

# absolute india

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**Neeraj Chopra bags India's first-ever athletics gold in Olympics**

# GOLDEN SPEAR

Neeraj Chopra on Saturday made history by becoming the first Indian to win gold medal in athletics at Olympic Games when he clinched first position at Tokyo 2020 with a throw of 87.58 metres in javelin competition.

- > Chopra's gold means India, with seven medals at Tokyo Games, have surpassed the tally of six medals won at 2012 London Olympics. This is the biggest tally of medals won by India in a single edition of Olympics.
- > Chopra has also become only the second Indian after Abhinav Bindra to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics. Bindra had won gold at the 2008 Olympics in shooting.

TOKYO | Agencies

The 23-year-old Chopra now holds gold medals in javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics, all at the same time. Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch bagged silver medal with a throw of 86.67m while compatriot Vitezslav Vesley took bronze medal with a throw of 85.44m. Both got their season's best throws on their fifth and third attempts respectively. After finishing first in the qualification round on Wednesday with a throw of 86.59m, Chopra continued his impressive performance in the final on Saturday, recording a first throw of 87.03m. He followed it up with 87.58m in his second attempt. It turned out to be the best throw of the night.

The 23-year-old's third attempt was well below the 80m mark at 76.39m. He followed it up with two fouls on his fourth and fifth throws. His last attempt was 84.24m. By then, however, the inevitable was confirmed as the other competitors couldn't match his best throw. World No. 1 Johannes Vetter of Germany, a favourite to win the gold alongside Chopra, continued his rough form from qualification to the final and was ousted after the initial three of the six throws. The 28-year-old, who came into the Olympics after seven massive throws of over 90m between April and June, opened with 82.52m.

But fouls on the next two throws meant he finished ninth and crashed out of the competition as only top eight progress. During his second throw, Vetter happened to injure his ankle too.

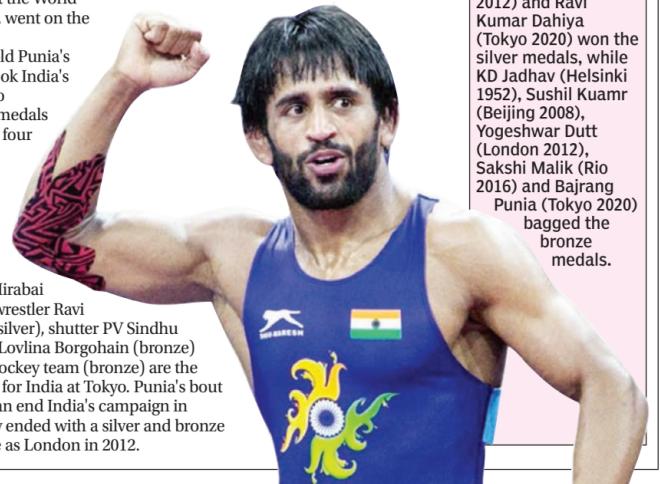
## BAJRANG PUMIA WINS BRONZE MEDAL

Punia, who had opted out of the London Olympics in favour of his mentor Yogeshwar Dutta, finally claimed his first medal in his maiden Olympics, beating Niyazbekov comfortably at the Makhuri Messe Hall on Saturday.

Bajrang Punia on Saturday added another chapter to India's glorious history in wrestling history by winning the bronze medal in men's freestyle 65kg, beating Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan 8-0 on points for his first medal at the Olympics. Bajrang, who had lost to Haji Aliyev of Azerbaijan in the semifinals on Friday, came up with a tactical bout as he took early lead in the first period and capitalised with counterattacks when his Kazakh rival, a two-time medallist at the World Championships, went on the attack.

The 27-year-old Punia's bronze medal took India's tally in the Tokyo Olympics to six medals -- two silver and four bronze. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra later added a gold to the tally to make it seven medals.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chalu (silver), wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya (silver), shooter PV Sindhu (bronze), boxer Lovlina Borgohain (bronze) and the men's hockey team (bronze) are the other medallists for India at Tokyo. Punia's bout also brought to an end India's campaign in wrestling as they ended with a silver and bronze medal, the same as London in 2012.



This was India's seventh medal in wrestling -- two silver and five bronze medals. Sushil Kumar (London 2012) and Ravi Kumar Dahiya (Tokyo 2020) won the silver medals, while KD Jadhav (Helsinki 1952), Sushil Kumar (Beijing 2008), Yogeshwar Dutt (London 2012), Sakshi Malik (Rio 2016) and Bajrang Punia (Tokyo 2020) bagged the bronze medals.



## Doctors swim half-a-km to save patient in flood-hit West Bengal

- > Three doctors and four supporting staff, including two nurses, swam nearly half-a-kilometre to reach the general hospital in Udaynarayanpur on Wednesday to operate upon a patient who was in a serious condition.
- > Apart from the three doctors -- surgeons Tarak Das, Prabhas Das and anaesthetist Ashok Khara -- two nurses and other support staff were also present in the operation theatre, all of whom had to brave the current to shoulder the responsibility of saving a life.

Saibal Gupta | Kolkata

The Udaynarayanpur block in Howrah district is one of the worst-affected areas in the recent floods in West Bengal, where most villages are under chest-deep water. While the situation forced even Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to cancel her visit there, it didn't deter a group of doctors and their supporting staff from discharging their duties. Tarak Das, who operated upon the patient, said, "The

patient was bleeding from the uterus and needed urgent operation. We had no other alternative but to swim to reach the hospital." "There were other problems as well. The current was high and we are not good swimmers, so naturally we had to be very cautious while moving through the water. Two girls got drowned in the water a couple of days ago. There was also the fear of snake bite as most of the areas were under water, increasing the possibility of poisonous snakes lurking



ing around," said one of the doctors. According to hospital sources, 48-year-old Dipali Malik was admitted there on Monday evening when she was bleeding profusely.

On Wednesday, the tumour weighing nearly 500 gm was surgically removed from the uterus after an hour-long surgery.

## Use Instagram Live Rooms in your Digital Marketing Strategy

New Delhi: In this day and age, having an online presence is not enough for you or your brand. With a plethora of options available for consumers on the Internet, the competition has surpassed normal and healthy levels; this calls for a cutting-edge position in the market. There are tons of ways to do that but one of the easiest ways is through Instagram Lives. Live streams not only allow you to interact with your audience in real-time but also build a personal relationship with them. Being visual creatures, live video streaming piques our interest and increases our tendency to respond and engage with somebody even more. App's new update called Live Rooms allows you to co-host with other 3 people. This creates more opportunities, a wider reach, more engagement and more recognition.

## Raj govt plans to showcase beauty of borders to tourists

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Taking cue from Punjab, Rajasthan Tourism will soon promote Border Tourism and its beautiful stretch to tourists on the same lines as Punjab has done on Wagah Border where tourists have been thronging throughout the year. Rajasthan Tourism officials have confirmed this and said that during the post pandemic period, the state wants to serve new destinations on platter and hence comes this idea.

Experiencing beauty of the borders of Rajasthan shall be a novel experience for tourists, they added.

Jaisalmer district has the largest area of desert terrain in Rajasthan. The temple of Tanot Rai in Tanot on the Indo-Pak international border, 125 km to the west of Jaisalmer district headquarters, is the main attraction for Indian tourists and devotees. The upkeep of this temple has been undertaken by the local contingent of BSF (Border Security Force) which performs puja and devotional celebrations.

The international Indo-Pak border which is at a short distance from the temple is a major attraction for the visiting tourists. There is also a fort near this place known as Kishangarh, made of bricks and mortar. The fort in Ghotas in this area also pulls the tourists and arouses their curiosity. A railway station named Munnabad is in operation in Barmer

which caters to the movement of Indo-Pak passengers. The Sanchu post of the BSF that is on the Indo-Pak international border in Bikaner District attracts travelers as it is surrounded by large sand streams. The railway station located on this post is also very famous, as it used to connect India and Pakistan through the rail route and also provide for import and export of goods between the two countries.



In close vicinity is the site of Longewala, which witnessed the 1971 Indo-Pak war. The military vehicles and tanks of the Pakistan army destroyed by the Indian army have been kept for display. There is also a theatre here that is run by the Indian Army in which films of triumph and victory of the Indian armed forces during the Indo-Pak war of 1971 are showcased for the tourists.

## Celebs who make us fall in love with handlooms

Puja Gupta | New Delhi

Bollywood divas like Sonam Kapoor, Vidya Balan and Rekha are often seen in handloom sarees. Their love for handwoven fabrics is no secret and gives them an edge amongst their contemporaries. On National Handloom Day, we look at some celebrities who keep it chic in handlooms:

**Dia Mirza:**

Dia is known to promote conscious and sustainable fashion as well as lifestyle, taking up many environmental causes and makes mindful fashion choices. The actor is often spotted in eco-friendly and sustainable clothing options styles like saris and suits. She often wears handloom ensembles by designers like Anavila who specializes in natural and handwoven fabrics.



**Sonam Kapoor:**

The fashionista's handlooms are right up their with her avant garde brands. Not one to shy away from experimenting, Kapoor inspired a generation of millennials to fall in love with traditional textiles and this stunning saree is on point. The colourful khadi sari is a creation by designer duo Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla.

**Vidya Balan:**

Vidya's sari collection is enviable. She wore this beautiful handloom Karakudi Chettinad cotton saree directly from the weaver. It features bold checkered patterns, popularly known as madras checks, which originates from the Chennai -- karakudi region of India.

**Rekha:**

The veteran actress sets perfect example of how to look sexy in saree. Rekha has always been loyal to her handloom saree and always drapes one for red carpet events. Her collection of sarees include heritage Kanjiryams and chanderis.

## In an unusual art form, UP student paints on banana leaves

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

It is an unusual art and Manoj Kumar, a fine arts postgraduate student of the Allahabad University, is practising it to perfection. He paints on banana leaves and says that this is much more difficult than painting on any other surface. "The tenderness and fragility of the banana leaf makes it extremely difficult to paint on it. The oil acrylic colours on the green and dry banana leaf often skids off," he said.

Manoj further explains, "The biggest challenge I face with banana leaves is that an image outlining with pencil is not possible on it. Moreover, oil acrylic colours also do not hold firmly on leaves and the colour skids on the leaf just as it would on a wet human body." "Unlike working on other surfaces like canvas, paper and walls,



painting on green banana leaves takes a much longer time," said Manoj. He now ensures the leaves do not break or tear by putting them in a unique solution before drying them.

He refuses to divulge the details of the solution. "Let me perfect it and then I will talk about it," he said. "I was able to do better after trying and trying and trying to get better at it," said Manoj Kumar. Since this is the month of 'Shravan', Manoj is making paintings of Lord Shiva on banana leaves and he hopes this will win him appreciation.





# CBI SEARCHES 9 LOCATIONS IN UP IN RS 6,833 CR BANK FRAUD CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday carried out searches at nine locations in Uttar Pradesh in connection with a Rs 6,833 crore bank fraud case involving Kanpur-based Lakshmi Cotsyn Limited and its directors.

The amount of the fraud is even more than the Punjab National Bank fraud case involving fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi.

A CBI spokesperson said here that the agency had registered a case on the basis of a complaint from the Central Bank of India on behalf of 10 consortium member banks against



Lakshmi Cotsyn Limited its directors Mata Prasad Agarwal (director and guarantor), Pawan Kumar Agarwal (director and guarantor), Devesh Narain Gupta (director), Sharda Agarwal (Director and guarantor), unknown public servants and unknown others, for causing an alleged loss of Rs 6833.82 crore to the lender banks.

The official said that in the complaint, it was alleged that the company had reported inflated inventory records, its auction process was not fairly organised, and voluminous sale transactions were carried out with undisclosed related parties.

The funds were allegedly siphoned off or diverted by the company, which amounts to fraudulent removal or concealment of property etc. to prevent distribution among the creditors. "The credit facilities granted to the accused were classified as fraud on July 20 last year by the Central Bank of India," the official said. The official added that the agency carried out searches at nine locations, including in Noida,

# Reply to Oppn with facts, point out achievements to public: Nadda to BJP workers

Team Absolute | Lucknow

While addressing a programme organised at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in state capital Lucknow on Saturday, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President J.P. Nadda said all party office bearers should fulfil their responsibilities ahead of the forthcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

"Our party workers should counter the opposition parties with facts to expose them and communicate the schemes of the Central and the state governments to the general public," Nadda added.



He told district panchayat presidents and block chiefs that, "The people have elected you to your respective posts, you are not only a leader of the people but are the custodians of their faith. You must restore their faith."

Speaking about the recent Uttar Pradesh panchayat elections, Nadda said, "The Yogi Adityanath government has done a commendable job of strengthening democracy by conducting the three-phase UP panchayat elections despite the Covid-19 pandemic. You will experience this only in India. This is the beauty of democracy here. The opposition parties should be countered on the basis of the work done by you (BJP workers)."

Targeting the opposition parties, Nadda said, "The mindset of some opposition leaders is such that earlier they used to allege that the Covid vaccine is BJP's vaccine so we will not receive the vaccine jabs. But today they are getting vaccinated. How will leaders with such small mindset lead Uttar Pradesh? This is something to think about. Earlier, in UP

there used to be a rule of a particular caste or community, there was never a rule of the country and society. Today in Uttar Pradesh, only Yogi ji's government has moved forward with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'."

No other party has done as much work for the farmers of the country as the Modi government, he said.

During the UPA government, Rs 1.21 lakh crore was spent on agriculture while Rs 2.11 lakh crore was spent by the Modi government. Nearly 80 lakh houses have received electricity under the Saubhagya scheme in Uttar Pradesh and 2.62 crore houses have been electrified across the country, Nadda added.

There are a total of 2.54 crore beneficiaries of 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme in Uttar Pradesh, of which 1.83 crore people have already benefited from it.

The BJP President said, "Earlier governments promised to waive off the loans of farmers. Once the loans of some farmers were waived off after which they were neglected. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has disbursed three instalments of Rs 2,000 annually to more than 10 crore farmers under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana."

Praising Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Nadda said today Uttar Pradesh is progressing rapidly under the leadership of Yogi. For decades, there were many villages where electricity never reached but today under the leadership of Modi at the Centre and Yogi in the state, people's lives have been transformed.

Earlier, rural women used to feed the family by burning traditional cooking fuels which caused health hazards but Modi has transformed the lives of such women with the implementation of Ujjwala scheme by providing smokeless chulhas. Modi's resolve is to see that no person should be deprived of a pucca house. "All of you (BJP workers) should move door-to-door to fulfil his resolve," the BJP President added.

# Assam-Mizoram border row: Efforts on to lift 'economic blockade'

GUWAHATI/AIZAWL | Agencies

Amid the 13-day long "economic blockade" and with hundreds of Mizoram bound goods laden vehicles stranded, two Assam Ministers rushed to trouble-torn Assam-Mizoram inter-state borders on Saturday to facilitate the resumption of the movement of vehicles between the two states.

Due to the "economic blockade" on National Highway-306 in Assam's Cachar, supply of essential commodities, transport fuels and medicines to Mizoram has been acutely hit since the bloodiest border clash and firing that left six Assam policemen dead and 100 others including civilians of the two states hurt on July 26. Officials said that Assam's Urban Development Minister Ashok Singhal and Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Sukbaidya accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of police of Cachar district are "holding talks with all stakeholders" at Lalapur, the entry point to Mizoram. "All efforts are being made to resume the movement of vehicles between the two states specially the Mizoram bound goods laden trucks and other vehicles," a Cachar district official said. About the latest development, Mizoram's Information and Public Relations minister of state (Independent Charge) Lalruatkima said in



Aizawl that Assam's minister Singhal informed him that all vehicles stranded on NH-306 would cross the border by Saturday evening. "We are grateful to both Hon'ble CMs of Assam and Mizoram for relentlessly working towards restoration of peace between the two states," the minister tweeted. Mizoram Health Minister R. Lalhangliana on Saturday said in Aizawl that besides the essential commodities and transport fuels, Mizoram has been facing severe crisis of vital medicines. "Covid patients are dying for want of medicines. Seriously ill patients are in dire need of life-saving drugs..." the Minister said in a video message. "With the rise in the number of Covid cases, we are finding it extremely difficult to take care of the patients who are in dire need of oxygen given the limited supply due to blockade. Other basic medicines and necessities of Covid management including PPE kits and vital drugs are still stuck at the border," the Minister said.

# JDU to contest on its own in UP election, says Lalan Singh

PATNA | Agencies

Newly elected president of the Janata Dal United (JDU) Lalan Singh said that his party will contest the assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh alone if the BJP will not give adequate seats to it as an alliance partner of the NDA.

With this, the JDU will be the second political party of the NDA which has decided to contest elections alone in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, VIP chief Mukesh Sahani announced the same and said that his party will contest the elections against the BJP. Sahani also said that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath is scared of his visiting the state. While pointing out the Arunachal Pradesh incident, Lalan Singh said that the JDU had put up an impressive show in that state. The party had contested on 14 seats and won 7 seats in the

assembly election. The BJP backstabbed the JDU and merged 6 MLAs.

"We are part of NDA and if BJP will not allocate us adequate seats in Uttar Pradesh, we will contest the election alone. The JDU supporters are showing great enthusiasm," Lalan Singh said.

"We are committed to bring JDU to the number 1 position. Our aim is to achieve results like the 2010 Bihar assembly election, in 2025. Every member of the party will get their responsibility," Lalan Singh said in Karpoori Sabhagar while welcoming Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha into the JDU.

Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha joined the JDU on Saturday and has been given the post of state vice president of the party. With little base in UP, the JDU and the VIP are likely to take some votes from the BJP, analysts say.

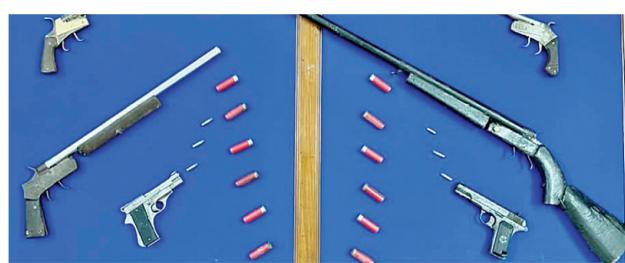
# K'TAKA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO ISSUE ORDER FOR NEP IMPLEMENTATION

Bengaluru: The government of Karnataka has issued an order on Saturday, with regard to the implementation of National Education Policy-2020 with effect from the current academic year 2021-2022. Dr C.N. Ashwatha Narayana, the minister of higher education, stated this after convening a meeting with officials of the department and state higher education council, on the day he was assigned the portfolio for the second time by the new chief minister Basavaraj Bommai.

With this Karnataka has become the first state in the country to issue the order with regard to implementation of NEP-2020, Narayana said.

Kumar Nayak, Additional chief secretary to higher education P. Pradeep, Commissioner, Dept of collegiate education, prof Thimmesgowda vice chairman Karnataka higher education council and other senior officials were present. The implementation will be done as per the guidelines of the NEP, he said.

# K'taka police arrest inter-state arms dealer, 3 local purchasers



Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Karnataka City Crime Branch (CCB) police have busted inter-state illegal weapon dealers gang and arrested four persons in this connection. The police have recovered country made guns, rifles and bullets from the arrested accused persons.

Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner, CCB stated that, the police have arrested the kingpin Ayaz Ulla (30) and recovered two country made pistols from him. After further investigations, the police have also taken Syed Siraj Ahamad (42), Mohammad

Ali alias Shira (32) and Arun Kumara alias Long Kumara (26), who purchased guns from the accused. Three country made pistols, rifles and 19 live bullets were recovered from them. Ayaz Ulla procured country made guns from Shamli in Uttar Pradesh, Amritsar in Punjab, and Shirdi in Maharashtra. He sold the weapons and ammunition illegally to anti-social elements. He is also involved in a dacoity case. Syed Siraj Ahmad, Mohammad Ali alias Siraj and Arun Kumara, the accused persons who purchased guns, have police cases against them.

# Railways plans to go green with hydrogen-fuelled trains

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Taking a big leap towards going green, the Indian Railways has decided to introduce the country's first hydrogen-fuelled train.

Initially, the hydrogen fuel based technology will be introduced on the 89 km long Sonapat-Jind route. The Railways has also floated tenders for retrofitting the existing DEMU rakes into green fuel based train.

A Railway Ministry spokesperson said that the transporter, as part of the National Hydrogen Energy Mission, has taken a leap forward in development of hydrogen fuel cell based power movement to kick off the concept of Hydrogen Mobility in the country. He said that this will be done by converting or retrofitting of existing DEMU rakes.

The official said that the loco pilot of the locomotive will not face any problem as there will be no change in the driving console. He explained that the retrofitting of diesel powered DEMU and converting it into hydrogen fuel powered train set will not only save



costs to the tune of Rs 2.3 crore annually by converting from diesel to hydrogen, but also save the carbon footprint (NO2) of 11.12 kilo tons per annum and particulate matter of 0.72 kilo tons per annum. The official said that after successful implementation of this pilot project, all the rolling stock which will operate on diesel fuel after electrification can be planned to be run on hydrogen fuel. So far, Germany and Poland are using this method of power generation in railways.

# RAHUL GANDHI'S TWITTER HANDLE BLOCKED: CONGRESS

New Delhi: The Twitter account of former Congress President Rahul Gandhi was blocked on Saturday, the party said. "Rahul Gandhi's Twitter account has been temporarily suspended and due process is being followed for its restoration," the Congress tweeted from its official Twitter handle. The party said that until then, Rahul Gandhi will stay connected with all through his other social media platforms and will continue to raise his voice for the people and fight for their cause. In another tweet, the Congress said, "The account has been temporarily locked." However, the micro-blogging platform said: "We can confirm that the account has not been suspended and continues to be on service. When any account is suspended, Twitter removes it from global view." Rahul Gandhi had joined Twitter in April 2015 and has 19.5 million followers on the social media platform. He keeps raising several issues through his Twitter handle, mostly critical of the Central government.



# Waning traffic pushes Railways to cut down passenger coach production

The Indian Railways has proposed to cut down its passenger coach production almost by half over next couple of years as it looks to get leaner with competition from roadways and airways eating into its traffic.

Subhash Narayan | New Delhi

In a meeting taken by the Railway Board to finalise coach manufacturing programme for FY23 and FY24, it was decided that passenger coach production from four of its manufacturing facilities will be cut down by over 46 per cent in FY24.

This would mean Railway's coach manufacturing would fall from a level of around 6,000-7,000 units to just about 4,000 a year. In fact, the passenger coach manufacturing has been kept at 7,551 units for next fiscal year 2022-23 that would fall just about 4,027 units in FY24, as per a letter dated July 28 shot off by the ministry of railways to general managers of all its four coach manufacturing units.

Most striking cuts have been proposed for LHB or Linke Hofmann Busch coaches that are made to run Railway's passenger services. Here the production is proposed to fall from about 5,489 units in FY23 to just about 1,677 in FY24, a drastic 70 per cent cut. Currently the Linke Hofmann Busch



(LHB) coaches, being manufactured by Indian Railways' production unit - Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Chennai; Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli. Besides, Central Railway, (Latur) Mumbai facility also makes a few designs of self propelled coaches. Sources said that the Railway Board had decided to cut down production of passen-

ger coaches as the existing inventory is considered more than adequate to meet the requirement of passenger movement. Moreover, with Railways foreseeing large scale movement of its traffic to roadways and airways, it does not want to overspend with stepped up manufacturing of coaches without getting a clearer picture on demand conditions. Official sources also indicated

that the Railways is also correcting its cost structure that would also see its focus getting into more revenue generation services than ones that are subsidised. However, this would mean curtailment of existing passenger services but scaling it down in line movement of traffic away from its services.

As against sharp cut proposed for LHB coaches, the Railway Board has decided that production of self propelled coaches used for EMU or metro services would actually rise in FY24 from a level of 2,062 units in FY23 to 2,359 units in FY24. The biggest segment in this rise would come from production of complete train set coaches whose production from three coach manufacturing units will rise from 672 units in FY23 to 928 units in FY24. Non RSP (rolling stock programme) funds are to be built only after clear realization of funds. If sufficient orders as per this program do not materialize for non RSP Coaches, RSP Coaches may not be built in lieu thereof unless clear instructions from Railway Board exist for the same, the letter mentions.

# BCCI announces Rs 1cr award for Chopra, Rs 1.25cr for hockey team



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian cricket board has announced a cash award of Rs 1 crore for Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first-ever athletics gold medal in Olympic history. It also set aside an award of Rs 1.25 crore for the Indian hockey team that won bronze medal at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also announced cash awards of Rs 50 lakh to silver-medallists, wrestler Ravi Dahiya and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and Rs 25 lakh for individual bronze medal winners, shuttler PV Sindhu, boxer Lovlina Borgohain and wrestler Bajrang Punia. The announcement was made by Jay Shah, secretary of the BCCI through his personal twitter handle. The haul of seven medals at the Tokyo 2020 Games is the best by India at the Games, surpassing the haul of six medals in 2012 London Olympic Games. India had managed only two medals in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

"All of us do not have equal talent. But, all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents."



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

# absolute india

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## NOVEL DEVICE TO DIAGNOSE COVID FROM SALIVA SAMPLES

The device can also be used to detect specific viral mutations linked to some of the SARS-CoV-2 variants that are now circulating.

This result can also be obtained within an hour, potentially making it much easier to track different variants of the virus, especially in regions that don't have access to genetic sequencing facilities.

The new diagnostic, which relies on CRISPR technology, can be assembled for about \$15, but those costs could come down significantly if the devices were produced at a large scale.



### J&J single-dose jab gets emergency approval in India

**New Delhi:** Johnson and Johnson's single-dose vaccine against Covid-19 has got the approval for emergency use in India on Saturday. With J&J single-dose vaccine, India has now a total of 5 Emergency Use Authorization vaccines (EUA) to strengthen the vaccination drive across the nation. The other four includes Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik V and Moderna. This J&J vaccine approval is expected to boost the fight against the coronavirus. It will be brought to India through a supply agreement with India's indigenous vaccine maker Biological E Limited.

phone app that can read the results and send them to public health departments for easier tracking.

### Weekend curfew in eight K'taka districts

**Bengaluru:** In view of surge in Covid cases districts that share borders with Kerala and Maharashtra, Karnataka on Friday decided to enforce a weekend curfew in eight such districts as well as night curfew across the state. According to fresh guidelines issued by the Revenue Department, night curfew has been advanced by an hour, and will be now in place from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. The weekend curfew will be enforced in Belagavi, Bidar, Chamarajnanagar, Dakshina Kannada, Kalburgi, Kodagu, Mysuru, and Vijayapura from 9 p.m. on Friday to 5 a.m. on Monday. Belagavi, Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Vijayapura abut Maharashtra, and Chamarajnanagar, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, and Mysuru border Kerala. All social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, and religious functions, gatherings and large congregations will remain prohibited.

grammed to detect new variants that emerge, and that we could re-purpose it quite quickly. In this study, we targeted the UK, South Africa, and Brazilian variants, but you could readily adapt the diagnostic platform to address the Delta variant

and other ones that are emerging," Collins said. The device produces a fluorescent readout that can be seen with the naked eye, and the researchers also designed a smart-

"We are pleased to announce that on 7th August 2021, the Government of India issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 single-dose vaccine in India, to prevent COVID in individuals 18 years of age and older."

*For the study, the researchers first tested their device with human saliva spiked with synthetic SARS-CoV-2 RNA sequences and then with about 50 samples from patients who had tested positive for the virus. They found that the device was just as accurate as the gold standard PCR tests now used, which require nasal swabs and take more time and significantly more hardware and sample handling to yield results.*

## India offers Cairn Energy \$1bn refund

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India expects to refund \$1 billion to UK-based Cairn Energy after it moved to scrap a retrospective tax law that unleashed bitter fights with prominent foreign investors, Financial Times reported.

The lower house of parliament on Friday approved a draft law introduced the previous day, cancelling a 2012 policy that enabled New Delhi to tax some foreign investments retrospectively. The upper house is expected to approve the law as early as next week. New Delhi would also drop \$13.5 billion in outstanding claims against multinationals such as telecoms group Vodafone, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB InBev, as part of efforts to repair its damaged reputation as an investment destination, the report said. Analysts say the legal initiative would



allow New Delhi to resolve a bitter international tax battle with Cairn that has grown increasingly embarrassing for India. The UK energy group has sought in recent months to seize some of the government's estimated \$70bn worth of overseas assets. "It's a settlement offer masquerading as a law," said one foreign business analyst, who requested anonymity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government hopes the resolution of the dispute can bolster its reputation among foreign companies as it seeks new investment to revive India's Covid-battered economy. "We want to give a message to the

investors that the country believes in the stability and certainty of taxation," Tarun Bajaj, revenue secretary, told journalists on Friday. "Taxation is a sovereign right and can't be taken away. But we should use it sparingly, judiciously." Bajaj said about \$1.2 billion collected from companies under the soon to be scrapped tax provision would be refunded if the companies agreed to drop outstanding litigation, including claims for interest and penalties. About \$1 billion of this would go to Cairn and \$270 million to other groups including Vodafone, he added, as per the report.

### CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE GROWS TO BECOME LARGEST THIS YEAR

**San Francisco:** The Dixie Fire in Northern California, which erupted on July 13, has grown to become the country's largest wildfire so far this year. Dubbed the Dixie Fire, the massive fire has burned 432,813 acres of land and was only 35 per cent contained as of Friday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Official data showed that the fire grew by around 100,000 acres in just 24 hours, reports Xinhua news agency. The fire is also the third largest wildfire in California's history, only behind 2020's August Complex Fire and 2018's Mendocino Complex Fire. It was marked as the 11th largest wildfire in California's history on Tuesday and exploded to become the sixth largest on Thursday. The Dixie Fire, burning through multiple counties in Northern California, has destroyed at least 91 structures.



## In 3 yrs, India will have American standard highways: Gadkari

Team Absolute | Gandhinaga

Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said that he believes that within three years, the entire country will be provided with national highways parallel to the standards of the American highways.

The minister was virtually present on the program on Saturday, celebrated as development day by Gujarat, marking the completion of five years of Chief ministership of Vijay Rupani.

"Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our national highways projects are gaining momentum. I believe that by the next three years, entire country will be provided with national highways parallel to the standards of the American highways. At one point of time, we used to construct only 2



kilometers roads per day, whereas now we are constructing 38 kilometers roads per day," said Gadkari.

Gadkari also said that the work of 85 kilometers eight lane stretch of Greenfield works of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway near Thandla

will be awarded by October this year. "This expressway will be a 'Vardaan' (boon) for the tribal areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It will attract industries and businesses and also benefit the farmers," he added.

## 50 ARRESTED IN PAK FOR ATTACK ON HINDU TEMPLE

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Saturday arrested over 50 people, including the main suspects, allegedly involved in an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town of the country's Punjab province, a day after the Supreme Court admonished the authorities for their failure to protect the shrine. They also booked 150 people in connection with the attack on Wednesday. A mob attacked the temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district of the province, some 590 km from Lahore, in protest against the release of an eight-year-old Hindu boy, who was arrested for allegedly urinating in a local seminary. "More than 50 suspects have been arrested so far through analysis of video footages in a shameful ransacking incident at a temple in Rahim Yar Khan," Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar tweeted. District Police Officer of Rahim Yar Khan Asad Sarfraz said that all "main suspects" in the temple attack case have been arrested. An FIR has been registered under terrorism and other sections of the Pakistan Penal Code against over 150 people for their involvement in attacking the temple, he said. Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday pulled up authorities for failing to stop the attack and ordered the arrest of the culprits, observing that the incident has tarnished the image of the country abroad. Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed said that vandalism at the temple had brought shame to the country as police acted like silent spectators. Pakistan's parliament on Friday condemned the temple attack by adopting a resolution. The hearing in the case has been adjourned till August 13.

## Youth Akali Dal leader shot dead in Punjab

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

In a broad daylight murder, Youth Akali Dal leader Vicky Middukhera was shot dead here in Mohali in Punjab on Saturday.

The police didn't rule out a strong possibility of gang war resulting in the crime.

Four armed men fired around 10 bullets at the leader in Sector 71, killing him on the spot. The crime was caught in a CCTV camera. In the video, the victim was seen running away from the spot when two men fired at him. The assailants were waiting in a car parked near the victim's vehicle.

As the victim came out from an office of a property consultant in a posh market and was about to sit in his SUV, the assailants fired at him.



The victim came out of the vehicle and started running to save himself from the bullets. The attackers were chasing at a certain distance. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital. Middukhera was a student leader and was once president of Student Organisation of Panjab University (SOPU) in Panjab University in Chandigarh. Later, he joined the Shiromani Akali Dal student wing -- Student Organisation of India (SOI).

## US send B-52 bombers to stop Taliban from seizing Afghan cities

Reports said the B-52s and AC-130s are targeting insurgents around Kandahar, Herat and Lashkar Gar in Helmand Province. They are being supported by the AC-130 Spectre gunships which are armed with a 25mm Gatling gun, a 40mm Bofors cannon and a 105mm M102 cannon -- which can provide pinpoint accurate fire from the air.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

US President Joe Biden has ordered B-52 bombers and Spectre gunships to target Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan who are advancing towards three key cities, Daily Mail reported.

The Cold War-era strategic bomber first flew in the 1950s but is still used due to its 70,000lb payload and range of more than 8,000 miles. The B-52s are operating out of Qatar, while the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is on deployment in the Arabian Sea. The nuclear-powered warship has a fleet of F/A-18 Super Hornets. The Afghan Air Force is equipped with some turbo-prop light attack aircraft such as the A-29 Super Tucano, though only 30 pilots have been qualified since 2015. The US Air Force continues to aid the Afghan air force's bombing of Taliban targets in southern Helmand and



Kandahar provinces, as Afghan security forces try to prevent a Taliban takeover, the report said. The Taliban have been advancing across Afghanistan after the US-led coalition pulled out of the war-torn nation,

leaving the country's struggling defence forces to deal with the terrorists. Similarly, another clip on Twitter appears to show something similar that had happened in Zaranj, more than 700 miles away.

- Sheberghan is the second provincial capital to fall to the Taliban in the last two days.
- With the fall of Sheberghan, 15 media outlets, including TV stations and radio networks, have stopped operation in the province.
- On Friday, Taliban captured Zaranj city, the capital of Nimroz province in southwestern Afghanistan. Zaranj fell to the Taliban with no resistance by government forces.

## Terrorist refused to surrender, killed in Kashmir encounter

SRINAGAR | Agencies

The terrorist killed in an encounter with security forces at Mochwa area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday refused to surrender and instead fired at the security forces triggering the encounter, officials said.

Police said acting on a specific information about presence of terrorists in Mochwa Chadoora area of Budgam, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, army's 50 RR and 181 BN of CRPF in the said area. In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist of proscribed terror



outfit Al-Badr was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. He has been identified as Shakir Bashir Dar of Goripora, Awantipora. As per

police records, the killed terrorist was part of groups involved in various terror activities and several terror cases were registered against him.

### Cop killed in terrorist firing at Kulgam

**Srinagar:** One Jammu and Kashmir policeman was killed in action after suspected terrorists fired indiscriminately on a police party in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday evening. "Terrorists in the evening fired indiscriminately on police party in Kulgam district. One policeman was injured in the attack and attained martyrdom. Area has been cordoned off," police said. Meanwhile, additional police parties have reached the spot and an operation had been started to nab the attackers.



Maharashtra Lockdown:

# CM THACKERAY PROMISES MORE RELAXATIONS, DECISION ON LOCAL TRAINS SOON

Currently, Maharashtra's lockdown norms do not allow the common people on Mumbai locals which are being operated only for the people employed in essential sectors.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said the government is planning to relax more Covid-19 lockdown curbs in the coming days but with utmost caution and will also take a call regarding local train travel. The chief minister also said he met with the representatives of hotels and restaurants, who demanded further relaxations in timings beyond 4 pm, and explained to them that the curbs will be eased step by step.

Thackeray was speaking at a function organised by the BEST (Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport) undertaking to induct more electric buses into its fleet.

"The Maharashtra government is going to grant more relaxations, but we are taking every step cautiously. A decision will be taken for local train passengers as well. We need to ensure that these relaxations do not trigger



another wave of COVID-19," Thackeray said.

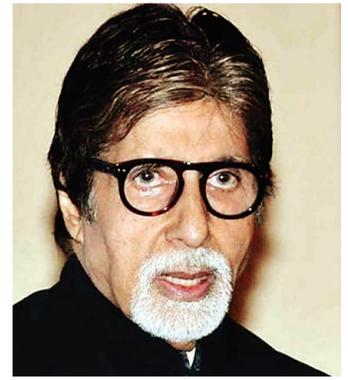
The state government recently introduced several relaxations in 25 districts, which have reported a low COVID-19 positivity rate, by allowing all shops to remain open till 8 pm. The government also allowed the resumption of schools for certain classes in urban and rural areas from August 17 onwards.

Currently, common people are not allowed to board Mumbai suburban trains which are being operated only for the people employed in essential sectors. Many quarters are demanding that common people, who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, be allowed to board the local trains, called the lifeline of Mumbai.

Maharashtra on Friday reported 5,539 fresh cases of COVID-19 and 187 deaths, which took its tally of infections to 63,41,759 and the toll to 1,33,717. The state is now left with 74,483 active cases.

# Mumbai cops chase hoax bomb calls at Bachchan home, 3 stations

Not willing to take any chances, various crack agencies and the Mumbai Police's Bomb Detection & Disposal Squad (BDDS), searched all the locations Bachchan's bungalow, and the UNESCO World Heritage site Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Byculla and Dadar stations, all on Central Railway -- but nothing was found.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police and other agencies spent anxious hours after they chased bombs allegedly planted at Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow and three railway stations, which finally turned out to be hoaxes, an official said here on Saturday.

Two persons, including a truck driver, have been picked up for interrogation from Thane for the bomb threats call received at around 8.53 pm on Friday, said an official.

Not willing to take any chances, various crack agencies and the Mumbai Police's Bomb Detection & Disposal Squad (BDDS), searched all the locations Bachchan's bungalow, and the UNESCO World Heritage site Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Byculla and Dadar stations, all on Central

Railway -- but nothing was found.

The others involved in the combing operations were Anti Terrorism Squad, Quick Response Team, Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, personnel of several local police stations.

With the Independence Day celebrations round-the-corner security is usually tightened at all sensitive locations.

Later, the police tracked the alleged caller to Mumbai in adjoining Thane district, the nabbed truck driver. One more person was also picked up along with him and further procedures are underway.

# Maha Congress slams NIA for delays in SUV planting case



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Saturday slammed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for delays in the probe into the planting of a SUV with 20 gelatin sticks near Antilia, the home of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

"Over 150 days have elapsed and the NIA is granted 30 more days to file its charge-sheet in the case, when the time limit is only 90

days. Why does the NIA need so many extensions," demanded State Party Spokesperson Sachin Sawant. Referring to the longwinded probe, he sought to know when the NIA is going to nab the alleged mastermind in the sensational case that broke out on February 25. "When will the NIA reveal the real motive behind keeping the explosive-laden vehicle (SUV Scorpio) near the Antilia building," Sawant demanded. The SUV was found aban-

doned by Mumbai Police near the Antilia building on February 25 and 20 gelatin sticks and a purported threat note to the Ambani family was recovered from it.

The case took a new twist when the vehicle owner, a businessman Mansukh Hiran's body was found in the marshes of Thane Creek on March 5, triggering a massive upheaval in the police force and the political setup.

This week, the Special NIA Court granted the agency another 30 days' time to file its charge-sheet in the case.

Sawant's attack on NIA came barely a couple of days after he targeted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for dithering on the probe into the death case of Bollywood actor, the late Sushant Singh Rajput, a year after the federal agency took over the case.

# GAS LEAK SCARE AT MUMBAI HOSPITAL



**Mumbai:** A serious incident of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) leak from a tanker at the Kasturba Hospital here sent the BMC in a tizzy, officials said here on Saturday.

The smell of the leak from a tanker with around 10K tonnes gas, was noticed around 12.30 p.m. and all emergency systems were activated, said Mayor Kishori Pednekar. To begin with 58 patients, including 20 suffering from Covid-19, were immediately shifted to another location in the hospital and have been said to be safe, she said.

Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray who rushed to the spot, said due to the prompt response a potentially major tragedy was averted.

"The situation is under control... The work of controlling the gas leak is underway," he told media persons at the site.

Officials said that as per preliminary information, the leakage reportedly occurred owing to malfunction of a valve during the transfer of the gas from the tanker to a storage facility at the hospital. Senior police, fire brigade, disaster management officials and experts from the HPCL are at the site monitoring the situation closely.

# Bhandara District Becomes Coronavirus-Free After 15 Months: Report

District collector Sandip Kadam said collective efforts of the administration and people played a key role in making Bhandara COVID-19-free. "Though, the number of Covid patients in the district is zero today, people need to be careful in the coming days and follow COVID-19 protocols," he said.

Team Absolute | Bhandara (Maharashtra)

Maharashtra's Bhandara district on Friday became coronavirus-free after the lone patient under treatment was discharged from hospital and no new case reported during the day, the local administration said.

A release from the district information officer said tracing, testing and treatment along with proper planning and collective efforts have helped make Bhandara free of coronavirus after 15 months.

The only COVID-19 patient under treat-

ment was discharged from hospital on Friday, while 578 persons were tested for coronavirus in the last 24 hours and all of them returned a negative result, the release said.

"There are no coronavirus patients in the district now," it said.

District collector Sandip Kadam said collective efforts of the administration and cooperation of people played an important role in making Bhandara, located in eastern Maharashtra, free of the disease.

"Although, the number of coronavirus patients in the district is zero today, people need to be careful in the coming days and follow COVID-19 protocols," he said.

District civil surgeon Dr RS Farooqui said coronavirus is a communicable disease and the only way to prevent its spread is to follow a set of protocols like wearing face mask, maintaining social distancing and hygiene.

The health department has taken necessary steps to deal with a potential third wave of the pandemic, he added.

So far, Bhandara district has reported 59,809 coronavirus cases and 1,133 deaths, according to official figures.

# STATE GOVERNMENT SETS UP TEMPORARY HEALTH CENTRES

**Alibaug:** Days after incessant rainfall and flash floods wreaked havoc in Mahad of Raigad district, the Maharashtra government has set up 15 temporary health centres in the region to monitor the locals. Locals in Mahad taluka underwent check-ups at these centres, during which 50 people were diagnosed with leptospirosis, 169 with gastroenteritis and 16 tested positive for coronavirus, district collector Nidhi Chaudhary said. The patients are undergoing treatment at hospitals in Mahad, the official said. The temporary health centres were set up by the state health department to keep a check on the rise in diseases in the aftermath of the heavy rainfall and floods that hit the district two weeks ago, she added.

# Cop attacked over questioning about not wearing masks

**THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY NIGHT AT VASANTRAO NAIK CHOWK, CIDCO, WHERE THE POLICE CONSTABLE WAS POSTED ON DUTY**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly assaulting a constable in Aurangabad city of Maharashtra after he questioned them about not wearing face masks despite the coronavirus pandemic, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place on Thursday night at Vasant Rao Naik Chowk, CIDCO, where the police constable was posted on duty, an official said.

"He spotted that the three men were not wearing face masks. He stopped them and questioned them about it, following which a heated argument broke out and later turned into a scuffle," he said.

The accused not only verbally abused the constable, but also thrashed him and hit him with a stone, he added.

The trio, identified as Prapat Jagtap, Akash Kulkarni and Ashutosh Zingorde, were arrested on Friday morning, the police official said, adding that an offence was registered against them under relevant IPC sections.

# Maha BJP chief meets and greets PM's harshest critic, Raj Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil on Friday called on Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray, but both sides emitted mixed signals on a possible tie-up. The meeting raised political eyebrows for several reasons, the prime being Raj Thackeray has been an ardent admirer-turned-critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the past several years, besides being in the suspect list of a significant chunk of north-Indian communities in the city and its surroundings.

"There is no proposal currently of the BJP and MNS joining hands for the upcoming 2022 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation polls," Patil said after the meeting.

On the other hand, senior MNS leader and a confidante of Raj Thackeray, Bala Nandgaonkar, said



that any alliance between the two parties would be "a welcome development" in state politics.

However, the leaders of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress have not reacted to the development. Patil said that Raj Thackeray is in favour of according priority to locals for employment opportunities in the state, and the MNS chief would make a demand for

80 per cent reservation for local residents. "Some of his statements create an impression that he is against non-Maharashtrians, but after my discussions with him, I feel that he is very vocal about the rights of the locals and fights for them while not wanting to spread hatred against non-Maharashtrians," Patil said.

On his part, Raj Thackeray, the estranged cousin of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, was an ardent fan

of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi after his tour of the state in August 2011.

Even as he became a political pariah among the state's Opposition parties, a few years later from 2014, he turned one of the most bitter critics of Modi, who had by then become the country's Prime Minister.

Raj Thackeray's shrill anti-Modi campaign hogged the limelight with his series of public meetings with the 'Laa re te video' (play that video), accompanied by his caustic narratives on the alleged acts of the PM, making him persona non-grata even in the BJP circles.

He continued to take political potshots at the BJP, Modi and other top party leaders regularly even through his cartoons, but has apparently become less aggressive after his cousin took over as the CM of Maharashtra in November 2019, edging out the BJP.

# MAHARASHTRA CUMULATIVE VACCINATION TALLY CROSSES 4.6 CRORE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the ongoing vaccination drive, Maharashtra on August 6 has vaccinated 3,45,338 people through 2,537 sessions.

According to data released by the government, Maharashtra, as of 7 am on August 7, inoculated 4,63,76,886 people.

As per the state government data, 12,64,694 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years received their first vaccine dose and 8,79,706 received their second dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1.

So far, 12,89,339 health care workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 9,29,788 of them have got their second dose.

Similarly, 21,26,577 frontline workers in the state have till now received their first vaccine dose and of them, 12,21,750 got their second dose.

Maharashtra reported 5,539 new COVID-19 cases and 187 fresh deaths on Friday, taking the infection tally to



63,41,759 and the toll to 1,33,717, a health department official said.

The official said 5,859 patients were discharged from hospitals across the state in the last 24 hours, pushing the number of recoveries to 61,30,137 and leaving Maharashtra with 74,483 active cases.

According to the official, the state

has 4,35,516 people in home quarantine and 2,837 in institutional quarantine. Maharashtra's COVID-19 case recovery stands at 96.66 per cent, while the fatality rate is 2.1 per cent, he said. The cumulative number of coronavirus tests conducted in the state climbed to 4,91,72,531, of which 2,10,425 tests were done in the last 24

hours, the official said.

He said among the eight regions of Maharashtra, the Pune region reported the highest cases at 2,105, followed by 1,462 in the Kolhapur region. Among other regions, the Mumbai region reported 769 cases, Nashik 787, Latur 292, Aurangabad 61, Akola 42 and the Nagpur region 21.

According to the official, among the 187 fatalities, the highest deaths at 71 were reported from the Aurangabad region, followed by 56 from the Pune region and 30 from the Kolhapur region. The Mumbai region reported 11 fatalities, Nashik 13, Latur five while the Akola region reported one death. The Nagpur region did not report any fresh fatality, he said. The official said Mumbai witnessed 307 new COVID-19 cases and eight deaths. Coronavirus figures for Maharashtra are as follows: Total cases 63,41,759; new cases 5,539; total deaths 1,33,717; total recoveries 61,30,137; active cases 74,483; tests conducted so far 4,91,72,531.

# MAN KILLS SELF, LIVE STREAMS SUICIDE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**Thane:** Spurned by his girlfriend, a 27-year-old man allegedly died by suicide in Kalyan of Maharashtra's Thane district and live streamed his final moments on Facebook, police said on Saturday. Ankush Pawar, a resident of Kalyan (west), allegedly hanged himself after his girlfriend of three years refused to marry him, an official said. While live streaming his suicide on Facebook, Pawar, who worked as a ward boy at a hospital, said that he had been in a relationship with a woman for three years and had given her money from his savings, he said. The couple quarrelled frequently over several issues and during a heated argument on Thursday, the woman reportedly told him to die, following which he committed suicide in a fit of rage, the official said.

# Maharashtra to reopen schools from August 17: Gaikwad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Friday became the latest state to announce reopening of schools as state education minister Varsha Gaikwad said schools in both rural and urban areas will reopen on August 17. "Offline classes will commence in rural areas for students from class 5-8, while those in cities will be for students from class 8-12 following Covid-19 protocols," Gaikwad said.

The announcement by the Maharashtra education minister came on a day when two other states, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, also laid out plans for the reopening of schools in the respective states. In Karnataka, schools will reopen for students from



class 9-12 from August 23, while in Tamil Nadu offline classes will begin from September 1.

Earlier, on July 12, 5947 schools in rural areas in Maharashtra resumed offline classes for standards 8-12 in rural areas where Covid-19 cases were not being detected. Also, in recent days, schools in several other states, including Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, reopened after being closed due to the devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.



### Country has developed in all directions under PM Modi's leadership: CM MP HAS GOT RID OF ITS IDENTITY OF SICK STATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHOUHAN: PM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Modi said that Madhya Pradesh has got rid of its identity of sick state under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan. The cities of Madhya Pradesh are setting new examples in cleanliness and development. Congratulating the state for the grain distribution programme under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM Modi said that a big campaign is going on in Madhya Pradesh to provide food grain to about 5 crore beneficiaries simultaneously under the scheme. This programme has given me an opportunity to sit amongst the poor and talk to them. This gives me strength to keep doing something for the poor. It is said that the life and livelihood of people have been affected due to excessive rains and floods in many districts of the state. The central government is with the people of the state. Chouhan and his entire team are engaged in all possible relief and rescue work. The Centre will also ensure all possible assistance. PM Modi was virtually addressing the free ration distribution programme organized under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in Madhya Pradesh



as its chief guest. Chouhan presided over the programme. A short film was also screened at the event. Praising MP, PM Modi said that the state government has done commendable work in the direction of providing assistance to the farmers. The Prime Minister said that the biggest advantage of the double engine government is that the state government further improves the schemes of the central government adding strength to them. There is remarkable dynamism in the works of skill development, infrastructure creation in health sector, digital infrastructure, rail and road connectivity etc. in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan, while welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

behalf of seven and a half crore people of the state, said that the country has developed in ten directions under the leadership of PM Modi. He has the resolve to build a glorious, magnificent, prosperous and thriving India. Development is meaningless unless the light of development reaches the poor, unless changes come in their lives. PM Modi made arrangements to provide food grains to the poor at affordable rates. It was ensured that ration for the whole month comes in one day's wages and the wages of the remaining days are available to the poor to improve their standard of living. Food grains are being provided at nominal rates to 4 crore 90 lakh people of 1 crore 15 lakh fami-

lies of the state. This has been possible as a result of the grant of Rs. 7 thousand 441 crore by Modi. As a result of the cooperation of Prime Minister Shri Modi and his sensitivity towards the farmers, this year wheat at Rs. 1918 per quintal was purchased. Chouhan said that Modi made arrangements to help the poor in the first wave of Corona. In the second wave he ensured to provide free food grains. Chouhan thanked Prime Minister for providing subsidy of 32 thousand 204 crore to 26 lakh 27 thousand 899 families for construction of houses in rural areas in the state since 2016. 32 thousand 156 crores have been provided to the poor for 07 lakh 37 thousand 616 houses in urban areas. Chouhan said that under the leadership of Modi, it is our resolve that by the year 2024, no poor in the state will remain without a pucca roof. Chouhan said that during the crisis of recent floods, Modi kept getting information about the situation in the state twice a day over the phone. The assistance of Army, Air Force, BSE, NDRF was provided by him. Helicopters were made available to rescue the people. As a result of this cooperation, we were successful in saving the lives of 8 thousand 832 people. Several thousand people were evacuated safely.

### Make MP self-reliant by participating in government schemes: Governor

#### Governor distributed food grains to the beneficiaries in the Anna Utsav in the tribal village Imliya Gaudi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has called upon all the sections of the society to provide the benefits of all the schemes of the Central and State Governments to all the eligible families of their habitation, so that the villagers can become self-reliant. The Governor was launching the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in the remote Scheduled Tribe dominated Imliya Gaudi village of Gauharganj tehsil of Raisen district.



Patel said that the central and state governments have provided these basic necessities while caring for roti (bread), kapda (cloth) and makan (house). He said that along with the food festival, it is also a festival of the villagers. Appreciating the government for providing free food grains to the poor, he said that it should be ensured that no eligible person is deprived of the benefit and the ineligible should not get the benefit. Governor Patel said that it is his expectation that the State Government should implement all the schemes with utmost seriousness, so that the appreciation of the Central Government should also be received. He said that so far he has visited many villages and he is satisfied that better work has been done in the schemes of education, health, employment and poor welfare in Madhya Pradesh. Sharing his life experience, Patel said that bread is the first need of every citizen and the government has fulfilled it. He said that free ration till November will reduce the worries from the life of the poor. He also praised the state government on the availability of employment in the Pradhanmantri Awas and MNREGA. He also praised the work of vaccination in Madhya Pradesh. The Governor on his part also presented school bags and fruits to the school children. Former Minister and MLA Surendra Patwa also addressed the programme. The Collector informed that free food grains are being provided to more than 2 lakh

17 thousand families through 543 shops in Raisen district, which will benefit more than 9 lakh population of the district. In the Anna Utsav, Governor distributed 10 kg each food grain bags to the eligible beneficiary families. Shri Patel also went to the Government Fair Price Shop and distributed free ration in bags to the beneficiaries present there. Patel met many villagers of the tribal-dominated Imliya Gaudi village and honoured them by presenting them with shawls. He urged the villagers to make their families happy by taking advantage of the schemes of the government. Patel also planted a Kadam sapling near the venue. He also appealed to the citizens to protect the trees. The Governor also had meal at the house of the tribal Uike family.

## MP To Have Law Against Organized Crime 'How will you...?': Kamal Nath questions MP govt over response to floods

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government will enact a law to deal with organized crime, Home Minister Narottam Mishra said on Saturday. The proposed "Madhya Pradesh Gangster Prevention Bill" will provide for 10 years' prison term for gangsters and also for attachment of their properties, he told reporters. The legislation would be aimed at dealing with liquor mafia, land mafia, mining mafia, forest mafia and those who run gambling dens, he said. After a law for death sentence in killer hooch cases, the Madhya Pradesh government is going to enact a tough anti-gangster law. "The state government is going to bring about MP Anti-Gangster Bill to control organized crime," home minister Narottam Mishra announced on Friday. It will have tough penal provisions



against bootlegging, gambling, land-mafia, mining-mafia, forest-mafia and criminals who use explosives, he said. The Home Department has sent the draft bill to the law department for clearance so that it can be placed before the cabinet, Mishra added. The anti-gangster law will have provisions for two-to-10 years' imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 25,000. "If anyone attacks a public servant you may have seen incidents of stones being hurled at government officials the quantum of imprisonment will increase from two years to five years, and the fine will be hiked from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000," Mishra told media persons in Indore's BJP office on Friday. People support-

ing gangsters will also be prosecuted under this law and punished with three-to-10 years' imprisonment and a fine, the home minister said.

"We will also seize the property of gangsters. A special court will be set up for trial/hearing of such cases. These trials/cases will continue even if the gangster isn't present in court while witnesses will be provided complete protection and their statements will be recorded before the judges in a closedroom," he said. Asked if the present laws were insufficient to check organized crime, the home minister said, "In section 34 of the law (MP Excise Act), the accused used to get bail easily for bootlegging, so they have no fear of the law. We are amending section 49-A to implement capital punishment, life imprisonment and fine (as per severity of the crime) in spurious liquor cases."

The former chief minister also cautioned the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government against 'playing politics.'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former chief minister Kamal Nath on Saturday questioned the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government over its response to the current flood situation in the state, also cautioning it that "this is not the time to play politics." "How will the government assess the losses to pay compensation to those affected? How much will help will it provide? When will you repair the bridges that have been damaged, and when will you provide houses to those who have been rendered homeless due to the deluge?" Nath asked the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime after conducting an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Sheopur and visiting some other districts. The senior Congress leader also accused

the state government of only making a slew of announcements. "This is not the time to play politics. We are extending help, the Congress will continue to help," Nath, who was interacting with the media, said.

Nath, who also heads the state Congress unit, further said, "I saw that 80% of the people were on their rooftops. Land and crops have suffered enormous damage due to the flood. The situation is 'unprecedented' in the Gwalior and Chambal divisions."

Earlier in the day, CM Chouhan claimed 8832 people have been rescued from flood-affected areas, while 29,280 people have been shifted to safer places.

According to government data, 1250 villages in north Madhya Pradesh have been affected by the deluge following heavy rains in the central state earlier this week. On Saturday, officials put the cumulative fatality



count in rain-related incidents at 24. Gwalior, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Datia, Ashok Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Bhind and Morena were battered by heavy rains. On Friday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued orange alert for five districts and yellow alerts for 12 districts. The alerts, IMD said, were valid till next morning.

#### CM plants Neem sapling in Smart Garden



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Neem sapling in the Smart City Garden today in fulfillment of his pledge to plant saplings every day. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Neem may be bitter in taste, but its benefits are similar to nectar.

### Sarang engaged in promoting cottage

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang made purchases after reaching the Khadi Emporium run by Khadi Village Industries with the aim of promoting cottage industries after the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He bought Khadi clothes and other items for the family and himself. Sarang said that the call of Prime Minister Modi is welcome. This will benefit the people and weavers associated with Khadi industries. He said



that vocal for local, we all should follow this slogan. If we all join Khadi, then we will indirectly participate in increasing the rural economy. That's why I have bought Khadi clothes and accessories and also appeal to the people to adopt Khadi for the purpose of promoting Khadi.

### Sikhs to work for betterment of Sikligar: Sirsa

Team Absolute | Kharagone

President of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the Sikh community would work to include Sikligar Sikh community to the mainstream of the society.

Sirsa was in Kharagone to join a one day conference organized by Sikh Community at Shri Gurusingh Sabha in Kharagone. Expressing concern over the financial condition of the Sikligar Sikh community largely living in Kharone, Sirsa said people of Sikligar Sikh community were skilled in making weapons. "But, their skills have become their biggest problem, thanks to apathy of governments," Sirsa said.

He further said that people from the Sikligar community wanted to join the mainstream of the society but no one was coming forward to help them. "Sikligars are deprived of basic amenities. The administration is not helping them. How will they survive? Sikh society will now work for the betterment of Sikligar," Sirsa said. He assured people from Sikligar that if it was needed, the Sangat from Punjab would come to the district and would stand in support of Sikligar community's rights. Rajkumar Singh, Satnam Singh and Shyam Singh also addressed the conference and raised the demands that the government should give lands on lease to Sikligar and also dispose of criminal cases registered against Sikligar people.

### Lourde Mata Convent School Congratulated Its CBSE Toppers



Team Absolute | Sehore

Lourde Mata convent school Sr. Sec. School, Sehore congratulate and appreciate all the toppers of CBSE board examination 2020-2021. The manager Fr. Francis Scaria and The Principal Sr. Anupama and the other members of management and the staff of the

school acknowledge and appreciate the support of the parents and hard work of the teachers for bringing out this colourful results. It is only because of the hard work of both teachers and students that we could achieve 100% result this year 2020- 2021. We wish all our stakeholders bright future and all the best for their further studies.

#### Death toll in rain fury and floods rises to 24

### More than 1,250 villages were affected by the deluge following heavy rains

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The fatality count in rain-related incidents in flood-ravaged Gwalior and Chambal divisions of Madhya Pradesh increased to 24, officials said on Saturday. The authorities said that the flood situation is slowly improving and at present "no life-threatening" scenario exists in the region, where rescue and relief work is currently on.

"The death toll in the rain-related incidents in the flood-hit parts of the state has risen to 24. These fatalities were recorded between August 1 and 7," Revenue Secretary Gyaneshwar Patil said.

Till Friday, officials pegged the number of deceased at 12. The flood situation in north Madhya Pradesh had turned grim earlier this week, where more than 1,250 villages were affected by the deluge following heavy rains. Gwalior, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Datia, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Bhind and Morena districts were affected as the region was being pounded by rains since Sunday. However, from Thursday, the intensity of rainfall in the two divisions started going down. "No life threatening situation due to flooding exists in Gwalior and Chambal divisions at present," Divisional Commissioner Ashish Saxena said.

Addressing 'Anna Utsav' programme earlier in the day,



state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that 8,832 people were rescued from the flood-affected parts of the state, while 29,280 others have been shifted to safer places from these areas so far.

Saxena said that around 50 people, who were stuck in flooded areas of Ashok Nagar district in Gwalior division, have been moved to safety. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) have reached Ashok Nagar for the rescue operation, he said, adding that Army columns are also scheduled to reach the affected areas. "The rescue operation in the affected areas is

almost over and relief work is gathering steam," the official said. Meanwhile, PK Saha, senior meteorologist with the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhopal office said that Ashok Nagar and Guna districts in Gwalior division received 32.0 mm and 164.1 mm rainfall, respectively, in 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Saturday. "The low pressure area is lying over northern parts of east Madhya Pradesh and its neighbourhood now. It was over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood on Friday," he said.

With its shift to east MP, the flood situation in Gwalior and Chambal is likely to improve as rain activity is likely to lessen from Saturday. In a series of tweets in the morning, the chief minister said, "I took a stock of the flood situation and the ongoing rescue operation this morning in Gwalior, Ashoknagar, Vidisha districts. Rescue operation of IAF resumed this morning. The teams of SDRF and NDRF are also working since night to rescue the people trapped in villages." He said that during the rescue operations carried out using helicopters, 15 persons each were rescued from Barri and Sirsora villages of flood hit Ashok Nagar district on Saturday morning. Six more persons were rescued from Vasunia Ghat village from the same district and shifted to a safer place. From Vidisha district, the teams rescued six persons, who were trapped on a tree at Riniya village of Vidisha district, he said.

#### CM PAYS HOMAGE TO POET TAGORE



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to poet Rabindranath Tagore on his death anniversary on Saturday. Chief Minister Chouhan garlanded his portrait at his residence. Rabindranath Tagore is also known as Gurudev. He was a poet, litterateur, philosopher, playwright, musician and painter. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913 for composing the world famous epic Gitanjali. Rabindranath Tagore was born on May 7, 1861 in Kolkata. He breathed his last on August 7, 1941 in Kolkata.

## Ashley Jensen 'finds love' with co-star Kenny Doughty

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ashley Jensen has reportedly found a new love after she was spotted looking cosy with *Love, Lies And Records* co-star Kenny Doughty in the city of Bath.

She looked as though she was having a whale of a time with Kenny in pictures published in *The Sun*.

A source told the publication, "Ashley and Kenny have been friends for some time, and he has been an immense support to her in the past few years. They

make a lovely couple, and all their friends are absolutely delighted for them. Ashley is both a wonderful actress and person - and she deserves this second chance at happiness." The Barnsley-born actor is renowned for his portrayal of DS Aiden Healy on ITV's Crime Drama *Vera*. The Scottish actress, who played Maggie Jacobs in the hit Ricky Gervais series *Extras*, was left heartbroken after her husband Terene Beesley died by suicide in 2017.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Minka Kelly will join the cast of the HBO show *Euphoria* for its second season. She will play a 'jaded, drugged out suburban housewife' in the series according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The second season of the series was set to begin filming last year, but the COVID-19 pandemic postponed shooting. It began again earlier in 2021.

Indie singer Dominic Fike and rapper Lil Meech will also join the cast.

In an interview with *Variety*, Fike said he would join the cast as a 'homie' who hangs out with Rue and Jules, played by Zendaya and Hunter Schafer respectively. Lil Meech will play a love interest for Alex Demie's character, Maddy.

Minka Kelly joins star-studded cast of *Euphoria*

## Iggy Azalea models a jaw-dropping outfit

Los Angeles | Agencies

Iggy Azalea was seen making quite the impression in a stunning outfit that consisted of a bra top and leggings from Mugler with magenta heels in L.A.

This is the first time she has spotted out since announcing her retirement from music and talking about Britney Spears. The chart topper carried a small gray structured purse that went with her ensemble.

Earlier this week she shared why she showed her support for Britney Spears amid her conservatorship drama.

The rapper took to Twitter at the end of June, releasing a lengthy statement about why she supports the singer, who she collaborated with in 2015 and said she saw her 'restricted' from the most 'trivial things.'

Azalea was promoting her third studio album *The End of an Era*, arriving August 13, in an interview with *ET*, where she said why she showed her support for Spears.



## BRITNEY SPEARS WANTS NEW CONSERVATOR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Britney Spears would like to have her father Jamie Spears audited once he has been ousted as her conservator, it has been claimed.

TMZ report that Spears is making it clear if Jason Rubin, who is a CPA specializing in forensic accounting, gets appointed by a judge to take over for Jamie, 68, then she wants her father put 'under the microscope,' says a source to the outlet.

The source claims that Spears wants an investigation to determine whether Jamie mishandled her \$60M fortune while he was in charge.

There have already been red flags raised by Spears' new attorney Matt Rosengart, including a \$500,000 payment to Spears' former manager, Tri Star Sports & Entertainment Group. Jamie had also requested \$1.3million from Spears' estate in legal fees, and Rosengart has taken issue with Jamie paying himself \$16,000 a month as conservator, which is more than what Spears herself was being paid.



## Jess Glynne stage at Newmarket Racecourse

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Jess Glynne ensured the eyes of her audience were on her as she wore a bright orange outfit on stage at Newmarket Races.

As a top selling pop star she's an ace at putting on a show. The singer turned up the heat as she wore a figure-hugging jumpsuit that fit snugly to accentuate her womanly curves.

The redheaded musician had her curly hair tied back on the back of her head in a high pony as she performed her hits.

Jess has kept a relatively low profile after she reportedly deleted her social media accounts in April.



## Queen's Brian May confirms Bohemian Rhapsody sequel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Queen's Guitarist Brian May confirmed to fans on an Instagram Live chat that the British rock band are 'looking at ideas' in order to make it a 'great script'.

*Bohemian Rhapsody*, which won four Academy Awards, celebrated Queen in all their glory, with a focus on late frontman Freddie Mercury, played by

Rami Malek.

"We are looking at it. Yeah, we have been looking at ideas," Brian, 74, told fans.

He admitted the band feels pressure in living up to the film's box office success. He said, "It's going to be hard to follow that one as none of us could have predicted how massive that was going to be. We put a lot of heart and soul into making it, and no one could have predicted [its success] as it was bigger than *Gone With The Wind*." "But, yes, we are thinking maybe it could happen, but it would have to be a great script. It's going to take a while to figure that out," Brian concluded.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kylie Jenner

# Meet India's very own superhero

# SPEAR-MAN

Neeraj Chopra bags India's first-ever athletics gold in Olympics



Tokyo | Agencies

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday fetched India its first-ever gold medal in athletics at the Olympics and created history by becoming the second Indian after Abhinav Bindra to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics. With a best throw of 87.58 metres in the men's javelin throw Tokyo Olympics final, the 23-year-old now holds gold medals in javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics, all at the same time. It was India's seventh medal at the Tokyo Olympics, which means they have surpassed their previous best tally of six at London 2012. Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch bagged silver medal with a throw of 86.67m while compatriot Vitezslav Vesley took bronze medal with a throw of 85.44m.



PT Usha's 'unfinished dream' fulfilled

One of India most celebrated sprinters PT Usha congratulated Neeraj Chopra after he won India's maiden Olympic track and field gold in javelin throw at Tokyo2020.



Usha posted a picture of herself with Chopra and tweeted, "Realised my unfinished dream today after 37 years. Thank you my son @Neeraj\_chopra1. (Flag of India, First place medal symbol) #Tokyo2020." While Usha was called the golden girl of Indian athletics, an Olympic medal remained her only unfulfilled dream. Despite being the favourite for a podium finish at the 1984 Olympics in 400m hurdles, her effort of 55.42 seconds was not enough to fetch her bronze, as she finished fourth.



## Nation overjoyed after Golden victory

Indians took to Twitter to congratulate the 23-year-old for a stupendous showing at the Olympic Stadium. "Historic Athletic Gold medal. Big Congratulations @Neeraj\_chopra1 for winning gold medal for India #Tokyo2020 you make us all proud. #Cheer4India," tweeted boxer MC Mary Kom, a bronze medallist in 2012 London Olympics. "Historic! Congratulations @Neeraj\_chopra1 on winning #Gold Prayers of billion+ Indians have been answered. #Cheer4India #Tokyo2020," tweeted former Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, silver medallist at 2004 Athens Olympics.

"Yay yay !!! Can't get over this feeling in history #Olympics2020," tweeted India women's cricketer Mithali Raj. "History has been scripted at Tokyo! What @Neeraj\_chopra1 has achieved today will be remembered forever. The young Neeraj has done exceptionally well. He played with remarkable passion and showed unparalleled grit. Congratulations to him for winning the Gold. #Tokyo2020," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Unprecedented win by Neeraj Chopra! Your javelin gold breaks barriers and creates history. You bring home first ever track and field medal to India in your first Olympics. Your

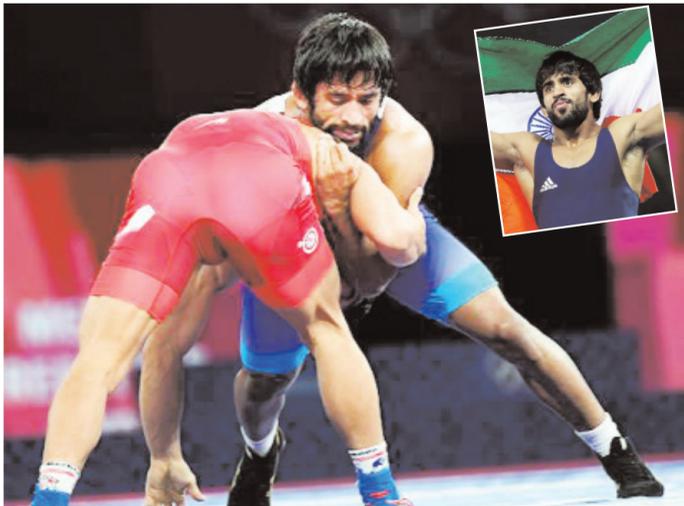
feat will inspire our youth. India is elated! Heartiest congratulations!" expressed President Ram Nath Kovind. "India's Olympic History has been scripted! Your superbly soaring throw deserves a Billion Cheers! Your name will be etched in the history books with golden letters," wrote Sports Minister Anurag Thakur. "Congratulations to India's ace Javelin Thrower, @Neeraj\_chopra1 for winning the prestigious Track and Field medal for the first time in the history of Independent India. Gold medal in the javelin throw event at the #Olympics is unprecedented. Proud of him for creating history!," tweeted Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar tweeted: "It's a GOLD. Heartiest Congratulations @Neeraj\_chopra1 on creating his-

tory. You're responsible for a billion tears of joy! Well done #NeerajChopra! #Tokyo2020" Actress Taapsee Pannu wrote: "It's a gold!!!!!! I am jumping with Joy!!!! This young man Neeraj Chopra has created history!!!!!! Actor Adivi Sesh wrote: "#GOLD!!!! #NeerajChopra YOU BEAUTY!!!!" **Haryana announces Rs 6 crore for Neeraj** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a cash reward of Rs 6 crore and a government job for Neeraj Chopra for winning India's first Olympic gold medal in athletics. Congratulating Chopra for his triumph, Khattar said he not only won the medal, but also won the heart of the whole country. "The country was waiting for this moment for a long time and the whole country is proud of him," he said.

## BAJRANG PUNIA WINS BRONZE BEATING TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDALLIST

Tokyo | Agencies

Bajrang Punia on Saturday added another chapter to India's glorious history in wrestling history by winning the bronze medal in men's freestyle 65kg, beating Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan 8-0 on points for his first medal at the Olympics. Bajrang, who had lost to Haji Aliyev of Azerbaijan in the semifinals on Friday, came up with a tactical bout as he took early lead in the first period and capitalised with counterattacks when his Kazakh rival, a two-time medallist at the World Championships, went on the attack. The 27-year-old Punia's bronze medal took India's tally in the Tokyo Olympics to six medals -- two silver and four bronze. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra later added a gold to the tally to make it seven medals. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (silver), wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya (silver), shooter PV Sindhu (bronze), boxer Lovlina Borgohain (bronze) and the men's hockey team (bronze) are the other medallists for India at Tokyo. Punia's bout also brought to an end India's campaign in wrestling as they ended with a silver and bronze medal, the same as London in 2012. Punia, who had opted out of the London Olympics in



favour of his mentor Yogeshwar Dutta, finally claimed his first medal in his maiden Olympics, beating Niyazbekov comfortably at the Makuhari Messe Hall on Saturday. Both wrestlers started the bout cautiously -- Punia a bit circumspect because he had lost to Niyazbekov in the 2019 World Championships semifinals. However, it was the grappler from Haryana who scored the first point through a passivity penalty on Niyazbekov, who had suffered another heartbreak as he had lost the bronze medal

match in 2012. The Kazakh tried hard to erase the deficit quickly and had Punia on the back foot but the Indian defended well to avert the danger. Punia doubled his lead just before the end of the first period when he pushed his opponent out of bounds. Punia could not have defended in the second period because the lead was too less. He dominated the final period and bagged six points, thus sealing the bronze medal. He went on the counterattack as soon as Niyazbekov went on the offensive. He

scored a two-point takedown to make it 4-0 and bagged two more points and followed it up with two more with good defence and counter-attack to seal the bronze medal. This was India's seventh medal in wrestling -- two silver and five bronze medals. Sushil Kumar (London 2012) and Ravi Kumar Dahiya (Tokyo 2020) won the silver medals, while KD Jadhav (Helsinki 1952), Sushil Kumar (Beijing 2008), Yogeshwar Dutt (London 2012), Sakshi Malik (Rio 2016) and Bajrang Punia (Tokyo 2020) bagged the bronze medals.

## Narrow miss for Aditi Ashok as she finishes fourth

Tokyo | Agencies

There was heartbreak for Indian golfer Aditi Ashok as she narrowly missed the bronze medal in the women's individual strokeplay competition at the Tokyo Olympics, finishing fourth with an aggregate score of 15-under 269 on Saturday. The final round of women's golf event resumed on Saturday amidst concerning weather. With the leaders having two holes left to complete, a passing thunderstorm caused a 49-minute interruption in the proceedings. Aditi, who was placed second going into Saturday's fourth and final round, shot a three-under 68 on a weather-affected day which otherwise was historic for the Indian golfer as she attracted a lot of attention after she had finished 41st at the Rio Olympics five years ago. In the final round, she fired five birdies -- on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th and

14th holes. She also had two bogeys, on the 9th and 11th holes.

Speaking to the International Golf Federation (IGF) on her thought process throughout the final day on Saturday, Aditi said, "Going into the round, I didn't think about it much, it was fine, but obviously coming in I tried my best to like hole the last few putts and just knowing because in a regular tournament whether you finish second or fourth it really doesn't matter, no one cares. "But like at this event you need to be in the Top-3. I didn't leave anything out there; I think I gave it my hundred per cent, but, yeah, fourth at an Olympics where they give out three medals kind of sucks." Aditi was second overnight before the start of the fourth round, three strokes behind the leader. At the end of the 17th hole, the 23-year-old was in contention



for a medal finish. But she dropped to finish fourth at the Kasumigaseki Country Club. Aditi's fourth place is the best-ever finish by an Indian golfer at the Olympics. "I think today I didn't really drive the ball very good and then it's hard to get birdie putts or hit greens when you're not in the fairway. So, yeah, that was def-

## 1st Test: Bumrah's five keep victory within India's sight

Nottingham | Agencies

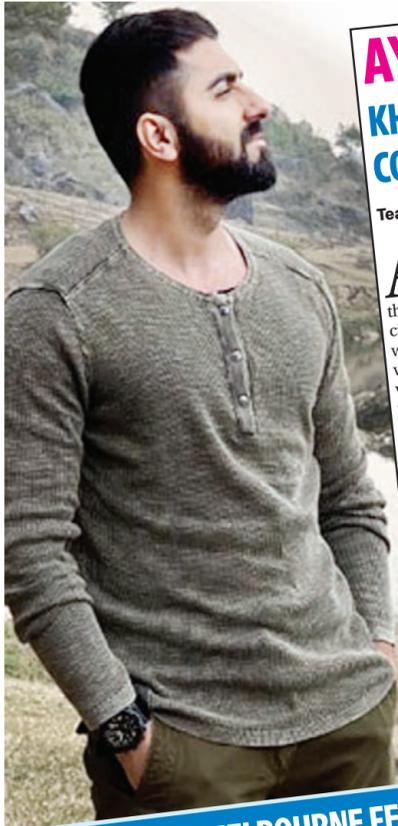
Pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah took five wickets for 64 runs as India moved within 157 runs of victory in the first Test against England here at the Trent Bridge on Saturday. Bumrah's haul helped visitors bowl out England for 303 in the second innings. India, chasing a target of 209 runs, had reached 52 for the loss of opener K.L. Rahul's wicket at the draw of stumps on fourth day. India have never managed to chase 200 runs in England in the fourth innings of a Test. England's innings had revolved around skipper Joe Root, who scored 109 off 172 balls (14X4s) for his 21st Test century. With him at the crease, it looked like England would manage to set a target in excess of 250



but Bumrah dismissed the England captain after tea as the seventh man. A few lusty blows from Ollie Robinson (15) and Sam Curran (32) took England's lead to beyond 200. The 30-year-old Root was the lone ranger for England even as other batsmen squandered starts. In fact, the next best individual score was Curran's. England, who resumed on the overnight 25/0, lost two early wickets, before they could reach even fifty.

Opener Rory Burns was dismissed for 18, caught behind off Mohammed Siraj while No. 3 batsman Zak Crawley was removed by Jasprit Bumrah for six. However, Root played his shots and shared an 89-run partnership with Dominic Sibley (28 off 133 balls). He then added 42 for the fourth wicket with Jonny Bairstow (30) and a further 34 with Daniel Lawrence (25) for the fifth wicket. However, India kept chipping in with wickets to ensure England don't run away with the match.

**Briefscores (Day 4, Stumps)**  
England 183 & 303 all out in 85.5 overs (J Root 109, S Curran 32, J Bairstow 30, J Bumrah 5/64, M Siraj 2/84, S Thakur 2/37) vs India 278 & 52/1 (K.L. Rahul 26, S Broad 1/18).



## AYUSHMANN KHURRANA RECALLS SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH PRAYAGRAJ

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana will soon head to the city of Prayagraj to shoot for his upcoming film 'Doctor G'. While this will be his first time shooting there for a film, the actor has an emotional and nostalgic connection with the city. Ayushmann rode through this Uttar Pradesh city when he was participating in the hit teen reality TV show 'Roadies', which he had won in 2004. Ayushmann says, "I have always wanted to travel the length and breadth of our beautiful country and fortunately my work is taking me to incredibly distinct destinations. I will be shooting a film for the first time in Prayagraj. Coincidentally, when I was participating in 'Roadies', I rode through this city and shot for the series."

Ayushmann says he was charmed by the beauty of Prayagraj during the shoot of 'Roadies season 2'. 'Doctor G' is being directed by Anubhuti Kashyap and is produced by Jungle Pictures.



## RASIKA GETS MELBOURNE FEST NOMINATIONS FOR 'MIRZAPUR 2', 'LOOTCASE'



Actress Rasika Dugal, who bagged two nominations for her work in the film 'Lootcase' and web series 'Mirzapur 2' at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), says she is very excited and happy for the nominations and how she wishes to travel and attend the festival. Rasika said, "I am thrilled to be honoured with two nominations for Best Actress at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne - one for a film and one for a series. It is an honour to have my work noticed by a discerning jury and to be nominated alongside some of the most talented actors of our country - actors who raise the bar with each project that they do." Dugal has been honoured with a nomination under the category 'Best Actress' for her film 'Lootcase'. Vidya Balan, Swastika Mukherjee, Kani Kusruti, and Rima Kallingal are the actors who share the honour with her. She has also been nominated for 'Best Performance (Female) - Series' for 'Mirzapur' Season 2 along with Neena Gupta, Prajakta Koli, Samantha Akkineni, Shahana Goswami and Shweta Tripathi Sharma.

## The Empire trailer: India's answer to GOT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The trailer of Disney Plus Hotstar's upcoming original series The Empire is out. The trailer features actor Kunal Kapoor as Mughal emperor Zahir ud-Din Muhammad Babur and his battle against menacing enemies and huge armies to safeguard his dynasty, and even his life.

From the look of it, the series looks like a visual extravaganza packed with a gripping narrative. Shot across multiple locations in India and Uzbekistan, The Empire showcases elaborate sets and vast landscapes. The 8-episode series is based on Empire of the Moghul: Raiders from the North by Alex Rutherford. The historical drama boasts a strong ensemble cast including actors Shabana Azmi, Drashti Dhami, Dino Morea, Aditya Seal, Sahher Bamba, and Rahul Dev, among others. Created by Nikhil Advani, it marks the directorial debut of Mitakshara Kumar who has also co-written the script of the epic saga.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kajal Aggarwal has finished shooting her upcoming film titled 'Uma'. The film also features Tinnu Anand, Harsh Chhaya, Meghana Malik,

## Kajal Aggarwal wraps up shooting of 'Uma'

Gaurav Sharma, Shriswara and Ayoshi Talukdar. Talking about the film, Kajal said, "I've had a fabulous experience working on 'Uma'. My director and all the artists and technicians were wonderful. There are certain characters that just stay with you and 'Uma' is going to leave me with a massive, beautiful hangover! This is one film which is all heart, I'm very excited about and will always cherish." 'Uma' is directed by Tathagata Singha, produced by Avishek Ghosh, and the film was shot in Kolkata in a start-to-finish schedule with all Covid-19 protocols.

## SHEHNAAZ GILL CALLS SIDHARTH SHUKLA HER 'FAMILY'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Divya Agarwal, who is best known for 'Splitsvilla 10' and was also seen in 'Ragini MMS: Returns', will play a prominent role in the show 'Cartel'. She talks about her onscreen character and the challenges faced in doing it.

Divya is playing a mysterious character who is a make-up artist by profession. She shares in detail about her role and says, "I am playing the character called 'Grissy' in this show. Interesting aspect about this character is that no one knows her face or her real identity. She is a make-up artist by profession but uses it as her

## Divya Agarwal plays multifaceted character in 'Cartel'

deadly

weapon."

Divya further shares on how challenging it was to depict different personalities on screen, "To become a new person with each get up was the biggest challenge. I just didn't have to put on makeup and start rolling, I also had to change myself completely as a person - right from the body language, accent to dialogue delivery."

'Cartel' streams from August 20 on ALTBalaji.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shehnaaz Gill, along with Yashraj Mukhate, featured in the first episode of Social Media Star With Janice Season 3. On the show, she opened up on her bond with Sidharth and why SidNaaz, a name given to the couple by their fans, continue to remain popular on social media.

When host Janice Sequeira asked the reason behind SidNaaz's popularity, Shehnaaz explained that her and Sidharth's bond during their stay in the Bigg Boss house was "pure," which is why fans still feel connected to them.

"The only secret behind why SidNaaz is still a thing is because it is genuine. We shared a pure relationship. I think people connect to that. The way he adored and showered love on me, I really felt nice about it. We both had same sort of feelings for each other. It was very cute. I myself will agree that my relationship with him is different. He is like my family," Shehnaaz replied.

On the work front Shehnaaz is taking over Instagram with her pictures from Dabboo Ratnani photoshoot. She has also wrapped up the shoot of her film Honsla Rakh, where she stars alongside Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Amyra Dastur