional fuels and make it available in newer areas. The dedication of the stations was done through video conferencing at a function here attended by senior ministry officials and top executives of public sector natural gas giant GAIL.

The 201 CNG stations have been set up by 15 City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities of the GAIL out of which 53 stations belong to GAIL Gas Limited, 50 to Indraprastha Gas Limited, 43 to GAIL and 20 to Mahanagar Gas Limited, according to an official statement.

Of the rest, four belong to Avantika Gas Limited, two to Bengal Gas Company Limited, three to Central UP Gas Limited, one to Goa Natural Gas Pvt. Limited, three to Green Gas



Limited, one to Haridwar Natural Gas Limited, two to Purba Bharati Gas Limited, one to Rajasthan State Gas Pvt. Limited, one to Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited and one to Vadodara Gas Limited.

After the completion of ongoing CGD development in GAs awarded under the 12th CGD bidding round of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, almost entire India's population and geographical area will have access to Natural Gas. The total number of CNG stations across the country has gone up to more than 6,200 while

the number of domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections stands at around 1.21 crore. GAIL group companies account for 40 per cent CNG stations and 64 per cent PNG connections in the country, the statement said.

In accordance with the continuous innovation undertaken in the natural gas value chain, GAIL has set up India's first small-scale LNG (SSLNG) unit at its Vijapur LPG plant. This SSLNG technology has the potential to play a crucial role in connecting the isolated sources and consumers which

are yet to be connected to the Natural Gas Pipeline Network, the statement added.

### MGL CUTS CNG PRICES FOR MUMBAI, SURROUNDINGS FROM MIDNIGHT

**Mumbai:** The Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) on Tuesday announced a reduction in CNG prices by Rs 2.50 per kg for Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

The downward revision will come into effect from midnight of March 5/6, and now the new prices of CNG will be Rs 73.40 per kg. This new rate offers attractive savings of 53 per cent, compared to petrol, and 22 per cent, compared to diesel, at current price levels in Mumbai.

This reduction in CNG price would help to increase the consumption of natural gas in the transportation segment while delivering unmatched convenience, safety, reliability, and environmental friendliness to consumers, and taking a step towards making India cleaner and greener, it said.

### Pro-Pak slogans row

## Police told to take strict action against anti-national activities: K'taka Dy CM

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, DK Shivakumar, on Tuesday said that the police had been instructed to take stringent action against anyone involved in anti-national activities.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "We have given a free hand to the police in the investigation of the pro-Pakistan slogan-raising case and we will not interfere in any way." The Home Minister has already given a statement regarding this. The Rajya Sabha MP, too, has already asked for stringent action against the culprits.

"The BJP may get any number of private reports but those are not official reports. The police will conduct an extensive investigation and take appropriate action," he added. Asked about some Congress ministers' statements that no pro-Pakistan slogans were raised in the



Assembly, he said, "They have expressed their opinion. There is a possibility that the video may have been tampered with. The police investigation will reveal the truth. Police have taken some suspects into custody. Voice samples need to be collected for the probe. The police will also investigate an incident in which a BJP party worker raised pro-Pakistan slogans."

Asked about the drinking water shortage in the city, he said, "We are taking this issue seriously. We are taking over private water tankers and

bore wells wherever necessary. We are also identifying good sources of water around the city." Karnataka Police arrested two BJP workers on Tuesday for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans while staging a protest in Mandya city in November 2022.

The complaint was filed by an advocate Kannambadi Kumar based on a viral video on social media.

The arrested BJP workers have been identified as Ravi, a resident of Dhanayakapura and Shivakumar Aradhya from Mandya.

## Maha 'suffered' Sharad Pawar for 50 years: Amit Shah



Jalgaon (Maharashtra) | Agencies

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on dynastic politics in the country and said Maharashtra has 'suffered' Sharad Pawar for 50 years.

Addressing a Youth Convention in Jalgaon on Tuesday evening, the Union Home Minister said that the INDIA bloc that has cobbled up against Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, is a collection of parties with dynastic ambitions, with no concern for development or for the people of the country.

"These parties have no internal democracy, how can they strengthen India's democracy, develop it and take it ahead? Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son Rahul Gandhi the PM, Uddhav Thackeray is keen to make his son Aditya the CM, Sharad Pawar desires to make his daughter Supriya Sule the CM, Mamata Banerjee is trying to make her nephew (Abhishek) CM and MK Stalin wants to make his son (Udhayanidhi) the CM..." thundered HM Shah. Amid all this 'parivarvaad', he said there is nobody except PM Modi to think and care for the masses and aim to make India fully developed by 2047.

"Maharashtra has endured Sharad Pawar for 50 years, but look at PM Modi's track record of the last 10 years when you go to vote... None of these dynastic parties can take the country forward," he said.

HM Shah said in the last 10 years, PM Modi has made India safe and secure, citing how during the erstwhile UPA rule, there were many bomb attacks, terrorists entered from Pakistan, created mayhem and went back with no retaliation.

### FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM SUFFER MEGA OUTAGE GLOBALLY, INCLUDING IN INDIA



**New Delhi:** Meta-owned apps Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and Threads suffered a major outage on Tuesday globally, including in India, as millions were unable to join the social media platforms.

Website outage tracking website Downtidetector showed more than one lakh reports of Facebook being down, and the number was increasing.

Instagram also had more than 20,000 reports of outages being faced by the users across the globe. Affected users took to X to report about being unable to log in and the session expiring across Meta's family of apps. It is still unclear what caused the outage as the company is yet to issue any official statement. This is one of the biggest outages for Meta in years.

## Rahul should focus on LS polls, not Yatra: MP CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday lashed out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, saying that he is wasting his time on roads with his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and instead should focus and prepare for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The Chief Minister said the grand-old party has a long experience in governance but it seems that their current leadership under Rahul Gandhi is focusing on others than their own party.

Chief Minister Yadav said that even the Congress leaders have expressed their disappointment over the timing of 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. On Tuesday, Rahul



Gandhi visited Ujjain's Mahakal temple and offered prayers. Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath also joined Rahul in Ujjain.

"Ujjain is the land of Lord Mahakal and every citizen has the right to offer his or her prayer. But, at the same time, Rahul Gandhi should also tell the people why his

party should to participate in Pran Pratishtha of Lord Ram in Ayodhya," the Chief Minister said.

Addressing a public rally during his march, Rahul Gandhi continued his attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and accused him of not doing anything to tackle the rising unemployment problem in the country.

"PM Modi desires that our youth should spend all their time watching reels on cell phones and chant Jai Shri Ram, even as they starve to death," Rahul Gandhi said. Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Madhya Pradesh on March 2 and after covering around 700 km in Gwalior-Chambal and Malwa-Nimar regions, it will enter Rajasthan on March 6.

## Sadhvi Pragya Thakur broke the lock of the liquor shop 'I feel ashamed, BJP MLA is running illegal liquor vends'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP MP from Bhopal Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur broke the lock of the shop and destroyed the liquor. While hammering on the lock, the MP said, "I am ashamed to say that this shop belongs to our party BJP MLA Sudesh Rai. I have asked the Collector to suspend the concerned Excise Officer in this matter. The SP has also been scolded that he gave wrong information."

The liquor shop is in Khajuriya Kala Bungalow of Sehore district. The MP said, "I am proud to be a member of BJP. I will demand from the party leadership that MLA Rai should be removed due to his involvement in the liquor shop contract. Local people are also unhappy with the liquor shop."

MP Pragya said, "Girls and women came and told that contract work is going on here. It neither has any license nor permission. When



this complaint had come earlier also, information was taken. Then it was said that this contract has been closed. I accepted it as correct. Now when I came here, I found a contract running in front of the school. I broke and destroyed the liquor bottles kept here."

Earlier on Monday, another video of MP Pragya Singh Thakur had surfaced. In this he had said- I fold my hands. Whatever we say, you people distort it. I don't like this at all.

## GOOGLE TEMPORARILY REINSTATES ALL DELISTED APPS AFTER CENTRE'S INTERVENTION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Google on Tuesday said that it is temporarily reinstating all the delisted apps of developers with appeals pending in the Supreme Court, as the government met the tech giant and digital startups to resolve the matter.

In a statement, a company spokesperson said that it maintains its right to implement and enforce its business model, as established in various courts.

"We will invoice our full applicable services fees in the interim and are extending payment timelines for these companies," said a company spokesperson.

Google further said that it looks forward to a collaborative effort to find solutions that respect the needs of all parties.

Earlier in the day, Union IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini



Vaishnav said that Google has agreed to resolve the issue and will restore all the apps belonging to the 10 companies.

"Google has been supporting our technology development journey and we believe that the home-grown startups and the company will come to a long-term solution," he said.

Continuing their fight against Google's new Play Store policies, Indian startup founders on Monday met Vaishnav and Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar to discuss the issue and said that the government has assured them support.

Last week, Google delisted about a dozen apps by major Indian digital companies including Matrimony.com, Naukri.com, Shaadi.com, and others from the Play Store.

## Ramlala's Aarti will be performed in Ayodhya with the world's largest Rewa drum

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Rewa's drums will be played in the Ramlala Aarti to be held in Ayodhya. The world's largest drum is being sent to Ayodhya. State Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, while sharing the picture of the drum on social media, wrote, "Ramlala's Aarti will be performed with the drum of Rewa."

Under the BJP government, the world's largest drum will reach Ayodhya from Rewa, it is a divine moment for all the residents of Rewa that the Aarti of Shri Ramlala, who is adored by all of us, will be



performed with the drum of Rewa. Hail Siya Ram." It has been confirmed that this drum being sent from Rewa weighs one ton and its width is 11 feet. This drum will reach Ayodhya on 13 March.

Let us tell you that on Monday, under the leadership of State Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, members of his Council of Ministers had traveled to Ayodhya and had darshan of Ram Lala.

The Chief Minister has also expressed his intention to build Dharamshalas for the people of the state in Ayodhya. The state government is also sending people of the state to Ayodhya to visit Ramlala.

## Former UP MP Dhananjay Singh convicted in kidnapping case, sent to jail

Jaunpur | Agencies

Former MP Dhananjay Singh was convicted in a case of extortion and kidnapping by an MP/MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur on Tuesday.

He was taken into custody and sent to jail on the court's orders. The court will announce the quantum of punishment on Wednesday.

Dhananjay Singh has been convicted for kidnapping Jal Nigam project manager



Abhinav Singhal. Singhal had filed a case against the former MP from Jaunpur in the city's Line Bazar police station, accusing him of kidnapping, extortion, and threats.

The work of laying sewer lines, worth about Rs 300 crore, was going on in

Jaunpur and Singhal, alleged that the former MP obstructed the work.

"He forcefully called me to his residence with his men, demanded extortion, and threatened to kill me," he told the police.

He filed a case against four people including the former MP.

Dhananjay Singh on Monday had announced that he would contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Jaunpur.



# 'PARIVARVAD A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY', PM MODI ATTACKS OPPN

Sangareddy (Telangana) | Agencies

Continuing his attack on Congress and its allies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that 'parivarvad' is a threat to democracy and does not allow new talent to emerge.

Addressing a public meeting here, PM Modi lashed out at INDIA bloc leaders for saying that he has no family.

He said from Jammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu, ruling families have become strong but states have been destroyed.

The Prime Minister alleged that Congress and its allies have stooped to the level of abusing him and his family. "They are abusing me because I expose their scams of thousands of crores. I am against parivarvad but I don't make personal allegations," he said. "I say parivarvad is a danger for democracy, it is against talent and against youth but they are saying Modi has no family. Do the families have a licence to steal? Are they free to steal and capture power," he asked.

PM Modi said he had seen a chief



minister whose 50 family members were occupying high posts.

He slammed the opposition leaders for their assertion that they are fighting an ideological battle against him.

"They say family first, I say nation first. This is the ideological fight. For

them their families are everything and for me every family of the country is everything. For their family interests, they sacrificed the nation's interests and I sacrificed myself for the nation's interests," he said, reiterating that 140 crore Indians are his family. The Prime Minister said that

the family-centric parties are so insecure that they do not allow youth to come up in politics. "Ever since Congress became parivarvadi, it has not allowed anybody below 50 to come up. They bring those who are 75, 80 and 85 because they fear that if those aged 50-55 come and overtake them what will happen to their family," he said while claiming that he is promoting honest youth in politics.

PM Modi also alleged parivarvadi looted the nation to fill their vaults while he spends money from his own salary on people.

He also alleged that the parivarvadi opened accounts in foreign banks to hide black money. "Modi opened Jan Dhan accounts of crores of poor. This is the difference. They built palaces for their families but Modi has not built even a house. Modi is building houses for the poor. So far 4 crore houses have been built for the poor," he said. Alleging that parties which believe in 'parivarvad' sold mines, lands, skies and did everything to destroy the nation, he claimed that he was toiling to build the future of the people and their children.

## Delhi HC upholds 'first-come-first-served' rule for election symbol allotment

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has affirmed the validity of the "first-come-first-served" principle in allocating free symbols to unrecognised political parties under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora dismissed a petition filed by Tamil Nadu's NTK party, contesting the legality of certain clauses within the 1968 border.

These clauses dictate that if multiple parties apply for the same symbol on the same date, the decision on the allotment is made through a random draw. Moreover, if one party had previously been allotted the symbol in the state concerned, precedence is given to that party. The petitioner party objected to the allotment of the "Ganna Kisan"



symbol to another unrecognised political entity for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. They argued that as a registered unrecognised state party, they were not entitled to a reserved election symbol and had previously been allotted the "Ganna Kisan" symbol from 2019 to 2023.

The court, however, ruled against the petitioner, stating that the other party had applied for the symbol first, in line with the provisions of the Election Symbols Order. It rejected the petitioner's plea to amend the provisions to ensure equal consideration for all valid applications

received within the permissible window period, saying that such a change would undermine the existing framework and confer undue advantage to certain parties. It maintained that the current provisions are fair, non-discriminatory, and uniformly applicable to all eligible applicants, and noted that the petitioner party had previously benefited from the "first acceptance date" and cannot now seek to alter the rules to their advantage. Upholding the Election Symbols Order, it held the allocation of the "Ganna Kisan" symbol to the other party was neither arbitrary nor unconstitutional.

## Congress will win 12-13 Lok Sabha seats in MP: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath said on Tuesday that he believes the party will win 12 to 13 Lok Sabha seats (out of 29) in Madhya Pradesh in the upcoming general elections.

Claiming that he is making this assertion after reviewing the state's current political situation, the former Chief Minister said that he has been talking to the party leaders across the state to take stock of the ground realities, adding that he will soon start visiting different parts of Madhya Pradesh.

"I believe that the Congress should win at least 12 to 13 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh," Kamal Nath said during a press conference in Ujjain on Tuesday.



Responding to BJP's claims of winning all the 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader said that political parties make tall claims to set the momentum ahead of elections.

"All the political parties contest elections with a strategy, and make tall claims to set the momentum. But it has nothing to do with the reality.

The BJP has always been making tall claims," Kamal Nath said. In the last two parliamentary elections in 2014 and 2019, the BJP had won 27 and 28 out of the 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh, respectively. The only seat the BJP lost in 2019 was Chhindwara, the home turf of Kamal Nath from where his son Nakul Nath had won.

## Despite HC order, Bengal CID refuses to hand over Sheikh Shahjahan to CBI

Kolkata | Agencies

Despite a clear instruction from the Calcutta High Court directing the CID of the state police to hand over Sheikh Shahjahan, the accused mastermind behind the attack on ED and CAPP teams at Sandeshkhali on January 5, to the CBI at the earliest, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday refused to hand over the accused to the central probe agency.

Armed with the Calcutta High Court order, three officials of the CBI, accompanied by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPP) personnel, arrived at the CID headquarters at the Bhabani Bhavan here at 4.40 p.m. on Tuesday for the official hand over of Shahjahan and all case-related documents.

However, after over two hours of discussions, the CBI officials left



Bhabani Bhavan at 7.05 p.m. without Sheikh Shahjahan.

Sources said since the state government has already moved the Supreme

Court challenging the high court order to hand over Shahjahan to the CBI, the CID authorities refused to hand over the accused to the central agency on the same evening.

The West Bengal government approached the Supreme Court bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna late on Tuesday afternoon, seeking immediate intervention of the apex court in the matter.

However, the apex court refused to entertain the plea and instead asked the state government counsel to approach the Registrar (Judicial) of the apex court for obtaining directions from the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, for urgent hearing of the case.

The opposition parties, meanwhile, have claimed that the state government approaching the apex court desperately is a proof to its desperation to protect the accused.

## Trinamool MLA accused of insulting Ram Mandir now offers clarification

Kolkata | Agencies

Trinamool Congress MLA from Tarakeswar Assembly constituency in West Bengal, Ramendu Sinharay, whose controversial comments about Ram Mandir at Ayodhya went viral, on Tuesday offered clarifications.

He said that only a portion of his statement was being highlighted.

Reacting to the leader of the opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari's sharing the video on his official X handle, Sinharay said that a small portion of his entire speech was referred to in the video and quoted out of context.

"Only a small portion of my entire speech, after deleting the major part of it, was projected in the video. That small portion is being circulated by the leader of the opposition in social media to mislead the people.



"My main argument was that as per Hindu rituals, the Pran Pratishtha of the idol or its worship cannot be done in an incomplete temple. All I wanted to say is that the official Pran Pratishtha ceremony

ignoring the prescribed rituals was done with a political motive. Now I am being selectively quoted in the video to mislead people again with a political motive," Sinharay said. However, the state BJP leaders

have dismissed his clarification.

While Suwendu Adhikari has threatened to file an FIR against Sinharay, BJP legislator Biman Ghosh has said, "Ram Mandir was established because of the initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi following an order of the Supreme Court of India. "This order has been insulted in the comments by the ruling party legislator. The Hindu religious sentiments are being hurt because of such comments. We will be staging statewide protests against such comments. We are filing a complaint at the local Arambagh police station," Ghosh said. In the video that went viral, Sinharay was heard saying, "No Indian Hindu should go to offer prayers at the Ram Mandir which according to me is an unholy place. It is nothing but a showpiece." He was heard saying this during a public meeting as per the video.

## OP Rajbhar wants to create Purvanchal, become its CM

Ballia (UP) | Agencies

Hours before the cabinet expansion in Uttar Pradesh, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) President Om Prakash Rajbhar has expressed his desire to create Purvanchal and become its chief minister.

In a video clip that is going viral on the social media, Rajbhar is heard asking the Rajbhar community to give him more strength so that he can force Purvanchal creation and a Rajbhar can become the chief minister.

"When I become the chief minister of Purvanchal state, the Rajbhars will not have to ask for housing and toilets. Give me a little more strength, I will create



Purvanchal state and form a government of royals. I am working on it internally," he said. Rajbhar is tipped to become a minister in the cabinet expansion that is

scheduled to take place later on Tuesday evening.

However, when asked, he said that he had no information of the same.

## Man sets himself on fire outside senior cop's office in UP



Shahjahanpur (UP) | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a man set himself on fire outside the Superintendent of Police's office in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur on Tuesday after police allegedly refused to file a complaint about the theft of his pickup van.

According to reports, the pickup van of Tahir, a resident of Cantt police station area, was stolen. However, despite him making rounds from the local police station to the SP's office, no action

was taken by the cops. On Tuesday, Tahir set himself on fire outside the SP's office. Engulfed in flames, he kept running in the SP office while his children and other family members could be heard screaming for help in a video that has gone viral on social media. Seeing the youth engulfed in flames, the police officers there somehow managed to extinguish the fire and admitted him to the medical college where his condition was said to be critical. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, sharing the video of the incident on social media, wrote: "The youth, who set himself on fire in front of the SP's office due to the non-registration of a report of pickup van theft in Shahjahanpur, should be provided with immediate top-notch medical facilities, and a strict case should be filed against responsible individuals for inciting suicide."

## Mumbai train blast: Delhi HC nixes death row convict's plea for details of IAS, IPS officers involved in probe



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court recently rejected a plea by Ehtesham Qutubuddin Siddique, a death row convict in the 7/11 Mumbai train blast case, for information under the Right to Information Act (RTI Act) concerning the details of IPS and IAS officers involved in

the investigation and prosecution of his case.

Justice Subramonium Prasad ruled that disclosing such information could pose serious risks to the officers' safety and was not in public interest.

Siddique, sentenced to death in 2015 for his role in the bombings that resulted in 189 deaths and over 800

injuries, sought details about the IPS and IAS officers who oversaw the investigation and granted prosecution sanction. His plea also included a request for copies of their Union Public Service Commission forms and other appointment-related documents.

The court noted that since the incident occurred in 2006

and less than 20 years had passed, the exemption clause under Section 8(3) of the RTI Act, which allows for the release of certain exempted information after two decades, does not apply.

Justice Prasad said that even after 20 years, the privacy and safety of the officers involved would take precedence over the convict's request, especially considering the lack of a demonstrated public interest in disclosing this information.

Moreover, Siddique's separate plea for a copy of an alleged Intelligence Bureau (IB) report, which he claimed suggested wrongful arrests in the bomb blast case, was also rejected. The court upheld the Central Information Commission's (CIC) decision, citing the baselessness of relying solely on newspaper reports for such claims and affirming the credibility of the IB's affidavit denying the existence of the report.

## Wedding called off after groom demands car and police intervenes



Bijnor (UP) | Agencies

A wedding ceremony turned into a major brawl after the groom put up his demand for a Creta car as dowry before the bride's family and then his family threatened to call off the marriage if the demand was not met.

The incident took place in Saidpur village on Monday. The demand led to altercation between the two parties and the police were called in to intervene.

The police arrived at the

wedding venue and took control of the situation.

Finally, an agreement was reached between the two families. As part of the deal, the groom's family agreed to return all dowry items given by the bride's family, along with the Rs 3.25 lakh spent by the bride's family on food and the banquet hall.

According to reports, initially all ceremonies for the wedding were held in a cordial atmosphere but the groom suddenly raised the demand for the car.



## AFTER INDORE-BHOPAL, THERE IS A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT METRO RAIL IN OTHER CITIES OF THE STATE: CHIEF MINISTER DR. YADAV

CHIEF MINISTER HANDED OVER APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO NEWLY APPOINTED EMPLOYEES AT RED PARADE GROUND. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES, AWARDS IN SANITATION SECTOR GIVEN TO URBAN BODIES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that cleanliness in cities, modern transport means like metro, employment to youth are today's priorities. Today, through a multidimensional program on one platform, important work is being done to encourage, start new works and provide appointment to newly appointed employees in these areas. It is like a mini Kumbh, in which different types of beneficiaries, government servants and institutions are being rewarded. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was rewarding the selected urban bodies for their best work in the Swachh Survekshan-2023 at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal.



Chief Minister Dr. Yadav transferred an amount of Rs 1000 crore for the development works of urban bodies. On this occasion, Bhoomi Pujan of 8 stations for the second phase of Bhopal Metro project was also performed. Dr. Yadav said that there was a time when metro train was a dream for the people of the state.

After Bhopal and Indore, there are plans to construct metro rail lines in

Jabalpur, Gwalior and other major cities of the state. To eliminate railway crossings in the state, the process of construction of 334 bridges along with construction of 105 railway over bridges has been started. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also released "Swachh Hum" booklet and "Sewage Management Policy 2024" in the program. The program was telecast live in all 413 civic bodies of the state. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav dis-

tributed appointment letters to 8 thousand 837 newly appointed employees by pressing the button of the remote. As a symbol, he presented 17 appointment letters on the stage. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Prime Minister Modi, in his address from the Red Fort, had called upon the citizens of the country to participate in the cleanliness campaign. The entire country is setting examples in cities, towns and villages

under the cleanliness campaign. Madhya Pradesh has the privilege of being a leader in the sanitation sector. While Indore city has been chosen as the cleanest city for the 7th time, Bhopal has been chosen as the cleanest capital. Bhopal is also the 5th cleanest city in the country. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, while congratulating the awarded bodies, expected them to give better results in the sanitation sector in future also.

## 'People of Madhya Pradesh will give befitting reply to Cong in LS polls'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh BJP President V.D. Sharma on Monday hit out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, whose 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' is passing through the state, and said that the people of the state will give the latter a befitting reply in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections for his "double standard".

The state BJP chief said the people of Madhya Pradesh have already rejected the Congress for its "appeasement politics" during the assembly election held in November last year, and they will give a befitting reply in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections for not attending the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of Lord Ram in Ayodhya.

Referring to the first leg of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that had also passed through the state ahead of the Assembly elections, Sharma said, "His yatra had covered 22 assem-



bled seats, and the Congress lost all of them, and this time as well, nothing will change. People of Madhya Pradesh will give him a befitting reply for his double standard politics." After a day halt on Sunday, Rahul Gandhi-led

'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' resumed from Shivpuri district on its third day in the state on Monday and reached Raghogarh, the home town of veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh.

## Rahul Gandhi worshiped in the court of Baba Mahakal in Ujjain



Team Absolute | Ujjain

Former National President of Congress Rahul Gandhi attended the court of Baba Mahakal in Ujjain on Tuesday, the fourth day of 'Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra' in Madhya Pradesh. He performed the puja as per the rituals.

were present. Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath participated in the first day of the yatra and then became a part of the yatra in Ujjain on Tuesday. Earlier, on the fourth day of the journey reached Shajapur from Bhaora. When he was moving ahead in his vehicle, people standing on the roadside raised slogans of Modi-Modi and Jai Shri Ram.

Hearing the slogans, Rahul Gandhi stopped his vehicle. After the vehicle stopped, Rahul Gandhi got down and went close to the people who were raising slogans of Modi-Modi and Jai Shri Ram. These people also handed over potatoes to Rahul Gandhi. After that Rahul Gandhi moved ahead.

Actually, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is in Madhya Pradesh these days under 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. Tuesday was the fourth day of his visit. He reached Ujjain via Bhaora, Shajapur. He reached the court of Baba Mahakal here and offered prayers. On this occasion, party state president Jitu Patwari, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and many Congress leaders

Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' had entered Madhya Pradesh from Morena on March 2. This journey reached Ujjain via Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna. The Yatra will remain in Madhya Pradesh till March 6 and will proceed further after that.



■ Bhopal: The final matches of carrom were held today in the sports competitions being held under the annual festival Vihaan 2024 of Radharaman Group. 25 players from different colleges participated in these matches. After progressing through various rounds, Pratima, Ansh, Pankaj Thackeray and Sahil Khan competed for the finals. Pankaj Thackeray of REC won this match and captured the trophy.

## CM Dr. Yadav will dedicate country's first "Craft Handloom Tourism Village" Pranpur

► DEVELOPED TO EMPOWER CHANDERI WEAVERS: INITIATIVE PRIORITIZES SKILL DEVELOPMENT, MARKET ACCESS, AND SELF-RELIANCE

Tourism, Religious Trusts and Endowments (Independent Charge) Dharmendra Singh Lodhi and other public representatives will be present in the inauguration ceremony.

Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture and Managing Director Tourism Board Sheo Shekhar Shukla has said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the Tourism Department is enhancing the quality of handicraft products, making the products market-oriented, skill development of artisans, training in advanced technology, modern distribution and marketing support of products is being provided. On the initiative of MP Tourism Board, "Craft Handloom Tourism Village" has been developed by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and MP Government at a cost of Rs. 7 crore 45 lakh in Pranpur-Chanderi, Ashok Nagar.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will dedicate the country's first "Craft Handloom Tourism Village" at Pranpur in Ashoknagar on March 6 at 3 pm. Union Civil Aviation and Steel Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of State for Textiles and Union Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jardosh and Minister of State for Culture,

## Dy CM Shukla performed Bhoomi Pujan of residential buildings of doctors in Rewa

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has said that work to strengthen medical facilities in Rewa is being done on priority. Along with the construction of the hospital building, resources have been made available for OPD and availability of medical equipment. A modern residential complex with all facilities is being constructed for the doctors so that living in a good environment also increases their efficiency. There will be no negligence in providing facilities to doctors. Shukla performed the bhoomi puja of 64 residential buildings in Shyamshah Medical College campus, Rewa under the re-densifica-



tion scheme of the government.

Deputy Chief Minister Shukla said that the patients are being treated with full dedication by the doctors of the Super Speciality Hospital. He said that to make Rewa a medical hub, all the facilities in the medical field are being provided. Shukla said that

Rewa is moving towards becoming a metropolis.

Works worth Rs 6 thousand crore have been approved for increasing irrigation facilities in the agricultural sector in Mauganj, Hanumana and Rewa, due to which in the coming time, irrigation facilities will be available in 9 lakh acres of area in the district.

## EX-CM SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN TURNS 65-YR OLD, POLITICIANS EXTEND WISHES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan turned 65 years old on Tuesday.

Born on March 5, 1959 to Prem Singh Chouhan and Sundar Bai in Jait village of Sehore district, Chouhan is a graduate in Philosophy. He started his political journey from his college days in Bhopal.

Politicians from across the political parties wished him a happy birthday. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who was the Higher Education Minister in Chouhan's last cabinet, visited his residence to extend warm wishes to the former Chief Minister.

"Hearty congratulations to respected brother, former Chief Minister Chouhan Shivraj ji on his birthday. May the blessings of Baba Shri Mahakal ji always remain with you. May your resolutions for public welfare and progress be fulfilled. I wish you good health and long life," the Chief Minister wrote on social media.

Veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and several other BJP leaders also shared their warm wishes to



Chouhan. "Happy birthday to former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. I pray to God for your long life and healthy life," Kamal Nath wrote on social media.

Chouhan said: "64 years of my life have completed today. My entire life has been devoted to serving the people and I will continue to do so. I am thankful to the god who made me serve the people. Serving the people is the real meaning of life and it is my aim also."

After serving as Chief Minister for over 17 years (except for a brief period), Chouhan was replaced by Mohan Yadav as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He is set to return to the Centre, as he will contest Lok Sabha elections from Vidisha constituency.

He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh in 1972 at the age of 13 and still is known for his proximity to its top leaders. He is known for his schemes and measures in fighting the elimination of female feticide.

He was elected as a member of Parliament in 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2004.

## AIIMS Bhopal's General Surgery Department Successfully Manages Two Complex Cases

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The General Surgery Department at AIIMS Bhopal successfully managed two intricate cases, showcasing the institute's commitment to excellence in healthcare under the dynamic leadership of its Executive Director, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh.

The first case involved a 53-year-old woman from Nagpur presenting with jaundice and uncontrolled diabetes. Upon thorough evaluation, she was diagnosed with cancer of the second part of the duodenum. The second case featured a 46-year-old man admitted to the emergency department with obstructive jaundice. Following the management of jaundice with a tube (PTBD), he was diagnosed with cancer of the head of the pancreas.



Under the expert guidance of Dr. Moorat Singh Yadav, Dr. Shyam Lal, Dr. Krishna Kumar, Dr. Manish Swarnkar, Dr. Ajit Maurya, and Dr. Vikas Lal, both patients underwent Whipple's procedure, a complex sur-

gical intervention critical for their treatment. The surgical team also included the invaluable expertise of Dr. Pranita Mondal and Dr. Sunaina, anesthesiologists who played pivotal roles in ensuring the patients' safety

and comfort throughout the procedures.

Today, we are delighted to report that both patients are in improved condition and deemed fit for discharge, thanks to the diligent efforts and exceptional skill of the medical team at AIIMS Bhopal.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, expressed his pride in the team's accomplishment, emphasizing the institute's unwavering dedication to managing complex cases and delivering high-quality healthcare services to the community. He also interacted with the patients. AIIMS Bhopal remains steadfast in its commitment to providing cutting-edge medical care and achieving positive outcomes for even the most challenging cases, reflecting its mission to serve with compassion and excellence.

## Congress busy in search of better candidate in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the release of the first list of Lok Sabha candidates from Madhya Pradesh by the Bharatiya Janata Party, activism has increased in the Congress, but the big problem facing it is the search for a strong and popular candidate.

There are 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state and out of these, BJP has announced the names of its candidates for 24 seats. Now the names of only five candidates are yet to be announced. On the other hand, Congress has not been able to announce the name of even a single candidate so far. Many party leaders are claiming that the first list of Congress will come soon.

If we look at the Lok Sabha elections held in the year 2019, out of 29 seats, BJP had won 28 seats, while Congress had to be content with winning only Chhindwara seat.

While BJP is claiming victory on all 29 seats in the upcoming elections, Congress is also assuring improvement in its previous election results. The biggest problem facing the



Congress is to make a capable and popular person a candidate. This is because many big leaders of the party are not ready to contest the Lok Sabha elections. Now the party has to decide whether to field these veteran leaders or give a chance to new faces. Party workers have talked about fielding influential leaders of their respective areas, but till now there is no indication from the party that it will field big names. Party sources say that due to big leaders not showing interest in contesting the elections, the party is considering making some MLAs candidates in the Lok Sabha elections. There is a possibility that names of many MLAs may be in the first list itself.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Over two-third of all smallcap stocks have become multibaggers since Covid bottom

More than two-third of all smallcap stocks have become multibaggers since the stock market bottom of Covid-19, as per an analysis by DSP Mutual Fund. One-third of the companies have outperformed the Nifty Index, while only 10 per cent firms gave negative returns or lost money since the Covid bottom.

The top 20 performers ran at a CAGR of 76 per cent, on average, which means tripling every other year. In comparison, in the bull run of 2003-07, more than three-fourth of all stocks had become multibaggers. Only six stocks had given negative returns and the top 20 performers ran at a CAGR of 160 per cent, on average.

The report notes that the overall wage bill growth for BSE500 has decelerated to 11 per cent notable decline from the 20 per cent observed a couple of quarters ago. Of concern is the more pronounced moderation in the growth of the private sector wage bill, which has slowed to 9 per cent YoY -- a 10-year low excluding the impact of Covid-19. If this sharp slowdown continues, it has the potential to impact consumption, especially in the premium segment, the report said. "This can also have implications for the small and midcap stocks, which have shown exceptionally strong profit growth led by significantly higher margins. Slowing wages growth, subdued core inflation and expectations of low growth in nominal GDP create questions about the sustainability of SMID earnings momentum and valuations, the report said."

# From Asia to Africa, 'Vishwaguru' India plays a key role in growth of Global South

In yet another proof of its emergence as an emphatic voice of the Global South, India joined hands with "valued friend" Mauritius once again to strengthen its maritime security and foster socio-economic development.

Along with six other community development projects, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Indian-origin Mauritius counterpart Pravind Jugnauth inaugurated a new airstrip and a jetty in Agalega Island on Thursday -- a move seen as an attempt to ensure security, prosperity, and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

The development was seen as a reaffirmation of the Modi government's focus on 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' as a hallmark of India's foreign policy. It goes without saying that PM Modi has been successful in setting the economic agenda aimed at shaping global growth at various international forums.

With the oceanic nation being a key partner of India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and a special partner under Vision SAGAR, the last 10 years have registered an "unprecedented momentum" in the relations between the two countries.

India has extended a credit line of \$1,000 million along with USD 400 million worth of assistance to the people of Mauritius which underlines the fact that addressing the humanitarian issues is of paramount importance for PM Modi.

In addition, New Delhi has contributed profusely to the development of metro rail lines, community development projects, social housing, ENT Hospital, Civil Service College, and sports complexes infrastructures in Mauritius.

In what highlights India's greater role in the development of various nations under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, the government has initiated around 600 projects on infrastructure, energy, healthcare, etc, in 78 countries, especially from the Global South.

It is these partnerships in the Global South -- from security and health to EEZ -- that spotlights India's role as a "vishwaguru", or global teacher, in leading developmental work across third-world countries.

With the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war putting the third-world nations under a severe strain, Papua New Guinea PM James Marape, in his address at the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation in May 2023, urged PM Modi to offer a voice in the face of the Global North.

Marape reportedly suggested that the Pacific Island countries would rally behind his voice at global forums even as he praised the Indian PM as the leader of the Global South.

India's efforts for these countries were made amply clear during PM Modi's address at the opening session of the 2023 Voice of Global



South summit where the leader called for creating a new world order to ensure the welfare of citizens in developing countries.

Emphasising that the next phase of global growth will come from countries in the South, PM Modi stressed self-reliance and proposed a four-point global agenda of 'Respond, Recognise, Respect and Reform' at the session.

In a bid to remove inequalities, support growth and opportunities, and spread progress and prosperity, the PM -- successfully positioning India as a powerhouse of the 21st century -- urged the developing countries to work towards redesigning political and financial governance globally.

Apart from Mauritius, the shining examples of developmental contributions made by India, based on the partner country's priorities, include the recent launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

In a groundbreaking move last year, India and

the United Nations launched the 'India-UN Capacity Building Initiative', which aims to share the South Asian nation's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.

In December last year, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed the Parliament that India has extended lines of credit 'worth \$32.02 billion' for infra projects in Asian and African countries. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan, said that these funds have supported more than 600 projects in sectors ranging from infrastructure, power, connectivity and health.

Providing a breakup of the line of credit amount, Muraleedharan said about \$17.06 billion has gone to countries in Asia, \$12.15 billion to those in Africa, and \$2.81 billion to countries elsewhere.

Further, grant assistance projects with countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan have also been set up as part of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. The parliament was also told that the government is also offering capacity-building assistance to its partners in the Global South under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). "Around 160 countries benefit from these scholarships every year. More than 14,000 training slots are available annually for civilian and defence courses," V. Muraleedharan had said. Via ITEC, India has helped countries like Afghanistan, Lithuania, Maldives, Nepal, etc, and scholarships were also announced for Pacific Island Countries in May last year.

## international

## 'Friendly neighbour' China welcomes new government in Nepal

Kathmandu | Agencies

As speculation is rife that Beijing is behind the new political change in Nepal, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on Tuesday that China is ready to work with the new government in Nepal.

Breaking the year-long political alliance with the Nepali Congress, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal a.k.a. Prachanda reorganised his Cabinet on Monday by ousting Nepal's grand old party, and inducting the CPN-UML and Rastriya Swatantra Party.

China is willing to work with the new Nepali government, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said during a regular press conference in Beijing on Tuesday.

"We sincerely hope that all the parties in Nepal will unite and cooperate to smoothly advance the work related to the formation of a new government and achieve political stability, economic development, and improvement of people's livelihood,"



the spokesperson said.

After snapping the alliance with the Nepali Congress, Prachanda on Monday inducted three ministers in the new Cabinet, one from his party CPN (Maoist Centre), one from CPN-UML, and a third from the Rastriya Swatantra Party.

After Prachanda decided to break the alliance with the Nepali Congress, it is all set to withdraw its support by Tuesday itself.

As a friendly neighbour and cooperative partner, China attaches great importance to Nepal-China relations and is willing to

work with the new Nepali government to adhere to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, enhance traditional friendship, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and promote Nepal-China strategic cooperation for ever-lasting friendship oriented towards development and prosperity, Ning said.

China is facing several controversies in Kathmandu for failing to expedite the projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), not completing the projects undertaken by the Chinese companies and contractors, on the issue of corruption, and the ongoing investigation into one ambitious airport which was built on a loan by China, among others.

China is in a very awkward position in Kathmandu and was hell-bent to reorganise the two major Communist parties - UML and Maoist Centre - so that its image could be improved in Nepal.

The partnership will further develop and create more benefits for the people of the two countries, said spokesperson Ning.

## Families of Israeli hostages seek ceasefire, details on kidnapped relatives

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Hostages and Missing Families forum of Israel has demanded that the ceasefire deal be accelerated and information on their near and dear ones, who were kidnapped on October 7, 2023 by Hamas, be immediately ascertained.

This is following an interview by a senior Hamas official Basem Naim that the hostages are in the captivity of several groups and the Hamas does not have the exact details on those who are alive or dead.

Naim in an interview to a media organisation said that



the information on the kidnapped hostages was valuable and that it can't be shared for free. He had also said that the condition of the hostages could be ascertained only after a

ceasefire. Olive Mosley, a close relative of a hostage while speaking to IANS said, "The reported statement of this Hamas official is indeed frightening. We are

waiting for our dear ones and we don't know whether they will come back alive or in a coffin." She called upon the Israel government to immediately ascertain the situation in Gaza and the condition of hostages.

At least 134 people are in the custody of Hamas and according to Israeli intelligence agencies 32 of them are dead.

Israel has backed out of the ongoing peace talks for a ceasefire before the Ramadan month after Hamas did not provide information on the number of hostages who were alive which the Israeli side has been demanding.

## India calls for 'immediate de-escalation' in Gaza

United Nations | Agencies

India has called for an "immediate de-escalation and eschewing of violence" in Gaza but stopped short of specifically mentioning a ceasefire, which is now a broad demand across the UN but opposed by Israel.

"In order to arrive at a lasting solution, we urge for an immediate de-escalation and eschewing of violence," India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj told the UN General Assembly on Monday.

She also called for "the release of all hostages, avoiding provocative and escalatory actions and to work towards creating conditions for an early resumption of direct peace negotiations".

While reiterating New Delhi's "strong" condemnation of civilian deaths in the conflict, Kamboj noted that the "immediate trigger" for the Gaza conflict was "the terror attacks in Israel on October 7, which were shocking and deserve our unequivocal condemnation".

"India has a longstanding and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," she said. On the conflict that has resulted in massive civilian casualties, she said, "It is critical to prevent further escalation of violence and hostilities. It is imperative to avoid the loss of civilian lives in any conflict situation. International law and international humanitarian law must be respected under all circumstances."

According to the Gaza health ministry, over 30,000 people have been killed, most of them children and women, since Israel waged retaliatory attacks on the territory after Hamas struck Israel killing over 1,200 people and taking more than 190 people, many of them children, hostage.

Kamboj warned about the dangers of the spillovers of the Gaza conflict.

"The humanitarian crisis has deepened, and the region and beyond have seen rising instability," she said.

The conflict has found echoes in the Red Sea area where



Houthis have attacked ships and were counterattacked by other countries and in Lebanon with confrontations between Israeli forces and Hezbollah.

Kamboj spoke during a debate on the US veto last month of a Security Council resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

The debate was held under an Assembly resolution mandating a meeting after a veto is cast to have that permanent member explain the action and for UN members to react to it.

Kamboj made no mention of the US veto or the exercise of veto powers by the five permanent members of the Security Council, which has paralysed it on Ukraine or Gaza or the efforts to curtail the use of vetoes in special circumstances, and has been criticised by several speakers during the debate.

India, which aspires to a permanent seat on the Security Council, holds that as long as the veto exists it should be available to any new permanent members.

## Ex-Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal sues Musk, billionaire responds with emoji

San Francisco | Agencies

Indian-origin Parag Agrawal, former CEO of Twitter (now called X), and three other employees have sued Elon Musk for about \$128 million in unpaid severance.

Agrawal, along with ex-chief financial officer Ned Segal, former Twitter head of legal and policy Vijaya Gadde and former Twitter General Counsel, Sean Edgett, have filed the lawsuit against the billionaire.

Musk on Tuesday reacted with just an emoji, when a follower posted: "Parag Agrawal is suing Elon Musk claiming that



he did in fact get a lot done that week". The lawsuit claimed that the Tesla CEO showed "special ire" towards them by

"publicly vowing to withhold their severance payments of around \$200 million", when he took over Twitter in 2022 for \$44 billion.

"Under Musk's control, Twitter has become a scofflaw, stifling employees, landlords, vendors, and others. Musk doesn't pay his bills, believes the rules don't apply to him, and uses his wealth and power to run roughshod over anyone who disagrees with him," read the lawsuit, filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

## US warship enters Jeju naval base for replenishment purpose: S.Korea

Seoul | Agencies

A US Navy destroyer arrived at a naval base on the southern island of Jeju on Tuesday for a replenishment purpose, the South Korean Navy said. The USS Higgins Arleigh Burke-class destroyer entered the base to replenish supplies and for crewmembers' rest, a day after South Korea and the US began their annual combined Freedom Shield exercise for an 11-day run, Yonhap news agency reported.

A South Korean Navy official said the warship's arrival is unrelated to the exercise and there are no plans for joint drills with the warship during its stay on Jeju.

The two sides plan to hold friendly exchange activities on the occasion of the US vessel's visit, the official said.





# Bombay HC acquits ex-DU professor GN Saibaba, five others in 2014 Maoist link case

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) on Tuesday acquitted former professor of Delhi University G.N. Saibaba and five others who were awarded life sentences in 2014 Maoists link case. A division bench of Justice Vinay Joshi and Justice Valmiki S.A. Menezes quashed the 2017 verdict of a Gadchiroli Sessions Court which had earlier convicted the six accused. The state did not seek a stay on the judgement, delivered on March 5, 2017 which came after the court re-heard the plea by Saibaba after a previous bench of the Bombay High Court had also acquitted the professor in October 2022. Arrested in 2014, 54-year-old Saibaba, who is mentally fit and alert, remains wheelchair bound and currently is lodged in the Nagpur Central Jail. After the arrest along with the other accused -- Mahesh Tirkki, Vijayan Tirkki, Hem Kesawdatta Mishra, Prashant Rahi, and Pandu Pora Narote (who died in August 2022) -- he was charged with having links with Maoist organisations active in the region, and conspiring to wage a war against the country. The judges have on Tuesday directed the accused to be released from the jail after depositing Rs 50,000 each as bail bond



till the Supreme Court decides the state's plea against the verdict, if it is challenged.

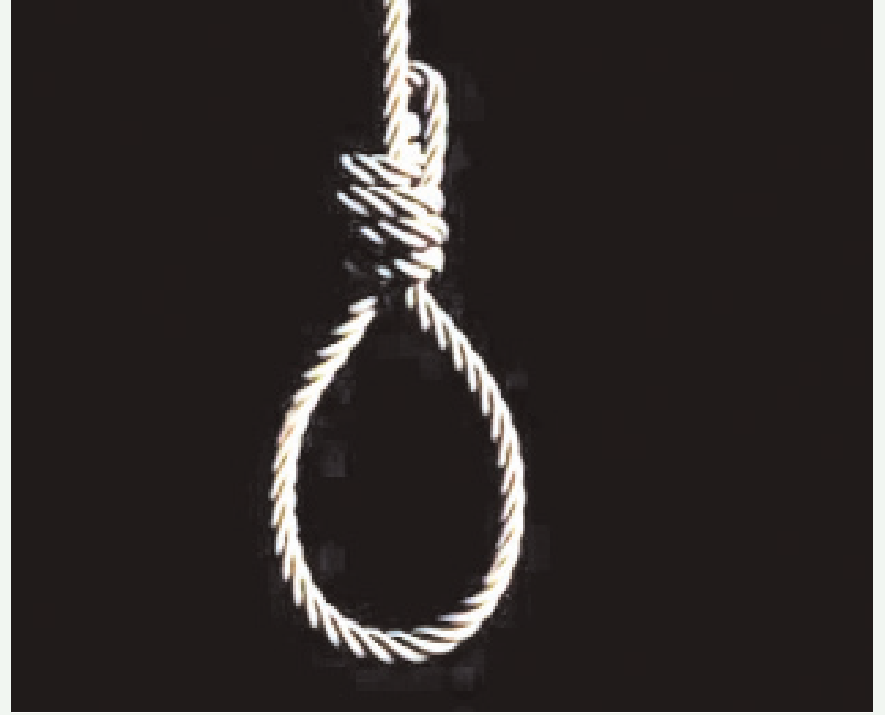
The current re-hearing of the case took place after the Supreme Court set aside the October 2022 acquittal order and remanded the matter for a fresh hearing back to the Bombay High Court.

In the trial before the Gadchiroli Sessions Court, the state of Maharashtra contended that he and others were working for the banned CPI (Maoist) group and its frontal organisations like Revolutionary Democratic Front. The police had seized evidence like Maoist literature, pamphlets, electronic materials and other things deemed to be 'anti-national' from Saibaba.

He had also handed over a 16GB memory card purportedly intended for the Maoist groups active and hiding in the Abujhmad jungles, sprawled over

4,000 sq. kms on the borders of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. After the conviction by the Gadchiroli Sessions Court Principal Judge Suryakant Shinde to undergo a life sentence in March 2017, Saibaba had challenged the ruling in the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) and a division bench comprising Justice Rohit B. Deo and Justice Anil Pansare, acquitted Saibaba on October 14, 2022. That appeal was allowed on Saibaba's contentions that the Sessions Court had framed charges against him in the absence of sanction from the Centre as per the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Sec. 45(1). The previous bench had also noted that though terrorism posed an ominous threat to national security and every legitimate weapon in the armoury must be deployed against it, a civic democracy cannot sacrifice procedural safeguards afforded to the accused. The state government immediately challenged the high court verdict in the apex court where Justice M.R. Shah and Justice Bela M.Trivedi suspended the high court's judgement on October 15, 2022. Later in April 2023, another bench of Justice M.R. Shah and Justice C.T. Ravikumar ordered a fresh hearing in the case by the Bombay High Court, which was completed by Justice Joshi and Justice Menezes, and resulted in the acquittal.

# Woman hangs self; 'suicide note' accuses son, daughter-in-law of mental harassment



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 61-year-old woman hanged herself to death at her home in Maharashtra's Thane city. The woman's alleged suicide note mentioned her son and daughter-in-law's mental harassment as the reason behind her drastic action.

The woman ended her life on March 2, a newswire reported, following which the police registered a case of abetment to suicide against her daughter-in-law and son.

The complaint in this connection was lodged by the victim's daughter, according to the police. "The victim, identified as Sushma Vilas Khairnar, left a 12-page sui-

cide note that the police recovered from her residence, where she lived with her son Rahul and daughter-in-law Gauri," senior inspector of Naupada police station Abhay Mahajan said.

The accused duo got married in 2014 and the victim resided with them, he said. "As per her note and the complaint, the relationship between the accused and the woman was strained. Her daughter-in-law and son had barred the woman from moving freely in the house, among other things. One day, the couple even asked her to leave the house and start living in a senior citizen's home," he said.

The woman used to tell her ordeal to her daughter

who lived somewhere else. On March 2, she again called her and urged her to rescue her from the couple's clutches, saying she faced threat to life. Her daughter assured that she would meet her the next day. However, the victim hanged herself from the ceiling soon after that, the police said.

The woman was later taken to a hospital, where the doctors declared her dead, the police said.

The accused were booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 306 (abetment to suicide), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention), they added.

# MVA may seal seat-sharing deal on March 6; suspense continues on VBA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is likely to finalise its seat-sharing pact for the 48 Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra, at the last round of talks scheduled for March 6, official sources said here on Tuesday.

However, suspense continues on the role of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) headed by Prakash Ambedkar, and the number of seats it may be offered to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, besides satisfying the demands of other smaller allies.

The VBA stumped the Opposition bloc last week by seeking at least 27 parliamentary seats, plus a unilateral choice of its candidates in certain constituencies, which was reportedly



'unacceptable' to several MVA constituents.

Claiming that the VBA is fully geared up for parliamentary polls Ambedkar has threatened several times that he is prepared to go solo in all 48 constituencies if the MVA alliance fails to consider his demands.

On Monday, NCP-SP National General Secretary, Dr. Jitendra Awhad, publicly appealed to Ambedkar to join the seat-sharing efforts and help safeguard democracy and the Indian Constitution in the interest of future generations.

As per current indicators, the MVA may allot the VBA around 10 per cent

(four or five) of the Lok Sabha seats, plus three or four seats are likely to go to other smaller allies.

The remaining 40 constituencies shall be divided among the major MVA allies, i.e. Congress-NCP-SP-Shiv Sena-UBT as per their formula, plus they would also accommodate their own allies, if needed, said a NCP-SP leader.

At Wednesday's meeting, the top leaders slated to seal the deal -- barring any last-minute glitches -- include Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole, NCP-SP President Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena-UBT President Uddhav Thackeray, VBA President Ambedkar, and the representatives of the six other smaller parties.

# Police book four for cheating financial analyst of Rs 29 lakh

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Navi Mumbai police has booked four persons for allegedly cheating a financial analyst in share trading fraud of Rs 29 lakh by luring him to take up the share trading, an official said on Tuesday.

Based on a complaint, a case was registered at the cyber police station under sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal

Code and the Information Technology Act, he said, according to newswire.

"The complainant has alleged that the accused approached him through a website and lured him to invest in share trading. He made a total payment of Rs 29 lakh between January 18 and February 29," senior inspector Gajanan Kadam said. When the victim sought the promised returns, the accused did not respond to his calls, he said. "We are gathering evidence, and no arrests have been made so far," the official said.

# Speaker Rahul Narwekar's email ID hacked, probe underway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The email account of Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar has been compromised. According to sources, an unauthorised email was sent from Narwekar's ID to the Governor. The email allegedly contained directives regarding the conduct of certain legislators within the assem-

ble. Upon inquiry from the Governor's officer, Narwekar denied sending such communication which raised concerns about potential unauthorised use of his email. Sources close to the development said that the email in question urged action against legislators exhibiting improper behaviour during assembly proceedings. Speaker Rahul Narwekar has notified the Mumbai Police who are looking into the matter.

# ACES to provide mobile infra services on underground Mumbai Metro 3 line

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ACES India Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of ACES Saudi Arabia, will provide mobile infrastructure services on the upcoming Mumbai Metro 3 line, the city's first fully underground corridors, top officials said here on Tuesday. A contract was inked between Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation and ACES at the LEAD-2024, 'A Digital DAVOS' event held in Saudi Arabia on March 4, said MMRCL Managing Director Ashwini Bhide.

As per the contract for 12 years, the ACES will provide mobile infrastructure services including advanced 4G and 5G technologies for more than 625-plus million commuters annually.



The ultra-high speed services shall be available on the entire Metro 3 running 33.5 kms, including 27 stations, platforms, concourses, tunnels etc with seamless coverage for enhanced user experience. "We are pleased to partner with ACES India to provide Mobile Services Infrastructure for Mumbai Metro line-3. It will ensure uninterrupted mobile con-

nectivity to Metro-3 commuters, with a rich experience as a leading International Neutral Digital Infrastructure company," said Bhide at the signing ceremony. Present were MMRCL's R. Ramana, Bassam A. Al-Bassam, Deputy Minister For Telecom And Infrastructure from Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

from ACES, CEO Akram Aburas, Khalid Almashouq, India MD Mohammed Mazher, Amit Sharma, Naif AlShammari, Deputy CEO of Saudi Exim Bank, Abu Mathen George - from Indian Embassy and other prominent members from MMRCL & ACES. The Mumbai Metro 3 is expected to slash 450,000 vehicles trips per day and is expected to be extended from Colaba to Navy Nagar, and provide connections to the other Metro lines, the suburban railway, the monorail, inter-city railway, highways and the Mumbai Airport.

Slated to cost around Rs 30,000, it is being financed by several agencies, including Japan's JICA, and its first phase is expected to open this year.

# Mumbai continues to experience nip in the air, cool conditions to prevail for two more days



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai continues to witness a decrease in temperature, with cool conditions expected to continue for two more days, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The city recorded a minimum temperature of 18 degrees Celsius on Tuesday morning, following a low of 17.9 degrees Celsius on Monday, the lowest March temperature in four years. As per IMD data, Mumbai had recorded 17.9 degrees Celsius at Santacruz, the lowest minimum temperature recorded in March since 2020, while Colaba reported 19 degrees Celsius on Monday.

The minimum temperature in the metropolis has

seen a drop of one to two degrees Celsius from the average, a newswire reported. Colaba had recorded a maximum temperature of 28.5 degrees Celsius, while Santacruz was at 29.4 degrees Celsius on Monday.

Mumbai's all-time lowest minimum temperature in March was 12.7 degrees Celsius in 2012, it said.

On Tuesday, the minimum temperature recorded at Santacruz was 18 degrees Celsius and 20.5 degrees Celsius at Colaba, the IMD said. IMD director Sunil Kamble told newswire that for the last couple of days, Mumbai's maximum temper-

ature was in the range of 25 to 30 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature was 18 to 20 degrees Celsius, mainly due to a change in the

wind patterns.

"The main reason for the temperature drop in Mumbai is the wind patterns. Snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, along with northerly and westerly winds, have brought down the temperature," Kamble said. The cool conditions are likely to prevail for the next two days before a slow rise in the temperature, he said.

On March 1, the India Meteorological Department said that Maharashtra will witness more heatwave days in 2024 as it predicted a warmer start to summer across India.

"India is likely to experience a warmer start to the summer season this year with El Nino conditions predicted to continue through the season," the India

Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

More heatwave days than normal are predicted over northeast peninsular India -- Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka -- and many parts of Maharashtra and Odisha.

The country is likely to record above-normal rainfall in March (more than 117 per cent of the long-period average of 29.9 mm).

India is likely to see above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures in most parts of the country in the March to May period, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a press conference.

Heatwave conditions are not expected over north and central India in March, he said.

# Pod taxi service to be launched for easy commute to Bandra-Kurla Complex

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government Tuesday announced that a pod taxi service will be launched to ease commute to the business hub of Bandra-Kurla Complex. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has approved a pod taxi service on the 8.8 km route between Bandra and Kurla railway stations, the chief minister's office said in a release. With a capacity of six passengers each, the pods will run at the speed of 40 km per hour and will have 38 halts, it stated. The project will be implemented on a public-private partnership basis and will ease the commute to BKC from the two railway stations. Meanwhile, the civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking has revised its bus pass rates from March 1, the BEST undertaking said on Thursday. The revised rate of the daily and monthly unlimited journey pass will be Rs 60 and Rs 900, respectively, up from the existing Rs 50 and Rs 750, the city's pre-



mier road transport entity said in a release. "The bus pass rates were revised to overcome the problem of loose change, avoid the insecurity of daily cash handling, facilitate passengers to avail the undertaking's scheme and to increase income," an official said. No change has been made in the rate, validity and unlimited number of journeys of student passes that cost Rs 200, and the Rs 50 concession in various bus passes for senior citizens, excluding weekly passengers, has also not been changed, the release said. "In this revision, the types of bus passes have been reduced to 18 from the existing 42, discontinuing other types of passes. Only three types of bus passes, namely weekly, monthly, and unlimited, can be availed from March 1 instead of existing daily, weekly, monthly, fully flexible plans pass, and

unlimited journeys pass," the release informed. The existing single day passes that are valid for two, four, and 10 journeys and fully flexible plans passes that are valid for 10, 30, and 50 journeys during an 84-day period have been discontinued, as per the release. In the revised plans, BEST undertaking has kept the bus pass value as per the four fare slabs of Rs 6, Rs 13, Rs 19, and Rs 25 for daily, weekly, and unlimited journey passes, it said. As per revised rates, the minimum value of a weekly bus pass with a validity of seven days and 15 journeys will be Rs 70 instead of the earlier Rs 59, and the maximum value will be Rs 350 instead of earlier Rs 299. In the existing bus pass plans, the minimum value of a pass was Rs 9 for a single-day pass valid for one day or two journeys, and the maximum was Rs 1499 valid for 28 days or 150 journeys. "As per the revised bus pass plans, the minimum pass value will be Rs 60 for an unlimited number of journeys in one day, and the maximum pass value will be Rs 2700 for 28 days or 150 journeys," the release said.



## NORA FATEHI HAS FEAR OF RATS, RECOLLECTS HARROWING EXPERIENCE ON TRAIN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nora Fatehi, who is one of the best dancing divas of Bollywood, has a fear of rats. The actress recollected an incident while she was on a train to Goa with her friends and encountered a rat in her coach.

On Tuesday, the actress spoke with the media at the trailer launch of her upcoming film 'Madgaon Express'. She plays the female lead in the film which marks the directorial debut of actor Kunal Kemmu.

The actress was asked about a memory from her Goa trip during her interaction with the media.

The actress narrated the incident in great detail as she told the media: "This incident happened seven years ago. I went on a trip to Goa with my friends on the train. I was the only local person from Mumbai, so I was at the helm of affairs of the trip knowing it all. While I was talking to my friends in the coach suddenly, I saw a rat. And let me tell you, I have a fear of rats."

She further mentioned: "I screamed so hard and started running. But where would you run off in a train? You can't jump off the train. I spent my time hanging by the door of the coach till the situation was sorted."

'Madgaon Express', which film marks actor Kunal Kemmu's directorial debut is produced by Excel Entertainment. The film is set to debut in theatres on March 22.



## Ahead of Women's Day, Shruti Haasan talks about 'birth control for men'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of Women's Day, which is celebrated every year on March 8, actress-singer Shruti Haasan has spoken about the importance of birth control, how men should be taking up a lot more parenting responsibility and use of contraceptive measures.

Shruti, who does not shy away from speaking her mind, said: "We need birth control for men, especially in a society like ours, where conversations around consent don't really happen."

"For women, planning a future, willingness to procreate and raise a family, whether they can physically and emotionally afford to have a 4th or 5th baby -- these are important discussions, and if men are not willing to understand (this) or talk about protection, the onus (of childbirth) is on the woman," she said.

Talking about how men can take up more responsibility, Shruti said: "Men can be heroes in this department by saying, 'we need to take this responsibility, we can get a vasectomy or use protection. This way, the responsibility of birth control and having a child will not fall on the female partner alone.'"

The actress talked about the subject on coto, a safe online space that encourages women to speak freely.



## Neha Kakkar brings Her Musical Mastery to Superstar Singer 3 as the Super Judge!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Putting the spotlight on India's youngest and most distinctive voices, Sony Entertainment Television's homegrown singing reality show, 'Superstar Singer', returns for its third instalment, starting 9th March! Nurturing the musical passion of the country's young singing dynamites, Season 3 will build upon the legacy and heritage of Indian music by discovering 'Sangeet Ke Naye Hunar Jo Banenge Kal Ke Darohar'.

Joining the young aspirants on their journey will be Indian pop sensation, Neha Kakkar, who steps into the role of 'Super Judge' this season. A stand out example of sheer talent and unwavering willpower, Neha has made a mark for herself in the music industry. With her remarkable passion for singing, Neha Kakkar will be a perfect role model for these young singing prodigies on the show. Super Judge Neha will also be joined by music icons Pawandeep Rajan, Arunita Kanjilal, Salman Ali, Mohd Danish, and Sayali Kamble, who will reprise their roles as Captains on the show and will share their learnings with the participants. Expressing her excitement about joining Superstar Singer 3 as the Super Judge, the vivacious Neha Kakkar shared, "When it comes to singing or any art form, the seeds of talent are sown at a very early age. I can vouch for this because I too started my musical journey at a young age and since then, it's been a roller coaster ride of learning and enriching my talent. Superstar Singer is not only a great learning ground but also the perfect guiding force for grooming the young musical talent that our country has to offer. I am elated to be a part of their journey as the Super Judge in Superstar Singer 3, where we will celebrate and honour India's rich musical heritage and find 'Sangeet Ke Naye Hunar Jo Banenge Kal Ke Darohar'." Superstar Singer Season 3 premieres on 9th March and will air every Saturday and Sunday at 8 PM, only on Sony Entertainment Television!

## Working alongside Ravi Kishan was an invaluable: Naila Grrewal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Working alongside Ravi sir on the sets of 'Maamla Legal Hai' was an invaluable learning experience for me.

His unique style and approach inspired me greatly, pushing me to explore new dimensions within my own craft. From his unwavering dedication to his infectious enthusiasm, (and of course, his quirky one-liners) every moment with him was a collaborative masterclass in itself. What truly stood out was his distinct Bihari flair, both on and off-screen.

Through his effortless delivery and charming persona, I found myself naturally picking up the subtle nuances of his talking style, infusing my own performance with a newfound authenticity. Ravi sir not only imparted his wisdom but also instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the art of storytelling. It's moments like these that remind me why I love being an actor - the thrill of exploration, the joy of collaboration, and the sheer fun of it all."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shefali Shah, who is currently holidaying in Bali, shared a glimpse of what her breakfast looks like in vacation mode.

Taking to Instagram stories, Shefali on Tuesday shared several pictures of

her colourful breakfast from the dining table. The actress seems to be binging on some seasonal fruits, pancakes, avocado toast, fluffy omelet, a smoothie bowl and some fresh juices.

Shefali did not share any caption, she instead chose to put hashtags such as breakfast and good morning.

## SHEFALI SHAH SERVES A 'TASTY' SNEAK-PEEK INTO HER BALI GETAWAY

On Monday, the 50-year-old actress shared glimpses of Bali and art decor.

Talking about work, Shefali was last seen in 'Three Of Us', a drama film, where the actress played the role of Shailaja Desai, diagnosed with dementia. It also stars Swanand Kirkire and Jaideep Ahlawat.

## Kajol's wisdom: 'You get to believe anything you want, why believe you can fail'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kajol has shared some

pearls of wisdom from a book that she is reading.

Taking to Instagram stories, Kajol on Tuesday shared a glimpse of an evil eye in the hues of black and gold.

The actress captioned it: "You get to believe anything you want. Why would you believe you can fail". A



book I'm reading." However, the 49-year-old actress did not share more details about the book.

On Monday, Kajol shared a handy solution on how to beat traffic woes. The actress shared a clip, where she was seen sitting on the backseat and doing crochet.

Talking about work, Kajol, who was last seen in 'Lust Stories 2' and 'The Trial', will

soon be seen sharing screen space with Kriti Sanon in the upcoming film 'Do Patti', a mystery thriller set in the hills of north India.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ankitta Sharma



## Santosh Trophy

# Manipur outclass Assam 7-1 to clinch berth in semifinals

**Team Absolute** | Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)

Wangkheimayum Sadananda Singh scored three goals as former champions Manipur came up with a powerful display to hammer Assam 7-1 in the third quarterfinal of the 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, here on Tuesday. Manipur surged to a 4-0 lead within 20 minutes, thus virtually eliminating any chances of an Assam comeback. However, Assam managed to salvage some pride with a second-half goal.

While Sadananda Singh scored in the 11th, 16th and 70th minutes skipper Phijam Sanathoi Meetei (4'), Ngangbam Pacha Singh (19', P), Maibam Denny Singh (82') and Imarson Meitei (88') were the other scorers for the winners. Joydeep Gogoi scored the only goal for Assam in the 64th minute. Phijam Sanathoi Meetei opened the scoring as he seized the opportunity in the 4th minute from Sadananda Singh's pass outside the box to sneak the ball past Assam goalkeeper Abhinash Mech.

This was his 11th goal in this edition, making him the leading scorer in the 77th Santosh Trophy for the 2023-24 season. This early goal set the tone



for Manipur's dominance, with Sanathoi Meetei proving to be a constant thorn in Assam's flesh throughout the match because of his attacking prowess. As if not content with the early goal, Ngatham Imarson Meitei displayed his proficiency with a powerful left-footer in the 6th minute from the edge of the box, although Assam's Abhinash Mech managed to collect it perfectly.

However, Manipur's relentless pressure eventually paid off as Sadananda Singh scored with a diving header in the 11th minute, capitalising on a precise

pass from Ngatham Imarson Meitei from the left flank. Manipur continued to pound their rivals, with Sadananda Singh securing his second goal in the 16th minute after a well-coordinated set-up from Sanathoi Meitei. Sadananda placed the ball perfectly into the left corner of the net.

Assam's fortunes were further dented in the 20th minute when Manipur was awarded a penalty after Urjoy Brahma of Assam fouled the Manipur captain, Sanathoi Meitei, inside the box. Ngangbam Pacha Singh made no mistake from the spot kick, confidently slotting the ball into the top corner of the net to extend Manipur's lead to 4-0.

In the 64th minute, Assam scored their only goal, from substitute Joydeep Gogoi's brilliant finish. Akrang Narzary dribbled past a defender and passed it for Joydeep, whose curling shot found the target from a distance.

In the 70th minute, Sadananda completed his hat-trick with a header from inside the box and in the 82nd minute, Manipur's left full-back, Denny Singh, calmly found the back of the net off a pass from Singam Subash Singh. Imarson Meitei completed the tally in the 88th minute.

## ISL 2023-24

# NorthEast United's Playoffs challenge takes a hit with 2-2 draw against Hyderabad FC

**Team Absolute** | Hyderabad

Hyderabad FC struck twice late in the second half to hold NorthEast United FC to a 2-2 draw in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 at the Gachibowli Stadium here on Monday night. Parthib Gogoi brought an end to his nine-match-long streak without finding the back of the net in the 32nd minute of the game on Monday night. Picking the ball down the centre against a haphazard Hyderabad FC backline, he backed his instincts to go for the goal from distance and converted the effort to secure his fourth strike of the season. The home team's defence never really came to the fore tonight, and it reflected in the second essay of the game as well. Seasoned goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani ensured that NorthEast United FC didn't add more to their tally, making three saves and completing an impressive 92% of his 26 passes in this match. However, there is little he could have done to prevent the own goal that Hyderabad FC defender Alex Saji scored six minutes into the second half, giving the Juan Pedro Benali-coached side a decisive lead in the contest. However, Hyderabad FC and their trust in their youngsters paid off tonight. The side didn't let their shoulders down, and instead gave it their all to give a strong fight and bag all they could from the game. It started with Makhyan Chothe ending his goal drought in the 70th minute. Chothe had taken 17 shots without scoring a goal this season, and it took a head-



ed effort from a cross by Abdul Rabeeh to cut the deficit for starters. Hyderabad FC carried on that momentum, and so did Chothe. From a long throw-in, the ball ended up at his feet and the youngster launched a strong shot from the inside channel of the left flank. His shot was blocked by goalkeeper Mirshad Michu, but the ball deflected to Joao Victor who was positioned merely yards away from goal. Victor merely tapped the ball in to equalise and make this only the fifth game from which Hyderabad FC picked up a point from in this game. Hyderabad FC will next take on Chennaiyin FC on March 9, whereas NorthEast United FC will square off against Punjab FC on March 7.

## Premier League

# Arsenal thrash Sheff Utd 6-0 to close gap on leaders Liverpool



**London** | Agencies

Arsenal maintained their pace in the title race as they outclassed Sheffield United 6-0 in an outstanding performance at Bramall Lane. Arsenal made a fast start at Bramall Lane as Bukayo Saka hit the woodwork inside two minutes and Martinelli's rebound was cleared off the line. But it did not take long for Arsenal to take the lead as captain Odegaard opened the scoring in the fifth minute when he

slotted the ball into the bottom-right corner from Rice's cutback. An Jayden Bogle own goal doubled gunners' advantage. Two minutes later Gabriel Martinelli's deflected strike wrongfooted Sheff Utd goalkeeper Ivo Grbic at the near post to make it 3-0 before the Brazilian was involved again in the 25th minute when he won the ball off Anel Ahmedhodzic and allowed Havertz to go through on goal and score a fourth, Premier League reports. Declan Rice added a

fifth goal before the break as he side-footed the ball past Grbic following good wing play from Saka. The goals continued in the second half as Ben White scored with a brilliant left-footed finish inside the box just before the hour-mark. Arsenal had racked up more than 20 shots during the 90 minutes, and ensured their place in the history books by becoming the first team in English league history to win three successive games by at least five goals.

## French Open badminton

# Satwiksairaj-Chirag, Tressa-Gayatri move into second round



**Paris** | Agencies

Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday beat the Malaysian pair Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in straight games to move into the next round at the French Open badminton tournament. The Indian double combine won 21-13, 24-22 in the BWF World Tour Super 750 event being played at Arena de la Chapelle in the

French capital.

In women's doubles, the top Indian pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand defeated compatriots Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto in hard-fought three games, 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 to reach Round 2. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen will take on Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan while Priyanshu Rajawat will face top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark later in the day.

# Nadal to face 'missile man' Raonic in Indian Wells opener

**Indian Wells (US)** | Agencies

Three-time champion Rafael Nadal is drawn to face former finalist Milos Raonic of Canada in a testing first-round match at the Paribas Open as the draw for the year's first ATP Masters 1000 threw up an interesting challenge for the Spaniard. Nadal, who has reached the final in 2022 during his last visit to the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, will be making just his second appearance of the year, following a quarter-final run to the ATP 250 in Brisbane in the first week of the season.

After an 11-month hiatus due to a hip flexor injury, the 37-year-old Spaniard made his comeback to the tour in early January, won two matches at Brisbane, then suffered a micro tear to a muscle near his left hip during a quarterfinal loss to Jordan Thompson in his last contested ATP match.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion, fresh off a thrilling encounter with compatriot Carlos Alcaraz at the Netflix



Slam in Las Vegas on Sunday, will face the 33-year-old Canadian for the 11th time, and the second time at Indian Wells on Thursday's evening session.

Thursday's tilt will commence Nadal's 16th Indian Wells appearance where he has compiled a 59-11 record with three titles and two additional finals in the Coachella Valley.

Nadal, currently ranked No.652, has talked of potentially ending his legendary career this season, and this could be his last appearance at Indian Wells.

Former World No.3 Raonic, who like Nadal missed nearly two full seasons (from July of 2021 to June of 2023) due to an Achilles injury and a broken toe, will be making his ninth appearance in Southern California.

# Netherlands beat Nepal by four wickets in tri-nation series final



**Team Absolute** | Kirtipur (Nepal)

The Netherlands won the tri-nation series on Tuesday beating Nepal by four wickets in the final at the TU International Cricket Ground. Facing a daunting target of 185 set by Nepal, the Netherlands showcased resilience and determination as they reached a total of 189/6 with just four wickets in hand, sealing their triumph in a pulsating finish.

Opener Michael Levitt led the charge for the Dutch side with a scintillating knock of 54 runs off a mere 29 balls, ably supported by middle-order batsman Sybrand Engelbrecht who contributed 48 runs in 29 deliveries.

Earlier in the match, Nepal

had reached a challenging score of 184/8 after winning the toss and electing to bat first. Opener Ashif Sheikh provided a solid start with a brisk 47 runs off 37 balls, laying the foundation for a competitive total. However, despite valiant efforts from Gulshan Jha (34 off 24), Kushal Malla (26 off 11), and captain Rohit Paudel (25 off 19), Nepal found themselves losing momentum in the death overs, losing four crucial wickets in quick succession.

The Netherlands' bowling attack, led by Fred Klaassen (2-37), Timm van der Gugten (2-29), Michael Levitt (2-35), and Sybrand Engelbrecht (2-14), proved instrumental in restricting Nepal's scoring

opportunities and securing crucial breakthroughs at pivotal moments.

Despite a slow start in the series, Nepal had displayed promising performances in the last two games, securing their place in the final with a convincing victory over the Netherlands earlier in the tournament. However, their dream of lifting the trophy was dashed as the Netherlands delivered a clinical performance in the final.

With a win over Nepal in the final, the Netherlands cemented their dominance in the Tri-Nation T20I Series, finishing atop the points table with five points from four games. Nepal, despite their valiant efforts, settled for the runner-up position

with four points, while Namibia's campaign came to an end with three points, relegating them to third place.

### Brief scores:

Nepal 184/8 in 20 overs (Aasif Sheikh 47, Gulsan Jha 34; Sybrand Engelbrecht 2-14, Fred Klaassen 2-37) lose to Netherlands 189/6 in 19.3 overs (Michael Levitt 54, Sybrand Engelbrecht 48; Kushal Malla 4-33, Dipendra Singh Airee 1-16) by four wickets.

# Inter Milan continue winning streak in Serie A

**Rome** | Agencies

The Serie A title race seems to be a foregone conclusion as Inter Milan have run 15 points clear on the table after a 2-1 home victory over Genoa. The Nerazzurri kept a perfect record since 2024 as they had managed 11 wins on the bounce before Monday. The away side tested Yann Sommer in the 26th minute as Mateo Retegui's header from a close range was denied by Sommer, four minutes before Alexis Sanchez assisted for Kristjan Asllani to reap his first goal for Inter, reports Xinhua. Sanchez made it 2-0 in the 38th minute as the Chilean converted a spot-kick earned by Nicolo Barella. Genoa pulled one goal back in the 54th minute when Stefan de Vrij's clearance only fell for Johan Vasquez to hit in a first-time volley, leaving Sommer rooted to the ground. Inter survived from a scare in the 66th minute as Vitinha found the net, but it was ruled out due to offside.



# My biggest pain is I don't enjoy my success as much as I should have: Ashwin ahead of his 100th Test

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

As Indian spin maestro Ravichandran Ashwin gears up to play his 100th Test match, he revealed that "I didn't enjoy my success as much as he should have" as he goes back to himself after every tour to become a better player. During the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamshala, starting from March 7, Ashwin will be playing his 100th match in the longer format of the game. In the third Test of the ongoing series in Rajkot, Ashwin became only the ninth and second Indian bowler after Anil Kumble to clinch 500 Test wickets joining the elite club of bowlers such as Muthiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Kumble, Glenn McGrath, Courtney Walsh and Nathan Lyon. In addition, he broke the 350-wicket barrier in home Tests and surpassed Kumble to become India's top wicket-



taker. Ashwin has claimed 507 wickets in 99 Test matches, 156 wickets in 116 ODIs, and 72 wickets in 65 T20Is. Ahead of his momentous occasion, Ashwin was in conversation with Kumble on JioCinema titled Spin Maestros. When asked if things don't go right or if they go

right, whom do you fall back on? Ashwin replied: "I go back to one person and that's very stressful for that person, and that's me." "Because I think cricket is one of the greatest self-thought sports. And if you're ruthless and very critical about yourself, I think it will give you the truth staring at your face. There are enough and more critics in India who will tell you, 10 of them will tell you the wrong things, but they're definitely critical. But 10 of them will also tell you the right things," he said. "So, like I always maintain, my biggest pain has been the fact that I don't enjoy my success as much as I should have. But, that has also helped me become a better cricketer. I have constantly looked for things to improve and I have made sure that I am very uncomfortable with who I am on a particular day. And then I get back to the drawing board and focus on what else can I do to bring more to the table."



# समर्थ नारी शक्ति समृद्ध मध्यप्रदेश



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

प्रधानमंत्री



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

## नरेन्द्र मोदी

द्वारा (वीसी के माध्यम से)

## स्व-सहायता समूहों की बहनों से संवाद

एवं

मुख्यमंत्री

## डॉ. मोहन यादव

द्वारा

किसान कल्याण योजना में  
**80 लाख से अधिक किसानों को**  
**₹ 1816 करोड़**

फसल बीमा योजना खरीफ-23 में  
**25 लाख से अधिक किसानों को**  
**₹ 755 करोड़**

का अंतरण

तथा

## 68 विकास कार्यों का भूमिपूजन और लोकार्पण

6 मार्च 2024 | पूर्वाह्न 10:30 बजे | भिंड, मध्यप्रदेश

### महिला स्वावलंबन को बढ़ावा

5 लाख स्व-सहायता समूहों से जुड़कर  
62 लाख महिलाएं हुईं आत्मनिर्भर

स्व-सहायता समूहों को उपलब्ध कराई गई  
लगभग ₹9838 करोड़ की वित्तीय सहायता

प्रचलित दरों से कम और  
आसान ब्याज दर पर ऋण की उपलब्धता

### कृषि समृद्धि के प्रतिबद्ध प्रयास

प्रदेश की वर्तमान सिंचाई क्षमता 47 लाख हेक्टेयर को  
वर्ष 2025 तक बढ़ाकर 65 लाख हेक्टेयर करने का लक्ष्य

पार्वती-कालीसिंध-चंबल लिंक परियोजना से  
चंबल और मालवा क्षेत्र के 3.37 लाख हेक्टेयर  
खेतों को मिलेगी सिंचाई सुविधा

किसानों को 0% ब्याज पर फसल ऋण सहायता

श्रीअन्न उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए  
'रानी दुर्गावती श्रीअन्न प्रोत्साहन योजना' अंतर्गत  
₹1000 प्रति किंटल का अतिरिक्त प्रोत्साहन

पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि एवं  
मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना में  
किसानों को प्रतिवर्ष ₹12 हजार की आर्थिक मदद