

# absolute india

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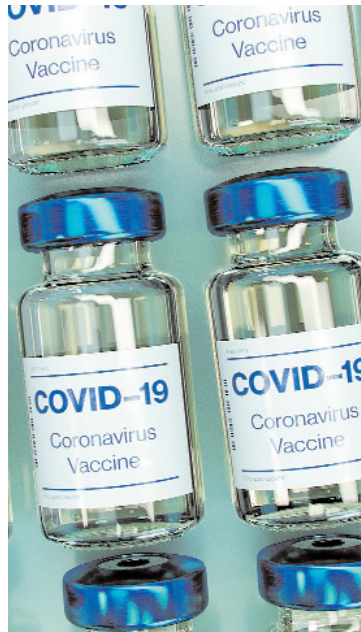
## COVID DEATHS

### WORLD LEADERS SAY 'NEVER AGAIN' TO VACCINE INEQUALITY

A group of more than 190 current and former world leaders, Nobel laureates, civil society organisations, faith leaders, and health experts in an open letter called on governments to "never again" allow "profiteering and nationalism" to come before the needs of humanity, as it did during the Covid-19 pandemic. They condemned the vaccine inequality which led to one preventable death every 24 seconds in the first year of the Covid vaccine rollout alone, according to a study published in the Lancet. It is "a scar on the world's conscience" that those lives were not saved, the signatories said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Covid-19 countermeasures were developed and delivered with enormous public funding. Therefore, they are "the people's vaccines, the people's tests, and the people's treatments", they said. But instead of distributing Covid-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments based on need, pharmaceutical companies sold doses first to the "richest countries with the deepest pockets", they lamented. Covid-19 has killed more than 6.8 million people globally, according to Johns Hopkins University -- a figure widely thought to be an underestimate. The letter called on world leaders to pledge that "never again will the lives of people in wealthy countries be prioritised over the lives of people in the global South. Never again will publicly funded science be locked behind private monopolies. Never again will a company's desire to make extraordinary profits come before the needs of humanity." "In the Covid-19 pandemic, those of us in low and middle-income countries were pushed to the back of the line for vaccines and denied access to the benefits of new tech-



nologies. Three years on, we must say 'never again' to this injustice that has undermined the safety of people in every country," said Jose Ramos Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, in the open letter. "These past three years should act as a warning for future pandemics. We need a return to genuine cooperation between nations in our preparation and response to global threats. That requires a Pandemic Accord rooted in equity and human rights, which places the needs of humanity above the commercial interests of a handful of companies, added Ban Ki-Moon, Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Further, to address the intellectual property barriers that prevent the sharing of scientific knowledge and technology, they called on governments to act at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to ease patents on Covid-19 tests and treatments. Governments should support and invest in public research, development, and manufacturing capacity, particularly in the Global South, the leaders said. They call on governments to provide "political, financial, and technical support" for the WHO's mRNA Technology Transfer Hub project, which is sharing mRNA technology with producers in 15 low and middle-income countries. The letter co-ordinated by People's Vaccine Alliance -- a coalition of over 100 organisations -- will be sent to all governments via their representatives in Geneva.

## IIT ROORKEE IDENTIFIES NEW ANTIBACTERIAL MOLECULE TO FIGHT SUPERBUGS

ROORKEE | Agencies

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have identified a new antibacterial small molecule that could help in the fight against drug-resistant infections. The molecule IITR00693 was discovered after a rigorous screening process. It has shown potent antibacterial activity against a wide range of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, including some of the most problematic drug-resistant strains. The rise of antibiotic resistance among skin-infecting pathogens poses an urgent threat to public health and has fueled the search for new therapies. Enhancing the potency of currently used antibiotics is an alternative for the treatment of infections caused by drug-resistant pathogens, the researchers said. They found that IITR00693 enhances the activity of antibiotics that are used in the treatment of bacterial infections, particularly against two notorious multidrug-resistant skin-infecting pathogens, namely Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. IITR00693 acts like a dual sword; it not only strikes



down the most stubborn bacteria but also prevents the emergence of resistance, ensuring that it remains effective for generations to come, the researchers explained. "We aimed to identify a small molecule that can potentiate currently used antibiotics. IITR00693, a novel antibacterial small molecule, potentiates the antibacterial activity of polymyxin B against Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa," said Prof Ranjana Pathania, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Roorkee. The findings are published in the American Chemical Society Journal-ACS Infectious Diseases. The team of researchers now aim to "further develop the molecule into a viable therapeutic agent that can be tested in clinical trials," said Prof K K Pant, Director, IIT Roorkee, in a statement. "This is an important step in the development of new antibiotics, as it will allow for the evaluation of the molecule's safety, efficacy, and potential side effects in soft and skin tissue infections," Pant added. safety index and efficacy. The synergy between IITR00693 and polymyxin B against Gram-positive S. aureus was intriguing, as polymyxin B is specifically active against Gram-negative bacteria," said Mahak Saini, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Roorkee.

### IN A FIRST, TRANSGENDER TEA STALL AT GUWAHATI RAILWAY STATION



Team Absolute | Guwahati

In a first-of-a-kind initiative, a special tea stall has been set up at the Guwahati train station by the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) to boost the transgender community, officials said on Saturday. NFR General Manager Anshul Gupta inaugurated the 'Trans Tea Stall' at platform number 1 on Friday in the presence of Swati Bidhan Baruah, Associate Vice Chairman of the Transgender Welfare Board of Assam. During the inaugural ceremony, Gupta said that the NFR has taken the initiative for the empowerment of transgenders. This initiative is the first-of-a-kind in NFR as well as in the Indian Railways, he added. "This is also the first such initiative in any Central government organisation and NFR will take more such initiatives in future," Gupta commented. NFR plans to operate more such Trans Tea Stalls at other railway stations in the region, an official statement mentioned.

### 'HARYANA 1ST STATE TO HOST FOREST SPORTS MEET THIRD TIME'

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Haryana's Environment and Forest Minister Kanwar Pal on Saturday said Haryana is the first state that got an opportunity to host the All India Forest Sports Competition for the third time. Speaking after inaugurating the 26th All India Forest Sports Competition at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula, Pal took salute from the march past by contingents of sportspersons from different states and Union Territories. He said earlier this competition was organised in 2013 in Panchkula and in 2002 in Faridabad. The minister said he expressed gratitude to the Central government for giving Haryana the opportunity to organise these games again. Pal said since the beginning of his political career, he has been associated with forest staff.

## ASSAM TO HAVE SOUTH EAST ASIA'S LARGEST CANCER RESEARCH FACILITY

Team Absolute | Guwahati

Assam will soon have a cancer research centre which is believed to be the largest in South Asia, officials said on Saturday. The cancer facility has been planned to be built in Kamrup rural district's Amingaon area. According to state health department officers, once the centre comes up, Assam would represent the northeastern states on the world map of research hubs as a result of the state-of-the-art facility here. In a workshop held here on Friday under the auspices of the state government's Medical Education and Research Department, experts discussed the project's operational design and road map. Dr D Nori, an internationally renowned oncologist, as well as professors from AIIMS, IIT Guwahati, Gauhati Medical College Hospital, and other top medical institutions took part in the



workshop to create a schedule for carrying out the project. A series of consultative sessions were planned, according to Siddharth Singh, commissioner and secretary of the Medical Education & Research Department, to properly describe the project design. Singh further mentioned that the centre would feature a paediatric oncology hospital affiliated for the treatment of cancer in children. In addition, a child cardiology wing has been planned for the project, according to Singh.

## Shakira breaks 14 Guinness World Records with song aimed at ex-boyfriend

LOS ANGELES | Agencies

Singer Shakira has broken a whopping 14 Guinness World Records following the release of her brutal diss track aimed at her ex-boyfriend. The Colombian songstress, 46, and Bizarrap have made history with their song Music Sessions Vol. 53, topping the charts, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. After collaborating with the 24-year-old Argentinian DJ and producer, real name Gonzalo Juliain Conde, the pair bagged a No.1 together as well as four Guinness World Records titles. The song was released on YouTube on January 12 and takes aim at Shakira's ex, Gerard Pique. "I'm worth two 22's. You traded a Ferrari for a Twingo," Shakira sings. "You traded a Rolex for a Casio... A lot of gyms, but work your brain a little bit too." 'Mirror.co.uk' said that it set the record for most viewed Latin track on YouTube in 24 hours with 63,000,000 and then became the fastest Latin track to reach 100 million views on YouTube.



It also managed to earn the record for most streamed Latin track on Spotify in 24 hours with 14,393,342 plays. By the end of the first week, that number grew to a huge 80,646,962, also making the song the most streamed Latin

track on Spotify in one week. The musical duo were greeted backstage at The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon by Official Adjudicator Michael Empric, who presented them both with their certificates.

## WhatsApp rolling out 'approve new participants' feature to beta testers

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly rolling out a new feature -- "approve new participants" in group settings for some beta testers on Android and iOS. With this feature, group administrators will be able to manage how the approval of new members works in their groups, according to WABetaInfo. In particular, when the option is enabled, anyone trying to join a group will be subject to approval by an administrator. Moreover, the report said that the



feature could offer more control over who joins the group -- by toggling the approve new participants option, group admins will now be able to approve or reject new participants when they join the group, even if they have used a group invite link. In addition, this could also help

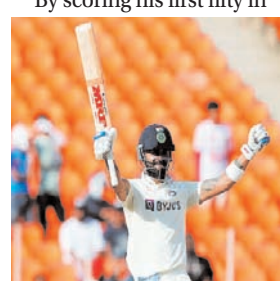
admins limit the large number of requests they receive from people who want to join a subgroup of their community. This feature will roll out to even more beta testers over the coming weeks, the report mentioned. Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly developing a new feature -- "silence unknown callers" -- which will allow users to mute calls from unknown numbers while still showing them in the calls list and notification centre. The new feature is currently under development on WhatsApp beta for Android.

## Kohli becomes fifth Indian batter to score 4000 runs at home

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Virat Kohli struck a fluent half-century on the third day of the fourth Test against Australia, his first fifty in almost 14 months and in the process became the fifth Indian batter to score 4000 runs at home. Former India captain Kohli overcame a nervous start before tea to get his first fifty in the longest format of the game since the Cape Town Test in January 2022. His 59 not out along with Shubman Gill (128) and Cheteshwar Pujara's 42 helped India

reach 289/3 in 99 overs and put the hosts in a strong position on Saturday. By scoring his first fifty in



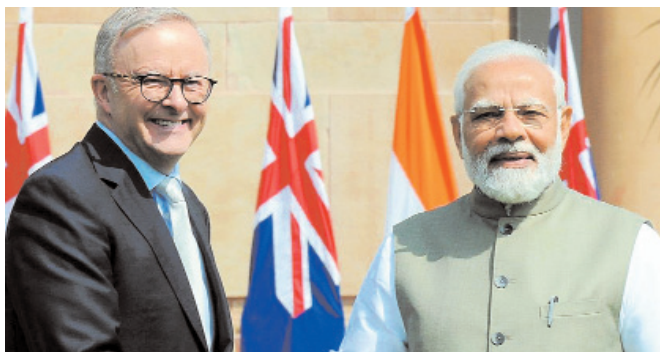
more than a year, Kohli joined an elite list that includes Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwag

to score 4000 or more runs at home. Kohli reached the mark of 4000 runs in his 50th Test at home. Tendulkar leads the list with 7216 runs in 94 Tests, with Rahul Dravid (5598 in 70), Sunil Gavaskar (5067 in 65) and Sehwag (4656 in 52 Tests) following in that order in the list of players to score the most runs at home. At stumps on Day 3, Kohli was batting on 59 not out with Ravindra Jadeja 16 not out. This was the first time he scored past 40 runs in the ongoing series against Australia.

## India, Aus join hands for innovation in areas of national challenges

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India and Australia have joined forces to drive innovation in areas of national challenges and shared priorities of both countries, an official said on Saturday. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) -- Australia's national science agency, have joined hands by signing a Letter of Intent (LoI) to encourage cooperation to drive innovation activities, a statement said. The move came during the visit of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to India as he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday in Delhi. An official said that the meeting between Modi and Albanese spanned across areas of mutual interest and explored avenues of strengthening bilateral engagement in a range of key areas with inno-



vation as one key item.

The LoI between AIM and CSIRO calls for a greater collaboration in areas of mutual interest and strategic priorities and serves as a general framework for cooperation intended to facilitate the development of more programme specific interventions. The core of the bilateral engagement is the India-Australia Innovation and Technology Challenge (IA-ITC) -- a programme envisioned to bring together the innovation ecosystems of India and Australia. The programme intends to leverage the complementary capabilities and resources of the innovation ecosystem of both the countries. According to a statement, the IA-ITC builds on the success of the India Australia Circular Economy (IACE) hackathon 2021, which witnessed university students, start-ups, and SMEs from both India and Australia develop innovative tech-based solutions for circularity in food system value chain.





## K'TAKA POLICE REGISTER CASE ON SWAPNA SURESH'S COMPLAINT, BEGIN PROBE

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Two days after Swapna Suresh -- the prime accused in the gold smuggling case and Life Mission scam, went live on her Facebook claiming she might be killed as the CPI-M in Kerala and its leaders were targeting her, the Karnataka Police on Saturday registered a case based on her complaint.

"The hunt is on... Karnataka Police swung into action on the basis of my complaint. They registered a case against Vjesh Pillai, recorded my statement, took me to the hotel where Pillai stayed and the meeting took place and collected evidence.

"The hotel management informed the Karnataka police that Pillai was staying in the hotel with another person. Who's that anonymous person who remained in the background?" she posted on Facebook.

On Thursday, Swapna Suresh said Pillai had approached her and sought an appointment with her.

He said that his OTT platform was planning a web series on her trials and tribulations.

She claimed that Pillai, "acting as a middleman of the CPI-M", said if she withdraws her allegations against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife, daughter and son, she would be given Rs 30 crore and a visa to Malaysia.

Swapna Suresh said the Kerala unit CPI-M secretary M.V. Govindan -- according to Pillai -- had threatened to even eliminate her "if she does not accept the offer".



However, Pillai on Friday denied the allegations, saying he had discussed with her only the web series plans.

Meanwhile, Govindan on Saturday threatened to initiate legal proceedings against Swapna Suresh.

"Vijayan has other important things to tackle... no one can defame a tall leader like Vijayan," he said.

## Satish Kaushik's death: Nothing suspicious found so far; probe is on, say Delhi Police

Commenting on the probe into the death of noted Bollywood actor-director Satish Kaushik (66), Delhi Police said on Saturday that in their inquiry conducted so far, nothing suspicious or foul play has come on record.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

According to the police, at 2:22 a.m. on March 9, a medico-legal case information was received from the Fortis Hospital in Gurugram at the Kapashera police station which said Satish Kaushik was brought dead to the hospital from Pushpanjali in Bijwasan, Delhi.

"Thereafter, the body of Kaushik was shifted to the DDU Hospital in Delhi for inquest proceedings. As per the inquiry conducted so far, Kaushik along with his manager Santosh Rai came to Delhi on March 8 and stayed at his friend Vikas Malu's farmhouse in Bijwasan," said Rajeev Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest).

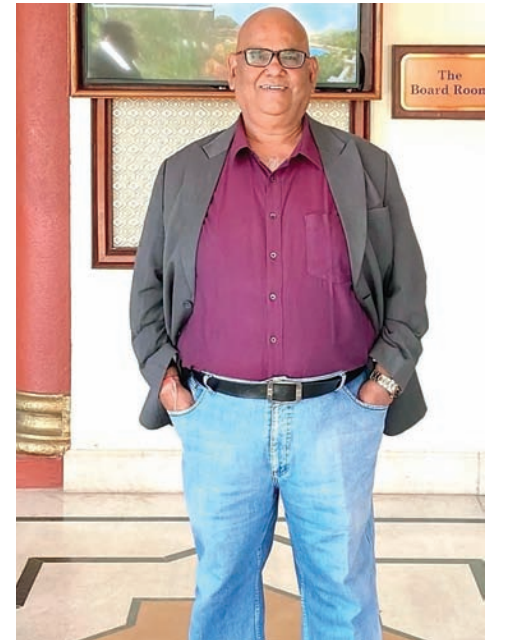
His manager Santosh told the police that they celebrated Holi till 3 p.m. on March 8 and thereafter took rest.

"No party was held in the evening or night. At about 9 p.m., Kaushik had dinner and then after taking a walk, he went to his bedroom and started watching movie clips on his iPad. At about 12 midnight, he called for his manager Santosh, who was staying in the adjoining room, and complained of uneasiness and chest pain," the officer said.

Thereafter, he was rushed to the Fortis hospital in Gurugram, where he was declared brought dead by the doctors.

"During inquiry and inquest proceedings, the place where Satish Kaushik was staying was thoroughly inspected and photographed. Nothing suspicious or objectionable was found from the spot or from the room of the deceased, except some medicines," Kumar said. The police also examined all the witnesses who accompanied Kaushik and recorded their statements. "The CCTV footage from the spot has also been seized and is being scanned. As per the post-mortem report, the preliminary cause of death is cardiac arrest caused by coronary artery blockage associated with coronary artery disease and the manner of death appears to be natural," the officer said. However, a final call will be taken after the perusal of histopathology study report of the heart and FSL pertaining to the blood.

"The local police are in touch with Kaushik's family which didn't raise any suspicion about his death. In the inquiry conducted so far, nothing suspicious or foul play has come on record. However, the police proceedings are going on," the officer added.



## Sisodia lodged in 'VVVIP' Ward No. 9 in Tihar: Suresh Chandrashekhar writes to L-G

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Mandoli Jail in the national capital in a money-laundering case, has written another letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, claiming that former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia is "lodged in Ward No. 9 in Tihar Jail-1, which is a VVIP ward".

In his letter sent to the L-G on Friday, Chandrashekhar claimed that Ward No. 9 is a special ward for high-profile VIP prisoners spread over an area of 20,000 sq ft housing only five cells with wooden flooring, which has all the amenities including an exclusive garden to walk around, a special badminton court and a dining area.

"This ward has till date housed VIP/high-profile inmates such as Subrata Roy, Suresh Kalmadi, Amar Singh, A. Raja and recently Sanjay Chandra of Unitech. I was also lodged in this ward from 2017 to 2018 on the instructions of Satyendar Jain (former Delhi Prison Minister)," Chandrashekhar claimed in his letter.

He also claimed that along with Sisodia, only few



old inmates and 'sevadars' are lodged in the ward for his comfort, and not any gangster or serious criminals as alleged by the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP).

"It's all manipulated and lies. Sisodia is being well taken care of in this VVIP ward, and all these allegations (by AAP) are well-planned and orchestrated by Arvind Kejriwal, Satyendar Jain and the jail administration. The jail administration is like a puppet in the hands of AAP, mainly Satyendar Jain who still controls the jail staff irrespective of the multiple scrutinies," Chandrashekhar wrote in the letter.

"Sir, I humbly request for your urgent intervention in the interest of justice, as I am a witness against AAP. I kindly request you to initiate an urgent inquiry into the VVIP facilities currently being provided to Sisodia in Ward No. 9, Jail 1, and also to take action against the mentioned jail officials in the interest of my safety," Chandrashekhar wrote.

"Also, I kindly request you to initiate an inquiry against Satyendar Jain to find out how he is still using his power and influence to control the jail administration, even though he has resigned (as Prison Minister) and is in judicial custody," he added.

## After nine-hour grilling, ED summons Kavitha again on March 16

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After grilling K. Kavitha, the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, in connection with the Delhi excise policy case for nine hours on Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned her again for questioning on March 16.

Kavitha was reportedly confronted with Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Pillai, who is already in ED custody for his alleged involvement in the case. A woman deputy director-level officer of the ED recorded the testimony of Kavitha.

Pillai was representing the 'South Group', which allegedly paid kickbacks of Rs 100 crore to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders which was reportedly used in the Assembly elections in Goa.



Pillai has allegedly said that he was an associate of Kavitha.

Their statements were recorded under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Kavitha was summoned to join the probe on Thursday, but she had sought more time after which her questioning was postponed to Saturday.

Kavitha has said that she has never met former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who has been arrested by the CBI and the ED in connection with the case, claiming that her name was being unnecessarily dragged into the matter.

According to the ED, Kavitha is also one of the representatives of South Group in the excise policy case.

## Rajasthan BJP protests against 'misbehaviour' with widows of Pulwama martyrs

Jaipur | Agencies

On the call of Rajasthan BJP President Satish Poonia, saffron party workers on Saturday staged a protest here against the 'misbehaviour' of the police with the widows of three Pulwama martyrs.

Poonia, deputy leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore, MP Ghanshyam Tiwari and many other took part in the demonstration.

After the demonstration that lasted for about two-and-a-half hours, the BJP leaders and workers, including Poonia, courted arrest. Later they were released from the Vidyadhar Nagar police station. However, during the protest, factionalism within the BJP once again came to the fore with supporters of Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal Meena raised 'Satish Poonia Hai Hai' slogan, which was countered



by the Poonia camp that chanted 'Poonia Zindabad'.

Meena's supporters are unhappy that the state BJP did not support their protest supporting the widows of Pulwama martyrs strongly.

The wives of Pulwama martyrs -- Manju Jat, Sundari Devi, Madhubala Meena -- were protesting outside Congress leader Sachin Pilot's residence for the past one week. However, the police forcefully removed them from the protest site at 3 a.m. on Thursday and took them to their village in an ambulance. The next day, Meena was stopped when he was

going to meet the three women. As his health condition deteriorated, Meena was admitted to the hospital.

Manju Jat and Sundari Devi are demanding government jobs for their respective brother-in-law, but the government's argument is that there is no provision to give a government job to such a kin.

Madhubala is demanding that his husband's statue be installed at the Sangod Square in Kota.

The widows of the Pulwama martyrs are also demanding action against the policemen who 'misbehaved' with them.

## MAN STABBED TO DEATH IN DELHI

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man was stabbed to death in Delhi's Trilokpuri area on Saturday, an official said. The deceased has been identified as Tushar, a resident of Trilokpuri area.

According to the police, an information of a stabbing incident was received from the LBS Hospital at the Kalyanpuri police station on Saturday afternoon following which an investigating officer was deputed for further inquiry.

"The IO collected the medico-legal case report of Tushar from the hospital where he was declared brought dead," said a senior police officer. "On further inquiry, it was found that the deceased was stabbed multiple times by a man in front of a house in Trilokpuri," the officer said.

## Delhi Police asked to enquire, register FIR against litigant for forging docs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) has directed the Delhi Police to enquire and register an FIR against a litigant for placing on record a fake court order to claim Rs 23.50 lakh as compensation.

The tribunal's Presiding Officer, Ekta Gauba Mann, said that an attempt by litigant Pooja to wrongfully claim the compensation awarded to the petitioner in another case is a very serious issue.

"Pooja has prepared a fake order of this court by getting it fabricated by mentioning in place of Pushpa Rajwar v. Nawab Ali as Pooja v. The State & ors. and by mentioning in place of the name of this court the wrong name of the court," the judge said.

"It is a very serious issue as this court is dealing with the award of compensation. By moving the present application, Pooja, on the basis of said alleged fake order, is attempting to get the award of Rs 23.50 lakh, i.e. the award



amount which was awarded to the petitioner / victim in case titled Pushpa Rajwar v. Nawab Ali," the judge said.

"So, the Station House Officer of Prashant Vihar police station is directed to inquire and then to register the FIR as to how come the fake copy of order in the name of this court has been placed on record by the applicant Pooja for wrongfully claiming the compensation of award amount which has

been awarded to the actual victims of MACT case titled Pushpa Rajwar v. Nawab Ali," the judge said.

The matter has been posted for further hearing after receiving the SHO's report on March 14. The counsel for Pooja told the court that he was not aware she had prepared any fake order of this court. He sought permission to withdraw his vakalatnama, which was permitted by the court.

## NOW 5 IDS MUST FOR PERFORMING LAST RITES IN JAIPUR

Jaipur | Agencies

A murder mystery has prompted the Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage to change its rules.

In Jaipur, now the ID of five people will have to be given to perform the last rites in the crematorium and cemetery. This will also include the ID of the deceased. These five people would be those who attended the funeral. Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage issued orders in this regard on March 8. These orders have been issued after the famous Monalisa murder case reported in Bikaner last year. Bikaner's Additional SP Amit Kumar wrote a letter to the



Jaipur collector in this context. Municipal Corporation Jaipur Heritage officers said that the records of many dead are not kept after the

last rites in the crematorium as well as in Jaipur city. Eventually, the correct information doesn't come out when required.

### THE ORDER COMES WITH THESE FACTS:

- A complete record of last rites should be made in all the cremation grounds run by the Municipal Corporation Jaipur Heritage.
- Records are not maintained by those who work in the crematorium, sell wood, perform last rites, sell other materials related to cremation. They should also keep a record of the person taking the cremation material.
- All people are cremated in the cremation ground. Cremation should be done after ascertaining the identity of the deceased.
- Records should be taken by taking the identity documents of at least five people involved in the funeral.
- Records related to cremation should be submitted to the Municipal Corporation every month.
- At present, apart from the ID of the deceased brought to the crematorium and cemetery in Jaipur city, the ID of one of his relatives was taken. So that its details can be filled in the application form for the death certificate and sent to the Municipal Corporation.

## Specially-abled woman raped in Delhi, accused nabbed from Lucknow

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 22-year-old specially-abled woman was sexually assaulted by her neighbour in Delhi's Maujpur area, an official said on Saturday, adding that the accused has been apprehended from Lucknow with the help of Uttar Pradesh Police.

The accused has been identified as Saddam Hussain (30), a resident of Gopalganj district in Bihar.

Joy Tirkey, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast), said that at 8:42 p.m. on Thursday, a PCR call was received at the Jafrabad police station, informing that a woman has been raped in Maujpur following which a police team was rushed to the spot.



"Medical examination of the woman, who was found to be specially-abled, confirmed sexual assault. In her statement, the victim stated that she stays with her parents on the first-floor of a rented accommodation in Maujpur. Her father drives an e-rickshaw while her mother works in a packaging firm in Gandhi Nagar," the DCP said.

According to her, Saddam used to stay in a room on the

same floor.

"On Thursday, the woman was alone in the house when Saddam called her to his room on some pretext and raped her. When her mother returned in the evening, she narrated the entire incident to her," Tirkey said.

Saddam had fled from the area after committing the crime.

"During investigation, it emerged that Saddam was a native of Bihar and worked as daily wage labourer. The police found out that Saddam had boarded a bus from Anand Vihar ISBT to Gopalganj. However, he was nabbed from Lucknow with the help of UP police before he could reach Gopalganj," the DCP said.



National parties collected Rs 17,249.45 cr from unknown sources: ADR report

## BLACK OR WHITE

According to a report released by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released on Saturday, during FY 2021-22, BJP declared Rs 1161.0484 crore as income from unknown sources which is 53.45 per cent of the total income of national parties from unknown sources (Rs 2172.231 crore). This income of BJP is Rs 149.8658 crore more than the aggregate of income from unknown sources declared by the other six national parties (Rs 1011.1826 crore).

▶ AITC declared Rs 528.093 crore as income from unknown sources which is 24.31 per cent of the total income of national parties from unknown sources.  
▶ Out of Rs 2172.231 crore as income from unknown sources, share of income from Electoral Bonds was Rs 1811.9425 crore or 83.4%, said the ADR report.  
▶ The report said that combined income of INC (Congress) and NCP from sale of coupons between FY 2004-05 and 2021-22 stands at Rs 4398.51 crore.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The ADR report said that between FY 2004-05 and 2021-22, the national parties collected Rs 17,249.45 crore from unknown sources. Sources of funding to national political parties remain largely unknown, an analysis has disclosed. The report said that total income of eight national political parties in FY 2021-22 was Rs 3289.34 crore and total income of political parties from known donors (details of donors as available from contribution report submitted by parties to Election Commission and analysed by ADR) is Rs 780.774 crore, which is 23.74 per cent of the total income of the parties. Total income of political parties from other known sources (sale of assets, membership fees, bank interest, sale of publications, party levy etc) is Rs 336.335 crore, or 10.22 per cent of the total income. Total income of political parties from unknown sources (income specified in the annual audit report whose sources are unknown) is Rs 2172.231 crore, which is 66.04 per cent of the total



income of the parties, said the report. The ADR report has said that out of Rs 2172.231 crore as income from unknown sources, share of income from Electoral Bonds is Rs 1811.9425 crore or 83.4 per cent. ADR report said that income from sale of coupons declared by INC, CPI(M) & NCP formed 6.785 per cent (Rs 147.3886 crore) of income from unknown sources while donations from voluntary contributions (below Rs 20,000) formed 9.184 per cent (Rs 199.4951 crore) in income from unknown sources of the seven national parties. At present, political parties are not required to reveal the name of individuals or organisations giving less than Rs 20,000 nor those who donated via Electoral Bonds. As a result, more than 65% of the funds cannot be traced and are from 'unknown' sources. ADR has recommended that since a very large percentage of the income of political parties cannot be traced to the original donor, full details of all donors should be made available for public scrutiny under the RTI. Some countries where this is done include Bhutan, Nepal, Germany, France, Italy, Brazil, Bulgaria, the US and Japan. In none of these countries, it is possible for more than 65% of the source of funds to be unknown, but at present it is so in India. The unknown sources are income declared in the annual audit report but without giving source of income for donations below Rs 20,000. Such unknown sources include 'donations via Electoral Bonds', 'sale of coupons', 'relief fund', 'miscellaneous income', 'voluntary contributions', 'contribution from meetings/morchas', etc. The details of donors of such voluntary contributions are not available in the public domain, said ADR.

## Silicon Valley Bank collapse leaves Indian startups worried

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in the US has left several Indian startups worried who have exposure to its investments and their raised funds may now be stuck. According to recent data by global software-as-a-service (SaaS)-based market intelligence platform Tracxn, SVB had exposure in at least 21 startups in India although it did not reveal the size of the investment in these startups. Also, the beleaguered bank did not invest in any Indian startup lately. According to the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation that shut down the bank, all insured depositors will have full access to their insured deposits no later than Monday, March 13, 2023. However, the palpitations can be heard among startup founders.



## Land for job scam: ED makes seizures worth Rs 600 crore

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said that unaccounted cash of Rs 1 crore, \$1,900 (over Rs 1.5 lakh), 540 gm gold and 1.5 kg of gold jewellery and other incriminating documents were recovered following the raids conducted on Friday in connection with land for job scam case involving former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad and his family members. The ED said that raids were conducted at more than 24 locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and in Ranchi based on specific intelligence inputs. Searches resulted in the detection of proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 600 crore which is in the form of immovable properties of Rs 350 crore and transactions of Rs 250 crore routed through various 'benami' channels," the ED said. The ED said that an investigation conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) so far has revealed that several plots of land at prominent locations in Patna and other areas

were illegally acquired by the family of Lalu Prasad in lieu of jobs provided in Railways. The current market value of these land parcels is more than Rs 200 crore. The official said that several benamidars, shell entities and beneficial owners for these lands have been identified. The official said that huge amount of cash/proceeds of crime were infused in purchasing this property, and a few Mumbai-based entities, dealing in the gems and jewellery sector were used to channel the ill-gotten proceeds of crime in this regard.

## Centre writes to states over rising trend of influenza-like illnesses

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Health Ministry on Saturday warned that an increasing trend of Influenza-like illnesses, and Severe Acute Respiratory Illnesses is being observed across the country. "Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), as reported by the states and union territories, an increasing trend of ILI/SARI is being observed across the country. Further, as per integrated sentinel based surveillance of ILI and SARI, an upswing of Influenza A is observed since the latter half of December 2022," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the letter. "Of particular concern is the preponderance of Influenza A (H3N2) being detected in the samples being analysed in various labs," said Bhushan, adding



that young children, old-age people and people suffering from co-morbidities are particularly at risk and vulnerable to H1N1, H3N2, Adenoviruses, etc. "While the Covid-19 trajectory has decreased substantially in the last few months, the gradual rise in Covid-19 test positivity rates in some states is a concerning issue that needs to be promptly addressed. Despite a low number of new cases, an equally low number of hospitalisations and significant advances made in terms of Covid-19 vaccination coverage, there is still a need to remain vigilant and focus on the fivefold strategy of test-track-treat-vaccination and adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour," the letter reads.

## RULING BJP'S TERM IN K'TAKA TO END ON MAY 24: CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Bengaluru: Chief Election Commissioner

Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday that the term of fifteenth legislature in Karnataka will end on May 24. "There are 5,21,73,599 voters in Karnataka. I have discussed with all party representatives, election officers and BBMP staff in connection with poll preparation," he said. Addressing a press conference Kumar said that he had discussed with the representatives for three days on holding elections transparently. Chief Election Commissioner expressed his displeasure over low rate of voter turnout especially in Bengaluru in 2018 general assembly elections. Bengaluru has emerged as the IT hub and despite this, lower percentage of voting is disheartening, he said. The voter's turnout in urban areas has come down, he stressed. He maintained that he is confident of the completion of the election process peacefully in Karnataka. The voters should not get into traps of money and other things, he advised. A total of 9,17,241 new voters will exercise their rights for the first time in upcoming elections.



## I was sexually assaulted by my father: DCW chief Swati Maliwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), Swati Maliwal, claimed on Saturday that she was sexually assaulted by her father when she was a child. "I was sexually assaulted by my father when I was a child. My father used to beat me up, so I used to hide under the bed to save myself. My father would grab my hair and slam my head against the wall. This happened till I was in Class 4," Maliwal said during DCW's annual International Women's Day awards function at the India Habitat Centre here. "While hiding under the bed, I used to think how I will teach a lesson to such men who abuse women and children, and how I can help women get their rights," Maliwal added. The programme was attended by Delhi Chief Minister



Arvind Kejriwal and Canada's acting High Commissioner Amanda Strohan, among others, who gave away the awards to 90 women for their excellent work. Among the prominent faces who won the awards were tennis ace Sania Mirza, India U-19 cricketer Sonia Mendiya and hockey player Mumtaz

Khan. Women officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, BRO, BSE, CRPF, CISF, Indian Coast Guard and Delhi Police were also honoured on the occasion. Awards were also given to 31 woman bus drivers of DTC along with some common people for their bravery and extraordinary work.

## FOR 2ND TIME IN 2 MONTHS, ED RAIDS NCP LEADER HASAN MUSHRIF'S PREMISES

Kolhapur: For the second time in two months, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the home and other premises of senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Hasan Mushrif in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of a cooperative sugar mill, here on Saturday. This is the second direct action against Mushrif after he was raided on Jan 11 by the ED at Kolhapur and Pune, besides his relatives and aides. An ED team swooped on Mushrif's home in a pre-dawn operation amid tight security and carried out searches inside his home in Kagal. However, Mushrif has steadfastly denied all allegations and said that the agency's raids are a political move by the ruling BJP at the centre and had even raised questions whether people of a 'particular community' are being systematically hounded.



## El Nino phenomenon may impact agriculture in India this year

▶ According to the Meteorological Department, heat waves, however, are forecast in March to May at 3 to 5 degrees above normal.  
▶ There have been drought like situations too due to the phenomenon.  
▶ This leads to crop loss, resulting in rising food prices.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The El Nino phenomenon, which occurs normally after every three to five years, may impact the weather in India this year, thus affecting the agriculture sector. Monsoon rains are impacted the most by the El Nino phenomenon. And as rains are essential for agricultural activities, El Nino is likely to cause worry to India, said an agriculture scientist, requesting anonymity. India will inevitably experience a severe pre-and post-monsoon phenomenon, which will affect the agriculture sector, it said. If agricultural activities are hit by El Nino, it may go on to impact the Indian economy also, as



shortage of commodities would lead to a rise in inflation. The phenomenon occurs when the sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean rise. As per reports, El Nino, whenever it has occurred, has left a considerable impact on rains in India, leading to below normal rainfall across the country. The monsoon months of June-September are crucial for Indian farmers as almost 70 per cent of the Indian subcontinent receives rain during this period. Being an agrarian economy, India depends on monsoon for good crops. Agriculture constitutes 20 per cent of India's GDP. With El Nino impact likely to be seen this year, if rainfall is impacted, then it could adversely affect major crops like rice, sugar, cereals, pulses and others, leading to a shortage of essential food items and giving rise to inflation.

## PRE-MONSOON SHOWERS MAY LEAD TO CROP DAMAGE

New Delhi: With moderate to widespread rainfall over central, eastern and southern parts of India from March 13 to 18 under the influence of an active western disturbance and associated induced cyclonic circulation, meteorologists on Saturday predicted onset of pre-monsoon activities that may lead to crop damage. This initial spell of unseasonal rain and thundershowers has already led to crop damage in substantial parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra between March 6 and 8. Strong winds and hailstorm flattened the crop, making the loss beyond recovery. Now, the country is gearing up for another prolonged spell of pre-monsoon rain and thundershowers, along with thunderstorms, hailstorms, and lightning strikes. With this, the threat of crop damage is looming large over the standing crop across several parts of India, they said. The upcoming spell will be a result of interaction among multiple weather systems. As per the climate models, twin cyclonic circulations are likely to form over east Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and adjoining north Andhra Pradesh.

## MAIN ACCUSED BEHIND 'FAKE' VIDEOS OF ATTACKS ON BIHAR MIGRANTS IN TN ARRESTED

Patna: Bihar Police have arrested the main accused who made 'fake' videos of attacks on migrant workers in Tamil Nadu. According to a Bihar police spokesperson, two accused namely Manish Kashyap and Youraj Singh are absconding and the state police are conducting raids on their possible hideouts. The police have already arrested one of the accused Aman Kumar, a native of Jamui district. "The main accused Rakesh Ranjan Kumar, a native of Gopalganj district had made the fake video in a rented accommodation in Patna's Bangali colony under Jakkannpur police station, with the help of 2 persons on March 6. He has confessed the crime. The whole idea behind making a video in Patna was to mislead the police of Bihar and Tamil Nadu. We have cross checked with the landlord of Rakesh Ranjan Kumar and he has also confirmed that the video was made at his house," the spokesperson said. "Accordingly, the investigating team has registered an FIR against Rakesh Ranjan, Manish Kashyap, Youraj Singh and Aman Kumar in Economic Offence Unit (EOU) police station in Patna," he added.





# BOMBAY HC ASKS BMC TO FORMULATE SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR USE OF CRANES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES OF HIGH-RISES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A division bench of Justices G S Kulkarni and R N Laddha in its order on Thursday noted that it was "high time" the BMC gave special attention to the safety requirements at construction sites and said it was certain the civic chief would look into these issues so that appropriate directives/guidelines are formulated.

On February 14, a large cement block came crashing down from the 52nd floor of the under-construction Four Seasons Private Residences project at Worli in central Mumbai, killing two persons standing outside the premises.



A petition was filed by Lokhandwala Residency Towers Cooperative Housing Society Ltd located next to the under-construction building alleging lack of proper care by the developer Provenance Land Pvt Ltd in the use of cranes at the construction site.

The high court in its order said the February 14 incident was "too unfortunate" and that it was "deeply pained" by it.

"It can never be countenanced that innocent lives are lost even by accidents of such nature caused by objects falling from a suspended crane located at an enormous height, which a person on the ground may ordinarily not notice, as the one installed at the present site," the court

said.

"We are deeply pained to note such incident and we hope that none of the high-rise constructions in the city of Mumbai should make people vulnerable and prone to such accidents, in which innocent people would get hurt or lose their lives," it added.

The court cited that it was a common sight in Mumbai where several high-rise buildings that are under construction have large suspended cranes.

"We firmly believe that a right of a person to move freely, in places which are not actual construction sites, if are threatened by a fear of being killed or hurt, this would certainly amount to violation of one's fundamental right to livelihood, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," it said.

The court wondered if there was any inspection, approval and certification of the operation of such cranes by any recognised specialised agency, which may be appointed by the developers.

"As to what are the norms of safety and/or precautions, required to be implemented in undertaking such constructions, so that they do not affect those who are outside the construction site, i.e., in the adjoining land/premises or on the public road, in the vicinity is an important aspect

which would be required to be taken into consideration," it said.

The bench further said it was certain the BMC chief would look into these issues so that appropriate directives/guidelines in this regard are formulated.

It directed the civic body to within two months to look into the issues inter alia concerning safety measures in the operation and use of cranes in high-rise constructions.

"We are certain that in the event the municipal corporation formulates any guidelines and intends to issue appropriate directives, the urban development department of the state government shall act upon any such proposal of the municipal corporation with utmost expediency," the court said.

In the present case of construction being done at Four Seasons Private Residences project, the court ordered for a committee comprising structural engineers, architects and technical engineers to be formed to oversee the construction.

The petition had raised concerns over a suspended crane installed by the developer in its project, which is likely to endanger human lives in the event of any accident.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Prateek Seksaria and advocate Mridul Sharma contended that a lack of proper care, negligence/mis-handling had caused the unfortunate incident on February 14.

# Mumbai to get third road tunnel, giant observation wheel

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai will get its third and longest road tunnel and the country's first giant observation wheel - similar to the London Eye - besides other important infrastructure projects, officials said.

At a meeting of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which was attended by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, these and many other proposals were approved, said MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner S.V.R. Srinivas.

Approval was granted to construct a 3.8 km long four-lane road tunnel linking Ballard Estate's Orange Gate, Eastern Freeway and Marine Drive on the upcoming Mumbai Coastal Road, at an estimated cost of around Rs 6,500 crore.

Currently, there is a 1 km long road tunnel on the Eastern Freeway, Mumbai's first, besides another 2.07 km long twin-tunnel ready on the Mumbai Coastal Road Project which is likely to be operational this year-end.

The MMRDA will be the



implementing agency and undertake a technical feasibility study for the 'Mumbai Eye' project at Bandra Reclamation.

The project to build India's first giant observation wheel - on the lines of the popular London Eye on the banks of River Thames - as a tourist attraction was first mooted by the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government at the Worli side of the sea link.

The cost estimates for the civil works of constructing a twin tunnel between Borivali and Thane passing through the Sanjay Gandhi National Park has also been approved. The project will be implemented in three packages in which civil works shall be completed in two and the Intelligent Transportation System will be in the third package, said Srinivas.

The meeting also cleared the revised estimate of the major 42 km sea bridge linking Versova (Mumbai) with Virar (Palghar), which would be a northern extension of the existing Worli sea link.

The MMRDA will appoint a consultant to prepare a detailed project report for immediate construction of the Metro Line 5 extension from Kalyan to Ulhasnagar in Thane district, the home base of the Chief Minister and his MP son Shrikant Shinde.

The Metro Line 5 will be extended to Khadakpada in Phase I and to Ulhasnagar in Phase II, and will benefit the commuters in the Thane towns of Ulhasnagar, Ambernath, Badlapur, and surroundings.

The MMRDA has been authorised to levy toll from December 2027 from vehicles entering Mumbai to recover the ongoing infrastructure development and metro rail costs in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

A proposal to extend the Chheda Nagar flyover in Ghatkopar to Anand Nagar in Thane, a 13 km long six-lane elevated bridge, was also cleared.

# Denied marriage, love-torn Mumbai boy & minor girl jump to death from hill

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A young man and his minor girlfriend allegedly ended their lives by jumping off a hillock in a north-west suburb of Mumbai, police said here on Saturday.

The man, identified as one Akash Jhate and the 16-year-old girl studying in SSC, were neighbours in the Janupada tribal-dominated locality near Samata Nagar in Kandivali east.

While the boy worked as a housekeeper, the girl was a school student and they reportedly took the extreme step as their families were against their liaison.

The girl's family said that when they woke up in the morning, the girl was missing from the home and they launched a frantic search for her in the vicinity, but failed to trace her.

They approached the



Samata Nagar Police to lodge a missing complaint, and being a minor, the police launched investigations into a possible abduction angle.

It was only on Friday afternoon that the police were alerted of the tragedy by a local informing about two bodies found lying at the bottom of a hill there. They were rushed to the Shatabdi Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

Though no suicide note has been recovered, subsequent police enquiries revealed that the girl claimed to have gone out with a friend, while the boy sent a message to his family saying he was leaving home and would never return.

The bodies of the deceased were sent for an autopsy and later handed over to their respective families for the last rites.

# Infosys President Mohit Joshi resigns, appointed MD & CEO Designate at Tech Mahindra

Team Absolute | Bengaluru/Mumbai

The Board of Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting and business re-engineering services and solutions, on Saturday announced Mohit Joshi as the MD and CEO designate of Tech Mahindra.

The announcement comes on the heels of Mohit Joshi, the President of tech giant Infosys putting in his papers.

Infosys, in its official communication to stock exchange stated, that Joshi will be on leave and his last date with the company would be on June 9. Joshi will take over as Tech Mahindra MD and CEO when incumbent CP Gurnani retires on December 19, 2023. He will join Tech Mahindra well before that date to allow for sufficient transition time.

Commenting on his appointment, Joshi said, "Tech Mahindra's growth journey has been remarkable. I am delighted to be joining the Tech Mahindra family and look forward to working closely with all the associates, partners, and customers to achieve new milestones, make a positive difference and #Resisttogether."

T. N. Manoharan, Chairperson of the Tech Mahindra NRC said, "Mohit's appointment is the successful culmination of a rigorous selection process during which the NRC evaluated a number of internal and external candidates. Mohit's experi-



ence with digital transformation, new technologies and large deals will complement Tech Mahindra's strategies and continue to build on the strong growth momentum demonstrated by the company".

Mohit Joshi has over two decades of experience in the Enterprise technology software and consulting space and has worked with the largest corporations in the world in driving digital transformation and building thriving businesses.

Sources in Infosys claimed that his absence will create a vacuum in the company. Joshi had joined Infosys in 2000 and worked with the firm in many capacities. He was playing an important role at Infosys in connection with financial services, health-

care and life sciences businesses. Infosys management tried its best to retain him but the efforts could not materialise.

Joshi handled Infosys's internal technology and applications portfolio. He led a financial services business in Europe. In 2007, he was appointed as CEO of Infosys Mexico and he played a role in setting up the first subsidiary in Latin America.

At Infosys, he was Head of the Global Financial Services and Healthcare and the Software business, which included Finacle (the banking platform) and the AI / Automation portfolio.

Joshi also led Sales Operations and Transformation for Infosys and executive responsibility for all large deals across the company. He was also responsible for the company's internal CIO function and the Infosys Knowledge Institute.

He has been a Non-Executive Director at Aviva PLC since 2020 and is a member of its Risk & Governance and Nomination committees.

In 2014, Mohit Joshi joined the prestigious Young Global Leader program at the World Economic Forum, Davos and is also a member of Young Presidents Organization (YPO). Previously, Mohit has also held the office of the Vice Chair of the Economic Growth Board of the CBI (Confederation of British Industry). Prior to joining Infosys in 2000, Mohit worked with ABN AMRO and ANZ Grindlays in their Corporate and Investment bank.

## Cosmos Cooperative Bank loan fraud

# ED ARRESTS EDUCATIONIST VIVEK ARANHA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Vivek Aranha, partner in Rosary Education Group, Pune, under the provisions of PMLA, an official said on Saturday.

Aranha was produced before a Sessions Judge Mumbai on Friday which remanded him to ED's custody till March 20.

The ED has alleged that Aranha had obtained multiple loans totalling Rs 46 crore from Cosmos Cooperative Bank, Pune, by submitting fabricated documents of property as mortgage with the bank, and thereafter diverted the same for his extravagant lifestyle causing a loss of Rs 45 crore to the bank. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of the FIR registered by



Pune Police on the basis of complaint of Shivaji Vitthal Kale of Cosmos Bank against Vinay Aranha

and Vivek Anthony Aranha wherein it was alleged that the accused persons had obtained loan of Rs 20.44

crore from Cosmos Bank by submitting fake documents of property.

# Mumbai court remands bizman Sadanand Kadam to ED custody till March 15

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court in Mumbai on Saturday remanded businessman Sadanand Kadam to the custody of Enforcement Directorate (ED) till March 15 in an alleged money-laundering case.

Kadam is a close associate of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and ex-minister Anil Parab, and the brother of Shiv Sena's former minister Ramdas Kadam.

The ED had picked up Kadam from Khed in Ratnagiri for the alleged illegal construction of the Sai Resort at Dapoli and a purported money-laundering case arising from it.

Initially, he was grilled the financial probe agency but



after he reportedly didn't cooperate, he was arrested and brought to Mumbai for further investigation and remand.

Based on a complaint by the Centre and allegations of money-laundering levelled by former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya, the ED had initiated

a probe into the case involving Sai Resorts, Sea Conch Resort and other properties near coasts and had also interrogated Parab.

Somaiya has warned of more to come and 'advised' Parab to pack up his bags and prepare himself (for arrest) in a series of tweets.

# 'Medicines' found from Delhi farm house where Satish Kaushik partied

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Investigators probing the death of 66-year-old noted Bollywood actor Satish Kaushik have recovered some "medicines" from the farm house where he attended a party, an official said on Saturday.

"We are waiting for an autopsy report to ascertain the cause of his death. Some medicines were recovered from the farmhouse in Bijwasan where Kaushik attended a party. A list of guests has also been made," said a senior police official. Post-mortem of the veteran actor was conducted at Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital here. A senior police official said that they had received information regarding Kaushik's death from Fortis hospital in Gurugram.

The actor-writer-director Kaushik --



remembered as 'Calendar' (his character in Mr India) -- passed away late on Wednesday.

# THANE RESIDENTS SUPPORT UDDHAV: SANJAY RAUT

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Sanjay Raut on Friday said he was confident the people of Thane will remain with his party chief Uddhav Thackeray.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena split in June last year following the rebellion by Thane strongman Eknath Shinde, who went on to become chief minister with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Thane was considered among the safest seats of the undivided Shiv Sena due to the

massive popularity of late Anand Dighe, the mentor of Shinde.

However, since the split, several Sena units in the area aligned with Shinde, though the Sena (UBT) continues to have sizable presence in the region. Addressing a 'Shiv Jayanti' rally here, Raut said no force can break the relation the people of Thane have with his

party.

The people of Thane are, in fact, waiting to teach a lesson to those who betrayed the party, Raut asserted at the well-attended event in the presence of local Lok Sabha MP Rajan Vichare. Pointing towards the huge crowd, Raut said these were people who loved the party and were not those hired for "khokhas".







# Other orphan children will also get pension under Mukhyamantri Bal Ashirwad Yojana

Marriage of 2100 girls, Mahayagya of social harmony. Degree College will start in Shahpur from July,

Minister Gopal Bhargava has completed the grand resolution of marriage of 21 thousand poor girls. Chief Minister participated in the girl marriage ceremony in Gadhakota

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that other orphan children who do not have parents will also be included in the ambit of the pension scheme applicable to children orphaned due to the death of their parents during Covid infection. Chief Minister Chouhan, on the initiative of Minister Shri Gopal Bhargava, described the marriage of 2100 poor girls in Gadhakota of Sagar district under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah-Nikah Yojana as a great yagya of social harmony. The Chief Minister participated in the 20th Punya Vivah ceremony of the scheme at Rahas Mela Ground, Garhakota in Sagar district. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Minister Bhargava is not only a politician but also a social worker and a development man. He always strives for the development of the state. The history of social service he created by getting 21 thousand



girls married is exemplary. We all are proud of him. Bhargava proved that politics is not a profession but a social service. The Chief Minister also described the wedding ceremony as a Mahakumbh of social service, in which more than one lakh people participated. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the aim of the central and state government is that all daughters should

be happy. No parent should be worried about their daughter's marriage. The state government has implemented the scheme for girls from birth to education and then later for marriage. Now the biggest scheme for the welfare of women "Ladli Behna" has been started, through which an amount of one thousand rupees per month will be deposited in the bank account of all

the eligible women. Bringing smile on the faces of daughters, sisters and women is the main goal of Madhya Pradesh government. To join the Ladli Bahna Yojana, women will not need to wander here and there, applications will be taken by setting up camps in the wards of villages and cities. Chief Minister blessed all the newlyweds involved in the marriage ceremony, wishing them a happy and successful life. Along with this, it was also said that not only Gopal Bhargava alone, maternal uncle Shivraj Singh Chauhan will also stand by him in any difficulty. The Chief Minister and other guests greeted the newly-weds by showering flowers and gifted some gifts as a token. Chief Minister Chouhan also welcomed and congratulated Minister Bhargava for the Mass Marriage Mahayagya. Chief Minister Chouhan also announced the approval of degree college in Shahpur on the demand of Minister Gopal Bhargava.

## Cop's body found on railway track, family dead at home



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A policeman's body was found on railway track, while his wife and toddler son were discovered dead in their home in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal city on Saturday, an official said. The police suspect sub-inspector Suresh Khanguda (32) threw himself under a train after taking the lives of his wife Krishna (28) and son Iva, who would have turned two on March 17, the official said. Misrold police station inspector R B Sharma said they were alerted about the mutilated body of a man on the railway lines under their limits around 3 am. The person was identified as SI Khanguda, who was posted in the special branch at the

police headquarters. The cop, who hailed from Agar Malwa, had joined the police force in 2017. Later, the police found his wife and child lying in a pool of blood in their home in the Kolar area, he said. No suicide note has been recovered, a police officer told PTI from the scene. It is suspected that Khanguda killed Krishna and Iva with a sharp weapon and then took his own life, he said. Bhopal Zonal 4 Deputy Commissioner of Police Vijay Khatri and officials from Kolar police station did not respond to calls. Asked what could have led to the deaths, Bhopal police chief Makrand Deoskar said they are yet to ascertain that as the investigation is still underway.

## LYMPHEDEMA DAY 2023 CELEBRATED AT AIIMS BHOPAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Lymphedema day was celebrated at AIIMS Bhopal on Saturday, 11 March 2023 by the departments of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and General Surgery. The theme of programme was lymphedema in breast cancer survivors and its prevention and treatment. Officiating Director, Dr. Bertha Rathinam and Medical Superintendent Dr. Manisha Shrivastava released the Patient information booklet on this occasion. Dr. Bertha Rathinam, who herself is a breast cancer survivor, shared her experience and motivated the breast cancer patients. Dr. Manisha Shrivastava congratulated the



departments for organising this awareness program. Dr. Rehan Ul Haq, HOD Orthopaedics also shared his thoughts on the condition. Breast cancer survivors who have completed or are undergoing their treatment were especially invited on

this occasion and were felicitated. Poster making competition was organised as part of this activity. Nursing Officer Maya Kumari Sharma read her poem on this topic to motivate the patients. Patients were made aware of breast cancer related lym-

phoedema.

Dr. Swagata Brahmachari, Additional Professor of General Surgery delivered a talk on the causes and prevention of lymphedema. Physiotherapist Brijendra Singh delivered a talk on different measurement tech-

niques of lymphedema and breathing exercises. Physiotherapist Vandana Singh demonstrated shoulder exercises for lymphedema prevention. Manual lymphatic drainage technique, and multilayered bandaging technique by physiotherapist Ankita Wadnerkar Singh. Intermittent pneumatic compression machine was demonstrated by physiotherapist Mohit Bairagi. The organising team for this programme included Dr. John A. Santoshi, incharge HOD PMR, Dr. Pradeep Saxena, HOD, General Surgery, and Dr. Shyam Lal, General Surgery. The program was conducted by physiotherapist Anushree Dabhowale.



## HUGE FIRE AFTER 3 TRUCKS COLLIDE ON HIGHWAY, 2 DEAD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three trawler trucks collided in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Saturday, killing two drivers and injuring at least one other. The accident took place on the hilly Mumbai-Agra four-lane highway. A truck headed towards Mumbai collided with two other trucks coming from the opposite direction at the Ganesh Ghat, Dhar stretch of the Mumbai-Agra National Highway, due to brake failure, police said. After the accident, the trucks contain-

ing cargo of marble, parcels, and some cars caught fire, with columns of black smoke rising high in the sky. One of the trucks overturned on the highway, completely blocking access to that lane. As the trucks caught fire, police were informed and reached the spot. The fire brigade was dispatched to control the fire in the containers. Two people died due to burns from the fire, while another was seriously injured. The survivor, Laxmi Lal, is currently being treated at the government hospital in the town of Dhanmod. The

postmortem of the two victims will also be done at Dhanmod Hospital, and local police will investigate the collision. After the fire brigade and police successfully brought the fire under control, the highway traffic at the Ganesh Ghat stretch was flowing smoothly again. Currently, the routes are not blocked. To the immediate side of the wreckage of the trucks, a prominently placed traffic sign on the highway at Ganesh Ghat reads in Hindi "dheere chalo, surakshit raho" which translates to "Go slow, stay safe".

## TROUBLED BY ALCOHOLIC HUSBAND, WOMAN, 2 CHILDREN DIE BY SUICIDE

Team Absolute | Narsinghpur

A 38-year-old woman and her teenage son and daughter ended their lives by jumping in front of a train apparently to escape harassment by her alcoholic husband in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district, an official said on Saturday. The woman, her 19-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter took the extreme step near Gadgarwara railway station, about 50 km from the district headquarters, the official said. "We got the information about three bodies lying on the track around 10 pm on Friday," said Shashi Pathak, area sub-divisional officer of police. A note recovered from the son's pocket said that the three were taking their lives as his father would often get drunk and trouble them a lot, the official said. We have arrested the father and will produce him in a court, Pathak added.



A memorable Rangotsav Geet-Ghazal Seminar with the youth in the colors of Holi organized under 'Vishwa Rang' at Scope Campus Auditorium, Bhopal.

## 310 patients of cold-cough and flu in Bhopal, out of which 100 admitted

H3N2 is a subtype of influenza-A virus. According to the WHO and the US CDC, it is an important cause of influenza in humans. This virus can also infect birds and animals. Many strains have been created in birds and other animals. Which causes respiratory infection. Influenza A is a subtype of virus that was discovered in 1968.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A new virus named H3N2 is spreading rapidly in the country. So far 90 cases of H3N2 have been reported. Two people have also died. Its danger is also looming in Madhya Pradesh. According to doctors, its symptoms are similar to the symptoms of Corona. More than 40 patients with similar symptoms are coming to the hospitals of Bhopal daily. Doctors told that every third or fourth patient coming to the OPD is suffering from H3N2 or its similar symptoms i.e. cold, cough and flu. Although there is no official confirmation of the new virus. No guideline has been issued by the central or state government. Doctors say that the corona test of these patients is also coming negative. On Friday, more than 100 such patients are admitted in private and government hospitals. At the same time, more than 310 patients reached the OPD here. H3N2 influenza is contagious, spreading from person to person through droplets from the mouth or nose. The



droplets that come out when you sneeze, cough and even speak can infect people around you. You can also become infected by touching your mouth or nose with the same hands after touching an infected surface. Children, elderly and pregnant, who are already suffering from some serious disease, such people are more at risk of getting infected. Bhopal's respiratory specialist Dr. Lokendra Dave told that it is necessary to take precautions to avoid the virus. Avoid going to places where there is a lot of crowd. If you have to go, use a mask.

Influenza vaccine can also be taken with the advice of a doctor. This vaccine is voluntary. It is mainly effective for those patients who already have severe disease. Like cancer, heart, sugar, kidney and liver patients. Apart from this, such elders, whose immunity is weak. Avoid taking more antibiotics. Recently, it has been seen that many patients' cough did not get cured for a long time by taking more antibiotics. Sometimes antibiotics also affect immunity, so do not take medicine without doctor's advice. Often, many patients are trying to recover by taking common antibiotics (azithromycin, amoxiclav or other medicines) without showing them to doctors, going to medical stores. Do not do this at all, because the line of treatment is different in many of these viruses. At the same time, in addition to viral infection, some patients are also suffering from bacterial disease. In such a situation, patients should avoid self-use of antibiotics. After seeing the doctor and getting the test done, take only those medicines which

**BE VIGILANT**  
Keep yourself hydrated, keep drinking liquids. See a doctor immediately if you have fever, cough or headache. Get flu shots to protect against the influenza virus. Do not take antibiotics on your own when you have fever, cold and cough. Wear a mask outside the house, avoid crowded places. Doctor's advice - prevention is necessary  
**NO INSTRUCTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT**  
Bhopal's CMHO Prabhakar Tiwari says that H3N2 virus is a variant of Omicron. Its spread mechanism is also similar to that of Covid. It can spread by coughing, sneezing etc. In this, everyone has to take precautions in the same way as was done during the time of Covid. However, instructions have not been issued by the Center or the State for this at present.

## COMMERCIAL TAX DEPARTMENT RAIDED 29 COTTON BUSINESSMEN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Commercial Tax Department has simultaneously raided 47 establishments and residences of 29 cotton businessmen in 6 districts involved in tax evasion. In the proceedings, on the spot, Rs 3 crore 21 lakh were deposited by 10 firms, primarily accepting tax evasion. In the remaining 19 firms, the documents seized are being scrutinized. More tax is likely to be collected after scrutiny. The department has pointed out cotton traders showing higher turnover than actual turnover, billing their own associate firms without supply of goods, trading with bogus bills, bogus invoicing, circular trading and showing normal cotton as organic cotton etc. This action was taken after receiving the complaint. The complaints were examined by Tax Research and Analysis Wing (TRAW) Zone Indore-2. The information regarding export of cotton given by cotton businessmen is being verified from Custom House Agent and Custom Warehouse for genuineness. Similarly, the receipt of refunds from ICE-GATE by cotton traders by showing export of cotton is also being verified by getting information from ICEGATE/Customs. Action is also being taken by the Commercial Tax Department to obtain information related to the documents submitted by the businessmen and issued transaction certificates, scope certificates or any other verification/certification documents from the Testing Agency and Certification Agencies in connection with the export of organic cotton.





## JENNA ORTEGA TEASES THERE'S NO LOVE TRIANGLE IN 'WEDNESDAY' SEASON 2

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jenna Ortega has discussed the future of Wednesday Addams and has teased what to expect in the upcoming season of the Netflix hit show 'Wednesday'.

During her appearance on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' on Thursday, March 9, the 20-year-old actress said: "We just started getting a writers' room together and talking about it."

She added: "I think we want to up the horror aspects a little bit and get Wednesday out of the romantic situation and just let her be her own individual and fight her own crime."

Season 1 was both a murder mystery as well as a love triangle between Wednesday, Hunter Doohan's Tyler and Percy Hynes White's Xavier, not to mention Wednesday's blossoming friendship with Emma Myers' Enid, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The 'Wednesday' star, who's set to become executive producer of the series' season 2, in a new conversation with Jimmy Fallon isn't the first time she's expressed her hopes for the second season.

"I think, me personally, I would love to see the series get a little bit darker," she told E! News on the 2023 Golden Globes red carpet January 10. "Embrace the horror aspect a little bit more."

Ortega also shared similar sentiments in her recent episode of Dax Shepard's 'Armchair Expert' podcast.

## Will Smith comforts 'Batgirl' directors after movie's cancellation

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Will Smith was there for 'Batgirl' directors following the bad news about the movie's cancellation. The 'Emancipation' star reached out to Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah, who also directed the actor in 'Bad Boys for Life', after they learned that Warner Bros. Discovery shelved the film in a cost-cutting measure, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a new interview with Variety, El Arbi reveals how Smith offered some comfort in the wake of the movie's cancellation. "It was two days after the wedding, and Will Smith was there."

He was like, 'What's happening? Oh my God,' the filmmaker said. "And he said, 'Really, don't worry about it. Just one tip. Don't go on social media.'"

Warner Bros announced the shocking decision to scrap 'Batgirl' in August 2022, though the filming had been completed. Responding to the news, El Arbi and Fallah said in a statement that they "are saddened and shocked by the news." Leslie Grace, who was cast in the titular role, praised the "incredible cast and tireless crew" for their "hard work and intention" they put into the film during the shooting for months in Scotland. She penned on Instagram: "I feel blessed to have worked among absolute greats and forged relationships for a lifetime in the process!"

El Arbi and Fallah have since been booked for their next project. They are set to return at the helm for the fourth 'Bad Boys' movie, which was greenlit earlier this month. Sharing the news in late January, Smith said in an Instagram video: "Yo, I've got an announcement." The Oscar-winning actor was seen visiting his co-star Martin Lawrence's home before the duo starred in unison, "Bad boys 4 life". The two then started riffing on the fact that the third film, released in 2020, was already titled 'Bad Boys for Life'.



## Shania Twain thinks Brad Pitt is avoiding her

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Shania Twain is of the opinion that Hollywood star Brad Pitt is "avoiding" her.

The 57-year-old country icon famously referenced the 'Fight Club' star in her 1998 hit 'That Don't Impress Me Much' but admitted she is yet to meet him despite having written about him in the chart-topping track, reports Female First UK. In the song, she sings: "You think you're special Oh-oo-oh, you think you're something else, OK, so you're Brad Pitt? That don't impress me much!" and also asks the listener if they are a rocket scientist before returning to the title lyric.

Female First UK further states that after being asked if she

had ever met

a rocket scientist during an appearance on the YouTube series

'Chicken Shop Date', she told host Amelia Dimoldenberg: "No. I wrote about Brad Pitt. I never met Brad Pitt. I think he's avoiding me, honestly!"

Meanwhile, the 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman' hit-maker - whose real name is Eilleen Regina Twain - has recently released her comeback album 'Queen of Me'. She also revealed that the title means she is able to "drive her own bus" before admitting that she can actually drive one but insisted that she is not in charge of her own tour transportation, even though she could be.

She said: "Queen of Me' means I am my own boss. I drive my own bus. Well, I have - I can drive a bus. I don't drive my own tour bus. I could drive my [bus]. I can drive a lot of things. But what I really mean is that I take charge of myself. I take responsibility for myself."



## Millie Bobby Brown is 'ready to wrap up' 'Stranger Things'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Stranger Things' actress Millie Bobby Brown is ready to leave Hawkins in the rearview.

The Emmy Award nominee, 19, admitted that she's "very ready" to say goodbye to her 'Stranger Things' role, reports People magazine. She recently spoke about preparing to film the fifth and final season of Netflix's nostalgia-driven sci-fi series, which premiered in 2016.

"I'm definitely ready to wrap up. I feel like there's a lot of the story that's been told

now," she explained. "It's been in our lives for a very long time. But I'm very ready to say goodbye to this chapter of my life, and open new ones up."

She further said, quoted by People: "I'm able to create stories myself that are important to me and focus on the bigger picture. But I'm really grateful (for the show)."

Brown found her breakout role on 'Stranger Things' when she was 12, playing telekinetic youth Eleven, who escapes a government testing facility where researchers used her in a portal to an alternate dimension known as the Upside Down.

## 'TED LASSO' STAR HANNAH WADDINGHAM ROPED IN FOR 'MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 8'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Hannah Waddingham, best known for her role in 'Ted Lasso', will be seen in 'Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part Two'. Christopher McQuarrie, the writer of the two upcoming 'Dead Reckoning' films, revealed the casting on his Instagram account on Friday, reports Variety. He captioned the photo of Waddingham with a cryptic tease, writing "#GodSpeed #DeadReckoning." Franchise star Tom Cruise returns as Ethan Hunt in this summer's seventh, and penultimate, installment of his long-standing, action-packed franchise. Variety previously reported that he was filming the eighth movie aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Adriatic Sea, which is where the photo of Waddingham appears to be taken. 'Dead Reckoning Part One', is set to hit theatres on July 14, 2023, and the final film, currently titled 'Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part Two', is already scheduled less than a year later for June 28, 2024.

Waddingham joins the 'Mission: Impossible' family as a newcomer. Stars Ving Rhames, who plays Luther Stickell, Simon Pegg's Benji Dunn and Rebecca Ferguson's Ilsa Faust are all returning for 'Dead Reckoning Part One'.

Henry Czerny also returns as Eugene Kittridge, the former director of the IMF who's mysteriously back from the original 'Mission: Impossible'.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Anastasia Karanikolaou





## 4th Test, Day 3

# GILL'S TON, KOHLI'S UNBEATEN FIFTY HELP INDIA REACH 289/3

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Opener Shubman Gill scored his second Test century, and his first in India, while Virat Kohli looked at his fluent best to be unbeaten on 59 as the hosts reached 289/3 in 99 overs, trailing Australia by 191 runs at stumps on day three of fourth Test.

On another hot day at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Gill dazzled the most with his 128 off 235 balls, laced with 12 fours and a six. Kohli, on the other hand, overcame a nervous start before tea to get his first fifty in the format, with the help of five fours, since the Cape Town Test in January 2022 to put India in a strong position.

The final session began with Nathan Lyon and Todd Murphy operating in tandem. Gill continued from where he left in the second session, bringing out the reverse sweep off Murphy for four. With him and Kohli rotating the strike, Gill broke a five-



over non-boundary period by dancing down the pitch to whip Lyon through mid-wicket.

Kohli welcomed Starc by driving through mid-off with the straight bat and then ended the over by clipping through the square leg for a brace of

boundaries. He grew better as the overs progressed, driving Murphy through cover for a boundary.

When Starc pitched back of the length, Kohli was quick to open the bat face and dab through third man for four. Australia finally had a wicket

in the 79th over when an exhausted Gill was on the backfoot to face a full off-break ball from Lyon. He was trapped right in front of the stumps after being beaten on the inside edge.

With conditions not changing much for batters, Kohli continued to get runs, tucking Lyon through the fine leg to eventually get his fifty in 107 balls and raised his bat for a half-century in Test cricket after 14 months. Shortly after Australia took the second new ball, Ravindra Jadeja broke the shackles by dancing down the pitch to thump Matthew Kuhnemann for a six over wide long-on, three overs before stumps happened, with India amassing 101 runs from the session.

### Brief scores

Australia 480 lead India 289/3 in 99 overs (Shubman Gill 128, Virat Kohli 59 not out; Matthew Kuhnemann 1-43, Todd Murphy 1-45) by 191 runs

## AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers

# India draw 1-1 with Vietnam, knocked out on goal difference

Viet Tri (Vietnam) | Agencies

A brave performance by the Indian women's U20 football team saw them draw 1-1 with hosts Vietnam in their final Group F game of the 2024 AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Round 1, here on Saturday.

Though both teams finished on seven points from three matches in the four-team group, the result knocked India out of contention for Round 2 of the qualifiers due to an inferior goal difference -- India ended with a goal difference of +13; Vietnam had +14.

After having registered two comprehensive victories against Singapore and Indonesia in their opening two fixtures, India were faced with a must-win situation against the hosts on Saturday. As it was, despite a performance that at times was brilliant and eye-catching, India were knocked out without actually going down at all.

Though the fact remains that India were stopped in their tracks on goal difference only, it will do little to comfort coach Maymol Rocky. India never conceded the lead in the qualifiers and crashed out despite stringing together more of the game, while India looked happy to sit back and play on the counter. Chances flew at both ends, the hosts arguably the ones with the better ones. Babina, full of confidence, had another go from distance, albeit find-



and the partisan crowd on edge.

In the 12th minute, Babina Devi produced a moment of magic that silenced the crowd at the Viet Tri Stadium. The midfielder picked up a half-cleared header -- from Neha's cross -- around 30 yards from goal, took a neat first touch and let fly. The ball rocketed into the top left corner, Vietnam goalkeeper Danh Thi Kieu My's fingers grasping at it but unable to do much more. It was a world-class goal produced in a crunch game.

It tilted the balance of play too. Shocked and a bit dazed, Vietnam started stringing together passes and controlling more of the game, while India looked happy to sit back and play on the counter. Chances flew at both ends, the hosts arguably the ones with the better ones. Babina, full of confidence, had another go from distance, albeit find-

ing the goalkeeper this time.

Right on the stroke of half-time, Vietnam had their reward. The ball fell to Tran Nhat Lan in the Indian box, who let fly only to see her shot bounce off the post. Fortunately, the rebound went through several shirts and fell back to her. This time, she turned, twisted and placed the ball into the opposite corner to draw her team level.

Buoyed by a vocal crowd, and with the knowledge that a draw would see them through, Vietnam slowed the game down in the second period, drawing fouls, and turning the match into a rather dull affair. Rocky's two substitutes Sumati Kumari and Mousumi Murmu brought some much-needed vigour to a floundering front line but were unable to pierce the Vietnam defence. In the end, it all ended in heartbreak, but with much to be proud of.



## ITF Women's Open

# Ankita beats Rutuja, to face Brenda in singles final

Bengaluru | Agencies

India's Ankita Raina defeated compatriot Rutuja Bhosale 6-1, 6-1 on Saturday to set up a singles title clash with top-seeded Brenda Fruhvirtova in the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open at the KSLTA Stadium here.

The 15-year-old tennis sensation Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic overcame the challenge from the fifth seed Slovakian Dalila Jakupovic 7-6(2), 6-2 in the other semifinal clash in the \$40k tournament, which is part of the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour.

Meanwhile, the top-seeded pair of Jorge Franciscas and Jorge Matilde of Portugal won the doubles title, defeating the fourth-seeded Greco-British duo of Valentini Grammatikopolou and Eden Silva 5-7, 6-0, 10-3 in the final of the event hosted by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association

(KSLTA).

In the singles semifinal, the No. 4 seed Ankita was in full control of the proceedings on a blazing afternoon as she gave little chances to Rutuja, who hardly had any answers to the power game of her rival, floundering in all departments. A double fault by Rutuja on the match point handed Ankita the second set in the simplest of manners.

In contrast, Fruhvirtova's match was much closer than the scoreline suggests. Jakupovic had built a commanding 5-1 lead in the first set before the Czech lass made the turnaround to make it 5-5.

Jakupovic again broke Fruhvirtova for a 6-5 lead but the latter levelled the score to take the first set to a tie-break. Fruhvirtova won the set without much fuss and in the second set, the fight seemed to have ebbed out of Jakupovic. The singles final will be played on Sunday.

## Enjoy and embrace the challenge of playing against the best: Alyssa Healy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alyssa Healy made history in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 by scoring 96 off 47 balls against Royal Challengers Bangalore Women, the highest score of the maiden edition of India's T20 franchise-based tournament for women.

It was a day of pyrotechnics on Friday evening at the Brabourne Stadium as UP Warriorz's captain fantastic, Alyssa Healy, cranked up the style and led the charge, helping her side register a thumping 10-wicket win against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Healy, who finished with the Player of the Match award, was in full flow, smashing 18 boundaries and a towering six during her 47-ball unbeaten 96.

Reflecting on her stunning knock, the captain said, "I am delighted that we got the win and it was important for the



UP Warriorz to defeat the Royal Challengers Bangalore. Personally, it was great to get some runs under my belt and contribute. But I think as a whole, we played great cricket against RCB and I am really proud of the group."

One of the most lucrative and watched tournaments in the game of cricket currently, the WPL was something all the players were keenly looking forward to. "I was really excited about the WPL, and it has been a long time coming. And even the Indian players

in particular have called for it as well, especially after experiencing the WBBL and what it's done for Australian cricket. So, from that point of view, I was excited and nervous, and wondering how I'd fit in. Since coming here, I have been welcomed in by the franchise and everyone," the captain said.

When asked about what's the most important aspect of leading a team to success in a such short tournament, Healy responded with a straight bat - "Trust".

## SHIFFRIN EQUALS STENMARK'S RECORD WITH 86TH WORLD CUP TITLE

Geneva:

American Mikaela Shiffrin won a record-tying title in giant slalom at the World Cup in Are, Sweden, collecting her 86th World Cup win at the age of 27.

The American took an early lead in the first run and dominated the second to finish 0.64 seconds ahead of Federica Brignone of Italy for the victory, reports Xinhua news agency. The win also matched the all-time world record of the most FIS Alpine World Cup race victories, set by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark. Shiffrin has already broken the world record for female skiers when she won her 83rd FIS World Cup race on January 24. She has a chance to break Stenmark's all-time record in the slalom event on Saturday.



## 2nd Test

# South Africa beat West Indies by 284 runs, sweep series 2-0

Johannesburg | Agencies

South Africa defeated West Indies by 284 runs in the second and final Test to finish their World Test Championship cycle with an emphatic 2-0 series win, here on Saturday.

The Proteas have now won 22 out of 32 Tests against the Men in Maroon. With this 2-0 series win, South Africa are placed third in the WTC standings. The hosts began the day with a lead of 356 runs over West Indies. A flurry of quick wickets meant that they were bowled out at 321, having added merely 34 runs to the overnight total. Jason Holder (3-48) and Kyle Mayers (3-46) were the pick of West Indies bowlers.

However, an imposing target of 391 proved to be more than enough as



West Indies' batting unit collapsed like a pack of cards in the second innings. Six West Indies batters fell to single-digit scores.

At the end of the first session, West

Indies were in deep trouble at 34/6, and it seemed like they'd fail to cross 100. But Joshua Da Silva (34), Holder (19) and Alzarri Joseph (18) showed some fight lower down the order as

the visitors were eventually bowled out for 106 to lose the game by 284 runs. Gerald Coetzee (3-37), Simon Harmer (3-45), Kagiso Rabada (2-19) and Keshav Maharaj (2-4) starred with the ball. The only bad news for South Africa on the day was a freak mishap for Maharaj, which occurred while he was celebrating the dismissal of Mayers. The slow left-arm orthodox spinner hurt his left foot and had to be stretchered off from the ground.

### Brief scores

South Africa 320 & 321 all out in 100.4 overs (Tema Bavuma 172; Kyle Mayers 3-46) beat West Indies 251 & 106 all out in 35.2 overs (Joshua Da Silva 34; Gerald Coetzee 3-37) by 284 runs.

## I-League 2022-23 Champions Round Glass Punjab take on TRAU, look to stay unbeaten at home

Panchkula (Haryana) | Agencies

Having won the I-League title with a match to spare, RoundGlass Punjab will hope to end their successful campaign with another win at home when they take on Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium here on Sunday.

Victory on Sunday will help RoundGlass Punjab FC finish unbeaten at home in the league in which they have 49 points from 21 matches. They have 15 wins, four draws and only two losses in the season.

TRAU have secured a top-four finish for only the second time in their



Hero I-League history, but will have a chance to move up to third with a win should Gokulam Kerala lose to Sreenidi Deccan in the match to be played earlier in the day.

Sunday's match will be a good chance for TRAU coach Leimapokpam Nandakumar Singh to test his strategy and the ability of his boys against a strong team like RoundGlass Punjab, ahead of the

Hero Super Cup qualifiers next month.

Staikos Vergetis's men would like to avenge the 2-0 defeat in Imphal when these two teams met earlier this season in December.

If TRAU manage to stop them, they will have the rare honour of being a team the Hero I-League champions could not beat. But RoundGlass Punjab are in no mood to let one go.

"We would like to remain unbeaten at home," Vergetis said in the pre-match press conference on Saturday. "However, some players are really tired and I'd want to give chances to some who have not played much."

## Vani lies eighth in South Africa, Pranavi scores 71 in third round

Cape Town | Agencies

Vani Kapoor who is aiming for a maiden Ladies European Tour win, shot 69 in the third round to get into the Top-10 of the South African Women's Open.

With a total of 7-under 209 she is lying ied eighth, while fellow Indian Pranavi Urs continued her steady play. Pranavi added 71 for the second straight round and has scores of 70-71-71 to be tied 27th.

Amandeep Drall, Diksha Dagar and Ridhima Dilawari missed the cut. The cut fell at even par with 61 players making it through to the final



rounds. Ashleigh Buhai added 3-under 69 to her 64-65 and took a four-shot lead.

Germany's Chiara Noja and Spain's Ana Pelaez Trivino are in second place on 14-under-par after three rounds.

Vani had five birdies against two bogeys, both on the back nine, and she seemed confident after a fine second round 4-under 68.





# NORA FATEHI'S

**POWER PACKED  
LIVE PERFORMANCES  
IN DALLAS**

Team

Absolute | Mumbai

Nora Fatehi has a massive fan following on social media. The actress has 44 million followers on Instagram alone, and she frequently shares updates about her life through stories and posts on the social media platform. From her stunning fashion game to her mesmerizing dance reels and more- Nora never fails to mesmerize her fans.

Actress and performer Nora Fatehi just commenced with the third leg of The Entertainers tour in Dallas last evening with an impactful performance, winning hearts and leaving the audience in a complete frenzy. Visually packed with a beautiful amalgamation of fashion and power dance moves, she is magnetic whenever she hits the stage.

With great vocals, amazing moves combined with high-end fashion, watching Nora Fatehi perform live, is definitely a once in a lifetime experience.

Nora Fatehi was a judge of Dance Deewane Juniors 1 and was last seen as the judge in the hit reality show Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10.



# Parul Gulati goes home with Rs 1 cr cheque from reality show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Parul Gulati got a cheque worth a whopping Rs 1 crore by entrepreneur Amit Jain on the show 'Shark Tank India' season 2.

Parul, who is the owner of a hair extension brand called Nish Hair, appeared on 'Shark Tank India 2' during the finale and went home with the cheque.

She took to Instagram, where she said that she made it with her business.

Parul shared a picture holding the cheque and wrote: "I have had this cheque for a while now & how I wanted to

share my joy with you all. I MADE IT with my business. Who could have ever thought my business will one day be valued at 50 Crore." She called Amit Jain her hero.

"Also @amitjain\_cardekho you are truly my hero, not just because you gave me the best deal but also because you and your team, you have been so so supportive & have been guiding me through my tough times."

Parul concluded by saying: "I don't know how many of you remember when I was facing troubles with my payment gateway it was his team @megha\_alley who lent me theirs till I got one of my own."

In the episode, Parul had asked for an investment of Rs 1 crore for her brand for 2 per cent equity. While other sharks such as Vineeta Singh and Aman Gupta offered her Rs 1 crore for 3 per cent equity, shark Amit Jain, settled her Rs 1 crore for 2 per cent equity.



# AR Rahman: It's heartbreaking to take contestants off his show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Oscar winning composer A. R. Rahman, who is known for his work in films like 'Roja', 'Bombay', 'Guru', 'Rang De Basanti', 'Yuva' and several others, feels heartbroken as not every contestant can go forward on the music platform, 'NEXA Music'.

The platform is set to announce the 4 Super winners from Season 2. Spearheaded by Rahman, the headliner includes Shor Police, Monica Dogra, Mickey McCleary, and Uday Benegal. Rahman selected the top 24 contestants from over 2,400 entries received.

Out of the 24, the top 4 have been shortlisted and will be declared as the Super Winners of Season 2 by the Oscar winning composer. Each of these top 4 will get a chance to make an additional new original English music video the songs for which will be composed by world-renowned music producer and composer, Mickey McCleary. Rahman said: "You want to give it to all 50-60 but



you can't, it's heartbreaking to take somebody off. You think to yourself, why can't we keep them all but when you weigh out characteristics, when

something sticks out and has its own personality that's very good, and they have musicality and that they are being themselves and not pretending

to be someone else." He further mentioned: "It's fascinating to watch them achieve these things because they have set high standards

for themselves and are learning how to present them. These kids are so aware and so good I think everybody is a winner."

# Sunny Leone kicks off US tour, says being in US brings her joy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sunny Leone is set for an elaborate US Tour starting on Saturday. The tour will see NRI fans of the actress. As per her current schedule, Sunny will be making public appearances in Austin on March 11, in Dallas on March 12, in Houston on March 17 and 18 followed by Chicago on March 19. With the current venues already booked out, the organisers are looking at adding a few more cities. Talking about the tour, Sunny said: "Being in the US has always been a joy for me. I get to interact with very different sorts of people on these tours." She further mentioned: "The US also has a diverse culture so I get to meet people from different walks of life. It is endearing to see the kind of love they shower on me. It humbles me, it pumps me to work harder." Sunny, who started her film journey in India after appearing in the season 5 of the reality show 'Bigg Boss', is known for her dance and work in films such as 'Hate Story 2', 'Shootout at



# RAM CHARAN ATTENDS PRE-OSCAR'S EVENT WITH WIFE UPASANA

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Indian actor Ram Charan attended the South Asian Excellence pre-Oscars event and Priyanka Chopra Jones's party, along with his wife Upasana Konidela.

Priyanka and Ram Charan share a great camaraderie as the two have worked together in the 2013 film 'Zanjeer'.

Ram and his wife spent time with the actors, directors and producers from the west. He wore a Dolce and Gabbana suit paired with glasses. Ram is currently in the US waiting for the Oscar awards to take place on Sunday. His song 'Naatu Naatu' from the film 'RRR' is nominated at the 95th Oscar awards. 'Naatu Naatu' has already won a Golden Globe and a Critics Choice Award this year. At the Oscars, the song is contending against tracks sung by Lady Gaga and Rihanna.



# HRITHIK ROSHAN ON FITNESS



# 'ONCE YOU GIVE IT ENOUGH TIME, MAGICAL THINGS HAPPEN'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan has shared a jaw-dropping picture of him flaunting his big biceps and spoke about the importance of food, sleep and meditation being as important as physical workout to maintain the perfect physique.

The actor, who is currently busy with his next film 'Fighter', dropped the picture on Instagram and wrote: "When the diet n sleep score is on point, it feels so good. Took this in November 2022."

"Currently serving as a reminder not to deviate or let go too much while on kids spring break. It's funny how

food and sleep - the easy sounding ones is where most of us fail. Cause they require a quiet mind n content disciplined days. Whereas training n gym is so simple cause it requires aggression which is somehow easier to access than quiet joy."

He added: "What has helped me change my course and up my joy is meditation. Sounds so boring. But once you give it enough time, magical things happen. I started with 10 mins a year ago. And today an hour seems less."

'Fighter' also stars Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor. The film is scheduled to release next year.

# INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kayla Kapoor