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Int'l Women's Day: Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission's 'women stars' to be feted in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a unique programme, a Mumbai-based institution will felicitate eight top women scientists and others who were part of the historic Chandrayaan-3 moon mission of July 2023, as part of the International Women's Day celebrations, an official said here on Thursday.

The 'women stars' of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), who were part of the successful Chandrayaan moon mission shall be honoured by the Shanmukhananda Fine Arts & Sangeetha Sabha, its women's wing and the South Indian Education Society, at a special function in Shanmukhananda Hall, on Sunday.

The eight women scientists are -- Associate Project Director and second-in-command Kalpana Kalahasthi, who played a pivotal role in the soft landing on the lunar surface; Project Director and Mission Designer Nandini Harinath; Project Director Aditya L1 Mission Nihar Shaji



and also head of the Satellite Telemetry Centre at ISRO; Project Manager Dr. Madhavi S. Thakre, of the entire process from conception to implementation.

There will be the Deputy Director, Avionics Athulya S. Devi, who is experienced in launch vehicle avionics system; Group Director, Propulsion & Electronics Revathi Harikrishnan, who successfully led the team for the lander propulsion control electronics for the precise soft landing of Chandrayaan - 3; Group Director ISRO Inertial System Unit Usha K. who was involved in the design development of electronics and realisation of sensors and associated systems; and Associate Director Kalpana Arvind, who was also responsible for path planning stereo vision cameras and rover payload.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and Lunar Mission leader, as well as P. Veeramuthuvel who was the Project Director of Chandrayaan - 3, shall also be felicitated on the occasion by the organisers.

Union Cabinet approves Rs 12,000 crore outlay for LPG subsidy to poor

ELECTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



sharp fluctuations in international prices of LPG and to make LPG more affordable to PMUY consumers thereby ensuring sustained usage of LPG by them, the government started a targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg connections) to the PMUY consumers in May 2022.

In October 2023, the government increased the targeted subsidy to Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg connections). As of February 1, 2024, the effective price of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers is Rs 603 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder (Delhi).

The average LPG consumption of PMUY consumers has increased by 29 per cent from 3.01 refills in 2019-20 to 3.87 refills (till January 2024) pro-rated for 2023-24. All PMUY beneficiaries are eligible for this targeted subsidy. The Union Cabinet also approved the proposal for the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialisation Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI-2024) for a period of 10 years from the date of notification, along with 8 years for committed liabilities at a total cost of Rs 10,037 crore, to boost development and create jobs in the northeastern states.

beneficiaries, according to an official statement.

As of March 1, 2024, there are more than 10.27 crore PMUY beneficiaries. To make Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), a clean cooking fuel, available to rural and deprived poor households, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016, to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement. To shield PMUY beneficiaries from the impact of

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, approved the continuation of the targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder, for up to 12 refills per year, to be provided for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY 2024-25.

The total expenditure will be Rs 12,000 crore for the financial year 2024-25. The subsidy is credited directly to the bank accounts of eligi-

RAHUL GANDHI PROMISES 30L JOBS TO YOUTH



Jaipur: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Danpur in Rajasthan's Banswara on Thursday from Sailana in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam.

He was seen riding an open jeep while he came to Rajasthan's Banswara district. A roadshow was held here at the playground of Govind Guru Government College which continued for 20 minutes.

Speaking at the event, Rahul Gandhi said that the Congress' first task after forming its government will be to provide 30 lakh jobs to poor sections of society. He also spoke about training every graduate youth in government and private offices and provide Rs 1 lakh to youth every year. The Congress leader also said that he would bring in a law against paper leaks in the state.

GST authorities bust syndicate in Rs 1,048 crore fraud case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The anti-evasion branch of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Commissionerate in Meerut has busted a syndicate that fraudulently claimed input tax credit of Rs 1,048 crore by issuing fake invoices for the supply of goods in the name of 232 bogus firms that were shown to be registered at various places in the country.

Five bank accounts used to park the proceeds of crime by the syndicate have been provisionally attached.

Three persons have been arrested so far for being perpetrators and conspirators in the creation of bogus firms and fake invoices to siphon off money, according to a Finance Ministry statement issued on Thursday.

The total value of the goods shown to be supplied through fake bills in the names of these shell companies is around Rs 5,842 crore.

The investigation was carried out through various analytical tools such as the E-way Comprehensive Portal,



Advait and Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA).

The probe revealed that these 232 bogus firms were operated by mastermind Praveen Kumar, who filed the GST returns for all the fake firms. Apart from the common mobile number, which was used to create and manage 91 firms, 10 more mobile phones, and three laptops were impounded from Kumar's possession.

During the investigation, it came to light that Full Fledged Money Changer Companies (FFMCCs) were used for parking/routing of funds generated through fraudulently passed on ITC. Further investigation revealed bulk purchases of around Rs 1,120 crore from two such FFMCCs from other FFMCCs. However, no record of further disposal/receipt of

the said foreign currency has been recovered during searches. The owners/directors of these two FFMCCs could also not produce any record or details of the ultimate recipient of the foreign currency.

None of the firms that issued invoices were found in existence.

However, two beneficiary firms that had availed ITC on the strength of fake invoices were found to be existing. Further investigation into these beneficiary firms revealed that to justify the fake purchases as genuine, they made payments to two accounts belonging to two forex companies engaged in sales and purchase of foreign currency only, and did not deal in the supply of goods/services.

However, various beneficiaries of fake ITC have transferred money to these accounts, purportedly to justify their fake purchase. The accounts used to carry out these fake transactions were provisionally attached under Section 83 of the CGST Act, 2017.

4 PER CENT HIKE IN DA FOR CENTRAL GOVT STAFF

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday approved the release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from January 1, 2024, representing an increase of 4 per cent over the existing rate of 46 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate against price rise.

This will benefit about 49.18 lakh Central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners, according to an official statement issued after the meeting.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs 12,868.72 crore per annum.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

RS 10,000 CRORE TO BOOST INDIA'S AI ECOSYSTEM

New Delhi: In a big push to the vision of 'Making AI in India' and 'Making AI Work for India', the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday approved the comprehensive national-level IndiaAI Mission with a budget outlay of Rs 10,371.92 crore.

The IndiaAI Mission will establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalysing AI innovation through strategic programmes and partnerships across the public and private sectors. By democratising computing access, improving data quality, developing indigenous AI capabilities, attracting top AI talent, enabling industry collaboration, providing start-up risk capital, ensuring socially impactful AI projects, and bolstering ethical AI, it will drive responsible, inclusive growth of India's AI ecosystem. The Mission will be implemented by 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Tata Power consumers in Mumbai set to shell out more for electricity from April

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tata Power's Mumbai customers will have to pay higher electricity bills from April 1 as power regulator Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) has approved an average tariff increase of around 24 per cent against 12 per cent claimed by the power distributor.

The present tariff hike is necessitated as there was under-recovery due to a stay on tariff as determined in the MTR (mid-term review) Order for FY 2023-24.

Had there been no stay, the tariff for FY 2024-25 would have resulted in a tariff decrease of 13 per cent than approved by the MERC in the MTR Order. Tata Power is a licensee for electricity distribution in Mumbai city and



suburbs and Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation.

Out of its total consumer base of 7.63 lakh, approximately 7.15 lakh (94 per cent) consumers belong to the residential category and around 85 per cent of these residential consumers fall within the 0-300 units slab. A Tata Power spokesperson said that the MERC has determined the revised tariff for FY 2024-25, resulting in an overall increase due to past approved gaps up to FY 2023-24 to be recovered within FY 2024-25 and remaining within a range of plus and minus 20 per cent of the average cost of supply.

MPPSC State Service Mains 2023 exams on time, HC gave conditional permission to appear only to the petitioners

Bhopal: MPPSC State Service Mains 2023 will be held on time from March 11 only. Jabalpur High Court said two important things in the hearing on Tuesday evening regarding the petition on Pre-2023 questions. Firstly, he will hear only those petitioners who have raised objections to the provisional answer key within the stipulated time limit of seven days and secondly, those who have come before the court and filed a petition. He said that this is not a PIL, hence others cannot make claims on this basis, those who did not come to the court have lost their opportunity.

HC orders judicial probe into farmer's death on Haryana border

Chandigarh | Agencies

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday ordered a judicial probe, involving a retired High Court judge, into the death of farmer Shubhkar Singh during the 'Dilli Chalo' protest on February 21.

The division bench of acting Chief Justice G.S. Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji, hearing public interest litigations seeking a judicial inquiry into the matter, orally observed that the investigation into the death cannot be given to either Haryana or Punjab for obvious reasons.

"Hence, the judicial probe will be conducted by



a retired high court judge and two officers, including Additional Director General of Police-rank officers from Punjab and Haryana."

Justice Sandhawalia also came down heavily upon

in school are shown what they should not be. It was a war-like situation," he orally remarked.

The bench also questioned the Haryana government on what kind of bullets and pellets were being used on protestors and asked them to give details in this regard.

Shubhkar Singh, a farmer from Bathinda district in Punjab, was cremated in his native village last week after the Punjab Police registered a zero FIR in connection with his death. The victim's father Charanjit Singh had told the media that a bullet fired from the Haryana side hit Shubhkar Singh, who was walking right ahead of him, on the head.

IAF's C-17 AIRCRAFT SUCCESSFULLY AIRDROPS INDIGENOUSLY BUILT HEAVY PLATFORM

New Delhi: Indian Air Force (IAF) transport aircraft C-17 has airdropped an indigenously developed heavy platform that can carry a maximum load of over 22 tonnes.

An IAF official said that it was a major milestone on its path towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. "The extra long and heavy platform, indigenously developed by ADRDE and capable of carrying approximately 45,000 lbs of load, was successfully air-dropped during trials from an IAF C-17 aircraft," the official said.

Capable of carrying multiple such platforms, combat capabilities of C-17 aircraft will be further enhanced in its varied missions to air-deliver critical loads to troops on ground.

ADRDE is the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment which is a premier defence research laboratory.



IN FIRST VISIT TO KASHMIR AFTER ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION, PM MODI BATS FOR 'SWADESH DARSHAN AND WED IN INDIA'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and dedicated to the nation more than 50 projects worth Rs 6,400 crore in Srinagar on Tuesday, in his first visit to Kashmir Valley after the scrapping of Article 370.

The Prime Minister also spoke to a couple of beneficiaries under the Viksit Bharat-Viksit Jammu and Kashmir programme in Srinagar and lauded their accomplishments in respective entrepreneurial ventures.

Addressing the mammoth gathering of Valley residents, PM Modi said that the 'forehead of India' is slated for new peaks of growth, on back of slew of development projects launched today. He also reiterated the fact that Viksit J&K is the priority of Viksit Bharat.

"This is the New Jammu Kashmir that we had been waiting for decades. This is New Jammu Kashmir for which Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee made sacrifices. This new Jammu Kashmir has the courage to overcome any challenge," he said.

Addressing the crowd at Srinagar's



Bakshi Stadium, PM Modi said, "the feeling of coming to the heaven on earth is beyond words."

Unveiling Centre's plan to bring exemplary growth in Jammu and

Kashmir, he spoke about two programmes in particular - Swadesh Darshan scheme and Wed in India and explained how this will set the state on robust growth path.

"Today, six projects have been dedicated under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Also, next phase of the 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme will see beginning of another 30 projects," he said.

PM Modi hailed the state administration for hosting biggest ever tourists in 2023 and also the residents for extending warm hospitality.

"Tourism is breaking all the records in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2023 alone, more than 2 crore tourists visited here. Lot of big celebrities are also converging to the state and getting overwhelmed with its beauty," he said.

"My next mission is Wed in India," PM Modi told the gathering and also urged the countrymen to pick Jammu and Kashmir for their destination weddings, rather than splurging abundant money on foreign location marriages.

As part of the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir' programme at Bakshi Stadium, the PM interacted with a number of beneficiaries from Jammu, Kupwara, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipura, Kathua and Kishtwar.

Ration card can't be used as address, residence proof: Delhi HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has recently clarified that ration cards are intended solely for accessing essential commodities under the public distribution system and should not be used as proof of address or residence.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh noted the lack of a verification mechanism for the address details on ration cards, saying that their purpose is restricted to ensuring the distribution of foodgrains at reasonable prices to citizens. This ruling came during the court's hearing of pleas by several inhabitants of Kathputli Colony, who sought alternative housing in exchange for their current makeshift homes.

Despite the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)'s reliance on ration cards as address proof in the rehabilitation process, the court found this practice mis-



aligned with the central government's directive and the inherent purpose of ration cards. Referring to a 2015 gazette notification from the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, which specifically cautioned against using ration cards as identity or residence proof, Justice Singh criticised the DDA's approach as arbitrary.

The court noted that ration cards are designed for food distribution, not as identity or address verification tools.

The judgement impacts the rehabilitation policy for Kathputli Colony's jhuggi

dwellers, particularly those whose eligibility was previously contested due to the absence of a ration card.

Justice Singh directed the DDA to accept alternative documents listed in the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015, like passports, electricity bills, and driving licences, for verifying residents' claims to alternative accommodation.

This order mandates the DDA to provide alternative dwelling units to the petitioners, contingent on the presentation of pertinent documents issued before the January 1, 2015, cutoff date.

One ex-judge's rulings brought bad name to Bengal: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

Without taking any name, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday launched a scathing attack against the former judge of Calcutta High Court, Abhijit Gangopadhyay, saying that certain judgements by the latter gave the state a bad name nationally.

"Some people often tell me that given certain court judgements passed in West Bengal, not only the people, even tigers will flee from the state. I tell them that there are some people like 'him'," the Chief Minister said at the end of a rally organised by the Trinamool Congress here on Thursday afternoon.

Without naming Gangopadhyay, the Chief Minister also said that the "former judge" unnecessarily targeted the Trinamool when he was the judge. "As a judge, he gave television interviews. He said a lot of things naming Abhishek Banerjee. Finally, he announced his decision to join the BJP. Now, he has been unmasked. In the coming days, he will be judged by the common people," CM Banerjee said. Reacting to the Chief Minister's comments, state BJP spokesman and Rajya Sabha member Samik Bhattacharya accused the



Trinamool of attacking the judiciary whenever any judgement goes against the party or the state government. "There had been instances when slanderous posters were pasted on the walls of a judge's residence. The state government had challenged the orders of Gangopadhyay at higher courts. But in most cases, the higher courts upheld the orders passed by Gangopadhyay," Bhattacharya said.

Meanwhile, speaking at the rally, CM Banerjee once again referred to the recent controversy relating to the derogatory comments allegedly made by some state BJP leaders in connection with the turban of a Sikh IPS officer in the state. "For the BJP, all Sikhs are 'Khalistanis', all Muslims are 'Pakistanis' and everyone in Trinamool is a 'thief'," the Chief Minister said.

Sanskrit weaves nation's diversity into a thread of unity: President Murmu

Team Absolute | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday that Sanskrit has woven the diversity of our vast land into a thread of unity.

Many Indian languages have been strengthened by the vocabulary of Sanskrit and those languages are flourishing in different regions and states, she added while speaking at the first convocation of Central Sanskrit University in New Delhi.

President Murmu said that Sanskrit is not only the language of God but it is also that of the people.

"The feeling of pride towards Indian culture is the basis of our national consciousness. Realising the rich culture of our country awakens a sense of pride. The heritage of our culture is preserved in



the Sanskrit language. Therefore, spreading the cultural awareness available in Sanskrit language is a service to the nation," she added.

She said that the women scholars like Gargi, Maitreyi, Apala and Lopamudra have made immortal contributions towards Sanskrit so women's participation should be maximum in it.

President Murmu was happy to note that the number of boys and girls winning a gold medal at the convocation was almost equal.

She praised the Central Sanskrit University for its efforts on women empowerment.

The President said that countless excellent writings on spirituality and morality are available in Sanskrit language.

The wisdom given by the Acharyas to the people in ancient times are relevant even today and will always be useful, she added.

India ready to tackle any threat on borders: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India has emerged as a militarily strong nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was ready to give a befitting response to any threat on its borders.

Speaking at the NDTV Defence Summit, he said, "history shows that India has never been the first to attack any country, but if we face any threat on our borders the defence forces are fully prepared to tackle the situation with strong retaliatory action."

The defence minister said that the morale of the country's armed forces is very high and they are always fully prepared for war by land, air or sea. This is a must even at times of peace, he added.

"If anyone attacks India, our forces will respond strongly and give a befitting reply," he added.



The defence minister's response to a question came in the backdrop of the continuing tension with China in Ladakh, as well as the northeast.

He said that India was now a key global economic as well as strategic power and under the strong leadership of PM Modi the country was having a bigger say in global affairs.

"Other countries now listen to what India has to say," the defence

minister remarked.

In the future, India will not only emerge as a fully developed country (Viksit Bharat) but also a strong military power, he added.

The defence minister said the armed forces are the pride of the nation and the government was ready to do whatever is required to bolster morale and enhance respect for the soldiers.

BJP LEADER SHOT DEAD IN UP'S JAUNPUR

Jaunpur: A BJP leader, Pramod Yadav, was shot dead in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district on Thursday.

According to reports, Pramod Yadav, a resident of the Bodhapur village located in Sikrara police station area, was shot in broad daylight by motorcycle-borne assailants who had come to meet him on the pretext of giving a wedding invite.

The assailants fired three shots and fled after the incident.

The injured leader was immediately rushed to the district hospital where he succumbed to injuries during treatment.

Superintendent of Police Dr Ajay Pal Sharma, said that a team had been deployed to arrest the accused.

In 2012, Pramod Yadav had contested the Assembly elections from the Malhani seat but had lost.

Further details are awaited in the matter.

Indian Navy rescues 21 crew from missile-hit Barbados sea Carrier MV

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Navy warship INS Kolkata has rescued 21 crew members, including one Indian national from Barbados flagged Bulk carrier MV True confidence which was reportedly hit by a drone or missile in Gulf of Aden.

The incident occurred on Wednesday approximately 55 nm South West of Aden, resulting in critical injuries to crew forcing them to abandon ships, the Navy said.

INS Kolkata arrived at the spot at 4.45 p.m. and rescued 21 crew members from the life raft using its integral helicopter and boats.

Critical medical aid was provided to the injured crew by the ship's medical team.

The rescued crew, includ-



ing the critically injured personnel, have been evacuated to Djibouti.

Earlier, on Monday, a Liberian-flagged MV MSC Sky II transiting approximately 90 Nm South East of Aden reported on fire due to drone or missile attack.

According to the Indian Navy, INS Kolkata, mission

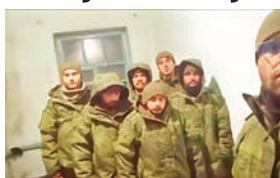
deployed in the region for maritime security operations, promptly responded and arrived at scene of incident by 10.30 p.m.

A specialised firefighting team of 12 personnel from INS Kolkata embarked the vessel early morning hours on Tuesday to assist firefighting efforts.

Repatriate seven Indians stranded in Russia: MP Vikramjit Sahney

Chandigarh | Agencies

AP Rajya Sabha member from Punjab, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, on Thursday pleaded with the Indian



Ambassador in Russia, Pawan Kapoor, and the Minister for External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, seeking immediate action to repatriate seven Indian youth, including five from Punjab, stranded in Russia.

Sahney said he has also reached out to the Russian Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, and the Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Roman Babushkin, urging them to take up the matter with the concerned authorities for the swift release of the Indian youth.

Sahney also claimed that he is in constant touch with the distressed families and has obtained the phone numbers of the stranded youth, which he has shared

with the Indian Embassy officials so that they can facilitate direct assistance to them for their repatriation.

On December 27, 2023, seven Indian youth, including five from Punjab, went to Russia, he said.

Due to a misunderstanding, they inadvertently entered Belarus from Russia by road, lacking the necessary visa, resulting in their apprehension by Russian authorities. The distressed youth have reportedly been coerced by the Russian police into signing an agreement to serve in the Russian Army as helpers for one year, under the threat of facing imprisonment for up to 10 years for their unauthorised entry into Belarus.

82.42% OF NATIONAL PARTIES' UNKNOWN INCOME TIED TO ELECTORAL BONDS: REPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

About 82 per cent of the total income from unknown sources declared by national political parties in 2022-23 came from electoral bonds, according to a poll rights body.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) also said that the analysis of the national parties' audit reports and donation statements filed with the Election Commission (EC) shows that the sources remain largely unknown.

Out of the Rs 1,832.88 crore as income from unknown sources, the share of income from electoral bonds was Rs 1,510 crore or 82.42 per cent, according to the analysis of the financial reports for the fiscal year 2022-23 submitted to the poll panel, it stated.

For this study, six national parties were considered -- the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the National People's Party (NPEP).

The BJP declared the highest income from unknown sources among the national parties at Rs 1,400 crore or 76.39 per cent of the total amount. The Congress declared an amount of Rs 315.11 crore (17.19 per cent).

The BSP has declared that it did not receive any funds from voluntary contributions -- above or below Rs 20,000, sale of coupons or electoral bonds, or unknown sources of income, the ADR said.

Though the amount of donations from electoral bonds has been highlighted for the national parties, state parties also get a substantial amount of money from electoral



bonds, the NGO noted.

Between the financial years 2004-05 and 2022-23, the national parties collected Rs 19,083 crore from unknown sources, it said. On its latest analysis for the financial year 2022-23, the ADR said among these unknown sources, the major contributor was income from electoral bonds, constituting a "massive 82.42 per cent of the total income from unknown sources". Further scrutiny revealed that out of the total income from unknown sources, Rs 1,510 crore came from electoral bonds, it said.

In addition, the Congress and the CPI(M) have also declared a combined income of Rs 136.79 crore from the

sale of coupons, constituting 7.46 per cent of the income from unknown sources, its analysis showed.

The BSP received Rs 29.27 crore from other known sources of income which included bank interest (Rs 15.05 crore), membership fees (Rs 13.73 crore), gain on sale of immovable property (Rs 28.49 lakh) and interest on income tax refund for 2021-22 (Rs 20.65 lakh), the organisation said.

The total income of the six national political parties in the financial year 2022-23 is Rs 3,076.88 crore, it said.

Donations from voluntary contributions below Rs 20,000 formed 10 per cent of the income from unknown sources, totalling Rs 183.28 crore. Currently, political parties are not required to reveal the names of individuals or organisations giving less than Rs 20,000.

The ADR has suggested stringent measures to enhance transparency and accountability in political funding. It advocates for full disclosure of all donors under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and proposes that the mode of payment for all donations, regardless of the amount, be declared in the audit reports submitted to the Income Tax Department and the EC.

Moreover, the EC's recommendation to grant tax exemption only to parties contesting and winning seats in elections, along with the disclosure of donors contributing above Rs 2,000, has received support from the ADR.

In a landmark verdict delivered last month, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Supreme Court scrapped the government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, terming it "unconstitutional" and ordering disclosure of the names of the purchasers, value of the bonds and their recipients.



CULTURAL RITUALS ARE GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER MODI: CHIEF MINISTER DR. YADAV

WHEREVER THE FEET OF LORD SHRI RAM AND LORD SHRI KRISHNA HAVE FALLEN IN THE STATE, ALL THOSE PLACES WILL BE DEVELOPED AS PILGRIMAGE SITES. CHITRAKOOT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WILL BE FORMED. PRIME MINISTER VIRTUALLY INAUGURATED PROJECTS UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN AND PRASAD YOJANA FROM SRINAGAR. CHIEF MINISTER DR. YADAV PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM FROM CHITRAKOOT.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 9 projects under the Swadesh Darshan and Prasad scheme of the Ministry of Tourism from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. This includes the development work of Gwalior and Chitrakoot in Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and Amarkantak and Pitambar Peeth Temple Datia in Prasad Yojana at a total cost of Rs 118 crore 72 lakh in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav participated in the program from Chitrakoot. He announced the formation of Chitrakoot Development Authority for the coordinated development of Chitrakoot and the overall development of Chitrakoot by establishing coordination between the urban bodies and gram panchayat areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.



The government has identified more than 40 sites which will be developed as tourist destinations in the next 2 years. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the cultural ritual is going on under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. We are proud of our Sanatan culture. Wherever the feet of Lord Shri Ram and Shri Krishna have

fallen on the land of Madhya Pradesh, all those places will be developed as ideal pilgrimage places. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, participating in the program from Chitrakoot, was addressing the virtual launching of the Spiritual Experience Project and the inauguration and foundation stone laying program of various

development works.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the construction of Ayodhya Dham is a happy result of 1000 years of supernatural event and 500 years of struggle. Swami Vivekananda had said that the 21st century will belong to India, in the present time under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, we all are seeing this prediction of Swami Vivekananda being proved true.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the ghats of Chitrakoot will be developed at a cost of Rs 27 crore. River valley civilization has developed in India. Its influence is clearly reflected in our cultural traditions. It is our duty to make this cultural system blossom and flourish. Fisher man families will also benefit from the development of ghats in Chitrakoot. Along with Chitrakoot, the state government is also gifting works worth Rs 25 crore for the temple of Pitambar Mai in Datia.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Chitrakoot should be developed in such an ideal way that every person wishes to visit Chitrakoot once in his life. Devsthans will be developed as per the ideas of the visionary Nanaji Deshmukh, his life is exemplary for us.

SC registers suo moto case on exclusion of visually impaired in judicial service in MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Supreme Court on Thursday registered a suo moto case on a letter petition objecting to the amendments made in the Madhya Pradesh recruitment rules which exclude visually impaired and no-vision candidates from appointment to the judicial service in the state.

Taking judicial notice of the letter petition, a Bench presided over by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud directed the issuance of notice to the Union government, state government and Registrar General of the MP High Court. The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, ordered turning the letter petition into a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.

It said: "The Madhya Pradesh Judicial Service (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994 have been amended as a consequence of which Rule 6A completely excludes visually impaired and no-vision candidates from seeking appointment in the judicial service." Further, it requested senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal to assist the court as amicus curiae in the matter.

Rule 6A, inserted in June 2023, provides that 6 per cent posts will be horizontally reserved for persons suffering from locomotor disability, including leprosy curd, dwarfism, muscular dystrophy and acid attack victims, excluding cerebral palsy, as specified under section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (49 of 2016).



Two youth from backward class of Madhya Pradesh got job in Japan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the scheme of Other Backward Class Welfare Department of Madhya Pradesh to provide employment abroad at attractive salaries to the backward class youth, two youth have been selected in the Amazing Company of Osaka city of Japan. These youth will leave for Japan on March 12.



who pass the Japanese language test are given jobs by Japanese companies. A course to teach Japanese language is being conducted by Other Backward Classes for the youth of the state.

Under the scheme, out of 60 youth of the first batch, 48 youth have passed the Japanese language test. The exam is taken by Japan. 48 youth who have done Japanese language course are being selected by the Japanese company after interviewing them.

In this sequence, first Deendayal Sanodiya of village Machiwada district Chhindwara and Saurabh Vishwakarma of village Rewa Bankhedhi district Narmadapuram have been selected for the job by Imaging Company Limited of Osaka city of Japan. Both these youth are Higher Secondary and ITI passed. He has been appointed at a salary of 1.90 lakh yen (approximately Rs 1.30 lakh) per month.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare, Krishna Gaur, handed over Japan visas and certificates to the youth. The Minister of State said that the Backward Class Welfare Department is providing employment to the backward class youth of Madhya Pradesh under the contract with the Government of Japan. Those youth from backward classes

Madhya Pradesh handed over the flag of Rahul Gandhi's Nyaya Yatra to Rajasthan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra ended in Sailana by handing over the national flag by the Seva Dal in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari and Rajasthan Congress President Govind Dotsara.

Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress handed over the flag of Nyaya Yatra to Rajasthan unit. With this the Yatra entered Rajasthan on Thursday.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Nyaya Yatra had entered Madhya Pradesh from Morena on March 2. After that this yatra was taken out in various areas of Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Raghogarh, Ujjain, Dewas, Dhar and Ratlam districts. During this period, road shows and public meetings were organized on various routes.

Rahul Gandhi's visit to Madhya Pradesh lasted for six days. Expressing his gratitude to State Congress President Jitu Patwari, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, senior Congress leaders and lakhs of Congressmen, common people and media colleagues of the state, he said that the yatra being carried out on the issue of five justices is being received with immense love



and respect in the state. have been found. State Congress President Jitu Patwari expressed his gratitude to Rahul Gandhi and said that the Congress

party is fighting the people's battle by playing the role of opposition. We are raising issues of public interest from the House to the streets.

Three-day festival in the premises of Shiv temple located in Bhojpur from 8th to 10th March

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Government, Culture Department will organize "Mahadev" Mahotsav on March 8, 2024 on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri at 10 places in Madhya Pradesh including Bhojpur, in which the entire Madhya Pradesh will shine with the artistic expressions of Shiva-Satya. The places where this festival is to be held are the holy and famous places of Lord Shiva.



Devtalab Ancient Shiva Temple - Devtalab (Mauganj) and Nohaleswar Temple - Nohta

(Damo). There will be a three-day festival in Shiv Mandir courtyard, Bhojpur, on

the first day of which on March 8 from 6:30 pm, Baredi-Badhaai folk dance, "Mahadev" Leelanatya under the direction of Jugal Kishore Namdev and partner, Sagar, Shirish Rajpurohit, Ujjain and Devotional singing will be presented by Aakriti Mehra and friends. On the second day on March 9, Matki folk dance by Krishna Verma and friends, Ujjain, "Sati" Leela drama under the direction of Suman Saha, Kolkata, Shivshakti singing and dance by Sudha Raghuraman and friends, Delhi and devotional singing by Dhvani Brothers, Bhopal.

On the last day of the festival, on 10th March, folk singing will be presented by Sheela Tripathi and her partner, Bhopal, group dance centered on Mahadev will be presented by Amita Khare and her partner, Bhopal and devotional singing will be presented by Raksha Srivastava and her partner.

Eight month old baby gets new life at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a remarkable medical feat under the dynamic leadership of its Executive Director Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh, AIIMS Bhopal has successfully treated eight-month-old baby Hitesh, who was diagnosed with a severe case of ventricular septal defect compounded by Down syndrome. Baby Hitesh, hailing from Lalitpur, was facing a challenging journey since birth due to a large hole in his heart and the complexities associated with Down syndrome. His father tirelessly sought medical interventions across various cities in the country, only to face disappointment until he arrived at AIIMS Bhopal. Under the expertise of the



Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) team led by Dr. Yogesh Niwariya, Baby Hitesh underwent a successful operation lasting two and a half hours. Despite the complexities of the case and the child's weight of only 3.3 kg, the team rose to the challenge and achieved a complete success.

Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, praised the surgical team for their exceptional skills and commitment to excellence. He reaffirmed AIIMS Bhopal's dedication to providing top-notch healthcare services, stating, "We are committed to accepting every challenge and continue to set new benchmarks in healthcare excellence."

The surgery, which addressed a condition found in about eight out of 1000 people, marks a significant milestone in pediatric cardiac care at AIIMS Bhopal. Following a week of post-operative observation, Baby Hitesh was discharged from the hospital, paving the way for a healthier future.

Meaningful message to society through the drama "Crime.com"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Police continues to innovate for the safety, respect and empowerment of women. In this sequence, on the occasion of International Women's Day, a public awareness program was organized by the Women's Safety Branch, Police Headquarters. In this program organized in Anjani Auditorium, Ravindra Bhawan, Bhopal under the chief hospitality of Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena and his wife Saxena, the play Crime.com depicting

contemporary issues related to women was staged.

On this occasion, Principal Secretary of Women and Child Welfare Department Deepali Rastogi, Special DG CID GP Singh, ADG Training Anuradha Shankar, ADG Women Safety Branch Pragya Richa Srivastava etc. were present. Aseem Dubey threw light on the outline of the play. The program was conducted by Pinky Jeevani, AIG Women Security Branch.

The play "Crime.com" was staged with the aim of spreading awareness about the changing trend of crime in the era of changing society

and social media. Under this programme, a meaningful message was given to the society through 5 short plays.

During this, through these 5 stories, the frustration of the son due to the pressure of parents for studies and job, live-in relationship in modern society and the fights and crimes arising out of it, fraud of looting money by luring people through phone calls, They were warned about the dangers of girls being tricked and exploited at an early age and children being left alone in the homes of elderly parents working abroad and being assaulted.

Pilot drone didis gearing up to strengthen MP's farm based-economy

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The rural women trained in operating drone are gearing up to positively change the prevailing farm scenario in Madhya Pradesh. Farmers will find an army of lady drone pilots to help them in spraying fertilizers and monitoring crops in sizeable fields. Rural women are flying drones now. Rural women members of Self Help Groups efficiently operating drone remote symbolise technological empowerment of women in rural Madhya Pradesh. Armed with technological knowledge, their confi-

dence level has gone high. They have proved that with a little support from the Government they can do wonders.

Bhagwati Ahirwar of Basai village of Datia district is a member of Suhani Self-Help Group. She is working with the group since 2021. This group makes organic fertilizers. Bhagwati learned to fly drone from MITS Gwalior. She first heard about drones from the Rural Livelihood Mission team members. When she came to know that it is useful in farming, she expressed her keenness to learn it and increase the use of technology in farming

while making farmers aware of the benefits. Sharing her experience, she says she is more now confident. Learning and connecting with new technology is a new experience. Earlier we used to consider tractor as a big machine. Now we realise that the drone is going to be even more useful than the tractor.

She tells that her husband is very happy to see her flying the drone. The village people are also very happy. About future planning, she says that spraying organic fertilizers through drones will now be a main farm activity. I want to associate more women with this.

Geeta Kushwaha of Pipraua village of Indargarh tehsil of the same district is a member of Maa Ratangarh self-help group since 2016. This group is making women aware of socio-economic issues. She got training from MITS Gwalior.

She says that drones have now become necessary to minimise the burden of farming and for good production. She says that she is very happy and confidence level has increased manifold. Everyone in the village has been supportive. Now I have become an inspiration for many youth in my village, she adds.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Women for females

Women-owned MSMEs hired 11 per cent more women employees than male-owned MSMEs, as per a data analysis of women-owned MSMEs by Kinara Capital. The analysis further revealed that 1/3rd of all new jobs created by women-owned MSMEs went to women employees, thus boosting local economies. Hardika Shah, Founder & CEO, Kinara Capital, said, "Women entrepreneurs demonstrated better repayment of their business loans, created more jobs for other women, and experienced an income increase for themselves." As per the analysis, women employees constituted over 32.4 per cent of all jobs created by women-owned MSMEs. Outperforming male-owned MSMEs by 11 per cent, women entrepreneurs contributed to increased female employment and economic development in their local communities. Women entrepreneurs across all three MSME sectors of Manufacturing, Trading, and Services, exhibited a higher degree of acceptance as women-owned MSMEs are evidently more receptive to women employees than their male counterparts. Women MSME entrepreneurs exhibit a higher ability to optimise costs and drive income, the analysis said. When supported with resources, particularly formal credit, women-owned MSMEs showcased a 12 per cent rise in their organisation's monthly revenue. What stood out even more was their ability to drive income growth. Women-owned MSMEs registered a 19 per cent increase in monthly net income, compared to 18 per cent by men-owned MSMEs, indicating better utilisation of resources and control over costs. Women entrepreneurs demonstrated higher loan repayment diligence. According to the analysis, while only 3.4 per cent of the women entrepreneurs defaulted on loan repayment, the rate among men was higher at 4.6 per cent. The study analysed data from 44,821 MSMEs across six states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

International Women's Day

Indian women turn smart investors, beat men in SIP investments

Team Absolute | New Delhi

At least four in ten women are new investors in the country, starting investing early in life in instruments like Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) and prioritising retirement which is a paradigm shift in the financial landscape in the country, a report said on Thursday ahead of the International Women's Day. Women emerged as focused and disciplined investors, with an average amount of Rs 4,483 for a single SIP investment, surpassing their male counterparts who average Rs 3,992, according to the report by FinEdge, a tech-enabled investment management company. In addition to higher average monthly investments, women also allocate more funds towards their goals, with an average monthly investment of Rs 14,347 in various SIPs, compared to Rs



13,704 for men. "It is evident from the study that women are not only investing more, but they are also investing smarter," said Harsh Gahlaut, CEO, FinEdge. While 39.3 per cent of women start investing in their 20s and 41 per cent in their 30s, 71 per cent of them stay invested for over 5 years. In 2023, a significant 41 per cent of new investors at FinEdge were women. By allocating a higher percentage of their monthly income towards their financial goals, "women are taking proactive steps towards securing their financial future and achieving long-term success," Gahlaut added. Goal-based investing has emerged as a key point for women investors, with retirement and children's education taking precedence. "Around 44 per cent prioritise retirement planning, while 35 per cent earmark funds for their children's education," said the report.

Olive celebrates 20 years of serving good food with oodles of glamour in Delhi's old cowbelt

Sourish Bhattacharyya

When AD Singh opened the Olive Bar & Kitchen in 2003, 'Conde Nast Traveler' ranked it as one of the 'hottest' new restaurants to be launched that year around the world. Having perfected the delicate art of mixing gastronomy with good-looking people and creating aspirational venues in Mumbai, Singh carried the burden of high expectations, but he did not let his fandom down. Singh launched an European fine-dining restaurant with a Mediterranean look on the ruins of the stables of a 19th-century Delhi merchant in the shadow of the Qutub Minar in Mehrauli. It continues to be packed and oozes class on any day of the week, despite Delhi's dodgy reputation of being the Republic of Butter Chicken. Together with the fashion store Carma, which had opened much before Olive when Mehrauli was literally a forgotten piece of wilderness on Delhi's outer fringes, Singh transformed this swathe of the cowbelt into a destination where the Capital's rich and powerful would order their Manish Malhotra and Sabyasachi at Carma and then walk into Olive in their Christian Louboutins to let their hair down over sangrias and thin-crust pizzas. And in a neighbourhood that's seen restaurants open and shut shop with alarming regularity, Olive, like Carma, has not only bucked the high mortality rate, but also survived a Supreme



Court-mandated sealing of restaurants and fashion stores in Mehrauli and of course Covid-19, which struck the industry like nothing else before. Maybe it was fated to survive, because Olive opened when memories of the 1999 Jessica Lal murder at a celebrity party in the Qutub Colonnade, which was run by the socialite Bina Ramani, were still fresh and continued to give Mehrauli a bad name. The Colonnade gave Delhi a taste of haute culture in the decade before Olive opened, but it died along with Jessica Lal, and its sealed building not very far from Olive and

Carma, was in those days a constant reminder of what could go wrong with a restaurant that had become the next preferred hangout of the city's moneyed elite. As Olive celebrates its 20th anniversary in Delhi, and Singh straddles over a restaurant empire with multiple brands across the country, its secret sauce combines three win-win ingredients -- a captivating ambience lorded over by an ancient banyan tree, an ability to keep tickling the palate of its well-travelled guests, and an exciting drinks menu that

keeps pace with the restaurant's food spread curated by Dhruv Oberoi, its young executive chef.

Oberoi has bravely integrated classical Indian ingredients (amla, for instance, or chow chow, or 'aam aada') into European dishes, an experiment that had made Singh initially very nervous, thus creating his own version of what he calls 'glocal cuisine'.

Ironically, it was Singh's childhood dream to make it to an IIT, and he was mighty upset when it was his twin brother who walked the fabled IIT-IIM route. Singh therefore settled for the next best option -- flying off to the US for higher studies -- and returning to work for blue-chip companies such as TCS and Cadbury's, but he soon realised his heart was in the food business -- food shaken and stirred with dollops of glamour.

It has been since 1988, when he organised the marriage party of his sister on a barge in the Mumbai harbour, and got inspired to launch his first food events business called Party Lines, that Singh has been in the food business and seen many swings of fortune, but he can now look back at an array of milestones, not the least of which has been the Olive at Mehrauli defying odds and turning 20.

international

Nikki Haley suspends race for White House after more losses

Washington | Agencies

Nikki Haley, the former US Ambassador to the UN, suspended her campaign for the Republican nomination for President after a severe drubbing in the primaries held in more than 10 states on Tuesday.

Former President Donald Trump will now become the presumptive Republican nominee to take on President Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the November election. He has a lock on the nomination with 955 delegates, which is just a bit shy of the winning threshold of 1,215 delegates. (Every state gives the candidates a certain number of delegates who will vote to elect a nominee in the party convention later in the year. Haley has picked up only 88 thus far).

The Indian American Republican did not endorse Trump in a brief speech she delivered announcing she was suspending their campaign. She said the former President must earn the support of the party.



"It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the votes of those in our party who did not support him, and I hope he does," she said. "This is now his time for choosing."

Haley ran a gritty campaign coalescing Republican voters who did not want Trump to be their nominee again. But, in the end, their numbers fell far short of winning her the nomination. But she did raise substantial sums of money, garnering the support of some of the party's largest donors, such as the immensely resourceful Koch Network, which in a sign of things to come, withdrew its support to Haley last week.

Haley won the primaries in only two states thus far, to Trump's 22.

Calls had been mounting from within the Republican party for her to exit the race and let Trump focus on his contest against Biden. But Haley stayed in, arguing she was the better candidate than both Trump and Biden, who are battling voter scepticism on account of their age and, for the former president, a litany of civil and criminal charges, some of which he has lost and could end up in jail someday.

Haley's exit raises questions about her future. Could she join Trump as his running

mate? She has said before she is not interested in a position in a Trump administration and that she is not auditioning for a job. But that could change. She is a woman and as a woman of colour, she brings unmatched equity to the ticket.

But is Trump interested? He has not included her in a short-list he discussed in a TV interview recently. Also, Haley's Republican supporters are stridently anti-Trump and their vote and support is unlikely to transfer to the former President if he were to be joined by Haley.

But Haley has also set herself up as a formidable candidate for the Republican nomination in 2028. The comparison being drawn by most experts is Ronald Reagan's run for the nomination in the 1968 Republican primaries. He lost to Richard Nixon, who went on to serve one term and a second truncated term. Reagan established himself as a significant figure in the party and the country and went on to win the nomination and the Presidency in 1980.

Israeli forces kill Hamas rocket unit chief in Gaza: IDF



Gaza | Agencies

The Israeli military has announced that it killed the chief of the Hamas rocket unit in an operation in the central Gaza Strip.

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson Avichay Adraee said on Wednesday in a post on social media platform X that IDF forces, based on information from the Military Intelligence Directorate and Shin Bet security service, killed Ammar Atiya Darwish Aladini, who was in charge of the Hamas rocket unit in central Gaza.

He said Aladini had been working for Hamas for decades

and was active in the current war, noting that the man was responsible for equipping rockets for the faction and launching rocket attacks as early as 2008 against the IDF operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

The statement claimed that Aladini played a major role in the "bloody" Hamas attack on October 7 last year, during which he "promoted intensive firing" towards Israel's manoeuvring forces while directing rocket launches targeting Tel Aviv and other Israeli border towns.

There has been no comment from Hamas on Aladini's killing.

S.Korean Air Force stages live-fire drills against N.Korea cruise missile, artillery threats



Seoul | Agencies

South Korean fighter jets staged a live-fire exercise on Thursday to bolster readiness against North Korean cruise missile and artillery threats, the Air Force said, in the wake of Pyongyang's continued saber-rattling. The training took place over waters off the west coast, involving more than 10 fighter jets, in connection with the annual South Korea-US Freedom Shield exercise that began earlier this week, according to the Air Force.

During the air drills, KF-16 and FA-50 jets fired air-to-air missiles to shoot down two targets simulating enemy cruise missiles detected by air defence radar systems, Yonhap news agency reported. The Air Force also mobilised FA-50 and F-5 aircraft to drop guided bombs to destroy simulated enemy long-range artillery, it said. The exercise took place as North Korea has ratcheted up tensions with a series of military demonstrations, including artillery firing near the western sea border and a series of launches of what it claimed to be new missiles.

3 killed in Houthi missile attack on cargo vessel: US military

Sanaa | Agencies

Three crew members were killed and four others injured in a Houthi missile strike on a Barbados-flagged commercial ship while it was crossing the Gulf of Aden, US officials said.

The US Central Command (Centcom), which oversees operations in the Middle East, said on Wednesday that an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) was launched from "Iranian-backed Houthi terrorist-controlled areas of Yemen toward merchant vessel 'True Confidence', a Barbados-flagged, Liberian-owned bulk carrier, while transiting the Gulf of Aden".

"The missile struck the vessel, and the multinational crew reports three fatalities, at least four injuries, of which three are in critical condition, and significant damage to the ship," it added.

The crew consisted of 20 sailors of different nationalities, including India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Nepal, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Yemeni sources.

The sources said most of the crew had managed to flee the ship using lifeboats amid indications that the ship was about to sink, while three crew members were still missing.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said on its website that the crew abandoned the ship after it was set ablaze by the attack and suffered damage, adding US and British Navy forces stationed in the Red Sea had rushed to the scene to provide



help. Data from ship-tracking service MarineTraffic showed that the Barbados-flagged bulk carrier set sail on February 13 towards international waters and was heading for the Saudi port of Jeddah.

7 killed, 15 injured in Russian attacks on cities in Ukraine

Kiev | Agencies

At least seven people were killed and 15 others were injured, with children reported among the casualties in Russian attacks against Ukraine a day ago, the Ukrainian authorities said on Thursday as quoted by media reports. Civilian casualties were reported by regional officials in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Kherson regions, The Kyiv Independent reported. In Odesa, the military reported that five people had been killed and several others injured after Russia targeted the city's port with a missile during a visit of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. "(The attack) is in no way connected to a specific visit, but it is related to the terror that (Russia) is very methodically carrying out," said Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson of Ukraine's Southern Operational Command. Nikolip in Dnipropetrovsk region was targeted three times during the day on Wednesday, according to Governor Serhii Lysak. An attack drone injured an



elderly woman, and a large fire broke out when a Russian artillery attack targeted a shopping centre. There were no victims, but the fire spread to cover more than 4,000 square metres, The Kyiv Independent reported. Russian attacks in Donetsk region killed one person in the village of Netailove, Governor Vadym Filashkin reported. One attack injured two people in the village of Kleban-Byk, and another attack injured a person in Pokrovsk, according to Filashkin.

In the village of Borova in Kharkiv region, a Russian missile strike killed a 70-year-old man and injured seven others.

"A woman was rescued from the rubble,

her five children were injured, as well as a man from a neighbouring house," Governor Oleh Syniehubov reported on Telegram. The strike damaged 12 houses in the village. Earlier on Wednesday night, Russian forces attacked a training ground used by the State Emergency Service. The drone attack set fire to the building, destroying the site. There were no casualties, according to the State Emergency Service. In Kherson region, four people were injured, and 16 homes were damaged on Wednesday as a result of Russian attacks, according to Governor Oleksandr Prokudin. Among the injured were a 59-year-old man and 58-year-old woman, who are husband and wife. They suffered blast injuries when a drone dropped an explosive onto their home in the city of Beryslav. In the city of Kherson, Russian attacks damaged an educational institution, a gas pipeline, a car and port infrastructure. Sumy, Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia regions also came under attack over Wednesday, but no civilian casualties were reported.



CM Shinde urges SC to remand Shiv Sena-UBT faction's plea on real 'Shiv Sena' to Bombay HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his MLAs on Thursday urged the Supreme Court to remand the plea, filed by the Shiv Sena-UBT faction challenging the ruling of Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, to the Bombay High Court for adjudication.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, was hearing the plea filed by Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhudev challenging the January 10 decision passed by Narwekar holding that the group led by CM Shinde was the real "Shiv Sena" as it commanded a majority in the legislature and also in the party's National Executive.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing CM Shinde, contended that all issues, including of the authenticity of documents and applicability of amendments in the party's constitution, should be dealt with by the Bombay High Court because the law has already been laid down by the apex court. "They (Shiv Sena-UBT



faction) can go to the High Court," he said. Senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi submitted that a special leave petition filed directly before the apex court should only be entertained in exceptional circumstances and ordinarily, the petition should first be filed before the high court.

On the other hand, senior advocate

Kapil Sibal, appearing on behalf of the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction, stressed that time is of the essence in the matter as the term of the current Assembly would come to an end in October-November of this year.

"They have not yet filed their reply. The matter must be expeditiously decided otherwise the whole matter

would become infructuous," he said, adding that the decision of the Speaker could be challenged directly before the apex court by way of filing a special leave petition under Article 136 of the Constitution.

He said: "Your lordships have issued the notice. Where is the question of sending us to the High Court? They have not even filed a reply. Let them file a reply. The matter must be decided as quickly as possible."

After hearing the contentions, the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said: "We will list it, hear it, and dispose of the matter. We will list it after the Holi recess."

"The original record shall be summoned from the office of the tribunal (Speaker) hearing the disqualification petition. The reply should be filed on or before April 1," ordered the Supreme Court, clarifying that the question of maintainability of the petition remains open.

The matter will be heard next in the week commencing April 8.

Thane MACT awards Rs 17 lakh compensation to girl injured in 2018 road accident



Team Absolute | Thane

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Thane, Maharashtra, has awarded Rs 17 lakh in compensation to a girl who was severely injured in a road accident in 2018.

The victim, an 18-year-old HSC (Class 12) student at the time of the tragedy, sustained serious injuries, including the loss of a finger, making it difficult for her to do daily duties.

According to the tribunal's order issued on February 15, tribunal chairman and district judge S B Agrawal directed the owner of the offending truck and the insurer, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Ltd, to pay the compensation plus 7.50 per cent per year interest from the date the claim was filed, report added.

According to the report,

the accident happened on November 24, 2018, while the victim was riding a pillion on her father's two-wheeler. The truck rear-ended their vehicle, forcing her to fall and suffer serious injuries. As a result, she was hospitalised for 83 days at JJ Hospital in Mumbai, where she underwent surgery and had one of her right-hand fingers amputated.

In her petition to the tribunal, the victim described the severity of her injuries and the ensuing effects on her life, including her incapacity to attend college and conduct daily activities successfully. She requested Rs 56.26 lakh in compensation for medical expenditures, future loss of income, and other associated costs, the report added.

According to the report, following a thorough evaluation of the evidence and testimony, the tribunal found

in favour of the victim, giving her Rs 17,03,330 in compensation for medical bills, future loss of income, pain and suffering, and other relevant expenses.

Meanwhile, the MACT had recently awarded the family of a 48-year-old man who died in a traffic accident in 2018 Rs 1.35 crore. According to a PTI report, MACT Chairman SB Agrawal issued an order on February 12 instructing the owner of the bus involved in the accident and its insurance company to jointly pay the compensation amount, as well as an interest rate of 7.5 per cent from the date of petition filing until payment realisation.

The report stated that a bus on the Sinnar-Shirdi route on November 11, 2018, struck Agnel Iyunny Chakramakli, a Thane resident, and four other occupants of the automobile.

PM to unveil Pune airport's much-awaited new terminal on March 10

Team Absolute | Pune

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to unveil the much-awaited new terminal of Pune International Airport via video-conferencing on March 10, officials said here on Thursday.

Airport Authority of India (AAI) Director, Santosh Dhoke, said that the PM will inaugurate the new terminal in the presence of top dignitaries, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and others.

The Centre had faced huge flak from Opposition parties for the delay in the new terminal's inauguration though it has been ready for several weeks, ostensibly owing to the non-availability of the PM.

After the formal inauguration, flight safety and other tests shall be conducted for over a month before it will be opened for regular operations.

Built at a cost of Rs 423 crore, the swank terminal building with modern amenities is sprawled over



nearly 52,000 square metres of land acquired from the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The new terminal can handle around 3,000 flyers per hour and over 90 lakh travellers per annum and will help enhance the passenger handling capacity from the existing 7.20 million to 12-million plus.

It has parking space for more than 1,000 vehicles, 34 check-in counters, 15 lifts and 8 escalators.

After the new terminal becomes fully opera-

tional, the AAI plans to take up the renovation of the existing terminal building.

The new terminal has bits of Maharashtrian architecture with a façade designed on the famed Shaniwar Wada fort, cultural artefacts and historical facets at various locations, and will be linked to the Pune Metro lines.

According to the AAI, the airport has a 2.53 km-long runway (10/28), and an unused secondary runway is now being utilised as a taxiway by the IAF which has its base to the east of the airport, plus a 2.20 km x 23 metre parallel runway for civil operations, fully equipped with night landing, modern navigation and communications facilities.

In January, Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, had inspected the new terminal building which was being given finishing touches at that time.

Later Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar had also gone around it for an inspection.

Mumbai startup's cheap carbon capture tech to foster India's net zero targets

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Mumbai-based start-up on Thursday announced the development of a novel aqueous-based carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture technology, that is resilient, cost-effective and will help advance towards India's net zero targets.

The technology by start-up UrjanovaC, nurtured by IIT Bombay, can capture CO₂ from both industrial flue gas and ambient air in the presence of industrial wastewater or even seawater.

Relying upon the earth-abundant elements along with non-potable water, the technology can build a carbon management process



which can aid in sustainable removal of multi-billion-tonne CO₂. Further, the captured CO₂ can be converted to high-value minerals while the catalyst gets recycled.

UrjanovaC's founders, Vikram Vishal and Aramb Dutta, who are also faculty members at IIT Bombay, were inspired to generate energy with a minimal car-

bon footprint by the pressing need for efficient CO₂ management technologies.

Their new innovation emerged from research work at the Department of Science and Technology supported by the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCoE-CCU) at IIT Bombay.

The NCoE-CCU at IIT Bombay has been at the forefront of developing cost-effective CO₂ capture and conversion solutions to support India's goal for net-zero emissions by 2070.

The team is currently focusing on the deployment of their first three tonnes-per-day CO₂ capture pilot at IIT Bombay.

Jalgaon railway institute principal, official arrested in graft case

Team Absolute | Jalgaon

The principal of a Central Railway Zonal Railway Training Institute (ZRTI) in Maharashtra's Jalgaon, and his aide, have been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe, officials said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Suresh Chandra Jain, principal of the institute in Bhusawal, and his Office Superintendent Yogesh A. Deshmukh.

Following a complaint against the duo, the CBI laid a trap and caught them.

According to the complainant, he had received a contract, through the CR authorities, to provide vehicles for two years - from May 18, 2023 to May 17,



2025 - including one deployed for the use of the ZRTI Principal.

He claimed that Jain used to demand bribes for clearing his monthly vehicle hiring bills, and when he refused, the accused duo did not sign the logbook on time.

Moreover, the complainant said that his contract was abruptly terminated on February 25 this year, but his bills, from January 18 to February 25 were not cleared. He added that the Jain and Deshmukh allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 5,000 to sign the logbook which could facilitate passing the bills, and later they doubled the amount to Rs 10,000.

After negotiations, they settled for Rs 9,000, and the complainant approached the CBI with his grievance.

The CBI sleuths set the trap and asked the complainant to hand over the Rs 9,000 bribe to the accused and they were caught red-handed taking the money and arrested. Later, the CBI raided their premises and further investigations are underway, officials said.

"We're United": Supriya Sule claims no "split" in Pawar family



Team Absolute | Pune

NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule on Wednesday said if one member of a large family takes a different stance, it does not mean there is a split within the family.

She also noted that BJP leaders these days do not talk about alleged corruption of her party. Sule, however, did not name Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who parted ways with his uncle and Sule's father Sharad Pawar last year to join the Shiv Sena-BJP government. "Our family has around 120 to 125 members, including small kids, and in such a big family, if one person puts forth a different opinion, it

does not signify a split," said Sule, speaking to reporters in Pune. "Our family is united and it will remain united forever," she said. Asked about union minister Amit Shah's statement that Sharad Pawar wanted to make her chief minister, Sule said she was thankful to Shah for "freeing the NCP of corruption." "Whenever he used to come to Maharashtra, he used to refer to NCP as 'naturally corrupt party', but now no big leaders from BJP talks about corruption. Whatever allegations he had made, no one talks about it, and that is why, I am very thankful to BJP and Shah," she added.

"There is dynasty politics in his own party," the Baramati MP claimed.

In a first, 210 artificial reefs to be installed near Worli Koliwada



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a first in Maharashtra, Mumbai is set to witness the installation of 210 artificial reefs in the Arabian Sea, near Worli Koliwada Thursday. This is the second artificial reef deployment in the country the first was in Pondicherry. While the first whiff of transformation will start reflecting after three months, with the artificial reefs becoming a harbour for small and large native species, the artificial reef will act as a carbon sink as well as boost the livelihood of coastal communities at Worli Koliwada, once they mature. The RPG Foundation, which is funding the project, has roped in marine conservation NGO Kuddle Life Foundation that carried out the artificial reef deployment in Pondicherry bio-region last year to carry out the baseline surveys as well as final installations. Implemented at the cost of

Rs 62 lakh, the final nod for executing the project, meanwhile, was procured from the state fisheries department. Composed of recycled cement from construction sites and steel, artificial reef is a concrete structure, where a singular module of artificial reef is slated to increase the sea surface by 50 - 60 square feet. With the artificial reefs set to be lowered into the ocean on Thursday morning, roughly 500 metres from the edge of the coastal road, a truck comprising 210 modules of three different types including triangular reef fish modules, groupers fish modules and well ring modules arrived near Worli Koliwada's Cleveland Bunder on Wednesday night. Once installed into the sea, the wheels of the transformation will set into motion on Day 1, when a bacterial biofilm will start forming on the artificial reef, followed by micro and macro algae.

Team Absolute | Pune

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar today took a swipe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying it has become a "washing machine" which the people facing corruption charges can join to "get clean".

He criticised the Centre for targeting the chief ministers of non BJP-ruled states, including Hemant Soren of Jharkhand and Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi.

Sharad Pawar also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over various issues, including his criticism of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Addressing a convention of the workers of his Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) at Lonavala in Pune district, Sharad Pawar said, "PM Narendra Modi, while talking about corruption, used to criticise the undivided NCP. In Parliament, a booklet was given to everyone which said what irregularities took place when the BJP was not in power."

"The booklet mentioned the Adarsh scam and the alleged involvement of Ashok Chavan in the scam. But on the seventh day, Chavan joined the BJP and became its Rajya Sabha member...So

BJP like washing machine, corruption accused go to get clean: Sharad Pawar



on the one hand, you (BJP) make allegations, while on the other, you induct that person into your party," he said.

Earlier, PM Modi talked about the "corrupt" people in the NCP.

"He talked about an irrigation scam worth Rs 70,000 crore in Maharashtra. He also talked about irregularities in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank. I had then said that nobody from the NCP was involved in any irregularities in MSC Bank and dared them to conduct an inquiry by appointing a Supreme Court judge. See

where the person is today against whom the allegations were made in this scam," he said without mentioning Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's name.

"All this shows that the BJP has become a washing machine, which those who are facing allegations of corruption can join and get clean," the former Union minister alleged.

Ajit Pawar rebelled against Sharad Pawar and joined the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government in July last year along with several other NCP leaders, thereby triggering a split in the

party founded by THE senior Pawar in 1999. The Election Commission allotted the party name NCP and its symbol 'clock' to the Ajit Pawar-led faction.

Pawar further said, "We formed the NCP, and in doing so, we remained steadfast to the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Today, those in power speak highly of Mahatma Gandhi but denigrate Nehru." Just as those who fought for the country's freedom and made sacrifices accepted Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose's leadership, they also accept-



Big B spent an entire day to 'compose, write, sing' ISPL team's anthem

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan said that he spent an entire day composing, producing, writing and singing the anthem for his Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) team Majhi Mumbai.

Amitabh Bachchan took to his blog and wrote: "...an entire day spent at Saptaswar to compose, produce, write and sing the Anthem for MAJHI MUMBAI, our team for the ISPL... Inauguration Ceremony today in Thane Cricket Stadium... and our first game..."

He then went on to talk about AI.

"In the world of AI... the developments and the visions for the future are impregnable in some and surprising in others... but mostly cautious in most... Imagery... similar images and voice AI's demonstrate what an opinion can be confirmed, without your knowledge, or approval... Your longevity may be increased beyond all beyond."

"But is it viable and in accordance with human law or norms of nature... Nature is being reinvented," he wrote.



ANUPAM KHER ANNOUNCES NEXT DIRECTORIAL 'TANVI THE GREAT' ON HIS 69TH BIRTHDAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On his 69th birthday on Thursday, National Award-winning actor Anupam Kher, announced his next directorial 'Tanvi The Great'.

Anupam, who made his directorial debut with 2002 film 'Om Jai Jagadish' starring Anil Kapoor, Fardeen Khan and Abhishek Bachchan, on Thursday morning took to Instagram, where he shared a video featuring his mother Dulari.

In the video, the actor-director is seeking blessings from his mother for the film and the crew as they embark on this new journey.

For the caption, he wrote: "TANVI THE GREAT: Today, on my birthday I proudly announce the name of the film I have decided to direct. Some stories find their path and compel you to share it with the world! And the best way I thought to start is by taking the blessings of my mother in her temple with my father's pic blessing me too."

Without divulging much, Anupam shared that it is a musical story of passion, courage and innocence.

"Have been working on this musical story of #Passion #Courage #Innocence and #Joy for the last three years. And finally starting shooting tomorrow on the auspicious day of #Mahashivratri. Birthday is the best day to CHALLENGE yourself! Please Send me your love, best wishes and blessings!"



Kareena Kapoor: Can't relate when I see myself with filters and edits

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan has talked about how the concept of beauty has seen a shift and added that she cannot relate when she sees herself with filters and edits.

Giving audiences a peek into her personal life, Kareena said: "I think now there is an entire shift to beauty and rawness. I like the fact that there are little lines on my face, I can't relate when I see myself with filters and edits."

Kareena, who has never shied away from flaunting her real skin on social media and even in films, added: "I'm the first one to say that I am not putting on makeup and I like it like that because I have been like that right from 'Chameli', 'Refugee' and 'Dev'."

She then shared an anecdote from her 2004 film 'Dev'.

"In Dev I had oil in my hair. The journey should be enjoyed by one, we can't try and stay at a particular age. I am so happy that I don't wanna be 20 anymore," she said.

KARTIK AARYAN GETS MOBBED BY DUCKS ON HIS 'DUCKS DAY OUT'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Chandu Champion', was seen in the company of ducks on Thursday.

The actor took to his Instagram on Thursday and shared a video of himself being followed by ducks amid their loud noises. In the video, the actor can be seen wearing a blue sleeveless vest paired with black pants and a pair of sunglasses. The actor makes a gesture to make the ducks quiet as he says, "Chup, aawaaz nahi" but the ducks, undeterred by the actor, continue to make noises. Kartik wrote in the caption, "Ducks Day Out". Meanwhile, on the work front, Kartik also has 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' in the pipeline. Earlier, the actor was seen at the office of T-Series along with actress Tripti Dimri, who was last seen in the blockbuster film 'Animal'.

The meeting seemed to be for 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'. Tripti was dressed in smart casuals, which included a pair of denims, a yellow ochre-coloured shirt and a jacket. She accessorised her look with a sling bag.

Kartik sported a pair of black pants and a denim shirt. He



was seen walking next to the iconic machine gun that was used as a prop in the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Animal'.

Earlier, Kartik Aaryan, introduced a mystery lady from the upcoming instalment of the horror-comedy franchise 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'. The actor took to his Instagram and shared a piece of a jigsaw puzzle from the picture of an actress. The netizens were quick to make their guess, saying that it was Tripti Dimri. Kartik wrote in the caption, "Solve kijiye Is Bhool Bhulaiyaa ko

Shaan reveals it was a Kishore Kumar song he first taught his son Maahi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Playback singer Shaan, who is known for chartbuster tracks like 'Behni Hawa Sa Tha Woh', 'Wo Ladki Hai Kahan', 'Socha Nahin Tha', 'Chaan Sifarish' and several others, has shed light on the 1st song that he taught his son, Maahi.



Shaan is set to host the seventh season of the radio show 'Crazy For Kishore', and incidentally, the first song that he taught his son is that of legendary singer Kishore Kumar, 'Aa chalte tujhe main leke chalu'.

Shaan said: "Kishore Da is my inspiration. His stories, his legacy, his journey, in fact, this show has been so iconic, that I had to just do this! As Amit Da, has also been a part of this show earlier, taking forward the father-son connection, I am delighted to be here with my son Maahi!"

"His recently launched song 'Sorry' is winning hearts on radio and interestingly the very first song I taught him was Kishore Da's 'Aa chalte tujhe main leke chalu'," he added.

The melodious father-son duo went on to sing a few lines of Kishore Kumar's iconic song at the launch of the show.

'Crazy for Kishore' season 7 aims to deliver an unforgettable musical journey, honouring Kishore Kumar's legacy with a blend of tradition and innovation. Shaan not only takes on the role of host but also shares insightful commentary on Kishore Kumar's rich personal and professional journey.

WOMEN'S DAY

Recent Bollywood films that celebrate power of ordinary women

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an industry where films have traditionally been scripted around men, and woman-centric films have been the exceptions rather than the rule, a new generation of directors and screenwriters have overturned the gender imbalance, and delivered successful films centred around female protagonists.

On the eve of International Women's Day, here's a selection of seven Bollywood films that celebrate woman power. 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', Alia Bhatt (2022): The Sanjay Leela Bhansali film, a biopic based on the life of 'mafia queen' Gangubai Kothewali, is centred around Alia Bhatt's character, who was cheated and sold to a brothel in Kamathipura, Mumbai. From there, she allied with local politicians and the underworld to become a 'don' who was dreading as much as she was respected for her good deeds. The movie made news for being the first female-centric production to rake in a hefty Rs 210 crore in a year when Hindi movies were overshadowed by big-budget South Indian blockbusters.

'Mardaani 2', Rani Mukerji (2018): In this second edition of the Aditya Chopra-produced crime thriller, Rani Mukerji reprises the role of Shivani Shivaji Roy, a can-do



police officer who is out on only one mission: to catch a 21-year-old rapist and murderer, and deliver justice to the victim's family.

'Jaane Jaan', Kareena Kapoor Khan (2023): Sujoy Ghosh's film is an adaptation of the 2005 Japanese novel 'The Devotion of Suspect X'.

In the movie, Kareena plays a single mother involved in a murder who does whatever it takes to keep herself and her daughter safe.

'Sukhee', Shilpa Shetty (2023): The slice-of-life film helmed by Sonal Joshi with music by Badshah talks about the challenges faced by homemakers through the

transformative experience of its lead character, a 38-year-old Punjabi housewife, after a high school reunion. It spotlights the sacrifices women make for their families. The movie, though, bombed at the box office.

'Ghoomer', Saiyami Kher (2023): R. Balki's sports drama film also featuring Shabana Azmi, Abhishek Bachchan and Angad Bedi, has Saiyami playing a paraplegic cricketer who defies her physical limitations to earn a place in the Indian women's cricket team, despite losing her arm.

'Apurva', Tara Sutaria (2023): This OTT movie is a survival drama, helmed by Nikhil Nagesh and set in the Chambal, that follows the story of an ordinary woman named Apurva, who was abducted from a bus and made to face gruesome circumstances. She does everything possible to survive.

'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway', Rani Mukerji (2021): This Ashima Chhibber film is inspired by the real-life story of an Indian couple whose children were taken away by the Norwegian authorities in 2011, follows the fight of a mother who does everything in her capabilities to bring her children back from a foreign land.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shanaya Kapoor



5th Test: Jaiswal & Rohit fifties put India in commanding position after Kuldeep & Ashwin bamboozle England

Team Absolute | Dharamshala

Captain Rohit Sharma & Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed half-centuries to put India in a commanding position at stumps on day one of fifth and final Test against England at the HPCA Stadium on Thursday. The foundation for India's dominating day was set up by Kuldeep Yadav's sensational 5-72 and Ravichandran Ashwin taking 4-51 in his 100th Test match to bamboozle England for 218 in 57.4 overs. In reply, Jaiswal's 57 and Rohit's 52 not out took India to 135/1 in 30 overs and now trail England by 83 runs. England were in a strong position at 100/1, before the Kuldeep-Ashwin show triggered an unbelievable meltdown. Only Zak Crawley waged a lone battle with a good-looking 79 as England flattered to deceive, falling like a pack of cards as Kuldeep scythed amazingly through the batting order. It was a brilliant spell from Kuldeep, which also included picking his 50th Test wicket. He bowled a mix of googlies and leg-breaks while drawing the batters on both front and back foot, and is now the second spinner after Australia's Nathan Lyon to take a five-wicket haul in Tests at Dharamshala, a venue where he made his Test debut in 2017.



for driving in mid-off, extra cover and down the ground against the spinners to get his fourth fifty of the series.

He would also hit the first six of the match by dancing down the pitch to smack Ashwin over long-on. But at the stroke of lunch, Pope came out of the crease for a flick against Kuldeep, but the googly skidded and went past the outside edge to give Dhruv Jurel an easy stumping.

Post lunch, Crawley survived an inside edge to short leg on a leg-break from Kuldeep, as India didn't take the review, with replays later showing a thin edge. He and Joe Root hit five boundaries between themselves, with Crawley surviving a caught-and-bowled dismissal off Ravindra Jadeja.

But his knock came to an end on 79 when he was tempted into a drive by Kuldeep, but was castled through the gate. Jonny Bairstow, in his 100th Test appearance, came out all guns blazing with his leg-side boundaries, but in an attempt to drive off

Kuldeep, he sent a nick behind to Jurel.

Joe Root was next to fall, trapped lbw by a Jadeja slider and Kuldeep got his fifth wicket when his googly rapped Ben Stokes in front of the stumps. Ashwin had Tom Hartley top-edging a slog-sweep to deep mid-wicket and Mark Wood edging to slip to pick two wickets in three balls. England could have ended second session at 184/9 if Jurel had caught a thick edge of Bashir off Jadeja.

Post tea, Ashwin got his third wicket as Ben Foakes attempted sweep resulted in him rolling back onto his stumps. James Anderson survived an lbw appeal, but in a bid to slog against Ashwin, he mistimed it to mid-wicket, bringing an end to an England innings which didn't even last 60 overs.

In reply, while Jaiswal was measured at the start, Rohit became the aggressor with four boundaries in the first six overs, with a hoick over fine leg for six off Mark Wood being the standout. Jaiswal got into attacking mode by smacking three sixes - on both sides of 'V' and cover - in first over of Shoaib Bashir.

Rohit clipped Tom Hartley twice for fours, before pulling the spinner for six, even as Jaiswal used his wrists and power to take five boundaries off Bashir, with the fourth one giving him his fifty and also became the quickest Indian to reach 1000 Test runs. Jaiswal also went past past Virat Kohli to grab the record for most runs in a Test series against England (655), and crossed the 700-run mark of runs in a Test series. But Jaiswal fell for 57 after coming out to go big against Bashir, and was stumped easily. Gill timed his pick-up pull and slog-sweep really well, even as Rohit got his fifty in 77 balls. Gill ended the day by slog-sweeping against Bashir and Hartley for a six each as India got a perfect day of Test cricket action after losing the toss.

Brief Scores: England 218 in 57.4 overs (Zak Crawley 79; Kuldeep Yadav 5-72, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-51) lead India 135/1 in 30 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 57, Rohit Sharma 52 not out; Shoaib Bashir 1-64) by 82 runs

INDvENG: Ashwin becomes 14th player to play 100 Tests for India



Team Absolute | Dharamshala

India veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin achieved another milestone in his career when he becomes the 14th Indian player to play 100 Tests.

Ashwin joined an elite list of players with his 100th appearance in Test match for India during the fifth Test against England at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association stadium in Dharamshala on Thursday.

India head coach Rahul Dravid presented a special memento to Ashwin on the occasion of his 100th Test match.

During the third Test in Rajkot, Ashwin became only the 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.

He also became only the second bowler after Muralidaran to achieve 500 wickets in less than 100 Test matches.

The 37-year-old, who made his Test debut in 2011, claimed 507 Test wickets. He has also scored 3309 runs in the format, including five centuries and 14 fifties, with a batting average of 26.47. Only Nathan Lyon (527 wickets) has claimed more wickets than him in the format, making him one of the most prolific modern-day Test bowlers.

Ashwin recorded his 35th five-wicket haul in Test cricket in the Ranchi Test, equalling Kumble's record for the most five-fors by an Indian in Test cricket.

India great Sachin Tendulkar, with 200 Test matches, holds the record for most appearances in the format internationally.

BAI announces rewards for Asian Games, BATC success with cash awards of INR 1.12 crore

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Thursday announced a cash incentive of over INR 1.12 crore to the players and support staff for their success in major international tournaments including the Asian Games, Badminton Asia Team Championship and the BWF World Junior Championships.

The women's team that won the historic Badminton Asia Team Championship (BATC) crown last month will get INR 35 lakh, 2022 Asian Games gold medalist men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are awarded INR 12 lakh, 2022 Asian Games men's singles bronze medalist HS Prannoy will receive INR 5 lakh while the men's team that bagged the 2022 Asian Games silver for the first time will collectively get a prize sum of INR 40 lakh.

The BAI has also rewarded 2023 BWF World Championships bronze medalist Ayush Shetty (INR 1 lakh), Badminton Asia Junior U-15 boys singles champion Bornil Aakash Changmai (INR 2 lakh), U-17 girls singles silver medalist Tanvi Sharma (INR 1 lakh) and U-15 boys singles bronze medalist Jagsher Singh Khangurra (INR 50,000).

"Indian badminton is on the upswing and this has been achieved due to the hard work and dedication of the players and the support staff. BAI has always been at the forefront of applauding the success of the players and this cash prize is just another way of acknowledging their efforts and incentivising the future generation to aim for bigger success," said BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra.

BAI has also decided to give a prize money of INR 18 lakh for the Yonex-Sunrise 45th Indian Masters National Badminton



Championships to be held in Panchkula, Haryana from March 16.

"The participation and level of competition has been going up over the years and many players are now making a mark on the international circuit. A sizable prize money for the Masters Nationals will only help popularise the Masters circuit in the country and attract many more talented shuttlers to continue playing and winning laurels for the country," Mishra further added.

The support staff accompanying the women's team at BATC and Asian Games men's team will also earn INR 8 lakh each.

No wrestling trials to take place under Sanjay Singh, ad-hoc committee to oversee, reveals Sakshi Malik

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik on Thursday said that the Delhi High Court has ordered Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Sanjay Singh that he will not hold any national trials.

This comes after the whole wrestling saga that unfolded last year which resulted in wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi and other protesting grapplers moving to the Delhi High Court against a circular of the WFI to conduct selection trials for the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 and Asian Olympic Games Qualifier Wrestling Tournament.

Speaking, Sakshi said that the court has provided some good news for the protesting wrestlers.

"We have filed a complaint in the Delhi High Court and the court has ordered that no trials will take place under Sanjay Singh and an ad-hoc committee will only hold the trials. We believe that our fight for justice will prevail and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and his supporters should be removed completely from the federation. A clean federation should come



up and help wrestlers," Sakshi said. Asked if she plans to return to active wrestling in light of the recent development, Sakshi clarified, "I faced a lot of mental and physical issues. I don't think it will be good to play when your mind is occupied

with problems which an athlete should not face. I wish some young wrestlers would make India proud like I won a prestigious medal in the Olympics (in 2016), and some more names bring laurels to the nation."

Further enquired about her future plans, if she is thinking of joining politics, the Haryana grappler added, "Politics is not in my mind. There are other ways to help people and my fellow wrestlers. I will plan that accordingly."

Marais Erasmus announces retirement from international cricket umpiring

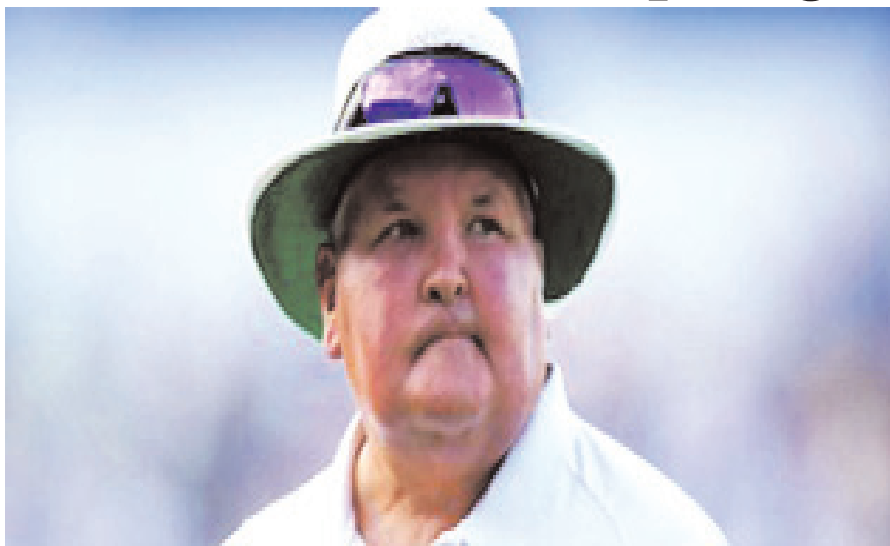
Team Absolute | Christchurch

Veteran South Africa umpire Marais Erasmus has announced his retirement from the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires. His illustrious career spanning over two decades will culminate with his final officiating duty during the second Test between New Zealand and Australia, starting on Friday.

The Christchurch Test will be Erasmus' 82nd men's Test match as umpire, putting him 10th on the list of umpires to officiate in most Test matches.

Erasmus also officiated 124 men's ODIs, 43 men's T20 matches, and 18 women's T20 matches. In 131 international games, he has also served as the TV umpire.

With a remarkable track record of officiating in numerous prestigious cricket events, including four men's Cricket World Cups (2011, 2015, 2019, 2023) and seven men's T20 World Cups (2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2021 and 2022) and three women's T20 World Cups (2010, 2012, 2014) aside from two men's Champions Trophy tournaments in 2013 and 2017, according to ICC.



Erasmus was the on-field umpire in 25 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup matches, 33 ICC Men's T20 World Cup matches, 18 ICC Women's T20 World Cup matches and six ICC Champions Trophy games. He stood in seven finals of ICC tournaments.

His role in iconic moments like the dramatic 2019 World Cup final between England and New Zealand, as well as the recent decision that led to Angelo Mathews becoming the first batter to be timed out in international cricket, will be etched in cricketing

history. Reflecting on his journey, Erasmus expressed gratitude for the opportunities and memories he's cherished throughout his tenure. "I have had a wonderful time on the Elite Panel, officiating in some top-class matches around the world and in global ICC events," Erasmus told ICC.

"While I will miss being on the Elite Panel and the challenges that come with it, I feel it is time for me to step away and look to contribute to the game in some other

way." He was appointed to the Elite Panel of ICC umpires in 2010, making him the joint-longest serving current umpire on the list, alongside Rod Tucker. His departure leaves a void in the umpiring fraternity, but his colleague Rod Tucker highlighted Erasmus's lasting impact. Marais epitomises what the Elite Panel is supposed to be. His personality off the field is what you see on the field. He can calm everyone, and you feel at ease in his company," Tucker stated.

My shirt signed by Dhoni is still proudly kept in my house: Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India batting legend Sunil Gavaskar shared his admiration for ex-India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, expressing pride in owning a shirt autographed by the iconic cricketer during last year's IPL.

Reflecting on his longstanding fandom for Dhoni, Gavaskar recounted the memorable experience of meeting MSD and cherishing the autographed memento as a prized possession.

Gavaskar said that he has always been a fan of Dhoni and admire his style of play, his attitude and behaviour on and off the field.

"Ever since I saw MSD playing for the first time, I have been his fan. And what does a fan want? The fan wants to meet his hero and chat with him, try to get his autograph, a photograph as well. The whole team was taking a round around the stadium (Chepauk) because they had to go somewhere else for the knock-out games, so I thought this was a good time to take his autograph, because I admire him a lot. I admire his cricket, his attitude, his behavior," Gavaskar said on Star Sports #IPLonStar event ahead of IPL 2024.

Highlighting Dhoni's exemplary conduct both on and off the field, Gavaskar emphasized the importance of role models in sports and commended Dhoni for his grace and integrity while revealing that he still proudly kept a shirt which was signed by the CSK skipper during IPL 2023.

"There is a responsibility on you when



you are a role model to conduct yourself well with everyone and be a good role model. And he is a very good role model. And the way he conduct himself with grace, it made me go to him and request him, and I am very happy that he agreed to sign on my shirt. My shirt is still proudly kept in my house," Gavaskar added.

Moreover, Gavaskar, who is currently on a commentary stint in Dharamshala for the fifth and final Test against, have been in a celebration mode as on this day i.e, March 7 in 1987, the little master became the first cricketer to complete 10000 Test runs.

In the commentary box he celebrated

that special moment in style by cutting a cake and the BCCI shared on X, in which Gavaskar said, "This is terrific I want to than BCCI for remembering this day... getting to the 10,000 mark on the 7th of March. Also apparently, when I came to the comm box the stats guy told me that this was the day when I got my first half-century in Test cricket. Absolutely terrific to BCCI for remembering this and felicitating me with wonderful, tasty cake as well."

"On the day when R Ashwin plays his 100th Test match, it's a really special day for Indian cricket not just for me or Ashwin. I hope we end this Test match with another win," he added.



तकनीकी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में मध्यप्रदेश को मिली बड़ी सौगात



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

देश का पहला शोध आधारित आईआईटी सैटेलाइट परिसर
आईआईटी इन्दौर के सहयोग से
नवाचार, प्रौद्योगिकी एवं उद्यमिता अनुभावात्मक विद्यार्जन केन्द्र का
(डीप-टेक रिसर्च एंड डिस्कवरी सेंटर)

|| उद्घाटन ||

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान

केन्द्रीय मंत्री, शिक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं
उद्यमिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

(वीसी के माध्यम से)

एवं

डॉ. मोहन यादव

मुख्यमंत्री

द्वारा

8 मार्च 2024 - प्रातः 9:00 बजे - उज्जैन, मध्यप्रदेश

“ प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के विज्ञान से भारत को तकनीकी क्षेत्र में अग्रणी देश बनाने के प्रयासों को
अभूतपूर्व गति मिली है। सैटेलाइट परिसर के स्थापना से मध्यप्रदेश में तकनीकी शिक्षा को नई दिशा मिलेगी। ”

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री



केन्द्र में एस्ट्रोनॉमिकल हेरिटेज लैब, लेज़र इंजीनियरिंग लैब
और मेकर्स स्पेस ऑन माइक्रो मैन्युफैक्चरिंग लैब की स्थापना

मध्यप्रदेश के छात्रों, शिक्षाविदों और
औद्योगिक संस्थानों को मिलेगा लाभ