

Reports suggest that China's former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was ousted in July, has died under unclear circumstances, with speculation ranging from suicide to torture.



Bobby Deol is the talk of the town for his short but crisp role as the ruthless Abrar Haque in 'Animal'. This year is all about up and up for the Deol family.



SunRisers Hyderabad might go big time for New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, feels Irfan Pathan. Ravindra had a sensational World Cup 2023.



Climate tipping points are critical junctures in the Earth's natural systems; once crossed, they can lead to significant and often irreversible alterations.



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In a monumental stride towards diversity and representation, 'The Marvels' features Kamala Khan, a charismatic.....

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Manchester United's Scott McTominay continued his rich vein of goalscoring form when he netted either side of halftime to lift his team to a.....

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## Chandrayaan-4 to bring Moon rocks: India's Spadex mission to turn dream into reality

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has once again demonstrated its prowess in space exploration with the successful return of Chandrayaan-3's propulsion module to Earth's orbit. This remarkable feat, achieved through a series of meticulously planned and executed maneuvers, marks a significant milestone for India's lunar exploration program.

The propulsion module, initially tasked with transporting the Chandrayaan-3 lander to the Moon, showcased its versatility by returning to Earth orbit, thus proving Isro's capability to not only

reach the Moon but also to bring payloads back to Earth. This success lays a robust foundation for Isro's future ambitions, including returning not just samples from the Moon, but also Indian astronauts. Plans to return samples with Chandrayaan-4 or future Indian astronauts from the Moon will not be easy and will have to be divided into multiple steps. These include:-

- \* Soft landing and Sample Collection: This involves safely landing a spacecraft on the lunar surface and collecting samples for analysis.
- \* Lift-Off from the Moon: This step requires the spacecraft to launch from the



lunar surface to re-enter lunar orbit.

- \* In-Orbit Docking with the Sample Return Module: This step involves the spacecraft, now with lunar samples, docking with a module in orbit for the journey back to Earth.

- \* Travelling back from the Moon towards Earth: This phase covers the return

journey of the spacecraft from lunar orbit to Earth.

- \* Re-Entry and Touchdown: The final step is the re-entry of the spacecraft into Earth's atmosphere and a safe landing.

With Chandrayaan 3, Isro successfully showcased its ability for soft landing, as seen with the Vikram lander on August 23, 2023.

### Udta Punjab now gets hooked on de-addiction drugs | Special Report

Udta Punjab has a new crisis to manage as the cure has become a curse. After abusing drugs and alcohol, the addicts in Punjab are now hooked on de-addiction drugs. Thousands of Punjab addicts being treated at government and private centres have been found addicted to de-addiction drugs like buprenorphine. The drug is given in combination with naloxone to opioid addicts. Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh had in March informed the state Assembly that there were 8.74 lakh drug addicts in the state. Balbir Singh said 2.62 lakh addicts were in government de-addiction centres while 6.12 lakh were in private centres. Singh suspected that the number of addicts in the state could be higher. Punjab's huge problem with drugs like heroin, or 'chitta' as it is commonly referred to, has been highlighted in the Shahid Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer 'Udta Punjab'. The Punjab government was



spending Rs 102 crore annually on providing free de-addiction medicines to the state and private de-addiction centres. An estimated 20 crore tablets of buprenorphine were being purchased every year by the state government for free distribution through registered de-addiction centres. Despite huge sums being spent from the state exchequer, the rate of success was just 1.5 per cent in government-run de-addiction centres and only 0.04 per cent in privately run centres. A network of 198 Out Patient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) centres, and 35 government and 108 private de-addiction centres could rid just 244 addicts of their addiction between 2017 and 2022.

### Revanth Reddy takes oath as Telangana Chief Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka his deputy



Anumula Revanth Reddy on Thursday took oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana, following the party's victory in the recently concluded assembly elections. Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state. The 10 leaders who took oath as ministers were Damodar Raja Narasimha, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Seethakka, Ponnam Prabhakar, Sridhar Babu, Tummala Nageshwar Rao, Konda Surekhaa, Jupally and Krishna Ponguleti. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the

sprawling LB Stadium in Hyderabad.

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar were among those who attended the swearing-in ceremony.

As per the strength of the Assembly, Telangana can have 18 ministers, including the Chief Minister.

The Congress snatched power from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana, where the BJP's vote share and tally rose.



## Campus News

### Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Applications and Management Unveiled Udaan National Short Film Festival: A Celebration of Creativity and Talent

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of BVICAM organized the grand inauguration of the Udaan National Short Film Festival, a celebration of storytelling through the art of short films. This exciting event brought together filmmakers, enthusiasts, and industry experts from across the nation to showcase and recognize outstanding talent in the realm of short filmmaking.

The event began with a warm welcome from Prof. M. N. Hoda, the director of Bvicam, who expressed excitement about the upcoming Udaan National Short Film Festival. Then, he provided an overview of the festival's purpose, goals, and the significance of promoting short films.

Film Screenings were conducted, and over 10 short films were screened, offering a rich tapestry of narratives that resonated with the audience.

The festival concluded with a grand ceremony where the winners were awarded in various categories for their outstanding contributions to the world of short filmmaking.



As a result of effective planning and execution, the event generated positive feedback from attendees and participants, fostering a sense of community engagement and support for future events organized by BVICAM.

The Influential members of the judging panel were Muzamil Bhawani, Vinay Shanker, and Joyoshree Arora. Muzamil Bhawani, a seasoned filmmaker and industry influencer, graced the Udaan Film Festival with his invaluable insights and creative expertise. Vinay Shanker, a filmmaker and academician, brought a blend of artistic vision and scholarly perspective to the event. Joyoshree Arora, a versatile actress, graced the event, lending her presence

and support to the celebration of cinematic creativity. They brought a unique touch to the Udaan National Short Film Festival, contributing their unique perspectives and expertise to the vibrant atmosphere. Their presence enhanced the overall experience for attendees, making the festival a memorable and enriching occasion.

After the screening, the jury members deliberated and determined the winners.

The first position was gained by 'Mahatva'. A standout entry that captivated audiences with its exceptional storytelling and creativity. 'Mahatva' showcases the sacred bond between a student and teacher, delving into the

poignant theme of organ donation. The film unveils the harsh reality of organ trafficking in India, shedding light on the plight of children and youngsters tricked into selling their organs, creating a heartfelt connection with the audience.

The 2nd Position was gained by 'Anonymous Flowers'. In Vedant Chakraborty's 'Anonymous Flower,'



The Migrant Diaries: Stories of Delhi's Invisible Workforce: This documentary tells the stories of the migrant workers who come to Delhi from different parts of India in search of liveli-



Naveen's isolated life takes a positive turn when he finds a mysterious flower, bringing joy but hiding a dark secret. The bloom becomes a source of both happiness and unease in Naveen's transformative journey. The 3rd Position was gained by 'The Migrant Diaries'

hoods.

The event concluded with the facilitation of the jury members and the participants who had registered for the Udaan Film Festival. The acknowledgment of their contributions added a fitting finale to the celebration of talent and creativity at this edition of the festival.

### Unveiling Truth: BVICAM Press Conference Sheds Light on Dussehra Bomb Blast in Four Major Cities of India



In a gripping turn of events that could rival the most intense thriller, BVICAM (Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Applications and Management) orchestrated a press conference that would make headlines across the nation. The subject of discussion? A fictional yet pulse-quickening Dussehra bomb blast that sent shockwaves through four major cities in India. When the entire country was preparing to celebrate

Dussehra with utmost joy and happiness, a series of major accidents took place in the four major cities of India: Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Chandigarh on 1 October 2023 experienced heart-wrenching bomb blast activity. Delhi at 8:00 pm in Chandi Chowk. The bomb was found to be placed at Raavan's mannequin shield. Ahmedabad at 8:05 pm. in Garba Pandal. The number of Casualties rose to 100, which included 30 children.

The bomb was found to be placed on a stereo player (Speaker), and it basted when the guests were practicing dandiya around stalls. Kolkata at 8:10 pm at the Durga Pooja Pandal, the bomb blasted on the arrival of the Minister, who was invited as a chief guest. The bomb was found to be placed at the food stall. Chandigarh at 8:15 pm around the Sector 16 market. The bomb blasted near the Dharam Hospital. Approxi-



mately 150 were injured. The bomb was found to be placed in a soft toy lying around the shops. To discuss and answer the questions related to the matter, The

Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, The Head of Security, Chandigarh, The Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, and The Head of Security, Ahmedabad, arrived at the Conference Centre, New Delhi. The media professionals showed up to answer various questions on the behalf of the citizens of the country. They showed concern about the security of the people and what all steps are being taken place to ensure safety during the celebrations of Dussehra.



## NEWS

### Cyclone Michaung: Rajnath Singh to survey flood damage in Chennai today

As Cyclone Michaung continues to weaken after making its landfall in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, several coastal states, especially Tamil Nadu and Odisha, are still reeling under its impact. Rains induced by the cyclone has caused severe flooding in Tamil Nadu, leading to the closure of schools and colleges in at least four Tamil Nadu states, cancellation of 15 trains to or from Chennai and damage to crops in Odisha. The storm, which hit the Andhra Pradesh coast around 12.30 pm on Tuesday with a wind-speed of 100 kmph, has now weakened into a well-marked low pressure area. The system is likely to con-

tinue to move north-north-eastwards and weaken further into a low-pressure area during the next 12 hours, the Met Office said.

The Met Office has withdrawn the warning on fishermen's entry into the sea and also distance cautionary warnings on ports as the cyclone has fully entered into the land mass.

The cyclone-triggered heavy rainfall had led to inundation in localities of Chennai, including Velachery and Tambaram. As civic bodies continued their work to restore power, remove stagnant and water supply across the city, several residents complained of a lesser supply of daily essentials like milk. Meanwhile, Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh left for Chennai to assess the flood situation. His office said he would arrive in the afternoon to conduct an

aerial survey of the affected areas and also review the situation with the state government. The union minister will be accompanied by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) minister Thangam Thennarasu and Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena.

Rajnath Singh will hold a meeting with Chief Minister MK Stalin and other officials at the Tamil Nadu secretariat, too.



The Tamil Nadu government has declared a holiday for schools and colleges in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu on Thursday due to flooding caused by Cyclone Michaung-induced rains.

Widespread rain due to the cyclone's impact caused damage to standing crops in southern Odisha forcing the state government to seek damage assessment reports from district collectors.

### Heavy rain alert in Tamil Nadu, Kerala

Even as Tamil Nadu picks up the pieces in the wake of Cyclone Michaung, a heavy rain warning has been sounded in the state and neighbouring Kerala for Friday (December 8) and Saturday (December 9).

Isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Kerala and Mahe on Friday and Saturday, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted isolated heavy rain in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. This comes at a time when Chennai residents are still grappling with post-cyclone woes as the city continues to reel from severe waterlogging, power crises and milk shortage. Meanwhile, the Met department said that winter will intensify in northwest and eastern India.

### Live-in relationship 'dangerous disease', should be law against it: BJP MP

A BJP MP from Haryana on Thursday termed live-in relationships a "dangerous disease" that needs to be eradicated from society and urged the government to make a law against it.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha during 'zero hour', Dharambir Singh also said divorce rates in love marriages were high and the consent of the parents of the bride and groom should therefore be made mandatory for such alliances.

"I want to bring to the notice of the government and Parliament a very serious issue. Indian culture is known for its philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family) and brotherhood. Our social fabric is different from others in the world. The whole world is impressed by our unity in diversity," the MP from Bhiwani-Mahendragarh said.

Noting that India has a long tradition of arranged marriages, Singh said a large section of society even to this day gives priority to marriages arranged by parents or relatives.

This has the consent of the bride and groom and arranged marriages are based on a match of several



common factors such as social and individual values and likes as well as family backgrounds, he said.

"Marriage is considered a sacred relationship that continues for seven generations. Divorce rate is about 1.1 per cent in India as compared with America which has a rate of about 40 per cent. It has been observed that the rate of divorce in arranged marriages is very less. However, there is a lot of increase in divorce rate recently and the main reason for it is love marriages," Singh said.

"Therefore, it is my suggestion that the consent of mother and father of the bride and groom be made mandatory in love marriages because in large parts of the country marriage does not happen in the same 'gotra' and due to love marriages there are a lot of conflicts in the villages. Scores of families are destroyed in these conflicts, therefore the consent of both the families is important," he said.

### I'm Modi to people, don't call me 'adarniya' in slogans: PM to BJP leaders

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday mentioned election data to assert that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the public's preferred choice for governance. He cited data to show that the BJP's record of winning assembly elections while in power is much better than the Congress. Speaking at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting in Delhi, he hailed the party's "teamwork" for its stellar victory in three of four states in the recent elections. PM Modi said that besides the BJP's win in Rajasthan, Madhya

Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, the party has grown in strength in Mizoram and Telangana. "I'm a small karyakarta (worker). People think that I am part of their family. Do not add adjectives before and after my name like 'Shree', 'Adarniya' (respected), and 'Ji'. People think of me as 'Modi'," the Prime Minister said during the meeting. PM Modi asked party MPs not to use such adjectives while using his name in their slogans. PM Modi noted that the BJP went into polls 39 times while in power and retained power 22 times,



which is a success rate of 56 per cent. Quoting the Prime Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters that the Congress faced re-election 40 times and won only seven times, a success rate of 18 per cent. The BJP registered a spectacular victory in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in the recent state elections.

### Fire breaks out in Howrah-bound Jan Shatabdi Express train, no casualties

A minor fire broke out in one of the coaches of the Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express at Cuttack railway station on Thursday morning, railway officials said. The fire was doused immediately, they said. As smoke emanated from the bottom part of the coach, passengers deboarded the coach. No one was hurt in the incident, the officials said.

"Due to brake-binding (brake not released from the wheel), 12074 Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan



Shatabdi Express was detained at Cuttack railway station from 6.30 am. After releasing the brake from the wheel, the train departed from Cuttack at about 7.15 am," East Coast Railway

(ECoR) said in a statement. The cause of non-release of the brake was being investigated. There was no fire inside the coach, it said. The train resumed its journey after the fire was



# Campus News



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## NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

### India-born media veteran Dr Samir Shah selected as new BBC chairman

An India-born media executive who has worked in UK broadcasting for over 40 years, Dr Samir Shah, has been announced as the UK government's preferred candidate to take over as the new BBC chairman.

The 71-year-old, who was honoured with a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage, will replace Richard Sharp, who had been forced to resign after his communication with former prime minister Boris Johnson came under scrutiny. Shah will now be quizzed by cross-party MPs of the House of Commons Media Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee for pre-appointment scrutiny before formally taking charge.

"With a career spanning more than 40 years in TV production and journalism, Dr Shah has a wealth of experience to bring to the position of BBC Chair," UK Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer said on Wednesday,

confirming the selection as per the appointment process. "He has a clear ambition to see the BBC succeed in a rapidly changing media landscape, and I have no doubt he will provide the support and scrutiny that the BBC needs to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future," she said. The minister said Shah's knowledge of the British Broadcasting Corporation and his belief in its role as a national broadcaster alongside his extensive work to promote diversity in broadcasting will be invaluable in helping to ensure that the BBC reflects, represents and serves communities across the whole of the UK. "The BBC is, without doubt, one of the greatest contributions we have made to global culture and one of our strongest calling cards on soft power," Shah said. "If I am able to



put what skills, experience, and understanding of public service broadcasting I have built up during my career to help this brilliant organisation meet the complex and diverse challenges it faces over the coming years, it would be an honour," he added. "The BBC has a great place in British life and a unique duty to reach a wide audience right across the country and I will do all I can to ensure it fulfils this in an increasingly competitive market," Shah further said. Born in Aurangabad, Shah came to England in 1960 and has previously been the head of current affairs and political programmes at the BBC.

### Hamas leader seeks 'brave' Pakistan's help to stop Israel's Gaza assault: Report

Senior Hamas leader and the terror group's political chief, Ismail Haniyeh, has reportedly sought help from Pakistan in their ongoing war with Israel. Calling Pakistan "brave", he said that if Israel faced "resistance from Pakistan, the perpetration of cruelty could cease", Pakistan's Geo News reported on Wednesday. Haniyeh made the remark during his address to the national dialogue on 'The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Responsibility of the Muslim Ummah' held in Islamabad, Pakistan. Expressing hope in Pakistan's support for Hamas, Haniyeh called the country a "land of mujahideen (people who fight for Islam)". Underscoring the sacrifices made by Palestinians in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, Haniyeh said that Pakistan's strength could potentially halt the conflict, Geo News reported. The top Hamas leader stressed the impor-

tance of opposing Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip among nations who follow Holy Quran closely. He said that Israel's actions, including the arrest of around 16,000 Palestinians and desecration of holy sites, were a violation of international terms. Ismail Haniyeh also expressed disappointment over the non-implementation of the Oslo Accords, citing a surge in Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. The top Hamas leader warned against diplomatic ties between Islamic nations and Israel, asserting that it would severely ruin the Palestinian cause. In his address at the event, organised by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan, Haniyeh accused the US and other countries for their support of Israel and spoke about his wish to see the Jewish nation retreat. Further, he claimed that Israel had planned a sudden attack on Gaza with the intention



of "permanent destruction". He also justified the October 7 attack by Hamas, calling it self-defence and saying it prevented Israel's plan for occupation, according to the Geo News report. During his speech, Ismail Haniyeh said that Palestinians have "high expectations" from Pakistan and expressed confidence in the strength of the country. He said that Hamas was countering Israel's most advanced weapons, and showed determination about the Palestinian terrorist group's success in derailing Israel's intentions. In his speech, he also called Jews the "biggest enemies" of all Muslims worldwide, the Geo News report said.

### Ukraine requests US to provide F-18 fighter jets, Blackhawk helicopters



Ukraine's latest list of US weapons it says it needs to fight the Russian military includes sophisticated air defense systems, F-18 "Hornet" fighter jets, drones, Apache and Blackhawk helicopters, according to documents seen by Reuters.

Officials from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense presented a "list of armaments to meet the needs of defense forces of Ukraine" during a closed-door session of a conference in Washington on Wednesday attended by government officials and defense industry executives. The comprehensive list included weapons Ukraine already has in stock like Abrams tanks and 155 millimeter artillery, as well as some weaponry such as F-16s, drones and long-range ATACMS missiles that it has asked for in the past.

But the list has a few surprises including big-ticket items like C-17

Globemaster transport jets made by Boeing (BA.N) and the C-130 Super Hercules made by Lockheed Martin (LMT.N). Boeing's Apache attack helicopters made the list, as did the Black Hawk helicopter made by Lockheed Martin's Sikorsky unit. But the Ukrainians did not stop there. The documents show Ukraine is also seeking F-18 "Hornet" fighter jets, three types of drones made by General Atomics including the MQ-9B Sky Guardian and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) air defense system made by Lockheed. US President Joe Biden has made a Ukrainian victory a foreign-policy goal as he campaigns for re-election in November 2024. Ukraine's list reflects what would easily be billions of dollars' worth of purchases or donations of weapons. The Ukrainian embassy in Washington did not immediately return a request for comment.

#### University of Nevada Shooting

### Professor, 67, behind Las Vegas university shooting that killed 3, was denied job

At least three people were killed in a shooting incident on the main campus of the University of Nevada in Las Vegas (UNLV),



United States, on Wednesday, officials said. The suspect was also dead in the shootout, police added. The surviving gunshot victim was listed in stable condition, according to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. "According to our investigators at the scene, we have three deceased victims and one additional victim in critical condition at a local hospital," the Las Vegas Police Department

said in a statement, adding that "the suspect has been located and is deceased". The gunman has been identified as a 67-year-old professor who unsuccessfully sought a job at the school, a law enforcement official with direct knowledge of the investigation, as per news agency AP. Reports further suggest that the suspect previously worked at East Carolina University in North Carolina.





## Mysterious mineral produced in ocean could keep Earth cool, even induce ice age

Geologists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have identified a clay mineral known as smectite that possesses the remarkable ability to capture and store carbon for millions of years, potentially playing a significant role in cooling our planet. Found within the intricate layers of the seafloor, smectite's accordion-like structure is adept at trapping organic carbon, a process that has been occurring since the dawn of plate tectonics. As oceanic crust collides with continental plates, rocks are pushed to the surface and weather into various minerals, including smectite. This mineral then descends back to the ocean bed, ensnaring remnants of deceased organisms within its microscopic folds, thereby preventing the carbon from re-entering the



atmosphere as carbon dioxide. The implications of this natural phenomenon are monumental. MIT researchers, led by graduate student Joshua Murray and geology professor Oliver Jagoutz, have traced the production of smectite back through several major tectonic events over the past 500 million years. Their findings suggest that each time these clays were formed in sufficient quantities, they could have contributed to the cooling of the Earth, even inducing ice ages. Published in the prestigious journal Nature Geoscience, their research is

the first to establish a direct link between plate tectonics and the onset of ice ages through the creation of carbon-sequestering smectite. To confirm their hypothesis, the team delved into geological records, examining the weathering patterns of magmatic minerals and the types of clays they produce. They incorporated these findings into simulations of the Earth's carbon cycle to determine the impact of each mineral. Smectite stood out not only as a product of tropical tectonics but also as an incredibly efficient captor of organic carbon.

### Air Pollution

## India, China biggest carbon dioxide emitters, report reveals stark reality

Scientists have reported a 1.1% surge in carbon dioxide emissions in 2023 compared to the previous year. This increase has been attributed primarily to heightened pollution levels from China and India, with global officials at international climate talks grappling with the reality of emissions that continue to climb despite ambitious targets. The Global Carbon Project, an esteemed collective of international scientists, disclosed that a staggering 36.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide were released into the atmosphere this year—double the amount from four decades ago. This alarming figure emerged as world leaders convened to discuss strategies aimed at slashing emissions by 43% by 2030. Pierre Friedlingstein of the University of Exeter, the study's lead author, expressed a grim outlook: "It now looks inevitable we will overshoot the 1.5 (degree Celsius) target of the Paris Agreement." With the current trajectory, even maintaining the 2-degree Celsius threshold is becom-



ing increasingly precarious, necessitating rapid and substantial cuts in fossil fuel emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Chairman Jim Skea echoed these concerns, emphasising that the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees is teetering on the edge of feasibility, contingent on massive emission reductions. "We are clearly not going in the right direction," Friedlingstein added, highlighting the urgency of the situation. The data paints a troubling picture: the equivalent of 2.57 million pounds of carbon dioxide was pumped into the air every second due to fossil fuel combustion and cement manufacturing. Notably, if China and India were excluded from the calculations, global emissions would have seen a decline.

## Heart attack deaths increased by 12% in 2022: Government data

India has witnessed a steep rise in heart attack deaths over the past three years, with experts linking the trend to the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there has been a staggering 12.5% increase in heart attack cases in 2022 alone. The NCRB's latest data on 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' paints a grim picture, indicating that 32,457 individuals succumbed to heart attacks in 2022, a significant leap from the 28,413 deaths recorded in the preceding year. This revelation adds to the overall surge in sudden deaths, which reached a concerning 56,450 in 2022, marking a 10.1% increase from the previous year's figure of 50,739. The NCRB defines



sudden death as an "unexpected death that is instantaneous or occurs within minutes from any cause other than violence (for example, heart attack, brain haemorrhage, etc.)." The total sudden deaths in 2022 alone stand at a staggering 56,450, reflecting a disturbing upward trajectory over the past three years. The specific category of heart attack deaths has also seen a sharp rise, with the numbers lowering at first from 28,579 in 2020 to 28,413 in 2021, and then spiking to 32,457 in 2022.

## Experimental implants raise hopes of recovery from severe brain injuries

In a groundbreaking study, researchers have successfully restored cognitive function in individuals with enduring impairments resulting from traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) using deep-brain-stimulation devices.

This innovative technique specifically targets the central lateral nucleus in the thalamus, reactivating neural pathways associated with attention and arousal. Participants in the study, who had suffered moderate to severe brain injuries, exhibited remarkable improvements in mental processing speed, concentration and daily life activities. The experimental deep-brain-stimulation device, developed by Stanford Medicine researchers and collaborators from various institutions, marks the first promising treatment for persistent impairments caused by moderate to severe TBIs. The clinical trial results, published on December 4 in Nature Medicine, showcase the potential breakthrough. According to the National



Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, road crashes contribute to 50-80 per cent of all head injuries in India, while the rest is contributed by falls (10-25 per cent), violence (20 per cent) and sports.

TBIs leave people struggling with difficulties in focus, memory and decision-making. One participant, Gina Arata, experienced a traumatic brain injury in 2001, severely impacting her ability to focus and engage in daily activities. She underwent a surgical implantation of the deep-brain-stimulation device. Following this, she demonstrated immediate improvements. She experienced enhanced memory, better focus and improved emotional regulation. Exist-

ing treatments for these patients are limited, making this pioneering technique a potential game-changer.

The positive outcomes observed in daily life activities further emphasise the potential transformative impact of this therapy. The study, led by Jaimie Henderson, MD, a professor of neurosurgery, focusses on reactivating neural pathways that remain largely intact but are down-regulated following traumatic brain injuries. "It's important to target the area precisely. If you're even a few millimetres off target, you're outside the effective zone. This is a pioneering moment. Our goal now is to try to take the systematic steps to make this a therapy. This is enough of a signal for us to make every effort," Henderson said.



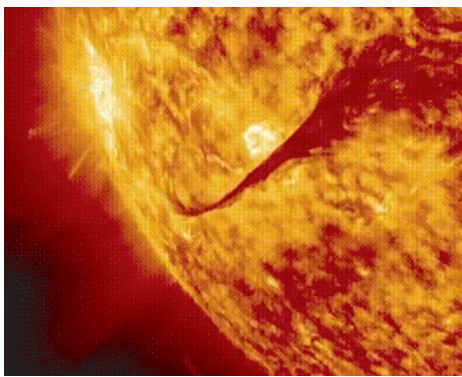
# Science & Technology

## Massive hole has opened on Sun. It just sent two big explosions toward Earth

Earth is poised to experience a series of blows that originated from the Sun. The geomagnetic disturbances are the result of dual solar events. A vast coronal hole in the Sun's atmosphere has been identified, unleashing a high-speed stream of solar wind aimed directly at our planet. This phenomenon, captured by Nasa's Solar Dynamics Observatory, reveals a gaping dark expanse across the Sun's surface, nearly 800,000 kilometers in length. Coronal holes are regions

where the Sun's magnetic field opens up into space, allowing the solar wind to escape more freely. These areas appear darker in images because they are cooler and less dense than their surroundings. The upcoming solar wind is expected to reach Earth on December 4, potentially causing disruptions to our magnetic field. Adding to the cosmic drama, an off-target Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) is projected to deliver a glancing blow to our planet on December 5.

CMEs are massive bursts of solar plasma and magnetic fields rising above the solar corona or being released into space. While this particular CME is not headed directly for Earth, its peripheral effects could still amplify the impact of the incoming solar wind. The convergence of these two solar phenomena is predicted to induce G1 (Minor) to G2-class (Moderate) geomagnetic storms, spaceweather.com



reported. Such storms can lead to beautiful auroral displays, commonly known as the Northern Lights, which may be visible at mid-latitudes—regions that don't typically get to witness this natural light show.

### Capsul News

#### Booking.com users are targeted by hackers

Hackers are causing trouble for people who book through Booking.com. These cyber-criminals are searching for victims by asking for help on secret internet forums. They are willing to pay up to \$2,000 for login details of hotels, aiming to target the guests staying there. These crooks have been fooling customers since at least March and are getting sneakier with their tricks. As per BBC report, research reveals how these hackers operate.

### Global Warming

## World's largest iceberg, bigger than New York, floats away from Antarctica

After a lengthy period exceeding 40 years, the colossal iceberg named A23a has broken free from its anchorage on the ocean floor and is moving through the Weddell Sea. This massive body of ice, which originated from the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in West Antarctica back in 1986, had been firmly grounded until recent years when it began to show signs of mobility. The phenomenon of icebergs becoming grounded is not uncommon; however, they typically undergo a gradual reduction in size that eventually allows them to float freely once more.

A23a, having undergone such a transformation, is now being propelled by wind and ocean currents on a journey away from its Antarctic roots. Recent satellite imagery captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission has provided a stunning visual of A23a's newfound freedom. The animation, pieced together using images from November 2, 14, and 26, illustrates the iceberg's rapid departure from its long-standing position. A23a's impressive dimensions make it a record-holder; it spans approximately 4,000 square kilometres — over quadruple the size of New



York City — and boasts a thickness of around 400 meters. Its status as the world's largest iceberg remains uncontested. The path ahead for A23a is one well-trodden by its predecessors from the Weddell sector, leading into the South Atlantic via a route colloquially termed "iceberg alley."

## WhatsApp to soon let you search users by their username

In a bid to enhance user privacy and connectivity, WhatsApp is likely to soon introduce a new search bar feature that will allow users to search for others using their usernames. Shared in a screenshot by WABetaInfo, the update aims to streamline the process of connecting with friends and contacts while eliminating the necessity of sharing personal phone numbers. The upcoming feature provides users with the option to configure a username, offering a level of anonymity for those who prefer not to disclose their phone numbers. This move is expected to be particularly advantageous for indi-



viduals who prioritize privacy and wish to have more control over their personal information. Notably, the configuration of a username is entirely optional, giving users the flexibility to decide whether they want to take advantage of this new functionality. In a related development, WhatsApp recently added a new security measure in the form of a secret code feature.

## Spotify announces layoffs, CEO says 17 per cent employees to go immediately

Spotify, the popular music streaming platform, recently announced that it's going to reduce its workforce by about 17 per cent. This big change is because the company wants to become more efficient and better manage its costs. Spotify CEO Daniel Ek announced the changes via a blog post. He explained that even though the company has been doing well, the world's economy isn't doing as great. Things have become more expensive, like getting money to grow the business. This has made Spotify think about how it spends its money and how many people it needs to do the work. The CEO said that they had to think hard about

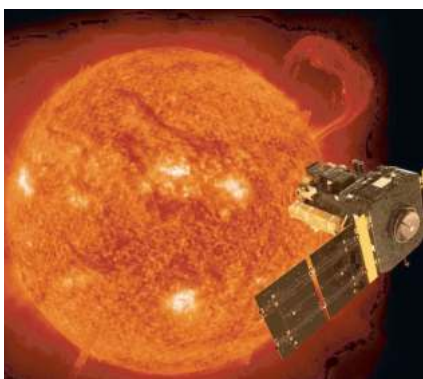


how to make the company work better for the future. And sadly, this means that some people who work at Spotify will have to leave their jobs. These are smart, talented, and hard-working individuals who have contributed a lot to the company. In June 2023, Spotify laid off 200 employees from its podcast unit, representing about 2% of its workforce.

## Aditya-L1 sees the Sun: Isro activated second instrument on Indian solar spacecraft

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Saturday achieved another milestone as the Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) payload onboard India's Aditya-L1 satellite commenced its operations and started performing normally. According to Isro, the ASPEX comprises two instruments-- the Solar wind Ion Spectrometer (Swis) and the SupraThermal and Energetic Particle Spectrometer (Steps). While the Steps instrument was made operational on September 10, 2023, the Swis instrument was activated on November 2, 2023, and has

exhibited optimal performance. Swis, utilising two sensor units with a 360-degree field of view each, operates in planes perpendicular to one another. According to ISRO, the instrument has successfully measured solar wind ions, primarily protons and alpha particles. A sample energy histogram acquired from one of the sensors over two days in November 2023 illustrates variations in proton (H+) and alpha particle (doubly ionised helium, He2+) counts. These variations were recorded with nominal integration time, providing a



comprehensive snapshot of solar wind behaviour. The directional capabilities of the Swis enable precise measurements of solar wind protons and alphas, contributing significantly to addressing longstanding questions about solar wind properties, underlying processes, and their impact on the Earth.





## Business & Economics

### Apple's local iPhone production in India could be hit if India follows the European Union

Technology giant Apple has told the government that its local production targets could suffer if the country follows the European Union, requiring existing iPhones to have universal charging ports. A government document accessed by news agency Reuters suggests that Apple has lobbied for an exemption on delay.

Apple's plea comes as the government wants to implement a norm that requires smartphones to have universal USB-C charging ports, similar to a rule set in progress by the EU. The government has been in talks with manufacturers about the rollout of the requirement in the country by June 2025. Most manufacturers, including the likes of Samsung, have agreed to the plan, but

Apple is not on board yet. It may be noted that Apple has offered a unique lighting connector port on its iPhones for years. However, the EU has gone ahead with the universal charger plan as it would save about \$271 million for consumers, while India said the move will reduce e-waste.

The EU's charging port rules come into effect in December 2024, and India wants the same to kick in by June 2025. According to the Reuters report, in a closed-door meeting chaired by the IT ministry on November 28, Apple asked officials to exempt existing iPhone models from the rule as it would otherwise struggle to meet production targets set under the country's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. PLI provides fiscal incentives to



electronics manufacturers in India for both new investments and annual increases in phone sales. This incentive program has been widely utilised by Apple suppliers, such as Foxconn, to enhance iPhone manufacturing operations within the country. "If the regulation is implemented on earlier models of mobile phones, they (Apple) will not be able to meet the PLI targets," said Apple's

regulatory and product compliance executives during the meeting. Two people familiar with the discussions said Apple did not quantify the production impact in the meeting and the IT ministry has decided to review its request and reach a decision later. The universal charger rule could be a big blow for Apple, which has seen its sales soar in India over the past few years.

### Banks push for 5-day work week

India's banking sector has formally proposed declaring all Saturdays as official holidays, according to confirmation from the Union Finance Ministry in Parliament today. Responding to queries about the Indian Banks Association (IBA) seeking the implementation of a five-day work week, Minister of State for Finance, Bhagwat Karad, affirmed that the IBA had indeed submitted a proposal to this effect. Since 2015, banks in India have observed public holidays on the second and last fourth Saturdays of every month. The demand for a five-day work week has been a prolonged one, particularly from public banks. The proposed change, if implemented, is poised to reshape the banking industry's operational landscape.

#### MarCon 2023

### Paytm shares fall 3% after Postpaid facility faces disruption, company clarifies

Shares of Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications Limited, fell over 3 per cent on Wednesday after the company temporarily halted its Postpaid loan facility. At the closing bell, shares of the company were down 3.12 per cent at Rs 813.30 apiece. Many Paytm Postpaid



users took to social media platform X and said they were unable to access the loan facility despite clearing dues. On clicking the Postpaid loan icon on the app, a message read: "We are upgrading the experience and enhancing the security measures. We will be back soon." According to social media posts on X, users have been facing issues with the Postpaid loan facility since November 30. A Postpaid user said, "Today, multiple users including me experienced issue with Paytm Postpaid being blocked without any apparent reason. As a longstanding customer of Paytm, this is utterly disappointing. The

company should issue a clear statement if there's a glitch. I am confident there is an internal issue, as there's no reason to be blocked when we consistently pay our bills on time." Several other users tagged the company on X and complained that their Postpaid accounts are not working despite clearing dues. "Hey team, I'm the user of Paytm & Paytm Post paid from the so many years Paytm Postpaid not working from 1st December. Please solve this issue and inform me," said another Postpaid user on X. "Merchant loans, which are given to MSME as business loans, will continue to be a focus for Paytm.

### Gautam Adani's net worth soars \$12 billion in a day as company stocks rally

Within a few days, Adani has jumped 7 spots on the list of the world's richest individuals to 15th position, just a couple of places below India's richest person, Mukesh Ambani

Billionaire Gautam Adani's wealth has surged over \$12 billion in a day as shares of Adani Group companies continued their spectacular rally on the stock markets for the third consecutive session.

On Wednesday, Gautam Adani's net worth was up \$12.3 billion on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index and now stands at \$82.5 billion. Within a few days, Adani has jumped 7 spots on the list of the world's richest individuals to 15th position, just a couple of places below India's richest person, Mukesh Ambani.

If shares of Adani Group continue this momentum for one or two trading sessions, Gautam Adani is likely to overtake the Reliance Industries Limited chairman, who has a net worth of \$91.4 billion and is 13th on the list of the world's richest people. It may be noted that Adani Group's market capitalisation crossed Rs 14 lakh crore in early trade and was seen inching closer to Rs 15 lakh crore in early trade.



However, shares of some listed companies of the firm have retreated after hitting their day's high due to profit booking.

At around 12:50 pm, flagship company Adani Enterprises' shares were down over 1.5 per cent, while Adani Ports was up 1.25 per cent. Earlier in the day, Adani Ports had gained nearly 7 per cent. Adani Green Energy fell marginally but was trading over 15 per cent higher. Adani Total Gas was up over 17 per cent after hitting a 52-week high in early trade. Adani Transmission, Adani Power and Adani Wilmar were up nearly 10 per cent, 6 per

cent and 4 per cent, respectively. Amongst other Adani Group companies, NDTV was up over 9 per cent, while ACC was down over 2.71 per cent and Ambuja Cements fell 1 per cent. While not all Adani Group stocks have been able to maintain strong momentum today, the past two trading sessions have significantly bumped up the valuation of the listed companies. The rally in Adani Group shares peaked on Tuesday after reports claimed that the US has termed short-seller Hindenburg Research's allegations of fraud against the conglomerate as irrelevant.



# Education

## Delhi University tops QS World University Sustainability Rankings in India

Delhi University has topped the chart among 56 Indian universities that have made the cut in QS World University Sustainability rankings, officials announced on Tuesday. Following DU, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, and Madras secured the second and third spots, respectively.

Globally, the University of Toronto secured the top rank, followed by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), and The University of Manchester in the second and third positions. The QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024 assessed 1,397 institutions across 95 countries and territories, doubling the number from last year's pilot edition. The rankings focus on social



impact, environmental impact, and governance, offering a comprehensive framework to evaluate how universities address global challenges.

QS Senior Vice President Ben Sowter emphasised the significant role of Indian universities in addressing climate challenges, highlighting areas of achievement and improvement. While recognising commendable

efforts in certain areas, he pointed out the need for enhanced research capabilities, diversity, and inclusivity to align with India's environmental

commitments. The rankings assessed universities based on three parameters: Environmental Impact, Social Impact, and Governance. India excelled in indicators related to Environmental Impact, with four Indian universities ranking among the world's top 100 in Environmental Sustainability. Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) led the nation in this category, securing the 49th position globally and the tenth highest in Asia.



### AISSEE 2024 registrations: Apply for Sainik school

The exam conducting body, All India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2024 registration process is underway, for admission to Class VI and IX for the academic year 2024-25. Students who are interested in applying for the same can visit the official website of NTA on or before December 16, 2023, to avoid last-minute rush and delays. In case of errors in the application form, candidates can make corrections on the website from December 18 to December 20, 2023. Candidates can access their admit cards later from the NTA website for an exam scheduled on January 21, 2024.

### Delhi University increases annual fees by 46%, faces criticism

Delhi University has stirred controversy by increasing its annual charges by 46 percent to Rs 2,350 across diverse categories. This move has sparked allegations from several teachers who claim it is an attempt to use stu-



dents' funds to repay Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) loans. DU Registrar Vikas Gupta refuted these allegations, stating, "The fee hike has nothing to do with HEFA loan, and the university has enough funds to pay the interest." HEFA had approved a loan corpus of Rs 930 crore, as confirmed by Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh in October. In an official circular on June 7, DU announced doubled charges for university facilities and services, reaching Rs 1,000 for the academic year 2023-24. Additionally, charges for students' welfare funds were increased to Rs 200, and development funds rose by over 10 percent to Rs 1,000 from Rs 900 last June. Annual charges for economically weaker sections support university funds

were also revised to Rs 150 for the new academic year. This marks the second hike in a year, following the increase in July 2022, reportedly the first in 13 years. Teachers and academic council members allege that DU is raising fees to repay HEFA loan interest, jeopardising the affordability of education. The proposed 'Strategic Plan 2022-2047' to enhance DU's global ranking has faced criticism, with teachers expressing concerns that funds required for infrastructure will lead to fee hikes through private funding. The Left-affiliated Democratic Teachers' Front has demanded the withdrawal of the 'Strategic Plan 2022-2047,' claiming its content is "plagiarised." The Academic Council is set to meet on December 6 to finalise key proposals discussed on November 30.

### Two IITs to set up overseas campuses, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the news

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the news regarding IIT Delhi and IIT Madras setting up campuses in Abu Dhabi and Zanzibar in the Rajya Sabha

In a significant stride towards global outreach, two prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) - IIT Delhi and IIT Madras - are set to establish campuses overseas. The decision aims to extend the reach of Indian educational excellence beyond national boundaries.

IIT Delhi is slated to inaugurate a campus in Abu Dhabi, while IIT Madras has established its presence in Zanzibar, focusing on addressing the educational needs of African countries. This move underscores the internationalisation initiative within the Indian education sector.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced this groundbreaking development in the Rajya Sabha, emphasising the need to bridge the gap between Indian students who often seek educational opportunities abroad.

"Today our students are compelled to go outside. Now not only foreign institutes will come to India, but two have initiated the process to open their

universities in Gujarat, Gift City," said the education minister, highlighting the efforts to attract foreign institutions to set up campuses in India.

Pradhan emphasised the regulatory framework aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP), focusing on quality and fee structures, ensuring global standards while catering to the needs of students. "Quality and fee structure are envisioned in the regulation of NEP. Now more students will receive global standard education," he reiterated, mentioning the establishment of a committee to scrutinise applications and the importance of granting autonomy to academic institutions.

The Education Minister proudly shared the news in the House, highlighting the global tie-ups of all IITs and other reputable institutes, asserting that the NEP would facilitate further collaborations. Responding to queries about reservations or affirmative action at foreign universities



in India, he clarified that these institutions would function under their respective countries' regulations. He emphasised that while Indian universities follow specific guidelines, new forms of scholarships are designed to promote diversity and inclusivity in education.

The move by IIT Delhi and IIT Madras to expand internationally reflects India's commitment to offering quality education beyond borders. This strategic step not only enhances the global presence of these esteemed institutions but also signifies a paradigm shift in India's education landscape, aligning with the vision of fostering academic excellence on a global scale.



# Campus News



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal' could mint Rs 800-900 crore globally: Trade Expert

Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal' is showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon. The film, that was released on December 1, continues raking in moolah at the box office in both India and worldwide. In just six days, 'Animal' has crossed the coveted Rs 500-crore mark at the global collection. IndiaToday.in got in touch with trade expert Ramesh Bala who said that Ranbir's action drama has the potential to mint Rs 800-900 crore worldwide. 'Animal' was one of the most-anticipated films of 2023. It opened to a tremendous response at the box office making it one of

the biggest Bollywood films of 2023 after 'Pathaan', 'Gadar 2', and 'Jawan'. Speaking exclusively with IndiaToday.in, trade expert Ramesh Bala said that the film will have a long and successful run until Shah Rukh Khan's 'Dunki' and Prabhas' 'Salaar' release in theatres. Talking about the box office trend of 'Animal', Ramesh Bala said, "I think it's going upwards with Rs 450 -500 crore net in India with Telugu and Tamil versions. I'm looking



at 'Animal' doing Rs 800 to 900 crore worldwide in two weeks. The film is doing really well not only in India but also in Canada, Australia, and even in the UK. It will be the biggest blockbuster of this year. Even with mixed reviews, the film has done exceptionally well."

## Prashanth Neel confirms the third installment of KGF 'KGF 3' with Yash, says 'script is ready'

Prashanth Neel and Yash's 'KGF' franchise created history in Indian cinema and broke several box office records after their respective releases. Now, the director has confirmed the third installment of the gangster drama. Prashanth Neel is currently gearing up for the release of 'Salaar'. Now, ahead of that, he spoke to Pinkvilla about his blockbuster franchise 'KGF' and gave an update on its third installment. He said, "KGF 3 will happen. I don't know if I am the director or not, but Yash will always be a part of it. We didn't announce it for the sake of it." Prashanth added, "We already have a script. We had decided on the script before making the announce-



ment. Yash is a very responsible individual and won't put out things for just commercial reasons. We were sure to have things on paper before making an official announcement at the end of 'KGF 2'. Meanwhile, Prashanth is also preparing for his maiden project with Jr NTR, tentatively titled

NTR 31. Prashanth Neel and Prabhas' 'Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire' is slated to hit theatres on December 22. The movie also features Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan and Jagapathi Babu in pivotal roles. Backed by Hombale Films, 'Salaar' is reportedly made on a budget of Rs 400 crore.

## Sandeep Vanga says 'Animal Park' will be 'darker, meaner' than 'Animal'

Sandeep Reddy Vanga has asked fans to buckle up as the sequel to his latest film, 'Animal', will be bigger, meaner and darker than the predecessor. Titled 'Animal Park', the sequel was announced at the end of 'Animal'. Starring Ranbir Kapoor, 'Animal' released in theatres on December 1. 'Animal,' starring Ranbir Kapoor, skyrocketed to fame overnight upon its release, dominating the box office. Despite criticisms circulating on social media, none could thwart the film from achieving its success. In the climax of 'Animal,' director Sandeep Reddy



Vanga teased the title 'Animal Park,' hinting at the arrival of more formidable characters. The climax, featuring Ranbir Kapoor's menacing and ruthless acts, is particularly noteworthy. Recalling the previous controversy around the violence in 'Kabir Singh,' Sandeep Reddy Vanga promised even more intense violence in 'Animal,' leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

### Hollywood

## How 'The Marvels' inculcates desi parenting into the Western scene seamlessly

In a monumental stride towards diversity and representation, 'The Marvels' features Kamala Khan, a charismatic and empowering Desi superhero, who finally makes her entry to the expansive Marvel Cinematic Universe aka MCU. This film not only marks a new era for superhero storytelling but also masterfully incorporates elements of desi parenting and culture into the Western superhero landscape. 'The Marvels' brings Kamala Khan, portrayed by Iman Vellani, to the forefront as a relatable and dynamic superhero. Kamala, also known as Ms. Marvel, is a Pakistani-American teenager from Jersey City who grapples with her newfound abilities while navi-



gating the challenges of adolescence and cultural identity. Her character becomes a symbol of empowerment for audiences worldwide, reflecting the diversity and complexity of the real world. One of the film's standout features is its exploration of desi parenting within a Western context. Kamala's parents, skillfully portrayed by Zenobia Shroff and Mohan Kapoor, are depicted as a loving and supportive family unit that draws strength from their South Asian heritage.

## Chennai flood: Actor Vijay asks fan club members to volunteer for relief work

On December 6, Thalapa-  
thy Vijay shared a statement onX (formerly Twitter) to request his Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (VMI) members and administrators to take part in the relief work to help people affected by the Chennai flood. In his tweet, he asked the club members to join hands with the Tamil Nadu government in helping the needy. This comes at a time when reports of him entering politics are being circulated among the



people. Cyclone Michaung devastated Chennai and its surroundings, bringing in unprecedented rains, which left crores of people stranded in floods. The relief work of rescuing stranded families is still underway.

## 'Railway Men' director Shiv Rawail: Babil's untapped innocence makes him a true treasure on set

Director Shiv Rawail has recently expressed his admiration for the emerging actor Babil Khan, citing him as an exceptional talent to watch out for in the future. In a recent interview, Rawail praised Khan's performance in 'The Railway Men', a web series based on the Bhopal gas tragedy. Babil played the role of Imad Riaz, a locomotive pilot. Rawail described Khan as a true treasure on set, highlighting his dedication and authenticity. Babil Khan

has already completed three projects, showcasing his versatility and craft as an actor. His work in 'The Railway Men' has not only grabbed audience's attention but has also garnered praise from both critics and industry. Now, Shiv Rawail has called the actor talented. In a recent interview, he said, "Babil has great potential as an actor, and his untapped innocence makes him someone to watch out for in the coming future." 'The Railway Men', which



is streaming on Netflix, has been directed by debutant Shiv Rawail and penned by Aayush Gupta. It features Kay Kay Menon, Madhavan and Divyenndu, apart from Babil Khan.



# Sports

## ICC T20I Rankings: Ravi Bishnoi new No. 1 bowler, replaces Afghanistan's Rashid

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has become the new No. 1 bowler in ICC T20I rankings after his dream run in the recently-concluded T20I series against Australia. Bishnoi joins an elite list of Indian bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, who have reached the summit of the bowling rankings in Men's T20I. Ravi Bishnoi joins Suryakumar Yadav as India hold the top spot in both batting and bowling rankings in Men's T20I cricket. Ravi Bishnoi replaced Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan from the top spot. The Lucknow Super Giants star was ranked No.5 last week and he has vaulted 5 spots to dethrone the Afghanistan spin sensation. Suryakumar Yadav continues to hold the No. 1 spot in batting rank-



ings after having found success in his maiden assignment as the T20I captain. Under Suryakumar, a young Indian side defeated Australia 4-1 in the T20I series. Ravi Bishnoi had 664 points when he was placed No. 5 last week, but the heroics against Australia saw him earn 34 more points. Bishnoi, with 699 points, has 7 more than Rashid Khan, who had held the top spot since March 2023. Ravi Bishnoi was the leading wicket-taker in the T20I series against Australia, pick-

ing up 9 wickets in just 5 matches. It's a sensational achievement for Bishnoi, who made his T20I debut only in February 2022. He has played 21 matches and has picked up 34 wickets. With his recent showings, Ravi Bishnoi has put his hand up and reminded the selectors that he is a key contender for the T20 World Cup in 2024. Bishnoi faces stiff competition from the likes of Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, and Kuldeep Yadav for the highly-competitive spinners' slots.

### IND vs SA: Rahul Dravid wants players to make 'match-winning contributions' against SA

India head coach Rahul Dravid has said that he wants players to make match-winning contributions during their month-long tour of South Africa. India is set to face South Africa in the first match of the T20I series on Sunday, December 10. Speaking exclusively to Star Sports, Dravid called South Africa one of the more difficult places to bat, insisting that every Indian batter will have a game plan in place during the series. India will face South Africa in three T20Is, three ODIs and two Test matches. "So, it is a challenging place to bat; the sta-



tistics will tell you that. It is one of the more difficult places to bat in, especially up here in Centurion and Johannesburg. The wickets do tend to do a bit, and they tend to get up and down as well. Every one of the batsmen will have a game plan as to how they want to go, as long as they are clear about it and they commit to it and are practicing towards that, that's fine," said Dravid.

### Sreesanth 'hurt' after nasty on-field altercation with 'Mr. Fighter' Gambhir

Former Indian pacer S Sreesanth lashed out at Gautam Gambhir after an altercation broke out between them during the Eliminator of the Legends League Cricket 2023 on Wednesday, December 6 at the Lalabhai Contractor Stadium in Surat. The incident took place after India Capitals opted to bat first against the Gujarat Giants. When Gambhir was batting, he was involved in a heated argument with Sreesanth, after which the umpires had to intervene to



restore sanity to proceedings. After the end of the game, which the Capitals won by 12 runs, Sreesanth slammed Gambhir for provoking him without any reason. Slamming him for not respecting his colleagues, Sreesanth said that he is deeply hurt by what Gambhir said.

## Rafael Nadal, Naomi Osaka return as Australian Open announce entry list for 2024 edition

Rafael Nadal and Naomi Osaka are set to make their returns to Grand Slams after being named in the entry list for the upcoming edition of the Australian Open.



Both Nadal and Osaka will be making their comebacks in the Brisbane International that will take place before the tournament at Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal made his way into the Australian Open on the basis of Protected Ranking along with Croatia's Marin Cilic, Canada's Denis Shapovalov and Milos Raonic, USA's Reilly Opelka and Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely.

Osaka, on the other hand, was picked on Special Ranking along with USA's Jennifer Brady, Amanda Anisimova, Shelby Rogers and Caty McNally, Germany's Angelique Kerber and Australia's Ajla Tom-

lanovic.

Nadal hasn't played any form of tennis since crashing out of the Australian Open second round earlier this year. He also backed out of French Open 2023 due to which he fell out of the top 100 in the rankings for the first time in 20 years. Osaka, on the other hand, will make her return after becoming a mother earlier this year in July. The 26-year-old has been out of professional tennis since the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis back in September 2022. The Australian Open 2024 is scheduled to take place from January 14 to January 28.

### Football

## Premier League: Man United beat Chelsea after Scott McTominay shines, Aston Villa stun Manchester City

Manchester United's Scott McTominay continued his rich vein of goalscoring form when he netted either side of halftime to lift his team to a well-deserved 2-1 Premier League victory over Chelsea at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

United dominated in a victory that relieved some pressure on beleaguered manager Erik ten Hag, whose team have been hounded by reports of unrest in the dressing room, and moved them into sixth in the table on 27 points -- three shy of the top four -- after 15 games. Chelsea are 10th on 19 points.

United peppered Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez with 28 shots including nine on target in a terrific fight-back after Saturday's 1-0 loss at Newcastle that McTominay called "abysmal".

"The boys were so upset with how we done with that game, it wasn't anywhere near good enough, and to come in tonight and win was a plus and something we can build on," the midfielder told Amazon Prime. United's victory was their fourth in their last five league games.



"After the last game at Newcastle, it was not good," midfielder Sofyan Amrabat said. "We wanted to react today to show the fans our energy and that we wanted to win."

McTominay, who now has five goals in the league this season, opened the scoring in the 19th minute, taking one touch before firing in a left-footed volley after Harry Maguire's shot was blocked.

Aston Villa overran Manchester City with a fully-deserved 1-0 win on Wednesday thanks to a deflected shot from Leon Bailey, leaving the reigning Premier League champions in an unfamiliar fourth position and six points off the top. Unai Emery's hungry and confident Villa,

enjoying their best season for years, dominated the game from start to finish, leap-frogging City to third in the table. After squandering a hatful of chances, Villa's winner came in the 74th minute when the pacey Bailey took the ball just past the halfway line, ran at City's defence and unleashed a shot that hit Ruben Dias' foot to beat goalkeeper Ederson. Minutes later, Douglas Luiz struck the post for the hosts, who could have won by a larger margin in a surprisingly one-sided game, to the noisy delight of the majority at Villa Park. "It was a great game, great night for the fans, great night for Aston Villa," said Bailey.