

**NATION** > 02  
Raj govt bans hoisting of religious flags for 2 months in Udaipur ...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Khloe Kardashian opens up about her relationship status ...



**SPORTS** > 07  
FIFA rankings: Argentina dethrone Brazil to reclaim top ...



## 'TENDER APOLOGY, BE MORE RESPONSIBLE'

Supreme Court to lawyer claiming attack on migrant workers in Tamil Nadu

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked lawyer Prashant Kumar Umrao, accused of spreading false information about attacks on migrant labourers from Bihar in Tamil Nadu, to tender an apology and told him to be more responsible. Umrao's verified Twitter handle says he is a spokesperson for Uttar Pradesh BJP.

The high court had said that Umrao should report before the police daily at 10.30 am and 5.30 pm for a period of 15 days and, thereafter, as and when required for interrogation. The apex court modified this condition saying that he should be before the investigating officer (IO) on April 10 and after that as and when the IO requires his presence.

According to the police, an FIR was registered against Umrao under various sections of the IPC, which included provocation with intent to cause riot, promoting enmity and hatred, provoking breach of peace and statement leading to public mischief.



baill in the case.

The bench also passed an ad interim order saying that anticipatory bail granted to Umrao will be applicable to other FIRs registered in Tamil Nadu in connection with the tweet.

In the second petition, Umrao sought clubbing of FIRs lodged against him at different police stations in connection with the tweet. Umrao had later deleted the tweet.

Luthra said Umrao only re-tweeted news, which was already shared by some media organisations.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Tamil Nadu, submitted that Umrao did not file an affidavit, as per direction of the high court, saying he should file an undertaking not to tweet or forward any message that promotes enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc.

After hearing arguments, the bench told Umrao's counsel that his client should appear before the police and also issued notice to the state government on his plea.

### YOUTUBER MANISH KASHYAP BOOKED UNDER NSA

YouTuber Manish Kashyap, who was arrested by the Tamil Nadu police for spreading fake videos alleging attacks on Bihar migrant labourers in the state, has been booked under the National Security Act (NSA) on Thursday. Manish was reportedly presented before a Madurai court on Wednesday, which extended his judicial custody for 15 days. He was later sent to the Madurai Central Prison. The Bihar-based YouTuber was brought to Tamil Nadu on March 28 and was booked by the Madurai Cybercrime Wing for spreading fake news and videos about Bihar migrant labourers being attacked in the state. He had surrendered at the Jagdishpur police station in Bihar's West Champaran on March 18.

### Reply to PIL seeking mechanism on unclaimed money of investors, depositors, SC to Finance Ministry

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Finance Ministry to file its reply, in three weeks, on a plea by journalist Sucheta Dalal in connection with unclaimed money of investors and depositors which has been taken by various regulators and remains inaccessible to rightful legal heirs. Counsel, appearing for the Centre, submitted before bench that a reply has been filed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and sought some more time for the reply from the Finance Ministry.

The bench granted three week time to the Finance Ministry to file the counter affidavit in the matter. Earlier, the top court had issued notice to the two ministries, the SEBI and the RBI, on Dalal's plea. Advocate Prashant Bhushan represented her in the apex court.

The plea urged the top court to issue directions to ensure that unclaimed funds of the public that get transferred to government owned funds viz. the Depositor's Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF), Investor's Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), and Senior Citizen's Welfare Fund (SCWF) on the ground that the same were not claimed by the legal heirs/nominees, are made available to said legal heirs/nominees by providing information of holders of inoperative/dormant accounts on a centralised online database.

## Global economy heading for weakest period of growth since 1990: IMF chief

Ahead of the IMF publishing revised economic forecasts next week, Georgieva said global growth in 2022 had collapsed by almost half since the initial rebound from the Covid pandemic in 2021, sliding from 6.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent. With high inflation, rising borrowing costs and mounting geopolitical tensions, she said global growth was on track to drop below 3 per cent in 2023 and remain weak for years to come.

Washington | Agencies

The global economy is heading for the weakest period of growth since 1990 as higher interest rates set by the world's top central banks drive up borrowing costs for households and businesses, the head of the International Monetary Fund has warned, a media outlet reported.

Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, said that a sharp slowdown in the world economy last year after the aftershocks of the Covid pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine would continue in 2023, and risked persisting for the next five years, The Guardian reported. In a



curtainraiser speech before the fund's spring meetings in Washington DC next week, she said that the global growth would remain about 3 per cent over the next five years - its lowest medium-term growth forecast since 1990. In a downturn assessment as the world grapples with the worst inflation shock in

decades, she said economic activity was slowing across advanced economies in particular. While there was some momentum from developing nations - including China and India - low-income countries were also suffering from higher borrowing costs and falling demand for their exports, the media outlet reported.

## LEADERSHIP ISSUE AMONG OPPOSITION TO BE DISCUSSED AT OPPORTUNE TIME: MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Opposition parties on Thursday said that the issue of leadership for 2024 Lok Sabha elections would be decided at an appropriate time and that they are all united on issues of common cause.

Addressing a joint press conference by 19 opposition parties, Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge said that there should not be an obsession over the leadership among opposition parties.

"The issue of leadership will arise when the time is ripe. It will be a collective decision," Kharge added.

"We will unitedly fight polls as people are fed up with Modi government's policies," Kharge said. To a question on BJP attacking Congress over dynasty politics, Kharge said

that since 1998, no Gandhi family member has been either a prime minister or a minister. "Gandhi family has been agitating over people's issues for the past many years while others are enjoying themselves," Kharge said. He further said that all issues to be raised during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls would be discussed when the time is ripe. Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader K Keshava Rao said that though his party has been politically distant from the Congress, they are with the main opposition party on certain issues.

Representatives of parties like Congress, DMK, Trinamool, Left, BRS, AAP, Samajwadi Party and many others were present on the occasion.



## TELANGANA CM TO SKIP RECEIVING PM AGAIN

Hyderabad: Reprising his old stand, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu will again skip receiving Prime Minister Narendra Modi when the latter arrives here on April 8 to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various projects.

The state government on Thursday named Animal Husbandry Minister T. Srinivas Yadav as minister-in-waiting for the Prime Minister's visit, and he will receive Modi on his arrival at the Begumpet Airport.

This is the fifth time in the last 14 months that the Chief Minister will not be receiving the Prime Minister on the latter's visit to the state. Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to flag off the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express at Secunderabad railway station and later attend a public meeting at Parade Ground to inaugurate or lay foundation stones for various projects worth over Rs 11,300 crore. The latest visit by Modi comes at a time when Telangana police have arrested state BJP President and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar in Class 10 question paper leak case.

## Working with inspiration of Hanuman, no one can defeat BJP in 2024: PM Modi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India's development journey is inspired by Lord Hanuman's life. He stated that the BJP works with the same inspiration and people have already started saying that there is no one to defeat the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 'which is true'.

On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Modi attacked the opposition parties and said: "When Hanuman ji had to face demons, he became equally tough. Similarly, BJP becomes more determined when it comes to corruption, family rule and law and order."

He virtually addressed the BJP workers and leaders on the party's 44th Foundation Day, Modi said:



"Hanuman ji has immense power but he can use this power only when his self-doubt is removed. India was in the same situation before 2014, but today, like Bajrangbali ji, India has realised the hidden powers within itself and is more capable than ever to overcome and face huge challenges."

## India: Covid fresh cases cross 5k-mark

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With 5,335 infections registered in the past 24 hours, the fresh Covid cases in India breached the 5,000-mark on Thursday, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs.

The new addition has pushed the total number of active cases to 25,587. According to the data, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.32 per cent and weekly positivity rate at 2.89 per cent.

The Health Ministry said that till now 220.66 crore Total Vaccine doses (95.21 cr Second Dose and 22.87 cr Precaution Dose) have



been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive. 1,993 doses were administered in the last 24 hours.

A total of 2,826 recoveries in the last 24 hours increased total recoveries to 4,41,82,538. The recovery rate has been pegged at 98.75 per cent. As many as 1,60,742 tests conducted in the same period took the total number of tests to 92.23 crore. On Wednesday, the national capital recorded 509 fresh cases, a Delhi government health bulletin stated. No deaths, however, were reported.

The positivity rate of the city stands at 26.54 per cent.

## Non-communicable diseases rising significantly in India: Report

The report, titled 'Health of the Nation 2023', by Apollo Hospitals gives insights into the prevalence and risk factors of over 500,000 health checks over the past three years.

The report showed a 50 per cent increase in the prevalence of obesity among Indians between 2019 and 2022, particularly in people less than 45 years of age (43 per cent) and people over the age of 45 (60 per cent).

Dyslipidemia or cholesterol irregularities has seen an 18 per cent increase in prevalence among young Indians between 2019 and 2022, while among those over 45 years of age there has been more than 35 per cent increase.

Diagnosis of conditions like diabetes (8 per cent) and hypertension (11 per cent) has also seen an increase in the last three years.

Chronic stress and anxiety increase the risk of incidence of hypertension by 15 times and diabetes by up to 2 times. Men with chronic stress have double the risk of incidence of diabetes than women.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol are rising rampantly in India, and are also the leading cause of death -- about 65 per cent, according to a report on Thursday.

Further, the report showed healthy sleep as an important indicator of overall health. Impaired metabolism was also closely linked with digestive irregularities, such as gas/bloating, heaviness post-meal, burning sensation, belch/burp. The analysis found that 64 per cent of people had digestive irregularities, going up to 81 per cent amongst diabetics.

The silent epidemic of NCDs is behind 40 per cent of all hospital stays, according to the report. It stressed the need for regular and comprehensive health checks, starting at a young age which can significantly reduce mortality

Preventive healthcare needs to become a national priority. Over the past 3 decades, non-communicable diseases have become the leading cause of death and suffering, contributing to 65 per cent of deaths in India. NCDs affect not just health, but also productivity and economic growth. The estimated economic burden on India is expected to be about \$4.8 trillion by 2030.

Dr Prathap Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group

ty rates, disease incidence as well as the frequency of hospital visits through our lifespan.

"As the youngest and fastest growing major economy in the world, the health of our nation is a critical indicator of our future, and the health of our people will determine how effectively we live up to our full potential. What we need is a proactive and highly defined strategy to minimise the impact of NCDs. And the best solution lies in prevention," Reddy said.



# RAJ GOVT BANS HOISTING OF RELIGIOUS FLAGS FOR 2 MONTHS IN UDAIPUR

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan government has issued orders that flags carrying signs of religious identity will not be allowed to be hoisted at any of the public places or schools for next two months in Udaipur.

Disciplinary action will be taken against those flouting norms, said District Collector Tarachand Meena in his orders.

If sources are to be believed, these orders have been issued in wake of Dharendra Shastri's public address during a huge gathering in Udaipur recently after which five youths were arrested while hoisting saffron flags on Kumbhalgarh fort.

Though these youths have been released, the administration has issued orders saying that flags with religious signs will not be allowed in public places during religious processions and those flouting these orders will be dealt strictly under legal provision. The order said that there are



chances that law and order might be disturbed if these flags are hoisted at public places.

Meena, however, said that the order has no connection with Shastri's address and he had planned

to release it before his arrival in Udaipur.

Meanwhile, Udaipur MP (BJP) Diya Kumari has termed this order as an attempt to violate the right of common people to religious freedom in the name of law and order.

"This order of the Udaipur administration against the religious flag is the latest example of the appeasement policy of the Congress government in Rajasthan. This is an attempt to violate the right of common people to religious freedom in the name of law and order."

Moreover, the locals said, "This is the festive time when people celebrate Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti with full fervour. This is an infringement to their right to celebrate festivals."

Taking cognizance of the statements and considering them provocative, an FIR was lodged against him. Shastri had asked the gathering to replace the green flags with saffron flags.

# Shiv Sena-UBT's senior youth activist dies after Thane rally

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena-UBT's Yuva Sena senior leader Durga Bhosle-Shinde suffered a heart attack after the Maha Vikas Aghadi's combined rally in Thane, and succumbed at a Mumbai hospital late on Wednesday, party officials said here on Thursday.

A lawyer by profession, Bhosle-Shinde functioned as the Yuva Sena's firebrand Secretary, belonging to the core group headed by ex-minister Aditya Thackeray, and was in the reckoning for a party ticket in the upcoming BMC polls.

Her last rites were performed this evening in which Sena-UBT President Uddhav Thackeray, Aditya, their family members and other senior leaders and activists participated.

"I am heartbroken to learn



of her demise, We have lost one of our most hardworking and kind hearted Yuva Sainik. Have no words to express the grief felt by us in the Yuva Sena," said Aditya Thackeray.

Nationalist Congress Party's national spokesperson Clyde Crasteo said that he was grieved to learn of

Bhosle-Shinde's passing whom he knew since childhood and would miss her.

A Sena-UBT leader said that during the large MVA rally in Thane on Wednesday evening, Bhosle-Shinde had complained of uneasiness and was immediately taken to Mumbai where she succumbed late at night.

# AIADMK functionary arrested for spreading false news about TN minister

Chennai | Agencies

An IT wing functionary of the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu's Vellore has been arrested for posting and spreading false and defamatory news about senior DMK leader and state minister S. Duraimurugan, police said on Thursday.

'Pollachi' Arun Kumar was arrested on late Wednesday evening on the basis of a complaint filed by local DMK leader, Vanniayara at the Katpadi police station on April 1.

The issue started after the minister, in a speech in the Assembly on March 29, said that his epitaph should be read as 'Gopalapuram Loyalist' which means he is an ardent loyalist of the late DMK patriarch M.



Karunanidhi and his family whose family house is situated at Gopalapuram in Chennai. According to Vanniayara's complaint, Arun Kumar had taken a photograph from the Twitter handle of Duraimurugan and morphed it and depicted the minister in a cemetery with a few audio clips and shot a video of this. He then circulated this photograph on

social media and it turned viral.

Based on the complaint, the Katpadi police arrested Arun Kumar under various sections of the Indian Penal Code including 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 505 (publishing or circulating rumours) as well as the Information technology Act, 2000.

# WILL FIND AMICABLE SOLUTION TO 'NAUTOR' LAND ALLOTMENT: HIMACHAL CM

Shimla | Agencies

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday said the government will find an amicable solution to the allotment of "nautor" land in Kinnaur district after examining all aspects.

Speaking on the occasion of Kinnaur welfare society's programme 'Toshim-2023' here, the Chief Minister said Kinnaur district has a rich culture and the government would come up with innovative ideas to promote the rich cultural heritage of this tribal district.

"Nautor" land means the right to utilise, with the sanction of authorities, wasteland owned by the government outside towns, reserved and demarcated protected forests and such areas as may be notified by the state government.

Official sources said the decision would benefit thousands of people settled in Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts and parts of Chamba district.

The Chief Minister said in order to provide maximum benefit to the apple growers, the government is setting up 10 controlled atmosphere (CA) stores in the state. It will not only protect the apple growers from any exploitation



of middlemen but will also ensure remunerative prices to the growers.

The department has already floated tenders for setting up these CA stores. The Chief

Minister said 40 bighas of land has been identified in Kinnaur district for establishing Rajiv Gandhi day boarding school and the construction work will be started this year itself.

These schools would be opened in each assembly segment of the state to ensure quality education to the students nearer to their homes.

Sukhu said the government has presented a "green budget" with measures aimed at preserving the environment of the state, besides making efforts towards producing green energy and green ammonia to promote a sustainable future. The Chief Minister said the state's economy heavily relies on tourism and the government was committed to strengthening the infrastructure to support this industry.

He said heliports would be developed at all district headquarters to improve connectivity and accessibility for tourists which will go a long way in creating the employment and self-employment ventures to the youth.

The Chief Minister also honoured individuals from various fields, including boxer Meenakshi Negi and Hir Bhagat Negi, Principal Commissioner, GST, Jammu and Kashmir, for distinguished contributions to society.

# Antony's son joins BJP, slams Cong leaders for 'working for one family'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Anil Antony, son of senior Congress leader A.K. Antony, joined the BJP in presence of Union ministers Piyush Goyal and V. Muralidharan in the national capital on Thursday.

Anil Antony, after joining the BJP, said "Many of the Congress leaders believe that their duty is to work for a particular family but I believe that my duty is to work for the people. PM Narendra Modi has a clear vision to make India a developed country in the next 25 years."

"This is not about personalities, this is about difference of opinion and ideas. I strongly believe that I have taken the right step. My respect for my father will remain the same," he said when asked if he has consulted



his father before joining the BJP.

Anil Antony had resigned from the Congress after his tweet criticising the controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Modi triggered a row within the grand old party.

Anil Antony, who headed the Digital Media cell of the Kerala Congress, slammed the Congress leadership for working for a "single family" instead of working for the country.

# ANDHRA PRADESH LAUNCHES FAMILY DOCTOR PROGRAMME

Amaravati | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday formally launched the Family Doctor Programme aimed at taking the healthcare to the doorstep of the people.

Under the programme, qualified doctors in 10,032 Dr YSR Village Health Clinics would extend preventive healthcare to the needy across the state.

Launching the programme at Lingamuntla in Palnadu district, the Chief Minister told a public meeting that the programme would herald revolutionary changes in extending healthcare to the needy.

Just like the pensions are handed over at the households, the healthcare facilities would be extended to the people at their doorstep, he said.

Besides visiting the bed-ridden people and treating them, family doctors would extend free medical treatment to people suffering from both communicable and non-communicable diseases and to lactating mothers and anaemic



school children and women, he said.

They would refer the patients in need of advanced medical treatment to Aarogyasri Network Hospitals while YSR Health Clinics would extend post-treatment health care to such patients. He claimed that the government has brought about revolutionary changes in healthcare as it highly values the lives of people. With one Primary Health Centre (PHC) serving every 2500 people, the programme would soon turn the State into a role model for other states in preventive healthcare, he said.

Each mandal would consist of two PHCs while each PHC would comprise

two doctors with one of them taking care of the out-patients and the other visiting YSR Health Clinics in assigned villages, schools and anganwadi centres twice a month, he said, adding they would identify people suffering from BP, sugar and anaemic conditions and provide them treatment in the initial stages preventing serious heart and other diseases among them.

YSR Village Health Clinics, to be manned by Community Health Officers (CHOs), ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives) and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Assistant) workers, would be equipped with 105 kinds of medicines, lab facilities to conduct 14 kinds of diagnostic tests and 936 Mobile Medical Units (104). The phone numbers and other details of the doctors would be displayed at the Village Secretariats which would maintain health records and ensure that the medical services would be available round the clock, he said, appealing to the medical staff to stay in the villages where they are employed and serve the people 24x7.

# Rashtriya Sewa Sangam of Rashtriya Sewa Bharti commences fervently in Jaipur

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

One of the leading social groups with presence across the country Rashtriya Sewa Bharti's mega conclave Rashtriya Sewa Sangam 2023 commenced on 6 April at Keshav Vidyapeeth, Jamdoli, Jaipur (Rajasthan). The Rashtriya Sewa Bharti is a not-for-profit organization that follows the ideological pursuit of the Rashtriya Swayamsevaka Sangh (RSS) to embrace togetherness and works for the betterment of marginalized, oppressed, and neglected people who are deprived of health, education, and livelihood facilities.

The three-day Mahasangam of RSB is being organized in Jaipur



during 7, 8 and 9 April 2023. The sangam witnesses a massive participation of 3000 volunteers from more than 800 organizations from across the country. The inaugural session of the grand event was graced by the presence of General Secretary of Rashtriya Sewa Bharti Renu Pathak and Founder of Vishwa Jagriti Mission Param Pujya Acharya Sudhanshu Ji Maharaj.

# Registration Open for the 4th Edition of HCL Jigsaw

### India's Premier Critical Reasoning Platform to Assess Problem-Solving Skills Among School Students

- Total Prize purse of Rs. 12 lakhs for winners including learning opportunity at HCL Innovation Lab and prizes worth Rs. 15,000 will be given to each finalist.
- A one-of-a-kind Olympiad to identify India's Top Young Problem Solvers and Problem-Solving Schools



Team Absolute | New Delhi

HCL, a US \$12.3 billion global conglomerate, today announced that registrations for the fourth edition of HCL Jigsaw - India's premier critical reasoning platform are now open. The Pan-India program is aimed at building a community of India's Top Young Problem Solvers by identifying and awarding winners through a multi-layered evaluation process. Focused on conceptual thinking and real-world problems and challenges, it assesses school students in grades 6 to 9 on key 21st-century skills including research, critical thinking, and communication, and helps

them apply these to solve real-world challenges. Interested students or schools can register at [www.hcljigsaw.com](http://www.hcljigsaw.com), by 31st July 2023 to participate in the competition. The total prize purse of more than 12 Lakhs will be awarded to winners including learning opportunities at HCL's Innovation Labs and prizes worth Rs. 15,000 will be given to each finalist.

More than 50,000 students from 3000+ schools across 35 states and union territories participated in the first three editions of HCL Jigsaw. The winners of previous editions got the

opportunity to visit HCL innovation labs like Mechanical and Medical labs in Chennai and the STRIDE and Tear Down labs in Bengaluru. During these visits, the students learned about a diverse range of topics, including concept introduction to design, the industrial design process, and career opportunities in design. Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on experience, the students gained valuable insights into emerging technologies such as Smart Helmet, AR/VR/XR, real-time logistic tracking, and IoT in manufacturing setups.

HCL Jigsaw assesses students on 10 significant parameters under three primary attributes that can be characterized as key components of the problem-solving process. These include: -

- Research Skills - this would assess students on how well they are able to define a problem, formulate an investigation / action plan and collect and organize information.
  - Communication Process - understand student's ability to structure information in a coherent manner and their understanding of information context and purpose.
  - Thinking Critically - this attribute will allow us to assess the student's ability to interpret the information accurately, synthesize information and draw conclusions, systems thinking and problem solving and evaluating claims and justification.
- HCL Jigsaw is a virtual competition and will include three assessment stages/rounds:**
- Qualifiers Round (Olympiad round) - A 40-Minute Pan-India Olympiad will be carried out from April 03, 2023, till July 31 2023
  - All students from this round will receive a personalized skill assessment report of their performance on each skill, giving them a roadmap for improvement and

- development areas on 7th August, 2023
- Top 20 percentile students of each grade from qualifiers round will be selected for the semifinals
- Semifinals (Collaboration and Project-Based Learning round) - A collaboration and project-based round would be held from August 18, 2023, till August 20 2023
- Selected students will be split into teams of three and will compete in a project-based challenge revolving around an assigned theme
- The top 5 groups per grade from this round will progress for the finale
- Finale (Group Jury Presentation round) - A jury presentation round will be held on August 26, 2023, and August 27 2023
- Students will be given a real-world case scenario based on different themes and they will present their solutions to a panel of esteemed jury
- A total of 60 students across all grades will compete in this stage with the top three students from each grade taking home the title of "India's Top Young Problem Solver"



LET'S CREATE A NEW ERA, WHERE MY SISTERS, DAUGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE HAPPY: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan while making an emotional appeal to the sisters at the Ladli Bahna Sammelan and health services expansion program in Morena today said that come my sisters, create a new era where my sister, daughter and their families are happy. Everyone cooperate me. Your smile will make my life successful. Let us together develop the state and change our lives. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the work done in the health department in the state in the last 3 years was not done even in the last 50 years. Our government has increased the budget of health department to 11 thousand 988 crores, which used to be very less in previous governments. Health services are being expanded at a fast pace in the state. Chief Minister Chouhan said that injustice has been done to daughters for a long time. The son was considered the support of the family and the daughter a burden. The daughter supports her parents till she is alive. We have empowered daughters through various schemes in



Madhya Pradesh. Now in Madhya Pradesh, daughters are not helpless, but strong. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Mukhya Mantri Ladli Laxmi Yojana, Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah/Nikah Yojana and now Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana are campaigns to change the lives of daughters and sisters. In the state, 50 percent seats have been reserved for daughters in Panchayat and urban bodies elections and 30 percent seats in police recruitment. In the recruitment of teachers, half the places have been kept for daughters. Where men are charged 3 percent stamp duty in the registry, women have been given the facility of one percent stamp duty. Chief Minister Chouhan said that liquor vendhs have been closed in the state from April 1. Also, no person can drink

alcohol on the road, park or any public place. Can't drive a vehicle after drinking alcohol. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed the Superintendent of Police to strictly follow these provisions. Chief Minister Chouhan also made various announcements for the upgradation of hospitals in the state. Modular operation theaters at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore each and modular kitchens at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh each will be made in all district hospitals. Buildings will be constructed for 1440 sub-health centers of the state, which are without buildings. There will be MRI machine facility in 5 districts of the state including Morena. Drug warehouses will be set up at the divisional level for distribution of free medicines. Chief Minister Chouhan also announced Mukhyamantri

Jeevan Janani Yojana, in which such pregnant women, who are not income tax payers, will be given assistance of Rs 4,000. Chief Minister also announced the construction of a four-lane road for Morena and the Morena Ring Road.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Social Justice and Empowerment Narendra Singh Tomar said that Chief Minister Chouhan is very sensitive towards villages, poor, farmers and women and is continuously working for their development and welfare. The Ladli Bahna scheme is wonderful. In the state right from the birth of a girl child to her education, marriage and now financial support is being provided. Chief Minister Chouhan has done a commendable job of giving Rs. 4,000 from the Chief Minister Kisan Kalyan Yojana along with Rs. 6,000 of the Prime Minister's Samman Nidhi every year to poor farmers. The Union Minister said that the 3 years under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan is unprecedented in the state. With all-round development and progress in the state, rapid work has been done towards self-reliance.

55 FALL SICK AFTER EATING ICE CREAM AT A FUNCTION IN KHARGONE



Khargone: Fifty five people fell sick, two of them critically, due to food poisoning after eating ice cream at a religious function in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, officials said. Those who took ill included 25 children, they said, adding the ice cream samples have been sent for testing. These people ate the ice cream prepared and sold by one Dinesh Kushwaha on Wednesday night during a religious function at a temple in Chhatal village, 14 km from the district headquarters, Khargone's Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Daulat Singh Chauhan said. Fifty five people, including 25 children, were admitted to the district hospital after they complained of colic, vomiting and upset stomach due to food poisoning, he said. Two children were brought to the facility in critical condition. Their health condition is stable now, the official said. The hospital's Resident Medical Officer Dr Dilip Septa said 20 children and 10 other people have so far been discharged after treatment.

Sunderja-Mango of Rewa along with 5 handicraft products of the state gets G.I. tag



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Handicraft products of the state have created a new history. Gond painting of Dindori, carpets of Gwalior, batik print of Ujjain, stone craft of Jabalpur Bhedaghat, sari of Waraseoni of Balaghat and Sunderja-mango of Rewa have been provided G.I. tags. This is the first time that so many products of the state have been given GI tag simultaneously. Along with this, the number of GI tagged products has increased to 19 in the state. Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Khadi Village Industries Board and Chief Executive Officer, Sant Ravidas Handicrafts

Development Corporation, Smt. Anubha Srivastava told that G.I. Tag (Geographical Indications Tag) is a type of level, in which a product is given a special geographical identity, which is given by the Union Ministry of Commerce. This success has been achieved in coordination with the cottage and village industries department of the state government and local producer organizations with the cooperation of NABARD Textile Committee and Ministry of Textiles. In his tweet, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal has extended congratulations on receiving the 33 GI tag after scrutiny of the Selective Committee, on 31 March 2023.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS NEEM, BANYAN AND KARANJ SAPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Banyan and Karanj in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with CM Chouhan, Samarth Paigwar and Narendra Sharma planted saplings on their birthday. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Sarvshri Pranav Tiwari, Ayush Katare, Apoorva Jain, Gopal Vaishnav, Jitesh Vishwakarma, Shaileendra Baghel and Vanshvardhan Patel planted saplings.

Two peddlers arrested with 370 grams MDMA drugs in Mandosaur

Team Absolute | Mandosaur

In continuation of a drive against the drug peddling, the team of Mandosaur police caught two peddlers and recovered 370 grams of 3, 4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) from their possession. The international market value of seized drugs stands around Rs 37 lakh. With this, Mandosaur police arrested seven peddlers and seized contraband worth more than Rs 1.25 crores from the possession within the last one week. Informing about the operation, Mandosaur City Kotwali police station in-charge Amit Soni said that they got a tip-off about two peddlers on the motorcycle heading towards Mandosaur with the contrabands. Swung into the action, Soni shared information with the seniors and



after getting the instruction, the team put pickets on the Mhow - Neemuch Highway at No 10 naka. After some time, police saw two bikers with a bag heading towards them. Police stopped them and after the search, the team recovered 170 grams of MDMA from the possession of Samarth Meghwal who was driving a motorcycle

and 200 grams of MDMA from pillon rider Bharat Bairagi. Police booked the duo under relevant sections of the NDPS Act. According to the police, the accused duo might be involved in some inter-state peddlers gang. In the past, those who were arrested are mostly hailing from the rural areas of Mandosaur, Neemuch, Pratargarh, and Chittorgarh bordering districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Police investigation into the matter is going on. Notably, the ethylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as ecstasy (tablet form); and molly or mandy (crystal form), is a potent empathogen-entactogen with stimulant properties primarily used for recreational purposes. The desired effects include altered sensations, increased energy, and empathy.

DOCTOR, ARTISANS HONOURED WITH PADMA SHRI

Jhabua: Dr Munishveer Chander Davar and artisans Ramesh Parmar and Shanti Parmar from Madhya Pradesh have been honoured with Padma Shri for the year 2023. President Droupadi Murmu conferred them with the coveted award at Rashtrapati Bhavan, on Wednesday. Dr Davar has been awarded in the field of Medicine. He is a physician who has been treating people in Jabalpur for the last 50 years. He has been treating patients at a nominal fee of Rs 2 since 1972 and Rs 20 from November 2021. Ramesh and Shanti Parmar awarded jointly. Artisan Ramesh and Shanti have been engaged in making tribal dolls, traditional tribal dress and tribal toys for the last 30 years.



Dhar PIC passed annual budget

Team Absolute | Dhar

On its first meeting following the election, the Dhar president-in-council (PIC) approved the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023-24. The meeting was presided over by PIC president Neha Mahesh Bodane, and a budget of Rs 351.4 crores was passed unanimously with everyone's approval. Numerous new infrastructure projects were proposed during the budget, with the hope that they will assist Dhar in becoming the most developed and facility-rich town in the state. Nonetheless, the budget includes some previous projects, such as a swimming pool, a fish-and-mutton market, the Hatwara retail complex, and gate construction. Some of the new projects include water supply work under the Amrit 2.0 programme, the construction of a new bus stop, market growth in various locations, and the development of a shopping centre in the old municipality. After a debate on the agenda's 25 items in the presence of CMO Nishikant Shukla, approval was



granted. The gathering included all of the corporators and heads of all committees. After praying, three female corporators took charge of their respective departments before the meeting. Among those present were MLA representative Shiv Patel, Mandal president Vipin Rathore, Dr Ramakant Mukut of the

Hindu group, and BJP leader Rajat Prajapati. A total of Rs 11 crores has been proposed in the new budget for the development of the bus station. The city's growth will pick up steam with the completion of the bus station, which will cover a large area. Asphalt layering over municipal roads has been planned at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. But, Rs 2.5 crores have been proposed for revitalization. Water-related activities would be completed under the Amrit 2.0 project with a budget of Rs 33 crore, with the goal of reaching the population of Dhar town after 50 years. This comprises the construction of tanks and the installation of distribution lines, including the installation of lines to transport Narmada river water from Gyanpura to Dhar. It is worth noting that the procurement procedure is also underway for the wetland project, which will be funded jointly by the Center and the State. Tina Vipin Rathore, corporator and revenue department committee leader, proposed the 7-day fair and cultural activities to be organised in the Khedapati Hanuman Temple premises under the municipal authority. This idea has been approved by all members.

Beleshwar Temple's new Sangharsh Samiti insists on 'Mandir wahi banega', despite 36 deaths on Ram Navami

Team Absolute | Indore

The demolition of Beleshwar Mahadev temple and the stepwell by the administration and government has sparked anger among the citizens. Consequently, a Sangharsh Samiti was formed, on Thursday that is insisting to rebuild the temple at its original location, where 36 people died on Ram Navmi. Beleshwar Mahadev temple and Jhulelal temple together formed the Sangharsh Samiti. On the occasion of Hanuman Janmotsav, committee held a meeting in which, they recited Hanuman Chalisa and offered prayer to the deceased of the accident. While accusing administra-



tion and municipal officials, committee said that they demolished the temple and stepwell after tragic accident on Ram Navami, to hide their 'mistake'. "Mandir wahi banega," the committee insisted. The committee also announced that Hindu Sangathan and Sangharsh Samiti will call upon the general public to close their businesses until 12 o'clock tomorrow morning and submit a memorandum by demonstrating at the collector's office. The tragic accident on Ram Navami resulted in the roof of the stepwell collapsing during havan-pujan at the temple, causing more than 45 people to fall into the stepwell. Sadly, 36 people lost their lives in the accident, while 18 were safely evacuated.

SARPANCH, HER HUSBAND DRAGGED, BEATEN, BY DEPUTY SARPANCH, & HER HUSBAND IN KHARGONE

Khargone: Jhirniya block of Khargone district witnessed a shocking incident, where a gram panchayat sarpanch and her husband were dragged on the road, kicked around and abused by none other than the deputy sarpanch and her husband in the middle of the road. The accused continued to assault the sarpanch and her husband even after she pleaded. The incident was reported at Mitawal gram panchayat. The video of the entire incident went viral, where deputy sarpanch Kalpanabai and her husband Ritesh Pagare were found abusing and beating sarpanch Durgabai and her husband Tinupal with shoes and slippers. Those who prepared the video claimed that the incident was reported in front of gram panchayat society building. The accused also threatened the sarpanch and her husband. After the incident, the victim sarpanch Durga Bai with her husband lodged a report at Chainpur police station. The victim informed that the conflict occurred over the construction of a sewage lane in the village. Sarpanch Durgabai claimed that due to poor road construction in the past, this time she denied giving drain construction work to the deputy sarpanch's husband. Angered over this, deputy sarpanch Kalpanabai and her husband Ritesh Pagare thrashed sarpanch and her husband stopped in the middle of the road and threatened her. At the time of the incident, lady sarpanch Durgabai was standing with her one-year-old son in her lap and Kalpanabai and her husband threatened her with dire consequences.

It's becoming tradition in Congress to sit among 'Rozedar' and create fear: MP minister Narottam Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has slammed Congress party and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Chief Kamal Nath over his remark while attending Iftar Party in the state. Reacting to Nath's statement, Mishra on Thursday said, "It is becoming a tradition of the Congress to sit among 'Rozedar' and create an atmosphere of fear and separation. Why did he (Nath) talk about riots in a religious program? Congress does politics of division among minorities during the time of elections." Notably, PCC Chief Nath attended an Iftar Party in Chhindwara district on Wednesday evening. On the occasion, he told people, "You should take care of Chhindwara and let me take care of the state. You see what is happening all over the country. How they (referring to BJP) are creating riots. These people will ruin the country." Mishra further said that Nath failed to keep the Congress united, at least let the country remain united. You (Nath) gave



such a statement anytime. "If you want to listen to the statement, then listen to Abdul Qadri, who praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and listen to the statement

of Veteran Politician Ghulam Nabi. Nath always tries to spoil the harmony," he added. The home minister also spoke on the

police and security arrangements on Hanuman Jayanti in the state. He said keeping in mind the advisory of the Central Government, arrangements have been made to places wherever the program is to be held within the state. Mishra also took a jibe at the Congress over organising a Hanuman Chalisa Path and Sunderkand in the state Congress office on Thursday. "These all are fake programs of Congress. They are reciting Hanuman Chalisa here and on the other hand, they are attending an Iftar party. Today I saw a tweet of one of their leaders (Congress), one post was on Hanuman Jayanti, rest all were increasing communalism. The public has now started to understand this two faced policy of the Congress," Mishra added. Besides, reacting to restrictive orders issued under Section 144 to break the nexus of school operators and book & uniform sellers in Indore, Mishra said, "I accept this decision as correct. The order has been issued to stop unnecessary bondage, unnecessary rules and unnecessary expenses."



EDITOR'S SPECS

76% UP SCHOOLCHILDREN SUFFER FROM MEDICAL CONDITION

Majority of the schoolchildren in Uttar Pradesh suffer from one or the other medical condition, according to a survey by a Lucknow-based health and wellness start-up. The study, conducted on over 3,000 students in nine districts, found that 76 per cent school going children were medically identified with different conditions. A team led by Dr S. Haider determined body mass index (BMI) and tested fitness and physical activity levels of 3,114 students from 12 schools in nine districts, including Lucknow. The team found that 47 per cent of kids had BMI outside the healthy range. While 59 per cent students, who underwent health screening, had eye and vision issues, more than half did not reach the standards for postural fitness. As per the study, 52 per cent of kids had dental and oral problems. The head-to-toe health screening was conducted by a team of 20 experts on various parameters to ensure the detection of any medical condition before it becomes life threatening. The study found more urban kids with an upright posture, and higher endurance and stamina, and less dental troubles. The rural kids, however, gave better performance in audiometry and speech tests, and were found better psychologically and less deficient in Vitamin A and D. Girls were less likely than boys to be medically fit and they were also less likely to meet the minimum standards for all seven tests of endurance and stamina, postural screening, eye and vision issues, oral and dental trouble, audiometry and speech, nutritional and psychological assessment. For instance, 39 per cent boys reported good stamina and endurance as against 25 per cent girls. Similarly, 25 per cent boys reported better posture than 18 per cent girls, the study found.

NEW GREEN INDUSTRIAL AGE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE TARGETS: UN



Amid growing food and energy crises, an uncertain global economic outlook, and the escalating impacts of climate change, the UN has said that a sustainable industrial transformation is needed to close the widening development gap among countries, meet climate targets and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Financing Sustainable Transformations says urgent, massive investments are needed to accelerate transformations, including in electricity supply, industry, farming, transportation, and buildings. "Without the means to invest in sustainable development and transform their energy and food systems, developing countries are falling even further behind," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the foreword to the report. "A two-track world of haves and have-nots holds clear and obvious dangers for every country. We urgently need to rebuild global cooperation and find the solutions to our current crises in multilateral action." According to the report, some of the necessary changes are already taking place. The energy crisis caused by the

war in Ukraine has spurred investment in global energy transition, which skyrocketed in 2022 to a record \$1.1 trillion. Energy transition investments surpassed fossil fuel system investments for the first time in 2022, but these are almost all in China and developed countries. The 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report finds that most developing countries do not have the resources for investment, unlike their developed counterparts. Climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Covid-19 pandemic, and debt payments up to two times higher than in 2019 have combined to put massive fiscal pressures on most developing countries. This limits their ability to invest in sustainable transformation. In developed countries in 2020 and 2021, for example, post-pandemic recovery spending was \$12,200 per capita. This was 30 times higher than for developing countries (\$410), and 610 times higher than for least developed countries (\$20). "Without delivering a reformed international financial system while scaling up investments in the SDGs, we will not deliver on our shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," said UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina

Mohammed. "The good news is that we know what to do and how to do it. From launching critical transformations in energy, food and education to ushering in a new green industrial and digital age, we all must quicken the pace and leave no one behind." The 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report notes that industrialization has historically been a vehicle of progress, leading to economic growth, job creation, technological advancement, and poverty reduction. The report calls for a new generation of sustainable industrial policies, underpinned by integrated national planning, to scale up investments and lay the foundation for the needed transformations. Many opportunities for inclusive growth exist in agroindustry, green energy and manufacturing. The recent rapid uptake in technology points to the possibilities for an equally rapid transition to sustainable industrialisation and growth. Between 2021 and 2022, 338 million more people used the Internet regularly, an increase of approximately 38,600 additional people every hour. Furthermore, in regions with high-quality connected services, 44 per cent of all companies are exporters, in contrast to only 19 per cent of firms where Internet services are weaker. However, manufacturing capacity remains uneven. In least developed countries in Africa, manufacturing value added, instead of doubling as per the SDG target 9.2, fell from around 10 per cent of GDP in 2000 to 9 per cent in 2021. It will take targeted policies to build the domestic productive capabilities to achieve low-carbon transitions, create decent jobs, and boost economic growth, while ensuring gender equality. To deliver the necessary resources for this transformation, the 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development Report calls for a combination of strengthening tax systems, enabling and catalysing private investment, and scaling up of international public investment and development cooperation. Changes to the international financial architecture are also needed to raise sufficient resources.



China is world's most prolific perpetrator of transnational repression: Report

The Chinese government is the world's most prolific perpetrator of transnational repression, accounting for 253 incidents, or 30 per cent of all recorded cases of direct, physical transnational repression since 2014, according to a report by Freedom House. More governments are committing more acts of transnational repression around the world, turning to violence and other brutal tactics to silence dissent beyond their borders, said the report. The study finds that 20 governments committed 79 incidents of physical transnational repression in 2022, with Djibouti and Bangladesh emerging as perpetrator states for the first time. The report also finds that at least 854 direct, physical incidents of transnational repression have been committed by 38 governments in 91 countries since 2014, including assassinations, abductions, assaults, detentions, and unlawful deportations. The governments of China, Turkey, Tajikistan, Russia and Egypt ranked as the most prolific perpetrators of transnational repression. "Despite growing awareness of the problem, more authoritarian governments are attempting to exert control over diaspora and exile communities," said Michael J. Abramowitz, president of Freedom House. "This latest research shows that the threat posed by transnational repression is not going away, and that democratic societies must work harder to protect themselves and their fundamental values." The government of Turkey has carried out 132 incidents of transnational repression. Ankara has abducted more people via renditions than any other state in the database, and this practice continued in 2022, with two new kidnappings from Ukraine and Azerbaijan, the report noted. "People who criticise authoritarian regimes, whether they are professional journalists or ordinary citizens, are often singled out for harassment and even violence," said Yana Gorokhova, the report's coauthor and Freedom House's research director for strategy and design. "The world cannot allow these repressive governments to restrict media freedom and personal expression abroad even as they shut down independent outlets at home."

international

Trump faces 'legal tsunami' post NY court arraignment

TN Ashok | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump faces a "legal tsunami" post his arraignment by a New York court on 34 charges of felony, including tax fraud by his businesses and the hush money payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels, thus crashing hopes of a Republican nomination for his third presidential run. On Tuesday, Trump was granted bail by the lower Manhattan court even as prosecution against him continued unabated and he lashed out at District Attorney (DA) Alvin Bragg as a "radical left backed by billionaire George Soros". Trump's trusted allies and donors in the Republican Party and business tycoons have shied away and his 'best friend' media baron Rupert Murdoch, owner of Fox News and The Wall Street Journal, has dumped him in favour of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is yet to announce his nomination. Following his arraignment, the former President levelled a series of charges during an address to his supporters and media from his



Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. Some of his charges were: the 2020 elections were "stolen"; other Presidents also took home official records and he was not the only one; the US has seen the strongest inflation in 60 years under the Democrats; and DA Bragg received monies for elections from George Soros. But all these allegations were rubbished. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) said once the President leaves office it takes custody of documents, but Trump took the records to his Florida home. Soros denied giving money for Bragg's election campaign as DA saying the funds came from an NGO supported by him as part of strengthening a functioning democracy. Meanwhile, the Department of Labour denied that inflation was the highest during the present administration. Now the legal tsunami that Trump faces after the arraignment and his outburst, could see him behind bars for a 100 years. Fox News specifically said Trump

could face 100 years in jail for his tax fraud and hush money scandal and interference in Georgia election count. As Trump faces criminal indictment in New York, legal experts feel his lawyers could act swiftly and loudly seeking change of venue of prosecution from the Democrat-ruled New York and demanding dismissal of the cases against him. This could pose a challenge to the judge selected to preside over Trump's arraignment, USA Today said in a report. Trump's attorney Joe Tacopina has however, maintained that the legal team is "not considering anything" until they read the full indictment. Yet the former President has said that the presiding judge, Juan Merchan, may be biased against him. This allegation this could bring contempt charges against Trump for suspecting the integrity of an independent judge. Merchan, the acting Supreme Court justice in Manhattan, presided over the "tax fraud trial" of Trump's businesses and real estate company and the Trump Payroll

Corporation interlinked with it. The tax fraud case resulted in a conviction in December 2022 and \$1.6 million in fines. Trump's CFO Allen Weisselberg was jailed and turned a possible approver against the fraud but not against Trump personally. Any attempt by Trump's legal team to disqualify either DA Bragg or Judge Merchan is a losing game but attorneys may try this to whip a public sentiment in favour of the former President to keep him in the 2024 race. Cyrus Vance Jr, the former Manhattan prosecutor who first initiated the Trump inquiry, said the defence also could seek a delay to accommodate the 2024 election and prepare an assault on the credibility of the state's key witness, former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen. He told NBC News that Cohen will be attacked heavily as he carried the monies in instalments to Daniels. "Cohen worked for Trump. They had a working relationship. So we often find in criminal cases that the witnesses who are involved aren't necessarily ... priests or nuns."

Russia-US ties in deep crisis, says Putin



Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that relations between his country and the US are experiencing "a deep crisis". Putin made the remarks during a ceremony where he received letters of credence from 17 newly-appointed Ambassadors of foreign states, reports Xinhua news agency. "Relations between Russia and the US... are going through a deep crisis," the President said, adding that this crisis was rooted in "fundamentally different approaches to the formation of the modern world order". Putin noted that global security strongly depends on

the relations between both countries, and that the US is ultimately responsible for both the Ukrainian crisis and the deterioration of bilateral ties with Russia. Putin said that Russia stands in favour of building relations with the US if these are based on the principles of equality, respect for sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The President further commented on Russia's strained relations with the European Union (EU). He said that the EU no longer aimed to develop economic cooperation and promote integration on the European continent, but was currently focused on "initiating a geopolitical confrontation with Russia". Putin expressed the hope that it would ultimately be possible to build relations with the EU, and that "the logic of mutual cooperation" would prevail.

Top official blasts Taliban ban on female Afghan UN staff

United Nations | Agencies

A top UN official has condemned the Taliban's decision to ban Afghan women from working with the world body in Afghanistan. "We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues, and all women who every day put their lives at risk to serve their country and we salute their dedication, professionalism, and bravery. We re-assert their inalienable, fundamental human rights as enshrined in the UN Charter," Sima Bahous, UN Undersecretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, said in a statement. "We will not replace our female workforce with men," she said, adding that UN Women is determined to con-



tinue in every way possible to deliver vital services and support, so no woman or girl will be left out or left behind, Xinhua news agency reported. Afghanistan is in a humanitarian crisis with 28.3 million people, two-thirds of the population, needing humanitarian assistance to survive. Nearly a

Japan SDF chopper with 10 people disappears near Okinawa

Japan SDF

Tokyo: A helicopter of Japan's Self-Defense Force (SDF) with 10 people on board disappeared on Thursday off the southwestern prefecture of Okinawa, local media reported. The UH-60 multipurpose chopper flying around Okinawa's Miyakojima Island disappeared from the radar at around 4.40 p.m. (local time), Xinhua news agency quoted public broadcaster NHK as saying. The SDF and the Coast Guard are searching for the helicopter, which belongs to a unit in the Kumamoto prefecture.

4 KIDS STABBED TO DEATH IN BRAZIL KINDERGARTEN

Brasilia | Agencies

A 25-year-old man stabbed at least four children to death at a kindergarten in Brazil, officials said. The attacker, who turned himself in to authorities after the attack on Wednesday, also left several children injured in the tragic incident in the town of Blumenau in Santa Catarina state, reports Xinhua news agency. The victims were three boys and a girl aged four to seven. According to the police, the perpetrator entered the kindergarten by jumping over a wall, and the attack, rode a bike to the local police station where he surrendered. "I have come to report that I have committed a crime," the man said, according to a police account cited by a Santa Catarina news channel. The case has shocked Brazil, where President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva described it as a "monstrosity", and expressed solidarity with the families of the victims. "There is no greater pain than when a



family loses a child or grandchild, even more so in an act against innocent and defenceless children," he said. Santa Catarina Governor Jorginho Mello declared three days of mourning and called on the society to reflect on what took place and how to "contribute to increasing safety." The attack came days after a teenager stabbed a teacher to death with a knife and injured four others in late March at a public school in Sao Paulo.



# TEAM UDDHAV HITS OUT AT DEVENDRA FADNAVIS, CALLS HIM "FAILED" HOME MINISTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday called Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a "failed" home minister while claiming the law and order situation in the state was bad and farmers were committing suicide. An editorial in the Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not even giving a warning to China after it changed the names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh. Pakistan is being issued hollow threats, but what about China which has made "incursion" in the Indian territory, it said. Earlier this week, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray dubbed Fadnavis a "worthless" home minister after a woman worker from the Thackeray-led faction was allegedly attacked by activists of rival Shiv Sena in Thane. Fadnavis had then hit back saying he was a "bullet" (kartoons), while Thackeray was a "weak" chief minister who had sacrificed his ideology for the sake of power and need



not be given importance. Notably, the Supreme Court recently made strong comments during the hearing of a contempt petition seeking action against several state authorities, including Maharashtra, for allegedly

failing to register first information reports (FIRs) against those who make hate speech. "We are hearing the contempt petition because states are not taking action in time. This is because the

state has become impotent, powerless, and does not act in time. Why should we have a state at all if it is silent," the Supreme Court had said and posted the matter for hearing on April 28 while seeking response from Maharashtra on the plea. Referring to the Supreme Court's remarks, the Saamana said, "What should one be addressed as if not worthless for making Maharashtra impotent." Farmers are committing suicide, but the government is not worried. The law and order in the state is in tatters, it claimed. "You decide yourself if you are worthless, but you are a failed home minister. Governing does not mean extracting revenge," the Marathi publication said. The editorial further said, "You are no one without the help of central agencies which give you the ammo." It also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "snatching" the bow and arrow symbol from the Thackeray-led Sena faction. The Election Commission earlier this year allocated the bow and arrow symbol and the parent party to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

# Maharashtra being run like underworld: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday attacked the Maharashtra government and claimed the state was being like the underworld that once operated in Mumbai. Criminals and the corrupt are being protected and the "chief minister and deputy chief minister are running their gangs", Raut, a key aide of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, told reporters. "This (Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis dispensation) is not a government. The state is being run like the underworld that operated from pockets of Thane and Mumbai. The chief minister and deputy chief minister are running their gangs," Raut alleged. On the Supreme Court on Thursday refusing to entertain a plea by 14 political parties alleging arbitrary use of Central agencies against opponents, Raut said the way the Bharatiya Janta Party is celebrating after the top court's order shows their happiness. "The ED (Enforcement Directorate) and CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) are being misused against political opponents.



Why is no action being taken against those who have been cleansed in the BJP washing machine," he said. The "washing machine" reference is often made by opponents of the BJP who claim politicians being probed by agencies get a reprieve or are absolved after they join the saffron party.

# Raveena Tandon gets angry as fan pushes her daughter

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon, who is known for films such as 'Mohra', 'Dulhe Raja', 'Shool' and many others, is back in the bay after receiving Padma Shri - the fourth highest civilian award by President Draupadi Murmu. She was clicked at the airport along with her daughter Rasha Thadani. The actress smiled for the cameras as she walked in a blue coloured outfit with her hair tied neatly in a bun adorned with garja. As she approached her car, a fan started intruding in her personal space to click a picture with her. The fan unknowingly pushed her daughter in the attempt to get the actress in his frame. An angered Raveena intervened and nudged the fan back asking him to not push her daughter. She said: "Aap dhakka mat dijiye bhaisahab, bacchon ko dhakka mat dijiye (please don't push the kids)." The actress then sat in the car along with her daughter and left the airport.



# OVER 72 PERSONS ARRESTED, 10 MINORS DETAINED FOR RACING ON WESTERN EXPRESS HIGHWAY

Mumbai: At least 72 persons were arrested and 10 minors detained after they were allegedly found racing their motorcycles illegally on the Western Express Highway here on Tuesday, News 18 reported. The police had received a tip-off that some motorcyclists were riding their vehicles in a rash and negligent manner on the Western Express Highway and placing bets as well, an official from Kherwadi police station said. The police then barricaded the area and rounded up people who were racing illegally on the highway in the early hours of the day, he said. At least 48 motorcycles were seized and 72 persons arrested in the crackdown, the official said. The accused were arrested under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Motor Vehicles Act and Gambling Act, he added.

# Residents left to lurch as BMC allegedly 'fails to inform' about water cut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The residents of a Chandivali society have blamed the city's civic body, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, for not informing them about the water cut ahead of time. Synchronicity CHS Ltd residents said that they had to spend hours looking for water as the civic body did not issue a notice to the society. Pertinently, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has imposed a 15 per cent water cut this month after two water mains and a water tunnel punctured in Thane. While the work on the water main and tunnel is going on, locals in various parts of the city face water shortages. Mandeep Singh Makkar, the chairman of Synchronicity CHS Ltd, said that they spent an average of Rs 1,000 - Rs 1,500 extra on the water tankers to meet the water need for 266 flats in



the society on April 5. Makkar claimed that the civic body did not issue any prior "water cut" notice to the society. The society members had to spend a few hours in search for water tankers as the demand is very high due to the water crisis in the city, he said "Around five water tankers were brought to fulfill the needs of around 266 families living in the society." He said the society has requested

the families to preserve as much water and desist from washing their vehicles. Meanwhile, the families using water from the tankers have been advised to boil the water before drinking as a precautionary measure. Sukhjit Singh Atwal, a 50-year-old resident claimed that the residents of the society have been receiving muddy water. The civic body should make sure that they should supply hygienic water. Atwal said: "We are taking preventive measures to preserve as much water as possible and taking measures to store the water and limit the wastage." He said that the residents of the society were caught unaware of the water cut issue in the society as there was no notice from BMC. "For the next 24 days, we will have to manage the shortage. And the civic body should be blamed for the crisis."

# Cocaine worth Rs 20 cr seized in Mumbai, 3 held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Wednesday seized 1970 grams cocaine in Mumbai and arrested three persons including an African national in this regard. "Based on the intelligence gathered by DRI, one male passenger (35), who arrived from Addis Ababa to Mumbai at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on April 4, was intercepted. Examination of the luggage of the passenger resulted into recovery of 1970 grams of white powder (cocaine) with an illicit market value of Rs 20 crore," an official said. The official said that further to identify other members of the drug syndicate, the officers laid a trap and apprehended the recipient of the said con-



traband drugs. The recipient came from Hyderabad to Mumbai to collect the drugs. This person was further supposed to deliver the drugs to an African person in Navi Mumbai. "Efforts were made to identify and intercept the African person who appeared to be a

# MAN KILLS SISTER-IN-LAW IN PUNE, HER 2 KIDS, SETS BODIES ON FIRE

Pune: A 30-year-old man allegedly strangled to death his sister-in-law and her two minor children and later set the bodies on fire in Maharashtra's Pune city, police said on Thursday. The incident took place in Kondhwa area on Wednesday evening, they said, adding the accused was apparently miffed over his 25-year-old sister-in-law's alleged affairs with other men. The accused has been arrested and charged under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code, an official said. On Wednesday, the accused and the woman had an argument over her alleged illicit relations with other men. The accused, in a fit of rage, allegedly strangled her and her two children, aged 4 and 6, to death, the official from Kondhwa police station said. "In a bid to dispose of the bodies, he set them on fire using bedsheets and wood in a tin shed in front of the woman's house in Pisoli area of Kondhwa at around 9 pm on Wednesday," he said without giving more details. A probe was on into the incident, he added.



# Kharge, Rahul, Priyanka to address rally in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a boost for the Congress' Maharashtra unit, top leaders like President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra are likely to address a rally in Nagpur in the third week of this month, party leaders said on Thursday. The rally, tentatively scheduled between April 20-25, will come soon after the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s major public meeting scheduled here on April 16. "The exact dates of the rally shall be finalised next week at a party meeting," state Congress chief Nana Patole said. This will be Rahul Gandhi's first visit to the state after his conviction by a Surat Court in a defamation case and subsequent disqualification from the Lok Sabha which sparked a huge political furor. A party leader said the rally will be part of a series to go and address the masses directly as Congress leaders are "not allowed to speak" in the Parliament. Recently, the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party had slammed Gandhi for his repeated attacks on the Hindutva ideology Vinayak D. Savarkar. Even the MVA ally - Shiv



Sena-UBT has taken strong objections to Gandhi's utterances while Nationalist Congress Party leaders and certain sections of Congress, have advised restraint as Savarkar is an icon in the state. Nagpur also happens to be the headquarters of the RSS, the ruling BJP's ideological mentor and home town of other bigwigs like Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, state party chief Chandrashekhar Bavankule, and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who have also attacked Gandhi on the Savarkar issue.

# Pawar red-flags Centre's plan to import dairy products

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar has expressed opposition to the Centre's plans to import dairy products like fats, butter and ghee, here on Thursday. In a letter to Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Parshottam Rupala, Pawar said that the proposal would prove detrimental to the interests of the domestic milk industry. "Any decision by the Central government in this regard will be totally unacceptable because the import of these products will directly affect the income of the domestic milk producers," Pawar stated. The Centre is toying with the idea of importing ghee-butter as milk production in the country apparently remained 'stagnant' owing to the lumpy skin disease which had hit cattle in many parts of India. However, in contrast, the demand for milk products had shot up by 8-10 per cent as the country rebounded in the post-pandemic, with lower stocks of



fats, ghee, butter compared with the previous year. The NCP supremo, a former Union Agriculture Minister, pointed out that dairy farmers have recently emerged from the unprecedented two-year long Covid-19 crisis and such a measure will severely impede the sector's steps in the revival process. "My concern may please be heeded. I shall be happy if the matter is looked into and the ministry deters itself from taking any decision to import the milk products," Pawar urged the Minister.

# MAMI FLAGS OFF YEAR ROUND PROGRAMME WITH COLORISTS' WORKSHOP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival, known as the Jio MAMI Film Festival, which will be held from October 27 through November 5, 2023, has set the Year Round Programme (YRP) in motion. It has started off with the Colorists' Workshop, which is an upskill programme in Film DI & Colour Grading. The programme will focus on building an ecosystem by focusing on aspiring film artists and help the industry workforce upskill in their domain. It will facilitate the exchange of ideas, new cinematic voices and collaborations while bringing the best of world cinema to Mumbai. Commenting on this, Anupama Bose, Artistic Director, Jio MAMI Year Round Programme, said: "With a vision to create an ecosystem that nurtures talent by reaching out to various parts of India through thoughtfully designed skill development programmes, we are excited to launch our first Year Round Programme, the Colorists' Workshop, focusing on north-east India. It is our first step towards supporting aspiring as well as



practising cinematographers, and colour grading artists to enhance their skills." The programme is supported by a grant through Global Media Makers, a partnership between Film Independent and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Bridge PostWorks is the domain partner.

Commenting on the new vision for the festival and the year round programme, Anupama Chopra, Festival Director Jio MAMI, said: "We are extremely excited about the possibilities that both the main festival and the Year Round Programme hold for us in 2023. We, at the Jio MAMI, not only bring the best stories and creators from around the world face-to-face with the Indian audience, but also provide an excellent platform for filmmakers to collaborate and create business opportunities." She added: "Through its new edition, the institution aims at developing new talent by providing mentorship in different aspects of filmmaking, both during the festival as well as through its year round programme." The YRP for 2023 has two parts, one which is focused on aspiring and practising filmmakers, technicians, cinephiles, and new audiences who like to watch, discuss, and connect over films from across the world, designed to build cinema watching communities. The second one, YRPpro, is a skill development, upskilling programme for aspiring and practising filmmakers and technicians."



# KHLOE KARDASHIAN OPENS UP ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP STATUS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Khloe Kardashian reveals her relationship status and hints at her son's name in new interview after outing with ex Tristan Thompson.

The reality TV star opened up about a wide variety of subjects while appearing on The Jennifer Hudson Show, which is set to air Thursday, April 6.

When asked about her current relationship status, Khloe - who recently sparked reconciliation rumors with cheating ex Tristan Thompson after they were spotted in a McDonald's drive through - revealed that she is 'single.'

Despite her single status, she has not joined the world of dating apps just yet: 'I haven't yet, I don't want to say never because who knows where I'll be next year, but as of now I haven't yet.'

Khloe also teased that in keeping with the tradition, her 8-month-old son's name 'starts with a T' to match his father and sister, True, five, whom she also shares with Tristan.

Khloe gushed about her baby boy, whom she welcomed via surrogate in August of 2022. 'He's eight-months-old, he's a little chunk, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I love a chubby baby,' she said, adding that he is a 'quiet' and 'happy' baby.

She also admitted that she didn't know what to name him when he was first born. 'I wanted to meet him, and feel him out a little bit. So at first he didn't have a name, but then, he was named.' As for when she is going to reveal his name, Khloe shared, 'I was waiting for the premiere of our show, and I didn't realize it was going to be this far out.'

'Now, I'm just like if my daughter outs me, I'm screwed,' she added, seemingly admitting that the name reveal will come on the new season of the Hulu show, which will premiere on May 25.



# PRIYANKA

WILL BE SEEN WITH JOHN CENA, IDRIS ELBA IN ACTION FILM 'HEADS OF STATE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ahead of the global debut of the streaming spy series 'Citadel', Priyanka Chopra Jonas is getting into business with Amazon Studios again, this time with John Cena and Idris Elba in 'Heads of State'. The movie's cameras roll in May.

'Nobody' filmmaker Ilya Naishuller is directing off a script by Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec, with an initial draft by Harrison Query based on the original idea, reports Deadline. Plot details are being kept under wraps, but the film, which we first told you about, is being described as Air Force One meets Midnight Run.

Producers are the Safran Company's Peter Safran and John Rickard. EPs are Cena, Elba and Marcus Viscidi. John welcomed Priyanka aboard as he tweeted: "THANK YOU Amazon Studios for assembling such a dream team. Excited to get to work on 'Heads Of State' with Idris Elba and welcome the newest cast member, the world renowned Priyanka Chopra."

Priyanka responded to John Cena's tweet as she wrote: "Thank you for the warm welcome John Cena. I can't wait to get to set! let's gooooo."

On the film side, she will next star in Sony's 'Love Again' and most recently starred in Netflix's Oscar-nominated feature 'The White Tiger', which she also executive produced.

Chopra Jonas' production banner Purple Pebble Pictures is currently under a first-look film and TV deal with Amazon Studios and has also partnered with Paramount Global to create original content focused on diversity and inclusion for its entertainment and youth channels.



# Shaughna Phillips

## is blessed with a 'baby daughter'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Shaughna Phillips has revealed she has welcomed a baby daughter called Lucia. Sharing a first picture of her newborn from her hospital bed, she wrote: 'My darling Lucia, I wish I had you sooner so I could love you longer.' And offering more details, she wrote that the baby was born on 04/04/23 at 8.10pm, wearing 8lb 8oz.

Ahead of welcoming her little one, Shaughna - who has split from Lucia's father Billy, had taken to Instagram to reveal that she was going to have to be induced after she passed her due date of March 25.

She later shared that she had booked in to be induced on April 2 as she shared her pregnancy health woes - but the baby was actually born two days later.

A host of stars were quick to jump into the comments to offer their congratulations.

Mrs Hinch wrote: 'Aww congratulations beautiful, sending lots of love your way xx.'

Nicola McLean wrote: 'Absolutely beautiful.' Vicky Pattison wrote: 'Congratulations gorgeous girl.'

Comedian Katherine Ryan wrote: 'Yay she's here! Congratulations.'



# 'IT'S A WRAP FOR 'JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX''

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Todd Phillips has wrapped up the production of his 'Joker'

sequel 'Joker: Folie a Deux'. Notifying fans of the titular character, the director shared two pictures of actor Joaquin Phoenix and actress-singer

Lady Gaga.

The pictures are of Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn and Joaquin Phoenix in full makeup as the film's titular

villain, reports Deadline. The director wrote in the caption: "That's a wrap. Thanks to these two (+the entire cast) and the BEST crew that the film industry has to offer. From top to bottom. Gonna crawl into a cave now (edit room) and put it all together."

Throughout the film's production, the director posted a number of photos from the set, beginning with a mysterious

shot of Phoenix's Arthur Fleck being shaved by a law enforcement official, sometime in December last year.

Earlier, Lady Gaga was spotted in New York City in her look of Harley Quinn. She was being filmed in downtown Manhattan, surrounded by police. The crowd scene had junior artistes carrying signs that read "Free Joker."



# JOHNNY DEPP RETURNS TO THE SCREEN AFTER 3 YEARS WITH 'JEANNE DU BARRY'

Paris | Agencies

French filmmaker-actress Maiwenn's historical drama 'Jeanne du Barry', starring Johnny Depp as the French king Louis XV, is slated for a world premiere on the opening night of the Cannes Film Festival's 76th edition, 'Variety' has confirmed. The movie marks Depp's acting comeback after a three-year hiatus following his long legal battle with ex-wife Amber Heard that culminated in a defamation trial won by Depp in December.

Maiwenn's sixth feature, the period movie revolves around the tumultuous relationship of the French king and his lover, Jeanne du Barry (played by Maiwenn), whom he brought into the Versailles Palace to live near him even though she wasn't a noble. Louis XV, who was nicknamed "the beloved", ultimately died as an unpopular king after being accused of corruption. He reigned for 59 years, the longest in the history of France after that of Louis XIV.

Depp, according to 'Variety', barely spoke French before the start of filming, so it will be interesting to see how he pulls it off without an accent. Maiwenn was previously at Cannes in 2011 with 'Polisse', which won the Jury Prize, and in 2015 with 'My King', which earned Emmanuelle Bercot a best actress award. 'Jeanne du Barry' is also expected to play in competition.

The Cannes Film Festival will unveil its Official Selection on April 13, notes 'Variety'. It has meanwhile confirmed a pair of anticipated U.S. movies, Martin Scorsese's Leo DiCaprio-starrer 'Killers of the Flower Moon' and Disney's 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny', which marks the return of Harrison Ford to the famous franchise.

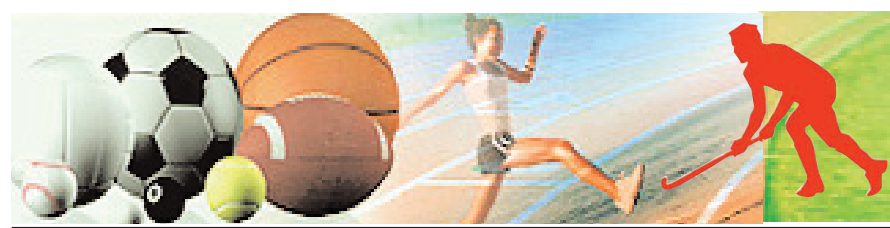
Ruben Ostlund, the two-time Palme d'Or director of 'The Square' and 'Triangle of Sadness', will preside over the jury.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Ashley Graham

**IPL 2023**

## KKR SPINNERS WREAK HAVOC, RCB LOSES BY 81-RUN

**Mumbai** | Agencies

**S**pin trio of Varun Chakravarty, Sunil Narine and debutant Suyash Sharma wreaked havoc as Kolkata Knight Riders thrashed Royal Challengers Bangalore by 81 runs to register their first win of IPL 2023 on return to Eden Gardens after four years, here on Thursday.

After Shardul Thakur slammed the joint-fastest fifty of the season while Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit a stroke-filled half-century and Rinku Singh chipped in with a vital 46 to propel KKR to a mammoth 204/7, Kolkata's three mystery spinners bamboozled the RCB batters to bowl them out for 123 in 17.4 overs.

While Narine set the base for the demolition job with 2/16 in four overs, Chakravarty was the star of the show with his quicker deliveries and getting some skid to pick 4/15 in 3.4 overs and bowled 13 dot balls. The 19-year old Suyash left a huge impression in his very first game of professional cricket through his spell of 3/30 in four overs, with 11 dot balls to show.

Virat Kohli began the chase of 205 clipping a half-volley outside leg stump from Umesh Yadav for four and ended the opening over with another boundary slashed in the gap between third man and backward point.

He and Faf du Plessis hit Tim Southee for two fours and as many sixes each in the fourth over yielding 23 runs. But from there, the Narine-Chakravarty show began to blow away RCB. Kohli played across the line against Narine, but missed the ball and



was castled through the gate in the fifth over. In the next over, du Plessis went for an expansive drive against a fuller ball from Chakravarty but got an inside edge to his stumps.

In his next over, Chakravarty's quicker googly beat the inside edge of Glenn Maxwell to crash into the stumps. Two balls later, he ended Harshal Patel's promotion by extracting an inside edge to crash into the stumps.

Shahbaz Ahmed picked out in deep point off Narine. Impact player Anuj Rawat tried but found short third man.

Three balls later Dinesh Karthik edge flew to short third man.

**Brief scores**

Kolkata Knight Riders 204/7 in 20 overs (Shardul Thakur 68, Rahmanullah Gurbaz 57; David Willey 2/16, Karn Sharma 2/26) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 123 all out in 17.4 overs (Faf du Plessis 23, Virat Kohli 21; Varun Chakravarty 4/15, Suyash Sharma 3/30) by 81 runs

**RCB VS KKR**

### PBKS won as Dhawan played responsibly, says Raina

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

**P**unjab Kings (PBKS) rode on skipper Shikhar Dhawan (86) and his opening partner Prabhsimran Singh's (60) brilliant 90-run stand, and a magnificent spell from pacer Nathan Ellis (4/30) to beat RR in their second match of the IPL 2023.

Suresh Raina praised Dhawan for controlling the innings and leading the team to victory. "He was performing the anchor's role. Much is made about his strike rate but today he played an impactful role. Look at the fact that he's

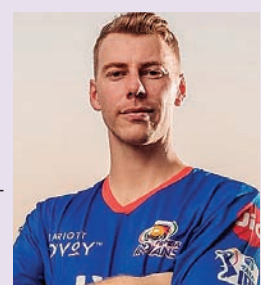


made 450+ runs in 7 consecutive TATA IPL seasons. He knew that when the dew falls, the pace becomes easier. He batted responsibly and that's why Punjab pulled off the performance they did. Shikhar had an important role to play in that."

### MI NAMED RILEY MEREDITH AS REPLACEMENT FOR JHYE RICHARDSON

**New Delhi** | Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians (MI) on Thursday named Riley Meredith as a replacement for fellow Australian and injured fast bowler Jhye Richardson. As per an official statement from the franchise, Richardson is suffering from a hamstring injury and was ruled out of IPL 2023.

Meredith has played five T20Is, picking up eight wickets that includes a three-wicket haul, apart from one ODI appearance for Australia. Meredith, capable of clocking speeds upwards of 140kph, had played eight games for Mumbai in IPL 2022, picking up eight wickets in his maiden season with the team, after taking four scalps for Punjab in IPL 2021.



### Letting go of RCB captaincy played a big role for Virat in relaxing: ABD

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

**F**ormer Royal Challengers Bangalore stalwart AB de Villiers believes letting go of leadership duties in the Indian Premier League (IPL) has played a big role in talismanic batter Virat Kohli appearing to be more relaxed and happier in the ongoing season of the tournament.

"I think letting captaincy go last season played a big role in him just relaxing. He was a fantastic captain, but he did it for a long period of time internationally and in the IPL, which can be daunting. You don't have time off to chill to spend time with family and have a laugh with your friends," said de Villiers during a virtual media roundtable.

AB de Villiers also advised the Suryakumar



Yadav to get back towards what worked for him in the past when he was smashing scintillating knocks.

"He (Yadav) has got to stick to what's been working for him over the years. Yes, maybe, he can try and remember 'what are my basics' or 'what did I do very well when I was just consistently scoring runs'. He took his game to a completely different level and honestly, it's not a bad thing to come down a level and spend a bit of time there before you pop out again. So he's going to realise he can't entertain the crowd in every single innings.

### KOHLI, RUTURAJ FRONTRUNNERS TO WIN ORANGE CAP

**New Delhi** | It hasn't been even a week since IPL started but the cricket fever has well and truly gripped the entire nation. Fans and experts have already started their predictions about who is going to be the best batter and the best bowler of IPL 2023. The experts panel at Star Sports feels that Virat Kohli and Rituraj Gaikwad - who are the frontrunners in the Orange Cap race - might actually end up winning it by the end of yet another exciting season.

**Copa del Rey**

## Benzema hat trick helped Real Madrid conquer Camp Nou to qualify for final

**Barcelona** | Agencies

**K**arim Benzema scored a hat trick as Real Madrid took advantage of important injuries for FC Barcelona to overturn a 1-0 defeat in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinal to book their place in the final with a 4-0 win in Camp Nou Stadium.

Barca started stronger,

with Lewandowski seeing a shot deflected wide and Raphinha heading at Thibaut Courtois before great defending from Ronald Araujo denied Vinicius Jr and a quick Madrid counterattack.

There was plenty of high pressure and individual marking and tensions ran high between Vinicius and Gavi, with both booked after reacting angrily.

Real Madrid took the lead in first-half injury time with a counter-attack. Courtois again denied Lewandowski with a reflex save and the ball fell kindly for Madrid to catch Barca wrong-footed.

Rodrygo had space and pulled the ball back for Vinicius and although Ter Stegen got a hand onto his shot, the ball had the legs to just cross the line, although Benzema thumped it into the back of the net to make sure.

Benzema put Madrid 2-0 up on the night and 2-1 up on aggregate five minutes into the second half with a low finish after Luka Modric set the striker up on the edge of the area.

The Frenchman then made it 3-0 from the penalty spot after Franck Kessie caught Vinicius, whose speed drew the foul from the midfielder and it was almost 4-0 moments afterward when Modric's cross was just inches away from Rodrygo.

## USA, UAE qualify for the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket WC Qualifier

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

**T**he United States of America (USA) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have qualified for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier after finishing in the top two places of the six-team ICC Mens Cricket World Cup Qualifier Play-off in Namibia.

USA finished on top of the table with four wins from five matches, ahead of the UAE on head-to-head, who scored a final-day win over Jersey to level with the USA on points. Hosts Namibia and Canada put in some strong performances but fell just short of progressing with three wins each from their five games.

The USA and UAE will now be vying with eight other

teams during the qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe for two places in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to be held in India in October-November.

In the qualifying tournament, the three automatic qualifiers from ICC CWC League 2 -- Scotland, Oman and Nepal will be present in addition to the bottom five-placed teams in the ICC ODI Super League.

Currently, Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, West Indies are confirmed to feature at the Qualifier in Zimbabwe, while Ireland must beat Bangladesh 3-0 in their upcoming Super League series to leapfrog South Africa and gain direct entry to the World Cup.

**Premier League**

## Newcastle, Man Utd both win to strengthen top-four claims

**London** | Agencies

**N**ewcastle United and Manchester United both strengthened their case for a place in next season's Champions League with important wins in the Premier League.

Callum Wilson scored twice as Newcastle produced a convincing 5-1 win away to West Ham United, a result which keeps West Ham deep in a battle against relegation and could put coach David Moyes' job at risk, reports Xinhua.

Wilson headed Newcastle ahead following a set piece in the sixth minute of the game and Joelinton made it 2-0 just seven minutes later after breaking the West Ham offside trap.

Kurt Zouma scored an easy header to get West Ham back into the game five minutes from halftime after Newcastle keeper Nick Pope missed a corner, but comedic defending in the



first minute of the second half allowed Wilson to score an easy second.

Substitute Alexander Isak added a fourth in the 82nd minute after a poor mistake from Lucas Fabianski, who rushed out of his area, but failed to control a through ball and Joelinton scored his second in the last minute. Marcus Rashford's instinctive finish after

Brentford failed to clear a 27th minute corner, saw Manchester United bounce back from their defeat to Newcastle last weekend with a 1-0 win. The results leave both sides on 53 points after 28 matches, three points more than fifth place Tottenham, who have played 29 games and have a tough match against Brighton on Saturday.

**FIFA rankings**

## Argentina dethrone Brazil to reclaim top spot

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

**R**eigning world champion Argentina dethroned Brazil to reclaim the top spot in the latest FIFA rankings released on Thursday, after a six-year gap.

Recent friendly wins against Panama (2-0) and Curacao (7-0) helped the world Argentina (1840.93 points) leapfrog Brazil (1834.21), who paid a high price for defeat in their friendly against Morocco (2-1) and dropped to third place. Not only did Brazil surrender the top spot, but they also saw France move ahead of them to second place after their back-to-back wins in UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying

against the Netherlands (4-0) and Republic of Ireland (1-0).

Outside the leading trio, there were no other movers among the Top 10. Belgium (1792.53 points) is in fourth place, with England (1792.43 points) in fifth, followed by the Netherlands (sixth), Croatia (seventh) and Italy (eighth), Portugal (ninth) and Spain completed the top 10.

The swapping of places by Senegal on 18th and Denmark on 19th were the only other notable changes in the Top 20. The most improved side in this edition are the Central African Republic, taking a giant leap of 10 spots to be placed 122 10 places in the global standings.

## Dhoni, Yuvi, Raina made MCC life members; Mithali, Jhulan too on the list

**London** | Agencies

**F**ormer India captain M.S. Dhoni, his teammates Suresh Raina and Yuvraj Singh along with women internationals Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami were awarded the Honorary Life Membership of the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

M.S. Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh were both integral parts of the India side which won the 2007 ICC Men's World T20 and the 2011 ICC Men's World Cup, and Suresh Raina scored over 5,500 ODI runs across a 13-year career.

The custodians of the game's rules have also picked England's World Cup-winning captain Eion Morgan and Kevin Pietersen, South African Dale Stein and New Zealand's Ross Taylor among the honorary life members.

Pakistan's former all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez and Bangladesh's Mashrafe Mortaza were also included in the list released by the



MCC on Wednesday.

The Club has also awarded a further two Honorary Life Memberships for non-playing contributions to the game.

Eight of the 12 Test-playing nations are represented with

in this year's list, which includes some of the most recognisable names in the modern game.

MCC's Cricket committee considers the nomination of cricketers for Honorary Life Membership, recognising the

outstanding international careers of some of the greats of the game. Honorary Life Membership is also awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to MCC or the game in general.

## Todd Murphy, Lance Morris earn first Australia men's national contract

**Melbourne** | Agencies

**S**pinner Todd Murphy earned his first national contract, as Cricket Australia announced the extended 24-player national men's contract list on Thursday. Murphy has earned his first national contract after impressing on the Border-Gavaskar India tour, where he claimed a five-wicket haul on Test debut.

He was joined by the fast bowler Lance Morris as first-time contracted players to the national side, with Sean Abbott, Michael Neser and Jhye Richardson also been promoted and offered a contract for the next year.

Dropping out of the list is recently retired former white-ball captain Aaron Finch and

spinner Mitchell Swepson, while Matthew Wade, Matthew Renshaw, Peter Handscomb and Matthew Kuhnemann have also been overlooked for a contract.

With the World Test Championship final, Ashes series and ODI World Cup in India all in the year ahead, selectors have taken up the four additional contract spots available under the new Memorandum of Understanding announced earlier this week.

Men's contracts have risen 7.5 percent this year under the new MOU, to an average retainer of \$951,000. The top contract is likely to earn more than \$3m over the 12 months while the minimum retainer is worth \$367,000 before any tour payments and match fees.



## Films are reflection of society: Radhika Apte

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!' actress Radhika Apte, who is seen playing Durga, a housewife and an undercover agent in the spy comedy 'Mrs Undercover', said she fell in love with her character the minute she heard the script. Radhika said that now-a-days, women-led films are getting more eyeballs from the viewers. She said: "I think the premise of the film was really exciting for me. We live in a country where there is a lot of patriarchy and so many women slog days and nights to keep their families happy, and yet go unnoticed so I think it did resonate with me and what I like about Durga is her innocence, her naivety, her clumsiness and even her journey of discovering herself. I think that was really good."

Radhika, who is known for 'Raat Akeli Hai', 'Monica, O My Darling', and an American film, 'A Call To Spy', said women-oriented subjects are liked by the audience.

"I mean it's high time that we have equality, the world is changing and now everyone is fighting for equal rights, equal pay, equal job opportunities and equal recognition. Film industry is just a reflection of what is going around in society and the world is changing very slowly and yet some parts of the world aren't and I think that's just why we are getting some better parts," she added.

Directed and written by debutant director, Anushree Mehta, 'Mrs Undercover' features Radhika Apte in the lead role. It also stars Sumeet Vyas, Rajesh Sharma and Saheb Chatterjee.

## Tarun Gahlot reveals 'he maintained his beard for 7-8 months for

# "Bhola"



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Tarun Gahlot, who is known for his work in 'The Test Case', 'Kedarnath', 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar', 'The Fame Game', OTT series 'XYX' and 'Rudra', has reunited with Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn in the latter's recently released directorial 'Bhola'.

Tarun shared that he couldn't shave his face for 7-8 months because his character required him to look manly.

Tarun, who is a Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) alum, told IANS: "Ajay sir placed his complete faith in me for the part, it was his vision. I maintained my bearded look for 7-8 months for the sake of continuity of my character since the character was supposed to be very alpha and manly."

He also heaped praise on Ajay Devgn as he said: "Ajay sir is very hardworking in fact, it won't be wrong to say that he was the most hardworking man on set. He was the first to arrive and last to leave

the location. I used to think, 'Yaar ye admi sota kab hai?'"

Working in 'Bhola', was quite an experience for him as he said: "When I worked with Ajay Sir in Rudra, I played a diametrically opposite character. He was neat and disciplined. This character is heroic and looks unkempt."

Talking about his character in the film, he went on: "Raunak is an undercover police agent. He admits to being Abbas Ali in the end. There is a great scene in the film which I am grateful to have. I am so blessed to have got a call from the casting team who had seen my work in my previous film. They told me they had me in their mind. I am glad they could imagine me in this part."

"I think Ajay Sir has the ability to gauge the potential of his colleagues and nudge them in the right direction. That's what he did for me. I will forever cherish the time we spent working on this project. He is warm, kind and ever so inspiring. His work ethic is something I will carry for the rest of my life," he concluded.

## SACHET-PARAMPARA TO JUDGE A SINGING CONTEST IN A SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Music composer duo Sachet Tandon and Parampara Tandon, popular as Sachet-Parampara, will be seen as guest judges in a singing contest in the show, 'Junooniyatt', which stars Neha Rana, Ankit Gupta, and Gautam Singh Vig. They are seen playing the roles of Elahi, Jahaan, and Jordan.

Sachet and Parampara are known for tracks such as 'Bekhayali' from 'Kabir Singh' in 2019 which became a major hit. Their 'Shiv Tandav Stotram' was also liked by music lovers along with 'Maiyya Mainu'



from 'Jersey'. Talking about the special episode, Sachet said: "From starting my musical career with a reality show to now judging one in a fictional set-up feels quite like a journey. The show's ability to capture the real-life struggles and challenges that singers face is commendable, and I believe that viewers will be able to connect with music on a deeper level through this integration. I am excited to be a part of this journey and witness the raw talent that 'The Great Indian Voice' will bring forth." During the show, Elahi, Jahaan, and Jordan are set to show their musical talent in a singing contest and this special episode will see Sachet-Parampara as judges. Parampara also spoke on how she felt about being part of the show as a judge: "As musicians, we recognise the impact of music, and Sachet and I personally connect with the show since music played a vital role in bringing us together as a couple. I hope the audience will continue to shower love on this show and appreciate the effort put into creating a beautiful musical experience."

## Choreography, acting, homemaking: Hetal Yadav doing it all

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Hetal Yadav, who started her career as a choreographer and is currently seen as Shivani in the show 'Imilie', spoke about how a woman misses out on the initial years of her life after getting married.

She gave her own example regarding the difficulties she faced to sustain a normal personal and professional life.

She said: "Yes, not only as an actor but being a working woman in any profession we tend to loose out on a lot of things and projects just because we had to choose family and children but then you also feel happy for choosing your family and being for them because there was a time when my son need me more than anything. But now that he's a grown gentleman I feel it was worth it and now is my time to shine in my field of work."

The actress, who was also seen in 'Barrister Babu' added: "I used to feel extremely sad about the fact that I had to leave my son behind and report to work on sets. I was already doing multiple acting gigs and was a choreographer as well. But, my mother and my sister took good care of him so I used to be a little stress-free at work. Today, he takes care of me and understands me better than no body else."

On the professional front, the actress has starred in TV shows like 'Uttaran', 'Banni Chow Home Delivery', 'Aap Ke Aajane Se', 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah', among others in her career of over 25 years.



## I HAD BIG DREAMS: TERENCE LEWIS

Dancer and choreographer Terence Lewis recalled his days of struggle and how for his passion for dance, he left his government job and went against the will of his mother and opened a dance academy.

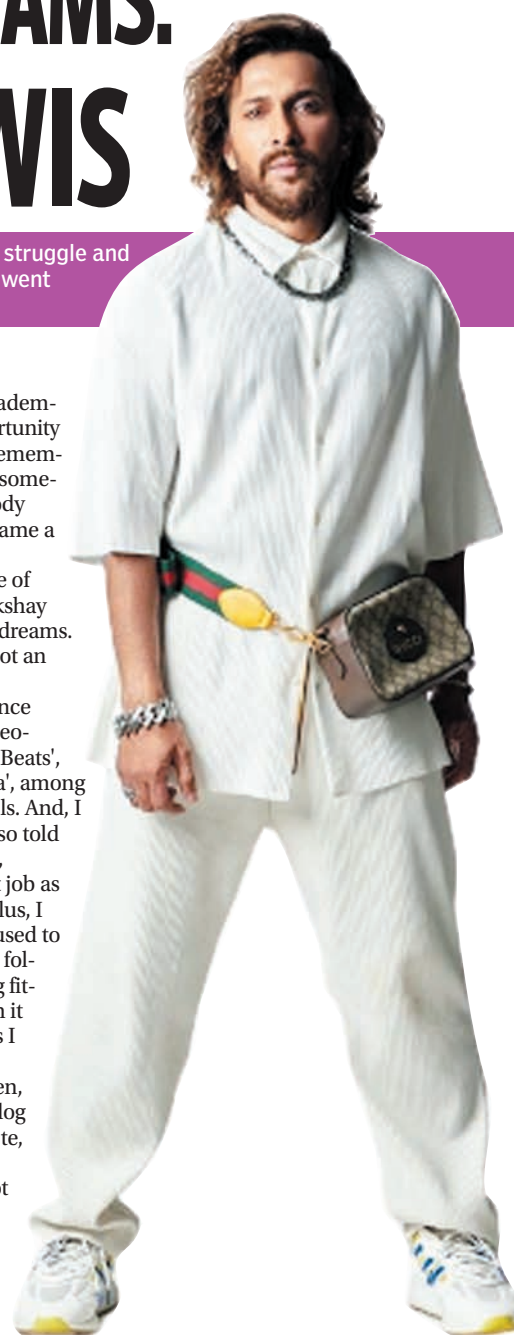
Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an interview Terence Lewis shared: "I was bright at academics, but I always wanted to study dance, I left a job opportunity and took up dancing because I had big dreams. And, I remember my mother kept saying don't leave your job but I knew somewhere that I wanted to do this and wanted to show everybody that I could do this. So, I opened a dance studio but there came a day when the number of students started reducing."

Although an experienced dancer, the journey to the stage of 'India's Best Dancer Season 3' has not been an easy one. Akshay faced a downfall in his career which shattered his dancing dreams. Despite this dark phase, Akshay worked hard and finally got an opportunity to show his talent.

Terence, who has judged reality shows like 'Dance India Dance' and 'Nach Baliye' and also choreographed in films like 'Lagaan', 'Jhankaar Beats', and 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela', among others, shared: "I know how it feels. And, I remember my mother once also told me 'Tu Girega' (You will fall), because I left a government job as all I wanted was to dance. Plus, I had never learnt to dance; I used to dance instinctually. However, I followed my path and started taking fitness classes, earned money through it and went to America to learn dance as I wanted to be a 'padha likha dancer'."

"So, I learnt and came back and since then, my life has changed. I also believe that 'bahut log joh kamiyab hain woh kabhi kabhi kaabil nahi hote, lekin jo kaabil hote hai woh zarur kamiyaab hote hai' (Many people who are successful are sometimes not capable, but those who are capable are definitely successful). And, Akshay with your dance today you proved that you have it in you and you truly will be successful," he concluded while praising the contestant.



Avneet Kaur