

# absolute india

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## INDIA STOPPING WHO TO MAKE GLOBAL COVID DEATHS PUBLIC, CLAIMS NYT

Terming it "flawed," the government has questioned the World Health Organization's (WHO) methodology for estimating the deaths caused by Covid-19 in India, media report says.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Terming it "flawed," the government has questioned the World Health Organization's (WHO) methodology for estimating the deaths caused by Covid-19 in India, media report says.

According to the New York Times, the Indian government said that the WHO's methodology to estimate the deaths caused by Covid-19 in India is flawed.

"India feels that the process was neither collaborative nor adequately representative," the Indian government was quoted as saying in a statement to the United Nations Statistical Commission in February.

It also argued that the process did not "hold scientific rigor and rational scrutiny as expected from an organisation of the stature of the WHO".

According to the report, the global death toll from the pandemic has found that vastly more people died than previously believed -- a total of about 15 million by the end of 2021, more than double the official total of six million reported by countries individually.



But the release of the staggering estimate has been delayed for months because of objections from India, which disputes the calculation of how many of its citizens died and has tried to keep it from becoming public, the report said.

More than a third of the additional nine million deaths are estimated to have occurred in India, where the government has stood by its own count of about 520,000, it added.

The WHO will show the country's toll is at least four million, according to people familiar with the numbers

who were not authorised to disclose them, which would give India the highest tally in the world, they said.

The Times was unable to learn the estimates for other countries.

The WHO calculation combined national data on reported deaths with new information from localities and household surveys, and with statistical models that aim to account for deaths that were missed.

Most of the difference in the new global estimate represents previously uncounted deaths, the bulk of which were directly from Covid; the new

number also includes indirect deaths, like those of people unable to access care for other ailments because of the pandemic.

The delay in releasing the figures is significant because the global data is essential for understanding how the pandemic has played out and what steps could mitigate a similar crisis in the future.

According to the report, India has not submitted its total mortality data to the WHO for the past two years, but the organisation's researchers have used numbers gathered from at least 12 states.

Jon Wakefield, a professor of statistics and biostatistics at the University of Washington who played a key role in building the model used for the estimates, said an initial presentation of the WHO global data was ready in December.

"But then India was unhappy with the estimates. So then we've subsequently done all sorts of sensitivity analyses, the paper's actually a lot better because of this wait, because we've gone overboard in terms of model checks and doing as much as we possibly can given the data that's available," Wakefield said.

## Citing WHO report, Rahul says govt hiding data on Covid deaths

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI ON SUNDAY SAID THAT THE CENTRE WAS HIDING DATA AFTER REPORTS EMERGED THAT INDIA IS STALLING DATA ON COVID DEATHS.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that the Centre was hiding data after reports emerged that India is stalling data on Covid deaths.

Rahul Gandhi in a tweet said, "Neither Modi ji speak truth nor he allows anyone they have been saying falsely that no one died due to oxygen shortage, I have already said that not five lakhs but 40 lakh Indians have lost their lives." He said that the Prime Minister should give Rs 4 lakhs to every family who died due to Covid. Meanwhile, India has shared its concerns with the methodology along with other member states through a series of formal communications, including six letters issued to the World Health Organisation, said the

Union Health Ministry in response to New York Times article titled "India Is Stalling the WHO's Efforts to Make Global Covid Death Toll Public" dated April 16, 2022.

"India has been in regular and in-depth technical exchange with WHO on the issue. The analysis, while using mortality figures directly obtained from Tier-1 set of countries, uses a mathematical modelling process for Tier II countries (which includes India). India's basic objection has not been with the result (whatever they might have been) but rather the methodology adopted for the same," said the health ministry in a statement. The ministry has raised the question on how the statistical model projects estimates for a country of geo-

graphical size and population of India and also fits in with other countries which have smaller population. Such one size fits all approaches and models which are true for smaller countries like Tunisia may not be applicable to India with a population of 1.3 billion. The WHO is yet to share the confidence interval for the present statistical model across various countries, said the ministry. "The model gives two highly different sets of excess mortality estimates when using the data from Tier I countries and when using unverified data from 18 Indian states. Such a wide variation in estimates raises concerns about the validity and accuracy of such a modelling exercise", the ministry said.

## China has set up 3 mobile towers near Hot Springs, claims local councillor

China has constructed three mobile towers at Hot Springs in eastern Ladakh very close to the LAC, local councillor Konchok Stanzin said on Sunday.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

China has constructed three mobile towers at Hot Springs in eastern Ladakh very close to the LAC, local councillor Konchok Stanzin said on Sunday. "After completing the bridge over Pangong lake, China has installed 3 mobile towers near China's hot spring very close to the Indian territory. Isn't it a concern? We don't even have 4G facilities in human habitation villages. 11 vil-

lages in my constituency have no 4G facilities," Stanzin, who is the councillor from Chushul, said in a tweet. In January, India had strongly objected China's illegal construction of a bridge on part of the Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh and said that it is monitoring the situation. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had stated: "Government has been monitoring this activity closely. This bridge is being

constructed in areas that have been under illegal occupation by China for around 60 years now. As you are well aware, India has never accepted such illegal occupation."

The bridge to connect north and south banks of the Pangong Lake will allow the Chinese People's Liberation Army quick access to both sides. India and China have been engaged in the border face-off for around two years now.

## Kerala intelligence agencies warn of more confrontations between RSS, PFI

The back to back killings of a Popular Front of India worker and a former RSS activist has created a tense situation in Kerala as this could lead to communal flare up. The state intelligence, according to sources, has warned the government of serious issues if stringent action is not taken against the perpetrators of the crimes.



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | Agencies

The back to back killings of a Popular Front of India worker and a former RSS activist has created a tense situation in Kerala as this could lead to communal flare up. The state intelligence, according to sources, has warned the government of serious issues if stringent action is not taken against the perpetrators of the crimes.

Popular Front of India worker, Subair (44) was killed after being knocked down by a car while he was returning home with his father, Aboobacker after attending prayers at a local mosque on Friday. Barely 24 hours within the murder of Subair, RSS local leader and a former 'Pracharak', Sreenivasan (45) was killed to death by suspected PFI/SDPIR gang.

Police said that the killing of Subair was suspected to be in retaliation

to the murder of RSS worker Sanjith on November 15, 2021. The Central intelligence agencies have also warned the state government that if the issue was not dealt with strongly, things could get out of control. Recently an SDPI activist MK Ashraf from Muvattupuzha in Kerala was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for embezzlement of wealth and for disproportionate sources of income. It is alleged that Ashraf is one of the main sources of funding of the SDPI and PFI. The arrest of Journalist Siddique Kappan in Uttar Pradesh while he was travelling to Hatheras in 2020 was also a blow to the SDPI after the Uttar Pradesh Police alleged that the Keralite, who was living in New Delhi

for several years, was part of the PFI group. Police and central agencies had opposed Kappan's bail stating that he was involved in several anti-national activities and this has also a bearing on SDPI in Kerala.

With the killing of the RSS leader, there are possibilities of more action from the central home ministry and, hence the state government will have to act strongly against the perpetrators of the crime.

Sources told IANS that around 50 RSS and PFI activists were under detention in Palakkad and some district level leaders of both the organisations would be interrogated and taken into custody if necessary.

The killings witnessed in the last two days, have taken the sheen out of the festivities in the state. Vishu Kerala new year was celebrated on Friday while Easter is on Sunday and for the Muslim community this is the holy Ramzan month. A strong contingent of Police headed by Additional Director General of Police, Vijay Sakhare is camping in the area to prevent any further untoward incidents.

## BJP constantly overshadowing Cong's contributions to freedom struggle

NEW DELHI | Agencies

Freedom fighters and great leaders have a significant place in Indian politics and this is the reason why the political parties since Independence try to woo the voters by claiming stake to their legacy. However, in this race, the BJP seems to have left the Congress and the other parties far behind.

From Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the country's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister to the architect of the Constitution and the inspiration of Dalits, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and revolutionary Bhagat Singh, the BJP has made its claim stronger through its works, policies, and by building monuments and museums.

The recent inauguration of the Prime Ministers' Museum is being described as the strongest and most effective step in this regard so far, which has brought all the political parties, on the back foot, especially the Congress, which has been a part of the government at one time or another.

Prime Ministers' Museum displays all the Prime Ministers that the country has seen since Independence - from



Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi.

Out of the 14 former Prime Ministers whose contributions in nation building are prominently displayed in this museum, seven have been from the Congress which comprises three from the Nehru-Gandhi family -- Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi -- and four who took over the reins of the country with the support of the Congress.

Family members of late Lal Bahadur Shastri, Chandrashekhar, PV. Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H.D. Deve Gowda, besides participated in the inauguration of this museum by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 14.

However, Congress's President Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, had not attended the programme.

Talking to IANS, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the museum has been built by the Modi government to take the contribution of all the former Prime Ministers to the people without any discrimination. He emphasised that the party which has given maximum number of Prime Ministers to the country and the family from which maximum number of people have become the Prime Minister of the country, such family (Gandhi family) should have attended the programme.

Sunil Shastri, son of Lal Bahadur Shastri, told IANS said that a huge heritage of the country has been preserved in this museum. Expressing gratitude to the Modi government for this, he said that through this people will not only know about the former Prime Ministers of the country, but also people will get to know under what circumstances the country has been progressing year after year.

Narasimha Rao's grandson N.V. Subhash also expressed his gratitude towards the Modi government, saying that his grandfather devoted his entire life to the Congress, and considered Congress "his mother". In 1991, he handled both the party and the government during the crisis. But the Congress, especially the Gandhi family, never gave him the respect he deserved, he told IANS, adding that he and his family will always be sad and sorry for this.

The family members of all the 14 former Prime Ministers of the country, including the Gandhi family, were invited to attend the inauguration programme. However, the absence of the Gandhi family in the event gave another issue to the BJP that has been alleging for the last several decades that the Congress has not given any credit to any former Prime Minister apart from those who were from the Nehru-Gandhi family.

The BJP has accused the Congress of discriminating against other Prime Ministers and now the relatives of many former leaders are also openly making such allegations, it has made the BJP's task to spread this easier.

## INDIA'S NEW COVID VAX CANDIDATE CAN WITHSTAND 100 DEGREES C

A new heat-tolerant Covid-19 vaccine being developed by the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and biotech start-up Mynvax has shown strong antibody response against Covid variants including Delta and Omicron, according to a study on mice.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A new heat-tolerant Covid-19 vaccine being developed by the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and biotech start-up Mynvax has shown strong antibody response against Covid variants including Delta and Omicron, according to a study on mice. The heat-tolerant Covid-19 vaccine candidate can be stored at 37 degrees Celsius for four weeks and at 100 degrees Celsius for up to 90 minutes. The vaccine candidate uses a part of the viral spike protein called the receptor-binding domain that allows the virus to connect with the host cell to infect it. The latest study published recently in the peer-reviewed journal Viruses, assessed vaccinated mice sera for efficacy against key coronavirus variants, including Delta and Omicron. The study found that mice immu-



nised with different formulations of the vaccine elicit high titres of antibodies that neutralise SARS-CoV-2 variants VIC31 (reference strain), Delta and Omicron variants of concern. As per the study, there was an average 14.4-fold reduction in neutralisation against the Omicron variant for one formulation of the Mynvax vaccine and a 16.5-fold reduction for another formulation, comparing to VIC31.



## SPECIAL CELL OR CRIME BRANCH TO TAKE OVER JAHANGIRPURI CASE

▶ THE SPECIAL CELL OR THE CRIME BRANCH OF DELHI POLICE IS LIKELY TO TAKE OVER THE JAHANGIRPURI VIOLENCE CASE IN WHICH EIGHT POLICE PERSONNEL AND A CIVILIAN WERE INJURED, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Special Cell or the Crime Branch of Delhi Police is likely to take over the Jahangirpuri violence case in which eight police personnel and a civilian were injured, according to a source.

Trouble started when a group of armed people

attacked a religious procession taken out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti on Saturday.

Currently, the local police assisted by a team of Special Cell and Crime Branch, is investigating the case, which is likely to be transferred to Special Cell.

The police is also preparing a detailed report in the matter which will be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Meanwhile, police claimed to have recovered the pistol used in the violence from Aslam's possession.

"Aslam was held along with 14 others. He was one who opened fire outside the religious place. We have recovered the weapon and are grilling Aslam to know more about his aides. He was provoked by Ansar, the other arrested accused who is prime suspect," said the source. Ten police teams have been formed to look into the matter.

Senior police officials are on the spot. Extra police forces have been deployed in the area to avoid untoward incidents.

Following the incident, a case was lodged under sections 147, 148, 149, 186, 353, 332, 427, 436, 307, 120B IPC read with 27 Arms Act.

"A total of nine persons (8 police personnel and 1 civilian) were injured. All were removed to BJRM hospital. One Sub inspector sustained bullet injury. His condition is stable," said a police official.

Earlier, Delhi Police registered an FIR. "We have lodged an FIR on the incident and an investigation has been initiated," Special Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, New Delhi, Dependra Pathak told IANS.

He said the situation was now peaceful and under control. The area where the clashes took place continues to be under heavy police security cover.

## 22 held in Jahangirpuri communal violence case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police has arrested a total of 20 people and apprehended 2 juveniles in case of a communal violence that erupted during a Shobha Yatra procession on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in the national capital, officials said on Sunday.

The accused are residents of Jahangirpuri. Apart from them, two juveniles were also apprehended. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said three firearms and five swords have also been recovered from the possession of the arrested persons.

The clashes broke out between the two groups of people when the Shobha Yatra procession was passing through the road just next to Kusal Cinema Hall, on the opposite side of which is a mosque.

As per several videos of the procession accessed by IANS, people can be seen wielding swords and chanting religious slogans just before the clashes broke out.

According to the FIR lodged at the Jahangirpuri police station, the Shobha Yatra procession was pass-



ing off peacefully, but at around 6 p.m., when they reached outside a mosque, the accused Anshar came there with his 4-5 associates and started arguing with the participants of Shobha Yatra.

The argument soon turned violent and both the sides started pelting stones at each other.

"I, Inspector Rajiv Ranjan Singh, tried to pacify the situation and separated the two groups, however, within some time, they again started pelting stones after which I informed the Police Control Room about the development," read the FIR.

Soon after this, more police force

reached the spot along with senior officials, however, by that time the mob had turned completely violent. The mob pelted stones on the police force and also fired shots at them.

At least 8 policemen were injured. To contain the situation and disperse the crowd, the police fired 40-50 tear gas shells. Amid the pandemonium, one scooter was torched and 5-6 cars were vandalised.

The Police normalised the situation with the help of paramilitary forces and at around 8 p.m. in the evening the situation was under control, yet tense. Later, the area became the epicentre of the heavy

police deployment, with the road, where the violent clashes took place, extensively barricaded from all sides.

On Sunday, the situation was under control and an adequate number of police force was deployed there to avert any untoward incident.

The police said that area domination, foot patrolling and deep deployment has been ensured to assure people and to maintain law and order in the area.

Meanwhile, the personnel of Delhi Police carried out preventive patrolling and area domination throughout the night in the backdrop of violent clashes.

Delhi Police is also in talks with the members of the Aman committee. During the meeting, all the members were asked to appeal to the public in their areas to maintain peace, harmony and tranquility.

"They were also requested to counter any rumour or misinformation, be vigilant towards the activities of any mischievous and anti-social elements, to keep in touch with police and to ensure immediate reporting of anything suspicious that comes into their notice," a senior official said.



Neeraj Shekhar MP Rajya Sabha with family, Daya Shankar Singh and retired General VK Singh, Deputy chairman Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Anand Shukla former UP minister offered floral tributes to Late Prime Minister Chandrashekhar on his 95th birth anniversary at Jannayak sthal Vijay Ghat

### 'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA' VIBRANT FORUM FOR ISSUES ON EXAMS, LIFE: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said insights from all Pariksha Pe Charcha's interactions can be found in an innovatively curated section of NaMo App.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said: "I enjoy interacting with our dynamic #ExamWarriors. Pariksha Pe Charcha is a vibrant forum for many issues relating to exams and life. Insights from all of these interactions can be found in this innovatively curated section on the NaMo App." In the 5th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha on April 1, the Prime Minister Modi, interacted with students, teachers and parents at Talkatora Stadium here.

## Jahangirpuri clashes conspirator arrested

Delhi Police on Sunday arrested a 35-year-old man who was involved in conspiring the communal clashes in the national capital's Jahangirpuri area, an official said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Sunday arrested a 35-year-old man who was

involved in conspiring the communal clashes in the national capital's Jahangirpuri area, an official said.

The accused was identified as Ansar, a resident of Jahangirpuri. DCP (northwest) Usha Rangnani said that the accused Ansar was arrested after his name came up during the probe of the incident.

As many as eight police personnel and a civilian sustained injuries in violence that erupted during Shobha Yatra procession on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

The accused was also found to be previously involved in two cases of assault and was also arrested repeatedly under preventive sections and booked 5 times under Gambling Act and Arms Act.

Further investigation is in progress, the senior official added. With this latest arrest, the police have so far arrested 15 accused persons under sections 147, 148, 149, 186, 353, 332, 427, 436, 307 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and section 27 of the Arms Act.

## Videos of people brandishing swords in Shobha Yatra goes viral

Several videos of the Shobha Yatra procession in northwest Delhi which later culminated into violent clashes between two groups have gone viral on social media.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Several videos of the Shobha Yatra procession in northwest Delhi which later culminated into violent clashes between two groups have gone viral on social media.

In some of the videos, peo-



ple, dipped in the religious fervour, can be seen brandishing swords and guns while the procession was moving forward. It was still unclear exactly where the video was shot.

However, according to some reports, the video was of the same place which later turned into a battlefield and

resulted in severe communal clashes. Pertinent to mention here that, IANS could not independently check the veracity of the said videos.

So far, the Delhi Police has arrested a total of 20 people and apprehended 2 juveniles.

Of the 20 arrestees -- 15 belong to the minority community.

## Full Steam Ahead: BJP revs up its election juggernaut for upcoming state polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While the opposition parties are still contemplating the reasons for their defeat, the BJP has started preparations for the assembly polls in all the major states being held till the end of next year. Senior BJP leaders including the Prime Minister have already started visiting these poll bound states.

Some of the big states where Assembly polls will be held by December 2023 are Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh at the end of 2022, Karnataka in the summer of 2023 and Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh at the end of 2023.

Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are considered as the semi-final for the general elections. The BJP has already launched a campaign for this year's

assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on his second visit to Gujarat from Sunday after the recent victory of the BJP in four out of five states.

Last month while interacting with BJP MPs from Gujarat, Prime Minister Modi told them to use social media to explain to the people about government work. A senior party functionary said that the senior ministers and leaders will frequently travel to the poll bound states to highlight the government programmes and take stock of the preparations. "Visit of senior leaders and ministers to poll bound states will be a regular feature as parliament is also not in session," he said. "We are asked to make a short video and share it with each voter through WhatsApp group. The video will be short and will tell about

the work of the union and state governments. MPs will also be asked to highlight their own work for their parliamentary constituency," a BJP MP said. BJP chief J P Nadda has launched a party campaign with a roadshow in Shimla and had several meetings in different parts of Himachal Pradesh to take stock of the party preparations. From Sunday Nadda will be on a two-day visit to Karnataka. While visiting places of historical importance, Nadda will attend the valedictory session of the state BJP executive meeting.

Nadda also visited Rajasthan to review the preparations for next year's assembly polls.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had visited the southern state Karnataka to take stock of preparations and asked the cadre to hit the ground running to achieve the 'mis-

sion 150+' next year. "Elections will be held next year. Amit (Shah) bhaji ji has given certain directions to the state unit on how we should work on the ground. State unit executes the direction on the ground. We will contest the Karnataka election on Prime Minister Modi's name and work and the work of the BJP government in the state. We will again come to power for sure," CT Ravi, BJP national general secretary and member Karnataka assembly, had told IANS.

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has started several programmes strengthening organisations on the ground. Sources said that the formation of page committees and booth committees is on at full swing and will be completed in the coming months.

"The BJP workers are always on ground among people even during the peak of the Covid pandemic.

## AFTER COMMUNAL TENSION, PROHIBITORY ORDERS IN K'TAKA'S HUBBALLI CITY

Hubballi: Prohibitory orders were clamped in Hubballi city following incidents of violence over an objectionable post on social media in the wee hours of Sunday.

The city has been turned into a virtual fortress to avoid any untoward incident. The violence started after an objectionable photo appeared on social media in the midnight.

Protesting against the post, hundreds of people from minority community gathered in front of Old Hubballi police station seeking an action. The miscreants started stone pelting. The situation turned serious as two groups indulged in stone pelting.

Four police vehicles were damaged in the incident and 12 persons, including policemen, were injured in the clash. Further CCTV footage showing the incident of violence had gone viral, worsening the situation. The violent crowd had also torched the vehicles. The police had even fired teargas to control the violent mob. A youth, who had put up the objectionable post, was also arrested.

Hubballi-Dharwar Police Commissioner Labhu Ram stated that 12 people, including policemen, have been injured in the incident. He had appealed to the people not to come out of their houses.

Police have taken CCTV footage into their custody and are investigating the matter.

## Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind moves SC against bull-dozing of Muslims' properties

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the use of bulldozers for razing houses and other buildings in various BJP-ruled states, terming it a ploy to target minorities, especially Muslims, under the guise of crime prevention.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Maulana President Arshad Madani said: "The petition asks the court to order the states not to demolish anyone's home or shop without the court's permission. It is noteworthy that the politics of bulldozers is already going on in Uttar Pradesh, but now this nefarious act has started in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh as well."

It noted that during a procession in Khargone city of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of Ram Navami, "riots were started by chanting highly provocative slogans and then by order of the state government, houses and shops of Muslims were demolished. On the other hand, the Madhya Pradesh government is defending its cruel act."

The petition names as respondents the Central government as well as the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, where Muslims have been targeted in recent days.

The petition has been prepared by advocate Sarim Naved after consultation with senior advocate Kapil Sibal while advocate on record Kabir Dixit has filed it online. A request for an early hearing on the petition may be made to the Chief Justice of India in the next few days.

Expressing his deep concern over the hatred and sectarianism that has been going on in the country for some time now, Maulana Madani said that "an atmosphere of religious extremism and hatred is prevailing across the country. Conspiracies are being hatched to intimidate minorities, especially Muslims".



He said that provocations were taking place in Muslim localities and in front of mosques. "In the presence of the police, sticks and staffs are being waved and slogans are being chanted, and all are silent spectators. It seems as if there is no law left in the country, and no government can arrest them," he said, adding that Muslims were being harassed by the sectarian forces, and the Central government was silent as if nothing had happened.

"The criminal manner in which the police and the administration have acted in support of the bullies in Khargone shows that enforcing the law is no longer their goal. If the police and the administration had shown even a little loyalty to the constitution, the Muslims in Karauli, Rajasthan would not have been targeted and their houses and businesses in Khargone would not have been destroyed."

Maulana Arshad Madani said that they "have turned to the Supreme Court to bring justice to the oppressed people of the country, and to save the Constitution and democracy of the country, and to uphold the rule of law. We hope that justice will be done in this case as well as in other cases. Earlier, the Supreme Court had struck down the fine imposed by the UP government on peaceful protesters against the CAA and NRC, and reprimanded the government for it"

He said that when the government fails to fulfill its constitutional duty, and remains silent to the voices of the oppressed, then courts are the only ray of hope for justice.

"We have received justice from the judiciary in the past so we are confident that we will get justice in this important case as other cases from the Supreme Court, and the court will make strong decision to protect secularism. Our legal struggle will continue till positive result."



## FOOD OF THE POOR SHOULD REACH THE HOME OF THE POOR: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the schemes of the government should be systematically implemented in the district and their benefits should be ensured to the common people. He said that the poor should get their rights, no negligence should be tolerated in this. Strict action should be taken against those who snatch away the rights of the poor.

Chouhan gave these instructions in a meeting of officers at Rawatpura in Lahar tehsil of Bhind district on Sunday. During the review of the schemes, Chief Minister Chouhan said that the ration distribution system should be improved, it should be ensured that the food of the poor reaches their homes. Strict action should be taken against those who meddle with the ration distribution. He said that by conducting a survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the eligible people should get the benefits of the scheme. No eligible person should be deprived of the benefits of the scheme. The list of eligible beneficiaries of the scheme should also be pasted in the Panchayats and Municipalities. Strict disciplinary action must be taken against the concerned in complaints related to negligence in the scheme or bribery. Chouhan said that ponds should be constructed according to the target given under Amrit Talab Yojana till June 15 in the district, to enable rain water harvesting in these ponds. The Chief



Minister inquired about Ladli Laxmi in the district and directed to celebrate Ladli Laxmi Utsav to be held from May 2 to 11 with enthusiasm. Chief Minister said that the Kanya Vivah Yojana is starting again in a new form. Mass kanya vivah programmes should be organized in all the blocks of the district.

Chouhan said that the district has to be made the first malnutrition-free district of the state by eradicating malnutrition from its roots. He instructed the collector to work fast in this regard through an effective plan. He said that those who have adopted Anganwadi, should go to the Anganwadi regularly and cooperate in improving the arrangements.

Chouhan talked about celebrating the pride day of villages and cities with enthusiasm. He said that everyone should participate in the programs of Pride Day, so that the local people

remember the pride of their village and city. He said that an atmosphere of goodwill and harmony should be created by organizing various programmes on this occasion. Chief Minister sought information about Employment Day in the district and directed that special attention should be paid to provide employment to the youth of the district. Chouhan instructed for branding of mustard oil in the district under "Ek Zila-Ek Utpad" scheme. Small oil mills should be encouraged so that they do packaging as well. Meeting of the concerned persons and departments should be organized to discuss how the value addition of mustard should be done. Chouhan said that no type of mafia should be allowed to flourish in the district, mafia must be uprooted from its roots. Proceedings against the mafia must continue, the district has to be made mafia-free.

## Cops didn't allow us to enter: Medha Patkar, Hashmi on Khargone visit

▶ ACTIVIST MEDHA PATKAR AND LAWYER EHTESHAM HASHMI SAID THERE SHOULD BE AN INDEPENDENT PROBE INTO THE KHARGONE VIOLENCE.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Social activist Medha Patkar and Supreme Court lawyer Ehtesham Hashmi on Saturday said they attempted to reach out to families affected by riots in Sendhwa town of Barwani district and Khargone on Saturday but were not allowed, lawyer Hashmi said. Hashmi said they tried to enter the Khargone area which saw communal tension after the administration relaxed the curfew but were stopped. "We were going on foot but police personnel present stopped us from entering. We requested them to at least allow us to see the affected areas but they

refused to do so," he added. Medha Patkar also said working of state government and local administration has come under question. "Nobody knows what is happening in Khargone with people who have been arrested and attacked during the riots and after riots through demolition drive," she added. Hashmi, who is also a member of the Congress's legal cell, said there should be an independent probe into the communal violence in Madhya Pradesh. "An independent agency should probe the matter because police are

stopping people from entering the town to hide irregularities. If the state government doesn't order a separate inquiry in the matter, we will move the high court for justice," said Hashmi. Bhopal Shehar Qazi Sayyed Mushtaq Ali Nadvi also said they were taking legal opinion "to move to the court against this illegal demolition drive." "We are not against the government but people should be given a fair chance to prove their innocence," he said. Home minister Narottam Mishra defended the demolition of illegal structures but

insisted that the demolition drive had nothing to do with the communal violence. "Demolition drive and action against rioters are two different things. Demolition drive is being held against the illegal encroachment as per the law. People are free to move to court."

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that the state government will rebuild houses that were damaged by rioters. "Ten houses have been fully damaged by the rioters who also set the houses on fire. The government will rebuild all the houses. The number of partially damaged houses is 70. They will also be repaired with the help of the government. Arrangements are being made for free treatment of those who are injured. As many as 16 people lost their source of income after their shops were burned down. The government will give full help to them to restart their business," said Chouhan said. For now, Chouhan said the government will fund the compensation to be paid but the money will later be recovered from the rioters.

## Muslim clerics to approach HC against MP govt's bulldozer drive

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A group of Muslim clerics in Bhopal on Saturday decided to approach the Madhya Pradesh High Court against the state government's bulldozer drive following the recent communal violence in Khargone and Barwani districts.

The clerics, led by Shahar Qazi Syed Mushtaq Ali Nadwi, alleged that the state government made several

Muslim families homeless and forced them to survive under the open sky in this scorching heat.

The clerics also accused the BJP-led state government of biasness and targeting the community without any prior investigation into the cases of violence. They claimed that houses of many families were demolished although none of the family members was involved in the violence.

How can the government

demolish one's house when it was built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), they asked, referring to a report that the district administration bulldozed one house built under PMAY in Khargone. "We have decided to oppose the government's bulldozer drive in the high court. We have discussed the issue among ourselves and we are certainly going to move the court against this unilateral drive," said Nadwi.

## CM PLANTED AMLA SAPLING WITH WIFE AT RAWATPURA DHAM

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with wife Sadhna Singh planted Amla sapling in Rawatpura Dham situated at tehsil Lahar of Bhind. During this, Ravi Shankar Maharaj and Cooperative Minister Arvind Singh Bhadauria were also present with him. Amla is very rich in Vitamin-C, which works to boost immunity. C Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the newly constructed Gaushala at Rawatpura Dham. He also fed fodder to the cows in the Gaushala. During this, public representatives including Ravi Shankar Maharaj were present.



## MP govt set to host 'Auto Show' in Indore from April 28

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a bid to encourage the automotive industry leaders, the Madhya Pradesh government has geared up for first-ever 'Auto Show 2022' in the state to be organised in Indore.

The three-day event will commence on April 28 at Super Corridor Square near Indore Airport and National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX), Indore, the state

government said in a statement. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the show, following which he will engage with industry leaders in a session focused on the automobile industry driving India's economic growth. "Madhya Pradesh is all set to play a pivotal role in the economic development of 21st century India. Progressive policies, a business-friendly environment, and a proac-

tive government is moving the state on a fast growth trajectory. I urge the investor community to be a part of this fascinating story," Chouhan said in a statement issued by his office. The first-ever edition of the 'Madhya Pradesh Auto Show' will exhibit the latest technologies, product launches, convergence of "world-class" technologies, and auto engineering brilliance under one roof.




## स्वस्थ मध्यप्रदेश, खुशहाल मध्यप्रदेश

### सभी विकासखण्डों में

# स्वास्थ्य मेला

### 18 से 30 अप्रैल, 2022



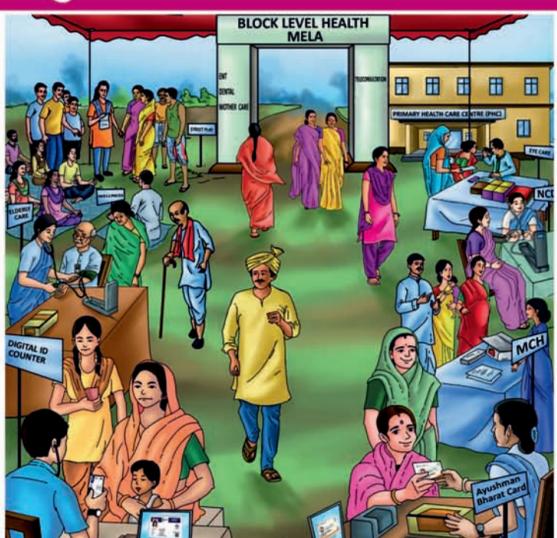
**नरेन्द्र मोदी**  
प्रधानमंत्री



**शिवराज सिंह चौहान**  
मुख्यमंत्री

निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण एवं उपचार

- स्वस्थ आचरण एवं बीमारियों की रोकथाम के प्रति जागरूकता।
- आयुष्मान भारत डिजिटल मिशन के तहत निःशुल्क विशिष्ट स्वास्थ्य आईडी एवं समस्त पात्र हितग्राहियों का आयुष्मान कार्ड बनाना।
- सभी बीमारियों का चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञों से निःशुल्क उपचार।



- परिवार नियोजन परामर्श, ओरल कैंसर टी.बी. और कुष्ठ रोग की पहचान एवं रक्तदान की सुविधा उपलब्ध।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए विजिट करें [nhmmp.gov.in/healthblockmela.aspx](http://nhmmp.gov.in/healthblockmela.aspx)  
या +91 8178839624, 9993600839 पर संपर्क करें।

### लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग

मध्यप्रदेश शासन द्वारा जनहित में जारी

“ प्रदेश के नागरिकों का स्वस्थ जीवन हमारी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। प्रदेश में विकासखण्ड स्तर पर आयोजित निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य मेलों का लाभ उठाकर स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण करायें और स्वस्थ रहें। ”

**डॉ. प्रभुराम चौधरी**  
मंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
मध्यप्रदेश शासन

मध्यप्रदेश जनसम्पर्क द्वारा जारी

D11020/22

आवृत्ति - मध्यप्रदेश भाषण/2022



EDITOR'S SPECS

Alarm bells: On the need to tame inflation

Week after the RBI announced that it would be prioritising inflation over growth, official data show retail inflation disquietingly accelerated to a 17-month high of 6.95% in March. The pace of acceleration in price gains appears to have caught most economists too off guard. The RBI's latest Survey of Professional Forecasters, released last week, shows the median Q4 inflation expectation of the 33 panellists polled made an assumption for March CPI inflation that was 73 basis points lower at 6.22%. The upsurge was largely driven by food prices, which at the food and beverages group level accounts for 46% of the weight of the Consumer Price Index. While inflation in food and beverages accelerated by 154 basis points from the previous month's pace to an annualised rate of 7.47%, the month-on-month inflation too was a significant 1.3%. Prices of oils and fats rose 18.8% year-on-year and by as much as 5.3% sequentially. Even granting that the war in Ukraine has severely disrupted the import of sunflower oil and forced edible oil importers to seek alternative supplies at a premium, this is one food item that has been witnessing protracted price pressures. It reflects poorly on the Government's efforts to proactively address the supply related issues. Meat and fish prices too saw a sharp spike, at 9.63% annualised and a 5% sequential acceleration. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das pointedly flagged the war's impact on feed costs and warned that global supply shortages could continue to have a "spillover impact on poultry, milk and dairy" prices.

India seizes control of SL's cash crisis & kicks China out of 3 northern island energy projects

Following the announcement by the Sri Lankan government that it has defaulted on its USD51 billion foreign debt, India says it is willing to commit another USD 2 billion loan to the island nation, piquing China's interest in the country and jeopardizing its ambitious BRI roadmap. India also took over three solar hybrid power projects in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, which would be installed on three islands. It was initially awarded to China, but Sri Lanka cancelled the deal and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India when India said their security would be under threat if those projects were handled by China. It was tit-for-tat when China allegedly lobbied against India developing the East Container Terminal at the port of Colombo, which Sri Lanka eventually cancelled. Currently, the Sri Lankan government has sent a team of financial experts to the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC., including former Justice Minister turned Finance Minister Ali Sabry, to seek between USD 3bn to USD 4bn bailout, but India has come out to bail out Sri Lanka further sidetracking China, which has remained silent on the Rajapaksa's plea to restructure debt payments to them. China has also announced plans to provide a USD 1 billion loan in addition to the USSD 1.5 billion loan it has provided since the Covid-19 situation paralysed the country's economy but the long wait continues. Unavoidable shockwaves have suffocated China's BRI initiatives in Pakistan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Nepal's financial crisis is on the verge of meltdown. The US has accused China of using "debt diplomacy" to increase

the reliance of developing countries on Beijing in recent years. These countries are at a crossroads in their economic development. Both Sri Lanka and Pakistan, which are caught up in China's Belt and Road Initiative, are in dire financial straits as inflation rises. As of now, China has made no revenue-generating investments in these two countries, indicating that Chinese President Xi Jinping is adamant about providing more funds to these two failing states. China has yet to follow through on a promise to re-issue USD 4bn in loans that Pakistan repaid in late March, and it has yet to respond to Sri Lanka's request for USD 1bn in credit support as well as to restructure the past debt repayments plea Sri Lanka tabled last year. According to the Maritime Executive website, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) has put a halt to rapid overseas expansion in its 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for 2021 to 2025. China plans to invest \$550 billion (including spending in non-BRI countries) during the period, a 25 per cent decrease from the \$740 billion spent from 2016 to 2020. Furthermore, Chinese contracting volume is expected to fall from \$800 billion in the previous fiscal year to \$700 billion in this fiscal year. It goes on to say that this could be BRI's moment of reckoning. Despite some success after eight years of implementation, BRI has reached a decision point. Some participating countries are reconsidering some high-profile BRI projects, fearing that the risks may outweigh the benefits. The website states further, a recent AidData report capturing 13,427 Chinese projects across 165 countries over an 18-year period discovered that 35 per cent of the BRI infrastructure project portfolio has encountered major implemen-

tion problems. Corruption scandals, labour violations, environmental hazards, and public protests are among the leading causes. Surprisingly, the researchers discovered that infrastructure projects outside of BRI had fewer implementation issues. Before the Easter Sunday disaster and the Pandemic, Sri Lanka's financial situation had been mismanaged for over a decade. But last year's fertilizer shortages exacerbated by bad policy necessitated more borrowing. Bangladesh also paid a currency swap of USD 2 million. There were no migrant workers bringing in money and no locally produced goods. Sri Lanka, which has a lot of paddy fields, had to import rice from Myanmar, India, and China. These are the main reasons why Sri Lankans took to the streets to demonstrate against the Rajapaksa administration. In addition to that, the East Container Terminal (ECT) that was to be funded and developed by India, Japan and Sri Lanka jointly was called off. The venture was estimated to be around USD 500 million signed in May 2019 before Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected as the President of Sri Lanka. Following a major protest alleged to be backed by China, the project was shelved. Many experts say if that project had taken shape in 2020, the ECT would have reaped benefits for Sri Lanka. Also, long before the Chinese arrived, the US-Canada signed a contract for an LNG project at the Hambantota Port, but the former Maithri-Ranil government cancelled it and handed the port over to China on a 99-year lease. Today, the Rajapaksa government wants India to invest in the potential Economic zone of Colombo, which in fact irked the Indians for lending a piece of that land for China on 99 year lease. They are unsure of the Port City

Commission and which way it would serve the Chinese and the other investors in parallel. However, India has taken the lead in assisting Sri Lanka, and in addition to the new USD 2 billion loan plan, India has also sent a consignment of 11,000 MT rice, which arrived two days ago under the previous USD 1 billion concessional Indian Credit Facility, and was ceremonially handed over to the Sri Lankan government by officials from the Indian High Commission. In addition to the consignment, the Credit Facility has received 5000 MT of rice in the last few days. With this, the Indian State Trading Corporation has delivered 16,000 MT of rice out of a total of 40,000 MT that will be imported from India. On March 17, 2022, the Government of Sri Lanka and the State Bank of India signed a USD 1bn credit facility agreement. Rice delivery was enacted in less than a month after the agreement was signed. The supply is part of India's multi-pronged support for Sri Lanka over the last few months, which includes timely fuel deliveries, other forms of economic and forex assistance, and so on, according to the Indian High Commission. Meanwhile, the India Sri Lanka Foundation's (ISLF) 'Sindhu' Project, which aims to meet the sanitary needs of underprivileged women, has received funding of Rs 500,000 for the production of low-cost sanitary napkins using Indian machines. According to India, the ISLF has funded over 300 projects totaling SLR.150 mn, with 20 projects currently in the works in the areas of research, art and culture, social work, science and technology, and so on. Apart from that, the USD 500mn worth of fuel that has arrived in Sri

Lanka in the last 50 days totals nearly 200,000 MT, including a consignment of 40,000 MT by Indian Oil Corporation in February 2022, which was delivered outside the line of credit facility. Aside from the USD 2.5bn loan agreed by Dr. S.Jaishankar, India's foreign minister, pledged India's continued support for Sri Lanka's economic recovery. India's partnership with Sri Lanka is based on the 'Neighbourhood First' approach and the S.A.G.A.R (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine, according to India. A wide range of bilateral agreements were also signed. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Center; Hybrid Power Projects in Three Islands Off Jaffna; Cooperation in the Development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka; MOU for the establishment of Modern Computer Labs and Smart Boards with Customized Curriculum Software in 200 Galle District Schools; and MOU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute. The Indian government reclaiming its position in Sri Lanka has been widely interpreted as an attempt to prevent China from making further inroads. India, which is at odds with China on its border, has become part of China's strategy to be isolated, encircling it with Chinese projects but the chances are slimming. China is being countered by India, the United States, and Japan, and if the China favoured Rajapaksa are ousted in the wake of the national crisis and people's protests that have lasted more than six days, China's grip on Sri Lanka could be further weakened.

international

ISRAELI POLICE STORM AL-AQSA MOSQUE COMPOUND AMID TENSIONS

Israeli police stormed the flashpoint al-Aqsa mosque compound in East Jerusalem on Sunday, with at least 10 people injured during the ensuing clashes.



Jerusalem | Agencies  
Israeli police stormed the flashpoint al-Aqsa mosque compound in East Jerusalem on Sunday, with at least 10 people injured during the ensuing clashes. Early on Sunday, Israeli police forces dispersed Palestinians from the large plaza outside the mosque, while dozens remained inside and chanted "God is great", Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement issued by the police. The police said they entered the compound to clear rocks and other barriers stockpiled by Palestinians overnight on the sidewalk used by Jews to visit the site. The police are "committed to facilitating freedom of worship for Jews and Muslims,"

the statement read. Shortly later, alestinians reported clashes outside the mosque, in which at least ten people were injured by Israeli security forces, according to a statement issued by the Palestinian Red Crescent. Israeli police said the clashes began after Palestinians inside the mosque tossed fireworks at the plaza. Furthermore on

Sunday in East Jerusalem, Palestinians hurled stones at buses en route to the Old City, where the al-Aqsa mosque compound is located. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency health service said in a statement that at least five Jews were lightly injured, including a 14-year-old boy and the bus driver. Two Palestinian suspects were arrested for hurling the stones, the police said. The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is a flashpoint site holy to both Muslims and Jews. It is located in East Jerusalem, a territory captured by Israel along with the rest of the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel annexed it shortly later in a move not recognized by most of the international community. On Friday, at least 152 alestinians were injured in clashes with the Israeli police at the compound. Escalating tensions between Israel and the Palestinians over the past three weeks -- including four deadly attacks in Israel, some of them carried out by Palestinian citizens of Israel -- raised fears of a slide back into a broader conflict.

'Terrorists are using Afghan soil with impunity to carry out activities inside Pak'

In the wake of recent cross-border attacks, Pakistan has called out Kabul to secure the region surrounding the Pak-Afghan border and take action against the elements engaged in terrorism, The News reported.

Islamabad | Agencies  
In the wake of recent cross-border attacks, Pakistan has called out Kabul to secure the region surrounding the Pak-Afghan border and take action against the elements engaged in terrorism, The News reported. "Pakistan requests the sovereign Government of Afghanistan to secure Pak-Afghan Border region and take stern actions against the individuals involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan in the interest of peace and progress of the two brotherly countries," read a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO) in the said regard. The FO condemned that the Pakistani security forces are being targeted from across the border. The Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar stated that the terrorist attacks along the Pak-Afghan border have signifi-



cantly increased in the last few days. "Terrorists are using Afghan soil with impunity to carry out activities inside Pakistan," Iftikhar said. He maintained that Pakistan has frequently requested the Afghan government in the last few months to take notice of the attacks in the interest of peace and progress of the two brotherly countries. The spokesperson further stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan have been engaged for the past several months through institutional channels for effective coordination and security along their shared border. Unfortunately, elements of banned terrorist groups in the border region, including TTP, have continued to attack Pakistan's border security posts, resulting into martyrdom of several Pakistani troops," said Asim Iftikhar.

PPP MAY NOT JOIN PAK CABINET, SAYS ZARDARI

Islamabad: PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, who is considered a key player behind the ouster of Imran Khan as Pak Prime Minister, said that his party will not take ministries, The News reported. In a brief press talk at Parliament House on Saturday, Asif Zardari said that they want their friends to be accommodated first. When asked if he wants to put all the burden on Shehbaz Sharif, he said that there is no such thing. At the same time, the PPP has also invited applications from candidates for the National Assembly and provincial assemblies for the forthcoming general election. After Zardari's press talk, senior leaders of the PPP started explaining his remarks and said he did not mean that the PPP was not joining the cabinet, the report said. A senior PPP leader, on the condition of anonymity, said that the PPP wanted to fulfil promises and agreements that it had made with coalition partners, then it would join the cabinet. Sources said the PPP, in a meeting with the PML-N, had finalised names for the cabinet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to add 12 PML-N MNAs to his federal cabinet, while PPP will get seven slots, sources told Geo News Thursday. PM Shehbaz was sworn in as the prime minister on April 11, following the removal of Imran Khan through a no-confidence motion, making him the first premier to be removed through the democratic process.

Afghanistan warns Pak of dire consequences after airstrikes

Deputy Minister of Information and Culture and Chief Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Zabiullah Mujahid condemned Pakistan's recent airstrikes on Khost and Kunar provinces in the strongest terms adding that repetition of such moves will have dire implications, Khaama Press reported.

Kabul | Agencies  
Deputy Minister of Information and Culture and Chief Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Zabiullah Mujahid condemned Pakistan's recent airstrikes on Khost and Kunar provinces in the strongest terms adding that repetition of such moves will have dire implications, Khaama Press reported. Zabiullah Mujahid



added that Afghans by defeating the US have proven that they can defend their country hence, Pakistan should not examine the patience of the people of Afghanistan. Such acts will create tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan which will lead to conflicts that are in favour of no one," Said Mujahid. Pakistan's aircrafts bombed civilians' homes in the Spera district of the southeastern Khost province killing at least 60 civilians. The Foreign Ministry of the IEA also summoned Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul Mansoor Ahmad Khan to the ministry and asked for the prevention of

such attacks in the future. Afghan officials condemned the bombing and asked for the prevention of such strikes in the future. "All military encroachments including those in Kunar and Khost provinces must be prevented as acts as such will deteriorate bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Deterioration of relations will have dire consequences," Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

RUSSIAN TROOPS LOST OVER 2,000 ARMoured VEHICLES, 145 UAVS SINCE WAR BEGAN'

Kiev: As of Sunday, the Russian troops have lost 2,002 armoured combat vehicles and 148 UAVs since the beginning of the war, claimed the Ukrainian Army. General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine claimed in a Facebook post that the total combat losses of the Russian forces between February 24 and April 17 comprise approximately: 20,300 military personnel, 773 tanks, 2,002 armoured combat vehicles, 376 artillery systems, 127 multiple rocket launchers, 66 units of air defence equipment, 165 planes, 146 helicopters, 1,471 automotive equipment and eight ships/boats. Further, as per the post, the Russian forces have also lost 76 fuel tanks, 148 operational-tactical UAVs, 27 units of special equipment and four operational-tactical missile systems.





POWER CRISIS: GOVT CLAIMS COAL SUPPLY TO MAHA ROSE CONSIDERABLY IN APRIL

▶ AFTER THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT IT HAS SHORTAGE OF COAL WHICH COULD LEAD TO POWER CRISIS IN THE STATE, THE MINISTRY OF COAL ON SUNDAY CLARIFIED THAT THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT IS RECEIVING MORE COAL AT PRESENT THAN IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After the Maharashtra government claimed that it has shortage of coal which could lead to power crisis in the state, the Ministry of Coal on Sunday clarified that the Maharashtra government is receiving more coal at present than in March this year.

The Ministry stated that as of now, the state is meeting their coal requirement. Thermal Power Plants (TPP) of Maharashtra were supplied with 70.77 Million Ton (MT) of coal during the financial year 2021-22. The Coal Ministry further stated that coal supply to thermal plants is increasing in tandem with increase in demand for power.

As per the statistics of the Ministry, in March 2022, coal supply to power plants of Maharashtra



was 2.14 lakh ton per day. The same been stepped up to 2.76 lakh ton per day this month/April. Mahagenco has been supplied 37.131 MT coal in 2021-22. The daily coal supply to Mahagenco in March 22 was 0.96 lakh ton per

day which has been increased further to 1.32 lakh ton per day in April. "It is equally pertinent that the coal requirement of Maharashtra is being met despite Mahagenco having outstanding dues of nearly Rs 2390 crore," it said.

Non-BJP CMs likely to meet in Mumbai to discuss political situation: Raut

Raut said various issues including unemployment, inflation, the "misuse" of Central probe agencies, attempts to create communal discord etc. will be discussed in the upcoming meeting.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said a conference of non-BJP chief ministers is likely to be held in Mumbai soon to discuss the prevailing political situation in the country. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to the chief ministers of states where the BJP is not in power underlining the need to discuss the current situation in the country, he told reporters. "NCP president Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray have discussed this and efforts are on to hold such a conference in Mumbai," Raut said. He said various issues including unemployment, inflation, the "misuse" of Central probe agencies, attempts to create communal discord etc. will be discussed in the upcoming meeting. Notably, leaders of 13 Opposition parties on Saturday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of hate speech and communal violence in the country and urged people to maintain peace and harmony. In a joint statement, the leaders including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and her Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand counterparts M K Stalin and

Hemant Soren, also raised concern over how issues relating to food, dress, faith, festivals and language "are being used" by the ruling establishment to polarise society. Raut alleged that recent attacks on processions taken out to mark Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti were "politically sponsored" to polarise voters, especially in the states where elections are due in the next few months. "In Maharashtra too, a 'Hindu Owaisi' made all efforts to spoil the peace on Hanuman Jayanti. Concerted efforts were made to create disturbances in Maharashtra but people and the police are patient and strong," he said. The MNS chief on Saturday performed a 'maha aarti' of Lord Hanuman in Pune to mark Hanuman Jayanti. Posters were put up in Pune proclaiming Raj Thackeray as "Hindujannayak" (leader of Hindus), which has riled the ruling Shiv Sena. When asked who he was referring to as a "Hindu Owaisi", Raut said, "It is clear from some loudspeakers who is the Hindu Owaisi. The issue of loudspeakers atop mosques could have been discussed with the government. But the intention was to create a law and order situation to fulfil BJP's wish for imposing the President's rule in the state," he alleged. Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, the MNS chief had said that he didn't respond to "lavande" (spineless people) when asked about Raut's "Attacks on these processions were politically sponsored aimed at creating communal discord and polarising voters ahead of the assembly polls in few states. Some political parties are using these two deities for their selfish motives to hurt the unity of the country," he alleged.

MLA Jagtap critical, Pawar cancels programmes

Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will visit the hospital in Baner in the afternoon to inquire about the BJP MLA's health, another party leader said.

Pune | Agencies

Laxman Jagtap, three-time MLA from the Chinchwad constituency in Pune, is in a "critical but stable condition" at a hospital in Baner where he was admitted five days ago. Rumours about his health have been making the rounds in Pimpri-Chinchwad for the past few days with little information coming forth from his family and the hospital.

BJP leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will visit the hospital on Sunday afternoon to inquire about the 59-year-old MLA's health, another party leader said. "Laxman Jagtap is in the intensive care unit. He is on ventilator support. His condition is critical but stable," said a doctor from Jupiter Hospital. "His condition today is much better... he has regained consciousness, he is opening his eyes and is responding to the treatment," the doctor added.

Jagtap had gone to the US for treatment for his ailment that he has been suffering for the past couple of years. He returned last month. A few days later, his condition dete-

riorated and was admitted to the hospital, said a close aide. Mahesh Landge, the BJP's Pimpri-Chinchwad president, said, "False rumours about Laxmanbhai's health are circulating in Pimpri-Chinchwad. People should not believe them... I would like to clarify that Jagtap's condition has improved drastically and we are all hopeful that he will soon be back to his usual self." Several citizens, corporators, supporters, followers and even his opponents have put up social media posts praying for his quick recovery.

Namdeo Dhake, former BJP House leader in the municipal corporation, said, "I have been regularly visiting the hospital. Since yesterday Jagtap's condition has shown a lot of improvement. Doctors are also hopeful that he will soon be discharged. We are looking forward to his guidance and support..." Dhake said Fadnavis, the leader of the Opposition, would visit the hospital. "Fadnavis will also meet the family members of the MLA," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar cancelled all his scheduled programmes in Pimpri-Chinchwad and visited the ailing MLA on Sunday. He assured all support to his family. Jagtap was considered a protégé of the NCP leader till he defected to the BJP in 2014. Except in 2014, when he contested the Lok Sabha election as an independent, Jagtap never lost an election in his over-35-year political career. He was elected as a corporator first in 1986 and then won repeatedly till 2006.

Thackeray Jr to visit Ayodhya amid rising Hindutva politics in Maharashtra

Maharashtra minister and Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray will visit Ayodhya in the first week of May and go to the Ram Janambhoomi where construction is underway for a grand temple of Lord Ram. "Nashik Shiv Sena will organise this programme," the party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid an aggressive Hindutva stand taken by the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) on issues of loudspeakers outside mosques and recitation of Hanuman Chalisa, Shiv Sena has announced that Maharashtra environment minister Aaditya Thackeray will visit Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya in May.

The Shiv Sena leader will visit the temple town in the first week of May and go to the Ram Janambhoomi where construction is underway for a grand temple of Lord Ram.

"Nashik Shiv Sena will organise this programme. The programme will be regarding the concept of 'Ram Rajya' by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray," the party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said on Saturday. Earlier, MNS chief Raj Thackeray had also said that he would visit Ayodhya soon. Taking a dig at MNS, without naming the



party, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that his party does not need to learn Hindutva from people who have taken it on rent. "Some people are trying to make a corrupt copy of the Shiv Sena supremo. But it is useless. Whom do they teach Hindutva? Those who have taken Hindutva on

rent should not teach us Hindutva. Those who boast of reciting the anuman Chalisa cannot say even the first two stanzas of it by heart. They cannot even recite the national anthem and VandeMataram," Raut said. It all started when Maharashtra Navnirman Sena

(MNS) president Raj Thackeray raised the issue of high-decibel loudspeakers atop mosques during a GudiPadwa gathering. The MNS chief has demanded the removal of loudspeakers from mosques before May 3. He has also warned the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government that MNS workers will play Hanuman Chalisa, a collection of devotional hymns dedicated to Lord Hanuman, in front of mosques if his demand was not met by the deadline. Taking a bard at Raj Thackeray, Raut termed him a "new Hindu Owaisi" and his party a "new Hindutva MIM". Raut further alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is behind the demands removing loudspeakers from mosques and reciting Hanuman Chalisa, and claimed that Intelligence inputs suggest that a conspiracy is on to create communal tension in Maharashtra and recommend President's rule dismissing the MVA government.

MVA angst: BJP 'mentally divided' India in 8 years, worse to come

Virtually besieged by an array of central probe agencies baying for its blood, the 30-month-old Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has expressed its deep angst over how the Bharatiya Janata Party has 'mentally divided' India in the past eight years and the worst is yet to come.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Virtually besieged by an array of central probe agencies baying for its blood, the 30-month-old Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has expressed its deep angst over how the Bharatiya Janata Party has 'mentally divided' India in the past eight years and the worst is yet to come. They rue that the ruling Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress triumvirate, struggling to take flight, has been repeatedly grounded by a belligerent BJP which has yet to gulp the ignominy of losing power in October 2019. Claiming that the vital organs of the state seem to have buckled in, posing a danger to Democracy, they warn that after the communal rift among Hindus-Muslims the majority community could face 'upper castes-lower castes' divisions and the country may hurtle towards totalitarianism. Senior leaders point out how, with serial deadlines to topple the MVA regime or other opposition-ruled states falling flat, the BJP has discovered angels in the form of Central probe agencies like CBI, ED, ITD, etc, to haunt governments in key states like Maharashtra or West Bengal. Shiv Sena's Kishore Tiwari, MoS, said the BJP rakes up a new controversy practically every month to divert masses' attention from serious issues like inflation, skyrocketing fuel prices, unemployment, stagnating economy, industries especially MSMEs closing down, etc.



"With deliberately created uncertainties, even the powerful bureaucracy in Maharashtra and other non-BJP ruled states is scared, under pressure from the BJP and not working for public welfare. Now, a trend of 'innocent victimisation' of people like Medha Patkar or Aakar Patel or lawyer Satish Uke and independent journalists is blatantly going on," said a perturbed Tiwari.

NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase accused the Centre of muzzling the Opposition by letting loose the central agencies to pursue the BJP's sinister agenda, and it did not spare even the ordinary folks with threats of ED in the just-concluded Kolhapur North Assembly bypolls. "Earlier, the probe agencies worked quietly and enjoyed a glorious track record? But, now they are reduced to political bloodhounds of the BJP. The real scammers who looted lakhs of crores of rupees of public monies are scot-free and fled to foreign shores," an irked Tapase said.

Atul Londhe, the Congress Chief spokesperson, wondered how, based on merely a letter, an ex-home minister (Anil Deshmukh) has been

continuously victimised and even denied bail. "The people are now questioning the court. No MVA leaders get any kind of relief, but those belonging or linked to BJP get all their prayers answered at priority hearings, though crores of litigations are pending in the courts - why such special treatment?" asked a worried Londhe. Endorsing, Tiwari said the so-called 'provisional attachments' by the ED/IT are a routine practice, but its highly exaggerated and made a 'pubic tamasha' to sully the image, especially of the Sena-NCP leaders, to convey an impression that in BJP, there are only "holy cows" who can do no wrongs. Tapase urged the BJP to exercise its 'Raj Dharm' and deploy the central probe agencies after the real criminals instead of the political opponents in a proxy war, with negligible conviction rate - as the Sushant Singh Rajput case proved, where the CBI is dithering even after 22 months! Questioning the new dream of 'Akhand Bharat', Londhe sarcastically said that first the BJP should bring back Aksai Chin and the huge territories usurped by China in the past 8 years or the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, before looking beyond to divert the peoples' attention. Cautioning that India has already been "mentally divided", Londhe said Hindus-Muslims are split up, Hindus will be further segregated as "upper castes-lower castes" and a beginning made with the end of the OBC quotas, plus now a north-south schism is sowed with plans to impose Hindi. Samajwadi Party President Abu Asim Azmi appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to uphold the traditions of his office once occupied by the great Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and rein in persons who are openly creating communal tensions in the name of removing loudspeakers from mosques. Incidentally, just ten days ago, Sena MP Sanjay Raut had exploded saying the BJP has "declared a war", but the MVA government is fully united and will not succumb to any provocations.

MAHARASHTRA STATE UNIVERSITIES TO HAVE 'INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN CONSTITUTION' AS MANDATORY COURSE

The decision was passed on the 131st birthday anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar. Political science teachers will identify some key themes and concepts from the nation's constitution to prepare for this new curriculum.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

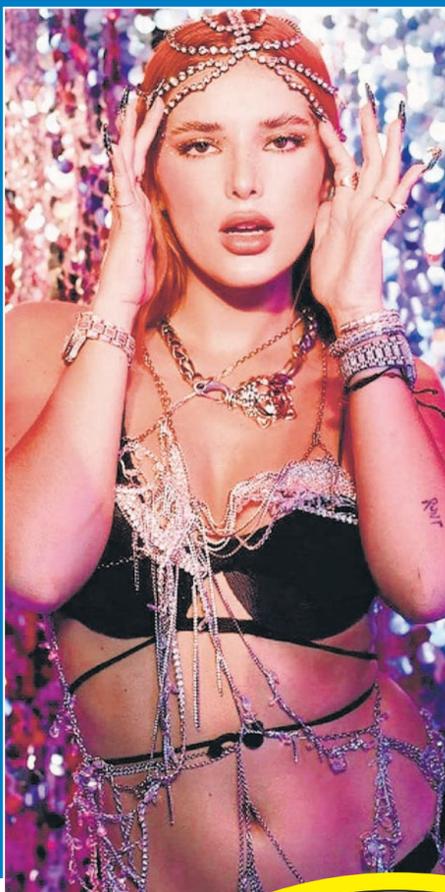
Introduction to Indian Constitution' will be required for all students in all Maharashtra state universities, regardless of the stream. The decision was passed by the Maharashtra Higher and Technical Education Department on the 131st birthday anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, who led the committee that drafted the Indian Constitution. Uday Samant, the state's higher and technical education minister, announced through his official Twitter account. Political science teachers will identify some key themes and concepts from the nation's constitution to prepare for this new curriculum. Samant's tweet stated that "On the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary, we have decided to start a course called 'Introduction to Indian Constitution' for all students across all universities. State University VCs have already been informed about this and will be implemented soon."

Samant's tweet did not state a lot about the newly upcoming change in the edu-



cation system. Still, a senior education officer anonymously revealed that a new curriculum would be executed that would be precisely focused on very significant and fundamental aspects of the Indian Constitution to curate a course of around 10-15 lectures. "Topics will include fundamental rights and duties, directive principles of state policy, formation and functioning of the state assembly, parliament and different commissions, among others. Political science professors of respective colleges will be taking the classes," said the official. And the officer further added that colleges and universities

would also have the liberty to invite expert speakers to cover specific topics. The decision on the following order to be passed is still unclear. The university principal and college presidents are unsure what to expect because the decision is still in its early stages, and changes could be possible. One of the south Mumbai college heads mentioned that the Indian constitution is studied in bits and pieces on many school-related topics and specific subjects in junior college. Unless the course is constructed differently, starting a new system may become repetitious, mainly concentrating on the same topic.



## BELLA THORNE WAS KEEN TO INVITE ALIENS TO COACHELLA PARTY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Bella Thorne is reportedly keen to invite extra-terrestrial life to her Alien Invasion party in Coachella, and she worked out exactly how she would be able to secure their invite. Thorne is said to be using a software called Beacon in the Galaxy to "attempt to contact other life-forms in the universe", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

A source told New York Post's Page Six column: "Bella will be sending a space-bound note to contact other life-forms in the universe via a new Beacon in Galaxy technology." However, Thorne is still said to be waiting to hear back from the company at present.

Meanwhile, the 24-year-old star is very open, but she admits it has come at a price as people misjudge her.

She said: "People have this idea in their head that I'm this crazy bad party girl, or this bitchy, crazy druggie. I don't get it, because I feel like I don't actually put out, like ... bad s\*\*\*? Like, I'm honest. I'm really, really f\*\*\*ing honest, and that gets me in trouble sometimes, but at the same time ... Most people who meet me will apologise."

"They're like, 'Yo, I'm sorry, I've read all these things and I just had a certain image in my head of who you are.'"

"And now that I meet you, I feel so bad because I realise that's completely untrue and I should never read anything." The amount of f\*\*\*ing people that I've heard this s\*\*\* from - directors, producers, studio heads. Even friends! I hear it all the time."

## 'Squid Game' Star Lee Jung-jae's directorial debut to play in Cannes Midnight screening section

Los Angeles | Agencies



'Squid Game' star Lee Jung-jae will be at the Cannes Film Festival this year with the world premiere of his feature directing debut 'Hunt'. The film will be presented next month in the Cannes festival's Midnight Screening section, reports 'Variety'.

Two other films will receive midnight screenings: 'Fumer Fait Toussier', by Quentin Dupieux and 'Moonage Daydream', by Scott Morgan.

According to 'Variety', the bulk of the festival's Official Selection was announced on Thursday at a press event in Paris.

'Hunt' is a 1980s-set Korean-language spy thriller that Lee got caught up in after buying the rights and rewriting the screenplay. Lee also stars in the picture alongside veteran Jung Woo-Sung.

His role as an elite agent working for the Agency for National Security Planning sees him hunting for a North Korea spy, and becoming increasingly aware of his own country dark truths.

"Just because I'm doing the director's job on this film doesn't mean I'm going to be giving up acting. I still like acting the best and intend to focus on that," he told Variety in October last year.

Lee has been an established star in South Korea since the late 1990s, and told Variety in October that not much had changed for him, and that he was not getting many calls from Hollywood.

"No proposals or requests have come my way," he told Variety. "If the right one came along, I'd be happy to be in an overseas production. It could be fun."

But as the international success of 'Squid Game' snowballed and Lee collected multiple US awards, he picked up acting awards at the 28th Screen Actors Guild Awards, the Critics' Choice Awards and the Independent Spirit Awards, he became the most bankable star in Korea.

## JOE ALWYN: I DON'T WANT TO BE PRIVATE WITH TAYLOR SWIFT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Joe Alwyn says he doesn't want to be "private" about his relationship with singer Taylor Swift, but in a world that's so "increasingly intrusive", he enjoys keeping things between them secret. Speaking to Elle magazine about his romance with the pop star, he said: "It's not really because I want to be guarded and private, it's more a response to something else. We live in a culture that is so increasingly intrusive. The more you give and frankly, even if you don't give it, something will be taken."

It comes after Taylor revealed Joe helped her open up about politics, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She said previously: "As a country musician, I was always told it's better to stay out of (politics). The Trump presidency forced me to lean in and educate myself. I found myself talking about government and the presidency and policy with my boyfriend (actor Joe Alwyn), who supported me in speaking out."

"I started talking to my family and friends about politics and learning as much as I could about where I stand. I'm proud to have moved past fear and self-doubt, and to endorse and support leadership that moves us beyond this divisive, heartbreaking moment in time."

Swift also revealed how she and Joe "bonded over" sad songs.

She had said: "Joe and I really love sad songs. We've always bonded over music. We write the saddest (songs). We just really love sad songs. What can I say? It was a surprise that we started writing together."

"But in a way, it wasn't because we have always bonded over music and had the same musical tastes. He's always the person who's showing me songs by artists and then they become my favourite songs."



## Kim Kardashian gets hilariously trolled by daughter North West

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian's eight-year-old daughter North West hilariously called out her mother's homegrown vegetables on social media. In the clip, the Kim was seen showing off some freshly picked crops from her home garden. It included bunches of carrots, kale, leeks and beets, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"You guys, we got some veggies and fruits from our garden," Kim said. "How cute!"

While Kim was excited over her latest harvest, it wasn't the case for North, whom Kim shares with estranged husband Kanye West.

North quipped off-camera, "They look disgusting."

Kim quickly hit back at her, saying, "They do not look disgusting!"

She went on to say, "They're fresh veggies and fruits, and we're gonna make some amazing things this weekend with them."

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star added, "You don't think the Easter Bunny needs carrots?"

She laughed at her daughter's honesty, writing: "Thanks North." This is not the first time for North to call out her famous mom.

Prior to this, she criticised her mom for using a "different" voice on social media. She additionally exposed the reality TV star as a fake Olivia Rodrigo.

## Rihanna returns to Barbados with A\$AP Rocky following cheating rumours

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Rihanna and her rapper beau A\$AP Rocky proved that their relationship remains strong as they flew to her home country of Barbados together. In a clip surfacing online, Rihanna and Rocky were spotted leaving the Grantley Adams International airport before hopping on an SUV, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The to-be-mom kept it stylish as always with a colorful mini-dress and high heels. Her beau, on the other hand, donned a tie-dye hoodie and matching pants. It was not surprising to see the lovebirds in Barbados considering the fact that the Fenty Beauty founder wanted to raise their child there. In a recent interview with Vogue, the billionaire singer shared, "Rocky asked me recently if I had a dream place, where would it be? I told him home, Barbados. I always imagined it being that way. But realistically it probably won't be."

Rihanna and Rocky's trip took place just days after someone on Twitter claimed they broke up because he had an affair with shoe designer, Amina Muaddi. However, the user has apologised for stirring the rumours. "Last night I made a dumb decision to

tweet some information I had received," @LOUIS\_via\_ROMA penned on Friday, April 15.

"I'm not going to talk about sources, blame others for a discussion that was started, etc because at the end of the day I made the decision to draft that tweet, press send and put that out with my name on it."

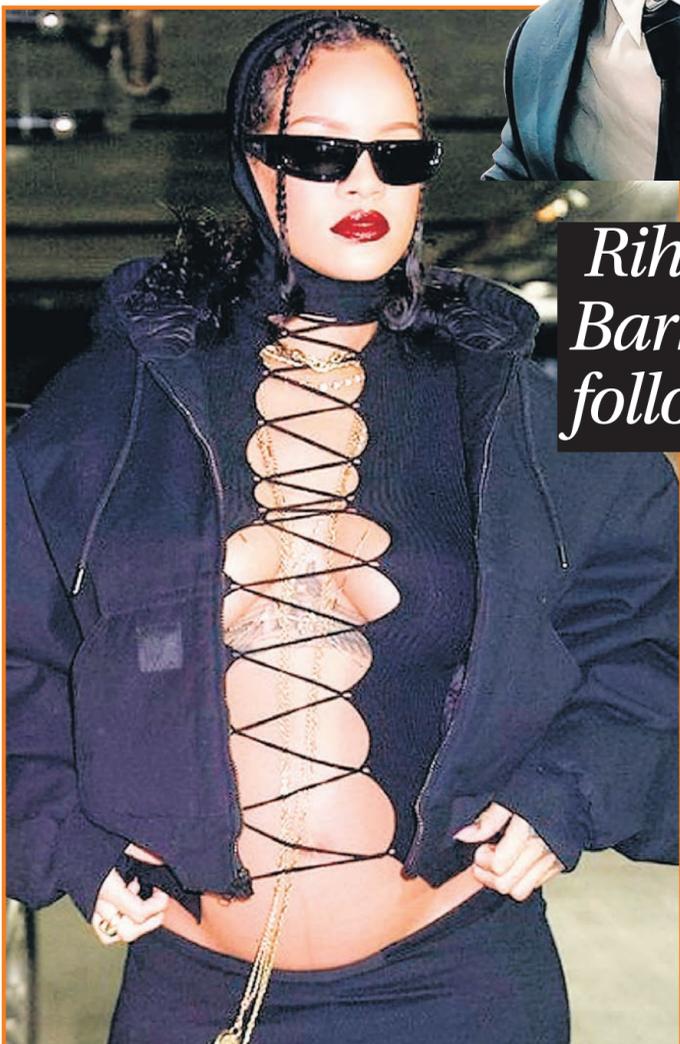
"So I'd like to formally apologise to all parties I involved with my actions and for my reckless tweet," the individual added.

"I fully accept the consequences of my actions for my tweets and any harm they caused. I have no excuse for it, I've been way too wrapped up in Twitter drama and unfortunately leaned into being messy as a brand which is something going forward I'm going to move away from."

@LOUIS\_via\_ROMA also announced his decision to take a break from the blue-bird app.

"I'm going to take some time away from Twitter to figure out what that looks like and how I can start using my platforms better as I've gotten away from using them for more positive world," he noted.

"Again I apologise to them for this unnecessary drama. Amina herself has shut down the 'vile' speculation."



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Emilia Jones



## IPL 2022

### ALL-ROUND HYDERABAD BEAT PUNJAB BY SEVEN WICKETS FOR A FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

Umrans Malik (4/28) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/22) shared seven wickets between themselves while Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran exhibited confidence and calmness in equal measure as Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Punjab Kings by seven wickets at DY Patil Stadium on Sunday to register their fourth win on the bounce in the tournament.



For Punjab, Liam Livingstone top-scored with 60 in a performance where they struggled to get going at the top in absence of regular opener and captain Mayank Agarwal. He also shared a stand of 71 with Shikhar Khan (26) to lend some respectability to Punjab's total.

Punjab lost openers Shikhar Dhawan and Prabhsimran Singh in the power-play. While Dhawan came down the pitch to pull off Kumar but found mid-on, Singh missed the flick off T Natarajan as the ball took an inner edge to the keeper. Livingstone began his knock by scooping Marco Jansen for a four followed by cover drive for another four and ended power-play with a six scooped by using the pace from the left-arm pacer over fine leg.

Post power-play, Jonny Bairstow was trapped lbw while trying to sweep against Jagadeesha Suchith. Jitesh Sharma hit Malik for two fours but the tearaway pacer had the last laugh as he bounced out Sharma and took the catch off his own bowling.

Amidst wickets falling, Livingstone continued to get runs, using Malik's pace to uppercut over third man. He further attacked Malik in the 12th over, swivelling a six-over deep mid-wicket followed by a four thumped down the ground.

#### Briefscores:

Punjab Kings 151 all out in 20 overs (Liam Livingstone 60, Shikhar Khan 26; Umrans Malik 4/28, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/22) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 152/3 in 18.5 overs (Aiden Markram 41 not out, Nicholas Pooran 35 not out; Rahul Chahar 2/28, Kagiso Rabada 1/29) by seven wickets

forcing Tripathi to miscue the loft to long-off. Two overs later, Chahar had his second wicket as Sharma holed out to long-on.

Markram and Pooran indulged in risk-free cricket while dispatching short and overpitched balls to the boundary rope. The duo rotated the strike well and were cautious against Chahar's remaining overs. There was almost a run-out of Markram in the 14th over but Rabada missed the chance. From there onwards, it was smooth sailing for Hyderabad. Markram smacked Arora over extra cover for four and finished off the chase in the 19th over with a great loft over extra cover for six to give Hyderabad their fourth straight win. Earlier, Kumar set the tone for Hyderabad's top-notch bowling performance with wickets upfront and at the back end. At the other end, Malik used his pace and lengths well to bag his maiden four-fer in the tournament, including a fantastic final over where four wickets fell for no run, with a run-out on the final ball of the innings.

After bowling out Punjab for 151, Hyderabad were in trouble at 77/3 in 10.3 overs. Markram and Pooran joined forces for an unbroken 75-run stand in 8.2 overs to take Hyderabad to victory with seven balls to spare. The result means that Hyderabad enter the top-four stage in the points table.

Hyderabad lost Kane Williamson in the fourth over, playing an uppish drive straight to mid-off off Kagiso Rabada. Rahul Tripathi, fresh from a dazzling 71 against Kolkata Knight Riders, began his innings by dancing down the pitch against Rabada to lift over a leaping mid-off. He got going by smacking Vaibhav Arora for back-to-back fours, a cut through point was followed by a scoop over fine leg, Tripathi hitting the ground running meant Abhishek Sharma found time to set in and take three boundaries in power-play. Post power-play, Rahul Chahar leaked 14 runs in his first over with wides and misfields coming into play. Tripathi used his wrists well to welcome Odean Smith with a flicked six over backward square leg. But Chahar brought his sparkling knock to an end at 34, getting some drift in, tum and dip,

### Miller's unbeaten 94 leads Gujarat to 3-wicket win over CSK

Pune | Agencies

A fighting unbeaten knock by David Miller (94 off 51) helped Gujarat Titans beat Chennai Super Kings by three wickets in a thrilling IPL 2022 match at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium, here on Sunday.

Opener Ruturaj Gaikwad returned to run-scoring with an excellent half-century (73 off 48) and helped Chennai Super Kings post 169-5 in 20 overs, after being invited to bat first.

Apart from Gaikwad, Ambati Rayudu (46 off 31) played a solid knock and both batters stitched a crucial partnership of 92 runs off 56 balls for the third wicket. Lower down the order, Ravindra Jadeja (22 off 12) and Shivam Dube (19 off 17) also made valuable contributions with the bat for CSK.

Alzarri Joseph (2/34) was the most successful bowler for Gujarat while Mohammed Shami (1/20), and Yash Dayal (1/40) chipped in with one wicket each.

In reply, Gujarat lost the wickets of Shubman Gill (0), Vijay Shankar (0) and Abhinav Manohar (12) inside the power-play. CSK tried to maintain the pressure and in return, they got the wickets of Wriddhiman Saha (11) and Rahul Tewatia (6).

Even though the wickets were falling at regular intervals at the end, David Miller, who kept sending the balls over the boundary line consistently from the other and kept Gujarat Titans' hopes alive in the game. He stitched a 70-run partnership with Rashid Khan, who played a sensational knock (40 off 21)



before getting out in the 19th over.

However, Miller remained not out till the end and took Gujarat over the victory line with three wickets in hand and one ball to spare.

Dwayne Bravo (3/23) was the most

successful bowler for CSK while Maheesh Theekshana (2/24), Mukesh Choudhary (1/18), Ravindra Jadeja (1/25) also picked wickets but it was not enough in the end.

#### Briefscores:

Chennai Super Kings 169-5 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 73, Ambati Rayudu 46; Alzarri Joseph 2/34) lost to Gujarat Titans 170-7 in 19.5 overs (David Miller 94 not out, Rashid Khan 40; Dwayne Bravo 3/23) by three wickets

### Santosh Trophy: Odisha, Karnataka play out a six-goal thriller

Malappuram | Agencies

Odisha and Karnataka played out a 3-3 draw in the opening game of Group B in the final round of the 75th Santosh Trophy at the Kottappadi Football Stadium.



Odisha got their noses in front but Karnataka struck back with three goals, putting themselves 3-1 up in the game. However, it was Odisha who had the last laugh as they leveled the scores. It was Odisha who started brightly of the two, putting Karnataka on the back foot right from the start. Their high press awarded them the lead in the 15th

minute. Chandra Muduli played in a perfect low cross to find Jamir Oram to convert easily. Karnataka stepped up their game after going down and almost found their equaliser when Sudheer Kotikela narrowly put wide a shot/cross from Prashanth. At the half-hour mark

though, Karnataka were able to find their equaliser through Sudheer, who made amends for his earlier miss with a simple tap-in from an inch-perfect cross by Prashanth Kalinga.

Three minutes later, the Southern state turned the game on its head. Bavu Nishad gained possession high up in Odisha's half, unleashing a fierce shot that was deflected into the back of the net. Kamalesh proved to be a menace keeping Odisha's defense busy with his dribbles and crosses. He even stole a ball in the opposition half only to see his shot go wide.

### SR NATIONAL HOCKEY: HARYANA OVERCOME TAMIL NADU IN SHOOT-OUT TO WIN TITLE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hockey Haryana subdued Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu 3-1 via shoot-out in the final of the 12th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship 2022 after a thrilling 1-1 draw in regulation time here on Sunday.

The thrilling final encounter started with Deepak giving Hockey Haryana a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute of the match. But Saravana Kumar was able to quickly level the score, getting the equaliser in the 10th minute of the match for the Hockey Unit Of Tamil Nadu to make it 1-1.

The two teams put on a terrific defensive display for the remainder of the regulation time, preventing any goals on their respective ends and thereby pushing the match into a Shootout. In the shootout, Hockey Haryana scored thrice in the first four attempts, while Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu scored in the first attempt but missed in the following three.

This was Hockey Haryana's first title since 2011. Speaking on the win, Hockey Haryana head coach Sandeep Sangwan said, "I am really proud of our achievement. It has been a pleasure to see the growth of our team over the years, and throughout



this tournament as well." I was a member of the coaching team when Hockey Haryana had won the Senior Men's Nationals first time in 2011. Gagandeep Singh was the youngest member of that team and now he has led the team as captain to our second Senior Men Nationals trophy. I cannot express in words how happy I feel about this win. "I feel immensely pleased and emotional, as well, over the success of our team. We performed to the best of our abilities in the tournament. Each and every member of the team gave their 100 percent and because of their commendable efforts, we were able to reach the final, and then win the final against a

very strong Hockey Unit Of Tamil Nadu team," he added.

Coach Sandeep Sangwan added that the win will motivate players at the Junior and Sub-Junior level to perform similarly and win more medals for the team. "Everyone will be motivated by our win and I am sure the players in every age group and category will now be even hungrier to win more medals," he said. The first game of the day turned out to be a closely-contested affair between Hockey Maharashtra and Hockey Karnataka for the third/fourth-place position.

Rajendra Pawar and Punith R score goals for their respective teams in the 12th minute, but Yathish Kumar B's goal in the 23rd minute gave Hockey Karnataka a 2-1 lead.

Harish Shindgi scored the equaliser in the 37th minute after Prajwal Moharkar scored the third goal for Hockey Maharashtra in the 42nd minute to put them in the lead. Goals from Deekshith S P in the 47th minute and Nachappa Ir in the 52nd minute led to Hockey Karnataka regaining their lead. Hockey Karnataka defended well in the final few minutes to win the match 4-3 and thereby claiming a third-place finish in the competition.

### National race walking: Ramandeep Kaur, Juned Khan rewrite National Records in 35km race

Ranchi | Agencies

Juned Khan of Haryana and Ramandeep Kaur of Punjab rewrote the men and women's 35km race walking National Records respectively when winning top honours in the ninth Indian Open Race Walking Competition here on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Ramandeep Kaur clipped more than 13 minutes from Priyanka Goswami's National Record set in the World Athletics Race Walking Championships in Muscat last month. Her Punjab team-mate Manju was abreast till the 15km mark, but while Ramandeep Kaur soon opened a comfortable lead, Manju came home inside Priyanka Goswami's mark. In the men's race, 22-year-old Juned Khan pulled away from Ram Baboo and Chandan Singh after the 20km mark to lower the National Record by five minutes. Eknath Sambhaji Turambekar, who held the National Record, was among the four that were bunched in the lead till



the 20km mark but dropped out after being second with 10km to go.

Uttarakhand's Sachin Bohra edged out Gujarat's Rohit Kumar Yadav by a mere second to win the men's U20 10km crown. Aditya Negi (Uttarakhand) and Rajasthan's Arvind Singh were the only other athletes who reached the halfway mark inside 22 minutes but the former kept pace to claim bronze while the latter dropped to the seventh spot.

Deepika Sharma (Rajasthan) won the women's U20 10km race with 11 seconds to spare while Haryana's Bharti Bhadana and Indu claimed the other medals. Mansi Negi (Uttarakhand) opened up an 18-second lead by the halfway mark but was unable to sustain the pace, eventually finishing fifth behind Tamil Nadu's Mokavi Muthurathinam.

**The results:**  
**Men 35km:** 1. Juned Khan (HAR) 2:40:16.00; 2. Ram Baboo (U.P) 2:41:30.00; 3. Chandan Singh (UKH) 2:42:02.00.

**Women 35km:** 1. Ramandeep Kaur (PUN) 3:00:04.00; 2. Manju (PUN) 3:07:49.00; 3. Payal (UKH) 3:15:47.00.

**Men U20 10km:** 1. Sachin Bohra (UKH) 43:12.00; 2. Rohit Kumar Yadav (GUJ) 43:13.00; 3. Aditya Negi (UKH) 44:27.00.

**Women U20 10km:** 1. Deepika Sharma (RAJ) 51:32.00; 2. Bharti Bhadana (HAR) 52:23.00; 3. Indu (HAR) 52:40.00.

### Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey meet begins Monday

Chandigarh | Agencies

The 3rd Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held from April 18 to 22 at 3 Base Repair Depot (BRD) here with teams participating from Canada, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, besides India's.

The Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB) has been organizing the tournament since 2018. Air Marshal K. Anantharaman, Air Officer in-charge Administration, told the media on Sunday that Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh's passion for the game of hockey was unparalleled.



Heled. He was an inspiration for air warriors not only to lead from front in wars but also in the field of sports.

He said the IAF has been consistently producing athletes who have represented India at various international competitions and brought laurels to the nation and for

the IAF.

He said the centenary year of birth of Marshal of the air force was commemorated by successful conduct of the 2 Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament in 2019 with participation of air force hockey teams from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

This elevated the tournament to an international event. Air Commodore V. Rajasekhar, Air Officer Commanding 3 BRD, Chandigarh, said this time prize money for the tournament has been increased. A sum of Rs 300,000 will be the first prize, while runner-up will get Rs 200,000.

### ROB KEY APPOINTED NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ENGLAND MEN'S CRICKET

London: The England Cricket Board (ECB) on Sunday appointed Rob Key as the new Managing Director of England men's cricket.

The 42-year-old Key will take over from Andrew Strauss, who held the role on an interim basis after the departure of Ashley Giles. Giles left the position after three years, following the debacle of the Ashes, where England lost 4-0 away in Australia. The former England batter will take up the position on an immediate basis and also relinquish his role as one of Sky Sports' commentators.



"Key will be responsible for the strategy behind the England Men's cricket teams and the performance pathways leading into them. He will also take a key role as part of the High-Performance Review which will begin shortly," the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement. The batter played 21 internationals for England across all three formats including making a Test double hundred against the West Indies at Lord's in 2004 which led to him being named one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 2005. He also had a long and storied career with Kent on the domestic circuit. "It is an absolute honour to take up this role.

### Bundesliga: Magath pulls out Boateng as a new leader for struggling Hertha

Berlin | Agencies

It might be one of Felix Magath's special talents to deliver surprises on rough seas.

This time the former German coach came up with the idea to revitalise a man who has stood for leadership skills in the past but was meant to only play a secondary role after signing with Bundesliga strugglers Hertha BSC, reports Xinhua.

With the Berlin side taking three important points in Saturday's relegation battle against Augsburg, 35-year-old Kevin-Prince Boateng has turned into the struggling team's undisputed leader.

Triggering a fighting spirit among his teammates worked well in the 68 minutes Hertha's "old man" was on the pitch.

Hertha's fans witnessed rare moments of happiness, as Magath and Boateng hugged each other like children after a successful prank. "He is a sportsman taking responsibility with a lot of confidence. He is leading and is highly communicative with his teammates," the former Bayern Munich and Fulham manager stated.



Against Augsburg, Boateng did a perfect job. In the autumn of an unstable career that

has taken him to 13 clubs after turning professional in 2005 with Hertha, returning to his

home club after touring Europe was seen as a more nostalgic move. Now, the man meant to be little more than a morale booster is turning into a team leader.

After being substituted, Boateng didn't stop but continued his efforts to act as a morale booster. The experienced journeyman rarely took his place on the bench but continued shouting and gesturing along the touchline.

The 75 percent of successful man-to-man duels, as well as five tactical fouls to keep his side alive, made Boateng Hertha's best.

The strategy to trigger the team's fighting spirit by providing a role model to follow paid off. "That's the way I want the team to act; that's the way we can survive the struggle, but we have to continue," Magath stated, with four rounds of matches remaining in the 2021/22 Bundesliga season.

Two victories in four games lifted Hertha one point above the relegation zone, and the Boateng surprise might not be the last one the former Bayern coach Magath has to invent, as next weekend Hertha's closest relegation rival, Stuttgart, is waiting.



# Mrunal on acting journey : Would shamelessly stand, not move till my take wasn't taken

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur, who has made a smooth transition from television to the big screen, has recalled her audition days. Mrunal made her acting debut in 2012, with 'Mujhse Kuchh Kehi...Yeh Khamoshiyaan'. She gained popularity with the television show 'Kumkum Bhagya'. The actress then made Hindi film debut with the drama film 'Love Sonia'. After which, she was seen in films including 'Super 30', 'Batla House' and 'Dhamaka'. Talking about her journey, Mrunal, who currently awaits the

release of her next 'Jersey', in a conversation with IANS said: "Earlier I was surviving, now I am living my life. I want to reach people's hearts. Somewhere 'Kumkum Bhagya' did that. As an entertainer, my only struggle in my life is to keep entertaining people.

"I am very lucky to be able to make that transition. A lot of TV actors don't get these chances. I did a lot of hard work. I fought (for myself) a lot. I would shamelessly go and stand for auditions and not go till my take is not taken. I was very rigid and still am. Mrunal added: "There was a Shelf life for actresses at one time - from 18 to 28, they would have work but now the ott has come and we are celebrating movies. Be it Shefali Shah or Madhuri Dixit Nene they are blossoming at this age also."



Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Star Jr. NTR was spotted wearing spiritual attire at a special pooja event in a temple, just days after Ram Charan was said to have taken the religious Ayyappa Deeksha.

On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, the actor is said to have worn the Hanuman Deeksha Mala earlier on Saturday.

Jr. NTR, who has now advanced in this spiritual ritual, is religiously adhering to the Deeksha by donning the holy beads as well as the saffron attire.

## On Hanuman Jayanti, Jr NTR spotted wearing 'Hanuman Mala'

The Deeksha will require the actor to walk barefoot for the next few days (usually 21 days) and to adhere to the 'Satvika Bhojanam,' which refers to a strict vegetarian diet.

On the work front, Jr. NTR, who will next be seen in a film directed by Koratala Siva, has also lost some weight in preparation for the role. Jr. NTR will also play the lead in 'KGF' director Prashanth Neel's upcoming movie after 'Salaar'. The 'Simhadri' actor who appeared as Komaram Bheem in his latest blockbuster 'RRR' is being praised for his prodigious acting in the Rajamouli's directorial.



## SHAHID KAPOOR ON WORKING WITH PANKAJ KAPUR IN 'JERSEY'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

I feel fortunate as I get to learn a lot from him. After the success of Kabir Singh, Shahid Kapoor returns on the big screen next week with Jersey. The film was gearing up for a 14 April release, however, was pushed last minute due to accusation of plagiarism. For the unversed, the film is an official Hindi remake of the Telugu superhit film of the same name that was headlined by Nani. In a recent interview, Shahid Kapoor shared his thoughts on the film, doing remakes, and various other things.

**How do you feel as the film nears its release?**

This film earlier scheduled to release in December and again it got delayed by a week, but since the film is really close to my heart I didn't feel negative or got disheartened. This film has changed me from within. I saw 'Jersey' a week before 'Kabir Singh' released and I wanted to tell this story in Hindi cinema but people advised him against playing a fam-

ily man or father role after his role as a college boy and an aggressive character. Interestingly, Arjun Talwar's destiny and the film's destiny are similar as both are striving hard to fulfill their dreams. When the Jersey release got postponed for the first time in December, there was a scenario of partial lockdown in the country, so why didn't he opt to release the film on an OTT platform? So actually we had this though before also when the lockdown was imposed because we had no clue when the theatres would open, but this film was created for the big screens and we made it wholeheartedly. So whenever we had discussions regarding this subject, which happened many times, because we have to be practical also, everyone eventually would come to the conclusion that this film should be watched by the audience in theatres only. The producer showed a lot of support, the director and us actors believed in the same thing and because everyone was feeling the same regarding this, the film is finally going to reach theatres. If one or two people would have had contradicting views then it might have got released on the OTT platform.

**Is it because being a father in real life as well, you emotionally connected with the film?**

Not just the father part, but it's the climax of the film that blew me away. It is important to understand in life that the story of a common man can also woo the audience and it is not always the aggressive and testosterone kind of characters that amaze the audience. Actually,



by releasing the film in theatres I wished to gauge the response of the audience regarding this. By releasing it on OTT, I would have not got the answer. I wanted to know whether I can only play Kabir Singh kind of roles or I can essay roles like Arjun Talwar as well. Seconding his thought on age is just a number, Shahid said.

"Anyone can do it at the age of 25, the one who can achieve it at the age of 35 is in special."

Any particular scene you could relate to? There father-son relationship and the latent desire to prove yourself in the mid 30's is something I could relate deeply with. Because this is a profession where young people spike up very fast and they can easily become the flavour of the season. People are used to you.

Many times you feel that have I become boring since I have been around for a while. It is a challenge to surprise people and that's why I strive to get into the skin of different kinds of characters.

**To what extent can you go to fulfil your children's dreams?**

They should work hard and earn by themselves as it is their individual desire. They have to do that alone. Because he will be worthy of it only when he works for it. It should not be like you support someone so much that they become dependent on you. Whatever my duty as a parent is I have to fulfil that. On keeping Jersey close to reality... We have tried to replicate the sport the way it is played and we have done this most authentically. We have not shot any scenes using graphics. Because Gowtam and I felt that it should turn out to be fun watching. A lot of people on set even got pissed, but since I love cricket so much that I loved working hard.

**Are you worried about the box office collection?**

Box office collection matters to every actor whether they say it or not.

**Were you nervous working with your dad Pankaj Kapur?**

I feel fortunate to share screen space with him as I get to learn a lot from him. I don't get nervous but I make sure I am on my toes. He is a great actor and I don't want to spoil his shot. His professionalism, his simplicity and his humility to approach every film is like it's his first is what I admire the most.

## Kangana Ranaut treats 'Lock Upp' contestants to 'Dhaakad' teaser

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kangana Ranaut treated the contestants of the reality show 'Lock Upp' with a glimpse of the teaser of her upcoming film 'Dhaakad'.

Since the contestants don't have access to the internet or television, Kangana wanted to ensure that they get to watch the teaser of her upcoming film. That's not all, this week, one of the contestants, Anjali, was asked to become the 'Dhaakad' spy as part of the 'daring baazi' segment on the show which involved her giving information about her own friends to show that she is fearless.

The actress says, "I play the role of Agent Agni in Dhaakad who is bold, fiery and brave. The contestants of 'Lock Upp' too have impressed me with their fearlessness and they truly deserve to be called 'Dhaakad'."

"The show is the ideal platform for me to showcase the teaser of my upcoming film. I am excited for the contestants to see the teaser. It's the kind of film that will set new benchmarks in every department of filmmaking."

'Dhaakad' directed by Razneesh Razy Ghai and produced by Deepak Mukut and Sohel Maklai. Presented by Soham Rockstar Entertainment Pvt Ltd in association with Kamal Mukut, Sohel Maklai Productions and Asylum films, it is slated to release on May 20. The film will be available in four languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.



## YUVIKA CHAUDHARY, PRINCE NARULA ROCK THEIR NEW SONG 'TERA MERA NAAM'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Couple Yuvika Chaudhary and Prince Narula released their new song 'Tera Mera Naam', which relays the perfect Punjabi feeling with a rural setting and the Lohri bonfire.

Talking about the song, Yuvika and Prince said: "Being involved as an actor in a project than being a producer is very different. And as a producer, there was a lot we have learned. Of course working together is great and so the chemistry translated on screen was beautiful."

"They released the song on their YouTube channel Winning Records. The track is sung in the melodious voice of a rising singer Zehan and the lyrics are by Khara. They added: "But this was special for us because it is about Lohri and the festival is close to our hearts. We are sure that people will like watching #Privika together on-screen again."



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shriya Pilgaonkar



Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Tamil actor Vishal, who heaped praises on 'KGF- Chapter 2', took to micro-blogging site, to congratulate actor Yash and director Prashanth Neel for their astounding success. Vishal, who praised Sandalwood's magnum opus, congratulated the entire team on Saturday. Vishal also stated that he is proud of his hero Yash for representing the grandeur of the Kannada film industry at the world fair.

"Congrats to my dearest friend @TheNamelsYash, the entire team, the cast & the crew especially the director @prashanth\_neel for his magnum opus blockbuster #KGFChapter2", Vishal's tweet reads.

The 'Pandem Kodi' actor also wrote, "I'm so proud that my friend #Yash has taken the #KannadaCinema to worldwide reach. Keep rocking #RockyBhai. GB."

Yash-starrer 'KGF: Chapter 2', which was released a few days ago, has done extremely well at the box office around the world. The film, directed by Prashanth Neel, has received a lot of attention from both audiences and celebrities.

ACTOR VISHAL IS PROUD OF YASH FOR BRINGING KANNADA CINEMA TO GLOBAL AUDIENCES