

# absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 185, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI



**NATION** >  
Delhi fire tragedy: Why so many people died?...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
'Kelsey and I were so grateful to him, it meant the world': Tom...



**SPORTS** > 07  
Swiatek storms past Sabalenka to reach final...

## Peace shall only prevail when people's rights, dignity protected: CJI

# ROAD TO HARMONY

The CJI, who made the remarks after laying the foundation stone of a new high court building complex in Srinagar, emphasized that mere laws were not enough to build tradition, it requires men of high ideals to infuse life in the skeleton of law. In the speech, he quoted poet Ali Jawad Zaidi to reflect his sentiments and famous Urdu poet Rifat Sarfaroosh.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Saturday said peace shall only prevail when people's dignity and rights are recognised and protected. He emphasized that for the functioning of a healthy democracy, it is imperative that the people feel that their rights and dignity are protected and recognised, and expeditious adjudication of disputes is the hallmark of a healthy democracy. "Mere laws are not enough to build tradition in a country. It requires men of indelible character inspired by high ideals to infuse life and spirit in the skeleton of the laws," the CJI said. "Dear Judges and judicial officers, you play a very significant role in our constitutional scheme. The common man always considered the judiciary as the ultimate guardian of rights and liberties." He said often, litigants are under a lot of psychological stress and they may be illiterate, unaware of law and have various financial issues and the judges should try to make them feel at ease.



Justice Ramana said sadly, post-independence, judicial infrastructure has not been over-hauled to meet the demands of growing needs of modern India. "We are far behind in making our courts inclusive and accessible. If we don't attend to this urgently, the constitutional ideal of

access to justice would stand defeated... The condition of judicial infrastructure across the country is far from satisfactory. Courts are operating from rented accommodations and under deplorable conditions." The CJI added that one of the major challenges to the protection of rule of law and

**Denial of justice would ultimately lead to anarchy. Soon the institution of judiciary would be destabilised as people will look for extrajudicial mechanisms. Peace shall only prevail, when people's dignity and rights are recognised and protected. As poet Raja Basu, an admirer of Kashmir observed, Jammu and Kashmir is the confluence of three great religions -- Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. It is this confluence which is at the heart of our plurality which needs to be sustained and cherished."**

human rights is the inability of the formal justice system to deliver speedy and affordable justice to all. Citing Winston Churchill, the CJI said: "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us... Although the persons who will occupy this building would be the members of the Bar, the Bench and their support staff, we must not forget that the focal point of any justice delivery system is the litigant, who is the justice seeker."

## This police station is known to solemnise marriages

Last Monday a 20-year-old woman Phoolkali approached the Ghurpur police to lodge a complaint against her boyfriend, Vikas Kumar, accusing him of retracting from the promise of marrying her. The marriage ceremonies of two couples were held on Saturday and Sunday. Since January this year, the police have helped over a dozen couples resolve differences and tie the knot. In all the three cases in the past one week, the couples were in a relationship for years and the boys were refusing to marry citing petty issues.

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

This police station in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district is now



relatives thanked the police and distributed sweets.

This was the third such case in the last four days when policemen brokered peace between couples and made arrangements for their wedding in the police station's temple. "In all the three cases, women had approached us to lodge FIR, but we decided to help them to settle the issues amicably," Jain said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Kumar said, "We are solving the problems of women under the state government's 'Mission Shakti' programme. In such cases, we are trying to reunite lovers. We have successfully reunited at least 50 couples under the 'pariwar paramarsh kendra' campaign. In all these cases, the couples had separated following disputes."

## Punjab to abolish VIP culture in jails

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

In a major crackdown on the nexus of gangsters and criminals operating from jails, the Punjab government teams have confiscated 710 mobile phones from prisons in a specially-launched drive. Additionally, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has decided to abandon the special cells in jails for VIP prisoners. Divulging the details, the Chief Minister said that "during this special drive carried out between March 16 and May 10, a total of 710 mobile phones have been recovered from jail inmates". He said these phones were used by gangsters and smugglers to run their rackets from inside the jail. The Chief Minister said that a probe is on to nab the persons on whose names these numbers were registered. He also said that action will be taken against the jail staff who were involved in sneaking these phones into the prisons. For abolishing VIP culture in jails, the government has decided to abandon the VIP cells and transform them into administrative blocks. The Chief Minister said that those lodged in jails are punished by courts for violating the law, and they cannot enjoy facilities while serving a jail term.



## 2023 AFC ASIAN CUP TO BE RELOCATED FROM CHINA

Beijing | Agencies

The 2023 Asian Cup football tournament will be relocated from China to a new host, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the tournament's Local Organising Committee announced on Saturday. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Organising Committee cannot pledge at this moment to hold next year's Asian Cup competition under a fully open model. After negotiations between the AFC, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) and the Local Organising Committee, a joint decision has been made to remove the 2023 Asian Cup from China to a new host which is to be confirmed soon," read a statement published

by the Chinese Organising Committee. "The Organising Committee hereby expresses sincere gratitude to the AFC, all host cities and the whole society for their great support during the tournament's preparations," the statement added, reports Xinhua. The AFC said in a separate statement that it appreciates that China, the CFA and the Local Organising Committee have made "this very difficult but necessary decision in the collective interests of the AFC Asian Cup 2023, which has also provided the AFC the required time to assess the situation regarding the hosting of the AFC Asian Cup 2023. Details about the next steps related to the hosting of the Asian Cup will be announced in due course, the AFC said.

## The man whom the Danes called 'Judas' is also Taapsee's boyfriend



Team Absolute | Mumbai

India created history by reaching the finals of the Thomas Cup with Indian shuttler HS Prannoy defeating Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in men's singles. Taapsee Pannu's boyfriend, Mathias Boe, who is team India's badminton coach, took to his social media to share his excitement of the team victory over his home

nation of Denmark. Sharing three pictures on his Instagram, Mathias wrote a long note in the caption as the HS Prannoy crushed Gemke in a thrilling decider set. He wrote, "Playing team events in an individual sport is always very special, maybe that's why it is so much fun. Yesterday was a bit extra special for me playing again my former colleagues, friends, coaches and

country." He further wrote in jest in the caption how his former teammates and coach called him traitor for being in India's side. "They chanted Judas after me (laughing emojis), I gave them back by winning the match. I really hope people back home in (India) understand what an achievement this is. (India vs Indonesia) Thomas Cup final tomorrow. One more to go (sic)."

## AMU faculty members patent cricket bat with detachable handles

Agra: Here's some good news for cricket enthusiasts, who will now be able to play with a bat that has detachable handles of varying lengths. This innovative bat, which offers both control and balance, has been patented by the faculty members of the Department of Physical Education, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The bat, which was invented by AMU faculty members Tariq Murtaza from the Department of Physical Education and Shamsad Ali, associate professor, University Polytechnic, was recently patented by government of India's patent office. "Since cricketers for long have been using different types of bats, we felt it was imperative to produce a bat that allows batsmen to change handles on need basis. This bat reflects the values of the new-age cricketer," said Murtaza. Ali added: "The bat with detachable handle of varying length consists of two parts, one that remains fixed with the blade of the bat and the other with a portion for detachable handles in which handles of varying length can be fixed as per the requirement of the batsman." According to Murtaza and Ali, "Manufacturing of these bats will lessen the use of the quantity of timber to half."

# Rajasthan's classroom on wheels initiative to bridge digital divide

- ▶ This Digital Classroom on Wheels, also known as the 'Shiksha Rath' aims to provide affordable education to 5 million students living in villages and remote areas.
- ▶ This 'Shiksha Rath' is the first-of-its-kind initiative rolled out to promote innovative learning in North India by providing a live digital learning experience to students in Rajasthan in the first phase.
- ▶ As quality teachers are scarce in many cities and villages, parents will now be able to see the working of a digital studio and experience how their children can have a better learning experience from top educators helping 'Shiksha Rath' to act as an enabler to spread awareness of the benefits of digital education.
- ▶ The digital classroom in the Shiksha Rath has high-speed internet connectivity, through which live classes will be conducted on various social media platforms. Just like the vanity van of a celebrity, the Shiksha Rath has all the facilities like bedroom, kitchen, dining area and washroom.

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

The digital revolution in Rajasthan is delivering a doorstep education model, ushering in a new wave of productivity both for students as well as professionals. As digitalization remains the single most talked-about topic among business leaders, this digital revolution is shattering old business models, creating innovative thinking to resolve problems, and bringing in new solutions. One such example is Classroom on Wheels, a new concept launched in Rajasthan to deliver doorstep education to rural kids. The 'Shiksha Rath' started its journey on April 13. In the pilot phase, it will cover small towns and villages in Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Besides educationists, the professionals from the state are also riding the digital wave and spreading their know. Rishabh Jain, a Bombay IIT graduate recently envisioned simplifying the labour laws for people after seeing a professional who was unaware about managing payrolls despite being hired as a payroll manager.



"We came across a case where a professional was hired as a Payroll Manager didn't know how to manage a payroll as this was not taught to them in the educational institutes. Similar challenges were faced by pro-

professionals in taxation and legal fields. This was a pain point which triggered the idea to roll out payroll, HR, taxation and legal world courses on digital media where professionals teach short capsule courses which have

**Through this initiative, we aim to reach out to more than 5 million students in the next 2 years. Our Shiksha Rath will initially travel to the Hindi heartland of the country -- Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. We will be launching 10 more Shiksha Raths across India in the next 5 years.**

- Dr Nirmal Gehlot, Project Conceptualiser

practical aspects of the job." This YouTube channel ranked No.1 as the most viewed finance channel in India in 2021. It crossed 3 million subscribers. "Our vision was to simplify labour laws for the common man. Now, with over 3 million subscribers, our channel has evolved into a one-stop solution for labour laws, finance, investing, and business related content," says Rishabh. The best part is that the innovations are helping those residing in remote areas and facing financial constraints.



# DELHI FIRE TRAGEDY: WHY SO MANY PEOPLE DIED?

Ujwal Jalali | New Delhi

At least 27 people perished on May 13 in one of the deadliest fire tragedies that the national capital has seen in the recent years.

A massive fire gutted a four-storey building located near a metro station, charring to death 27 and wounding 12 people in west Delhi's Mundka area.

It is a known fact that the fire incidents soar during the summers and every then and now, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) receives an SOS call from the residents of the city. But rarely has the number of casualties been so high.

The cause of this fire was the same as in most of the cases -- a short circuit.

So what led to such a high number of casualties? Why were the victims not able to save themselves? It is learnt that there were multiple reasons behind the catastrophe.

The foremost being -- the ill-fated building was not having the required No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Fire Department. "The said building owners never applied for a Fire NOC," DFS chief Atul Garg told correspondent.

A Fire NOC certifies that a building has been deemed complied with the fire prevention and fire safety require-



ments in accordance with Rule 33 of the Delhi Fire Services Rules. The owner of the building, Manish Lakra, who was residing on the top floor, has gone absconding since the incident.

To understand the second reason, one should first know about the building. The building had Ground + three floors.

The ground, first and second floor were occupied by a single company whose owners -- Harish Goel and Varun Goel -- have been arrested. Most of the people, at the time of the incident, were present on the second

floor of the building.

The fire first broke out on the first floor which housed a CCTV and router manufacturing company and later spread to the other floors. At the time of the incident, a motivational speech event was being held on the second floor where over 100 people were present.

The second reason was that the fire spread quickly due to the presence of plastic material on the first floor which caused massive smoke inside the building. "Burning of plastic always led to severe smoke during a

fire incident," an official said.

But why did not the people immediately leave the building after the fire broke out? Answer to this question is the third reason that ultimately caused a high number of casualties. All the floors were connected by only one narrow staircase.

"The building had many flaws, including a single escape route which is the prime reason for so many casualties," Garg said. When the fire broke out there was no way to escape as the stairs had also caught fire, a survivor of the incident said.

As the smoke and fire started reaching the second floor, there was extreme panic among the people and they started breaking the window glasses to escape the inferno.

Even before the firemen could arrive, the locals started the rescue operation after stopping a truck that was passing in the area. In a video accessed by correspondent, the people could be seen holding out wires dangling outside the window with the help of rope and ladder that was placed atop the said truck to reach the height of the window.

The fire was so intense that even walls inside the building collapsed, making the rescue operation even more difficult. Besides, lots of smoke and hot weather added to the woes of the firemen.

## THREE-LANE DOWNSTREAM OF KOILWAR BRIDGE THROWN OPEN FOR PUBLIC IN BIHAR

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Saturday virtually inaugurated the 1.5 km three-lane downstream of Koilwar bridge on Sone river in Bihar.

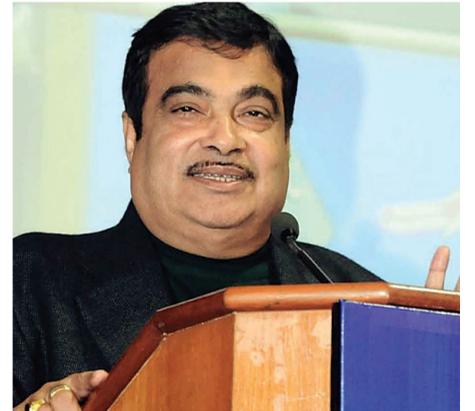
PATNA | Agencies

The bridge has been built parallel to the old rail-cum-road Abdul Bari bridge, which was built during the British era. The new bridge will give hassle-free driving experience to the commuters from Patna and other parts of southern Bihar.

The bridge will directly connect Arrah with Buxar, Mohania in Kaimur, Sasaram in Rohtas district and Chapra. The upstream three lanes of this bridge were opened for public earlier.

Gadkari said that the four-lane road between Koilwar and Buxar will be built in October this year, which will ease the connectivity between Patna and Delhi through the Purvanchal Expressway.

Gadkari also said that the Central government has allocated Rs 3 lakh crore for dif-



ferent national highways, expressways and green-field road projects. Rs 1 lakh crore has been allocated only for the eight green-field expressways.

He said the construction of

the Arrah-Mohania four-lane highway is also in its last phase and it will be completed soon, boosting the connectivity between Patna and Varanasi and further to Delhi and Kolkata.

## K'taka Cong mulls fielding Priyanka Gandhi for Rajya Sabha, BJP welcomes plan



BENGALURU | Agencies

Karnataka Congress is contemplating to field Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for the Rajya Sabha from the state to boost the party ahead of next year's Assembly elections. Sources in the Congress confirmed that its state unit chief D.K. Shivakumar and

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah have already approached Priyanka Gandhi on this matter.

They have reportedly explained to the Congress leader that her grandmother late Indira Gandhi and mother Sonia Gandhi had earlier contested elections from Karnataka and emerged victorious. While Indira Gandhi had contested from Chikkamagaluru in 1978, Sonia Gandhi contested from Ballari in 1999.

Their arrival in the state's political arena had worked well for the Congress in terms of election results. Hence, the Congress now wants to field Priyanka Gandhi for the Rajya Sabha from the state.

Sources in the Congress said that Priyanka Gandhi has assured to take a call on the matter after discussing it with the senior party leaders. Meanwhile, Shobha Karandlaje, BJP MP and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, welcomed Congress' plan to field Priyanka Gandhi for the Upper House.

"Priyanka Gandhi would be the third generation contestant from the Gandhi family to enter the Parliament. I welcome her," she stated.

## FIRE AT DELHI COW SHELTER, DOZEN ANIMALS BURNT ALIVE



New Delhi: In yet another tragic fire incident, over a dozen cows were burnt alive as a blaze engulfed a cow shelter on Delhi's outskirts on Saturday, officials said. According to information, the fire in Savada area broke out at 1.15 p.m. and on being reported, ten fire engines were sent to extinguish the blaze. The fire personnel took four hours to bring the fire under control, and it was found that more than dozen cows were burnt alive and the shelter home damaged. "Charred bodies of cows are being taken out of cow shelter. The reason behind the fire is yet to be ascertained," a fire official said. An FIR was lodged with the local police station. Fire fighters were still busy in the cooling operation.

## Scindia to examine matter of passengers being charged for boarding passes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia assured that he will examine the matter of passengers being charged extra for generating boarding passes at the airport.

Scindia's comments came after a passenger took to Twitter to allege that domestic carrier Spicejet had introduced a new rule where the airline is charging extra for issuing boarding cards at the check-in counter.

"New rule of Spicejet. If you wish to get a boarding card at the check in counter, you need to pay extra. This is like telling a customer in a restaurant that if you want eat in a plate, you will be charged. Wonder what's consumer forum doing!@lyspicejet." a passenger Dr Neeti Shikha tweeted. Shikha added how can



an airline charge a consumer extra for a ticket that one has already paid for. Recently, Scindia had taken cognisance of another airport incident where he had said that he will investigate the alleged mistreatment by an IndiGo staff on a specially-

abled child at the Ranchi airport. On May 7, an IndiGo manager reportedly did not allow a specially-abled child to board a flight. Meanwhile, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) sought a report from IndiGo over the incident.

## WHEAT EXPORT BAN TO REIGN IN DOMESTIC INFLATION, NO THREAT TO FOOD SECURITY: GOVERNMENT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hours after it imposed a ban on wheat export, the government on Saturday said it has adequate food stocks, there is no threat to food security and that the order related to wheat should not be looked at as prohibition or ban but as India's commitment to needy and vulnerable countries.

Against the first estimate of wheat production of 1,113 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) this year (2022-23), the estimate was revised to 1,050 LMT due to early summer/heat wave. Against the estimated procurement of 195 LMT, the actual procurement as of May 13 stood at 180 LMT, including approximately 75 LMT wheat containing shriveled grain.

To put this into context, the wheat production last year (2021-22) was 1,095 LMT and wheat procurement was 433 LMT.

Because of these exports, the demand had increased and the wholesale and retail price of wheat and atta (ground flour) had been increasing consistently.

"PDS system covering 81.35 crore people is the backbone



of food security in our country, it would be run smoothly. But this decision (of wheat export ban) has been essentially taken in view of the price rice that was happening. In several areas, the inflation is imported along with global price rice. It was happening in the case of wheat too," Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey told media persons.

Pandey was joined by Commerce Secretary P.V.R. Subramanyam, and Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Ahuja said there is no dramatic fall in production and termed the decreased wheat production in Haryana and Punjab as "minor. "We will know the actual production much later but before that, we will have third estimates," he said. The wheat export stats showed that 2.17 LMT wheat was exported in 2019-20, 21.55 LMT in 2020-21, and 72.15 LMT in 2021-22. The government had targeted higher wheat exports and more and more countries had given market access to India in view of the Russia-Ukraine war situation. Both the countries are major wheat exporters and ever since the war broke out in end February, much of the agriculture trade, but especially wheat and sunflower oil, have been impacted globally.

## HYDERABAD MAN SPENDS THREE DAYS WITH MOTHER'S BODY IN FLAT

A 22-year-old man, who is said to be mentally unsound, spent three days with the body of his mother at their flat in an apartment building in Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Police found the body of the woman in a decomposed state after neighbours alerted them about the foul smell emanating from the flat.

Police shifted the body of Vijaya (50) for autopsy and detained her son for questioning.

The incident came to light

on Saturday under the limits of Malkajgiri police station in Telangana's Medchal Malkajgiri district.

Locals suspect that the youth murdered her mother. According to them, there used to be frequent quarrels between them.

Police registered a case of death under suspicious circumstances and took up further investigation.

## MASSIVE FIRE IN AMRITSAR HOSPITAL, NO CASUALTY



Chandigarh: A massive fire broke out in government-run Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar on Saturday but a major tragedy was averted as patients and their attendants were all safely evacuated, police said.

Three floors of the building have been damaged but hospital authorities said no one injured in the incident.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has expressed anguish over the incident, and said that he was monitoring the relief work.

## PATNA HC ISSUES ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF SUBRATA ROY, SC STAYS ORDER

PATNA/NEW DELHI | Agencies

The Patna High Court on Friday directed the Bihar DGP to produce Sahara Group Chairman Subrata Roy Sahara before the court by May 16, but the Supreme Court stayed the order.

A bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Justice J.B. Pardiwala stayed the high court order after senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing Roy, appeared before court through video conferencing and pointed out that the single judge bench of the high court has passed perverse orders against Roy in the previous hearings on April 27, May 11, May 12 and May 13.

"The petitioner Subrata Roy Sahara is neither a party nor has any allegation been made against him, still a single judge bench of Patna High Court asked him to physically appear before the court. The single judge bench has made certain observations in the interim order about the payment of the depositors in schemes launched by the Sahara group of companies," he said.

"The repayment of the depositors case is already pending in the Supreme Court



against Sahara group of companies versus SEBI. Hence, the single judge of Patna High Court cannot ask my client (Subrata Roy) to submit a payment plan

before it," he argued.

Sibal also pointed out that a hearing took place in the single judge of Justice Sandeep Kumar on May 12 where Roy's

counsel said that his client had filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court on May 10 but since one of the judges recused himself, the matter was mentioned again on May 11 and May 12. However, the single judge did not accept the submissions and directed him to physically appear before the court on Friday at 10.30 am.

As Roy did not appear before the Patna high court, Justice Sandeep Kumar directed the Bihar DGP to produce him on May 16 at 10.30 am before court, and to take assistance from Uttar Pradesh Police and Delhi Police for this.

The Supreme Court then stayed the high court order and directed the Bihar DGP not to act upon any directions given by a single judge bench.

Since Roy had not heeded various court directions to appear, Justice Sandeep Kumar made strong remarks against him and said that Roy is not above law and will have to physically appear before the court.

Though his lawyer tried to cover up his absence citing his old age (74), illness and security threat, but the judge refused to accept it and asked him to appear before it.

## FIRE BREAKS OUT AT PLASTIC FACTORY IN DELHI'S NARELA

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a plastic factory in Narela area in north Delhi on Saturday, a fire department official said.

The official said that they received a call about the fire incident at 9.10 p.m. in the factory at H 1373, DSIDC, Narela, in outer north Delhi after which as many as 20 fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service.

As the firemen reached the spot, they found that the blaze was of medium category following which 2 more fire tenders have been sent there.

"The firefighting operation is currently underway and 22 fire engines are present on the spot," the official said.

The official was unable to furnish details about any injuries or casualties.

# absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 185, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

"I have nothing of the communalist in me because my Hinduism is all inclusive."



Mahatma Gandhi

## HEAT WAVE TO SEVERE HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS OVER NW INDIA, INDO-GANGETIC PLAINS

# HOT...HOT...HOT...



The IMD warning said heat wave conditions in many parts with severe heat wave conditions will be seen in isolated pockets over the same region on May 15 with reduction in intensity and spatial thereafter, heat wave conditions in some parts on May 15, and heat wave conditions in many parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are very likely over Madhya Pradesh on May 15 with heat wave conditions in some/isolated parts on May 16 and 17.

tricts have registered a temperature above 45 degrees in the last 24 hours. As many as 13 of the 33 districts have witnessed a temperature of 47 degrees and above in the last 24 hours, leaving the people confined to their houses to avoid the scorching sun.

Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are very likely over Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi on May 15, heat wave conditions in some/isolated parts on over Uttar Pradesh on May 15, and in isolated pockets over Jammu division, Vidarbha and Jharkhand on May 15. Meanwhile, under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance, isolated rainfall/thunderstorm is likely over Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on Sunday. The rainfall activity is likely to increase with scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds and hail is very likely over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand on May 16 and 17.

Isolated light rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning is very likely over north Punjab on May 16 and 17 and also over east Uttar Pradesh on the same days.

## NORTHEAST INDIA SEES HEAVY TO EXTREMELY HEAVY RAINFALL

New Delhi: Even as northwest India and Indo-Gangetic plains sizzle in a heat wave and severe heat wave, large parts of northeast India witnessed heavy to extremely heavy rainfall on Saturday with several stations, especially those across Meghalaya, recording rainfall of more than 150 mm in 24 hours.

The IMD has warned of a similar heavy to extremely heavy rainfall activity till May 18.

An east-west trough runs from Bihar to central Assam and Meghalaya across sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim at 0.9 km above mean sea level. Moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal is likely to continue over NE India due to the strong lower-level southerly/southwesterly winds during May 14-18.

## Poachers kill Three cops in MP

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a high-level meeting over the incident, following which he announced an ex gratia of Rs 1 crore as well as government jobs to the kin of each of the martyred policemen. He also transferred the Inspector General (IG) of Gwalior zone, Anil Sharma, for his "delay" in reaching the incident site.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Poachers have allegedly killed three police personnel in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, authorities said on Saturday. According to the police, at around 2.45 a.m. on Saturday six poachers on four bikes were trying to flee from the Aron area after poaching blackbucks and peacocks.

The area falls under the Gwalior-Chambal region and shared a border with Rajasthan. Three police teams were sent to the area on specific inputs about the presence of the armed poachers.

"A tip of suspected poachers was received based on which three teams were deployed for the operation. Sensing that they were cordoned off by the police, the poachers opened fire. The poachers managed to flee, despite attempts by other police teams to nab them," SP Guna Rajeev Mishra said.

Mishra said that a police service rifle was missing and the empty cartridges recovered from the spot suggest that country made firearms were used by the poachers. "Remains of three to four poached Blackbucks and peacocks in sacks have been recovered."

In the wake of the incident, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the state Home Minister Narottam



Mishra held an emergency meeting with the Home Secretary, DGP and senior police officials of the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Narottam Mishra said as many as seven animal poachers were suspected to be involved in the case.

"A poacher was also reported to be injured during the police firing. The government has decided to pay an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore to each bereaved police family," he said. He also informed that the six poachers on the run have been identified.

IG-Gwalior Range Anil Sharma has been removed from his post for reaching the incident spot late.

(More news on Madhya Pradesh page)

## PLACES THAT RECORDED MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES ABOVE 47 DEGREES CELSIUS ARE:

- ▶ Rajasthan - Ganganagar (48.3), Bikaner (48.2), Churu (47.5), Phalodi, Jaisalmer (both 47.4), Pilani (47.3)
- ▶ Madhya Pradesh - Bhind (48.7), Nowgong, Khajuraho (both 47.6)
- ▶ Delhi - Mungeshpur (47.2), Najafgarh (47)
- ▶ Haryana - Sirsa (47.8), Hisar (47.5)
- ▶ Uttar Pradesh - Jhansi (47.3)

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Massive heat wave and severe heat wave conditions prevailed over the Indo-Gangetic plains and northwest Indian plains on Saturday with Uttar Pradesh's Banda recording the highest maximum temperature of 48.8 degrees Celsius.

"Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions were observed in most parts over west Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, many parts over east Rajasthan, southern parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, northern parts of eastern Madhya Pradesh, and some parts over Punjab," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Heat wave conditions were also observed in most parts over north-west Madhya Pradesh and southwest Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan is reeling under a severe heat wave as nearly all its dis-

## Rs 1.5cr transferred to wrong beneficiaries due to copy paste error by bank employee

Hyderabad | Agencies

A copy paste error by an employee of a public sector bank in Hyderabad proved costly as Rs 1.50 crore got transferred to wrong beneficiaries of a Telangana government scheme launched recently.

Fifteen employees of a private hospital in the city were shocked to find Rs 10 lakh each credited in their salary accounts.

An employee of State Bank of India (SBI) accidentally transferred the amount to their accounts. The amount was originally meant to be credited to the accounts of beneficiaries under Dalit Bandhu, a scheme being implemented for economic empowerment of Dalits in Telangana.

The error was committed



by an employee at SBI's Ranga Reddy district collectorate branch on April 24.

Realising his blunder, the bank employee contacted the hospital employees and requested them to transfer the amount back to the bank. The matter came to light a couple of days ago after a bank official

approached police as one of the wrong beneficiaries failed to return the entire amount. On a complaint by the bank official, a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 403 (dishonest misappropriation of the property) was registered against Mahesh, a lab technician at the hospital.

## TRIPURA CHIEF MINISTER BIPLAB KUMAR DEB RESIGNS

Agartala | Tripura

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb resigned from his post on Saturday, top officials said.

Accompanied by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Deb went to the Raj Bhavan on Saturday afternoon and submitted his resignation to Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya. Deb became the Chief Minister on March 9, 2018 after the BJP-led alliance came to power by defeating the Left Front in the Assembly elections. Hours later, elected state party president Manik Saha, who is also a Rajya Sabha member, as the new Leader of the House. Speaking to reporters in Agartala after the legislature party elected him leader - and the new CM - at a meeting held in the official residence of the Chief Minister, Saha said he would continue to be a karyakarta of the party even in his new position.



## CBI TRACES PAK LINK IN 2019 IPL BETTING RACKET, CONDUCTS RAIDS IN 4 CITIES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting search operations in four cities in connection with an IPL betting racket involving a Pakistani national.

The searches are going on in Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad and another city. The agency has recovered a few incriminating documents during the raids so far.

The CBI has lodged an FIR against three persons who have been identified as Dileep Kumar, a resident of Delhi's Rohini area, and Gurram Satish and Gurram Vasu, both residents of Hyderabad. The trio allegedly influenced IPL matches in 2019 on the instruction of a Pakistani handler.

They were in touch with a Pakistani national named Waqas Malik, who used to call them frequently from across the border.

The accused had allegedly opened multiple bank accounts using forged documents and by bribing bank officials to route hawala money involved in the IPL betting racket.

"A reliable information was received

about a network of individuals involved in cricket betting by influencing the outcomes of Indian Premier League (IPL) matches based on inputs received from Pakistan. They were cheating the general public by inducing them for betting," a CBI official said.

The official added that a part of the money received from the general public in India on account of such betting activities was shared with their associates based in foreign countries using hawala transactions. As per the information received, the said network of individuals was involved in cricket betting since 2013. "The trio and others were in contact with one Pakistani suspect named Waqas Malik, who contacted Kumar and Satish and some unknown persons in India using a Pakistani number. They were all part of a network involved in illegal betting activities," the CBI official said.

Kumar, Satish and Vasu used different IDs in KYC forms of the bank accounts in connivance with unknown bank officials. Transactions worth over Rs 45 lakh were found to be suspicious in one of Kumar's accounts.

## AKSHAY TESTS COVID POSITIVE, WILL MISS CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2022

Mumbai | On

Saturday, actor Akshay Kumar announced that he had tested positive for Covid-19. The actor stated that he would be unable to attend the Cannes Film Festival, which starts on May 17. At the Indian pavilion, Akshay said he was 'really looking forward to rooting for our cinema' at the Indian pavilion there.

The actor took to Twitter to express his feelings. Akshay wrote "Was really looking forward to rooting for our cinema at the India Pavilion at #Cannes2022 but have sadly tested positive for Covid. Will rest it out. Loads of best wishes to you and your entire team, @ianuragthakur. Will really miss being there."



## HARYANA TO MAKE EDUCATION FROM PRIMARY TO POST-GRADUATION IN UNIVERSITIES

Chandigarh: To ensure

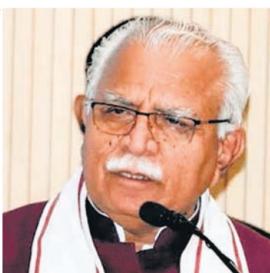
quality education is provided under one-roof, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday said all universities of the state should make education available from kindergarten) to post-graduation under the new education policy.

He said the fees of the poor studying in these universities would be paid by the government. A new scheme will be introduced for this very soon.

The Chief Minister was addressing a two-day conference of Vice Chancellors of Universities here. The conference on education policy, self-employment and management was organised by the Haryana State Higher Education Council.

The Chief Minister said a new scheme would soon be introduced to provide education to the children of those families whose verified annual income is less than Rs 1.80 lakh in the Parivar Pehchan Patra.

Under this scheme, the fees of the children of poor families will be paid by the government so that the financial burden on the universities does not increase and the poor children can also get access to higher education.



## Stop vicious politics or you won't be spared, Uddhav Thackeray warns BJP, MNS

Referring to the break-up between BJP-Sena in October 2019, Thackeray sharply said that "we kicked the donkey before it could kick us" but they couldn't digest it and continued to behave like "a jilted lover". Now they are accusing us of leaving Hindutva by allying with Congress and Nationalist Congress Party... Whatever we did, we did openly, not like you swearing-in the government in the early morning hours. You made all attempts to bring us down, but when you failed, you deployed central agencies after us, yet nothing happened," he said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday warned the Bharatiya Janata Party and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena to stop their "dirty politics" or they would not be forgiven or spared.

Addressing a huge rally here, Thackeray targeted the BJP and his estranged cousin and MNS chief Raj Thackeray on a wide-range of issues including their brand of Hindutva, love for Marathi, the Centre's pending GST dues to Maharashtra, BJP's hurdles in various important development projects of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, and attempts to separate Mumbai as a Union

Territory. Ridiculing BJP Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis' recent claims that he was present during the razing of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya (1992), Thackeray asked if he had gone on a school picnic there or some sight-seeing tour. "Look at his age and how much he blabbers," he said. Without naming his cousin, Thackeray compared him with the character of Sanjay Dutt who gets visions of Mahatma Gandhi in the blockbuster "Lage Raho Munnabhai" (2006). "There's one case roaming around wearing a shawl like Balasaheb Thackeray and claiming to see his spirit... As in the film, he is suffering from some 'chemical locha' and needs treatment,"



Thackeray said amidst applause. Dwelling on issues of the high inflation or unemployment, the

CM and Shiv Sena President said "first they should talk about the price hike" before questioning oth-

ers' Hindutva and diverting to loudspeakers (in mosques' or Hanuman Chalisa, both recently raised by Raj Thackeray and the MP-MLA couple of Navneet Kaur-Rana and her husband Ravi Rana. "You couldn't protect one Kashmiri Pandit who begged for transfer from Budgam (Kashmir) to Jammu, and terrorists barged into his government office and shot him. Do you have the guts to go and chant Hanuman Chalisa there?" Thackeray challenged the Rana couple. He thundered at the manner in which the Centre is providing security at public expense to "nincompoops" who target the MVA government but not the Kashmiri Pandits who really need it.



## Shiv Sena MLA gets two years jail in assault case

**A COURT IN MAHARASHTRA'S RAIGAD DISTRICT HAS SENTENCED LOCAL SHIV SENA MLA MAHENDRA DALVI TO TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT IN A 2013 CASE OF ASSAULT.**

Alibag | Agencies

A court in Maharashtra's Raigad district has sentenced local Shiv Sena MLA Mahendra Dalvi to two years' imprisonment in a

2013 case of assault. District Judge Veebha Ingale convicted Dalvi, the Alibag MLA, and his followers Anil H Patil, Ankush Patil and Avinash Mhatre on Friday. They were accused of beating up Babu alias Salim Lalasaheb Digi at Thal in the district in 2013, and booked under IPC section 324 (assault) and other relevant provisions. Police had also pressed the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against them. But the charges under the Act were not proven. Each of the accused shall also pay a fine of Rs 27,500, the court said. On Dalvi's plea, the court stayed the implementation of the sentence to enable him file an appeal.

## Rana couple pray at Hanuman temple in Delhi for Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's ouster

"Uddhav Thackeray is the biggest danger looming over Maharashtra. I have come to offer prayers to rid Maharashtra of this danger," Navneet Rana told reporters outside the temple.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Independent lawmakers Navneet and Ravi Rana on Saturday recited the Hanuman Chalisa at the Hanuman temple in Delhi and claimed to have prayed for removal of the "biggest danger looming over Maharashtra in the form of Shiv Sena." The couple was arrested last month on sedition charges after a call for reciting the Hanuman Chalisa outside



Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence in Mumbai and released on bail 12 days later. Dressed in a saffron sari and accompanied by her husband and scores of supporters, Navneet Rana, the independent Lok Sabha member from Amravati, walked on foot from her North Avenue residence to the Hanuman temple in Connaught Place to offer prayers. "Uddhav Thackeray is the biggest danger looming over Maharashtra. I have come to offer prayers to rid Maharashtra of this danger," Navneet told reporters outside the temple. The Rana

couple also performed aarti at the temple. The temple visit comes on a day when Thackeray is scheduled to address a massive rally in Mumbai. Meanwhile, Navneet Rana accused the Shiv Sena of abandoning the cause of Hindutva by joining hands with the Congress and NCP to grab power in Maharashtra. "Uddhav Thackeray has forgotten the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray. Balasaheb was the real torchbearer of Hindutva, these are duplicates," she said to questions on Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's remarks that the time had come to

show the real style of Shiv Sena. Navneet Rana dared Thackeray to take action against "those offering prayers at Aurangzeb's grave" instead of targeting her for espousing the cause of Hindutva. AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi had offered prayers at the grave of Mughal ruler Aurangzeb at Khuldabad, near Aurangabad in Maharashtra. Keeping up the attack on Shiv Sena, the Rana couple said they would "overthrow Shiv Sena's Lanka of corruption" from Mumbai Municipal Corporation, where elections are due. Shiv Sena has been controlling the reins of power in Mumbai municipal corporation, the country's richest civic body, since 1996. The battle of Mumbai municipal corporation is keenly watched as it has an annual budget of over Rs 30,000 crore, which is more than that of some of the smaller states in the country.

## Matheran and Neral to get minibus soon

State transport department has given a green signal to the Matheran hill station municipal council's (MHSMC's) proposal to commence its own minibus service. The divisional controller of MSRTC has also issued an NOC to commence the minibus service between Neral and Matheran. "Budgetary provision of Rs 40 lakh has been made to purchase two mini buses," said Surekha Bhanage, chief officer MHSMC. "The outgoing MHSMC general body had last year passed a resolution to commence the minibus service. During the ST strike, I had requested the chief officer to make a budget provision. She had sought NOC from MSRTC," said Shivaji Shinde, an excouncilor.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

State transport department has given a green signal to the

## Maharashtra records 248 new COVID-19 cases, 1 death, 263 recoveries on May 14; active cases jump to 1,439

Out of 8,05,37,502 laboratory samples 78,80,585 have been tested positive (09.78%) for COVID-19 until Saturday



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Saturday, May 14 recorded 248 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 1,439. Besides, 1 COVID-19 death was reported in the day, taking the tally to 1,47,854.

263 patients were discharged in the day, taking the tally to 77,31,292. The recovery rate in the state is 98.11%. The case fatality rate in the state is 1.87%.

Out of 8,05,37,502 laboratory samples 78,80,585 have been tested positive (09.78%) for COVID-19 until today.

The Mumbai circle that consists of MCGM, Thane,

TMC, Navi Mumbai, KDMC, Ulhasnagar MC, Bhivandi Nijampur MC, Mira Bhayandar MC, Palghar, Vasai Virar MC, Raigad, Panvel MC recorded 170 new cases. The Nashik circle that consists of Nashik, Nashik MC, Malegaon MC, Ahmednagar, Ahmednagar MC, Dhule, Dhule MC, Jalgaon, Jalgaon MC, Nandurbar reported 5 fresh COVID-19 cases. The Pune circle that includes Pune, PMC, PCMC, Solapur, Solapur MC, Satara recorded 63 new cases. The Kolhapur circle that includes Kolhapur, Kolhapur MC, Sangli, Sangli MC, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri

reported 2 new case. The Aurangabad circle that consists of Aurangabad, Aurangabad MC, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Parbhani MC reported 1 fresh case. The Latur circle that consists of Latur, Latur MC, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Nanded MC recorded 2 fresh cases. The Akola circle that includes Akola, Akola MC, Amaravati, Amaravati MC, Yawatmal, Buldhana, Washim recorded 1 fresh case. Nagpur circle that includes Nagpur, Nagpur MC, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Chandrapur MC, Gadchiroli reported 4 fresh cases.

## FATHER AND SON STEAL ELECTRICITY WORTH RS 5 CRORE

Mumbai: A father-son duo has been booked for alleged electricity theft of Rs 5.93 crore in Murbad area of Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Friday. The irregularity came to light after a Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) team raided a stone crushing unit in Falegaon on May 5, he said. "Power was being stolen remotely with the use of a gadget that was tampering the meter readings. The total power theft in the last 29 months has been estimated at 34,09,901 units worth Rs 5.93 crore," he said. Chandrakant Bhambre and his son Sachin have been booked under various provisions of the Electricity Act, a Murbad police station official informed.

## Free Sex Reassignment Surgery For Transgenders In Maharashtra: Tope

The Minister made the announcement at a conference organised by the Public Health Department and the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre

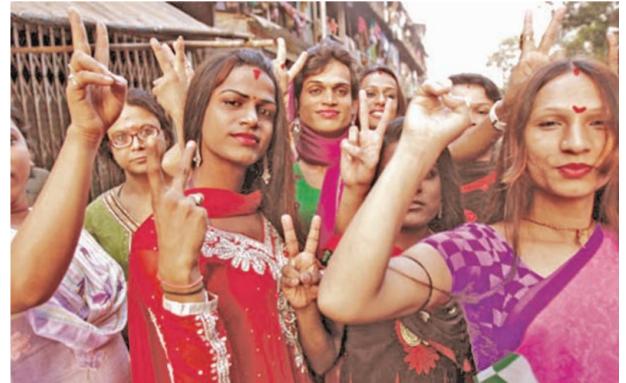
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Gender affirming or sex reassignment surgeries would be carried out free for members of the transgender community in Maharashtra, state Health Minister Rajesh Tope has said.

He made the announcement at a conference organised by the Public Health Department and the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre here on Thursday.

NCP MP Supriya Sule shared a video clip of Tope's speech. "I would like to tell you on this occasion that we will carry out surgeries for transgenders 100 per cent free," the minister can be heard saying.

Thanking Tope, Sule tweeted on Friday, "Rajesh Bhaiyya Tope (@rajesh-tope11) - Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare, Govt of Maharashtra has



declared that Gender affirming or Sex reassignment surgeries (SRS) would be done free of cost for Transgender Individuals in the State."

## Villagers clash over Shivaji statue, 30 cops injured, over 300 persons booked

The additional superintendent of police of the region was among those who were injured in the stone-pelting that took place.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over 30 policemen were injured after two groups of people in a village in Jalna district over the installation and removal of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and naming a village entry gate after late BJP leader Gopinath Munde. Officials said on Friday that over 300 people have been booked for violence.

The additional superintendent of police of the region was among those who were injured in the stone-pelting that took place on Thursday in Chandai Eko village under Hasnabad police station limits in Bhokardan tahsil, over 400 kilometre-

tres from the state capital, they added. "Two groups entered into an argument over the statue as well as naming the entry gate after the BJP leader. As it degenerated into a violent scuffle, a team from Hasnabad police station arrived at the site to take control of the situation," an official said. "In the evening, a group from the village blocked a road and then pelted stones at a police team that went to clear the route. Among the 30-odd policemen who received minor injuries was Additional Superintendent of Police Vikrant Deshmukh. A gas gun had to be used to bring the mob under control and restore law and order," he said. Three police vehicles were dam-

aged in the incident, which saw three FIRs being registered under various IPC sections, leading to over 300 people being booked, of which 34 were arrested, the official informed. As per an official, the fight started after one group wanted the village entry gate to be named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and opposed the removal of a statue of the legendary warrior-king that had been installed at the site. "Another group sought that the gate be named after Munde. When local authorities brought an excavator to remove the statue, tensions flared up, resulting in stone-pelting at the machine and then at each other," he said.

Villagers said 10 people were injured in police action, which they claimed included firing in the air apart from lobbing tear gas shells. "The situation in the village is completely in control and peace is being maintained. We have deployed police as well as SRPF personnel at the site. Probe into the incident is underway," In charge Superintendent of Police Harsh Poddar said. The cases registered in connection with the incident are for offences like an attempt to murder, rioting, damaging public property, creating animosity between communities, and stopping government servants from discharging duty, officials said.

## Woman, Declared 'Male' In Medical Test, Wins Case For Job

The bench was presiding over the plea of a 23-year-old woman, who had applied for the Nashik Rural Police Recruitment 2018 under the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. She qualified for the written and physical tests.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to finalise within two months the appointment in the state police department of a woman, who had qualified for the concerned exam, but lost out on the post after a medical test revealed that she was a 'male'.

A bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Madhav Jamdar passed the order last week after the state's counsel,

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, told the court that the state government had decided to take a sympathetic view in the present case and appoint the woman in the police department, but in a "non-constabulary post."

Kumbhakoni said the special IG (Nashik) will submit a recommendation to the additional chief secretary of the state home department keeping in mind the woman's qualifications. He told the bench that the terms and benefits of employment for the petitioner woman will be at par with other employees of her level, who are recruited through the standard procedure.

The bench accepted the state's submission and accordingly granted the state government and the police department two months to complete the process.

"It is an extremely unfortunate case. No fault can be found in the petitioner as

throughout, she has pursued her career as a female," the bench said while passing the order. The bench was presiding over the plea of a 23-year-old woman, who had applied for the Nashik Rural Police Recruitment 2018 under the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. She qualified for the written and physical tests.

However, a subsequent medical exam showed that she did not have a uterus and ovaries. Another test showed she had both the male and female chromosomes and it opined that she was "male."

The woman then moved the high court, saying she had been unaware of the anatomical anomaly. She said she had lived as a female right from birth and all her educational certificates and personal documents were registered with a female name. She cannot be denied recruitment only because of the karyotyping chromosome examination had declared her male.

## Marathi actress Ketaki Chitale detained for 'derogatory' post on Pawar

An offence was registered in Maharashtra's Thane city against Marathi actress Ketaki Chitale on Saturday for allegedly sharing a "derogatory" post on Facebook against NCP chief Sharad Pawar, with the party leaders demanding a strict action against her.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thane police detained Marathi actor Ketaki Chitale, allegedly for sharing objectionable post on her Facebook wall against NCP leader Sharad Pawar. The post targeting Pawar shared by the TV and film actress on Friday was purportedly written by someone else. The post in Marathi makes no direct mention of the NCP's chief's full name. But it mentions the surname Pawar and the age of 80. The NCP patriarch is 81-year-old. Comments like "hell is waiting" and "you hate Brahmins" are part of the post that allegedly criticises the veteran leader, whose party shares power in

Maharashtra with the Shiv Sena and the Congress.

"The offence against Chitale was registered at Kalwa police station in Thane on Saturday based on a complaint lodged by Swapnil Netke, who alleged that the actress posted objectionable content against Pawar, and her post might strain the relationship between the two political parties in the state further and create trouble," a police official said. The case against Chitale was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 500 (defamation), 501 (printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory), 505 (2) (making, publishing or circulating any statement, rumour or report promoting enmity,

hate or ill will between classes), 153 A (spreading disharmony among people), he said. Meanwhile, in Pune, the NCP submitted a letter to the police demanding action against Chitale over her post.

NCP's Pune city unit president Prashant Jagtap said, "The social media post by Chitale is defamatory. She has defamed Pawar and his daughter Supriya Sule in the post. This post may create unrest, which is why we have given a letter to the cyber police, urging them to take action against her." The NCP also demanded that the actress be arrested for the post.

"Following the NCP's letter, we are in the process of registering a case against the actress," Dagadu Hake, inspector of cyber crime police station said. Reacting to the post, Maharashtra housing development minister Jitendra Awhad said the youths attached to the NCP will register offences in "at least 100-200" police stations in Maharashtra in connection with the post. Some of the NCP leaders also sought to link the BJP and the RSS for such remarks being made against Pawar on social media. He said NCP workers will not tolerate such "hideous" comments about their leader.

## Nashik pharmacy student held for 'objectionable' tweet against Sharad Pawar

Nikhil Bhamre, a resident of Satana in Nashik, was arrested by Dindori police. In his tweet, he had said that time has come to create 'Baramati's Nathuram Godse for the Gandhi of Baramati'

Team Absolute | Nashik

A 23-year-old pharmacy student was arrested in Maharashtra's Nashik district for allegedly making an objectionable comment against NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Twitter, a police official said.

Nikhil Bhamre, a resident of Satana in Nashik, was arrested by Dindori police, he said. In his tweet, he had said that time has come to create "Baramati's Nathuram Godse for the Gandhi of Baramati". He had, however, not mentioned the name of any leader or political party in the tweet. Baramati, a town in Pune district of the state, is the home turf of Sharad Pawar, while Godse was the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi. "After probing the tweet,

Maharashtra Cyber had intimated Nashik rural police for further action," the official said. Bhamre has been charged under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups), 500 (defamation), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), he added.

Earlier, NCP leader Anand Paranjpe had lodged a complaint against Bhamre at Naupada police station in Thane city, following which a case was registered against him. Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Jitendra Awhad had also tweeted to the Mumbai and Thane police commissioners and the state DGP to take strict action against Bhamre.



# STRICT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GUNA INCIDENT: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called an emergency meeting at the residence office this morning and sought detailed information regarding the encounter between policemen and poachers in Guna district last night and the death of policemen.

Chouhan directed that the police should immediately take the strictest action possible against those guilty. The Chief Minister said that a detailed inquiry would also be conducted into the incident. Chouhan directed to remove Inspector General of Police, Gwalior, considering him guilty of reaching the spot late. Home Minister Narottam Mishra was present in the meeting. Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena virtually took part in the meeting.

Chief Minister said that the martyrdom of all three policemen including Sub Inspector Rajkumar Jatav, constable Neeraj Bhargava



and constable Santram, who lost their lives in the incident, will not be allowed to go in vain. They have laid down their lives while on duty. An honorarium of Rs one crore will be given to the family members of each of them and they will be accorded martyr status. Along with this, one member of the family will be given a government job. Chouhan said that the policemen on duty, who were martyred, should be cremated with respect. Ministers, public representatives and senior police officers should attend the funeral.

Chief Minister said that our police personnel have died while fighting poachers. In this incident, such strict action will be taken against the guilty criminals, which will become an example in history. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Home Rajesh Rajoura, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Manish Rastogi, Principal Secretary Public Relations Raghavendra Kumar Singh, ADG Adarsh Katiyar and OSD Chief Minister's Office Yogesh Choudhary were present.

# Two of five poachers who killed Guna cops arrested, two dead

Police said they had information that poachers were around. Hearing the sound of the police vehicle, the poachers got alert and started firing, taking a position. Three of them died on the spot.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three policemen were shot dead by blackbuck poachers in Guna in the wee hours of Saturday.

Two of the poachers were killed in the cross-firing while others managed to escape. Two of them were arrested by the police after a few hours. They are residents of Bidoria village in Guna's Raghogarh area.

The incident took place at around 2.45 am under Aron police station-45km from the district headquarters. The slain cops were identified as sub-inspector Rajkumar Jatav, head constable Sant Kumar Meena and constable Neeraj Bhargava.

The driver of the police vehicle was also injured. Rajeev Mishra, superintendent of police, told media that the team went to the forest area under Aron police station following specific intelligence inputs on poachers. They managed to round up three of them.

However, their accomplices opened fire on police killing three of them on the spot. One of the poachers identified as Naushad was killed in police firing. Others had managed to escape the spot taking advantage of the dense foliage.

They had shot around five blackbucks. Decapitated carcasses of two blackbucks, four heads and a peacock shot by the poachers were seized from the spot later.

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called for an emergency meeting with the DGP Sudhir Saxena and other officers. He ordered the sus-

pension of Gwalior zone IG Anil Sharma with immediate effect over delay in reaching the spot of crime. He was replaced by 1997 batch IPS officer D Srinivas Verma.

Chouhan announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore each to the families of the martyred police personnel.

"They'll be given the status of martyrs and Rs one crore each will be given to their families. One member of each of their families will be given a government job. Last rites will be held with full honour. Decided to immediately remove Gwalior IG for reaching late at the spot after the incident," the chief minister said.

"Criminals will not be spared at any cost, action against them will be exemplary. I respect their sacrifice," he

added. State home minister Narottam Mishra also consoled the death of the three police personnel and said instructions had been given to take strict action against the criminals. Politics has also started heating up regarding this issue.

Leader of opposition Govind Singh sought the resignation of the home minister saying the law and order situation in the state had collapsed.

"The spirits of the criminals are so high that even policemen are not spared. The home minister should resign from his post," he said.

Panchayat and rural development minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia said the police took prompt action and managed to identify and arrest two of them.

# Nemawar mass killings: CBI writes to MP govt for holding trials

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has written a letter to the Madhya Pradesh government requesting for holding trials by district court against nine accused charged-sheets in connection with Nemawar alleged mass murder case.

The development came a day after the agency had registered a case against nine people in connection with the case on Wednesday. The CBI has booked nine accused under sections 363, 302, 364, 376, 376 (2), 120 (B) of IPC and section 5 (I)/6 (va) of SC/ST (Prevention Act), 1989.

The accused includes Surendra Singh Rajput, Virendra alias Bhuru, Manoj Korku, Vivek Tiwari, Karan Korku, Rajkumar Keer Arvind Kumar and Dharmendra alias Michael, all residents of Dewas and Rakesh Nimare, resident of Harda district.

The brutal killing of five members of a tribal family in Dewas

district of the state had created a storm in the state, with the ruling BJP facing criticism from the Opposition. Sources said that a CBI's investigating team has also approached Dewas district court on Thursday and filed an application before the trial court to hand-over necessary documents related to this case, sources told IANS.

It came around six months after the BJP led state government had ordered for a CBI inquiry in this alleged brutal mass murder case. The government had requested the CBI to investigate the matter after Congress's Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh sent a letter asking chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to hand over the Nemawar case to CBI or SIT for detailed investigation.

# DATE OF PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT SHOULD BE EXTENDED TILL MAY 31: CM

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed that the date of procurement of wheat in the state should be extended till May 31. Chouhan was taking a review meeting of wheat procurement at his residence office. Senior officers of Agriculture, Cooperatives, Mandi board and Food Department were present.

Chouhan said that farmers should not face any problem during the purchase of wheat on support price. Every grain of wheat of farmers should be purchased at support price. Chief Minister said that by extending the date of procurement of wheat, farmers would get more opportunity to sell their wheat.

Those farmers who have not been able to sell wheat, they can sell wheat within the stipulated extended date. Chouhan said that along with natural farming, soybean and pulses cultivation should be promoted more in the state. It was informed in the meeting that so far 41 lakh 57 thousand metric tonnes of wheat has been purchased in the state.

# Man found hanging in police lockup in Bhopal, judicial probe ordered

The petition filed by Sushil Singh Rajput, a resident of village Boriya of Katangi, states that his son Nilesh Singh was married to Jyoti Singh on May 6, 2017 Wednesday.

lockup in Kamla Nagar police station. The incident has prompted the authorities to order a judicial probe into the matter.

Police said, as per the CCTV footage from the police station, Sarthi tore off the blanket provided in the lockup and hanged himself with it. Sarthi had two cases registered against him in 2014 and 2021. A case was registered against the accused under different sections of the IPC including 354 (assault on woman to outrage her modesty, and he had been released from jail a month back, a police official posted in Kamla Nagar police station told IANS. On Friday, Sarthi was arrested

again on the basis of a complaint lodged by his sister-in-law, who accused him of assaulting her to outrage her modesty. She alleged that he was mounting pressure on her to marry him after her husband's death, Umesh Tiwari, assistant commissioner of police TT Nagar Area told the press. A judicial magistrate first class has been appointed to probe the matter.

The area sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) completed the legal formalities and sent the body for post-mortem, the official said.

"If laxity of any policemen comes to fore, disciplinary action would be taken against him," Tiwari added.

# CM orders SIT probe into killing of 2 tribesmen

The Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) team to investigate the deaths of two tribesmen in Seoni district.

been fired. On May 3, two tribal men were beaten to death on suspicion of cow slaughter in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district. Another person was injured in the incident.

According to the police, the mob went to the home of the tribals and accused them of killing a cow. Then they allegedly beat the two men brutally. Both died while they were being taken to hospital.

"Two tribal men have died. It was alleged a group of 15-20 people went to the victims' house, accused them of killing a cow and assaulted them. The two men died while being taken to hospital and another had minor injuries," Additional Superintendent of Police SK Maravi had said.

# CM PLANTS NEEM AND PEEPAL SAPLINGS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday planted Peepal and Neem saplings in the Smart Garden located at Shyamala Hills. Along with the Chief Minister, office bearers of Heaven's Life Residents Maintenance Co-operative Society, Bhopal and founder of Panchtatva Foundation, Water Woman Kshipra Pathak Didi also planted saplings.

Amit Mandloi, Shyam Vallabh Agarwal, Navneet Kumar Vyas and Jaipal Singh Rajput of the organization planted neem sapling along with the Chief Minister. The organization is working on waste disposal and environment-protection in the colony. Along with this, the work of cleanliness and waste disposal has been done in thirty acres of area. The organization has also kept dustbin for dry garbage and planted flower and fruit bearing saplings in 12 parks. The organization makes citizens aware to stop the use of polythene.



Kshipra Pathak presented her book 'Reva' to Chief Minister Chouhan. Kshipra Didi, who has taken a pledge to plant one crore saplings for Narmada Parikrama and environment protection, has so far travelled three and a half thousand kilometers on foot. She is also making efforts to generate public awareness. Kshipra didi has also done Parikrama of Mount Maikal. She is called 'Water Woman' for dedicating life to water. Her foundation planted three lakh saplings during the Corona period. Peepal is a shade giving tree among the saplings planted today.

# Youth beheads uncle, walks on street with severed head

Suspecting black magic, a 22-year old beheaded a 60-year old with an axe and walked for nearly two kilometers-carrying the severed head in one hand and the axe in the other hand-before being caught by police in Sidhi district on Friday.

hand and the axe in the other hand before being caught by police in Sidhi district on Friday. The incident took place at Kari Mati village under Jamodi police station of the district.

The Accused has been identified as Ravendra Singh Gond, 22, resident of Kari Mati village and the deceased has been identified as Maksudan Singh Gond, 60, resident of the same village. Police took the severed head from the accused and then collected the torso from the village for post-mortem.

"It was at around 9.30am that the information was received on dial 100. The village is situated at a distance of around 15 kilometers from district headquarters. The locals probably saw him carrying the severed head after

he had nearly walked 500 meters. People were scared to see him in this condition. Police teams from two police stations were sent to the spot. The accused was arrested within an hour. He did not resist much during the arrest," additional SP Sidhi, Anjulata Patle said.

She added, "Prima facie he had informed that he believed that the deceased practiced black magic and it was the black magic of the deceased that had killed his father a few years ago. On being asked where he was carrying the severed head, he said that he could not understand what he was doing after committing the crime," she said.

"A case has been registered and detailed investigations are going on," she said.

# STATE GOVERNMENT STANDS AT EVERY STEP FOR TRIBAL UPLIFTMENT:CM

- CM took part in mass marriage ceremony in tribal dominated Piplani village
- Marriage of 411 Gond and Korku couples solemnised
- Chief Minister presents materials and cheques to daughters

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is committed for the upliftment of the tribal class. There are continuous efforts of government to connect the tribal society with the mainstream of development. The way for their development is being paved through many schemes. The government is also doing the work of preserving tribal language and culture. Chouhan was addressing the mass marriage ceremony of Gond and Korku couples under Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojna at Piplani, a tribal-dominated village of Sehore district today. He said that he does not want to be welcomed in the marriage of daughters, I have come to welcome the bride and groom and my sons and daughters. Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed the bride and groom by showering flowers in the mass marriage programme and blessed them.

Chouhan said that in order to make the Kanya Vivah Yojana more useful and meaningful, the amount given by the government has been increased to Rs.55 thousand. This amount takes care of organizing the marriage to purchase of the daughter's household, items besides a cheque of Rs.11 thousand which is also given them. He said that the objective of this scheme is to remove the worries of marriage of the



daughters of poor families so that they get married happily without having to take any loan. He blessed them for a happy married life. He said that all the daughters should take care of both their families. The Chief Minister also urged the grooms to give full respect to his nieces and be happy. Seeing the daughters as brides in the marriage ceremony, Chouhan became emotional. He also sang the song 'Babul ki duaayen leti jaa tujh ko sukhi sansar mile' wishing everyone a happy married life.

Chouhan said that to make the tribal society more empowered, they would be given more powers. Rights on their forests will be increased. Along with this, all-round development will be done through other schemes. He said that 20 percent amount would be given to the local forest committees on the sale of jungle wood. The amount of collection per 100 bundles of tendu patta has been increased from Rs.250 to Rs.300. Decision has been taken to implement PESA Act in the interest of tribals. The work of social forest

management will be given to the tribal groups. Chief Minister said that apart from the marriage of sons and daughters of tribal groups, Mama Shivraj will support them at every aspects of life including the cost of higher education, housing, ration, health etc. Impressed by the speech of MP Sampatia Uike in Pardi language, Chief Minister Chouhan said that the government would make all efforts for the preservation of tribal language and culture. He said that never give up your language and culture. It is a matter of honour. Chief Minister Chouhan gifted cheques worth Rs.11 thousand each symbolically to 10 girls. He also gave 32 inch LED TV, a table fan, 51 utensils, bed, bridal clothes, makeup items and silver jewelry etc. to the newlyweds as per the provision in the Kanya Vivah Yojana. People's representatives from the tribal areas of the state also participated in the programme.

In the mass marriage ceremony, attractive dance performances of cultural group from Betul and Maharashtra captivated everyone. Chief Minister Chouhan announced to give Rs. 25,000 each to cultural groups. Mandla MP Uike also announced a grant of Rs.10,000 to the cultural groups.

Chouhan presented citation and trophy to 49 tribal students who got first rank in Class Xth and XII, including 6 students of merit list.

In the marriage ceremony more than 50 thousand baraatis and ghaaratis together made the mass marriage ceremony grand and wonderful. The mass marriage which started with kanya-pujan ended with the bidai ceremony. Food Minister Bisahull Singh, Vidisha MP Ramakant Bhargava also addressed the gathering. Animal Husbandry Minister Prem Singh Patel, Former Minister Omprakash Dhurve, Guruprasad Sharma and public representatives were present in large numbers.



# Elizabeth Olsen accused of LYING

Los Angeles | Agencies

After bravely taking part in Vanity Fair's lie detector test series, Elizabeth Olsen was left red-faced when one of her answers turned out to be false. The 33-year-old WandaVision star was questioned about her old high school pal - musician Danielle Haim - who had a small role in the Paul Thomas Anderson movie Licorice Pizza. Asked whether she thought she was a better actress than Danielle, 33, the Doctor Strange star first answered honestly as she said laughing: 'Yeah. Sorry Danielle.' However, when pressed further over whether she had seen the film and liked Danielle's performance, the lie detector went off.

'No, I loved the film, and I thought she was great in it. But she didn't have to do much,' Elizabeth said. The man operating the lie detector then cut in saying: 'She's lying about the film.'

## ACADEMY, REELING FROM 'SLAPGATE', SETS MARCH 12, 2023, AS NEXT OSCAR DATE

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 95th Oscars will be held on March 12, 2023, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the American television network ABC announced on Friday (US Pacific Time), reports 'Variety'.

The ceremony will mark the second year in a row that the Academy Awards have taken place in March, with this past year's edition, which returned to a live format after two years, occurring on March 27. The 95th Oscars will be aired live on ABC in more than 200 territories worldwide from the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

The submission deadline for general entry categories for the 2023 Oscars is November 15. Preliminary voting will begin on December 12 and the shortlists will be announced on December 21. The eligibility period will end on December 31, and the voting for nominations

will take place between January 12 and January 17, 2023.

The nominations will be announced on January 24, 2023, with final voting taking place between March 2 and March 7 next year.

The Will Packer-produced show also came under fire before the ceremony for its decision to pre-record eight artisan categories and include a "fan favourite" prize that was voted on via Twitter.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar winning actress Charlize Theron offered a better look at Marvel character Clea from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, after a blink-and-you-missed-it appearance at the end of the recently released superhero film 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness', reports 'Deadline'.

As per 'Deadline', Theron shared a video of what appears to be a 3D body scan session of herself in character. She stands inside a circle of scaffolding with about 100 cameras spaced evenly throughout it. The video reveals Theron's full look, head to toe, including her cape, long platinum hair and, of course, the character's purple tights and boots.

The actress simply wrote, "Sneaky peaky BTS." Screenwriter Michael Waldron talked about the character and the actress at Deadline's 'Hero Nation' podcast. He told 'Deadline', "First off - Charlize Theron, holy shit."

"We always knew we wanted to introduce Clea, who in the comics is, you could say, the great love of Doctor Strange but really in a lot of ways his formidable equal as a sorcerer herself. Her backstory is fascinating; she's the niece of Dormammu, the giant floating head from the first movie", he added.

**Charlize Theron shares video of her MCU character Clea in full costume**

## Kevin Spacey's 'Peter Five Eight' heads to Cannes market

Los Angeles | Agencies

The thriller 'Peter Five Eight', which stars Kevin Spacey, will be heading to Cannes film market as it has been picked up by VMI International for a worldwide release.

The film, directed by Michael Zaiko Hall, also stars Rebecca De Mornay, Jet Jandreau and Jake Weber, reports 'Deadline'.

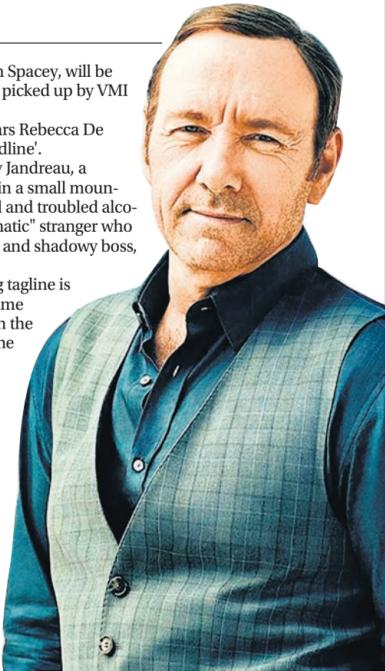
As per 'Deadline', the film follows Sam played by Jandreau, a seemingly poised and glamorous real estate agent in a small mountain community who is revealed to be an unhinged and troubled alcoholic with a dark secret. Spacey will play "a charismatic" stranger who arrives out of the blue at the behest of his powerful and shadowy boss, Mr Lock.

'Deadline' further states that the film's marketing tagline is "The Guilty Always Pay The Price". Spacey, a two-time Oscar winner and star of 'House Of Cards', is also in the market with historical drama '1242 - Gateway To The West', on sale with Australian outfit Galloping Entertainment.

These two films are among the first Spacey projects to be on sale in the market since multiple people accused the actor of sexual harassment and unwanted advances in 2017.

The only other project Spacey is known to have taken part in in recent years is Franco Nero-directed drama 'The Man Who Drew God', which will also be on sale on the Croisette via OneTwoThree Media.

There will be no shortage of actors and directors tinged with controversy in the Cannes market this year. There are also new films starring or directed by Roman Polanski, Luc Besson, Johnny Depp, Alec Baldwin and James Franco.



## 'KELSEY AND I WERE SO GRATEFUL TO HIM, IT MEANT THE WORLD': TOM PARKER

Los Angeles | Agencies

The late Tom Parker has revealed in his upcoming memoir that Ed Sheeran helped pay for his private medical treatment during his brain cancer battle.

The Wanted star, who died at the age of 33 on March 30, said the Perfect hitmaker, 31, reached out to him not long after his stage 4 glioblastoma diagnosis in October 2020 to ask if he could help.

In his new memoir Hope, Tom called Ed a 'special man' as he revealed his friend helped to pay for his medical bills, which he said 'meant the world' to him and his wife Kelsey. An extract from the book, obtained by The Sun, read: 'I've never publicly said



this before (and he'll probably be mad that I'm doing it now) but Ed is a very special man - he even helped out with my medical bills when I was seeking other treatment options and having private immunotherapy.

'He didn't need to do any of that, but my wife Kelsey and I are so grateful to him for his support, it meant the world.'

Tom had been friends with Ed since he joined The Wanted on the band's tour bus more than 10 years ago and said they had a 'great relationship' ever since.

Tom died aged 33 on March 30 following a battle with brain cancer, when he was given just 12 months to live by doctors.



## NICK AND PC 'COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO HAVE THEIR LITTLE GIRL AT HOME WITH THEM'

After dealing with the stress of their newborn daughter being born 12 weeks early, via surrogate and spending her first 100 days on Planet Earth in the NICU (newborn intensive care unit), Nick Jonas and wife Priyanka Chopra are relishing every moment at home with baby Malti. 'Nick and Priyanka could not be happier to have their little girl at home with them,' a source told Us Weekly, adding, 'These past few months have been heart-wrenching but both parents did not give up hope and remained optimistic.' Having described Malti as 'a little fighter' who's 'truly a miracle', the insider conveyed that the couple 'feel blessed and have been appreciative of everyone's outpour of love and support during this time.' Already showing signs of being 'great parents', Jonas and Chopra are committed to spending every bot of quality time with her as possible. After the happy couple saw the opportunity of taking home their baby from the hospital as the 'perfect Mother's Day gift', they now 'just want to hold and snuggle her' as much as possible.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessie James Decker



## IPL 2022

# KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS THRASH SUNRISERS HYDERABAD BY 54 RUNS

Pune | Agencies

Andre Russell's clinical all-round performance helped Kolkata Knight Riders thrash Sunrisers Hyderabad by 54 runs in the 61st match of the IPL 2022 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, here on Saturday.

Fighting knocks by Andre Russell (49 not out off 28) and Sam Billings (34 off 29) guided Kolkata Knight Riders to 177/6 in 20 overs. After winning the toss and opting to bat first, KKR were struggling for 94/5 after 11.3 overs but Russell and Billings stitched a partnership of 63 runs for the sixth wicket and ensured their team had a solid total on the board.

Apart from Russell and Billings, Ajinkya Rahane (28 off 24) and Nitish Rana (28 off 16) also made vital contributions with the bat for KKR. On the other hand,



Umran Malik (3/33) was the most successful bowler for SRH while Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/27), Marco Jansen (1/30) and T. Natarajan also chipped in with one wicket each. In reply, Abhishek Sharma (43 off 28) and Aiden Markram (32 off 25) played solid knocks for SRH. However, apart from them, none of the Hyderabad batters were able to apply themselves at the crease and crumbled under the pressure.

In the end, Sunrisers Hyderabad were restricted to 123-8 in 20 overs, losing by 54 runs. Andre Russell (3/22) was the most successful bowler for KKR while the likes of Tim Southee (2/23), Umesh Yadav (1/19), Varun Chakravarthy (1/25), Sunil Narine (1/34) also picked crucial wickets at regular intervals.

### Brief scores

Kolkata Knight Riders 177/6 in 20 overs (Andre Russell 49 not out, Sam Billings 34; Umran Malik 3/33) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad 123/8 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 43, Aiden Markram 32; Andre Russell 3/22) by 54 runs.

## WWB C'ships

### NITU, MANISHA ADVANCE TO THE QUARTER-FINALS

Istanbul (Turkey):

Indian boxers continued their impressive run at the 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships here as the 2017 Youth World Champion Nitu (48kg) and 2019 Asian Championships bronze medallist Manisha (57kg) cruised into the quarter-finals after registering contrasting wins on Saturday. Nitu, who won the gold medal at Strandja Memorial Boxing Championship in Sofia this year, was facing Spain's Lopez Del Arbol in the pre-quarterfinal bout. The boxer from Bhiwani dominated the proceedings right from the beginning and showed relentless energy, speed and footwork to land precise punches. Nitu upped the ante in the next two rounds and carried on with her attacking approach without giving any chance to her opponent and won the bout convincingly by 5-0.

## IWL

# Sports Odisha salvage point against SSB Women

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

SSB Women were held to a 1-1 draw by Sports Odisha in their Hero Indian Women's League 2022 clash at the 7th Battalion Ground here on Saturday.

The team from West Bengal was on the attacking foot right from kickoff and found several breakthroughs in the first half. Naorem Sumila Chanu, Sandhya Kachhap and Ngangom Anibala Devi all came close to scoring but failed to convert in the attacking third.

On one occasion in the 29th minute, Sports Odisha almost took a surprise lead in the game. However, Pyari Xaxa's strike from inside the box was ruled out by the referee for a foul that took place in the build up.

Eventually, the Sports Odisha defence paved the way and SSB Women took a much-needed lead in the 41st minute. Sandhya Kachhap came in from the right flank and bundled the Sports



Odisha goalkeeper to find the back of the net.

Sports Odisha enjoyed more possession of the ball in the second half. In the 87th minute, Pyari Xaxa missed a golden opportunity to pull one back for the local side. The forward failed to place the ball inside an open goal following a mismatch from the SSB Women goalkeeper.

However, she went on to make amends and scored in the 90th minute. Xaxa beat the SSB Women goalkeeper in a one-on-one situation and slotted the ball home to make it 1-1. The No. 10's strike came in at a crucial time for Sports Odisha as the referee blew the full-time whistle, resulting in both sides taking home a point each.

# An epic knock from Virat Kohli is around the corner, feels Mike Hesson

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mike Hesson, the director of cricket at Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) feels that a big knock is around the corner from Virat Kohli's bat. Hesson added that Kohli's lean run in IPL 2022, registering just one half-century in 13 matches, is not due to a technical issue.

On Friday, in a mammoth chase of 210, Kohli failed to cash on to a good start and fell in the fourth over off Kagiso Rabada after making 20 off 14 balls, leaving the talismanic batter frustrated while walking back to the dressing room.

"Look he (Kohli) is the best we have ever had in terms of RCB. He is an incredible player. He hasn't scored the volume of runs I am sure he would have liked. Today he



looked in really good touch. It is not a technical thing. As I said, he is putting in a lot of work behind the scenes," said Hesson in the post-match virtual press conference.

"He looked in really good touch. He was unfortunate. I thought we were going to see something special. Virat is as

frustrated as anyone but we know that the epic one (from Kohli) is around the corner. We have got a huge game coming up. So, there is no reason why it won't be in a few days' time," added Hesson while expressing confidence in Kohli's bounceback ability.

## Sr women's hockey nationals

# JHARKHAND, HARYANA, KARNATAKA AND ODISHA REACH SEMIFINALS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Karnataka and Hockey Association Of Odisha stormed into semifinals after registering contrasting wins in their quarterfinals matches in the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2022 here on Saturday.

The first game of the day saw Hockey Maharashtra competing against Hockey Jharkhand. Both the teams put up a spectacular defensive performance in the match. Neither of the two teams was able to get a goal in regulation time and the match was pushed to a Shootout. In the Shootout, Betan Dungdung, and Reshma Soreng converted twice while Nirali Kujur scored once as Hockey Jharkhand beat Hockey Maharashtra 0-0 (5-4 SO) to reach the semifinals. For Hockey Maharashtra, Akansha Singh scored twice in the Shootout, while Ankita Sapate and



Manashri Narendra Shedage scored once. In the second quarterfinal match of the day, Hockey Haryana beat Uttar Pradesh Hockey 0-0 (3-2 SO) after a thrilling contest. Both the teams created plenty of chances in the match to get a goal and take the lead. But neither of the two teams was able to score a goal in the regulation time and the match was pushed

to Shootout. In the Shootout, Ekta Kaushik, Bharti Saroha and Priyanka scored for Hockey Haryana, while only Sonal Tiwari and Simran Singh could score for Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

The third quarterfinal match of the day was between Hockey Punjab and Hockey Karnataka, which also went right down to the wire. Mahima (3') scored a goal for Hockey Punjab,

while Nisha P. C. (37') scored a goal from penalty corner for Hockey Karnataka. The match ended 1-1 in regulation time and was pushed to the Shootout. In the shootout, Vidya K.S. scored twice, while Poojitha B.N., Pooja M. D. and Anjali H.R. scored once as Hockey Karnataka beat Hockey Punjab 1-1 (5-4 SO). Kirandeep Kaur, Navpreet Kaur, Navjot Kaur, and Sarabdeep Kaur scored for Hockey Punjab in the Shootout. In the final quarterfinal match of the day, Hockey Madhya Pradesh faced off against Hockey Association Of Odisha in a gritty contest. Prashu Singh Parihar (10') scored the sole goal for Hockey Madhya Pradesh, while Neha Lakra (38') scored the only goal for Hockey Association Of Odisha in the regulation time, and the match was decided by a Shootout. In the Shootout, Neha Lakra and Rojita Kujur scored as Hockey Association Of Odisha beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh 1-1 (0-2 SO).

## Italian Open

# SWIATEK STORMS PAST SABALENKA TO REACH FINAL

Rome | Agencies

World No. 1 and defending champion Iga Swiatek reached the finals of the Italian Open after defeating World No 8 Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-1 in the semi-finals, here on Saturday.

Swiatek has now won 39 of her last 40 sets and the victory extended her incredible winning streak to 27 matches. She is now tied with Serena Williams for the fourth-longest winning streak of the century. Williams reeled off 27 victories from the 2014 WTA Finals through the 2015 Madrid Open.

Having won Doha, Indian Wells, and Miami, Swiatek is the first player since Simona Halep in 2017 to make four WTA 1000 finals in a single season. Swiatek has lost just 17 games en route to the Rome final. In the last 25 years at the Foro Italico, only Serena Williams (10), Kim Clijsters (13), and Martina Hingis (15) have lost fewer.

Seeking her eighth career title, the 20-year-old will face either Ons Jabeur or Daria Kasatkina in Sunday's final. Under the beaming sun on Court Centrale, Swiatek put in her best performance of the week to suffocate Sabalenka from the baseline.



Swiatek set the tone for the win by breaking Sabalenka in her first two service games to build a 3-1 lead.

Swiatek kept her targets big and consistently tested Sabalenka's rally tolerance. In the end, Sabalenka misfired on 16 unforced errors in the opening set, while striking just three winners. The Polish star, who kept a clean sheet with five winners to six unforced errors, pocketed the opening set in just 31 minutes.

The world No. 1 has proven herself to be an incredible front-runner after winning the opening set and the script proved true once again. Swiatek jumped out to a 4-0 lead before Sabalenka snapped her run of seven games to hold. Down 1-4, Sabalenka took a medical timeout during the changeover. Swiatek held on after resumption and closed out the win by breaking Sabalenka for the sixth time on the day. Swiatek finished the match with 15 winners and 15 unforced errors. Sabalenka hit eight winners to 31 unforced errors.

The Polish star is now 30-0 at WTA 1000s when she wins the first set. She is 6-1 in 2022 against Top-10 opponents, having won six straight. Her sole loss came to former No.1 Ashleigh Barty in the semi-finals at Adelaide.

# Junior Trap teams pick two silver medals at Suhl Junior World Cup

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's men's and women's Trap teams picked up two more silver medals, to help consolidate their lead at the top of the medal table of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany on Saturday.

Presently India is well clear of the field with eight gold and eight silver medals to their name, while Australia and USA lie in joint second place with one medal of each colour. First it was the Women's Trap trio of Preeti Rajak, Sabeera Haris and Bhavya Tripathi who went down 2-6 to the Italian women's team. Then Shardul Vihaan, Arya Vansh Tyagi and Vivaan Kapoor lost their gold



medal encounter against the United States by a narrower margin of 4-6. These were

India's first two medals from the Shotgun discipline at the Junior World Cup.

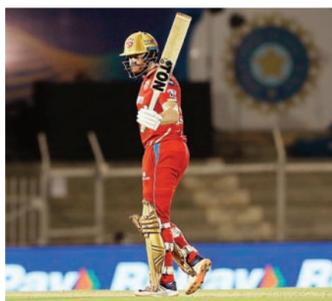
# It has been very enjoyable being back at the top: Jonny Bairstow

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Friday's match between Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore at Brabourne Stadium will be remembered for how Jonny Bairstow smashed everything coming in his way during the powerplay.

Bairstow's takedown of Bangalore's bowlers in powerplay, especially in taking 22 runs off Australia speedster Josh Hazlewood's first over, was a sight to behold as the wicketkeeper-batter cruised his way to making 66 off just 29 balls, laced with four boundaries and seven sixes, to set up a crucial 54-run win for Punjab.

Before Friday's match, Bairstow had an indifferent time, amassing just 136 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 117.24. But everything changed on Friday evening as Bangalore ran out of ideas to stop Bairstow's onslaught. At the end of powerplay, Bairstow had made 59 runs at a strike rate of 268.18, the most runs made by a batter in this phase during the tournament. "It depends on what you



class as a tough tournament really. Because obviously I have been caught at fine leg twice, third man once, and run out on 19.5 overs so there is a difference in being unselfish and it being a difficult competition. Now I am happy with the way I have transitioned to opening the batting. It has been very enjoyable being back at the top," said Bairstow in the post-match virtual press conference.

# Rayudu deletes tweet after announcing IPL 2022 as his last edition of playing the tournament

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batter Ambati Rayudu on Saturday created a stir when he tweeted that the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 will be his last edition of playing in the tournament. But minutes later, Rayudu deleted the retirement tweet, leaving netizens in a frenzy.

"I am happy to announce that this will be my last ipl. I have had a wonderful time playing it and being a part of 2 great teams for 13 years. Would love to sincerely thank Mumbai Indians and Csk for the wonderful journey," read Rayudu's tweet on his official Twitter account.

In response to his tweet, former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan had tweeted, "Played cricket with you since our u-19 days. Always admire your batting and energy you give on the field. Wish you well for your journey ahead brother. You have done very well and should be proud of your achievement



@RayuduAmbati."

But after Rayudu deleted the tweet, fans were left questioning over why he retracted from his original retirement announcement. After being brought back by Chennai in IPL Mega Auction for INR 6.2 crores, Rayudu has scored 271 runs in 12 matches at an average of 27.10 and strike-rate of 124.31, becoming the third-highest run-getter for the side in IPL 2022. Chennai's CEO Kasi Viswanathan said to NDTV that Rayudu is not retiring from the IPL. "He was a bit disappointed that he was not doing well. So, he mistakenly put out that tweet. I have explained things to him. He is not retiring. He will be with us."

Previously, Rayudu, a five-time IPL winner, had announced retirement from all formats of the game in 2019 after being overlooked for India's 15-member squad in Men's Cricket World Cup. But he soon made a u-turn and returned to playing cricket in the domestic arena as well as the IPL.



## Dia Mirza Rehi pens a heartening note as her son turns a year old

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It was in the month of February 2021, when actress Dia Mirza tied the knot with her longtime boyfriend and businessman Vaibhav Rekhi. Later in April 2021, the couple confirmed their pregnancy news. On 14 May 2021, Dia gave premature birth to her baby boy, Avyaan Azaad Rekhi. Her son was kept in NICU for around 2 months.

On the occasion of her bundle of joy's first birthday, Dia Mirza penned a heartfelt note and called him a warrior. She also narrated the ordeal of live saving surgery he had gone through since he was premature.

Dia wrote, "Our Jaan, our miracle, you were born on this day 1 year ago with the song 'Imagine' playing. You were 3 months premature at 820 gms. 36 hours after birth we discovered you had necrotising enterocolitis and had to go through life saving surgery. You were cared for and nourished in the NICU with a stoma for 90 days and finally sent home to us with a stoma. After you had gained strength and weight you went back to hospital for a 2nd surgery that lasted four and half hours. The doctors prepared us for the worst and said it would take a minimum of 21 days before you could be back home with us.

Avyaan Azaad, you were ready to be home with us on day 9 our warrior."

In the note, Dia Mirza also mentioned the first word he spoke. She wrote, "Your grace, your strength, your determination to fight the odds is so inspiring. Our son, you are now catching up on all your milestones, are happy, playful and loving. You fill our heart with joy and gratitude every single day. We are amazed and amused that your first spoken word is - Tiger." She also expressed gratitude towards doctors for taking good care of her son. She asserts, "We remain grateful to all of your doctors and nurses for taking such good care of you. Avyaan Azaad, you have inherited a world that will count on your love, grace, empathy and kindness. Make your own way our darling. Just as you do every day. Always remember - you are love. Happy Birthday our son. Thank you for choosing us."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

From the time she made her debut in Hindi cinema with the film 'Masaan' and eventually projects like 'Mirzapur', 'Made in Heaven', 'Laakhon Mein Ek', 'Raat Akeli Hai', 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein' and more - actress Shweta Tripathi earned her space as a credible performer.

Now that she makes her debut as a voice artist with the first every Hindi podcast on Batman titled 'Batman: Ek

**Shweta Tripathi: Microphone is the camera for a voice artist**

Chakravayuh', in conversation the actress opens up on the magic of audio. Shweta: "I think from the time I started working as an actress, I wanted to explore something in the voice, be it a radio play, voice-over, recitation or something. The reason is coming from my childhood. As a child, the radio was one of my best friends not only because of the latest music we used to hear but also the audio medium where we always wanted to know the face behind the

## Kangana: 'Will never again say I'm alone in industry'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Bollywood superstar Salman Khan shared the trailer of Kangana Ranaut's upcoming action thriller 'Dhaakad' on his social media, the actress expressed her gratitude towards the 'Wanted' star.

Taking to his Instagram, Salman had shared the trailer of 'Dhaakad' as he wrote, "Wishing

team #Dhaakad the very best." He tagged Kangana and her co-star Arjun Rampal. Reacting to Salman's gesture, Kangana took to the story section of her Instagram as she shared Salman's trailer post.

She wrote, "Thank you my Dabang hero heart of gold. I will never again say that I'm alone in this industry? thank you from entire Dhaakad team."



## Shantanu Maheswari: Long-distance relationship does not work for me

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-dancer Shantanu Maheswari whose latest music video 'Tut Gaya' revolves around the story of a long-distance relationship between a young couple, says despite the technological advancement to communicate with loved ones all the time, a long-distance relationship doesn't work for him.

Shantanu told: "I think when it comes to relationships, it is not just about talking but feeling the comfort of your loved ones' silent presence. So video calls, messages and other media of communication is great for staying in touch but the real touch of holding hands and taking a silent walk cannot replace that.

"That is why for me, long-distance relationship does not work, especially if I want to convert it into a commitment and marriage. It is not out of sight out of mind, but we want to nurture the love that we have in our heart...long distance does not offer that."

I think it depends on the depth of love you have for the person and that could be anyone. For instance, even though I love rest of my family members, I love my mom the most.

## Newbies of B-town

The Bollywood industry has been accused of becoming the flag bearer of nepotism. The following is a list of Bollywood newcomers who entered the industry recently.

### SUHANA KHAN

Zoya Akhtar has begun filming her film 'The Archies,' which will mark Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan's daughter Suhana Khan's Bollywood debut.



### SHANAYA KAPOOR

Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor, is set to make her acting debut in the film 'Bedhadak.'



### RAJVEER DEOL

Rajshri has signed the newcomer for their forthcoming coming-of-age love story. In today's world, the film will explore the topic of love and relationships.



### AGASTYA NANDA

Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda will make her Bollywood debut in Zoya Akhtar's film 'The Archies.'



### KHUSHI KAPOOR

Boney Kapoor and late Sridevi's daughter Khushi Kapoor will make their Bollywood debuts in Zoya Akhtar's film "The Archies."

voice. Of course, now, that mystery part has changed but the only way to watch something with your eyes closed is, a podcast or a radio show." She said, "This is the first time I played a police officer and interestingly I played a character that all the Batman fans know everything about, already. So the challenge was to keep the audience engaged with the story and my voice. Through the process, I realised that microphone is like a camera for a voice artist. For our voice modulation, our breathing also changes and the mic captures that magically. I think after doing this podcast, I have become a better actor."

Since the show is in Hindi language with the intention to reach out to a broader section of the listeners in India, Shweta shares how the script has been written interestingly.

"You see, we all know the story of Batman but our podcast 'Batman: Ek Chakravayuh' is not a translation from English to Hindi. We have Indianised the content and added mythological elements to that. My character Barbara wants to be a police officer because she wants to help her father. But that's the only thing her father asked not to become, and we tried to put it in an Indian context. So, eventually, it comes across like our story," Shweta said.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Flora Saini

## 'KatVic' visit Priyanka Chopra Jonas' Indian restaurant in NY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal, who are currently in the United States, recently visited Priyanka Chopra Jonas' Indian cuisine restaurant 'Sona' in New York City.

Katrina took to the story section on her Instagram as she shared a picture from the restaurant and

called Sona a "home away from home." In the picture, Katrina can be seen wearing a beautiful floral peach coloured dress, while Vicky donned a charcoal grey t-shirt and a cap paired with black denims. The two posed with the restaurant co-owner Maneesh M Goyal. Katrina wrote on the picture, "Home away from home - @sonanewyork loved the vibe -

(heart emoticon) @priyanka-chopra as always everything you do is just amazing." Priyanka, who will star alongside Katrina in the Farhan Akhtar directorial, 'Jee Le Zaraa', reacted to the picture as she wrote in her story, "Love you honey! So glad you guys could make it. @sonanewyork welcomes you anytime?#home-awayfromhome."

