

# absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 189, BHOPAL | THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02

Mayawati accuses BJP of instigating religious...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06

Priyanka Chopra gets injured while shooting...



**SPORTS** > 07

Umran breaks Bumrah's record, becomes youngest Indian...



## CLIMATE CHANGE: GREENHOUSE GAS, SEA LEVEL RISE SET NEW RECORDS IN 2021

# WAKE UP: THERE IS STILL TIME

Global annual mean temperature difference is considered from pre-industrial conditions (1850-1900) for six global temperature data sets (1850-2021).



Greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification -- the four key climate change indicators -- set new records in 2021 with extreme weather -- the day-to-day 'face' of climate change -- led to hundreds of billions of dollars in economic losses, the WMO State of the Global Climate in 2021 report said on Wednesday.

“It is just a matter of time before we see another warmest year on record. The heat trapped by human-induced greenhouse gases will warm the planet for many generations to come. Sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification will continue for hundreds of years unless means to remove carbon from the atmosphere are invented. Some glaciers have reached the point of no-return, and this will have long-term repercussions in a world, in which more than 2 billion people already experience water stress.”

Professor Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organisation

### RECORD-BREAKING HEATWAVES IN INDIA, PAKISTAN 100 TIMES MORE LIKELY

London: Climate change has made the odds of a record-breaking heatwave hitting northwestern India and Pakistan 100 times more likely to happen, scientists said Wednesday, as the two countries experience high temperatures that are disrupting daily life, media reports said. In an analysis, climate scientists with the UK's Met Office found that the natural probability of a heatwave exceeding average temperatures from 2010 would be once in 312 years, but when climate change is factored in, the chances increase to once in every 3.1 years, CNN reported. Soaring temperatures in parts of Pakistan and India in recent weeks have forced schools to close, damaged crops, put pressure on energy supplies, and kept residents indoors. It even prompted experts to question whether such heat is fit for human survival, the report said.

► IN INDIA, TEMPERATURES IN THE CAPITAL REGION OF DELHI SURPASSED 49 DEGREES ON SUNDAY. JACOBABAD, ONE OF THE HOTTEST CITIES IN THE WORLD, IN PAKISTAN'S SINDH PROVINCE, HIT 51 DEGREES CELSIUS ON SUNDAY, AND 50 DEGREES THE DAY BEFORE.

► “THERE WOULD BE A RISE IN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES BY 2-3 DEGREES CELSIUS OVER NORTHWEST INDIA AND MADHYA PRADESH DURING THE NEXT THREE DAYS AND FALL BY 2-4 DEGREES CELSIUS THEREAFTER,” THE IMD BULLETIN SAID.

► AT 45.4 DEGREES CELSIUS, JHANSI IN UTTAR PRADESH RECORDED THE HIGHEST MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ACROSS INDIA, WHILE PRAYAGRAJ IN THE SAME STATE RECORDED 45.2 DEGREES. CHURU RECORDED 45 DEGREES, AND PILANI 45.2 DEGREES (BOTH RAJASTHAN), AND NOWGONG IN MADHYA PRADESH RECORDED 45 DEGREES CELSIUS.

► HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS IN ISOLATED POCKETS ARE VERY LIKELY OVER RAJASTHAN, SOUTH PUNJAB, SOUTH HARYANA AND MADHYA PRADESH ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OVER VIDARBHA TILL MAY 21, AND OVER ODISHA ON MAY 22.

Geneva | Agencies

The WMO State of the Global Climate in 2021 report confirmed that the past seven years have been the warmest seven years on record and that year 2021 was “only” one of the seven warmest because of a La Nina event (ocean phenomenon in the Pacific) at the start and end of the year. “This had a temporary cooling effect, but did not reverse the overall trend of rising temperatures. The average global temperature

in 2021 was about 1.11 (plus/minus 0.13) degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level. The report's key findings include record high ocean heat -- much of the ocean experienced at least one 'strong' marine heatwave at some point in 2021; ocean acidification findings reiterated the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conclusions that open ocean surface pH is now the lowest it has been for at least 26,000 years and current rates of pH change are unprecedented; global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021, after increasing at an average 4.5 mm

per year over the period 2013-2021, which is more than double the rate between 1993 and 2002 and is mainly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets and in case of cryosphere, the glaciological year 2020-2021 saw less melting than in recent years, but there is a clear trend towards an acceleration of mass loss on multi-decadal timescales.

The report also speaks of exceptional heat waves droughts, ozone hole over the Antarctic, famine, and internal displacement.

### FRESH SPELL OF HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS LIKELY OVER NW, CENTRAL INDIA

New Delhi: After more than two weeks of heat wave conditions, only five stations across India registered maximum temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. However, after a temporary respite, the northwest Indian plains and central India are likely to witness a fresh spell of heat wave conditions from Thursday, the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) said. However, there would be pockets of relief, especially for NW India. Under the influence of Western Disturbance, scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall with isolated thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds and hailstorm is very likely over Jammu & Kashmir during May 19-22 and over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on May 21 and 22. Isolated light rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds is very likely over Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh during May 20-22 while dust storm/thunderstorm is very likely at isolated places over west Uttar Pradesh on May 20 and over Rajasthan on May 21 and 22.

## SC uses extraordinary powers to free Rajiv Gandhi killing case convict Perarivalan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution, as it ordered the release of A.G. Perarivalan, sentenced to life in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, B.R. Gavai, and A.S. Bopanna said: “In the exceptional facts and circumstances of this case, in exercise of our power under Article 142 of the Constitution, we direct that the appellant is deemed to have served the sentence in connection with crime... The Appellant, who is on bail, is set at liberty forthwith.”

Perarivalan is currently on bail. His death sentence was commuted to life sentence and terrorism charges were withdrawn.

The top court noted that Perarivalan was 19 years of age at the time of his arrest and has been incarcerated for 32 years, out of which he has spent 16 years on the death row and 29 years in solitary confinement and there has been no complaint relating to his conduct in jail.

The top court emphasised that the advice



of the state cabinet is binding on the Governor in matters relating to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161. It added that it is the satisfaction of the Council of Ministers on whose aid and advice the President or the Governor generally exercises all his powers and functions.

The bench said it was fully conscious of the immunity of the Governor under the Constitution with respect to the exercise of powers and duties of his office, however non-exercise of the power under Article 161 is not immune from judicial review.

## DELHI'S THREE CIVIC BODIES TO BECOME ONE AGAIN ON MAY 22

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Delhi: The three civic bodies of Delhi will merge into one Municipal Corporation on May 22 as the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022 comes into force, according to a Union Home Ministry notification. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the South Delhi Municipal Corporation which each comprise 104 municipal wards and the East Delhi Municipal Corporation that contains 64 wards will be treated as one civic body - the Municipal Corporation of Delhi from May 22, the notification said.

The three municipal corporations that were trifurcated in 2012 by then Congress government in Delhi.

According to the amendment, the Central government will appoint a special officer to run the new unified civic body until the elections to the civic body and first meeting of the corporation is held, Home Ministry officials said.

While the term of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation ended on Wednesday, the tenure of the North Delhi and East Delhi Corporations will be completed on May 19 and May 22, respectively.



## Delhi LG Anil Bajjal resigns, cites 'personal reasons'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's Lt Governor Anil Bajjal resigned on Wednesday, citing personal reasons.

According to the sources, Bajjal sent his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind. A 1969 batch IAS officer from the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre, he served as 21st Lt Governor of Delhi for a period of five years and four months from December 31, 2016 to May 18, 2022. With the exit of Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal, the three top contenders for the post are understood to be former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and Lakshwadeep Administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

The government face on



many public policy issues, Kant is a retired Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1980 batch, while Sunil Arora, who was CEC from December 2018 to April 2021, is a retired Rajasthan cadre IAS officer of the 1980 batch, who has been Union Skill Development Secretary and Information and Broadcasting Secretary.

Patel, who is the administrator of Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, is said to be the top choice but sources also say that a BJP politician from south India could be appointed. However, the government has been springing surprises so nobody in the government and the party sources wants to guess it.

## Hardik Patel quits Congress, party calls him opportunist

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Congress party and Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) leaders have lashed out at Hardik Patel, who resigned from the Congress party on Wednesday. Excluding one or two PAAS and BJP leaders, no one has come out in support of Hardik. Former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel has been very cautious, while some leaders called Hardik an opportunist. Hardik Patel said he will address the media on Thursday. Congress spokesman

Manhar Patel launched counter attack on Hardik for his allegation on the party and leaders. “Hardik has no right to make any allegations, because at a very young age, party made him working president, a star pracharak of the party, campaigning in UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand. No other party will ever give him such importance.” Gujarat Congress in-charge Raghu Sharma has alleged that Hardik is fearing Naresh Patel's entry in the Congress, as he felt that once Naresh Patel enters the party, his importance will wane.”

Playing down Hardik's resignation, former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said, it was his personal decision to join Congress, now his resignation too is his personal decision. BJP's media coordinator Yagnesh Dave, however, is throwing all his support behind Hardik Patel to target Congress. There were eight big faces of PAAS movement in 2015, of which six -- Chirag Patel, Varun Patel, Lalji Desai, Lalit Vasoya, Gita Patel and Manoj Panara were against his decision to quit Congress, while Alpesh Kathiriyaa and Dilip Sabva welcomed it.

## DELHI SHOCKER: 13-YR-OLD RAPED BY 8 PEOPLE, 4 HELD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 13-year-old girl was gangraped in the national capital by eight people, including one juvenile. The police have apprehended four persons in connection with the case, who have been identified as Mohit (20), Aakash (19), Shahrulkh (20) and one juvenile. Deputy Commissioner of Police (south district), Benita Mary Jaiker, said that at around 5 p.m. on April 24, the victim had gone to the market to purchase vegetables.

“The girl took an auto for Shani bazaar which was about 2 km from her house,” the DCP said.

The auto was being driven by Shahrulkh, and instead of dropping



her at Shani bazaar, he called his two friends -- Akash and one juvenile -- and took her to an isolated place in Okhla, where they gave her a soft drink laced with intoxicant and raped her in the auto. Thereafter, they brought the vic-

tim to JJ Camp, Tigr, where one more youth identified as Salman Chessy along with four other youth raped the victim again and kept her there for the whole night.

The next morning, Salman Chessy along with his four friends took the victim to Kosi Kalan in Mathura.

Meanwhile, the police received a complaint about the girl's abduction on April 26 and registered an FIR.

On May 1, the victim herself reached the Saket Metro station but she was yet to be located by the police.

On the same day, the police got information about the whole incident and subsequently the juvenile was apprehended.

“The juvenile admitted his guilt

and at his instance, two more persons, Mohit and Akash, were apprehended. They all admitted their involvement in the crime but could not reveal the identity of the girl,” the officer said.

A day later, on May 2, the police received a call from a woman who was standing near the Saket Metro station. The police had pasted posters of the missing girl at Saket Metro station which also displayed the investigating officer's number. The caller informed that the missing girl was standing next to her.

The police rushed to the Saket Metro station and the victim teenager was handed over to a woman police officer for further investigation.



# POLLUTION CLAIMED 9 MN LIVES GLOBALLY IN 2019, INDIA TOPS THE LIST: LANCET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Pollution was responsible for nine million deaths in 2019 - equivalent to one in six deaths worldwide - and India leads with nearly 2.4 million deaths, according to a study published on Wednesday in The Lancet Planetary Health.

Of the nearly 2.4 million deaths in 2019, air pollution accounted for 16.7 lakh deaths - the highest by any country. Further, more than 5 lakh lives were lost in the country due to water pollution, followed by occupational pollution (more than one lakh) and lead exposure (over 2 lakh).

Globally, of the nine million pollution - attributable deaths in 2019, air pollution (both household and ambient) remains responsible for the greatest number of deaths at 6.67 million worldwide.

Water pollution was responsible for 1.36 million premature deaths. Lead contributed 9,00,000 premature deaths, followed by toxic occupational hazards at 870,000 deaths.

The report states that although the number of deaths from pollution sources associated with extreme poverty (such as indoor air pollution and water pollution) have decreased, these reductions are offset by



increased deaths attributable to industrial pollution (such as ambient air pollution and chemical pollution).

"The health impacts of pollution remain enormous, and low- and middle-income countries bear the brunt of this burden. Despite its enormous health, social and economic impacts, pollution prevention is largely overlooked in the international development agenda," said Richard Fuller, from Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, Geneva, Switzerland.

"Preventing pollution can also slow climate change - achieving a double benefit for planetary health - and our report calls for a massive, rapid transition away from all fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy," added co-author Professor Philip Landrigan, Director, Global Public Health Programme and Global Pollution Observatory at Boston College. The decline in deaths from traditional pollution since 2000 (household air pollution from solid fuels and unsafe water) is most evident in Africa. This can be explained

by improvements in water supply and sanitation, antibiotics and treatments, and cleaner fuels.

However, this mortality decrease has been offset by a substantial increase in deaths from exposure to industrial pollution - such as ambient air pollution, lead pollution, and other forms of chemical pollution - across all regions over the past 20 years. This is particularly evident in Southeast Asia, where rising levels of industrial pollution are combined with ageing populations and increasing numbers of people exposed.

Ambient air pollution was responsible for 4.5 million deaths in 2019, up from 4.2 million deaths in 2015 and 2.9 million in 2000. Deaths from hazardous chemical pollutants increased from 0.9 million in 2000, to 1.7 million in 2015, to 1.8 million in 2019, with 900,000 deaths attributable to lead pollution in 2019.

Overall, deaths from modern pollution have increased by 66 per cent in the past two decades, from an estimated 3.8 million deaths in 2000 to 6.3 million deaths in 2019. Figures on deaths from chemical pollutants are likely to be underestimated as only a small number of manufactured chemicals in commerce have been adequately tested for safety or toxicity, the report noted.

## Odisha govt to bring back 871 acres of land allotted to Tata Power

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

The Odisha government has decided to bring back 871 acres of land allotted to Tata Power to set up a coal-based thermal power plant in Cuttack district.

The Odisha cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday approved a proposal for this purpose.

The cabinet has approved the proposal of Odisha's land acquisition arm Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development (Idco) to bring back 871.427 acres of land for its land bank from Tata Power Co. Ltd. which had been earlier leased out for its coal-based thermal power plant at Barang Tahasil in Cuttack district, said chief secretary S.C. Mahapatra.

The procured land can be utilised for attracting new industrial and infrastructure projects, which will create huge employment opportunities for the people of Odisha, he said.

For this purpose, the state government has decided to provide Rs 62.83 crore to Idco, said Mahapatra.



The cabinet has also decided to extend the Mission Shakti scheme for another period of five years with a budgetary allocation of Rs 4,973.39 crore. Mission Shakti, one of the popular vote bank schemes of the Naveen Patnaik government, will now continue till the financial year 2026-27.

Similarly, the government has decided to merge the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with Zilla Parishads (ZPs) in all districts. It has further decided to install one lakh deep bore wells in five years under the Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana - Deep Bore Well Secha

Karyakrama with an outlay of Rs 4,198.16 crore.

The panel has also decided to construct two in-stream storage structures across river Kuakhai near village Pandara in Khordha district (Rs 127.32 crore) and across IB river near village Kudabaga in Sundargarh district (Rs 162 crore), the chief secretary said.

Besides, the cabinet approved tenders for execution of five piped drinking water supply projects worth Rs 1,081 crore in different rural pockets of the state. These projects are targeted to be completed in the next two years, he added.

## 12 dead in salt factory wall collapse in Gujarat's Morbi



Team Absolute | Morbi (Gujarat)

At least twelve workers were killed and 15 feared trapped in the wall collapse of a salt factory in the Halvad GIDC of the Morbi district in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The Morbi district administration has claimed that 90 per cent of the rescue operation has been completed.

Sharing information about the tragic incident, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Brijesh Merja said that around 12 p.m., a wall collapsed in the Sagar Salt factory situated in Halvad GIDC. Till the time he briefed the media in Gandhinagar, 12 dead

bodies of the workers were found from the debris.

He added that 90 per cent of the rescue operation has been completed, but it is not yet clear what caused the wall collapse. It is a matter of investigation, which will be done by the police. Soon the state government will announce compensation for the family members of the victims, he said.

The Minister said that the factory processed and packaged salt.

Sources from the factory said, workers died after bags of salt stacked along the wall fell on them, and they got trapped.

Morbi District Collector J.B. Patel and District Superintendent of Police Rahul Tripathi along with their team rushed to the accident site and closely supervised the rescue operations.

The district administration pressed in JCB machines to remove salt bags, hard rock salt and wall debris.

SP Tripathi said once the rescue operation is concluded and the area is completely cleared, FSL team with local police will investigate the incident. If factory management is found guilty for any negligence, a case can be registered against them too.

## Cabinet approves amendments to National Policy on Biofuels-2018

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels-2018.

The new amendments will allow more feed stocks for production of biofuels, and advance the ethanol blending target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol to E20 by 2025-26 from 2020. They will also promote the production of biofuels in the country, under the Make in India programme, by units located in Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Units. The amendments are also to grant permission for export of biofuels in specific cases, and to amend certain phrases in the policy in line with decisions taken during the meetings of the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC).

Due to advancements in the field of biofuels, various decisions taken in the NBCC meetings to increase biofuel production, the recommendation of the Standing Committee and the decision to advance to introduce ethanol-blended petrol with up to 20



per cent ethanol throughout the country from April 1, are to be incorporated in the National Policy on Biofuels through the amendments.

This proposal will also attract and foster developments of indigenous technologies which will pave the way for Make in India drive and thereby generate more employment, as well

as leading to reduction in import of petroleum products by generation of more and more biofuels, a government statement said.

Since many more feed stocks are being allowed for production of biofuels, this will promote the Atmanirbhar Bharat and give an impetus to Prime Minister's vision of

India becoming 'energy independent' by 2047, it said.

The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 was notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on June 4, 2018 in supersession of National Policy on Biofuels, promulgated through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in 2009.

## MAYAWATI ACCUSES BJP OF INSTIGATING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati Wednesday accused the BJP of instigating religious sentiments in order to divert people's attention from issues like unemployment, poverty and rising inflation.

Addressing a press conference here, Mayawati said that the religious places were being deliberately targeted and asked people to be alert to this conspiracy of the BJP. She warned that the situation in the country could take a turn for the worse in the coming days. The BSP president said that issues like Gyanvapi mosque, Mathura and Taj Mahal were being raised to weaken the nation. "The names of places belonging to a particular religious community are also being changed one by one. This will disturb peace, harmony, brotherhood and lead to mutual hatred in the country. The general public of this country should be alert. This will neither benefit the country nor the general public," she stated.



## Woman's eyelid gnawed by rats in Raj hospital ICU, BJP seeks action

Jaipur | Agencies

The Rajasthan BJP on Wednesday demanded strict action against the Kota government hospital after rats gnawed at an eyelid of a paralysed woman undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Kota railway colony resident Devender Singh Bhati had filed a complaint saying that the doctors treating his wife's eyelid injury had admitted that the injuries were caused by rat bites.

BJP State Chief Spokesperson and MLA Ramlal Sharma accused the hospital of negligence.

Sharma said that this incident showed that the government and the state health department have been negligent.

"The need of the hour is that the government should take concrete action against those who have



been negligent. If any mishap happens, it is expected that it will not be repeated. But the case of the death of newborn babies inside the Kota hospital and now the eyes of a paralyzed woman being gnawed by

## Centre asks states to be better prepared in view of monsoon

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday said that the central and state governments should be better prepared in view of the South West Monsoon so that the losses due to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and landslides can be minimised.

He stressed on the need for building up capacities and response reflexes to ensure round the clock preparedness throughout the year.

Speaking at the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries of Departments of Disaster Management of States and Union Territories, Bhalla said that through continued efforts over the last several years, the disaster management system has been able to reduce the impact of natural disasters on human lives.

He said that before 2014, the approach towards disasters was only relief centric but now it has changed and the focus on saving human lives has become an additional com-



ponent of disaster management.

Bhalla called on the states to undertake capacity building of urban local bodies, their State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs), Fire Service and Civil Defence, since they are the first responders during a calamity. He emphasised on the importance of building capacities at the city and district levels and involving communities.

## Bihar cop found drinking inside police station, suspended

Patna | Agencies

An Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district was on Wednesday suspended for allegedly consuming liquor inside the police station, police said. ASI Ramchandra Pandit, posted at the Meenapur police station in the district, allegedly consumed the liquor on Tuesday night. He is also facing the charge of allegedly offering liquor to an inmate in the lock-up of the police station.

Muzaffarpur SSP Jayant Kant said that the law is



equal for all. "Being a dry state, liquor trade and consumption is completely banned in Bihar. He is currently suspended and an FIR will be soon lodged against him," he told

reporters. The incident came to light after Meenapur SHO Siyaram Yadav learnt that an ASI was consuming liquor inside the police station. He soon reached the police sta-

tion and nabbed him in the drunken state.

Pandit underwent a breathalyser test where traces of alcohol were found. However, the SHO said that he had not given liquor to inmates lodged in the lock-up. Pandit, after being nabbed by the SHO, apologised. He said that he has just 7 years service left and this was the first allegation he is facing now.

Pandit also claimed that he went to a marriage function where a group of people offered him liquor, and he drank some. He also urged senior officers to forgive him for his offence.

## MUSLIM BODIES SHOULDN'T INTERFERE IN GYANVAPI MOSQUE CASE: JAMIAT ULAMA-I-HIND

New Delhi | Agencies

After the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) decided to offer legal assistance to the Muslim side in the Gyanvapi mosque case, Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani, the President of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, has said that there should be no interference from Muslim organisations and people should not get provoked.

He said the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind sympathetically appeals to all the people of India, especially the Muslims, that "they should

not hit the streets on the issue of Gyanvapi mosque and all kinds of public demonstrations should be avoided." In this regard, the Masjid Intezamiya Committee (mosque management committee) is a party in various courts of the country. It is believed that it will fight this case vigorously till the end. Other Muslim organisations of the country are urged not to interfere directly in this case in any court. If they want to provide help or assist in the case, they can do that through the Masjid Intezamiya Committee," Madani said.

### WE WIN LIMITED

(Formerly Known as Surevin BPO Services Limited)  
CIN: L74999MP2007PLC019623  
206-207, 2nd Floor, Corporate Zone, C-21 Mall,  
Hoshangabad Road, Misrod, Bhopal (M.P.) 462047  
Phone: +91 755 4278897 Email: contact@wewinlimited.com

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 30th May 2022, inter alia to consider and approve the Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the financial year ended on 31st March 2022.

The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com.

Place: Bhopal  
Dated: 18/05/2022

For We Win Limited

Sd/-  
Ashish Soni  
(PAN: HCOPS6623A)  
Company Secretary &  
Compliance Officer



# SC ALLOWS OBC QUOTA IN MP LOCAL BODY POLLS, DIRECTS POLL NOTIFICATION IN A WEEK

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed OBC quota in local body elections of Madhya Pradesh. A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to notify local body elections in one week.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed OBC quota in local body elections of Madhya Pradesh. A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to notify local body elections in one week.

The top court order came on a plea by the Madhya Pradesh government seeking modification in the May 10 order, directing the SEC to notify the programme for local body polls within two weeks. Speaking to IANS, advocate Shashank Ratnoo, representing the OBC petitioners, said he argued before the top court that OBCs should not suffer for the mistakes of the government. He added that the top court has allowed OBC reservation under 50 per cent ward wise and panchayat wise on all 23,000 upwards seats. The top court has directed the SEC to notify elections within 7 days.

On May 10, the Supreme Court had directed the Madhya Pradesh SEC to commence the poll programme for over 23,000 local bodies and

issue notification within two weeks. The top court made it clear that until the state government completes the triple test formality, no reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) can be provisioned.

The Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday submitted the second report of the OBC Commission during the hearing on its plea for modification of the May 10 order. The state government contended that the OBC Commission's report is in relation to the percentage of local body wise reservation and argued that the court should rely on this report. Meanwhile, the government also requested the apex court to allow it to issue notification for the reservation for OBCs on its basis.

The government has presented the 2011 population figures for giving OBC reservation. According to this, the total number of OBCs is reported to be 51 per cent of the population. The government believes that if OBCs get reservation on this basis, then justice will be done to them. After hearing all the parties, the apex court had fixed the matter for Wednesday.

### TRUTH FINALLY TRIUMPHED: CM

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that today is a historic day. Today I am satisfied that the honourable Supreme Court has given a decision to conduct elections with OBC reservation. Now the election will be completed with full joy with OBC reservation. I respect the honourable Supreme Court. Chouhan was discussing with the representatives of the media in MPCST premises regarding the decision given by the Supreme Court about reservation of Other Backward Classes in the local body elections.



Chief Minister said that we wanted elections with OBC reservation, but the matter went to the Supreme Court. We have made every effort for OBC reservation, leaving no stone unturned. Other Backward Classes Commission was constituted for Triple T Test. The commission toured the entire state, collected facts, conducted a comprehensive survey and the report, which was prepared on the basis of those facts and survey, was presented in the Supreme Court. The body-wise report was sought by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which was presented in the court. Ultimately truth prevailed and it was proved again that truth cannot be defeated.

## BJP, Cong in MP take credit as SC allows OBC reservation in civic polls

As the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed an OBC quota in the local body elections in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress started taking the credit for it. Both the parties also traded barbs over the issue.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed an OBC quota in the local body elections in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress started taking the credit for it. Both the parties also traded barbs over the issue.

Senior leaders of the BJP and the Congress in Madhya Pradesh welcomed the SC's decision saying, "justice prevailed", claiming that the initiative for providing reservation for OBCs was taken by their parties and accused each other of being anti-OBC.

Soon after a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar pronounced the order granting permission to conduct local body polls with OBC reservation and directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (MP-SEC) to notify the elections in one week, the state BJP headquarters celebrated the decision calling it a win for the party.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was greeted by state home minister Narottam Mishra and urban development minister Bhupendra Singh. The trio had visited New Delhi last week to file a review petition

for seeking modification in the SC's order of May 10, in which the court had directed the state election body to conduct elections without OBC reservation.

Expressing happiness over the SC's decision, Chouhan said, "We had made our intentions clear on this issue. We wanted the local body elections to be held with OBC reservation and all preparations were made for this purpose. The election dates were announced, but the Congress went to the court and the process was stayed. The Congress committed a sin for political gains, but today justice prevailed and the truth won."

Chouhan said that his government made all possible efforts to provide reservation to the OBCs. "An OBC commission was set up and a survey was conducted across the state to collect facts regarding the same. When the SC demanded more clarity on reports, we submitted the second report and the court trusted the commission's report. Subsequently the decision to allow elections with OBC quota was pronounced," Chouhan added.

He alleged that the Congress was in celebration mode after the SC's order of May 10. He said that the Congress was not interested

in the OBC reservation issue but was attacking the BJP for political gains.

On the other hand, the Congress maintained that it wanted local body elections with OBC reservation and for that the party fought strongly. "We were saying from day one that elections to Panchayat and urban bodies should not be held in Madhya Pradesh without OBC reservation. We had also fought regarding OBC reservation and after that the resolution was passed unanimously in the House," said Kamal Nath, former chief minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress chief.

Nath said that the Supreme Court has given a decision to provide relief in the matter of OBC reservation. He claimed, "The OBC category will still not get the full benefit of OBC reservation increased from 14 per cent to 27 per cent by our government because the SC's decision mentioned that the reservation should not be more than 50 per cent."

He said that if the state government had followed the entire procedure of the triple test on time, then this unpleasant situation would never have happened but the Shivraj government woke up after snatching the rights of the OBC class.

## 3 killed over suspicion of witchcraft by members of same family

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing three members of the same family, including a 12-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district, the police said on Tuesday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing three members of the same family, including a 12-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district, the police said on Tuesday. According to the police, during questioning, the arrested persons confessed their crime, stating they killed them on suspicion of witchcraft by a woman -- one of the victims. "After the incident, it was suspected

that some family persons might be involved in this brutal killing of the family. During the investigation, it was found that the family had a dispute over suspicion of witchcraft. Later, it was found that two persons of the same family killed the victims with an axe on Monday night," the police said in a statement. Those arrested have been identified as Khetu Warkade and Motilal Warkade. Police have also recovered the weapon (axe) used in the crime. The three family members of the trib-

al family were found dead on the rooftop of their building in Patadehi Bodasilli village in Mandla district on Tuesday morning. One of the victims a 57-year-old woman was beheaded, and the severed head was hung from a tree about a km from the murder spot. The two other victims were identified as Narbad Singh Warkade, 62, and his 12-year-old grand-daughter Mahima. Both Narbad Singh and Mahima were found with slit throats, while Sukrati Bai was beheaded, the police said.



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

## मुख्यमंत्री नगरीय भू-अधिकार योजना अंतर्गत

### भू-अधिकार पत्र एवं स्थायी पट्टे का वितरण

4226 आवेदकों को पट्टा/भू-अधिकार पत्रों के वितरण का शुभारम्भ

मुख्य अतिथि  
शिवराज सिंह चौहान  
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि  
गोविंद सिंह राजपूत  
मंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश शासन, राजस्व विभाग

19 मई, 2022, दोपहर 3.00 बजे  
मंत्रालय, भोपाल

नगरीय क्षेत्र की शासकीय भूमि (नजूल भूमि) के भूखण्ड धारकों को धारित भूमि का 30 वर्षों के लिए स्थायी पट्टा / आबादी भूमि में भू-अधिकार पत्र प्रदाया



EDITOR'S SPECS

**Cong to counter BJP's Hindutva**

After the three-day 'Chintan Shivir' and hectic debate on the 'Hindutva', the Congress has come up with a social and economic agenda to counter the BJP. The party leaders, who deliberated over the issue, said that ideological differences with the BJP is core to the Congress politics and to fight for the people's cause is the key takeaway from the brainstorming session. Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi has announced two major mass contact programmes -- one is the agitational programme against inflation to restart from June 15 and the footmarch 'Bharat Jodo', which will start from October 2. "We will launch a national Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gandhi Jayanti this year. All of us will participate in it. The Yatra is to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that are under stress, to preserve the foundational values of our Constitution that are under assault, and to highlight the day-to-day concerns of crores of our people," Gandhi said. In the padyatra it has been decided that Rahul Gandhi will hold the major foot march, and Sonia Gandhi will also be participating. The Congress resolution also mentioned about the fight for all sections of the society and particularly about the caste census, which is a big OBC push and the Congress leaders point that it may affect the BJP's social engineering in many states, especially in the election-going states. The Congress will be having a series of mass connect programmes in the run up to the elections in 2024 and reach out to the people as Rahul Gandhi has pointed out. Rahul Gandhi said, advising the party members to look at external issues, instead of internal affairs.

**Bulldozer symbolises BJP's 'greed for power'**

Lavanya Ballal

The BJP has time and again used the issues of food, clothes, religion and language as a symbol of righteousness. The party has also used these sensitive and emotional aspects to crush the nation's voice.

Emotions are provoked to distract people from poor governance, increasing inflation and communal disharmony.

Currently, India is seeing the era of bulldozers, as the BJP is using them to literally raze houses and buildings across India. Delhi also saw the demolition drive.

The world saw people desperately pleading near the bulldozers to save their homes, media anchors clamouring atop it for better TRPs, and it got instant international fame with Boris Johnson climbing onto it during his India visit. Apparently, 63 lakh dwellings will be demolished in this

demolition drive in the national capital.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders have been demanding similar bulldozer drives in Karnataka and other BJP-ruled states as well. When the ruling dispensation claims it to be an anti-encroachment drive to remove illegal structures, the issue is not in black and white. The demolition drive in Jahangirpuri in Delhi continued even after the Supreme Court ordered status quo.

Largely, bulldozers are being seen as the weapon of fascism in the nation. The weaker sections of the society see it as the latest tool of oppression. Theoretically, it's a good goal to have -- a nation free of illegal encroachments -- but is it possible in reality? Most Indian cities see people breaking the urban planning rules and regulations while constructing houses. Why do officials ignore illegal structures? Is it because of corruption or is it a problem that's too big to solve?

While the government is on a demolition drive, it fails to address very pressing concerns. Will the citizens who have lost their houses and shops be compensated? Isn't it the fundamental duty of the government to ensure that every citizen has a dwelling? Isn't it the goal of the government to ensure that every citizen has a source of income?

If homes and businesses are destroyed, how will citizens live? How will they educate their children? What kind of social security has the government planned for the people who have become homeless due to the demolition drives? The BJP in its drive to win more states forgets that all Indians are equal, they all have constitutional rights and they all need to be treated equally.

The BJP in its short-sighted view demonises a section of the society, and keeps fanning the fear in the rest of the population. Its hyper nationalism makes it treat citizens who dis-



agree with its illogical plans like anti-nationals. Unless this hyper nationalism and greed for power is curbed, India will see dark days. The founding fathers of our nation while framing the Constitution were careful in ensuring that every last citizen's rights are protected. Today, the BJP seems to

have forgotten that housing is one of the basic rights of every Indian. The goal must be housing for all on priority basis, and later once every citizen has a house, focus could given on demolition of illegal structures. (The writer is the National Coordinator of Congress' Social Media Wing)

**Thanks to Nitish Kumar, Bihar unaffected by bulldozer culture**

Ajay Kumar

While bulldozer is emerging as a new tool of governance, especially in the BJP-ruled states, in Bihar, which is ruled by the JD-U with BJP as its key ally, the motorised machine that of late has earned a polarising reputation doesn't seem to have much scope. One of the key reasons behind this is the ideology of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of the JD-U, which is different from that of the saffron party. Largely due to Nitish Kumar's approach, the leaders of other political parties are having an upper hand over the BJP when it comes to bulldozers making thier presence felt in Bihar. The JD-U has a clear stand on this issue, and so does the other alliance partner,

Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM).

Besides, the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Left parties and the Congress are directly targeting the BJP for opting for a questionable methodology to achieve political goals. Mritunjay Tiwari, national spokesperson of RJD, said:

"Bulldozer means destruction of society. It is a political tool of the BJP to divert attention from the real issues. When we talk about real issues like rising prices of fuel and other essential commodities, growing unemployment etc., the BJP drives in the bulldozer and communalism to divide the society. But such a divisive ploy of the BJP is not relevant in Bihar as the opposition is very strong here." Danish Rizwan, spokesperson of HAM, also

expressed similar views on this issue: "Bulldozer cannot construct any house. It is always used to demolish the houses of poor people, and those belonging to minority and marginalised communities. In the recent past, a political party has used it as a tool to achieve its political goals. I firmly believe that the bulldozer culture has no scope in Bihar under the Nitish Kumar government." "Bulldozer is being used as a political tool these days. We have an anti-encroachment law as per the Constitution of our country, but there is no law pertaining to bulldozers. Those who are using it as a political tool in other states can do whatever they want. But in Bihar, we go by the law," Neeraj Kumar, JD-U MLC and chief spokesperson of the

party said. "Bihar has always taken the lead in several issues which other states later followed. Such as liquor prohibition act, Jan Jiwan Hariyali Yojana, women's empowerment, initiatives taken by the government to encourage girls' education etc. So, we are setting examples for the country which other states are endorsing. We are not the followers. The Bihar government under Nitish Kumar has an agenda to implement the Saat Nischay Programme (seven-point programme). We are not here to endorse the bulldozer culture," Kumar said. As the BJP is isolated on this issue in Bihar, the narrative of bulldozer

culture has changed for its leaders. "For the BJP, bulldozers always act against illegal structures of criminals. No one is above the law. If they violate the law, bulldozers will be used against them," state BJP spokesperson Arvind Bhai said.

"BJP never advocated using bulldozers against a particular caste or community. Suppose, an illegal structure is being constructed on Dak Banglow Chowk, why would it not be demolished? It should be demolished no matter who has constructed it. Illegal means illegal. Anyone who violates the law, he or she is liable to face action," he added.

international

**TALKS BETWEEN PAK, IMF TO BEGIN IN DOHA**

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistani government delegation is in Doha to participate in an all-important meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and negotiate over the release of crucial funds worth \$1 billion, reviving the \$6 billion bailout package and bringing certainty and pace for an economic reform in the country, which has been on free fall in the past couple of weeks. The talks are expected to go on till next week as Pakistan will try to convince the IMF to re-start the existing loan programme and extend its tenure with additional loan facility, desperately required to help Pakistan get out of its current economic crisis. However, the talks are not expected to be a smooth sail for the Pakistan as IMF has put forward strict demands, asking Islamabad to stop all subsidies and apply strict measures, which would result in massive inflation in the country.

The Pakistani delegation comprises Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Minister of State Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Finance Secretary Hamed Yaqoob Shaikh, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) acting Governor Dr. Murtaza Syed, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Asim Ahmed and other officials from the Finance Division.

"The government will try to convince the IMF that for political stability purposes, it is important to keep at least some of the subsidies," says economic expert Shahrulh Wani. However, the IMF is likely to demand the Pakistani delegation to roll back all subsidies in order to balance the trade deficit.

"The IMF will possibly, rightly, say that these are unsustainable and they should be rolled back to make the trade and budget deficit manageable," Wani added.

The \$6 billion bailout package, which was signed by the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, accepting difficult and strict demands of



economic reforms and restructuring in 2019, was never complied and implemented because his government defaulted on agreements to cut and end some subsidies and to improve revenue and tax collection.

The package was suspended after Khan was ousted in April through a no-confidence vote.

The IMF stated that it would negotiate with any other government that takes over from the Imran Khan government and would not talk to any caretaker political setup in Pakistan.

So far, Islamabad has received at least \$3 billion from the IMF programme.

The IMF programme is scheduled to end later this year, which is why, Pakistan government officials are

seeking an extension till June 2023, along with a release of the next tranche of \$1 billion.

However, the incumbent Shehbaz Sharif government has refrained from increasing fuel prices as he rejected at least two summaries by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and the Finance Ministry to increase the prices.

The IMF has been asking Pakistan for the reversal of the fuel subsidies and has linked it with the bailout package.

Pakistan has repeatedly sought international support to run its cash-strapped economy, which has been severely hit by national debt, inflation and a constant devaluation of its currency against the US dollar.

**Ukraine sees over 200 Russian attacks on health care, must be probed: WHO**

Kiev | Agencies

The World Health Organization (WHO), which recorded 226 attacks on Ukrainian healthcare, almost three attacks per day since Russia's began its invasion of the country on February 24, has called for a probe.

According to Hans Kluge, the WHO regional director for Europe, Russia's attacks on health-care facilities and ambulances in Ukraine have left at least 75 people dead and 49 injured.

In addition, the attacks have significantly damaged medical infrastructure in Ukraine, and severely impacted access to health care in many areas. "Two thirds of all attacks on health care this year verified by WHO globally have been in Ukraine," Kluge said in a statement on Tuesday, on his third visit in the year to the war-torn country.

"These attacks are not justifiable, they are never OK, and they must be investigated. It is an insult to the dedication and integrity of health workers everywhere that they continue with impunity. No health professional should have to deliver health care on a knife edge," he added.

The WHO will contribute to any investigation that takes place in the future, Kluge said, on the 83rd day of Russia's invasion, which has caused thousands of civilian deaths and injuries in Ukraine, including children.

WHO representative in Ukraine, Jarno Habicht, said the healthcare facilities and ambulances attacked had served a quarter of a million Ukrainians each month in 2021, the CNBC reported.

"So that's the impact of those attacks. And those attacks are continuing, which is unacceptable. There is



no reason for that," Habicht was quoted as saying.

Habicht said the WHO has taken steps to support Ukraine's health system.

He noted that the global health agency has delivered more than 500 metric tonnes of medical supplies to the hardest-hit areas of the country since February.

More than 50 per cent of the supplies, including medicines, ambulances and electric generators, will go toward trauma and injury care. The WHO also provides medical kits to treat those with chronic illnesses, and one kit can provide three months of treatment for thousands of people, according to Habicht.

While praising the efforts of health workers of Ukraine, "who have shown tremendous bravery and dedication since the war began", Kluge noted the conditions of the health system in Ukraine both "heartbreaking and inspiring".

"I'd like to express my immense appreciation and admiration for the health workers of this country who have shown tremendous bravery and dedication since the war began. You have done the impossible. You stand firm and save lives."

He noted that the country faces significant health challenges as one in three people with a chronic condition continue to struggle to access medicines; one in three tuberculosis cases are multidrug resistant; and vaccine coverage for polio and measles remains below the recommended rate of 95 per cent.

There is also the potential of a cholera outbreak in occupied areas, where water and sanitation infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, Kluge said.

He called for scaling up mental health services, as "over 16,000 people in Ukraine with moderate to severe mental health conditions face shortages of essential medicines".

Kluge also expressed concern over reports of increase in sexual violence and exploitation in Ukraine.

**Japan's nuke regulator approves plan to discharge radioactive wastewater from Fukushima**

Tokyo | Agencies

Despite opposition from neighbouring nations, Japan's nuclear regulator on Wednesday approved a plan to discharge radioactive wastewater from the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean. The Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) said that once opinions on the matter from the public are heard, the plan will be officially approved, reports Xinhua news agency. For the construction of the discharge facilities to begin, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. (TEPCO), the stricken plant's operator, will need to gain consent from the municipalities that are hosting the nuclear power complex.



In 2011, a nuclear crisis, not seen since Chernobyl in 1988, was triggered by a massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami knocking out the Fukushima Daiichi plant's key cooling functions. Since then, water pumped in to cool melted reactor fuel has been accumulating at the complex and mixing with rainwater and groundwater at the site. The tainted water contains radioactive tritium, and the beleaguered site will soon reach its capacity of the water. The government's plan is to release the radioactive water through a tunnel under the seabed into the Pacific Ocean roughly 1 km away from the stricken plant. The controversial plan is proposed

to begin in the spring of 2023, much to the consternation of local fisheries and the international community.

Japan's fisheries industry has voiced its ardent opposition to the plan, as it will almost certainly cause further damage to the industry's already battered reputation. Moreover, some of Japan's closest neighbours have voiced strong concerns over the plan. Japan has been considering a number of feasible alternative plans other than its unilateral proposal just to dump radioactive water into the ocean. These options included injecting the toxic water deep into the ground, releasing it into the atmosphere after vaporizing it, or making it into a solid state and burying it underground. On Wednesday, NRA Chairman Toyoshi Fuketa asked TEPCO to do its utmost to ensure there are no incidents at the planned water discharge facilities, according to local reports.

**EU URGES NEW LEBANESE PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT GOVT FORMATION**

Beirut: The European Union has urged the newly-elected Lebanese Parliament to support the process of a swift government formation, and assume its responsibility of passing necessary legislation and implementing reforms.

"We call on the parliament to work together to serve the interest of Lebanon and its people by adopting all legislation and implementing reforms necessary to improve governance and stabilize the economy," Xinhua news agency quoted EU Delegation to Lebanon as saying. The EU also reiterated its expectation that the presidential and municipal elections will be held according to schedule, in line with Lebanon's democratic principles, traditions, and commitments.

"The EU will continue to stand by Lebanon and its people," it said, adding that the bloc has contributed to making these elections possible, by providing extensive technical assistance to the electoral management bodies and dispatching the Election Observation Mission.

Lebanon on Sunday held the 2022 parliamentary elections with a voter turnout reaching 42 per cent compared to 49 per cent in the 2018 polls.





# WITH CHHATRAPATI IN FRAY, RS POLLS MAY BE A NAIL-BITING AFFAIR IN MAHA

Next month's elections for six Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra promise to be a nail-biter with a contest inevitable given the current political arithmetic in the state legislature, the Maha Vikas Aghadi planning to nominate a fourth candidate and a Chhatrapati clan descendent jumping into the ring as an independent.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Next month's elections for six Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra promise to be a nail-biter with a contest inevitable given the current political arithmetic in the state legislature, the Maha Vikas Aghadi planning to nominate a fourth candidate and a Chhatrapati clan descendent jumping into the ring as an independent.



their candidates.

The RS elections are being held to fill up the vacancies by six retiring members one each from ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies, Shiv Sena (Sanjay Raut), Nationalist Congress Party (Praful Patel) and Congress (Chidambaram), and three from the Bharatiya Janata Party Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Piyush Goyal and Dr. Vikas Mahatme.

However, as per indications, BJP may repeat Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the Sena will field its fiery Chief Spokesperson Raut and NCP may retain its general secretary Patel, who is a close confidante of party President Sharad Pawar, but with the CBI again going after his family, the fate of Congress' Chidambaram is uncertain.

This time, given the re-alignment of the legislature after the 2019 Assembly elections, the BJP can comfortably win two seats of the three it holds, and the MVA can win their three seats, and is toying with a fourth candidate to bag the third seat held by the BJP.

Staking a unilateral claim to the sixth seat is Yuvraj Sambhajiraj Chhatrapati, the 13th direct descendent of Chhatrapati Shivaji

Maharaj, has plunged into the RS polls as an independent. He made the announcement last week in Pune as his RS term as BJP's President-nominated member ended, setting the proverbial cat among the pigeons.

Sambhajiraj said that he would contest the June 2022 Rajya Sabha elections solo and seek the support of all political parties, but strangely, no party has commented on the Chhatrapati descendent's plans.

The electoral college comprises the 288 MLAs and a candidate must get 42 votes to win a seat in the Upper House of Parliament.

The MVA has 170 MLAs - Shiv Sena 55 (one MLA Ramesh Latke, died in Dubai last week), NCP 53, Congress 44, smaller parties/groups 10 and 8 Independents.

On the Opposition side, BJP has 106 with other smaller parties/groups 2 and 5 Independents.

Sambhajiraj explained that in these circumstances, the BJP can get only 2 seats, and the Sena-NCP-

Congress one each, so he would contest that sixth seat independently with the support of various major and smaller parties.

However, in case the BJP decides to field a third candidate and the MVA would also bid for that seat, besides the candidature of Sambhajiraj, elections would be necessitated and prove to be a litmus test for both the ruling MVA and the Opposition.

MVA bigwigs, including Sena President and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Pawar, Congress President Nana Patole, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and Congress Legislature Party chief and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat are strategizing on the possibility of wresting the 'extra seat' coveted by Sambhajiraj, too.

It pertinent to note that in April 2020 RS polls, NCP's Fauzia Khan had won as the Sena transferred its excess votes to her and the NCP is prepared to give a 'return gift' to the Sena this time, if all goes well, instead of obliging the young Chhatrapati.



## Pawar slur: Court sends actress Ketaki Chitale to judicial custody

A Mumbai court on Wednesday remanded Marathi actress Ketaki Chitale to 14 days' judicial custody for forwarding on social media a scurrilous post against Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar.

She was slammed by all parties including the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi allies Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party, Congress, Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena though some smaller groups came out in her support.

The post contained a Marathi poem with several derogatory personal references targeting the 81-year-old Pawar, and objectionable phrases referring to caste or communities.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Mumbai court on Wednesday remanded Marathi actress Ketaki Chitale to 14 days' judicial custody for forwarding on social media a scurrilous post against Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar.

Chitale, who was arrested last week by Thane Police,

## MVA partners should have been taken into confidence for drafting ward structure for civic polls: Patole

Maharashtra Congress chief further said that the party had demanded representation of two members in each prabhag (ward), but now there would be three-member wards.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Wednesday said all alliance partners of the Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) should have been taken into confidence while drafting the ward structure for the elections to civic bodies.



er, which is why the local Congress officer-bearers have expressed their disappointment," Patole said.

The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress are the main constituents of the MVA alliance.

He further said that the party had demanded representation of two members in each prabhag (ward), but now there would be three-member wards. "Be it in Mumbai or Pune, if some parties of the MVA draft the ward structure as per their convenience, then we will certainly approach the court on the issue," the Congress leader said. Civic elections are due in several major cities in the state, including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Thane.

The Congress leader was speaking to reporters in Nagpur about the party's disappointment over the ward structure in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). "When there is an alliance government, it is expected that the alliance parties together draft the ward structure. It is not right to put a friend in loss when we are all togeth-

## Supreme Court grants bail to Indrani Mukerjea in her daughter Sheena Bora murder case

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Indrani Mukerjea accused in her daughter's, Sheena Bora, murder case.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Indrani Mukerjea accused in her daughter's, Sheena Bora, murder case.

A bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao noted that she has been in jail for over six years and the trial won't be concluded in near future. The bench also noted that the case is based on circum-



stantial evidence and that even if 50 per cent of the witnesses are given up by the prosecution, the trial would not get over soon.

During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Mukerjea, submitted before the top court that his client has been in jail for more than six years and taking into account the ongo-

ing state of affairs it is apparent that the trial will not come to an end in 10 years. "Six and a half years she has been in jail. The trial is not going to end in the next 10 years," he submitted before the court.

The top court asked Rohatgi, how many witnesses are there in the case. Rohatgi responded that 185 witnesses

are yet to be examined. He added that no witness has been examined in the past one and half years, and her husband is already on bail.

Rohatgi further submitted that the trial court has been vacant without a presiding officer since June, 2021. He also informed the top court that his client is also not well. "My husband is on bail. This lady is not well. She is suffering," he said. Mukherjea has been in jail since her arrest in the murder case in 2015.

Recently Mukerjea created a sensation by sending a letter to the CBI claiming that her daughter Sheena Bora was alive. The CBI has made it clear this particular angle will not be taken up, unless there is an intervention from the court.

In April 2012, a case was filed with the Mumbai Police alleging kidnapping and murder of Sheena Bora. In 2015, the CBI took up the investigation. Indira was arrested and so was her husband Peter Mukerjea, who was granted bail in March 2020. In December last year, Indrani wrote a letter to the CBI stating that she would move the special court to record the statement of an inmate who had claimed to have met Bora in Kashmir.

The court has rejected her bail on several occasions. In November last year, the Bombay High Court rejected her bail plea, noting that material in the form of circumstantial evidence strongly supported her direct involvement in the murder.

## RTI ACTIVIST MURDERED IN YAVATMAL, ALL ACCUSED ARRESTED

Anil Ochawar, an RTI activist in Yavatmal, was brutally killed after he filed an RTI seeking information regarding the employment guarantee scheme.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocking incident that came to light on Monday 16th, May 2022 in the Parva village in the Ghatunji Taluka of Yavatmal in Maharashtra, an RTI activist who had asked for the information regarding the employment guarantee scheme was brutally killed by four men, including the contractor of the employment guarantee scheme. The police have arrested four accused in this case including the contractor.

Anil Ochawar (age 28) of Parva worked as an RTI (Right to Information) activist. He also used to run a xerox center in the village. On Sunday, at 12:30 AM in the night, he was called upon and killed. His dead

body appeared near a public dust bin on the road near a local lake.

Anil Ochawar had filed an RTI application in the name of his wife to inquire about the works done under the employment guarantee scheme in the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the Parva forest section. It has now become clear that he was killed because he asked the concerned forest officials for the said information.

On Sunday 15th May 2022, accused Danish Sheikh Israel (age 24) called the deceased Anil Ochawar as late as 12:30 in the night. He told Anil Ochawar that he is being summoned for an important meeting. His wife let go of her husband believing his presence was important for an ongoing meeting.



However, on Monday morning, Anil Ochawar's dead body appeared. Anil Ochawar's wife registered a complaint at the local police station. The police arrested the four accused. The contractor Vijay Narasimhalu Bhashanwar (age 38), Javed Maula Katate (age 35), Danish Sheikh Israel

(age 24), and Sumit Shankar Tippanwar (age 27) are taken under custody in connection with Ochawar's murder. It is now clear that the four conspired and executed the murder.

Anil Ochawar's body had marks of severe blows on his throat, chest, and stomach by a sharp weapon. Post mortem was performed at the Pandhar Kavda hospital and the dead body was cremated on Monday afternoon. Anil Ochawar also used to work for the Nationalist Congress Party. Yavatmal district's Superintendent of Police Dr. Dilip Patil Bhujbal arrived in Parva on Monday to ensure that the situation did not slip out of control. Upper SP Dr. Khanderao Dharme, Deputy SP of Pandhar Kavda Pradip Patil, Sanjay Pujjalwar, and cyber cell officer Amol puri were among other officers who were present in the village at the time. This case was solved by Vinod Chavhan, police station in charge of the Parva village.

## Security heightened at Aurangzeb's tomb after MNS leader says it should be destroyed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Authorities have deployed additional security at Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Aurangabad after an MNS leader questioned the need for the monument's existence here in Maharashtra and said it should be destroyed, an ASI official said.

Notably, AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's recent visit to the tomb was criticised by the ruling Shiv Sena in the state as well as the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). On Tuesday, MNS spokesperson Gajanan Kale in a tweet wondered what was the need for Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra and said it

On May 17, MNS spokesperson Gajanan Kale in a tweet wondered what was the need for Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra and said it should be destroyed so that people would not go there

should be destroyed so that people would not go there.

After this tweet, some people in the Khultabad area, where the tomb is located, tried to lock the structure, which is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). When contacted, ASI's Aurangabad circle superintendent Milan Kumar Chaudley said that some people tried to lock the tomb, claiming there was a threat of it being vandalised. "But, I said unless anything

is given to the ASI in writing, I shall not act on it. We have kept the monument open and have added four more security guards there. We also conveyed about the situation to police and they sent a security van there," he said. Days after Owaisi's visit to the tomb earlier this month, NCP chief Sharad Pawar had wondered if such an act was aimed at creating a new controversy in Maharashtra which is functioning peacefully.

## RIVAL MUNDE COUSINS IN AMIABLE TAPS AND TAUNTS, BUT SPORT DIFFERENT 'LENSES'

Rival political cousins -- Bharatiya Janata Party's Secretary Pankaja Munde and Nationalist Congress Party's Minister Dhananjay Munde took friendly swipes and taunted each other at a public event attended by NCP president Sharad Pawar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rival political cousins -- Bharatiya Janata Party's Secretary Pankaja Munde and Nationalist Congress Party's Minister Dhananjay Munde took friendly swipes and taunted each other at a public event attended by NCP president Sharad Pawar. The occasion was the inauguration of renowned ophthalmologist, Padmashri TP Lahane's 'Raghunath Netralaya' a hospital dedicated to his father-in-law, the late Adv. Raghunathrao V Munde, a two-time Congress MLA.

Top leaders of Maha Vikas Aghadi including Shiv Sena Minister Aditya Thackeray, NCP Minister Dhananjay Munde, Congress Ministers Balasaheb Thorat and Amit Deshmukh, BJP's Munde sisters from Beed, leaders of almost all other political parties and other bigwigs were present at Dr.

Lahane's invite.

Pawar lavished praises on Lahane -- who has created a world record with over 1.60 lakhs cataract surgeries, despite hailing from a very poor background and surmounting personal medical challenges like losing both his kidneys at a young age and surviving on a kidney donated by his mother.

"I am confident Lahane will continue to serve and give vision to the needy through this hospital," said Pawar of the much-respected and distinguished eye surgeon who held top medical positions in the Maharashtra government before he retired last year. Pankaja Munde, a former state minister in her speech, said the Guardian Minister of Beed and (cousin) brother Dhananjay Munde is very fortunate to 'view through the lenses' of Pawar Saheb. "He had grown looking through the lenses of Gopinath Munde-Pramod Mahajana. Now is

among the few fortunate ones to see through the lenses of Pawar Saheb," she said of her cousin Dhananjay Munde, who quit BJP in 2013 to join NCP. Later, getting up to speak, as Dhananjay Munde walked on the dais, he gave a brotherly tap on cousin-sibling Pankaja's head as her MP sister Pritam Munde was seen giving a friendly smile at the gesture. After acknowledging Lahane's immense contributions, Minister Munde recounted an incident of 1978 when Adv. Raghunathrao V. Munde trounced his cousin Gopinath Munde (Pankaja's father) in the assembly election that year - which incidentally, saw the 38-year old Pawar becoming the Chief Minister for the first time and the youngest ever to occupy the august post till date. "A few months later, Gopinath Munde won a Zilla Parishad election and Raghunathrao V Munde personally felicitated him for the victory," said

Dhananjay Munde, glancing at his cousin sisters all ears for him.

Responding to Pankaja's jibe, Dhananjay Munde said: "Pankaja Taai (sister), at times one must come under the focus of lenses. I was just talking with Aditya Thackeray who said it would be nice if Taai changed her lenses and looked through th MVA's lenses. He said it, not me!" Dhananjay Munde -- who inflicted a shock defeat to the sitting MLA Pankaja Munde at Parli in the 2019 Assembly elections - admitted that everybody is aware of the political enmity between him and his cousin Pankaja, but they came together for today's event as "Dr. Lahane is important" for us all.

Speaking with IANS later, Lahane, 65, said the eye hospital is situated at Prabhadevi, opposite the famed Siddhivinayak Temple in memory of his late father-in-law. In his childhood, Lahane was a passionate student, always



topping in school and later he resolutely pursued a medical career despite hailing from a very humble background.

To augment his income, the young Lahane worked in the medical college canteen as a waiter, even drew water from a well and watered trees at a rich farmer's plantation and other odd jobs.

After he became an eye surgeon, Adv. Raghunathrao V. Munde



approached him with his daughter Sulochana's hand, but Dr. Lahane declined in view of his precarious financial status.

However, Adv. Raghunathrao V. Munde persisted and said he had "complete faith" in Dr. Lahane's hard work and abilities after which the latter agreed to the marriage proposal with Sulochana.



# Pete Davidson, Naomi Scott to star in David Michod's 'Wizards!'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Stars Pete Davidson, Franz Rogowski, Naomi Scott and Sean Harris are set to star in 'Wizards!', a new film from Australian writer-director David Michod. Michod also penned the script, which is based on a story by Joel Edgerton and Michod. Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner of Plan B will produce alongside Liz Watts, reports 'Deadline'.

The film follows two hapless pothead beach-bar operators (Davidson and Rogowski) who run into trouble when they stumble across stolen loot that they really should have just left alone.

This marks the fourth collaboration between A24 and Plan B following such award-winning films as 'Moonlight', 'Minari'

and 'The Last Black Man in San Francisco'.

A24 will handle the global release of the film, which will be shot in Queensland, with the support of AUD \$3.6 million from the Morrison Government's Location Incentive program and the Queensland Government via Screen Queensland's Production Attraction Strategy. Davidson continues to stay busy both on film and in the TV realm as he is wrapping up another season on Saturday Night Live. His semi-autobiographical series 'Bupkis' was just given a series order at Peacock. Scott has also stayed busy on both fronts, most recently starring in the Netflix drama 'Anatomy of a Scandal'. She can be seen next in the Amblin sci-fi pic 'Distant'.



## CANNES RED CARPET STARS

# EVA LANGORIA, LASHANA LYNCH, JULIANNE MOORE

► Deepika Padukone may have had her followers riveted to her Instagram handle, making one sartorial statement after another at Cannes, but the world media just couldn't stop talking about 'Desperate Housewives' star Eva Langoria's red carpet appearance on the opening evening the Palais des Festivals.

London | Agencies

In the words of 'Daily Mail', "Eva was sure to steal the show in her sweeping gown which featured a semi-sheer ruffled skirt, sequins and thin spaghetti straps. The star teamed the number with a black and diamond choker, while a pair of killer black heels were seen beneath her skirt."

Langoria was one of the first stars to jet into the French resort for the annual event, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary after its last two editions were pared down because of the Covid-19 pandemic. She was seen standing on a balcony at the famed Martinez Hotel on the eve of the festival, expressing her excitement at attending the event.

Also a part of the opening glamour parade was the English actress Lashana Lynch, who was seen most recently as one of the Illuminati of Earth-838 in 'Dr Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' after playing MI6 agent Nomi in the James Bond film, 'No Time to Die'.

The actress looked striking in a high-necked white FENDI Couture gown which featured an intricate beaded pattern throughout. She added "an array of jewellery to her look, including dazzling dia-

mond and emerald drop earrings as well as a sparkling ring and bracelet," reports 'Daily Mail'. Elsewhere, Hollywood legend Julianne Moore got the photographers into a tizzy as she appeared in a classic satin gown with a low neckline and drop waist, teamed with a showstopping diamond and emerald necklace. Eva was one of the first to jet into the French resort for the annual event, having been seen standing on a balcony at the Martinez Hotel on the eve of the 75th annual Cannes film festival as she expressed her excitement at attending the event. The actress went braless in a figure-hugging silver dress which gathered at the front to create a unique texture.

Later in the evening the actress took to the stage to welcome the honoured guests to the festival's opening ceremony. Joined by this year's jury president Vincent Lindon, Julianne was welcomed on stage to a thunderous applause. In the words of 'Daily Mail': "The Far From Heaven' actress stood with her microphone in hand to make a speech, only to collapse into fits of giggles."

She spoke before the screening of the festival's opening film, 'Final Cut' (Coupez!), Michel Hazanavicius's "comedy love letter to filmmaking and Z-list zombie movies from the team behind the award-winning 'The Artist'."

# PRIYANKA CHOPRA GETS INJURED WHILE SHOOTING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Priyanka Chopra is currently shooting for her upcoming action-packed spy thriller television series Citadel. The diva recently shared a glimpse of her baby girl and resumed working two days after she returned home. But, looks like the day was tough for the actress at work. Decked up in a black dress, Priyanka Chopra shared a selfie from the sets of the show. In the picture, Priyanka was seen covered in bruises, with patches of blood on her face. Sharing the picture, Priyanka wrote, "Did u have a tough day at work as well?"

#actorslife #citadel #adayinthelife." As soon as the actress shared the pic from the sets, fans were worried if she was actually injured. "Omg for a sec I thought you got hurt," a fan confessed. "What happened are you ok," asked another.

Citadel has been one of the most-anticipated projects of Priyanka Chopra. It will see her teaming up with Eternals star Richard Madden.

On the work front, Priyanka is also gearing up for her Bollywood comeback with Farhan Akhtar's Jee Le Zaraa. The film stars Priyanka in the lead alongside Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif.



# DAKOTA FANNING WEARS A NECKLACE WITH HER DEAD DOG'S HAIR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Dakota Fanning wears a necklace with her dead dog's hair and she said it lets her "have her with me" on 'The Kelly Clarkson Show'. The 28-year-old actress told host Kelly Clarkson and fellow guest Michelle Pfeiffer her 'The First Lady' co-star: "So I have her with me." Fanning also said: "She actually passed away. My first and only dog, her name was Lewellen," she said before picking up one of her pendant necklaces, and showing to the pair, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She added: "And this is a little bit of her hair in my necklace." In response, the 40-year-old talk show labelled the sartorial decision as "both creepy and beautiful," a conclusion that the 'New Moon' star agreed with, replying "I know".

The 'Breakaway' singer said she was a fan of the jewellery. She exclaimed: "You're a walking shrine. I love it. It's love!" Clarkson confessed she understood the pain and other "people don't get it" when it comes to the heartache of losing a pet. She said: "People don't get it! I have kids too, and I'm telling you, [the pets] are like a part of my family. When one of my dogs died, I thought I was going to die myself."

Michelle said that she "was actually due" to get another puppy as all the dogs she had all "passed away" but that she had a cute kitty. The 64-year-old actress told Clarkson: "I used to have a lot of dogs, and then one by one, they kind of, you know, passed away, so I don't have any dogs at the moment, but I do have a cat, Bella. She's a very special cat."

# Futuristic superhero film 'The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' set for reboot

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 2003 dieselpunk superhero film 'The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' is getting a reboot. BAFTA nominee Justin Haythe will adapt the script this time around, reports 'Deadline'.

The original film, based on the comic book series of the same name from writer Alan Moore and artist Kevin O'Neill, is set in an alternate Victorian Age where it follows a group of famous contemporary fantasy, science fiction,

and adventure characters - including Captain Nemo, Dorian Gray and Tom Sawyer - as they team up on a secret mission.

As per 'Deadline', while multiple attempts at a League reboot have been made in the past, with one conceived as a female-centric take, they've thus far been to no avail. However, this time around with Susan Montford and 3 Arts Entertainment's Erwin Stoff producing alongside Don Murphy at 20th Century Fox who also produced the original, the film finally seems to be getting its much

deserved sequel.

'The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' comics were first introduced in 1999. Stephen Norrington directed the original film adaptation, starring the late Sean Connery, which was reputed to be the reason Connery retired from acting, so miserable was his experience on set.

James Dale Robinson wrote the script, with Naseeruddin Shah, Peta Wilson, Tony Curran, Stuart Townsend, Shane West, Jason Flemyng and Richard Roxburgh rounding out the cast.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Mia Sully



## IPL 2022

# LSG beat KKR by two runs in last ball thriller

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A** clinical batting performance followed by a good enough bowling effort helped Lucknow Super Giants beat Kolkata Knight Riders by two runs in a thrilling 66th match of the IPL 2022 at the Dr DY Patil Stadium, here on Wednesday.

A sensational hundred by Quinton de Kock (140 not out off 70) and a solid fifty by KL Rahul (68 not out off 51) powered Lucknow Super Giants to 210/0 in 20 overs, after winning the toss and opting to bat first. De Kock, who was given a life early in his innings, made KKR pay for it and he even overshadowed his opening partner KL Rahul with his knock.

Both LSG batters remained not out till the last ball of the innings, didn't show any mercy on KKK bowlers and broke many records during the process. Notably, it was for the first time a team batted the entire 20 overs in IPL without losing a wicket. It was also the highest opening stand ever in IPL history and the third highest partnership for any wicket in the cash-rich league.

Tim Southee (0/57) was the most expensive bowler for KKR while the likes of Andre Russell (0/45) and Varun Chakaravathy (0/38) were also not far behind in conceding runs.

In reply, KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer smashed a fine fifty (50 off 29) and stitched a 66 run stand for the fourth wicket with Sam Billings (36 off 24) to keep his team alive in the run chase.

However, once Shreyas and Billings got out, it was an uphill task for KKR. But, lower down the



order, Rinku Singh (40 off 15) and Sunil Narine (21 not out off 7) showed the fighting spirit and hit a few lusty shots to bring the equation to 21 runs off 6 balls.

Rinku hit Marcus Stoinis for 4, 6, 6 in the first three balls and took a double on the fourth delivery of the last over as KKR needed 5 runs in 3 balls. However, in the fifth ball of the over, Rinku got out courtesy of a spectacular one-handed catch by Evin Lewis while diving across to his left.

With three runs needed off the last ball, Stoinis clean bowled Umesh Yadav and sealed a thrilling two-run win for LSG. Mohsin Khan (3/20), Marcus Stoinis (3/23) were the most successful bowlers for Lucknow while Krishnappa Gowtham (1/23) and Ravi Bishnoi (1/34) also picked one wicket each.

## DE KOCK, RAHUL SET RECORDS WITH HISTORIC OPENING STAND

**Mumbai:** Adding few more milestones to their glorious carriers, Lucknow Super Giants opens Quinton de Kock and KL Rahul broke the plethora of records during their historic opening partnership against Kolkata Knight Riders in the 66th match of the IPL 2022. Both de Kock and Rahul remained not out till the last ball of the LSG innings and didn't show any mercy on KKK bowlers. Notably, it was for the first time a team batted the entire 20 overs in IPL without losing a wicket. The stand of 210 runs between de Kock and Rahul was the highest opening partnership ever in IPL history. Prior to this, the record for the highest opening partnership in the IPL was held by Jonny Bairstow and David Warner, who had added 185 for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2019.

### Brief scores

Lucknow Super Giants 210/0 in 20 Overs (Quinton de Kock 140 not out, KL Rahul 68 not out) beat Kolkata Knight Riders 208/8 in 20 Overs (Shreyas Iyer 50, Nitish Rana 42, Rinku Singh 40; Mohsin Khan 3/20) by 2 runs

## WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING

# Nikhath storms into final; Manisha, Parveen bag bronze medals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**I**ndian boxer Nikhat Zareen punched her way into the final with a sensational win while Manisha and debutant Parveen ended their campaigns with bronze medals after defeats in the semifinals at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Exhibiting a skilful display, Nizamabad (Telangana)-born boxer Nikhat pulled off a comprehensive 5-0 win against Brazil's Caroline De Almeida in the 52kg semi-final. On the other hand, Manisha (57kg) and Parveen (63kg) gave their all but ended up with 0-5 and 1-4 defeats against the 2020 Olympic Games bronze medalist Italy's Irma Testa and Ireland's Amy Broadhurst respectively.

Playing her only second World Championships, Nikhat will take a shot at gold on Thursday when she squares off against Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the fly weight final. Jutamas stunned



the two-time World Championships medalist experienced Kazakh boxer Zhaina Shekerbekova 4-1 in the semi-final. However, in the feather weight category, Manisha tried her best but found it tough to cope with her strong rival from Italy, who fought aggressively and did not give the Indian many chances.

Parveen too faced a tough challenge from the Irish boxer in a more physical bout. The Haryana youngster, despite losing the first round, recovered well and made an

impressive comeback. However, the 2019 European Championships bronze medalist Broadhurst took charge in the final round and clinched the intensely-fought match in her favour, ending the Indian's dream run on debut at the prestigious event, which has been witnessing exciting action in the presence of 310 boxers from 73 countries from across the world. This year's tournament also marks the 20th anniversary of the Women's World Championships.

## ARCHERY WORLD CUP

# Indian men's compound team reaches final; women win bronze

Gwangju (S Korea) | Agencies

**T**he Indian men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan beat the South Korean team to reach the final at the Archery World Cup 2022 stage 2, here on Wednesday.

The men's team began the day by beating Italy 235-229 in the first round before ousting a strong US team 234-228 in the quarterfinals. Up against the top-seeded South Korean team of Jong Ho Kim, Yong Hee Choi and Jae Won Yang, the 2019 world championships gold medalists, in the semifinal, the Indian trio had to dig deep to produce a win.

In a topsy turvy match, the two teams were evenly matched at 233-all. In a tight shoot-off, the Indian team came out on top by 29-26 to earn a gold medal shot.

India will face France in Saturday's final in what will be a replay of the gold medal match from the Stage 1 World Cup from last month. India won the contest 232-230 at the Turkey meet, an olympics.com report said.

Meanwhile, the women's compound team comprising Anveet Kaur, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar secured a bronze. They received a first round bye and then beat fourth-seeded Chinese Taipei 228-226 in the quarters to set up a semis clash against the top seeded hosts.

India put up a good fight but a dismal 56 in the third set cost the team as they went down 228-230. Up against the other losing semi-finalists Turkey in the bronze medal playoff, the Indian trio overturned a late deficit to win a thriller 232-231 to claim a podium spot.

A total of 272 recurve and compound archers - 149 men and 123 women - from 39 countries are competing in South Korea. India have sent a 16-member contingent, including Olympians Tarundeep Rai and Jayanta Talukdar, for the meet.



# Umran breaks Bumrah's record, becomes youngest Indian bowler to pick 20 wickets in an IPL season

Mumbai | In the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), young Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Umran Malik has been one of the standout stars, bowling the fastest deliveries with his raw pace and earning praise from all quarters.

In the match against Mumbai Indians on May 17, Umran achieved a new landmark, became the



### YOUNGEST TO 20 IPL WICKETS

Umran Malik - 22 years and 176 days  
Jasprit Bumrah - 23 years and 165 days in IPL 2017  
RP Singh - 23 years and 166 days in IPL 2009  
Pragyan Ojha - 23 years and 225 days in IPL 2010

youngest Indian bowler to pick up 20 or more wickets in an IPL season, breaking Jasprit Bumrah's record from 2017. Umran, after a few expensive spells in earlier games, came into his own, taking three wickets for 23 runs in three overs as SRH halted Mumbai Indians' chase of 193 in their league game at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday night. The pacer, who recently clocked the fastest delivery of the season at 157kmph, took out the well-set MI opener Ishan Kishan, Daniel Sams and the talented Tilak Varma to wipe out the five-time champions' top order. Umran broke into the top 5 of the IPL 2022 wicket-takers list as he took his tally to 21 during a match-winning spell for SRH against Mumbai Indians. Umran is 4th in the list of bowlers with most wickets in IPL 2022, 3 behind leader Yuzvendra Chahal.

## THAILAND OPEN

# Sindhu, Srikanth advance to second round, Saina knocked out

Bangkok | Agencies

**T**op Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the second round of the Thailand Open 2022 after registering after hard-fought wins in their singles matches but Saina Nehwal lost her clash and was knocked out of the tournament, here on Wednesday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, defeated Lauren Lam of US 21-19, 19-21, 21-18 at the Impact Arena. The first game saw an even contest between Sindhu, the world No 7 in current badminton rankings, and Lauren, ranked 55 places below the Indian.

This was Sindhu's third win over Lauren Lam in as many matches. The 26-year old will now take on the winner of the match between world No 13 Sayaka Takahashi of Japan and world No 46 Sim Yu Jin of South Korea next. On the other hand, London 2012 Olympic medalist Saina, got off to a good start against South Korean world No. 19 Kim Ga Eun. However, she failed to



keep up the pace and went down 21-11, 15-21, 17-21 to make an early exit.

Meanwhile, upcoming Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod came from behind against world No. 59 Marija Ulitina of Ukraine to win the contest 17-21, 21-15, 21-11. Bansod, ranked 57th, will have her task cut out against world No. 22 Line Christophersen of Denmark in the second round. Christophersen upset world No. 3 An Se Young. In men's singles, world No 11 Kidambi

Srikanth won against European Games silver medalist Brice Leverdez after going down in the first game. The 29-year old Srikanth, who helped India win Thomas Cup last week, defeated the French shuttler 18-21, 21-10, 21-16. However, it was the end of the road for worlds bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth and Ashmita Chaliha and Aakarshi Kashyap, both members of India's Uber Cup team, as they lost their respective singles matches.

## AFC CUP 2022

# GOKULAM KERALA DEFEAT ATK MOHUN BAGAN 4-2

**Kolkata:** ATK Mohun Bagan suffered a 2-4 loss at the hands of Gokulam Kerala in the opening match of the AFC Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday. Vincento Alberto Anesse's men took the lead through Luka Majcen (50') only for it to be cancelled out by a Pritam Kotal equaliser (53'). The Malabrians struck back with two quick-fire goals from Rishad (57'), Majcen (65'), and super-sub Jithin (89') to ensure they collected three points against the Mariners who failed to overturn the deficit despite a Liston Colaco free-kick (80'). The Mariners started the contest on the frontfoot making the most of their possession. Following an action packed first-half, both sides went goalless into the break.

Gokulam Kerala FC made the Mariners pay for their missed chances and asserted domination in return, the result will help them secure the top position in Group D as things stand.

# Russian gymnast handed one-year ban for wearing pro-war symbol on podium



said on Tuesday.

Russian gymnast Ivan Kuliak has been given a one-year ban for displaying a symbol on his uniform supporting the invasion of Ukraine.

Kuliak has been sanctioned for violating International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) rules "when he wore the letter 'Z' during the FIG Apparatus World Cup that took place in Doha in March 2022," the federation said in a statement.

Kuliak, 20, has been also "disqualified from the Doha FIG Apparatus World Cup", and the FIG ordered that he will return the bronze medal that he won.

After winning a bronze medal in the parallel bars, Kuliak appeared on the podium in a uniform that had a letter Z taped to his chest - a symbol adopted to show support for Russia's war on Ukraine. The 20-year-old Kuliak had stood next to a gold medalist from Ukraine on the podium in Doha, Qatar.

**Lausanne (Switzerland):** Russian gymnast Ivan Kuliak has been given a one-year ban for displaying wearing a pro-war symbol in the 2022 World Cup, the world gymnastics' governing body

# Gurinder to lead India men's team in Hockey 5s tournament at Lausanne

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**G**urinder Singh will lead while Sumit will be his deputy in the nine-member Indian men's hockey side, which will compete in the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland on June 5-6.

India will play Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland and hosts Switzerland in the tournament.

The team is a mix of players from the Olympic bronze medal-winning squad as well as the FIH Junior World Cup held last year.

This includes goalkeeper Pawan, defenders Sanjay, Mandeep Mor and Gurinder Singh. Midfielders Sumit and Rabichandra Singh have been called up along with forwards Dilpreet Singh, Mohd Raheel Mousen and Gursahibjit Singh.

Among the nine-member squad, Pawan, Sanjay and Rabichandra were also part of the silver medal-winning Indian team at the Youth Olympic Games in 2018 where Hockey 5s format was played. They were also part of the Junior Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar last year, while

Sumit and Dilpreet Singh were part of the Olympic bronze medal-winning squad.

Prashant Kumar Chauhan, Bobby Dhami and Sudeep Chirmako have been named standbys for tournament.

Chief coach Graham Reid who will accompany the team said, "The FIH Hockey5s tournament in Lausanne will provide an opportunity to showcase a different version of our game. We are excited about the prospect of playing fast entertaining hockey at a great venue against world class opposition in a beautiful country.



# CRICKET LEGEND KAPIL DEV SAYS VIV RICHARDS, SUNIL GAVASKAR BEST

Nikhila Natarajan | New York

**K**apil Dev, India's first World Cup-winning cricket captain, brackets Sunil Gavaskar and West Indies legend Vivian Richards as the greatest batsmen he bowled to. "Apart from Sunil Gavaskar, because I played alongside him a lot and ghar ki murgi daal baraabar, without doubt Richards," he said.

Kapil did not translate the daal and murgi idiom for the benefit of his invited audience at the Indian mission on Tuesday. He was implying that "we don't often covet our own greats".

Kapil took the opportunity to attribute India's rising sporting stature to parents who are coming out in great numbers and investing in their children's zest for competitive sport. Speaking before an audience chaired by Indian consul-general Randhir Jaiswal, Kapil said, in his generation kids would carry their cricketing whites hidden in school bags. And school was meant to study, because, after all, one's sporting days were numbered.

Kapil confided that while sport was his all-consuming passion at school, he realised even while he was playing that education was important.



# ANDERSON, BROAD RECALLED FOR ENGLAND'S FIRST TWO TESTS AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

Hyderabad | London

**V**eteran England pacer James Anderson and Stuart Broad on Wednesday were recalled for England's first two Tests against New Zealand while Yorkshire batter Harry Brook and Durham seamer Matthew Potts are the new faces in the 13-member squad, said the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Anderson and Broad make a return to the Test squad after featuring in the 2021/22 Ashes in Australia before being surprisingly left out of three-match away tour to West Indies in March. On the other hand, Brook was rewarded for being the stand-out batter in Division one of the County Championship.

The 23-year-old, who made his T20I debut in January in the Caribbean, has scored 758 runs at an average of 151.60, including three

centuries and four half-centuries for Yorkshire in the County Championship. Potts, another 23-year-old, has been in impressive form and is the current leading bowler of the County Championship, with 35 wickets and four five-wicket hauls, including his most recent return of seven for 40 in Durham's win over Glamorgan.

The three-match Test series marks England's quest of climbing the rankings of second World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. Currently, they are at the bottom of the points table.

The squad will come together for the first time next week in a camp before reporting to London on May 29 ahead of the first Test at Lord's on June 2. It will be followed by the second Test at Trent Bridge from June 10-14 before the series concludes at Headingley from June 23-27.

## DEEPIKA WALKS CANNES RED CARPET IN SARI INSPIRED BY ROYAL BENGAL TIGER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

It was Kolkata-based acclaimed fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee's Bengal Tiger sari that Deepika Padukone dazzled in as she walked the red carpet on the opening night of the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday. The sari, which the actress and Cannes jury member paired with a black strapless blouse, stood out because of its golden and black stripes, inspired by the big cat after which the collection is named. Earlier during the day, she had appeared for the jury photo-call also in a Sabyasachi ensemble of lime green pants and jaunty shirt. As was to be expected, the ecstatic designer took to his Instagram handle to announce this fact to the world and say that the sari was a part of his Akash Tara collection, which celebrates heritage Indian crafts and techniques seen through a modern lens. Deepika paired the sari with a bejewelled headband from designer Jewellery's Royal Bengal collection. "The headband," the designer explained, "pays homage to the traditional Indian 'matha patti' headpiece with Art Nouveau detailing, while the chandelier earrings updates a classic with an Art Nouveau gaze." The actress rounded off her retro look with bold and black eyeliner, black manicure, nude lips and a hair bun.

## GARIMA VIKRANT SINGH ON NUSHRRATT BHARUCCHA'S ROLE

### "I don't understand why women can't talk about these concerns"

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Garima Vikrant Singh (Garima Srivastava) is an Indian actress best known for her role in Gustakh Dil as Saraswati. She made appearances in shows such as Choti Bahu Season 2, Phir Subah Hogi, Rahe Tera Aasheervad, and others. Recently, Garima made it to the news for her role in her upcoming show "Nirmal Pathak ki Ghar Wapsi". The show will be streaming on a leading OTT platform. The actress will be seen playing the role of Bua in the show.

The actress told Absolute India News that she was captivated by the show's narrative and couldn't pass up the opportunity as a Bua. When discussing the issue of untouchability and other taboos in our culture, the actress stated, "We need to encourage education." Education is the only weapon capable of eradicating these issues. I believe it will take years to tackle these problems at its foundation."

"Not just untouchability, but things like discussing sex and menstruation are still regarded terrible in our society, and we really need to combat this," she continued. The actress also commented on the fact that there is a shift in the sort of series that the industry is producing since there is a need for educational series to educate people about the fundamentals of living.

Garima commented on the trolling actress Nushrratt Bharuccha suffered, "I don't understand why, according to society, women can't talk about these concerns when they are basic." People must realise that you cannot discriminate against us based on our gender. It is our right to talk about whatever we choose. I believe that parents should teach their children the right things."



## ANUBHAV AND I HAVE THE SAME DNA WHEN IT COMES TO CINEMA: AYUSHMANN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana feels he shares the same DNA as his mentor-director Anubhav Sinha when it comes to cinema. Anubhav and Ayushmann have collaborated again for 'Anek' in which the actor plays an undercover cop posted in the North East. Ayushmann says, "Anubhav sir and I have a karmic connection. There is no doubt about this because sometimes I feel we have the same DNA when it comes to cinema." "He is a film-maker who wants to challenge the status quo, he is hugely risk-taking and has a supremely free-spirited mind. I relate to his core values and that's why we share a relationship which I know is for the ages." He said that the actor "supremely happy" that they have got to creatively collaborate and deliver a film like 'Article 15' to audiences.

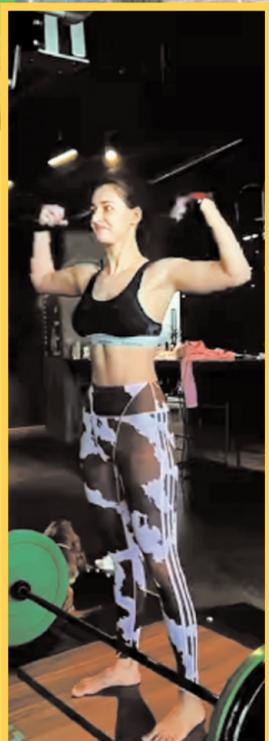


## Disha Patani redefines fitness goals in a new workout video

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There is no denying that Disha Patani is one of the fittest actors in B-town. The diva often leaves us gushing over her swift dance moves and toned figure. Being an avid social media user, she often treats us with videos from her workout regime. The star time and again gives her fans a peek at her workout regime and motivates her followers to stay fit. Recently, the actress took to her social media and shared a video of her performing a deadlift. For the unversed, deadlift is considered to be one of the toughest exercises for the back. Looking at Disha's dedication to the workout, all her fans and follower applauded her in the comment section.

Not only this, but the diva also makes sure that her workout attire is appropriate. For performing deadlift, Disha wore tight-fitted leggings and a sports bra which made her look sporty and lean. Apart from working out, the diva also shares pictures from her holidays and with her pets. On the work front, Disha had an amazing year as she shot for two films - Yodha and Ek Villain Returns. Apart from this, it was also announced that she is also a part of Project K starring Prabhas and Deepika Padukone.



## DHVANI BHANUSHALI ON THE TIMES SQUARE BILLBOARD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Dhvani Bhanushali, India's newest and most successful popstar, is featured on the Times Square Billboard for the month of May. She has fans both in India and around the world. Dhvani, who has continuously broken records, was chosen as the 'Artist of the Month' as part of Equal campaign of one of the leading music applications, which showcases women musicians from around the world.

Times Square in New York, popularly known as "the Crossroads of the World," is one of the world's busiest commercial junctions and tourist destinations, as well as a venue for the world's most popular projections.

Dhvani adds another hit song to her list, which includes other chartbusters like 'Vaaste', which crossed 1 billion views and was listed among the Top 10 most liked music videos globally, making her the only Indian music artist to appear in YouTube Rewind 2019, 'Dilbar,' 'Leja Re,' 'Ishaare Tere,' 'Candy,' 'Mera Yaar,' 'Mehendi,' and 'Dilbar,' among others.

## BOLLYWOOD HAILS NAGA ACTRESS ANDREA KEVICHUSA'S DEBUT WITH ANUBHAV SINHA'S UPCOMING

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mainstream actors in Bollywood have welcomed Andrea Kevichusa who's playing the lead opposite Ayushmann in Anubhav Sinha's 'Anek'.

Supermodel Andrea Kevichusa from Nagaland is the latest sensation from the North East. Andrea is the typical small-town girl all set to make the leap into Bollywood.

The actress had commenced her journey to be the next big thing when she was scouted at the age of 15. And since then, the talented Andrea has never looked back. Welcoming the debutante, several Indian actresses including Tapsee Pannu, Bhumi Pednekar, Kriti Sanon, Aditi Rao Haidri, Dia Mirza, Neena Gupta, and Huma Qureshi came forward with open arms, accepting diversity in uniformity.

On Andrea and her performance in the film, 'Anek' director Anubhav Sinha says "There couldn't be a better choice for the lead role in 'Anek' than Andrea. Her northeastern roots have added originality to the story. Apart from that, Andrea has lost a lot of sweat for this character. Her tough looks and phenomenal acting has helped her embody the character well" Andrea, is playing the role of a boxer named AIDO in 'Anek'.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nargis Fakhari