

# absolute india

VOL. 8, ISSUE 130, BHOPAL | FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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## RAHUL GANDHI CONVICTED IN 'MODI SURNAME' DEFAMATION CASE, GRANTED BAIL

# BJP retaliates on Gandhi's attack

RAHUL GANDHI WAS CONVICTED UNDER IPC SECTIONS 499 AND 500. THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT UNDER THIS SECTION IS TWO YEARS. THE LAWYER REPRESENTING RAHUL GANDHI SAID THAT THEY WILL MOVE TO SESSION COURT SOON.

### The court said while convicting RaGa:

▶ "ALTHOUGH THE ACCUSED WAS WARNED AND ADVISED BY THE SUPREME COURT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CHANGE IN CONDUCT."

▶ "THE ACCUSED IS AN MP WHO ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE IN THE CAPACITY OF AN MP AND IMPACTS A LARGE PART OF SOCIETY, THEREFORE THE EFFECT OF THIS CRIME IS MUCH COMPREHENSIVE IN THIS CASE."

▶ "GIVING HIM A REDUCED SENTENCE WOULD SEND A BAD PRECEDENT AND SEND A NEGATIVE MESSAGE IN THE SOCIETY."



### MY RELIGION IS TRUTH: RAHUL GANDHI

"My religion is based on truth and non-violence, truth is my God, and non-violence is a way to achieve it."



### DOES HE BELIEVE IN TRUTH: BJP

"Rahul Gandhi said that I believe in truth and non-violence. Does he believe in truth and non-violence?... to insult people? To make casteist abuses... to insult the country?", BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad stated.



### NO IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION FROM LOK SABHA: LEGAL EXPERTS

New Delhi: According to legal experts, Gandhi does not face immediate disqualification, as the court has given him an opportunity to file an appeal challenging the sentence. Speaking to reporters, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi said Gandhi will have to file an appeal to suspend the sentence in the case and there is no immediate disqualification. He added that even the Lok Sabha would wait and Gandhi can file an appeal to challenge the sentence in the case.

Section 8(3) in the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, says: "A disqualification under either sub-section shall not, in the case of a person who on the date of the conviction is a member of Parliament or the Legislature of a State, take effect until three months have elapsed from that date or, if within that period an appeal or application for revision is brought in respect of the conviction or the sentence, until that appeal or application is disposed of by the court."

District Election Officer, Kolar District. The complainant claimed that the controversial remark was made at a rally at Kolar in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections which defamed the entire Modi community. Chief Judicial Magistrate H.H.

Varma last week had concluded hearing the final arguments from both sides and set March 23 to pronounce its judgment.

Gandhi has maintained that there was no mala fide intention on his part when he made the statement in question.

### Govt afraid of Rahul Gandhi, conspiring to disqualify him from LS: Congress

New Delhi: Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Thursday said that the central government is afraid of Rahul Gandhi and that's why it is conspiring to disqualify him from the lower House.

Reacting to sentencing of Gandhi in a defamation case, Chowdhury said that because of Rahul Gandhi's fear, he is being pressurised from all sides, however he will not be cowed down.

"Why two years, even if he is sentenced to 2,000 years, Rahul Gandhi will remain Rahul Gandhi," the Congress leader said while speaking to mediapersons in Parliament.

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chowdhury said that Gandhi had only said that why is it that whoever is being charged of corruption practices, has a Modi surname.

"Even the Prime Minister had said in Parliament that why Gandhi surname is being used instead of Nehru surname. Then can people with Gandhi surname file a defamation case against the Prime Minister?" Chowdhury sought to know.

### Most opposition parties in silent mode

New Delhi: The two-year jail term for Congress's Rahul Gandhi has generated a deafening silence from most opposition parties. The only ones to condemn it so far has been Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party and Congress allies Rashtriya Janata Dal and Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK at the time going for print.

"A conspiracy is being hatched to eliminate non-BJP leaders and parties by prosecuting them. We have differences with the Congress, but it is not right to implicate Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case like this... It is the job of the public and the opposition to ask questions. We respect the court but disagree with the decision," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav tweeted, "Get the opposition leaders raided by ED, IT, CBI, even if things don't work, get baseless cases done in different cities under a heinous conspiracy so that no core stone is left unturned in headline management. This is a matter of grave concern for the Constitution, democracy, politics and the country".

DMK's TR Balu said the verdict makes it clear that "freedom of expression is under threat". Mr Gandhi is an ally and he has not attacked any particular community, the party said.

## MBA pass-out woman held in Haryana for sheltering Amritpal

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Haryana Police have arrested a 28-year-old MBA degree holder unemployed woman and handed her over to Punjab Police for allegedly sheltering fugitive radical Amritpal Singh and his accomplice Pappal Preet Singh at her house in Shahabad town in Kurukshetra district.

The accused, Baljeet Kaur, lives with her brother and father. Her brother works at the SDM office, while her father runs a milk business.

Kurukshetra Superintendent of Police Surinder Singh Bhoria told the media that Baljeet Kaur, who is unemployed, was in touch with Pappal Preet Singh. "It is being suspected that Pappal Preet and Amritpal stayed at their house on Sunday night. After some questioning, Punjab Police were intimidated and the woman was handed over to them for further investigation." Amritpal Singh, against whom the National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked and a non-bailable warrant issued, has been on the run despite the massive man-



hunt launched to nab him since March 18. The self-styled preacher, who returned from Dubai last year, tied the knot with Kirandeep Kaur in a simple ceremony in February.

A police team, comprising women officers, questioned her in her husband's native place for nearly an hour in connection with alleged foreign funding for the activities of Amritpal Singh.

Official sources told reporter that the police have also scanned bank accounts of Amritpal, his wife and parents to trace sources of funds. The motorcycle on which Amritpal Singh fled has been found by the police. The police have also seized the Mercedes car in which Amritpal Singh fled after the crackdown.

## Ghazwa-e-Hind case: NIA conducts raids in 3 states

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted raids in eight locations across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in connection with the Ghazwa-e-Hind case, an official said.

An official said that incriminating materials, including digital devices, mobile phones, memory cards and documents have been seized during the raids in the houses of eight suspects. The searches were

carried out in Nagpur (Maharashtra), Gwalior district (Madhya Pradesh), and Valsad, Surat and Botad districts in Gujarat. "The accused named in the Ghazwa-e-Hind case planned to make India an Islamic state by 2047. We have seized a number of incriminating documents," a source said. In July 2022, a case was registered in Patna's Phulwarisharif police station against the members of Ghazwa-e-Hind module, which was being operated and controlled from Pakistan.

## CPI-M leader's wife got college teacher's job without clearing exam: Trinamool

Kolkata | Agencies

A senior Trinamool Congress leader on Thursday made an explosive allegation claiming that the wife of a senior CPI-M leader in West Bengal secured a non-teaching job in a reported Kolkata college without appearing or qualifying for the examination on this count. Trinamool state General Secretary and spokesman Kunal Ghosh alleged that Mili Chakraborty, wife of CPI-M central committee member and the former leader of Left in the Assembly Sujan Chakraborty secured the job of "instrument keeper" at Dinabandhu Andrews College without appearing for examination on this count.

"Several complaints relating to irregularities in recruitments in



educational institutions of the state during the previous Left Front regime have surfaced. These have been forwarded to the office of state Education Minister Bratya Basu for further investigation. Let the past documents be examinations and the complaints be looked into," he told media persons.

Ghosh claimed that Mili Chakraborty was associated as an

employee with Dinabandhu Andrews College for 34 until she retired in 2021. He also claimed that the wife of the CPI-M leader retired from the college with a base pay of Rs 55,000 a month and is entitled for pension.

Rubbishing the allegation, Sujan Chakraborty said that his wife joined the services after properly appearing and qualifying in the examination on this count through a proper joining letter.

"She retired in the same post that she joined. This proves that there were no irregularities or nepotism in the education system of the state during the previous Left Front regime. Such baseless allegations are being raised by those Trinamool Congress leaders who are neck-dip in corruption," he said.

## 'Can't assert right on land': SC on SCBA plea for land allotment for lawyers' chambers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) cannot assert a right to the entirety of the land measuring 1.33 acres which was allotted by the Centre for housing the apex court archives for converting it into a chamber block for lawyers.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and P.S. Narasimha, said the apex court discharges both judicial and administrative functions and the discharge of its functions implicates diverse stakeholders including lawyers, litigants and the staff engaged in



activities of the Supreme Court.

"A holistic view has to be taken on the allocation of available resources by balancing the needs of stakeholders both for the present and the future. These are matters which cannot be resolved by the application of judicial standards and have to be taken up on the administrative

side of the Supreme Court. Administrative functioning and decision-making, which the current issue requires, cannot be moved to the judicial side," it said. The SCBA had moved the apex court seeking a direction to convert a land measuring 1.33 acres allotted to the top court for the construction of lawyers' chambers.

The top court declined to entertain the SCBA's contention that directions should be passed to convert the entire area around Supreme Court as a Supreme Court block so that all buildings across the Supreme Court on Bhagwan Das Road can be utilised for conversion to lawyers' chambers, and also allotment of a government bun-

galow presently occupied by the Foreign Correspondents' Club to the SCBA. The bench said: "We therefore are unable to subscribe to the reliefs which have been sought in the petition under Article 32. However, we leave it open to the Supreme Court of India on its administrative side to take appropriate decisions bearing in mind the needs of the institution for the present and the future and the interest of all stakeholders." While disposing of the SCBA's plea, the bench said: "The process of decision making would also involve consultation with the Bar. SCAORA, SCBA and BCI (Bar Council of India) would be at liberty to address the issue with their representations on the administrative side."

# Cyberabad police bust gang involved in stealing data of 16.8cr people

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

The Cyberabad police on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang that was allegedly involved in stealing confidential personal data of 16.8 crore citizens in the country, and sensitive data of government and important organisations.

The police arrested seven persons operating from Noida and Pune involved in theft, procuring and selling sensitive and confidential data.

The gang was also allegedly selling key data of defence and Army personnel to cyber criminals.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Ravindra announced the arrest of the accused individuals at a news

conference. He said they would write to the Home Ministry for further inquiry in the data theft case.

The accused were found selling information relating to more than 140 categories of people including defence personnel, bank customers, energy sector consumers, NEET students, government employees, gas agencies, high net worth individuals, demat account holders.

Other categories include Bengaluru women consumer data, data of people who have applied for loans and insurance, credit card and debit card holders (of AXIS, HSBC and other banks), WhatsApp users, Facebook users, employees of IT companies and frequent flyers. "When any individual calls the toll-free numbers of JustDial and ask



for any sector or category related confidential data of individuals, their query is listed and sent to that category of service provider. Then these fraudsters call those clients/ fraudsters and send them samples. If the client agrees to purchase, they make payment and provide the data. This data is further used for committing crime," said the commissioner.

The gang allegedly operated through registered and unregistered companies Data Mart Infotech, Global Data Arts and MS Digital Grow.

Sensitive data of 2.5 lakh defence personnel containing their ranks, email ids, place of posting, etc was found available those accused.

Data of 1.1 crore customers of six banks, 1.2 crore WhatsApp users, 17 lakh

Facebook users, and 35,000 employees of the Delhi government was accessed by the fraudsters.

The accused had also accessed data of 98 lakh people who had applied for credit cards.

"The sensitive data can be used for unauthorised access to important organisations and institutions. The data of defence and government employees can be used for espionage, impersonation and commit serious offences which may jeopardise national security.

The data related to PAN cards can be used to commit serious offences. The data is being used to commit a large number of cybercrimes by gaining confidence with victims by disclosing the information," Stephen Ravindra said.



## Jamia violence case

## DELHI HC RESERVES ORDER ON POLICE'S PLEA AGAINST DISCHARGE OF 11 ACCUSED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Thursday reserved its judgment on police's plea against the trial courts order discharging 11 accused, including Sharjeel Imam, in the Jamia violence case.

A week before, the court had adjourned the hearing for Thursday. A copy of the detailed order is awaited.

Earlier, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma was informed by Delhi Police's junior counsel that the senior is not well and that he seeks adjournment.

The court had recorded which respondents have filed the written statements in the matter and asked the rest to do so in four days.

In view of Delhi Police challenging the Saket court's



order dated February 4, discharging 11 accused in a 2019 Jamia violence case, the High Court had earlier said that there will be no influence on the further investigation or trial of the remaining accused due to the trial court's order.

"Since further investigation will be carried out, observations made against the investigating agency will

not affect either further investigation or trial of any accused," Justice Sharma had said while she also issued notice on the Police's revision petition.

Incidents of violence at Jamia Millia Islamia in December 2019, erupted after a clash between the police and people protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Chandigarh | Agencies

Gurjot Singh Kaler, working as a senior police officer in Punjab as AIG (Excise and Taxation), was awarded with the Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh State Youth Award at the Hussainiwala Border in Ferozepur district on the anniversary of Bhagat Singh that falls on Thursday.

He has been honoured for his commitment to serve the nation and perform exemplary duties towards society.

To inspire the youth during the coronavirus pandemic, he had performed a daredevil skydive from 15,000 feet in the air at Nottingham, UK, as a heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices of corona warriors like doctors, nurses, police personnel, journalists and other frontline workers who had laid down their lives in the line of duty.

He had also started free corona vaccination cabs in the district SAS Nagar for senior citizens which were



highly appreciated across entire Punjab.

The free cab service started by him

used to pick up senior citizens from their homes and upon successful vaccination, the cabs used to drop them

back at their residences.

In some cases, where the old-age persons were not physically fit to travel to hospital, he used to request doctors and nurses to travel to the senior citizens homes.

In August 2022, he also hoisted the national flag along with the image of Bhagat Singh on the top of the world's highest free standing mountain and African continent's highest peak of Mount Kilimanjaro at the height of 5,895 meters above sea level.

Through his spirited actions, he has constantly endeavored to motivate the masses and especially the younger generation to shun away from the path of drugs and indulge in sports and physical activities.

Apart from this, he has acted and given his voice to various social poems and songs aimed at spreading positivity and optimism in society by tackling social ills.

The Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh Raj Yuva Puraskar is a prestigious award of the government of Punjab.

## Goa govt to spend Rs 130 cr on botanical garden to attract tourists

Panaji | Agencies

With a view to promote medical and eco-tourism in the state, Goa government has decided to develop a botanical garden at Salaulim Dam at Sanguem in South Goa by investing Rs 130 crore.

Minister for Social Welfare and MLA of Sanguem constituency Subhash Phal Dessai said that it will be a very unique project in the coastal state.

"Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC), Water Resource Department (WRD) and Tourism Department will take up these projects and revamp the botanical garden within next six months," Phal Dessai said.

Phal Dessai said that GFDC chairman and MLA Deviya Rane has taken interest in this project, along with



WRD and Tourism department.

"GFDC is investing Rs 50 crore and putting cottages all across the botanical garden. There will be Yoga centre, medication centre, ayurvedic treatment, homeopathic treatment, massage centres in this project, which will promote medical tourism," Phal Dessai said, adding 20 cottages will be established in this project.

He said that people will come and stay for one week or 15 days here, which will help generate revenue through tourism.

Phal Dessai said that even WRD has taken initiatives to create accommodation, entertainment zones and install toy trains for entertainment. "World bank has sanctioned Rs 50 crore for this project," he said.

He said that the tourism department is spending Rs 30 crore to create tourism activities here in the botanical garden. "Even this will help us to generate revenue and attract tourists here," he said.

Salaulim Dam is located at around 66 km away from capital city Panjim. Tourists visit this place for birdwatching and also visit the botanical garden, which is inspired from the famous Brindavan Gardens in Mysore.

## DRUGS WORTH 12 CR SEIZED, TWO HELD

Guwahati: Assam police seized narcotic substances worth 12 crore, officials said on Thursday.

The seizure occurred in Ratabari's Bhetarbord area of Karimganj district near the Assam-Mizoram border. Two people have been arrested on the charges of drug peddling.

Superintendent of police, Karimganj district, Partha Pratim Das conducted an operation on Wednesday based on a tip-off and intercepted a vehicle coming from the neighbouring state Mizoram.

He said, "We got information that in a vehicle coming from Mizoram meant for carrying scrapped substances, drugs were smuggled. We intercepted that vehicle in the Bhetarbord area and recovered narcotic substances around 1.5 kg."

The narcotic substances were hidden in 121 soap cases and were kept hidden in the vehicle. The arrested two persons are identified as - Abdul Kalam and Saju Mohammed.

As per initial investigation, narcotic substances were peddled from Aizawl to Nilambazar area in Karimganj district," Das said. The market value of seized narcotic substances was around 12 crore, police said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma lauded the police's effort and wrote on Twitter, "Karimganj police intercepted a vehicle at Veterbond area under Ratabari PS and seized 121 soap cases containing Heroin (1.5 kg approx). Two accused have been apprehended." He further added, "Great work Assam police. Keep it up!"

## Srinagar court rejects fake PMO official's bail application

Srinagar | Agencies

A court here on Thursday dismissed the bail application of Kiran Bhai Patel who had posed as a senior official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) prior to his arrest by the police on March 2.

"The bail application is without any merit," Raja Muhammad Tasleem, chief judicial magistrate, Srinagar said in his order on Thursday.

"I am of the considered opinion that arguments



advanced by the public prosecutor are just, proper and appealing and carry much weight... and on the other hand, I respectfully disagree with the submission put forth by counsel for the applicant (Patel) because in case at this

stage discretion of bail is exercised in favour of the accused, it shall definitely destroy the very fabric of the investigation. "Resultantly, in my considered opinion the instant application is devoid of any merit which deserves to be rejected, hence rejected."

The conman was arrested from a 5-star hotel in Srinagar on March 4. He had been claiming to be an additional director in the PMO before his cover blew. Patel is currently lodged in the judicial custody.

## Man kills wife over her affair with another woman; commits suicide later

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A man killed his wife in Delhi and later committed suicide at his native village in Uttar Pradesh over an alleged affair his wife was having with another woman, an official said on Thursday.

According to the police, on March 16, a call regarding a stabbing incident was received from the Ambedkar Mohalla area in North-East Delhi, following which a police team was rushed to the spot.

"On reaching the spot, the police found a woman with stab injuries lying in a pool of blood. She was rushed to the GTB Hospital, where she was declared brought dead," said Joy Tirkey, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East).

"The deceased has been identified as Nisha (26). Investigation was taken up after registering a case under the relevant sections of the



Indian Penal Code (UPC)," the DCP said.

During investigation, it was found that there was a conflict between Nisha and her husband Aziz over the former allegedly having an affair with another woman.

"Aziz had absconded with their two children after the murder of his wife. Several teams were formed to locate Aziz, which raided some places in Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh and Ahmedabad. However, Aziz managed to stay one step ahead of the

police. He even called his wife's 'girlfriend' two days ago, saying that he had killed Nisha," Tirkey said.

"However, on Wednesday, it was learnt that Aziz had committed suicide at his native village in Kasganj. The two children are with his family members there," the officer said.

"With his death, the murder case of Nisha has been solved. An abated charge-sheet will be filed in the court in this case," he added.

## 5 POLICEMEN SUSPENDED IN CONNECTION WITH DEATH OF 4-DAY-OLD BABY

Ranchi: Five policemen have been suspended in Jharkhand in connection with the death of a 4-day-old baby who died after a policeman stepped on him, during a raid conducted to arrest his grandfather.

Giridih SP Amit Renu issued an order on Thursday, which stated that Deori police station in-charge, Sangam Pathak has been removed from his post and sent to the police lines. A case of premeditated murder has also been registered against the policemen on the application of the child's family. On Wednesday, a police team led by Pathak, reached the house of one Bhusan Pandey to arrest him in the wee hours. When the family members did not open the door, the team forcibly entered the house and a policeman climbed on the bed where the infant was sleeping, and allegedly crushed him to death. The police did not arrest Pandey after the incident and left the spot, said sources. Chief Minister Hemant Soren ordered an inquiry into the matter after a video of the incident circulated on social media.

In the video, the baby's grandfather, Pandey alleged: "The police reached my house at 3.20 a.m., and forcibly entered inside. I came out of my house along with the women. The policeman crushed my grandson, who was sleeping inside, during the raid."

## East Central Railways collects fines amounting to Rs 54 lakh in 16 hours

Team Absolute | New Delhi

During a 16-hour mega ticket checking campaign, the East Central Railways collected Rs 54 lakh in fines from passengers travelling without tickets in Bihar's Samastipur Railway Division.

The Railways had deployed 152 ticket checking staff in different teams in the campaign, which was organised on March 21 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The fines were collected from 7,289 passengers at different stations in Bihar such as Samastipur, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Raxaul, Narkatiaganj, Bapudham Motihari, Jaynagar and Sitamarhi among others.

During such a campaign held in the past, three staff members of Chennai Division of the Railways set a record by collecting large amounts of fine. According to the Railways, Roslin Arokia Mary had collected fines amounting to Rs 1.03 crore, Deputy Chief



Ticket Inspector S. Nand Kumar collected Rs 1.55 crore by imposing fines on 27,787 passengers travelling without tickets.

Senior ticket examiner Shaktivel, who also plays basketball in the Southern Railway team, joined the 'One Crore Club' by collecting a fine amount of Rs 1.10 crore.

## G20 Presidency: India will be hosting around 200 meetings in over 50 cities

Team Absolute | New Delhi

During its ongoing G20 Presidency, India will be hosting around 200 meetings across the country in more than 50 cities, the Parliament was told on Thursday.

These meetings are being held in over 30 different work-streams comprising Sherpa Track Working Groups, Finance Track work streams, Ministerial meetings and Engagement Groups. The dates and venues of G20 official meetings are periodically updated on the G20 website, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

To a question whether the Centre has consulted state governments in this regard, he said: "Our G20 Presidency is a unique occasion to demonstrate India's achievements, capabilities, and diversity. Our



G20 meetings in over 50 cities are accordingly being organised in consultation with the respective State/UT government."

Substantive deliberations during India's ongoing G20 Presidency comprise broad priority areas of interest to us, including inclusive and resilient growth; progress on SDGs, green development and Lifestyle for Environment (Mission LIFE); technological transformation and public digital infrastructure; reforming multilateral institutions; women led development; and international peace and harmony, the Minister said.

"We are also emphasizing the importance of adequate international finance and technological support, as critical enablers, for achieving SDGs, climate goals and sustainable energy transitions. India is also amplifying the voice and concerns of the Global South and developing countries."



# AFTER 'LADLI BEHNA' FOR WOMEN, SHIVRAJ ANNOUNCES SCHEME FOR YOUTH IN ELECTION YEAR

**DAYS AFTER LAUNCHING THE 'LADLI BEHNA YOJANA' THAT WILL PROVIDE RS 1,000 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN IN A BID TO WOO THE CRUCIAL 48 PER CENT FEMALE VOTERS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ASSEMBLY POLLS SCHEDULED LATER THIS YEAR, MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN ON THURSDAY ANNOUNCED A SLEW OF PROMISES FOR THE YOUTH WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE 'YUVA NITI' PROGRAMME.**

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chouhan launched the 'Yuva Portal' (yuvaportal.mp.gov.in) as part of the state government's 'Yuva Niti' with the idea of keeping the students connected with government schemes, resources and job updates.

Addressing a 'Youth Mahapanchayat' organised by the state government at the Motilal Nehru Stadium here, Chouhan made a slew of announcements to win the hearts of the students and job aspirants.

Chouhan said that job aspirants will now have to pay one-time registration fee for all competitive exams they appear for in a year.

"I am making a big announcement today. Our children pay fees for every government recruitment exam. They pay different amounts for different exams. Suppose if one student pays Rs 400 for a single recruitment test,



and if he fills five forms in a year, he ends up paying Rs 2,000. But now the job aspirants will have to pay only one-time exam fee for all government recruitment exams for a period of one year," Chouhan said. He also announced that a separate merit list

of NEET will be made to provide 5 per cent reservation to the students of government-run schools.

Chouhan said that the state government has planned to unveil a larger scheme for the youth by the name of 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Kaushal

Earning Scheme'.

"This scheme has been prepared for all the unemployed youth of the state, wherein job-oriented training and skill development programmes will be included. The government has also planned to offer career counselling to students of Class 10 and Class 12. Besides these, an integrated system will be developed to connect students with the government's employment schemes and subsidies. This free-of-cost system will help students with academics, skill development and vocational training," Chouhan said. Notably, Chouhan made these promises on the very day (March 23) his government completed three years in office after the Kamal Nath-led Congress government was toppled in March 2020.

The youth form 17 per cent of Madhya Pradesh's population. With the 'Yuva Niti', the BJP aims to woo the youth as the state goes to polls later this year.

# 'People of Chhindwara backed me for 44 yrs'

## Kamal Nath on Amit Shah's rally in his hometown

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Head of Home Minister Amit Shah's rally in his hometown Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh unit Congress president and former chief minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday said that the people of the city have stood with him for 44 years.

Shah is scheduled to address a rally in Chhindwara on Saturday.

The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh is all set to kickstart its campaign for the next Assembly polls in the state with that rally.

Kamal Nath said the contest would be "between the people of Chhindwara and the BJP". The senior Congress leader recalled that last time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaigned for the BJP in his hometown, the Congress had won all eight assembly seats of Chhindwara district. "For the last 44 years, the people of Chhindwara have supported me. It means I have done something for them. No matter who comes and goes, I have full faith in the people of Chhindwara that they will stand with me," Kamal Nath said.

Meanwhile, Kamal Nath also criticised Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, saying he had started announcing a slew of promises over the fear of losing the elections. "Shivraj Singh Chouhan thinks that he will convince the people of Madhya Pradesh by announcing fake



promises while the elections are just a few months away. He has failed on all fronts, which is why I am running away from giving reports of work in Madhya Pradesh," Nath added. Kamal Nath has won nine Lok Sabha elections from Chhindwara. In 2019, Congress lost 28 out of 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh, including big faces like Jyotiraditya Scindia from Guna and Digvijaya Singh from Bhopal. However, the BJP could not win Chhindwara. "Chhindwara is no longer the bastion of Kamal Nath. The state unit BJP will ensure that no stone is left unturned and after taking our pledge for victory, we will all work to end the political career of Kamal Nath," Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma had said while addressing a gathering of party workers on Monday. Also, during a visit to Chhindwara last Saturday, CM Chouhan, while addressing a gathering of party workers said: "Let us take a pledge to end the political career of Kamal Nath. We will dig a hole and bury the Congress in that."

# CBI arrests senior divisional mechanical engineer of WCR in bribe case

Team Absolute | New Delhi | Bhopal

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a senior divisional mechanical engineer of Western Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh's Katni for accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000, a senior official said on Thursday.

A case was registered against the accused S.K. Singh, the senior divisional mechanical engineer on the allegations of demanding bribe for clearing the complainant's pending bill of Rs 25,84,000 related to supply of four Huck Bolt Machine to ROH Shed, West Central Railway (WCR), New Katni Junction, Katni (MP).

"The accused had demanded 3 per cent of the bill of Rs 69,000 for clearing the complainant's pending bill. It was also alleged that the accused agreed to accept a bribe of Rs 40,000 initially and remaining afterwards," said the CBI.



The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting the bribe of Rs 40,000 from the complainant. The official said that searches were conducted on the premises of the accused.

The arrested accused will be produced in the court of Special Judge for CBI Cases, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).

# Over 17k youths died by suicide during BJP rule in MP, claims Cong

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hours after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched "Yuva Niti", a youth centric scheme on Thursday, the Opposition Congress reacted sharply to it by releasing a list of scams unearthed during the nearly two decades (baring 2018-20) BJP-rule in the state.

The chief minister launched the scheme on the occasion of "Saheed Divas" and also to mark the completion of three years' tenure of the BJP-led state government.

"Over 10,000 students and nearly 7,000 youths ended their lives by suicides in over 18 years of BJP rule in the state," the Congress claimed.

Citing a recent statement of cabinet minister Yashodhara Raja Scindia made during the annual budget session of Madhya



Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the Congress claimed that over 37 lakh educated youths and more than one lakh unskilled youths have approached the state government for jobs. Whereas, in the last three years (since April 1, 2020), the government could generate merely 21 jobs. While addressing a press conference at party headquarters in Bhopal, the state Youth Congress president Vikrant Bhuria said that the BJP formed the government in 2003 and just after one year (2004) PMT exams scandal surfaced. He claimed that a strong nexus of officials and powerful politicians

was flourishing under the BJP government and more than one dozen scams pertaining to recruitment exams for government jobs had broken out, which ruined the future of nearly one crore youths in Madhya Pradesh.

"When the Assembly elections are just six months away, the BJP government is launching 'Yuva Niti', and therefore, it is necessary to do a detailed evaluation on the condition of youths in the state. This government has ruined the future of youths with one after another scam, including Vyapam and many other recruitment exams, coming to the fore," Bhuria said. K.K. Mishra, senior Congress leader and in-charge of media and communication for Madhya Pradesh, meanwhile added that the scam related with dental and private medical college recruitment was bigger than Vyapam.

# PROCUREMENT OF GRAM, LENTILS, MUSTARD AND MUSTARD FROM MARCH 25

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal: The Rabi year 2022-23 (marketing year 2023-24) will be procured by the government from March 25 to May 31 for gram, lentils, mustard and mustard at the support price. Gram will be procured in the entire state, lentils will be procured in 37 districts and mustard and mustard will be procured in 40 districts by the state procurement agency, following the instructions related to the criteria set by the central government (FAQ). The procurement work will be from 8 AM to 8 PM on 5 working days in a week (Monday to Friday). Farmer weighing slip will be issued at the procurement center by 6 pm. After the test, instructions have been given to complete the weighing of the last farmer by 8 pm. In case of non-weighting from Monday to Friday due to unavoidable reasons, procurement will be done on the support price on Saturday. There will be absolutely no earning in offline mode.

The procurement centers have been made keeping in view the center of gram panchayats coming within the radius of 25 km. Instructions have been given to tag the procurement center with the panchayat and to keep the number of farmers from 200 to 1000 at one centre.

# Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings on Martyr's Sacrifice Day



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with the families of the martyrs planted saplings at Shaurya Smarak on the martyrdom day of Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. The Chief Minister planted saplings of Kadamba, Maulshri, Gulmohar, Jamun, Karanj and Amla. Chief Minister Chouhan remembered the sacrifice of Kargil martyr Paramveer Chakra decorated Captain Vikram Batra and martyr Lieutenant Manoj Pandey. He also welcomed the families of the martyrs who had come to

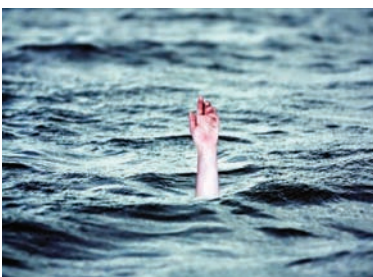
Bhopal. Kiranjit Sandhu, son of Kulkarni Singh Lt. brother of Shaheed Azam Bhagat Singh from Saharanpur, Anuj Thapar, grandson of Shaheed Sukhdev ji's brother from Sonhad Haryana, Vilas Rajguru, grandson of Shaheed Rajguru's brother from Ahmednagar, Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh Girdhari Lal Batra, father of Paramveer Chakra decorated Captain Vikram Batra, and Manmohan Pandey, brother of Paramveer Chakra decorated martyr Lieutenant Manoj Pandey, who came from Lucknow participated in the plantation.

# 3 from Gujarat among 4 drowned in Narmada in Dhar

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Four people, including three from Gujarat, drowned in the Narmada in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, while bathing in the river, police said on Wednesday.

The body of one victim, who has been identified as Mohammed Kifayatullah, a native of Gujarat, has been recovered, while the search for three others, including a local resident, was underway, Barwani SP Deepak Kumar Shukla said. Police said that 11



people from Gujarat had come to Mirzapur village of Dhar district to

attend a congregation, from where they went to the river to take a bath. While bathing, one of them went into deep water and started drowning. Three others attempted to rescue him, but they too drowned. All the four victims were aged between 30 and 40 years.

A team of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) along with the local divers have been engaged in the search operation. "A police team along with SDRF teams have reached the spot and search operations are underway," the SP added.

# India pick up two more medals (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

China won both the gold medals on competition day two of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol Bhopal, even as India picked up a silver and bronze each at the M.P. Shooting Academy Range here in the outskirts of the city. Reigning men's 10m Air Rifle world champion Rudranksh Patil and R. Narmada Nithin won bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition while in the day's second event, Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan won silver to bolster India's medal haul to one gold, one silver and two bronze medals. China on the other hand lead the standings with three gold and two bronze medals, with Azerbaijan, Germany and Hungary winning a silver medal each thus far.



19-strong field with the same combined score. In the bronze medal match however, both Rudranksh and Narmada were in their elements, presenting a solid grouping to beat the Chinese pair 16-8 in what was a much closer match than the score line suggests. Both the pairs did not shoot a single shot below the 10-mark in what was Shooting of the highest order. The high-point came in the sixth series when both Rudranksh and Narmada shot perfect 10s.

Both India and China had entered two teams in the Mixed Team Air

Rifle. While the second Chinese team of Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao won gold defeating Hungarians Istvan Peni and Denes Eszter 16-2 in a one-sided final, the second Indian duo of Hriday Hazarika and Tiltotoma Sen shot 628.1 in qualification to finish ninth.

## Varun wins his second medal in Bhopal

In the second and final medal event of the day, India's Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan went down 11-17 to China's Qian Wei and Liu Jinyao, in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team gold medal encounter. It was Varun Tomar's second medal of the tournament after his bronze winning effort in the individual Air Pistol on day one. Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh, the second Indian team in fray, missed the bronze medal match by a point, finishing fifth with a score of 574.

## Competition day three

Competition day three Friday again has two finals on schedule. The 10m Air Rifle Men final begins at 11.15am, while the 10m Air Rifle Women final is slated for 1.30pm. Qualifications begin from 9.00am.

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

**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 Securitisation 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	1. BHURU Plot No. 595, Anrhat Nagar Extension, Village Jambudi Hapsi, Tehsil Hatod, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453112 2. AARTI Plot No. 595, Anrhat Nagar Extension, Village Jambudi Hapsi, Tehsil Hatod, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453112 3. BHURU 35, Chandan Nagar, Rana Colony, Gali No. 11, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452002 4. AARTI 35, Chandan Nagar, Rana Colony, Gali No. 11, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452002 5. BHURU C/O Shree Laxmi Photocopy Shop No. 04, Makhija Complex 6/2, Bairathi Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001 Loan Account No. LNINDPHL-02210082962 & LNINDPHL-02210082963	10.03.2023	16.03.2023	Rs. 11,40,741/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 14.03.2023
2	1. MONTI MAKWANA Plot No. 114, Village Gadakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015 2. POOJA MAKWANA Plot No. 114, Village Gadakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015 3. GAURA COLLECTION Plot No. 114, Village Gadakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015 4. MONTI MAKWANA Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452005 5. POOJA MAKWANA Ward No. 14, Khatagaon, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh 455336 6. GAURA COLLECTION Shop No. 10, Pahadia Complex, 227 Tiak Path, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001 7. POOJA MAKWANA Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452006 8. MONTI MAKWANA C/O Gaura Collection Shop No. 10, Pahadia Complex, 227 Tiak Path, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001 9. GAURA COLLECTION Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452006. Loan Account No. LNINDPHL-0220065342 & LNINDPHL-0220065341	10.03.2023	16.03.2023	Rs. 30,06,962.82/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two and Eighty Two Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 15.03.2023.
3	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 114, Admeasuring 600 Sq. Ft., I.E. 55.76 Sq. Mtr., Situated In Village Gadakhedi, Shahid Hemu Colony, Tehsil & Dist Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452015, And Bounded: North: Road, South: Plot No. 107, East: Plot No. 115, West: Plot No. 113. 1. ARVIND KALYANSINGH Unit No. 178, Tds City, Phase 1, Gram Salampur, Tehsil Depalpur, Dist Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453115 2. REENA PRAJAPATI Unit No. 178, Tds City, Phase 1, Gram Salampur, Tehsil Depalpur, Dist Indore, Madhya Pradesh 453115 3. ARVIND KALYANSINGH 34, Patel Marg, Gali 02, Kukshi, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh 454331 4. REENA PRAJAPATI 34, Patel Marg, Gali 02, Kukshi, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh 454331 5. ARVIND KALYANSINGH Sai Hospital, Narmada Nagar, Betma, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001 6. REENA PRAJAPATI Sai Hospital, Narmada Nagar, Betma, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001 7. ARVIND KALYANSINGH C/O Brilliant Facilities Cipla Ltd Appeal Park, Sez Trama Zono Sec No 3, Pittampur, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh 454775 Loan Account No. LNINDPHL-05190048737 & LNINDPHL-05190048736	10.03.2023	20.03.2023	Rs. 8,50,294.49/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four and Forty Nine Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 17.03.2023
4	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 178 In The Project Named As 'Tds City Salampur Phase-1', Admeasuring 600 Sq. Ft. I.E. 55.76 Sq. Mtr., Constructed On Kharsa No. 178, Ph. No. 37, Situated In Village Salampur, Tehsil Depalpur, Dist. Indore, Madhya Pradesh-453115, And Bounded: North: Plot No. 179, South: Plot No. 177, East: Colony Road, West: Plot No. 181. 1. PAYAL JASWANI Office No. 202, Second Floor, Shriji Business Park, Plot No. 63, Tehsil Palash Colony, Gram Khajrana, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452016 2. USHA JASWANI Office No. 202, Second Floor, Shriji Business Park, Plot No. 63, Tehsil Palash Colony, Gram Khajrana, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452016 3. PAYAL JASWANI 401-Block A-2, Subhlabh Valley, Ashish Nagar, Indore, Kanadia, Madhya Pradesh 452016 4. USHA JASWANI 8, Mahalaxmi Nagar, A.B. Road, Vndhyachal Academy, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh 455001 5. PAYAL JASWANI C/O IBC Conceptual Infotech 202, Starling Arcade 15/3 Race Course Road, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452001 6. USHA JASWANI 401 A2, Shubh Labh Valley, Ashish Nagar, Kanadia Road, Indore, M.P. 452016 Loan Account No. LNINDLAP-05190049136 & LNINDLAP-05190049137	10.03.2023	20.03.2023	Rs. 10,79,630.31/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty and Three Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 15.03.2023
5	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 04, Admeasuring 290 Sq. Ft., 26.95 Sq. Mtrs., Constructed On Survey No. 1388/1451 & Survey No. 1390 Situated At Colony 'Palash Palace' Village Khajrana, Tehsil & Dist. Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452016, And Bounded As: North: Lobby, South: Road, East: Flat/Office No. 201. 1. VISHAL PANDEY East Part Of Plot No. 04, Sahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. 8, New Abadi (Sati Vihar, Jirati Ki Badi, Buti Nala Kshetra), Village-Dhamnod, Tehsil-Dharampuri, District -Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454552 2. SUNITA PANDEY East Part Of Plot No. 04, Sahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. 8, New Abadi (Sati Vihar, Jirati Ki Badi, Buti Nala Kshetra), Village-Dhamnod, Tehsil-Dharampuri, District -Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454552 3. VISHAL PANDEY At Shri Ji Kunj Colony, Behind Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Mandi Road Dhamnod, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454552 4. SUNITA PANDEY At Shri Ji Kunj Colony, Behind Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Mandi Road Dhamnod, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh-454552 Loan Account No. LNINDPHL-01210081741 & LNINDPHL-01210081740	10.03.2023	20.03.2023	Rs. 10,20,070/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty Thousand Seventy Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 17.03.2023
6	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 04, Admeasuring 13 X 40 = 520 Sq. Ft. (48.32 Sq. Mtrs.), Situated At Sahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. 8, New Abadi (Sati Vihar, Jirati Ki Badi, Buti Nala Kshetra), Village-Dhamnod, Tehsil-Dharampuri, District-Dhar (M.P.), And Bounded As:-North: Colony Road, South: Other's Land, East: Plot No. 5, West: Remaining Part Of Plot No. 04.	10.03.2023	20.03.2023	Rs. 10,20,070/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty Thousand Seventy Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 17.03.2023

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 failing 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 asset 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: 24.03.2023  
Place: INDORE

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



EDITOR'S SPECS

## WHY NOT JPC FOR HINDENBURG REPORT?

Amid the Opposition demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the Hindenburg report on the Adani group, there have been several instances when a JPC has been constituted to probe a certain matter. The JPC is constituted with members of both the Houses. The Lok Sabha members are double the Rajya Sabha members in strength, the ruling party will have a majority in the JPC. It has the power to summon a government or non-government individual or a group to give oral evidence. The JPC can obtain evidence from experts, public bodies, associations, individuals suo motu or on a request made by others. If anyone called for witness fails to appear before the JPC in response to a summons, the conduct constitutes contempt of the House. It can take oral and written evidence and call for documents in connection with the matter under its consideration. The proceedings of parliamentary committees are confidential and Ministers are not generally called by the committees to give evidence. The constitution of the JPC dates back to the Bofors scandal in 1987 and then in the Harshad Mehta, Ketan Parekh case, Land Acquisition Bill, 2G spectrum allotment, Data Protection Bill. The Bofors JPC was chaired by Congress politician B. Shankaranand. The Harshad Mehta Stock market scam 1992 -- the second JPC was formed in August 1992. The third JPC was formed in April 2001 to probe the Ketan Parekh share market scam. Soft drink pesticide issue -- The fourth JPC was set up in August 2003. The 2G spectrum case -- The fifth JPC constituted in February 2011 to probe the 2G case and headed by P.C. Chacko. The VVIP chopper scam - on February 27, 2013, which was adopted by voice vote-for formation of a JPC.

# Majoritarianism on March in Israel

Asad Mirza

The Israeli Parliament has given initial approval to several pieces of legislation, including a Bill protecting the prime minister from being declared unfit for office, or incapacitated, and another to allow settlements in the northern West Bank. Israel's Parliament, The Knesset, on March 14 advanced a Parliamentary Bill that would let lawmakers pass laws that the Supreme Court cannot overturn -- a key piece of legislation in Benjamin Netanyahu government and his allies' proposed judicial overhaul that has divided the country. The new Bill aimed at weakening the Supreme Court passed first reading, alongside a Bill that would protect the PM from removal, and another that would allow more settlements in northern Israel. These laws have been passed despite months of protests against the first law. The Knesset worked till the early hours of March 14 morning to pass the first reading of the Bill, which has been one of the main priorities of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his governing coalition of far-right and ultra-Orthodox religious parties. Controversial Bills Earlier, on Monday night, in another win for Netanyahu, the Parliament also advanced a Bill that would make it harder to remove the prime minister over the corruption charges that still hang over him. The Bill would allow the Parliament to declare a prime minister unfit to rule only due to physical or mental reasons and would replace a current law that allows the court or the Parliament to remove a leader under other circumstances. The new Bill would require approval by three-quarters of the government, and could be overridden by the prime minister. The proposed change to the rules overseeing the removal of a prime minister is of personal importance to Netanyahu, who returned to



power late last year after Israel's fifth election in less than four years. He is on trial on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, and denies the allegations. The proceedings have dragged on for nearly three years. Another Bill that passed the first reading would allow more settlements in the northern occupied West Bank, which would lead to the legalisation of settlement outposts considered illegal even under Israeli law. The vote comes only weeks after Israeli settlers rampaged through a Palestinian town last month, killing one man and setting fire to dozens of homes and cars. Settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem are already considered illegal under international law. Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up some 20 per cent of the population, have been largely absent from the protests, in part because they suffer from discrimi-

nation in Israel and because of Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and blockaded Gaza Strip. Israelis have killed at least 70 Palestinians this year under Israel's new government, many of them during Israeli military raids. It brings up the total of Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank over the past year to more than 220. Criticism of the Bills The steps were the latest in a series of moves by Netanyahu's coalition to overhaul Israel's legal system. The prime minister and his allies say the effort is aimed at reigning in an activist court. Critics say the drive would upend the country's democratic checks and balances, defang the Supreme Court, and concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his parliamentary majority. Speaking to members of his Likud party on Monday, Netanyahu lashed out at the Israeli media, say-

ing they are broadcasting a "never-ending tsunami of fake news" against him. He reiterated his claim that the legal changes will strengthen Israeli democracy. We can find echoes of these sentiments elsewhere, too. Netanyahu and his ultranationalist and religious coalition allies have pledged to plough ahead with the legal changes despite demonstrations by tens of thousands of Israeli protesters over the past two months. Business leaders, legal experts and retired military leaders have joined the protests against the judicial overhaul, and Israeli reservists have threatened to stop reporting for duty if the overhaul passes. Opposition lawmaker Orna Barbivai said the bill was "a disgrace, which says the prime minister is above the law". Natan Sachs, Director, Centre for

Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institute described this legislation as the most far-reaching revolution ever in the state's constitutional makeup. According to him this proposal would all but abolish the role of the Supreme Court as the sole check on executive and legislative power in Israel. In short, he says, in Netanyahu's new Israel, the slimmest of majorities could decide anything, and it is pure, unbridled majoritarianism. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turkhas raised a range of concerns, which may pose a serious risk to the effectiveness of the judiciary to defend the rule of law, human rights, and judicial independence. He described these as changes going to the heart of a country's long-standing constitutional structure. The Israeli Opposition too is up in arms against the Bills, opposition leader Yair Lapid said that "we are fighting for our children's future, for our country's future. We don't intend to give up". Leaders in the booming tech sector have warned that weakening the judiciary could drive away investors. The overhaul has also prompted otherwise indifferent former security chiefs to speak out, and even warn of civil war. The plan has even sparked rare warnings from the US, Israel's chief international ally. US Ambassador Tom Nidesat a podcast said that Israel should "pump the brakes" on the legislation and seek a consensus on reform that would protect Israel's democratic institutions. As the critics both within and outside Israel say, these steps are in tune with the majoritarian policies of the ultra-right wing political elements in Israel and apart from providing a reclusive to the prime minister from corruption cases they are also aimed at denying the right of self-determination to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

## international

## VIDEO CLAIMING PUTIN IS USING BODY DOUBLES GOES VIRAL ON RUSSIAN SOCIAL MEDIA

London | Agencies

A video is going viral on Russian social media claiming Vladimir Putin is conning his people by using multiple body doubles for trips he doesn't want to make, Daily Mail reported. It seizes on speculation that the Kremlin president's only trip so far to newly-invaded territory in Mariupol was performed by a doppelganger, and asks: "Who is ruling Russia?" It is unclear who made the footage but it appears to be aimed at reaching Russians who rely on uber-loyalist state media for their news. Putin is widely believed to have had regular plastic surgery as he has aged since first becoming acting president on the last day of 1999, Daily Mail reported.



Rumours are rife that Putin 'understudies' -- who have undergone plastic surgery to resemble him -- are deployed increasingly as his health worsens amid rumours of cancer and early stage Parkinson's. "Evidently the weakest double was sent to Mariupol", states the video in

Russian. "They forgot to put in his jaw." Earlier Ukraine mocked Putin for allegedly "sending a lookalike to war-ravaged Mariupol" in a high security visit, Daily Mail reported. Kyiv official Anton Gerashchenko posted three images of Putin's chin and questioned whether they

belonged to the same man. He taunted: "What's up with your chin, Putin?" The Interior Minister advisor posted: 'Looks like lately his makeup artists (i.e. for the recent trips of the bunker man to the occupied Crimea and Mariupol) had to work with quite a low-quality copy, not even a double but its copy. "I wonder which one of them was real?" One picture showed Putin, 70, one month ago in an address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow. Another was Putin's reported visit to naval port Sevastopol in Crimea on March 18. And the third was from footage released the following day evidently showing Putin in war-blitzed Mariupol, Daily Mail reported.

## US SEC sues 8 celebrities, including Lindsay Lohan, for crypto fraud

San Francisco | Agencies

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sued crypto asset entrepreneur Justin Sun along with eight celebrities -- including actress Lindsay Lohan, boxer/influencer Jake Paul, and rapper/producer Souja Boy -- for perpetrating fraud via market manipulation and paying celebrities for crypto endorsements. The Commission announced charges against Sun and three of his wholly-owned companies, Tron Foundation Limited, BitTorrent Foundation Ltd., and Rainberry Inc. (formerly BitTorrent), for the unregistered offer and sale of crypto asset securities Tronix (TRX) and BitTorrent (BTT). The SEC simultaneously charged celebrities for "illegally touting TRX and/or BTT without disclosing that they were compensated for doing so and the amount of their compensation". The SEC's complaint, filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleged that Sun and his companies offered and sold TRX and



BTT as investments through multiple unregistered "bounty programmes". These programmes directed interested parties to promote the tokens on social media, join and recruit others to Tron-affiliated Telegram and Discord channels, and create BitTorrent accounts in exchange for TRX and BTT distributions. "This case demonstrates again the high risk investors face when crypto

asset securities are offered and sold without proper disclosure," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler. "As alleged, Sun and his companies not only targeted investors in their unregistered offers and sales, generating millions in illegal proceeds at the expense of investors, but they also coordinated wash trading on an unregistered trading platform to create the misleading appearance of active trading in TRX," Gensler said in a statement. Sun further induced investors to purchase TRX and BTT by orchestrating a promotional campaign in which he and his celebrity promoters hid the fact that the celebrities were paid for their tweets. The complaint further alleged that Sun, BitTorrent Foundation, and Rainberry offered and sold BTT in unregistered monthly airdrops to investors, including in the US, who purchased and held TRX in Tron wallets or on participating crypto asset trading platforms. According to the complaint, each of these unregistered offers and sales violated Section 5 of the Securities Act.

## Punjabi eatery allegedly vandalised by anti-India elements in UK

London | Agencies

In yet another attack on an Indian installation in the UK, alleged Khalistani elements targeted a Punjabi restaurant located in Hammersmith, West London, according to an advocacy group. REACH-UK, which advocates for protecting the rights of Indians and ethnic minorities in the UK, shared the footage of the attack on Rangrez Restaurant on its social media handle, urging the Met Police to take swift action against the perpetrators. "We urge @metpoliceuk to take the cognisance of this attack on a Punjabi restaurant 'Rangrez Restaurant' in Hammersmith. Majority of Sikh do not follow this ideology and hence are harassed by the Khalistani separatist. Provide protection to the minorities of UK," the REACH-UK tweeted late Wednesday. In the video, a group of masked men can be seen banging on the windows of the restaurant, asking people to come outside and face them. A hooded man outside the restaurant can be seen making a video,



threatening and asking those in the restaurant whether they are scared. Flagger off the Met Police and Met Police Hindu Association in his tweet, restaurant owner Harman Singh Kapoor wrote: These hooligans think we real Sikhs will back down but it is sheer cowardice to attack my eatery. "A real Sikh does not believe in violence this is not the way of Sikhs. We raise the sword only when needed, not when wanted! I implore my Sikh brothers to stop this violence or I will be forced to take action." The attack comes days after India summoned the senior-most UK diplomat to convey its strong protest after some pro-Khalistani groups allegedly took down the Tricolour at the Indian High Commission in London.

## Canada's population marks record-high growth in 2022



Ottawa | Agencies

The year of 2022 marked the first 12-month period in Canada's history where population grew by more than 1 million people, and the highest annual population growth rate of 2.7 per cent since 1957, Statistics Canada said. Canada's population was estimated at

39,566,248 on January 1, 2023, after a record population growth of 1,050,110 people from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023, the national statistical agency said on Wednesday, adding that international migration accounted for nearly all growth recorded, or 95.9 per cent. According to the agency, Canada is by far leading the G7 countries for popula-

tion growth in 2022, as it has been the case for many years. Moreover, Canada's population growth rate would put it among the top 20 in the world. Almost all countries with a higher pace of population growth were in Africa, Xinhua news agency reported. If it stayed constant in years to come, such a rate of population growth would lead to the Canadian population doubling in about 26 years, the agency said. The increase in international migration is related to efforts by the government to ease labour shortages in key sectors of the economy, Statistics Canada said. High job vacancies and labour shortages are occurring in a context where population aging has accelerated and the unemployment rate remains near record low. A rise in the number of permanent and temporary immigrants could also represent additional challenges for some regions of the country related to housing, infrastructure and transportation, and service delivery to the population, the agency added.

## STORM KILLS 5 PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

San Francisco: Five people died from storm-related incidents in the US' San Francisco Bay Area, local authorities said. Two San Francisco residents died from injuries in separate incidents related to downed trees on Tuesday afternoon, city officials said on Wednesday. Three other people died from the extreme weather. One in San Mateo County, another in Walnut Creek, and a third in Oakland. Fire crews were also working to contain the areas around skyscrapers in San Francisco, where glass and debris fell high from windows that shattered from the strong winds. Crews were working to clear around 700 downed trees across San Francisco, Xinhua news agency reported.



# 12 hrs after Raj Thackeray's 'threat', BMC razes illegal 'dargah' in Mahim sea

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Barley 12 hours after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray's dramatic revelations of an unauthorised 'dargah' coming up in the Arabian Sea off Mahim, the BMC rushed a team there and demolished it, here on Thursday.

A team of BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) along with a heavy police bandobast, a JCB and other equipment, swooped onto the so-called 'mazaar' (grave) of an unknown person that had quietly manifested on a tiny rocky islet a few metres away from the Mahim sea-shore. The BMC police teams examined it thoroughly, removed the flagpoles with green and white flags, other paraphernalia on and around the 'mazaar' and then rolled a bulldozer which reduced it to dust.

Earlier, they also discussed the matter with the trustees of the 600-year-old Hazrat Makhdum Shah Baba Radiallahuahhu, Mahim, which offered their full support to curb any illegalities on the islet nearby. The purported 'mazaar', covered with a green cloth, garlands and flower-chadars, used to attract a few devotees who would wade through knee-deep sea-water for a few metres to visit the site and offer prayers there.

The development came the morning after Raj Thackeray pulled the ears of the state government, Mumbai Police and civic administration, and drew their attention to the potential security threat lurking there.

MNS Spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande welcomed the BMC action while state Bharatiya Janata



Party President Chandrashekhar Bawankule congratulated Raj Thackeray for highlighting the matter which opened the eyes of the government. He served an MNS-style ultimatum that unless the 'dargah' is demolished within a month, the MNS would go and erect a Ganapati Temple at the same spot.

Hinting at security implications, Thackeray had roared: "The Mahim Police Station is close by, the BMC officials keep moving around there... Yet, since the past two years this 'dargah' is blatantly coming up in the sea... Another 'Haji Ali Dargah'...

And there's nobody to talk about it?"

Returning with his old style of addressing rallies with a visual component -- 'Laav re te video' (Play that video) after five years -- Raj ordered playing a clip, apparently shot with a drone, hovering around and over the tiny islet, clearly showing the 'mazaar' that has cropped up in the Mahim sea. The video showed images of some green and white flags, fluttering on a tall pole and on strings around, a handful of men and women 'devotees' paying their respects at the makeshift grave of the unknown person reportedly resting there.

# 2 DRUNK PASSENGERS ONBOARD INDIGO DUBAI-MUMBAI FLIGHT CREATE RUCKUS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two passengers onboard a Dubai-Mumbai IndiGo flight continued to consume alcohol despite multiple warnings after they created a ruckus and verbally abused the crew and co-passengers.

"Two passengers travelling on flight 6E 1088 from Dubai to Mumbai were observed to be in an inebriated state and continued consuming alcohol onboard despite multiple warnings from the crew. They verbally abused the crew and co-passengers," an airline spokesperson said.

"As per protocol, they were handed over to the CISF security staff for unruly behaviour. Post the incident, a complaint has been filed at the nearby police station. We regret the inconvenience caused to other passengers," the spokesperson added.

Despite being drunk already, the two passengers, residents of Nalasopara in Palghar and Kolhapur, were demanding for more alcohol.

They were arrested by the local police and as per reports were granted bail by a local court.

Officials said that the drunk passengers were returning to India after working for a year in the Gulf and were in celebratory mood.

They added that the two misbehaved with the co-passengers when they objected to the ruckus, as well as with the crew when they intervened. In the last few months, many such incidents of unruly behaviour by air passengers have been reported.

Earlier this month, a man was arrested for smoking in the lavatory in a London-Mumbai flight. In order to deal with unruly behaviour, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued CAR, Section 3- Air Transport, Series M, and Part VI titled "Handling of unruly/disruptive passengers".

As per the procedure defined in the CAR, airlines are required to follow a prescribed procedure for holding passengers accountable before they are placed in the 'No Fly List'.

# Maha Congress protests against jail sentence for Rahul

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress protested against the jail sentence pronounced to party MP Rahul Gandhi by a Surat Court, saying he is being 'punished' for raising voice against corruption, here on Thursday. Congress leaders led by state President Nana Patole, Mumbai President Bhai Jagtap, former Chief Ministers Prithviraj Chavan and Ashok Chavan, Vijay Wadetiwar, Sunil Kedar, Naseem Khan, Charan Singh Sapra, Atul Londhe, legislators and other joined the protests. They carried placards and posters supporting Rahul Gandhi and raised slogans against the Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre, and said the actions are being taken against him under 'pressures'. "Rahul Gandhi had spoken against corruption and highlighted the role of fugitives like Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi... It's a fact that they ran away from India after looting public money through the banks," said Patole. He accused the Centre of pressure tactics as "its afraid of the growing influence of Rahul Gandhi, the fear of defeat and because of that, they are trying to trap him".

He warned that if it is a crime to speak against the



scammers like Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi, then the Congress will intensify its protests by taking to the streets and holding 'jail-bharo' agitations all over Maharashtra. Ashok Chavan said it is clear that the BJP is worried over the growing influence of the Congress all over India after Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and now they are retaliating with such action against Opposition leaders. Prithviraj Chavan said that the action against Rahul Gandhi has been taken maliciously, and that too from Gujarat, and said the Congress will move the Supreme Court to challenge the Surat Court verdict.

# AIMIM backs axe on 'illegal dargah', but dubs it a 'match-fixing'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) state President and MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel has fully supported the BMC's act of razing an illegal 'dargah' which was coming up in the Arabian Sea off Mahim, here on Thursday.

However, he questioned the honesty of the intentions behind the move and said it appeared to be an "understanding" between the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), just as the holy month of fasting, Ramzan, starts. "We have no objections if the structure 'dargah' was illegal and it has been demolished... But what about hundreds of other similar unauthorised constructions of various communities that keep cropping up all over the state? They should also be dealt with similarly," Jaleel told the media.

On the 'dargah' demolition issue today, he



pointed accusing fingers at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and their "puppet" MNS President Raj Thackeray of acting in tandem to build up passions on Ramzan-eve. He wondered how, if the alleged "mazaar" on a tiny islet was coming up openly since the past two years, the state government, BMC, Police and elected representatives remained silent, doing nothing to stop it.

"I feel that Fadnavis may have asked Raj to raise the issue in his Gudi Padwa rally, and he would get it removed the next morning... This way Raj's stature would go up before his supporters, and simultaneously the Sena-BJP wouldn't spoil its image before the Muslim community," Jaleel claimed.

He raised doubts over "Raj's real motives" behind raising the issue of mosque loud-speakers just before Ramadan month and keeping quiet the rest of the year, and asking for the Muslim community's stand on such issues.

# OPPOSITION SLAMS BJP-SENA MLAS FOR HITTING RAHUL GANDHI POSTER WITH SLIPPERS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi legislators on Thursday slammed ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena members for hitting a poster of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with slippers on the stairs of the Maharashtra Legislature complex against his alleged remarks about Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar. Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar too expressed displeasure at this act of the ruling alliance legislators and promised an inquiry.

The issue was raised in the Assembly by Congress' Balasaheb Thorat, who was supported by Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar.

Both condemned the action of the ruling alliance members as unparliamentary, with Thorat seeking action



against those involved.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis agreed that committing such acts on the Vidhan Bhavan premises was wrong, but also

slammed Gandhi for his "low level tendency".

Savarkar had spent 11 years in jail in the Andamans and Gandhi's attack on the former needed to be con-

demned, Fadnavis said.

BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar, who raised the issue of Gandhi's remarks when the House resumed following an adjournment, said a "person out on bail in a criminal case is insulting a freedom fighter".

Meanwhile, Speaker Narvekar said, "I will conduct a through inquiry and go through the recordings. This shouldn't happen again or else strict action will be taken." Pulling up the ruling alliance legislators, Narvekar said, "If you want to condemn, do it on a proper forum. As of now, I haven't received any notice (for action on the incident)."

Earlier, the Assembly witnessed adjournments on two occasions with ruling alliance MLAs shouting slogans against Gandhi for his remarks on Savarkar.

# Shiv Sena (Shinde Camp) welcomes Rahul Gandhi's conviction

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena today welcomed the conviction of Rahul Gandhi for his remarks over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surname and said he should also be booked for "insulting national icons like VD Savarkar and 'defaming' the country abroad."

Shiv Sena spokesperson Sheetal Mhatre said Gandhi is used to making personal comments. "He should also be booked for insulting national icons like Veer



Savarkar and defaming the country abroad (a reference to Gandhi's recent comments at Cambridge University which has stoked controversy)," Mhatre said. A court in Surat in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against

him over his Modi surname remarks. The court also granted Gandhi bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court, the Congress leader's lawyer said.

The case was filed against Gandhi for his alleged "how come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname?" remarks on a complaint lodged by BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi. The Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad made the remarks while addressing a rally at Kolar in Karnataka ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

# DEVENDRA FADNAVIS, UDDHAV THACKERAY DISPLAY RARE BONHOMIE AT VIDHAN BHAVAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray today arrived at Vidhan Bhavan talking to each other and greeting assembled reporters together.

Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Uddhav Thackeray had arrived to take part in a meeting of the Marathi Language department.

Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray have been bitter foes since the undivided Shiv Sena broke its alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party after the 2019 Assembly polls over sharing of the chief ministerial



tenure.

Thackeray then formed government in the state with the support of the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party.

The acrimony between the two leaders increased after a rebellion by Eknath Shinde brought down Thackeray's Maha Vikas Aghadi government in June last year. Eknath Shinde then became Chief Minister with the BJP's support.

# AMRUTA FADNAVIS BRIBE CASE

## 'Bookie' Anil Jaisinghani moves HC seeking quashing of FIR; says his arrest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Suspected bookie Anil Jaisinghani, an accused in the case related to alleged attempt to blackmail and bribe Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, moved the Bombay High Court on Thursday seeking quashing of the FIR against him, and termed his arrest in the case as "illegal".

Jaisinghani claimed that the first information report (FIR) was "ill-conceived", "politically motivated" and not according to the letter of the law.

Aniksha, the daughter of Anil Jaisinghani, was arrested on March 16 for allegedly attempting to offer Rs 1



crore to Amruta Fadnavis for intervening in a criminal case and also threatening her. Anil Jaisinghani and his relative Nirmal Jaisinghani, also an accused in the case, were arrested on March 20 from Gujarat.

"The offence is entirely misconceived, and the peti-

tioners (Anil and co-accused Nirmal Jaisinghani) have been pulled into the matter unnecessarily, the petition filed through advocate Manan Sanghai said.

In the petition, Anil Jaisinghani said his arrest was illegal as he was not produced before a magis-

trate within 24 hours of his arrest as per the provisions of law. The delay in producing the accused before the magistrate and non-compliance of the mandatory provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) by police officials, has caused grave prejudice to the accused, it said.

In the present case, both the petitioners were produced before the magistrate after 36 hours of their arrest which is a violation of the CrPC provisions and their fundamental rights, it added.

The accused pleaded the high court to quash the FIR against them and declare the remand order passed by the sessions court and his arrest as illegal.

They also sought interim bail from the high court. The matter will be heard on Monday.

After they were nabbed in Gujarat on March 20, Anil and Nirmal Jaisinghani were produced before additional sessions judge D D Almale, who remanded them to police custody March 27. Based on a complaint filed by the deputy chief minister's wife, police had registered a case against the father-daughter duo. They have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy and extortion and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

At least 17 cases are pending against Anil Jaisinghani, police had said earlier.



# 2 girls killed as car crashes into state-run bus in Yavatmal

Yavatmal: Two girls aged 8 and 11 died after iron pipes carried atop an SUV struck a Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus in Yavatmal district on Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place at Kamthwada in the afternoon, said an official.

An SUV carrying iron pipes on its roof carrier dashed against the bus, he said.

The pipes struck the side of the bus, fatally injuring two girls who were sitting in window seats, the official said, adding that more details were awaited.

# 'I CHALLENGE MYSELF'

Jennifer Lopez says exercise is 'important' as it improves mental health

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez exercises every day not just to look great on a red carpet but also to feel good about her. The Shotgun Wedding actress spoke to UsWeekly about how moving her body helps her keep a positive mental attitude. The Bronx-born babe - who was last seen naked as she plugged Revolve shoes - was promoting Body Armor Lite for the new Choose More campaign which she stars in.

"It's no secret that fitness is a very important part of my life," the wife of Ben Affleck and mother to twins Max and Emme said. "I think there's a positive correlation between exercise and mental health," shared the artist whose next album, this is Me... Now - a follow up to 2003's This is Me... Then - will debut this summer.

She is on to something. According to MentalHealth.org, "Research shows that people who exercise regularly have better mental health and emotional wellbeing, and lower rates of mental illness."

"Taking up exercise seems to reduce the risk of developing mental illness."

"It also seems to help in treating some mental health conditions, like depression and anxiety."

Lopez then added to UsWeekly writer Meredith Nardino, "When you find a good balance through determination and focus, we're naturally pushing to be the best version of ourselves." She claimed that she gets moving 'first thing in the morning' - which is often before 5 am when it is still dark - no matter what her 'busy schedule' has in store.

"I try to make good choices and balance my time," she added to the site.

And she mixes up her workout moves.



Eva Longoria will produce and direct "Call My Agent!" Spanish retelling

Los Angeles | Agencies

The International Emmy-winning French series 'Call My Agent!' is getting a Spanish-language remake, with actress Eva Longoria on board to produce and direct it. Announced during the Series Mania Festival in Lille, it will mark the first adaptation targeting Latin America and the US, following successful remakes in Italy, Canada and the UK, among others, reports Variety.

In addition to producing through UnbeliEVable Entertainment, Longoria will direct the first two episodes. The news comes right on the heels of Longoria's feature directorial debut 'Flamin' Hot', which premiered at SXSW and won the Audience Award.

"Like so many people around the globe, I've been a huge fan of the original series since it first premiered," said Longoria.

"I'm so excited to partner with Mediawan and Elefantec Global to bring one of the greatest properties that gives a witty and satirical look behind the curtain of the entertainment industry for the Spanish-speaking American market," added the actor-turned-director.

'Call My Agent!', a satire about the hectic life of celebrity agents, was broadcast on France Televisions for four seasons with record audiences. It was then acquired by Netflix, quickly becoming one of the streamer's biggest French hits.

The original series was produced by Mon Voisin Productions, a Mediawan company, and Mother Production. It's been successfully adapted abroad, most recently in Italy by Palomar, another Mediawan company.

"Joining forces with Eva Longoria and Pepe Baston to take 'Call My Agent!' to Latin America is a unique opportunity," said Pierre-Antoine Capton, chairman of Mediawan, who recently engineered the acquisition of Brad Pitt's Plan B.

"Their talent and know-how combined with their international renown guarantee an innovative and premium adaptation of this series, a real funny and moving gem that the French creators were able to bring to life and which has since been travelling to audiences worldwide," Capton continued.

Pepe Baston, CEO of Elefantec Global, added that the company was "excited to bring 'Call My Agent!' to the Spanish-speaking American market, and thrilled to be doing so with the creators at Mediawan, and UnbeliEVable entertainment." "Made with Latin flavour for a global audience, we are sure this iteration will find success and viewers worldwide," Baston added.



## ADAM SANDLER MADE FUN OF JENNIFER ANISTON FOR HAVING LOUSY LOVERS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Aniston said that her fellow actor Adam Sandler teased her over the years about her love life as she opened up on their 34-year friendship.

The actress joined Jimmy Fallon on "The Tonight Show" to promote "Murder Mystery 2", the sequel to Netflix's "Murder Mystery" with Jennifer and Adam reprising their roles, reports mirror.co.uk.

Fallon asked if she and Sandler had given each other advice over the years after first meeting at Jerry's Famous Deli on Ventura Boulevard when they were 20 and 22, respectively.



The actress answered: "Well, I, if I get anything from him, it's 'What are you doing?' Usually based on someone I'm dating."

Imitating the "Happy Gilmore" actor, she continued: "What are you doing? What's wrong with you? But I very much love to take care of him. He's so concerned with taking care of everybody else, which he really does but he doesn't take care of himself." "I'm sorry to call you out on national television, Adam, but you have to know this. I have a little arsenal of herbs in my trailer and I make him smoothies when I can and give him all sorts of Chinese herbs when he is exhausted. I'm like the mobile pharmacy. Yeah, I'm the set medic."

Meanwhile, the actress was recently left red-faced during an appearance on "This Morning" when she accidentally swore on live TV.



Los Angeles | Agencies

'Peaky Blinders' creator Steven Knight is set to write the screenplay for the untitled 'Star Wars' movie as original screenwriters Damon Lindelof and Justin Britt-Gibson have departed from the project.

The movie is widely expected to be among Lucasfilm's first 'Star Wars' films since 2019's 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'. More information about the movie, including a possible title, is expected to

be announced at the Star Wars Celebration in London in April, reports Variety. Knight is a veteran screenwriter who launched his career specialising in gritty crime dramas like 2002's 'Dirty Pretty Things' and 2007's 'Eastern Promises', eventually branching out to lighthearted comedies, war thrillers, and biopics.

He also created and executive produced the BBC period crime drama 'Peaky Blinders', which streams on Netflix in the US.

Lindelof - best known as the co-creator of the TV series 'Lost', 'The Leftovers' and 'Watchmen' - brought on Britt-Gibson to write a 'Star Wars' movie

together. After turning in a draft earlier this year, the duo departed from the project in February, becoming the latest creatives to part ways with Lucasfilm after signing on to develop one or multiple new 'Star Wars' film projects to great fanfare.

Earlier in March, it was reported that separate movies - one shepherded by director Patty Jenkins, the other by producer Kevin Feige - had been shelved by Lucasfilm and were no longer in active development. Director J.D. Dillard ('Devotion') told TheWrap in November 2022 that he was no longer developing a 'Star Wars' project at the studio.

## AMANDA BYNES IN BETTER CONDITION, AFTER BEING PUT ON PSYCHIATRIC HOLD

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amanda Bynes has reportedly shown progress in her condition following her latest psychotic episode. The actress has started to make improvements after she was brought to a mental hospital on March 19, according to a new report. Despite her improvements, Amanda will likely be committed at least another week at the hospital before she is well enough for discharge.

Additionally, more details about the days leading to Amanda's psychiatric hold have been disclosed, reports showbiz.com.

According to TMZ, the actress could've been living on the streets for several days before her hospitalisation.

Sources close to the star say that they're still putting the pieces together but at this point, they believe that she had been wandering the streets several days before she was found naked and alone. The actress' car was reportedly towed on March 15 in Long Beach, about 40 miles from her home and 25 miles from downtown LA, where she was found on Sunday, March 19.



An eyewitness recently recounted seeing Amanda wandering the streets naked. The source told Entertainment Tonight: "Amanda was wandering alone on Hollywood Blvd. at around 1 a.m. No one really recognised her or noticed her. She was walking tensely and by herself."

"A woman started walking with her and tried to help her. Amanda asked the woman to hold her. Amanda seemed to be in a loving, wholesome mood [but] seemed as though she was out of it."

The eyewitness went on to claim that the former child star "did not want" to return home because she had been "kicked out" by her on-and-off boyfriend Paul Michael and had wanted to be dropped off at a friend's house, but the friend did not answer the door.

The eyewitness added: "She asked to be dropped off at her friend's place in Beverly Hills. When the woman went to drop her off, Amanda's friend did not answer."

"Amanda said she did not want to go home and noted that her boyfriend kicked her out. Amanda then asked to be dropped back off on Hollywood Blvd., and the woman obliged."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maya Jama



## ISSF WORLD CUP

# INDIA WIN SILVER AND BRONZE IN MIXED TEAM EVENTS, MEDAL TALLY REACHES TO FOUR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

India added two more medals to their tally after picking up a silver and bronze in Pistol and Rifle mixed team events while China won both the gold medals on competition Day-2 of the ongoing ISSF World Cup at the M.P. Shooting Academy Range on Thursday.

In the first competition of the day, reigning men's 10m Air Rifle world champion Rudranksh Patil and R. Narmada Nithin won bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition while in the day's second event, Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan won silver to bolster India's medal haul to one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

In the day's first medal event, the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team, the Indian duo of Rudranksh and Narmada shot a combined 632 in qualification to finish third and thereby qualify for the bronze medal match against China's Zhang Qiongyue and Yu Haonan, who finished fourth in the 19-strong field with the same com-



bined score.

In the bronze medal match, both Rudranksh and Narmada were in their element, presenting a solid grouping to beat the Chinese pair 16-8 in what was a much closer match than the scoreline suggests.

Both India and China had entered two teams in the Mixed Team Air Rifle.

In the second and final medal event of the day, India's Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan went down 11-17 to China's Qian Wei and Liu Jinyao, in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team gold medal encounter.

It was Varun Tomar's second medal of the tournament after his bronze-winning effort in the individual Air Pistol on day one.

Earlier in qualification, Qian and Liu had topped the nine-team field with a score of 586, while Varun and Rhythm came second with 581.

Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh, the second Indian team in the fray, missed the bronze medal match by a point, finishing fifth with a score of 574.

## IND vs AUS

# Rohit backs India's attacking approach with bat despite series loss

Chennai | Agencies

Captain Rohit Sharma has backed his team's attacking approach though the ODI series loss against Australia and promised that his side will continue to attack at all costs with the bat during the lead-up to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup later this year.

"We have always talked about fearless cricket. If someone feels they can take the bowlers on, we have given them complete freedom to do that," Rohit said after the loss.

"While doing that, there is a big possibility that they might not be able to achieve what they want to achieve, which is fair, and fine by us. You will learn from that.

We will definitely not judge based on a couple of poor shots. All these guys have lots



of potential, they can play these shots whenever they want and we want to keep encouraging them to go out there and do it often," he added. One concerning aspect of India's display during the

Australia series was the form of Suryakumar Yadav, with the dynamic right-hander claiming an unwanted record of being dismissed for three consecutive golden ducks.

"He only played three balls in three (games) this series, so I don't know how much to look into it. He got three good balls, to be honest. Today, it wasn't that good ball; he should have gone forward. He knows best. He plays spin so well. We have seen that over the last couple of years," Rohit noted.

"That's why we held him back and gave him that role for the last 15-20 overs where he can play his game, but it's really unfortunate he could only play three balls. That can happen to anyone. But the potential and ability is always there. He is just going through that phase right now," he added.

## Swiss Open

# Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy advance to second round; Lakshya bows out

Basel (Switzerland) | Agencies

Indian badminton players PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy advanced to the second round of Swiss Open 2023 but compatriot Lakshya Sen crashed out in the opening round of the tournament.

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu, the reigning champion, defeated Switzerland's Jenjira Stadelmann 21-9, 21-16 in a 32-minute affair on Wednesday night. She will play Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani next.

On the other hand, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the next round with a hard-fought 21-16, 15-21, 21-18 win over China's Weng Hong Yang and set up a second round clash against Cheuk Yiu Lee.

In another men's singles match, fifth-seeded HS Prannoy beat China's Shi Yu Qi with a 21-17, 19-21, 21-17 win in a closely-fought tie which lasted for an hour.

Another Indian player, Mithun Manjunath registered a 21-8, 21-17 win over Joran Kweekel of the Netherlands to advance to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals. He will face Chia Hao Lee of Chinese Taipei next.

However, Commonwealth Games 2022 men's champion Lakshya made a first round exit after losing 18-21, 11-21 to Hong Kong's



Cheuk Yiu Lee, ranked 19th.

Meanwhile, Malvika Bansod lost 14-21, 15-21 to Korea's Kim Ga Eun while Aakarshi Kashyap was handed a 21-15, 21-17 defeat by Germany's Yvonne Li in the women's singles events. Kiran George, however, lost his men's singles tie to bow out.

In the women's doubles, the Indian pair of N Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil crashed out in the opening round, losing 12-21, 14-21 against Japan's Sayaka Hobara and Yui Suizu. Reddy also lost her mixed doubles match, partnering Rohan Kapoor.

On the other hand, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, India's top pair in men's doubles, defeated the Malaysian pair of Xin Yuan Boon and Tien Ci Wong 21-15, 21-18 to stay in the hunt for a medal.

## Womens World Boxing C'ships

# Nitu, Nikhat storm into finals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Star Indian pugilists Nitu Ghanghas and Nikhat Zareen produced monumental displays to record contrasting victories and reach the finals of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here on Thursday.

With three consecutive Referee Stops Contest (RSC) wins under her belt, Nitu (48kg) continued her remarkable run at the tournament against the reigning Asian champion Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan with a hard-earned 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed. Having suffered a defeat against the Kazakh in the quarterfinals of the last World Championships, the 22-year-old Indian had a point to prove this time round.

The southpaw smartly landed accurate punches and showcased immense grit to reach the finals of the competition for the very first time.

Nitu will now take on the 2022 Asian Championships bronze medalist Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg of



Mongolia in the final on Saturday.

Contrary to Nitu's fiercely contested bout, Nikhat (50kg) had an easy day at the office as she continued her quest for back-to-back World Championships gold medals by out-punching the veteran Rio Olympics bronze medalist Ingrid Valencia of Colombia and securing a 5-0 win.

Being at the top of her game, the 26-year-old star pugilist utilised her quick movement and stellar strength to control the bout from the word go.

Nikhat will now face the two-time Asian champion Nguyen Thi Tam of Vietnam in the final on Sunday.

Later on Thursday, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina

Borghain (75kg) and three-time Asian medallist Saweety Boora (81kg) will be competing in their respective semi-finals bouts. While Lovlina will face the 2018 World Champion and two-time Olympics medallist Li Qian of China, Saweety will square off against Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia.

# I'm sure Warner will slot back in opening at some stage: Mitchell Marsh

Chennai | Agencies

In 2021, when Mitchell Marsh was elevated to batting at number three in the T20I team, few would have predicted that it would prove to be a master-stroke as Australia went on to win the T20 World Cup in the UAE.

"I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to open the batting. But as a group we spoke before the first game that this really the start of our campaign for the World Cup and certain guys are going to bat in different positions at times and it's really important we have a squad mentality.

With Davey out for the first couple of games it was my opportunity. He's been an incredible player for Australia for a long time and probably one of the best ODI openers ever so I'm sure he'll slot back in at some



stage but think it's really important that we are all flexible and it was nice to perform for the team," the batter said in the post-match press conference.

"Certainly it has been an indifferent sort of six weeks for him but Ash (Agar) is one of my closest mates. He's one of the most resilient characters I know. That's why he's able to come and perform whenever he plays for Australia. He's been the second spinner to Adam Zampa for a long period of time, but one of his strengths is his ability to be present when he's playing and competing," Marsh said.

"I am really proud of the way he's handled himself for the last six weeks and it is a testament to the group that we have guys like him that just want to play for Australia and he was fantastic tonight," he added.

## WPGT

# Vani Kapoor ends three-year title drought, wins 7th leg

Gurugram | Agencies

A little over three years after her last win on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, seasoned Vani Kapoor drilled a crucial birdie on the very last hole to card 3-under 69 and take the lead in the seventh leg of the ongoing season.

That slender edge was good enough as Gaurika Bishnoi, who led for a good part of the day, was unable to find a birdie over the last seven holes and also bogeyed the Par 4 14th.

Vani finished at 2-under 214 for three days and Gaurika (72) ended at 1-under 215 to be second. Ridhima Dilawari, who played alongside Gaurika, too, had a chance as she birdied 16th and 17th. She needed a birdie to force a playoff with Vani, but instead, double-bogeyed the last hole and fell to third place. Ridhima totalled 1-over 217, the Hero WPGT informed in a release on Thursday. Overnight leader Tvesa Malik (77) ran into



rough weather in the final round and was fourth, while amateur Vidhatri Urs (76) and Asmitha Sathish (73) were tied for fifth.

Sneha Singh, who had a disappointing week in tied 21st place, continues to lead the Hero Order of Merit. Vani Kapoor, who won Rs.2,84,000 from the season's highest purse of Rs. 23 lakh, moved into third place, while Seher Atwal is second. Playing in the final group, Gaurika had a chance to force a playoff as she stood on a birdie putt, which, however, was not a straightforward one. The ball went past the hole and Gaurika was left in second place.

# Amelia Kerr, Daryl Mitchell clinch top honours at NZ Cricket awards

Auckland | Agencies

Amelia Kerr and Daryl Mitchell have been recognised as winners of top honours in the New Zealand Cricket Awards ceremony, here. While Amelia won the inaugural Debbie Hockley Medal awarded to outstanding women's cricketer, Mitchell was named winner of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal awarded to outstanding men's cricketer.

Mitchell, who also won the Redpath Cup for men's first-class batting, was recognised for a stand-out year across the board but particularly at Test level, where he scored four centuries, played a leading hand in New Zealand's last ball win against Sri

Lanka at Christchurch, and rose to number eight in the Test batting rankings.

Mitchell amassed 913 Test runs at an average of 70.23, including a highest score of 190 against England at Trent Bridge last year. In 16 Test innings he scored 50 or more on nine occasions. Amelia, on the other hand, was also named the Women's T20I Player of the Year.

Amelia, the leg-spinning all-rounder, was her T20I team's second-highest run-scorer with 423 runs at 32.53 (strike-rate 112.20) and equal second-highest wicket-taker with 17 at 20.41, achieved with an economy rate of 5.52. She also averaged 40.66 with the bat in ODIs.

## IPL 2023

# Livingstone available to play full season for PBKS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has cleared all-rounder Liam Livingstone to play for Punjab Kings for the full season of the upcoming IPL 2023 but attacking batter Jonny Bairstow has been denied NOC by the board.

According to a Cricbuzz report, Bairstow, who underwent surgery on a broken leg and dislocated ankle in October, is expected to be up and running in a couple of weeks' times but given the long injury lay-off, the ECB has decided not to issue him the NOC for the IPL 2023, beginning on March 31. The English board is hopeful that Bairstow will be available for

the Ashes later in the year.

Meanwhile, Livingstone has also been out of action since the Rawalpindi Test last December because of injuries to his knee and ankle. However, the 29-year-old was part of the Lancashire County Cricket Club's off-season training recently in Dubai and has gone back home since.

The report further said that Livingstone, bought by the franchise for Rs 11.50 crores, will be available for the entire IPL season.

Apart from Livingstone, Sam Curran's participation was also confirmed. The English all-rounder became the most expensive buy at an IPL auction earlier this year when PBKS bought him for Rs 18.50 crore.



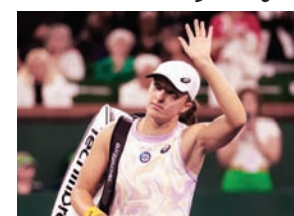
# World No. 1 Swiatek takes a break due to a rib injury

Warsaw | Agencies

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek has informed that she will miss the Miami Open and Billie Jean King Cup due to a rib injury brought about by an episode of coughing.

Last season, the 21-year-old lifted the trophy in Miami after beating Naomi Osaka in the final, but the Pole said she won't defend her title, a Xinhua report said.

"After Doha I was struggling with a strong infection. I was allowed to play, but a strong episode of coughing led to a rib injury. We were trying to handle it and continuing to play as long as it was safe for me," Swiatek wrote in a statement released on Wednesday night.



"We were analyzing the data in recent days and my doctor prepared my diagnosis. Unfortunately, I'm still feeling a lot of discomfort and pain and I can't compete. I need to take a break to recover. I have to pull out of the Miami Open and Billie Jean King Cup," she added.

It's not known when Swiatek will return to the tennis court. "It depends on my process of recovery and the recommendation of my medical team," the tennis player explained.



# I HAVE NEVER FELT THAT I'M BETTER OR WORSE THAN ANYBODY: RANBIR KAPOOR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor has seen more highs than lows in his career which spans over 15 years. However, the actor believes that his failures have always taught him more than his success and that he's running his own race.

Asked about when he felt he's a star, Ranbir said: "My first film itself was a very big disaster, the disaster-ness was celebrated but somewhere as an actor and artiste I had a deep conviction that flops and hits won't matter to me. That gave me confidence."

"I have never felt competitive towards anybody. I have never felt that I am better or worse than anybody. I feel like I am running my own race. I feel like I have very strong views on how and what I want to do in my life, the kind of films I want to do."

"The kind of characters I want to portray and of course I am going to see a lot of failures."

Ranbir believes that "failures have always taught me more than my successes."

"Whenever your films work, I promise you the only feeling you get is 'phew!' till the next one. But when you have failure, you understand, you introspect and come to perspective."

He added: "I have had a very blessed 15 year career and

I have a lot of self confidence in myself that I am the best of course I don't like to put that energy out and say it but I tell myself I am the best because that keeps me going."



# Shah Rukh Khan

*admits he doesn't frequently shampoo his hair*

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has revealed that he does not wash his hair regularly after a fan put forth a question.

A video of the session was posted by Prime Videos on Instagram, where he was heard saying: "I have your comments and some of your videos, and some of the questions you have asked. I am going to try and answer them."

He was asked about the one thing he did in 'Pathaan' that he never did before.

"There is a lot of stuff that I have not done. But the one thing that I had to do I think was to on alternate days, shampoo my hair, which I never do," Shah Rukh replied.

Shah Rukh also saw a video of a lady dancing to 'Thooma Jo Pathaan'.

Response to it, SRK said: "It's really heartening and very very beautiful. Thank you so much Meena ji for doing this. If I had seen you dance before, maybe we would have asked Deepika not to do it and you to do it. I'm sure she wouldn't also mind."

Further, a fan asked what is 'Pathaan' scared of, to which he said that 'Pathaan' is "scared of not being able to serve his country in the best of his capability, abilities and even beyond."



# ASHUTOSH RANA SAYS HIS FILM IS ABOUT CONFLICT BETWEEN DISASTER AND FAITH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actor and author Ashutosh Rana found the idea of making 'Bheed' in black and white quite apt and said that one cannot show a tragedy in colour. He related the entire idea with the Big Bang theory.

He shared his perspective on the lockdown and who turned out to be the real heroes during the times of adversity.

In the promotion of 'Bheed', he said: "If you learn about the Big Bang, you will understand that there was first darkness. Then, an explosion happened and light started to spread. So, the story of creation and destruction that happens in our lives begins with 'shvet' and 'shyam' (white and black). When we cross this catharsis of black and white, our world finally becomes a rainbow. The colours come and the indigo is formed."

Ashutosh shared how he felt when he listened to the script for the first time: "I felt that this was about a tragedy that affected not just India, but the entire world. This human race that dreams of controlling nature and the whole universe was forced to stop moving by this invisible Coronavirus. This was such a huge thing. We can deal with problems that we can see but we cannot fix those problems that cannot be seen."

"This film does not show the story of just one person. It is a film about an event. It is a film about a disaster and the conflict between disaster and faith. Whenever such a calamity happens, our faith is also shaken. At the same time, our faith also wakes up when something like this happens. This is everyone's story," he added.



# "Holy month, Holy Gift"

*Atif & Sara is blessed with a baby girl in Ramadan*

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Pakistani playback singer Atif Aslam, who is known for chartbusters such as 'Aadat', 'Bakhuda', 'Jeena Jeena', 'Jaane De' and several others, has become a proud father as he and his wife Sara Bhatnagar welcome a baby girl.

The 'Tajdar-e-Haram' hitmaker took to his Instagram on Thursday to share the news of his baby's arrival with his fans. He posted a picture of his daughter wrapped up in pink colour baby sleepwear. The baby is named Halima. He wrote in the caption:

"Finally the wait is over. The new queen of my heart has arrived." "Both baby and Sarah are fine Alhamdulillah. Please do remember us in your prayers. Ramadan Mubarak from Halima Atif Aslam 23/03/2023." He also added Ramadan in the caption. Atif has sung many songs in Bollywood films including 'Tere Sang Yaara' from 'Rustom', 'Tu Jaane Na' and 'Tera Hone Laga Hoon' from 'Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani' and 'Tere Bin' from 'Bas Ek Pal'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Jasmin Bhasin is busy shooting for her upcoming Punjabi film 'Warning 2' which also stars Gippy Grewal.

She shared her experience of being part of the Punjabi film industry and being selective while taking up any new project.

The actor is keen on doing more work in the industry and said that she would love to explore all the genres and make her place among the audience.

"The thing is when you start with something really big you set your standards really high. So I don't want to disappoint anyone by doing just anything and everything. I won't take anything I cannot do justice to. I want to do something as big and good as 'Honeymoon' was because eventually, people need to love the script and performances," she said.

While recalling her experience of making her debut in the Punjabi film industry and working with Gippy Grewal, she shared: "It was a great experience. As I've said earlier, it felt like home. There's so much warmth and love that I got there from all my co-actors, in short the complete team. Gippy Grewal was an amazing co-actor. He made me feel so comfortable. It was like just a house where some wedding is taking place given all the fun we had. And we made the film, which will always be special for me forever."

She concluded with: "I don't want to disappoint the audience who has given me so much love after watching my first film. I want to live up to their expectations. I'm very new to the industry. It's just the beginning. I've done just one film. I would like to explore all the genres."

**I don't want to disappoint anyone: Jasmin on doing a Punjabi film**



# INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Jacqueline Fernandez