

# absolute india



VOL. 6, ISSUE 77, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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ADANI ENTERPRISES WITHDRAWS RHP, CANCELS AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL PARTIES

## ON BACK FOOT



Team Absolute | Chennai

The Adani Enterprises Ltd -- the flagship company of the Adani Group -- on Thursday said it is withdrawing the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) filed with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Gujarat. The move is a follow up to the company's decision on Wednesday not to proceed with its Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offer and withdraw the RHP on account of the prevailing market conditions. The company said owing to the extreme volatility in the company's stock price, other commercial and strategic considerations, and to protect the interest of the investors it is withdrawing the follow-on public offer. The offer agreement dated January 18, 2023 entered into by and amongst the company and the book running lead managers appointed for the Offer, namely, ICICI Securities Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited, BOB Capital Markets Limited, Elara Capital (India) Private Limited, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities

**“We wish to inform you that the company shall forthwith refund to the bidders the entire application bid amounts/ subscription amount received in the Offer in accordance with applicable law. In the event that there is a delay in making refunds beyond such period as prescribed under applicable law, the company shall pay the requisite interest to the bidders in the offer at such rate as prescribed under applicable law.”**

Adani Enterprises Ltd

Limited, JM Financial Limited, Monarch Networth Capital Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited and IIFL

### OPPN PROTESTS ON ADANI ISSUE WASH AWAY PROCEEDINGS IN BOTH HOUSES

New Delhi: Parliamentary proceedings on Thursday were washed out amid noisy protests by the Congress-led opposition, which sought a discussion over research group Hindenburg's report on Adani Group. Both Houses were adjourned till Friday 11 a.m. As political temperatures soared over the matter, leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge led a demand by the opposition parties, seeking a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) or by a team under the Chief Justice of India's supervision into the research group's report. Both the Houses were adjourned within minutes of assembling at 11 a.m. amid noisy protests by the opposition members. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned till 2 p.m. As soon as the Lok Sabha reconvened at 2 p.m., the opposition members stormed into the Well of the House, seeking a discussion on the Adani group issue. As protests continued, speaker adjourned the House till Friday. Soon after, the Rajya Sabha, which too had earlier been adjourned till 2 p.m., was also adjourned for the day amid protests by the opposition members on Adani issue.

Securities Limited, for the purposes of the Offer has been terminated. According to Adani Enterprises, excluding the cash escrow and spon-

sor banks agreement dated January 18, 2023 entered into by and amongst the company, are in the process of being terminated.

CONGRESS QUESTIONS TIES OF CHANG CHUNG-LING WITH ADANI GROUP

New Delhi: Attacking the government over the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group, the Congress on Thursday questioned the relationship between Chinese businessman Chang Chung-ling and the Adani group. Citing the report, Congress leader Pawan Khera at a press conference said, "As per Hindenburg Research, Chang Chung-ling runs (or used to run) a firm called Gudami International, which was identified as part of an investigation into government fraud in the Adani Group's alleged circular trading of gems and that Chang Chung-ling and Vinod Adani's Singapore residential address was the same."

"The most sensational revelation that has gone unnoticed by the Indian media so far, is that of the relationship between the Adani Group and Chang Chung-ling, a Chinese businessman of questionable antecedents," he said. The report says, "This is a significant matter, not only for the sake of the shareholders but also for the national security of India," he added. He said the Modi government has maintained a stoic silence on the Hindenburg Research report, as if nothing has happened. "We want to tell PM Modi that we have nothing to say if you cheat your best friend, but shall not keep quiet if you cheat the investors of India - 29 crore policy holders of LIC and 45 crore account holders of SBI," he added.

## 'Passed many orders nobody taking action'

Supreme Court on plea against hate speech event in Mumbai



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday orally observed that it has passed many orders in connection with hate speeches at events yet nobody was taking action, while agreeing to examine a plea against an alleged hate speech event scheduled on February 5 in Mumbai. A lawyer mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph and sought urgent hearing. The bench, also comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Justice Hrishikesh Roy, said it will seek instructions from Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and subject to his approval the matter would be posted for hearing on Friday.

The bench orally told the counsel, "You ask us to be embarrassed again and again by getting an order. We have passed so many orders yet nobody is taking action. The Supreme Court should not be asked to pass an order on an event-to-event basis." The bench told the counsel, "We are with you on this, but understand that the Supreme Court cannot be triggered every time... a rally is notified."

The counsel insisted that the matter requires urgent hearing citing the alleged hate speech rally organised in Mumbai. The bench stressed that it had already passed an order which is clear enough and further added that if rallies were to happen all across the country and every time there will be an application before the Supreme Court. It added, "How can that be feasible?" The lawyer contended a similar rally was organised a few days ago where an alleged call was made to boycott Muslim communities economically and socially. She added that nearly 10,000 people participated in the rally. After hearing the counsel's submissions, the bench asked her to serve a copy of the application on the Maharashtra government counsel, and added, "we will list it tomorrow subject to orders of the CJI. Only this case, not the entire batch". In October last year, the apex court had directed the Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments to come down hard on hate speeches, promptly registering criminal cases against the culprits without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

## Share market crash almost led to the fall of Union govt: Mamata

Team Absolute | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday claimed that on the day of the Union Budget on Wednesday, the Union government virtually was on the verge of collapse because of the share market crash. "The government was on the verge of collapse. Desperate calls were made to some parties to provide funds to that person whose share prices were going down fast," the Chief Minister claimed at a public rally in East Burdwan district on Thursday. However, she did not name anybody in this connection. "I know exactly who all were approached for providing funds. But I do not want to take any names since that would make their lives miserable. At least six individuals were called up. Some were asked to pay around Rs 30,000



crore, some Rs 20,000 crore and some Rs 10,000 crore to that individual whose companies' share prices fell. How will such a government, which does not have any planning, continue in the long run," Banerjee asked.

## OVER 340 PHONES RECOVERED IN 2.5 MONTHS: DG PRISONS

New Delhi: The Delhi Prisons department has recovered over 340 mobile phones and chargers from different jails in the last two-and-a-half months, officials said on Thursday. The Director General of Prisons, Sanjay Baniwal, told the media that the jail authorities have recovered 348 mobile phones in the last two-and-a-half months, with 18 seizures made on Wednesday. The DG added that the jail superintendents have started conducting raids based on inputs from their intel sources inside the prisons, in order to send across a strong message to the criminal world.

## BYJU'S SLASHES AROUND 15% ROLES, MOSTLY IN ENGINEERING, AS PHASED LAYOFFS ON

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Edtech major BYJU'S has laid off further 15 per cent of its employees from its engineering teams, as the company continues phased layoffs to remain growth-oriented in global economic meltdown. According to sources, the company in a fresh round of layoffs has asked more than 1,000 workers (or 15 per cent) to go, mostly from its engineering teams. When reached, the company immediately declined to comment. BYJU'S last year decided to lay off as many as 2,500 employees or 5 per cent of its workforce in order to achieve profitability by



March 2023. In India, more than 21,000 employees have been laid off by more than 70 startups today, including from unicorns like BYJU'S, Ola, MPL, Innovaccer, Unacademy, Vedantu, Cars24, OYO, Meesho, Udaan and many more. The edtech sector has laid off the most employees, with 16 edtech startups laying off more than 8,000 employees to date.

## NO DECISION AS OF NOW ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

New Delhi: There has been no decision

"as of now" on the implementation of a uniform civil code in the country, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government had requested the 21st Law Commission to undertake an examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations. "The term of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31, 2018. As per the information received from the Law Commission, the matter related to uniform civil code may be taken up by the 22nd Law Commission for its consideration. Therefore, no decision on implementation of uniform civil code has been taken as of now."

## Guj court orders to confiscate Rs 24L worth property of former MLA

Surat: Surat's district court recently issued an order to confiscate the property of former BJP MLA V.D. Zalavadiya worth Rs 24.75 lakh to pay compensation to a victim's family after a road accident death. The court issued the confiscation order for the second time after Zalavadiya failed to comply with its order in October 2022. Gautam Lathiya, the complainant's advocate, said that with registration number GJ-05-AU-5645 was parked illegally on the Puna-Simada canal road on February 22, 2016, when his client's son, Hiren Limbaniya, rammed into it from behind. Hiren later succumbed to his injuries. The petitioner said that the truck was parked on the road without parking lights or reflectors, because of which it was not noticed by his son. He added that the truck driver Jemal Dodhiya, owner Zalavadiya and his son Sharad were responsible for Hiren's death and should compensate the deceased's family. The court had ordered the former MLA to pay Rs 15.49 lakh as compensation, with 9 per cent interest amount of Rs 8.26 lakh and Rs 1 lakh for legal charges, totalling to Rs 24.75 lakh, to the complainant in 2021.



## OLD TAX REGIME AND NEW TAX REGIME: EXPLAINED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Budget 2023-24, which was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on February 1, has brought significant changes to personal income tax. The income tax rebate limit has been increased to Rs 7 lakh. In Budget 2020, taxpayers were given an option to either continue with the old tax regime, where tax exemptions could be claimed, or opt for the new regime with lower tax rate but no exemptions. In both the old and new tax regimes, however, the annual income up to which one did not need to pay taxes was Rs 5 lakh. This has been changed in the Union Budget 2023-24. The Finance Minister, in her budget speech, proposed to increase the tax-free ceiling in the new tax regime to Rs 7 lakh from the existing Rs 5 lakh. This means that those who have chosen the new tax regime and have an income of up to Rs 7 lakh will not be required to pay any taxes. Besides this, the tax slabs have also been reworked and the number of slabs have been brought down from six to five. Now, in the new regime, income between Rs 0-3 lakh will not be taxed. This is an increase of Rs 50,000 from the zero to Rs 2.5 lakh no-tax slab applicable earlier.

### INCOME WITH UP TO RS 7 LAKH (OLD TAX REGIME)

If you have an income of up to Rs 7 lakh in the old tax regime then your total taxable income after all deductions will turn out to be Rs 3,70,000. The tax payable on it will be Rs 6,240, which includes 4% surcharge and 5% tax in the Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh tax slab. This payable amount becomes zero after deductions under Section 87A of the Income Tax Act are claimed. Here, you can avail the various exemptions and deductions such as house rent allowance (HRA) and interest on home loan.

### INCOME WITH UP TO RS 7 LAKH (NEW TAX REGIME)

If your annual income is up to Rs 7 lakh then in the proposed new tax regime, you are not liable to pay any taxes on your income. However, you cannot claim any exemptions.

### INCOME OF RS 10 LAKH (OLD TAX REGIME)

For those who have an annual income of Rs 10 lakh, the taxable income will be Rs 6 lakh after deductions of total Rs 4 lakh. In this case, the income tax payable could be Rs 33,800 after all exemptions and deductions.

### INCOME OF RS 10 LAKH (NEW TAX REGIME)

In the new tax regime, a person with Rs 10 lakh annual income will have to pay Rs 54,600 as income tax. The total taxable income here is Rs 9,50,000, which is subject to tax at 5%, 10%, and 15%. No exemptions or deductions can be availed here.

### INCOME OF RS 15 LAKH (OLD TAX REGIME)

Taxpayers with Rs 15 lakh annual income will have to pay Rs 1,06,600 as income tax. This includes 5% tax in the Rs 2.5 - Rs 5 lakh slab and 20% tax in the Rs 5 - Rs 10 lakh slab. Here, the total taxable income is Rs 9,50,000.

### INCOME OF RS 15 LAKH (NEW TAX REGIME)

In the new tax regime, those with income of Rs 15 lakh will have a taxable income of Rs 14,50,000. This will be taxed at 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20% in different tax slabs, which brings the total tax payable to Rs 1,45,000.



# RAJ MLAS' RESIGNATION: BJP SUBMITS BREACH OF PRIVILEGE NOTICE AGAINST 6 MINISTERS, MLAS

Jaipur | Agencies

Deputy leader of opposition in Rajasthan assembly, Rajendra Rathore on Thursday submitted a proposal of breach of privilege against MLA Sanyam Lodha to Principal Secretary, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly alleging that the resignations made by 81 MLAs were not voluntary but they were pressured to do the same.

Breach of privilege notice was also submitted by BJP MLA Vasudev Devnani against Ramlal Jat, Anita Bhadel against Mahendra Chowdhary, Jogeshwar Garg against Rafiq Khan, Ashok Lahoti against Shanti Dhariwal and Ramlal Sharma against Ramlal Jat, respectively. The notice was also submitted against Mahesh Joshi to the Principal Secretary, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

The notice was submitted two days after a war of words broke out in the Assembly between Speaker C.P. Joshi and deputy leader of



opposition Rajendra Rathore.

Earlier, Rathore had filed a PIL in court against the resignations of 81 MLAs pending before the Speaker and the High Court eventually sought reply from the Speaker on the same.

In reply, it was informed that 81 MLAs' resignation was not voluntary and hence the resignation with-

drawal were accepted.

The Congress and Independent MLAs resigned on September 25 in support of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot after the high command called a parallel meeting at chief minister's residence to discuss a change of leadership.

Now the BJP has given a notice of breach of privilege to the Assembly

Secretary against the ministers and MLAs of the Congress government on the basis of pressurising them for their resignations.

Appearing before the Speaker on September 25, the six minister-legislators who handed over the resignations of the rest of the MLAs have been accused of breach of privilege.

In this notice, the BJP has made the basis of the answer given by the Assembly Secretary in the High Court, in which it is mentioned that MLAs did not resign on their own. The BJP argues that the six ministerial MLAs who appeared before the Speaker pressured the remaining 75 MLAs to resign, which is a direct violation of the privilege of an MLA.

Meanwhile, no decision has yet been taken on Sanyam Lodha's breach of privilege motion. The Speaker now has to decide on the issue. Now the BJP has submitted the proposal of breach of privilege against the Minister-MLAs to the Assembly Secretary, in which the resignation has been made the basis.

# CRPF sets up camp in Maoist stronghold after 17 years



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 165 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Chhattisgarh police have set up a Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Bedre in Sukma district, a highly Maoist-affected area of the state, after 17 years, said a CRPF official.

While the FOB will effectively help in reopening the

old trade route connecting Imli Bazar in Jagargunda with the district headquarters Bijapur and Dantewada, it will also close the transit corridor used by the Maoists to travel between West and South Bastar, an official said.

Significantly, a FOB was established in Kunder, located at a distance of 5 km from the FOBs at Bedre, Silger and 10 km from Jagargunda FOB.

According to information, till the emergence of the Maoist threat in 2006, the Jagargunda area used to be a trading centre for tamarind and other forest produce.

The CRPF said that with this camp, the administration would be able to decisively restore the trade route and pave the way for the economic development of the area.

# Facebook alert helps police foil youth's suicide bid in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad | Agencies

A Facebook alert helped save a youth's life in Ghaziabad. The young man was about to commit suicide on an Instagram live, when Meta Headquarters, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram based in California, reviewed the video and sent an alert to the Uttar Pradesh police, who reached his house by tracing his mobile's location in around 15 minutes.

The 23-year-old has been identified as Abhay Shukla, who was counselled for 6 hours before being sent back to his family.

The UP police had tied up with Meta in March last year to alert them immediately if a post related to suicide was



seen on Facebook or Instagram. On Tuesday night, Shukla came live on Instagram and started tying a noose. deo, the headquarters sent an email alert to the social media centre of the state's police department, along with Shukla's registered mobile number.

The social media centre transferred the alert to the Ghaziabad Police Commissionerate, when the phone's location was found to be in the city.

The message was then forwarded to Vijay Nagar police station.

Shukla is a resident of Kannauj and currently lives in Vijay Nagar area of the state.

He worked in Gurugram's Cashify company and left his job to start his own business in the same field.

As per the police, Shukla took the extreme step when he had to borrow Rs 90,000 from his mother, who had saved the amount for his sister's marriage, to compensate for the loss he suffered in his venture.

# Tripura: Left, Cong withdraw candidates fielded against each other

The CPI-M-led Left parties and the Congress, who earlier announced to contest jointly the February 16 elections to the 60-member Tripura assembly, on Thursday withdrew their candidates fielded against each other.

Agartala | Agencies

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) state secretary Jitendra Chowdhury said that 13 candidates from the Left parties and three candidates of Congress withdrew their nomination papers.

The Left parties, dominated by the CPI-M, on January 25 announced the names of 47 candidates leaving 13 seats to their new ally, Congress.

The Congress leaders were upset over the paltry allotment of seats by the Left parties.

On January 28, Congress announced 17 candidates. On the last day of filling of nominations on Monday, both the Left parties and the Congress fielded candidates against each other in 16 seats.



Talking to IANS, Chowdhury, also a CPI-M central committee member, said that no common declaration or common minimum programme would

be announced by the two parties. "Our common agenda is to protect the Constitution and to restore the law and order situation," the Left leader said.

State Congress president Birajit Sinha, who is contesting the elections from Kailasahar constituency, said that the Congress and the Left parties are jointly fighting the elections to end the "jungle raj" of the BJP. Sinha, a former minister of the Congress-led alliance government (1988-1993), urged the party leaders and workers to forget all hesitations and doubts to jointly fight the elections to defeat the BJP in the forthcoming elections.

Another Congress leader said that it was not yet decided whether any joint rallies of the two parties would be held or not.

# SC declines plea to bar candidates from contesting from more than one seat

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to scrap a rule, which allows candidates to contest from more than one constituency in a general election.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said, "It's a policy matter...an issue of political democracy".

The bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala stressed, "It's for Parliament to take a call."

The plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay sought to restrict a can-

didate from contesting from more than one constituency in a general election. During the hearing, the bench orally told senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayan, representing the petitioner, that the leader of a national party would also want to show his pan-India image and show that I can stand from west, east, north, and south India.

The bench further added that there is nothing wrong with that and there are historical figures who had that kind of popularity, and told the counsel that if Parliament wants to amend it can, and the

court will not do it. The counsel argued that the candidates should be asked to deposit more if they are standing from two constituencies. The bench noted that candidates may contest from different seats due to a variety of reasons and whether this would further the course of democracy is up to Parliament.

The apex court concluded that permitting a candidate to contest from more than one seat is a matter of legislative policy since ultimately it's Parliament's will on whether the political democracy is furthered by granting such choice.

# PREGNANT WOMAN, HUSBAND KILLED AS CAR GOES UP IN FLAMES IN KERALA

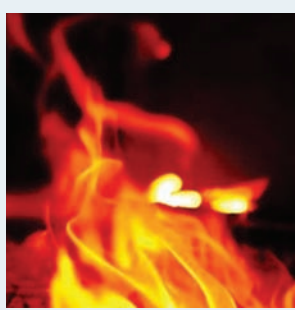
Thiruvananthapuram: A pregnant woman and her husband were killed when their car suddenly burst into flames in Kannur district of Kerala on Thursday, police said.

The couple, along with four others, were on their way to a hospital when the incident took place near the Kannur Fire Station around 10.40 a.m.

While the couple on the front seats was burnt to death, four others seated at the rear escaped, said the Police who rushed to the spot soon after being informed.

According to eyewitnesses, the two who were seated in the front were unable to open their doors, while a child and three others at the rear managed to escape.

The deceased were identified as 26-year-old Risha and her husband Preejith. They were on the way to the local hospital for her routine check up. "We are awaiting the arrival of the forensic experts who will be able to find out the exact reason for the fire. Nothing will be left to chance and the probe will cover all aspects," said a top Kannur Police official.



# Himachal withdraws cases for violating Covid-19 protocol

Shimla | Agencies

The cases for violating Covid-19 protocol have been withdrawn, said Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here on Thursday.

"When the entire world was going through a difficult period during the lockdown, there were many people who were struggling to make both ends meet," he said in a statement.

"There were people who were forced to venture out for arranging medicines and other necessary items. There were those few running from pillar to post with a ray of hope to see their loved ones survive the pandemic. "There were many others,



who were homeless spending nights on the streets, hoping for help and searching for food to feed their

families. They had no choice other than violating the restrictions imposed," the Chief Minister added.

# Minister resigns over SC's verdict terming Sikkimese Nepalis as immigrants

Gangtok | Agencies

A senior minister in the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) government on Thursday resigned as the public outrage kept growing after the Supreme Court, while hearing a case in January, said that Sikkimese Nepalis were persons of foreign origin.

Mani Kumar Sharma, who heads the Health and Information Technology departments, has addressed his resignation letter to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.

In his resignation letter, Sharma said in view of the Supreme Court's verdict on January 13 this year, "The State government has not taken the sentiments of the Sikkimese people seriously and I feel that it is not necessary to remain in the State Cabinet further."

Hence, I submit this resignation with immediate effect, said Sharma who is an influential MLA from the Singtam-Khamdong constituency in East Sikkim.

A controversy has been going in Sikkim for the past few days with several apolitical organisations and political parties holding rallies and Press meets to condemn the



objectionable remarks against the Sikkimese Nepali community.

While granting income tax exemption to old settlers of Sikkim as sought in 2013 petition by the Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim (AOSS), the Supreme Court on January 13 observed that the Sikkimese

Nepalis were persons of 'foreign origin'.

Speaking to media, Sharma said the state government should have at the moment camped in Delhi and actively lobbying with the Union ministers besides preparing its replies to the court.

"There should be a multi-dimensional

approach by the government to permanently remove this repetitive slur on the Sikkimese. People would not have come out on the streets if the state government was transparent in this issue," said Sharma.

He maintained that the 'most important' step to do now is to go and 'lobby' in Delhi. I am also going to Delhi on this matter, he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has been reiterating that the Sikkim government will file a review petition in the apex court to expunge those 'foreigner' and 'immigrant' tag on the Sikkimese Nepali community.

Tamang said he has personally spoken to Union Law minister Kiren Rijju who assured him that the Centre will support the review petition of the Sikkim Government, and if required will file a review petition itself as well on similar lines. I thank him on behalf of the people of Sikkim, said the Chief Minister.

"I appeal to all to have patience, and faith in the judiciary. It is just a matter of time that this issue will be addressed for the good," said the Chief Minister in his recent assurances to the people of Sikkim.

# If accused is dead, fine can be collected from successors: K'taka High Court

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka High Court in an important judgment stated that the fine can be collected from the property or from the successors who inherit from the accused even after his death.

The bench headed by Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar gave this order on Wednesday while looking into the petition by late Tottile Gowda from Hassan. He had submitted the petition when he was alive.

The bench stated that the petitioner will not get an exemption from accountability of paying fine as per the court order even in case of his death.

No family member has submitted the petition after the death of the petitioner to continue the case. The counsel for late Tottile Gowda submitted that legal heirs do not want to continue the petition. The successor of the property should have to pay the fine amount, the bench said.

The Additional Sessions



Court of Hassan has imposed Rs 29,204 fine under the Sections 135, 138 of the Electricity Act, 2003 convicting petitioner late Tottile Gowda on December 12, 2011.

Tottile Gowda filed an appeal before the High Court and questioned the order of the lower court then. But, Tottile Gowda died while the petition was being heard in the High Court.

The High Court quashed the appeal petition in the backdrop of the death of petitioner. The court had also ordered to collect the fine amount from the property or from the successors of the property.



# My goal is to keep maintain my consistency: Gautami Bhanot

## MP shooters clinches 2 Gold medals in 10m Air Rifle Shooting



Sandesh Mehra | Bhopal

**M**P's Gautami Bhanot in women's and Satyarth Patel in men's competition, won gold medals in 10 meter Air Rifle competition in Khelo India Youth Games 2022 on Thursday.

In women's match, Gautami had a competitive match with Isha from Maharashtra. Both the players gave their hundred percent in the nail biting match but Gautami took the winning shot.

In men's Air Rifle match, Satyarth played very well and dominated the match. Yashodhara Rajee Scindia,

Minister of Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment of Madhya Pradesh, visited the Madhya Pradesh Shooting Academy as a chief guest to congratulate the winners.

In an exclusive interview with Absolute India, Gautami Bhanot who had won several National medals and a gold and silver medal in Asian Air Gun Championship 2022, shared her feelings after winning gold medal in 10 meter Air Rifle Shooting. She said, "I gave my best as it was a tough game and I feel really happy after winning gold medal."

Talking about her journey Gautami said, "My parents introduced me to

this sport when I was in class 2. I started my professional journey in 2019 and since then, I've been playing National Championships. After working hard for this sport, I got a chance to play in Khelo India Youth Games 2022. Talking about her career in shooting she said, "Right now my goal is to keep maintain my consistency and work hard. "I would like to thank my parents and coach who supported me a lot to work really hard to reach this platform" she concluded.

Talking to Absolute India news, Nishant Nathwani the coach of Gautami shared, "when Gautami joined the academy, I found that she

has an extremely good talent of taking up rifle so I suggested her rifle shooting. Professionally, she started her career in shooting in 2019 and qualified the national in the same year. I think she has a lot of potential and one good thing that she handles her emotions very well when she's inside the range."

Talking about Khelo India Youth Games Nishant Nathwani said, "Khelo India Youth Games gives players a very good platform to learn."

Nishant also gave a message to the shooters and said, "stick to a coaching, work hard and give your best, you'll definitely get the results".

## SHOOTING IS VERY TOUGH AND MENTAL SPORTS: SATYARTH PATEL

Satyarth Patel who is also a Bronze medalist in 65th National Shooting Championship won the Gold medal in men's 10 meter Air Rifle.

Sharing his experience to Absolute News he said, "I'm feeling very cheerful because Khelo India Youth Games 2022 is organized in my state and I myself have won the Gold medal. It took a lot of dedication as I had started my training just six months back of the event and here are the results of my hard work."

Satyarth was just 11 years old when he joined the academy and started career in shooting. Talking about the sport, he said, "Shooting is very tough and mental sports, so mental and physical fitness both are important in shooting."

Satyarth manages his studies with the game. He said, "I study in the morning and in the evening, in noon I go for practice. It's hard to manage but you have to do it if you want to achieve something. I want to play in International Championship and to represent India" he concluded.

# Work for the eradication of sickle cell anaemia with the spirit of service: Governor Patel

## Governor addresses workshop on eradication of sickle cell anaemia in villages adopted by universities

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**G**overnor Mangubhai Patel has said that the work of eradicating sickle cell anaemia should be undertaken with the spirit of service. While visiting rural areas, students will get to experience rural society, tribal life and rural environment. This experience will help them in carrying out development works. Governor Patel was addressing the inaugural session of the workshop on eradicating sickle cell anaemia in the villages adopted by the universities at Sandipani Auditorium located in the Raj Bhavan premises on Thursday.

Governor Patel said that the work of eradicating sickle cell anaemia was first started from Jabua and Alirajpur. At present, the work of eradicating sickle cell anaemia is being undertaken in 18 tribal districts of the state. Awareness is being raised regarding sickle cell anaemia. He said that in this year's Union Budget, a mission has been announced to eradicate sickle cell anaemia across the country. The motto of the country's successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". The governor said that sickle cell anaemia is a hereditary disease. He has seen patients suffering from sickle cell anaemia very closely. Couples who are carriers of sickle cell anaemia need to be convinced that their children



will suffer from it. He said that blood test is very important before marriage to see if anyone is suffering from sickle cell anaemia. There is a need about awareness regarding this disease in the tribal society. Street plays, short films, etc. can effectively convey information.

Governor Patel told the girl and boy students of the college that the active contribution made by them in the camps in the adopted villages is commendable. He said that the students should see and understand the rural life closely by visiting the villages. This will inspire them to work for the development of the village and they will be able to contribute effectively in the development work. The Governor said that learning requires inspiration. Giving examples from the life of Abraham Lincoln, he said that the work which we do not

know can be learned. He told the students gained experience in the village would be useful in their lives.

Governor Patel said that in the first phase of eradicating sickle cell anaemia, 5 villages each have been adopted by the government universities of the state. More villages should also be adopted further. He also asked for action to adopt 5 villages each by private universities. Deepak Khandekar, President of Tribal Cell at Raj Bhavan, appreciated the contribution of universities in eradicating sickle cell anaemia. He said that in the workshop, the experiences shared by the students in the village tour for the eradication of sickle cell anaemia make it clear that the students have an important contribution in the eradication of sickle cell anaemia.

Principal Secretary to the Governor D.P. Ahuja informed about the work being done by the students in the village adopted by the university. MD NHM Priyanka Das spoke about the work being done by the university more effectively in coordination with the health department. He said that the university should share the tour programme of the adopted villages with the health department. The health department and university teams will camp together. Tribal Cell Secretary B.S. Jamod told in the presentation related to the workshop that each of the 20 government universities have adopted 5 villages each.

# Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flags off 75 e-bikes

## Flagged off from Smart City Garden. Chief Minister Chouhan also rode an e-bike. E-bike will be able to run up to 35 km in full charge battery

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**C**hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off 75 e-bikes from the garden located in Shyamla Hills. These e-bikes were dedicated in the first phase of the e-bike project of Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited. CM Chouhan also rode an e-bike. The riders of the dedicated 75 e-bikes reached the TT Nagar Stadium as a rally from the park located at Shyamla Hills via Depot Square, P&T Square, Sanjay Complex, Mata Mandir, Platinum



Plaza. The maximum speed of the electric bikes dedicated is 20 km per hour, which will be able to run up to 35 km in full charge battery, this bike is of single seating capacity. To rent an e-bike, you need to download the Chartered Bike app on your

mobile from the Google Play Store. A minimum security deposit of Rs. 100 will have to be maintained on this after registration. E-bikes can be hired by scanning the QR code from the app. There are 6 docking stations for e-bikes in Bhopal at TT Nagar Stadium, ISBT, MP Nagar Zone-1, Atal Path (Platinum Plaza), Van Vihar and Boat Club. The number of e-bikes and docking stations will be increased as demand increases. The fare for the e-bike will be Rs. 20 for the first 15 minutes. After that Re 1 per minute will be payable.

## CM CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPLINGS OF MANGO, NEEM AND KHIRNI

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Mango, Neem and Khirni in the Park located at Shyamla Hills. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, the members of Nar Seva Narayan Seva Samiti, working in the field of environmental protection and public service, planted saplings.



## MERCURY GOES DOWN BELOW 10 DEGREES IN 46 DISTRICTS OF MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**O**nce again another round of severe cold has arrived in Madhya Pradesh. It was freezing cold in Bhopal this morning. The minimum temperature in Gwalior, Jabalpur and Indore has also come down below 10 degrees. In 46 districts of Madhya Pradesh, the minimum temperature was recorded less than 10 degrees in

night. In many places morning dew was seen frozen on crops and plants. Pachmarhi was the coldest with 2 degree mercury.

Meteorologists said that after the snowfall on the mountains, icy wind is coming from there. The sky is likely to remain clear for the next three-four days, so the cold may also increase. Another round of rain will be there in Gwalior-Chambal.

## FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY COLDEST IN 13 YEARS IN BHOPAL

February in the Capital city has also started with severe cold. The day temperature was recorded at 22.3 degrees on Wednesday. The first day of February was the coldest in 13 years. The cold has increased in the city even at night. The night temperature dropped by 1.6 degrees in the last 24 hours. Cold wind blew in the city from morning to night. Due to the cold, the mercury rolled down.

## BHOPAL'S ISLAM NAGAR RENAMED AS JAGDISHPUR

**Bhopal:** 14 km away from Bhopal there is a beautiful village with historical heritage.

People of the country and the world reach here to see the fort built in the 17th century. Till Wednesday its name was Islam Nagar. Now it will again be recognized by its old name Jagdishpur. The central government has given the green signal to rename the village as Jagdishpur. The state government has also changed the name of the village to Jagdishpur by issuing a notification on Wednesday.

## Tax research wing rein on tax evasion businessmen

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**G**ST by Commercial Tax Department Strict action is being taken by identifying cases of tax evasion using portal and other databases, modern techniques of data science and data mining in Data Command and Control Center, analysis of Tax Research and Analysis Wing and artificial intelligence.

In the month of January, 2023, tax evasion of about Rs 15 crore 71 lakh was primarily detected in raids on 34 taxpayers involved in

tax evasion related to Evgenpron Commodity Iron and Steel, Iron / Metal Scrap, Pan Masala, Electronic, Tilli and Soybean etc. found. The department deposited Rs 13 crore 88 lakh as tax and penalty on the spot.

Information is being collected officially and confidentially about such unregistered businessmen whose turnover is more than the tax liability limit. They are doing business on a large scale, and due action is being taken against the businessmen who have not got GST registration done and due tax

is being deposited from them. Under the Madhya Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, in the month of January, 2023, the officers posted in the divisions/circles were given authority letters to act under mobile checking. Mainly tax evasion items such as pan masala, iron and steel, iron scrap and groceries etc.

were identified and special actions were taken. An amount of Rs 4 crore 80 lakh was deposited as tax and penalty from 299 vehicles involved in tax evasion, transporting goods.

# New Madhya Pradesh Bhavan inaugurated in Delhi

The building has been built keeping in mind the needs of the next 50 years. 108 rooms have been built according to Yoga Shastra and Vedic science.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

**C**hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the way the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation of India after 50 years through the budget, on the same lines we have made the newly constructed Madhya Pradesh Bhavan full of state-of-the-art facilities in Delhi for the next 50 years. Along with this, Madhya Pradesh's heritage, art, culture and the symbol of the common people of the state will emerge in the country's capital Delhi.

Chief Minister Chouhan was inaugurating the newly constructed Madhya Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi today. Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated the new building by worshipping and following all the rituals. Delhi's Madhya Pradesh Bhavan has been constructed on Jesus and Mary Marg in Chanakyapuri area on one and a half acres at a cost of about Rs 150 crore.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that each floor of the new building reflects the different culture of the state. Religious, cultural, art and tradition of the state are displayed at every step

from outside to inside in the building, which will make you face to face with every part of Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister said that 108 rooms have been constructed in this building after detailed discussions. In our Yoga Shastra, the number 108 is a symbol of spiritual perfection and according to Vedic science, 108 signifies the completeness of creation. This is an example of the universe and our oneness. Surely this building will work to strengthen the co-existence of the center and the state.

**ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL**  
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

**ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266  
Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodbunder Road, Thane -400607 (MH)

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Due as per Demand Notice / as on Date
1.	Shailendra Chaukhe (in The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Mahesh), 3. Shailendra Chaukhe, 4. Vinod Chaukhe, 5. Suresh Chaukhe (in The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Mahesh), 6. Suresh Chaukhe, Southern Part Of Municipal (new No. 16), House No. 13, Pardeshipura, Road No. 7, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452011, 7. Suresh Chaukhe (in The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Mahesh), 8. Shailendra Chaukhe, (in The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Mahesh), 9. Vinod Chaukhe (in The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Mahesh), 10. Vinod Chaukhe, 11. Shailendra Chaukhe, 12. Suresh Chaukhe, 6/7, Pardeshipura Indore, Nanda Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452003, 13. Shailendra Chaukhe, C/o Tanvi Fabrications 22, Sukhliya Maruti Nagar Chauraha, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-401120. Loan Account No. LNINDOHL-10200074801 & LNINDOHL-10200074802	08.08.2022	31.01.2023 (Old notice dated 22.08.2022 withdrawn. This publication to be treated as effective notice)	Rs. 21,49,550.36/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty and Thirty Six Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 24.01.2023

**Description of immovable property / properties mortgaged:** All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Municipal House No. 13 Old, New No. 16, Paiki Southern Side Part, Admeasuring 15.5 Ft. X 30 Ft. = 465 Sq. Ft., i.e., 43.21 Sq. Mtrs., Part Of South Side Situated At Pardeshipura, Road No. 7, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452011, And Bounded As: East: House Of Sharma Ji, West: Road, North: House Of Madhav Singh Ji Thakur, South: House Of Late Narayan Chaukhe.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto falling which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 03.02.2023  
Place: Indore

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)





EDITOR'S SPECS

AMRIT KAAL BUDGET: POISON FOR LIFE INSURANCE SECTOR

The proposals in the Amrit Kaal budget presented to the Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has turned out to be an 'halahala' (poison) for the life insurers. Barring the ICICI Prudential Life Insurance scrip which opened positive, the shares of other listed life insurers were in red for a second consecutive day. The shares of ICICI Prudential that closed at Rs 402.55 on Wednesday opened at Rs 396.95 and went up to Rs 410.61 and changed hands for Rs 407. In a regulatory filing, the company clarified that the share of business of non-unit linked policies with annual premium of above Rs 500,000 is approximately 6 per cent of the total annualised premium equivalent (APE) for 9M-FY2023. The shares of industry leader Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) opened at Rs 584.85 after previous close of Rs 598.80. The scrip was changing hands during the day for Rs 595 though it touched a high of Rs 606. By tweaking the 'New Tax Regime' (launched in the FY21 Budget), the government has attempted to make it attractive - it has brought down taxes under this 'exemption-free' regime, thus reducing the tax-saving value of tax-saving instruments (such as life insurance policies) under Sections 80C, 80D and others of the Income Tax Act. And by removing exemptions under Sec10 (10D) of the Income Tax Act, the Budget has also proposed taxing the maturity and surrender amount of non-ULIP policies (purchased after 1-Apr-2023), if the total premium paid by an individual under such policies is more than Rs 5 lakh in a year. While in the Indian mythology, the 'Halahala' poison was taken by Lord Shiva, at the country's bourses the investors are bearing the brunt.

KASHMIR'S SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST WHOSE INSTA PAGE OF ARTWORKS IS A HIT

Ummar Jamal

In the contemporary world, you will find most of the youth making excuses for remaining unemployed. But not Khazin Munir, who despite being a doctoral student in law, earns her bread through calligraphy and other art and craft forms. Munir, a self-taught artist from Srinagar, is the proud owner of the venture 'KAAMEKAAR', which is basically an Instagram page, where she showcases her artistic skills in calligraphy, wall-hangings, umbrellas, customised kangris etc., attracting many online customers to her artworks.

She said KAAMEKAAR is more of passion than a simple social media page to her. When she started the page, she was not really hopeful that it will work, but her artistic skills have been attracting scores of people.

"I have been very lucky to have got an audience who always admire me, support me and love me. I started it as a page for calligraphy, but gradually it became a multi-art page where you can customise calligraphies, wall-hangings, chocolate bouquets, nail and thread art, customised paper bags, gift wrapping, needle work art, small goody baskets, customised kangris etc.," she said.

"Basically, if you want to gift something different to someone or want something special for yourself, we have got your back," Munir added.

Munir, who hails from the Sanat Nagar area in Srinagar, is presently pursuing her PhD in law from the University of Kashmir. In the past, art was just a hobby for her. When she started her Instagram page three years back, she was busy completing her masters.

She said the page was started on the basis of hit and trial method.



Her siblings pressurised her to do so, as they were keen to see the response of the general public. Within a few days of launching the page, Munir got her first order and since then has been no looking back.

With time, she realised that her hobby was making her stress-free and forget the many challenges in life.

"Art for many is just a stroke on paper or just a hanging on the wall, but for me art is strength, medium

of expression, happiness, perfection and a way of life," she said.

Munir completed her schooling from the Presentation Convent School till 10th and then from the Mallinson School till 12th.

She did not have a passion for art in her school days, but with time she began to develop a special liking for the creative form.

"I was not that artistic in school, but with time my personality made its way to the outer world. When I was doing my BA LLB, I used to par-

ticipated in many competitions, both state and national-level. I won many prizes, which included some cash prize also. I have represented the Kashmir University in many inter-varsity competitions at the national level," she said.

Munir belongs to a well-educated family. Her father retired as the chief architect of Kashmir. Her sister is also an architect.

"I never thought of

doing a small business or starting something like this, because I didn't have a business background. But destiny has different things stored for me, and I am very happy for that," she said.

Munir draws inspiration from her parents.

"I have seen my father work day and night, creating unique designs for his clients. He is a pioneer in his profession and I just wanted to adapt the mechanism which he has created for himself. I draw much of the motivation from him," she said.

Munir, who has worked on several projects so far, said every project is interesting and special to her. But her friend's wedding decor, which had umbrellas, nikah potlis, backdrops, mehndi trays etc., nail and thread art at her father's office and mandala art on a 12 feet wall are few of her artistic works that are very close to her heart.

She also said that digitalisation has made things easy and accessible.

"On a click of a button, one can now order any stuff. This gives a content creator and an artist a platform to showcase his/her work, get appreciation and last but not the least, earn a livelihood because job opportunities are very few now," she said.

"After three years of continuous hard work, people have started recognising my Insta page... I get so many overwhelming messages from people now. Some praise my work while some compliment my patience. I feel elated to receive such messages, which motivate me to work harder in order to brush up my skills," Munir concludes.

international

ISRAEL STRIKES GAZA IN RESPONSE TO ROCKETS FIRING

Gaza | Agencies

Israeli fighter jets on Thursday carried out a series of airstrikes on facilities belonging to militant groups in the Gaza Strip in response to rockets fired from the coastal enclave.

Israeli army drones and fighter jets were heard buzzing in the air, and several explosions were heard in the central Gaza Strip, witnesses told Xinhua news agency.

They added that more than 14 missiles were fired at a military post that belongs to Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant groups.

Palestinian medical sources said that no injuries were reported during the strikes that mainly targeted posts and facilities.

The airstrikes were in response to the earlier firing of two rockets at southern Israel, said an Israeli army spokesman.



No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

During Israeli airstrikes on Thursday, militants in the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave also fired at least eight rockets at southern Israeli

communities close to the borders with the Gaza Strip, and anti-aircraft missiles were fired at Israeli fighter jets by Hamas militants.

The latest development comes amid a series of deadly incidents in

the region.

On January 26, Israeli forces raided the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied northern West Bank and killed nine Palestinians and wounded 16 others.

A day later, a gunman opened fire on people near a synagogue at a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem, killing at least seven people.

Since early January, some 35 Palestinians have been killed in the ensuing violence.

More than 170 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank in 2022, and at least 29 have been killed in January this year, according to figures from the Palestinian Health Ministry.

According to the UN, 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since 2006. The tensions have been further aggravated since Israel's most right-wing government, headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, took office in December 2022.

NO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS FOUND IN BIDEN'S BEACH HOUSE: LAWYER

Washington | Agencies

A lawyer for US President Joe Biden has said that no classified documents were found in the latter's beach house in Rehoboth, Delaware, during an FBI search of the property. Wednesday's search was the latest in a series carried out at various locations, after classified documents were found at the Penn Biden Center, an office space that Biden had used when he was Vice President, in Washington D.C. last November, which was not made public at the time, the BBC reported. More documents were discovered at another of Biden's homes in Wilmington, Delaware, in searches conducted in December 2022 and last month.

In a statement issued late Wednesday, Biden's lawyer, Bob Bauer, said the search that lasted from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon was "planned" with the President's "full support".

"No documents with classified markings were found," he said, adding that some "materials and handwritten notes" that appear to date to Biden's time as Vice President between 2009 and 2017 were taken for "further review". The exact number of classified records recovered till date remains unclear, although at least a dozen were found



during the January searches alone.

Wednesday's search came a day after special counsel Robert Hur officially began his duties overseeing the probe into the documents, reports the BBC.

Former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence have also been embroiled in controversy over the handling of classified documents.

In Pence's case, a "small number of documents bearing classified markings" were found at his home in Carmel, Indiana, according to a letter sent to the National Archives by his lawyer. The documents were recovered by the FBI from a safe at the property on 19 January, with two boxes more delivered to the Archives on January 23.

Russia planning offensive on February 24: Ukrainian Defence Minister

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said that Russia is planning a major new offensive against the war-torn nation on February 24 to mark the first anniversary of Moscow's ongoing invasion of Kiev. The Minister made the remarks on Wednesday during a trip to France where he struck a deal to purchase additional MG-200 air defence radars, which he said would "significantly increase the capacity of the armed forces to detect air targets, including winged and ballistic missiles, and drones of various types", the BBC reported.



Speaking to the French BFM network, Reznikov claimed that Moscow had mobilised some 500,000 troops for the potential offensive but also suggested that the true figure

recruited and deployed to Ukraine could be far higher. "Officially they announced 300,000 but when we see the troops at the borders, according to our assessments it is much more," the BBC quoted the Minister as saying to BFM.

3 DEAD, 32 WOUNDED IN EGYPT'S HOSPITAL FIRE

Cairo | Agencies

At least three people were killed and 32 others wounded in a fire that broke out on Wednesday at a charitable hospital in the capital Cairo, said the Egyptian Health Ministry in a statement. The accident took place at the radiology department of the hospital located in the El Matareya district and 12 ambulances were sent to the spot, according to the Ministry's spokesman Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar. The injured suffered from burns, fractures or suffocation, and most of them have been taken to nearby hospitals, said Abdel-Ghaffar as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

N.Korea warns of 'toughest reaction' to US military drills with S.Korea

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea said on Thursday it will take the "toughest reaction" to the US' move to expand joint military exercises with South Korea.

The North's warning came US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Seoul earlier this week for talks with his South Korean counterpart and said there would be more deployments of strategic assets, including F-22 and F-35 jets, to Seoul in order to deter Pyongyang's evolving military threats, reports Yonhap News Agency.

Pyeongyang's Foreign Ministry claimed the US has been driving the security situation on the Korean Peninsula toward an "extreme red-line" and is pushing to spur further tensions through joint military drills of larger scale and scope with South Korea.

"This is a vivid expression of the US dangerous scenario which will result in turning the Korean Peninsula into a



huge war arsenal and a more critical war zone," the Ministry said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

North Korea will "take the toughest reaction" to any military action by the US under the principle of "nuke for nuke and an all-out confrontation for an all-out confrontation", it added.

The North said it is ready to counter any military challenges from the US with the "most overwhelming nuclear force,"

while stressing it is not interested in any dialogue with Washington as long as the latter pursues a "hostile policy".

Earlier on Thursday, South Korea and the US staged combined air drills, involving B-1B strategic bombers, as well as F-22 and F-35B stealth fighters, from the US Air Force, in a show of Washington's "will and capabilities" to provide credible extended deterrence against North Korea's military threats.

North Korea launched around 70 ballistic missiles last year alone, the most in a single year, amid persistent speculation it may conduct a nuclear test in the near future.

The North's leader Kim Jong-un called for an "exponential" increase in its nuclear arsenal and the need to mass-produce tactical nuclear weapons at a key party meeting held late last year.

North Korea is likely to hold a military parade on February 8 to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of its armed forces.



# MOHAN BHAGWAT INAUGURATES SCALE-MODELS OF 2 PRIME FORTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat inaugurated scale-models of two prominent forts - Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg - prepared by the Akhil Maharashtra Giriyarohan Mahasangh (AMGM), officials said here on Thursday.

The AMGM -- an apex body of mountaineering -- has taken up the unique mega-project to prepare scale-models of more than two dozen of the recorded 450 big and small forts dotting the state, some upto a 600 years old.

"Witnessing these majestic forts is an inspiring experience in itself... a sense of motivation comes to conserve and protect this heritage," remarked Bhagwat at the inauguration on Wednesday in the picturesque coastal town of Malvan in Sindhudurg.

Modeller Ramesh Bahargi of Sangli toiled on and readied the two models in one year, both sturdy, made largely of fibre, displaying all intricate details like the living and working areas, the water bodies, the greenery, the surrounding topography, etc., costing Rs 2.50 lakh



each.

Historically significant, both Vijaydurg Fort and Sindhudurg Fort comprise an integral part of the legendary Maratha warrior king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's concept of Swarajya.

AMGM President Umesh Zirpe said that the scale-model project will see

around 25-30 more forts being created in this manner in the next five years.

"The models will travel to major cities like Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Kolhapur, etc. for the people and youth to understand their glorious legacy and the need to preserve and conserve them before it is too late," Zirpe told reporter.

Present were AMGM's Hrishikesh Yadav, Dr A Rahul Warange, Virendra Vanju, Bhushan Harshe, Rajesh Nene, and other dignitaries.

Zirpe said that during the project they learnt that of the 450-plus forts in the state, the state government has an official map record of only one - the Sinhagad Fort of Pune.

"Our team of top architects painstakingly mapped each and every corner of the two forts, absolutely free of cost, prepared designs, and then the scale-models were created. It's a tough task and we feel the government should take appropriate steps to conserve our heritage," Zirpe said. AMGM's Suyash Mokashi said that in the coming time, the forts shall be selected on the basis of their historical, geographical and strategic importance to make the scale-models and display them in museums, for students, tourists, etc. Mokashi said it's a unique and mega-initiative since many of the forts are on hilltops, in coasts, around half a dozen in the Arabian Sea, river banks, some in forests, towns and cities, built by various rulers from various dynasties and even the foreigners who ruled in the past.

# Man with world's largest camera collection dies in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

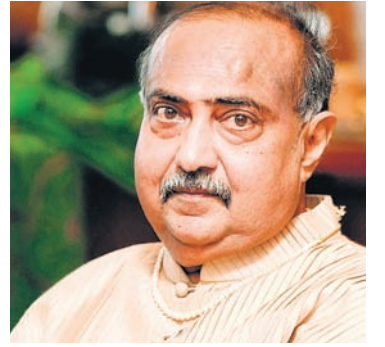
Photographer Dilish Parekh, holding two world records for owning the largest collection of antique cameras and also the biggest collection of photographic instruments, passed away in Mumbai late on Wednesday.

He was 69 and breathed his last at his south Mumbai residence. Parekh, who also was a freelance lensman, is survived by his wife Binita, sons Jay and Harsh and other relatives.

A freelance photographer in his early career, Parekh had made it to the Guinness World Records (2003) for his collection of 2,634 antique cameras and again shattered his own record with a GWR certificate acknowledging him as owning 4,425 cameras (2013).

He had started his hobby in 1977, after which he had painstakingly collected cameras of different shapes and sizes, from different manufacturers all over the world.

Parekh's awesome collection comprised Leicas, Roliflexes, Zeiss, Linofs, Canons, Nikons, Kodaks, including the most valuable piece -- a 1934-made Leica 250, a rare one as around 1,000 were manufactured by the German company.



Another notable one was a German-made Bessa II, produced in 1962, the Tessina L, said to be the world's tiniest and lightest 35mm camera, weighing just 155 gms, a twin-lens reflex camera from 1959 produced by Concava, Switzerland.

Parekh was attracted to the photography instruments after his father bequeathed his collection of 600 cameras, and he launched his own collection from there, building it up to nearly 4,500, sourcing them from all over the planet, including Mumbai's infamous flea market, the Chor Bazar.

Other interesting items in his collection were a leather-bound Royal Mail Postage Stamp Camera of 1907, which could click 15 stamp size pictures at a time.

# BJP wrests Konkan Teachers Constituency MLC seat from PWP-MVA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party has bagged the Konkan Teachers Constituency MLC seat from its main Maha Vikas Aghadi-supported rival Peasants & Workers Party, here on Thursday.

Though the official announcement is awaited, the BJP nominee Dnyaneshwar Mhatre crossed over 20,000 votes - bagging the minimum requirements of 16,000 votes - while the PWP-MVA candidate Balaram Patil was trailing at around 10,000 votes, as the vote-count was progressing to a close this afternoon.

In his first remarks, Mhatre thanked the voters and the BJP-Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena leaders for their all-out efforts to make his victory possible and promised to



work for the cause of the teachers.

Patil said though it was unexpected, he humbly accepted the voters' verdict while accusing the rival candidate of using money-power in the biennial elections to five MLC seats held on January 30.

"However, the peoples' choice is fully acceptable to me and I congratulate Mhatre for his victory," said Patil, adding he will continue to work for the cause of the teaching community as before.

# MAN HELD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT WITH COCAINE VALUED AT RS 33.60CR

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Wednesday arrested an air passenger from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here for possessing 3,360 gram cocaine valued at Rs 33.60 crore.



A DRI official said that they got a specific intelligence tip off that an Indian national arriving from Addis Ababa to Mumbai by Ethiopian Airlines flight might be carrying a narcotic substance. The DRI intercepted that passenger following the tip-off. On examination of his luggage, 16 small soap boxes were recovered. On thorough examination of soap boxes, the officials observed that something is concealed beneath the wax like layer of the soaps. Officers removed the outer wax layer and found a soap bar wrapped in a transparent plastic. The officers scratched the soap cake and a powdery substance was found concealed. The same was tested with a narcotics field testing kit and tested positive for cocaine," the official said. The DRI said: "Net weight of the recovered substance was 3,360 grams valued at Rs 33.60 crore."

# Reliance Retail begins accepting govt's digital rupee for sales

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reliance Retail on Thursday announced it has begun accepting retail payments via the Indian government's Digital Rupee across its stores in the country.

Reliance Retail launched the first in-store acceptance of the RBI-created and Blockchain-based Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) at its gourmet food store Freshpik here.

The CBDC is the a digital version of fiat money that will co-exist with hard cash. "This historic initiative of pioneering the digital currency acceptance at our stores is in line with the company's strategic vision of offering the power of choice to Indian consumers," said V. Subramaniam, Director, Reliance Retail. "With more



Indians willing to transact digitally, this initiative will help us provide yet another efficient and secure alternative payment method to customers at our stores," he added in a statement.

Reliance Retail has collaborated with ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and

fintech Innoviti Technologies to launch the in-store support for the digital rupee. "Digital Rupee fulfils the need of consumers who still prefer the trust, safety and settlement finality of physical currency," said Rajeev Agrawal, Founder and CEO of Innoviti

Technologies. The RBI kicked off the first phase of a retail CBDC pilot in four cities and involving four key banks late last year.

A CBDC can play a key role in providing access to digital payments without the requirement of a bank account and the access would be facilitated by a central bank-issued digital wallet. Use of e-rupee is expected to make the inter-bank market more efficient.

Settlement in central bank money would reduce transaction costs by pre-empting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk.

Going forward, other wholesale transactions, and cross-border payments will be the focus of future pilots, based on the learnings from this pilot project.

# Garage owner arrested for stealing bikes, 35 vehicles recovered

Thane | Agencies

Police have arrested a 58-year-old mechanic for allegedly stealing motorcycles of popular brands from Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, an official said today.

The police have so far recovered 35 motorcycles that he had stolen, and are trying to trace 15 others, he said.

The accused, a resident of suburban Vikhroli in Mumbai, runs a motor garage in Ghatkopar area of the city. He had been extorted from Navi Mumbai and Thane for two years. There were 46 offences registered against him at various police stations, including



Vashi, Nerul, CBD Belapur, Kharghar in Navi Mumbai, Andheri, Powai in Mumbai, and Kasarwadavali in Thane, Deputy Commissioner of Police Vivek Pansare said.

"In view of the increasing thefts of two-wheelers from the region, the police had stepped up patrolling.

Recently, a police patrol team found a man moving in a suspicious manner in Navi Mumbai's Rabale area. They stopped him and found him carrying a bag with keys of motorcycles, screw drivers, cutters and spanners inside," he said.

Interrogation of the man

revealed that he was a habitual offender, who regularly indulged in motorcycle thefts, the official said.

"The police seized as many as 27 motorcycles from his possession and also recovered eight others that he had stolen and later abandoned. The police are trying to recover 15 more motorcycles that he admitted to have stolen," Pansare added.

The accused used to steal vehicles using duplicate keys and then change the engine, engine plate, and chassis of those motorcycles with the ones that came to his garage for repair. He would then sell such vehicles. Sometimes, he would also sell the spare parts to the scrap dealers, he said.

# WR TO RUN SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS AND DR. AMBEDKAR NAGAR

Mumbai | Agencies

For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand,

Western Railway will run a Weekly Special Train on Special Fare between Bandra Terminus and Dr. Ambedkar Nagar.

According to a press release issued by Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the details of this train is as under:

Train No. 09325/09326 Bandra Terminus - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Special [4 Trips]

Train No. 09325 Bandra Terminus - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Friday at 15.05 hrs and reach Dr. Ambedkar Nagar at 07.15 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 3rd and 10th February 2023. Similarly, Train No. 09326 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - Bandra



Terminus Special will depart from Dr. Ambedkar Nagar every Thursday at 20.55 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 12.15 hrs, the next day. This train will run on 2nd and 9th February 2023. Enroute this train will halt at Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagda, Ujjain, Dewas and Indore stations in both directions. This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second Class coaches.

# MAN KILLED AS CAR HITS TRUCK AFTER TYRE BURST ON HIGHWAY

Palghar: A 38-year-old man from Gujarat was killed after his car collided with a truck on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in



Maharashtra's Palghar district today morning, said an official. Arunkumar Parekh was heading towards Mumbai when he lost control of the vehicle due to a tyre burst near Virar around 9.30 am, said the official from the Mandvi police station.

The car, which was on the Khanivade bridge at the time, jumped over the divider and hit a truck coming in the opposite direction, killing Parekh on the spot, he said. The accident affected traffic on the busy carriageway for an hour, said the official.

# Woman dies after acid attack by partner of 25 years



Mumbai | Agencies

A 54-year-old woman died of burn injuries, over two weeks after being attacked with acid by her live-in partner in Mumbai's Girgaon, police said on Thursday.

As per police, the woman had 50 per

cent burn injuries at the time when she was rushed to the hospital.

Over a fortnight ago, in January, Mahesh Pujari (62) allegedly attacked his 54-year-old live-in partner with acid over a dispute between the duo.

"Both were in a live-in relationship for the last 25 years, but in recent times, there were frequent disputes between the two. Even the woman was pressurizing Mahesh to leave her house, which forced him to reside outside their accommodation," Mumbai Police said adding that owing to this Mahesh attacked the woman with acid.

"Mahesh was arrested last month by the LT Marg Police Station but today murder charges, section 302, of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been added in the case," police said on Thursday.

# "Sedative Till Next Lok Sabha Polls": Shiv Sena's editorial slams Union Budget

Mumbai | Agencies

In a critique of the Union Budget tabled by Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitaraman on Wednesday, 'Saamana', the official mouthpiece of the Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction said it was pre-election budget and a sedative for the people till the next general elections. The column stated that after almost eight years, the Finance minister announced an increase in the limit of exemption in income tax.

"Under this government, the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG have doubled and tax exemptions declared today in the Budget doesn't make compensate for that. Amid the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities and rising inflation in all areas, this might be a plan by the gov-



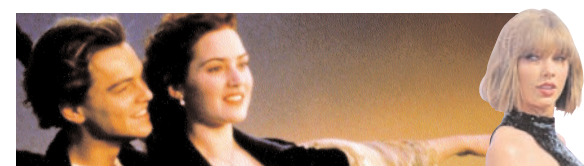
ernment to divert public attention from all these questions through a

relief," the column read. The editorial further claimed that

the government announced special budgetary allocations for Karnataka with an eye on the next Assembly elections in the state, which is scheduled to be held this year.

"In order to make the people of Karnataka happy, the government announced a special allocation for Karnataka. The Finance Minister emphasized in her speech that adequate funds should be provided for the Bhadra Irrigation Project of Karnataka. While making such an announcement for Karnataka, the Finance minister forgot that Mumbai and Maharashtra contribute the most to the country's exchequer," it said.

It alleged that Maharashtra got nothing from this budget and yet, the Sindh-Padnavis government welcomed it, proving that they have mortgaged their self-respect.



## CHERYL SHEDS A TEAR AS SHE RECEIVES A STANDING OVATION FOR '2:22 A GHOST STORY'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Cheryl was brought to tears on Wednesday evening as she took to the stage during the press night of 2:22 A Ghost Story, making her West End Debut at London's Lyric Theatre.

The former singer received a standing ovation following her performance, which saw her in the leading role of Jenny, taking over from former star Laura Whitmore. And supporting her in the front row were former Girls Aloud bandmates Kimberley Walsh and Nicola Roberts who were bursting with pride for the star.

Following a flawless performance, a source in the audience told MailOnline: 'Tears could be seen rolling down Cheryl's cheeks during the curtain call, in which the cast received a standing ovation.'

They added: 'Right at the front cheering her on were her Girls Aloud bandmates Kimberley Walsh and Nicola Roberts, alongside Lauren Silverman. There wasn't a single hiccup during the performance. 'She's certainly proven herself worthy of the role, after surprising fans with the unexpected career move,' concluded the source.

Taking her final bow, a slightly teary Cheryl flashed a huge smile at the audience while raising one arm into the air. Clapping her fellow cast and crew, she was joined on stage by co-stars Scott Karim and Louise Ford while taking their final bow.

Cheryl portrayed a woman named Jenny who becomes convinced her house is haunted by a supernatural spirit in the show.

And for the role, she was dressed in a floral printed burgundy dress with a high-neck and long sleeved design, layering a khaki cardigan on top. But ready for the after party once the pressure was over, she swapped her costume for a beige maxi-dress with a high neck and ribbed design.



## Dave Bautista says he'll never return to Drax just to collect a Marvel paycheck

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dave Bautista means it when he says 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3' will be his final outing as Drax the Destroyer. During a recent visit on 'The Tonight Show', the actor stuck to his guns about exiting the Marvel Cinematic Universe and questioned why it's still news at this point, reports 'Variety'.

"Yeah, it's weird. I don't know why it's news," Bautista said. "This is my seventh film as Drax. And my third 'Guardians' (movie). It was like our trilogy. That's kind of what we all signed up for, to do a trilogy. And I think this will be the last version of our 'Guardians of the Galaxy.'" For Bautista, writer-director James Gunn has crafted the "perfect exit" for his character. It's so perfect in fact that Bautista said coming back to Marvel as Drax would "tarnish" the character. Not even a big Marvel paycheck would warrant ruining Drax's perfect ending. "We all had those

perfect character arcs and such a storybook ending," Bautista said. "I constantly relate it to the way I ended my wrestling career. I ended it on a storybook note. And I would never go back and tarnish that. And it's the same with this." "With Drax, I just got to end the perfect way," he added. "And I would never sign up for another job as Drax just to get a paycheck. I would tarnish that (perfect ending), and I won't do it."

Bautista told GQ magazine in January that he was excited to leave Drax behind and start flexing more mature acting muscles. As the actor put it: "It wasn't all pleasant. It was hard playing that role. The makeup process was beating me down. And I just don't know if I want Drax to be my legacy -- it's a silly performance, and I want to do more dramatic stuff."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Beyonce has announced a 2023 world tour on Instagram, supporting her multiple-Grammy-nominated 2022 album, 'Renaissance'. She also released the dates and cities on her official website, reports 'Variety'. The timing of the announcement, which comes just days before the Grammy Awards on Sunday, sparks speculation that the singer may perform or at least appear on the show. Beyonce is the most nominated artist for the awards with nine, all related to 'Renaissance'. Sources tell Variety that her husband Jay-Z will perform with DJ Khaled on the show, most likely their nominated song "God Did." Beyonce performed her first full concert in four years on January 21 at the new Atlantis the Royal Resort in Dubai. It was an elaborate and highly theatrical performance -- for which sources say she was paid some \$24 million -- with an all-female orchestra, a battery of dancers, a small lake, fireworks, a 50-foot hydraulic platform, three costume changes for the singer and a guest appearance from her and Jay's daughter Blue Ivy, but no songs at all from 'Renaissance' -- a tease that could mean she'll premiere one or two on the Grammys, or even save them for the tour. Beyonce has said that 'Renaissance' is a three-part project, so it's possible that the next parts could be another album, a long-form video project or even the tour itself. Beyonce's last full tour was the nearly six-month, 49-date 'Formation' tour in 2016, which unusually featured no guest appearances until the final show, at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, where she brought out Kendrick Lamar and Jay-Z.

Beyonce announces 'Renaissance' stadium tour dates

## Rupert Grint says filming 'Harry Potter' was 'suffocating'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Rupert Grint gained the spotlight after starring in the film adaptations of the 'Harry Potter' book series. He was only 11 years old when he was cast in the movies and was 22 years old by the time the film series ended, reports 'Deadline'.

In a recent interview, Grint said taking on the role of Ron Weasley was not easy and that he found filming "suffocating."

"Potter was so full - (filming) all year, then we'd promote the rest of the time. It was quite suffocating," he told Bustle.

Grint also said that by the end of the Harry Potter saga he "wanted a break, to reflect on everything... It was an out-of-body experience for a while, but I think we finished at the right time. If we continued, it could've gone downhill." The actor reflected on the similarities his fictional character had with him personally, including being part of a numerous family. At the time of his casting, Grint said that he "was feeling the difficulty of being seen, being overshadowed. In the movies, we merged into one. By the end of it, I was playing myself. The lines were blurred." Grint is grateful for the opportunities 'Harry Potter' brought his way and knows that fans still remember him as Ron. "I answer to it, if someone calls me Ron," he said. "It's my second name."



## TXT's new album sells over 2 million copies in debut week

Seoul | Agencies

Popular K-pop boy group Tomorrow X Together's latest album sold more than 2 million copies in the first week of its release. 'The Name Chapter: Temptation', the quintet's fifth EP, sold 2,027,817 copies as of Wednesday, only six days after it dropped, BigHit Music said, the group's agency announced on Thursday.

"TXT came to have its first album that sold more than 2 million copies in its first week of

release, three years and 11 months after its debut," Yonhap News Agency reported quoting the group's agency.

"It became the youngest K-pop act to set the record." 'Sugar Rush Ride', the main track off the EP, has stayed high on domestic music charts, unusually for a song from a boy group. The album depicts youths swaying in front of the temptation to live in the present while enjoying freedom and entertainment even though they know they have to grow up.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rita Ora



## ENG vs SA 3rd ODI

# ARCHER, BUTTLER AND MALAN GUIDE ENGLAND TO 59-RUN WIN

Kimberly | Agencies

Returning pacer Jofra Archer and white-ball specialists Jos Buttler and Dawid Malan combined to guide England to victory against South Africa in the third and final One-day International though the hosts took the series 2-1.

Archer collected his best ODI bowling figures of 6-40 in just his second international appearance back from a long injury break, while Buttler smashed his 11th ODI century as England registered a 59-run victory over South Africa on Wednesday night. Buttler's superb innings of 131 was well supported by Dawid Malan, who struck 118 at the top of the order.

England went on to post a massive 346 for 7 in their 50 overs, with all-rounder Moeen Ali blasting a 23-ball 41 and Sam Curran and Adil Rashid contributing 5-11 ball 11 runs, Rashid remaining unbeaten with Chris Woakes (9 off 8 balls).

Pacer Lungi Ngidi was the best bowler for South Africa with 4-42 off his 10 overs, while Marco Jansen claimed 2-53 in the match played at the Diamond Oval, Kimberley, on Wednesday night.

In reply, South Africa made a



decent start with skipper Temba Bavum and Reeza Hendricks adding 49 runs for the opening wicket before Chris Woakes removed Bavuma for a 27-ball 35.

Hendricks went on to score his half-century, getting out for 52 off 61 before he was bowled by Rashid. Archer sent back Rassie van der Dussen for 5 and though Aiden

Maakram got a start and scored 39, he was caught by Moeen Ali off Archer as South Africa slumped to 158/4 at the halfway mark.

Heinrich Klaassen waged a lone battle after that as he scored a 62-ball 80 to keep South Africa in the hunt but he kept losing partners at the other end.

### Brief scores

England 346/7 in 50 overs (Jos Buttler 131, Dawid Malan 118, Moeen Ali 41; Lungi Ngidi 4-42) beat South Africa 287 all out in 43.1 overs (Heinrich Klaassen 80, Reeza Hendricks 52, Aiden Markram 39; Jofra Archer 6-40; Adil Rashid 3-68) by 59 runs.

## German Cup

# Bayern Munich crushes Mainz to progress into quarterfinals

Berlin (Germany) | Agencies

Three first-half goals paved the way for Bayern Munich's emphatic 4-0 victory over hapless Mainz in the German Cup round of 16.

The German record champions took the reins from the starting whistle and came to chances through Kingsley Coman and Jamal Musiala in the opening stages.

Bayern's lively start paid off as the visitors broke the deadlock in the 17th minute when new arrival Joao Cancelo whipped the ball to the far post and Maxim Eric Choupo-Moting tapped home left-footed from a tight angle, reports news agency Xinhua.

Mainz posed no threat in front of the target, while Bayern kept it going as Musiala made it two with a well-placed low shot at the half-hour mark.

Bayern wasn't done with the scoring in the first half and tripled its lead with two minutes remaining when Choupo-Moting flicked on to Leroy Sane, who made no mistake from close range in the 43rd minute. Mainz eventually sparked



to life after the restart, as Anthony Caci's curling shot forced Bayern goalkeeper Yann Sommer into action for the first time one hour into the clash.

Julian Nagelsmann's men made it 4-0 in the 83rd minute after Joshua Kimmich's chipped ball into

the area allowed Alphonso Davies to head home from the central position.

Bayern Munich returned to winning ways after snatching its first win in 2023.

Elsewhere, Leipzig booked their berth in the quarterfinals after moving 3-1 past Hoffenheim.

## Zagreb Open 2023 Wrestling

# Aman Sehrawat wins bronze medal

Zagreb | Agencies

Reigning Under-23 world champion freestyle wrestler Aman Sehrawat bagged a bronze medal in the men's 57kg division at the Zagreb Open Ranking Series.

Aman took down Zane Richards of the USA with a 10-4 victory in the bronze medal playoff, securing the first medal for India at Zagreb Open.

Both wrestlers were tied at 4-4 at the end of the first period. The Indian then dominated Richards in the second and collected six straight points to wrap up the



win. Earlier, Aman started well with an 8-2 win over Liu Minghuo of China in the qualifications, followed by an 11-8 victory in the quarterfinals.

But, he suffered a loss to U20 world champion Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan 5-15 in the semifinals.

In other bouts, Vishal Kalirama, competing in the men's 70kg, lost the bronze medal bout to Azerbaijan's Khadzhimurad Gadzhiev by technical superiority (10-0). Pankaj Malik, meanwhile, was defeated by Turkey's Emrah Ormanoglu 5-2 in the first round of the men's 61kg and could not make it to the repechage. On Thursday, Pruthviraj Babasaheb Patil (men's 92kg) and Shivani Pawar (women's 50kg) will be in action.

# Uncapped Tom Abell named in England limited overs squads for Bangladesh tour

London | Agencies

Uncapped Tom Abell was on Thursday named in England's ODI and T20I squads for their tour of Bangladesh.

Abell, who will lead the England Lions one-day squad against Sri Lanka, also marked his presence in the SA20 in South Africa recently. He bats in the middle-order and can also contribute with the ball.

The player led Somerset's batting charts in County Championship 2022 with 1039 runs at an average of 51.95 and also featured in the Lanka Premier League, Sri Lanka's domestic T20 league, in December.

Meanwhile, young leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed also earned a maiden call-up to the white-ball squads. The teenage leg-spinner impressed in his Test debut at Karachi last December, with seven wickets at an average of 19.57.

England pacer Saqib Mahmood, who last featured in the Test side against West Indies last year, earned a recall to the ODI squad. The Lancashire player has 14 ODI wickets at an average of 19.92. Jofra Archer, who recently made his international



comeback against South Africa, has also made it to both squads. Ben Stokes, Harry Brook and Olly Stone have been left out since they are part of the Test team that plays against New Zealand at the end of February.

Alex Hales, who finished just behind Jos Buttler in the run-scoring chart for England at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, was also absent from the T20I squad. Ben Duckett and Will Jacks have been named in the T20I squad.

England will play three ODIs and three T20Is in Bangladesh starting March 1, with all six games spread across Dhaka and Chattogram.

ODI Squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Tom Abell, Rehan Ahmed, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Sam Curran, Saqib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, James Vince, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

T20I Squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Tom Abell, Rehan Ahmed, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

# Don't mind coming in and taking the role played by M.S Dhoni: Hardik Pandya

Ahmedabad | Agencies

After leading India to 2-1 series victory over New Zealand in the recent T20I series, captain Hardik Pandya revealed he doesn't mind taking the game deep and playing the role that M.S Dhoni did in the shortest format of the game.

"See, to be honest, I've always enjoyed hitting sixes, but I have to evolve and that is life. I have to take the other part where I've always believed in partnerships. I want to give my team and the other person more calmness and the assurance that at least I'm there."

"I've played more games than any of those guys out there. So, I've known the experience and more than the experience part, it's where I've



batted, and I've learnt how to accept pressure and I've learnt how to kind of swallow the pressure and kind of

make sure the team and everything are calm," he said in the post-match press conference.

Under Hardik, this was India's second T20I series win of this year after defeating Sri Lanka at home last month and on Wednesday, he was giving strike most of the time to Shubman Gill so that the youngster could do the bulk of hitting.

"In that way, maybe I have to get my strike rate down. Taking new opportunities or taking new roles is (something) I've always looked forward to. I don't mind coming in and playing the role which somewhere down the line Mahi (Dhoni) used to play." "I think at that time, I was young, and I was hitting all around the park, but now since he has gone, all of a sudden that responsibility...It has just naturally come to me, and I don't mind (doing it). We're getting the result we want and it's okay," he added.

# Japan's football legend Miura joins Portuguese side Oliveirense

Tokyo (Japan) | Agencies

Japanese legendary football player Kazuyoshi Miura, who started his professional career in 1986, has joined Portuguese second-division side Oliveirense on a loan deal from J-League first-division club Yokohama FC.

The deal was believed more than a football affair considering the two clubs are both owned by the Japanese company Onodera Group.

On November 4, 2022, Yokohama FC announced that the Onodera Group had acquired a majority stake in Oliveirense.

"I'm going to make an effort so that people will be able to see me play my kind of football, even in new surroundings," the Miura said in a statement. Japan's Kyodo news agency said that Miura, who played for Suzuka Point Getters in the fourth-tier Japan Football League last season on loan, will play for



Oliveirense until the summer. Miura will play in the fifth country overseas following his stints in Brazil, Italy, Croatia and Australia.

# Winning the World Cup is my ultimate dream: Devika Vaidya

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India women's leg-spin all-rounder Devika Vaidya stated winning the World Cup for her side is the ultimate dream for her. Devika made her comeback to T20I cricket during the home series against Australia in December on the back of consistent performances in the domestic circuit.

Currently playing in the T20I tri-series in South Africa, Devika is also in India's squad for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup to be held from February 10-26. "I think it has always been a dream of mine to stand for the national



team for my country and the team, which I was unfortunately missing for the last few years." "So, when I again got selected for the Indian team for the Australia series, I felt like I was in heaven. I also want to add one more thing - winning the World Cup is my ultimate dream," she said on the 'Believe in Blue' show on Star Sports.

# Ravi Bishnoi will become someone like Rashid Khan: Suresh Raina

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina thinks that young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who is with Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL), has the potential to become like prolific Afghanistan leggie Rashid Khan in future.

"If you see all the big bowlers who have earned their stripes in Test cricket, I think Bishnoi with his character and way of delivering the ball will become someone like Rashid Khan," he said on a new episode of 'Legends



Lounge' available on JioCinema. Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha thinks left-handed batter Tilak Varma, who had a breakout IPL 2022 with Mumbai Indians, is a special talent.

"He's from Hyderabad. I have seen his development since he was a kid. I am talking about him in U-15 and U-16 cricket and how hard he works. His schedule involves going to the ground at 6 AM

and coming home at 6 PM. He only takes a 30-45-minute lunch break. He is thoroughly dedicated." Ex-India left-arm pacer R.P. Singh picked left-handed opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal, who plays for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, as a potential gen-next batsman. "If you look at his batting in the domestic circuit, you can tell there is something different about him. His game-reading sense, his batting technique, or his know-how of how to end a match. The good thing about him is that even if he makes 50, he is looking ahead at his 100."

# Odisha FC sign midfielder Princeton Rebello on permanent deal from FC Goa

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian Super League (ISL) club Odisha FC on Thursday announced the signing of midfielder Princeton Rebello, on a permanent deal from FC Goa. The midfielder leaves the Gaur after 45 ISL appearances with the club.

One of the finest young talents in Goa, Rebello joined FC Goa's development team in 2017 before being loaned out to I-League side Indian Arrows. The midfielder was then recalled by FC Goa, and was included in the first team during the ISL 2019-20 season under



former head coach Sergio Lobera. He made eight appearances for the club that season as the Gaur won the League Winners' Shield. The following season, Rebello became a regular starter under then head coach Juan Ferrando and made his first full ISL debut that campaign, playing 722 minutes across 17 games before picking up an injury in the first-leg semi-final against Mumbai City FC. However, Rebello has struggled for game time during the ongoing season, featuring in only three of FC Goa's 16 games, with all his appearances coming off the bench.



## RELEASE OF RANVEER, ALIA'S UPCOMING MOVIE PUSHED TO JULY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The release date of Ranveer Singh and Ali Bhatt-starrer 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' has been pushed and will now hit the theatres on July 28. The film was earlier scheduled to release on April 28. On November 13 last year, Bollywood filmmaker-producer Karan Johar, who is returning to direction after his last outing 'Ae Dil Hai Mushki' with 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', had announced the film would release on April 28. He took to Instagram to announce the new release date. He wrote on Instagram: "They say sabar ka phal meetha hota hai", so to increase the mithaas of this incredibly special story - we're coming with a whole lot of love! Rocky aur Rani ke parivaar ho rahe hai taiyyaar, aur ab dekhiye yeh anokhi kahani of pyaar!" Ranveer took to Instagram and wrote: "Kyunki it's all about loving your family! Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani in cinemas, 28th July 2023." Alia too shared a poster announcing the new release date: "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani.. Releasing 28th July 2023." 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', a romantic comedy, also stars Dharmendra, Shabana Azmi and Jaya Bachchan, and has Pritam as the music director and Amitabh Bhattacharya as the lyricist.



Shilpa, Shamita used to fight as latter didn't share clothes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shilpa Shetty shared a candid birthday post for her younger sister Shamita Shetty, who turned 44. Shilpa took to Instagram, where she shared a reel for her sister featuring their pictures together. Shilpa captioned the clip: "From sharing a box of chocolates and NOT wanting to share clothes. From being each other's agony aunts to pulling each other's hair out. To... NOW becoming an inseparable pair. I love you to the moon and back..."

"HAPPYYYYYYYY BIRTH-DAAAAYYYYY, my darling Tunki! Wishing you only all the choicest blessings the universe has to offer and great health above all. Shamita Shetty\_official."

Shilpa was last seen on the silver screen in 'Nikkamma'. Shamita made her film debut with 2000 film 'Mohabbatein', she was last seen in 'Bigg Boss OTT'.

## KRITI SANON SAID SONAKSHI KAR'S VOICE RESEMBLES WITH LATA MANGESHKAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon told 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Sonakshi Kar that her voice resembles with late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar's when she sings. The Saturday episode of the singing reality show will be welcoming the cast of 'Shehzada' - Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon for the 'Girls vs Boys' special episode. While Kartik will support the 'Boys' team, Kriti will root for the 'Girls' team. To make the competition even more playful and interesting, the contestant who gives their best performance will be given the 'Shehzada Crown' by the celebrity guests. One of the forerunners in the bid to win this crown was contestant Sonakshi Kar from Kolkata who will be paired with 'Wadali ki Shaan', Navdeep Wadali from Amritsar. Her melodious performance on the song, 'Beeti Na Bitai Raina' from the 1972 film 'Parichay' was appreciated. Complimenting her, judge Vishal Dadlani says, "Sonakshi you sang the song really well and you're such a huge devotee of Lata Mangeshkar Ji, it reflects in your voice." An impressed Kriti adds, "I was lost in your performance! It was so amazing... you have a very sweet voice and just how Vishal sir mentioned, you sound like Lata Ji when you sing. Superb!"



## ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED IS VIRTUE OF HARD WORK: ANIL KAPOOR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Anil Kapoor has summed up his journey of over 40 years in Hindi cinema, where he has been feted with numerous awards and honours. Anil took to Instagram, where he shared a string of photographs featuring his journey of four decades in Bollywood. The pictures show Anil winning multiple awards during his run in the showbiz industry. He captioned it: "In the 4 decades that I've been around, tides have changed, talent has changed, tastes have changed and audiences certainly have changed... The one thing that hasn't changed is the virtue of hard work, persistence and conviction, and they are rewards enough.. But a few awards don't hurt."

The star, who has appeared in over 100 films in his career, established himself as a leading man with his roles in 'Meri Jung'. He was later seen in blockbusters such as 'Karma', 'Mr. India', 'Parinda', 'Tezaab', '1942: A Love Story', 'Taal', 'Nayak', 'Welcome', 'Race', 'Dil Dhadakne Do', 'Malang' and 'Jugjugg Jeeyo' to name a few.

He made his debut in international films with Danny Boyle's Academy Award-winning film 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

Looking forward, Anil will next be seen in the upcoming action-thriller series 'The Night Manager', which also stars Aditya Roy Kapoor. He will also be seen in the film 'Fighter' starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone.



## Celebs attended the Grand Tycoon Global Achievers Awards

Lalit Sharma | Mumbai

Jairpur based Jewellers Nirmala Rawat and Laxman Rawat was also awarded in this function. Advocate Lalit Sharma and Educationist Nemi Chand yadav was also present during event. The Grand Tycoon Global Achievers Awards was held recently (31 January 2023) at The Club, Mumbai. It was a star studded evening and the event was braced by the "B-Town" legends who were also awarded like Anupam Kher, Vardhan Puri, Choreographer Bosco Martin, Darshan Kumar, director Anees Bazmee, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Vishal Furia, Raaj Shaandilyaa, Warda Nadiadwala, Divya Khosla, Anil Sharma, Murad Khetani and many more. We did witness the sizzling dance performance by Bosco

Martin on the famous song of the movie "Pathaan" which he has choreographed. Anupam Kher was felicitated for his movie "Kashmir Files".

A tribute was also given to the famous actor Irfan Khan. Many other Bollywood and television celebrities and socialites were also felicitated with the awards during this event.

The Founder and Editor, Sanjeev Jain mentions "Our mission is to touch and change millions of lives and their entrepreneurial journeys". Apart from Tycoon Global Achievers Awards,

Tycoon Global Magazine is a well-known international magazine edition too. It is a brand noted for its rich and classy content. The event also had the unveiling of the Tycoon International Calendar Shoot Season-4 and the Calendar launch of 2023-24. The award was also given to Content Engineer Uttam Maheshwari for the content creator of the year.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sakshi Malik