

# absolute india

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## Excise duty cut on petrol, diesel; subsidy announced for Ujjwala gas beneficiaries

# SIGH OF RELIEF

The central excise duty on petrol has been cut by Rs 8 per litre and the same on diesel has been cut by Rs 6 per litre, said Sitharaman. The government says it will lose Rs 1 lakh crore by taking the cut on central excise duties. In yet another major move, the government has decided that this year it will give a subsidy of Rs 200 per gas cylinder (upto 12 cylinders) to over 9 crore beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amidst rising energy prices and inflation, the Central excise duty on petrol has been cut by Rs 8 per litre and on diesel by Rs 6 per litre, reducing the price of petrol by Rs 9.5 per litre and of diesel by Rs 7 per litre, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

"Today, the world is passing through difficult times. Even as the world is recovering from Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine conflict has brought in supply chain problems and shortages of various goods. This is resulting in inflation & economic distress in a lot of countries," she said in a series of tweets.

The duty cut will have revenue implication of around Rs 1 lakh crore per year for the government. Sitharaman went on to say that despite the challenging international situation, the government has ensured that there are no shortages or scarcity of essential goods. Even a few developed countries couldn't escape some shortages or disruptions, she added. The government is committed to ensuring that prices of essential items are kept under control, she said. In yet another major move, the government has decided that



"I wish to exhort all state governments, especially the states where reduction wasn't done during the last round (November 2021), to also implement a similar cut and give relief to the common man." Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister

Further, it is also reducing the customs duty on raw materials and intermediaries for plastic products where the country's import dependence is high. It will result in reduction of cost of final products. A notification with specific details on all these moves will be issued by the Centre within the next hours.

## RAJASTHAN'S TARA, OTHERS SHINE BRIGHT AT ILO CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR

### CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR

- Tara belongs to the Banjara community in Rajasthan. Till the age of eight, she worked as a helper in a road construction unit.
- But defying all odds, she became the first child from her community to pass the matriculation exam and pursue senior secondary education. Now she is enrolled in college and hopes to become a police officer.
- More than 4,000 delegates participated in the event scheduled from May 15 to May 20. According to UN estimates, 160 million children -- around 1 in every 10 children globally -- are working as child labourers.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Three children from Rajasthan, including a first-generation learner from a nomadic community and two former child labourers, made the country proud by representing India in the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. The event is being organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the government of South Africa in Durban from May 15-20. "Does being poor mean that we will be forced to work as child labourers? Every child has an equal right to education and it is the responsibility of every individual to prevent multiple forms of child exploitation," said Tara Banjara, while addressing the conference. Tara has been raising awareness in her community against child labour, child trafficking and child marriage.



She had prevented her younger sister's marriage and convinced her family to send her to school. Thanks to her efforts, more than 22 children from the nomadic communities are in school now. At present, there is no case of child labour or child marriage in her community. Tara is supported by Bal Mitra Gram (BMG), an initiative of Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. Another participant in the conference was Badaku Marandi from Jharkhand. The event is being organised at a critical time when there are only three years left to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of eliminating child labour.

## Why Lata Mangeshkar performed barefoot at Royal Albert Hall



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a career spanning several decades, legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar has regaled millions with her songs. One of the biggest tributes 'Naam Reh Jaayega' has been capturing viewer attention from all corners with the prominent personalities from the music industry bringing up their voice to pay a homage to the 'Queen of Singing' Lata Mangeshkar. They are revealing incidents from the great singer's life. One such incident was shared by singer, Sonu Nigam on the show when Lata Mangeshkar sang at Royal Albert Hall, London. "When Lataji got an opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, she was a bit confused. It was one of the most prestigious places to perform and

it was a matter of pride for any singer to perform at that iconic place. Lataji was the first Indian singer to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. It was an honour not only for her but also for all Indians as well," said Sonu Nigam. Javed Ali also shared an incident which shows why Lata will remain a legend. "There was a huge concert at Royal Albert Hall in London where Lataji was supposed to perform and Dilip saab was supposed to introduce her. As soon as Dilip saab introduce her Lataji came on stage without slippers. When Dilip Kumar saw this, he told Lataji that this is England, its cold you may get sick but Lataji refused and said I never sing a song wearing slippers as for me it's a prayer," said Javed Ali. With Star Plus' 8-episode series Naam Reh Jaayega', 18

of the biggest Indian singers including Sonu Nigam, Arijit Singh, Shankar Mahadevan, Nitin Mukesh, Neeti Mohan, Alka Yagnik, Sadhana Sargam, Udit Narayan, Shaan, Kumar Sanu, Amit Kumar, Jatin Pandit, Javed Ali, Aishwarya Majumdar, Sneha Pant, Pyarelal Ji, Palak Muchhal and Anwesha join hands to pay tribute to the legendary Lata Mangeshkar.

## WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CAR

### VINTAGE MERCEDES SELLS FOR NEARLY RS 1,100 CR

Toronto: A vintage 1955 Mercedes-Benz has been sold for \$143 million (about Rs 1,100 crore), making it the most expensive car ever sold at an auction. Canada-based RM Sotheby's announced that it has auctioned off a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe, earlier this month, for 135 million euros, or about \$143 million, reports CNBC. The sale smashed the previous record for the most expensive car sold at auction by more than \$95 million and topped the \$70 million record for a car sold privately. The winning bid was made by British car collector, advisor and dealer Simon Kidston on behalf of an unnamed client. Kidston lobbied the Mercedes-Benz board for 18 months to consider selling the car, the report said. The sale, first reported by Hagerty Insider, took place May 5 in a secretive and highly unusual auction at the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany. Only selected collectors and Mercedes-Benz customers were invited to attend. The 300 SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe is one of only two created in 1955 and is regarded as one of the most prized cars in auto history. It was built by Mercedes' race department and named after its chief engineer and designer, Rudolf Uhlenhaut. The car was based on the company's successful W 196 R Grand Prix car, which won two World Championships with driver Juan Manuel Fangio. The 300 SLR had a larger, 3.0-liter engine and was able to reach 180 mph, making it one of the fastest road-legal cars at the time. The Mercedes-Benz company owned both of the 300 SLR cars, and the May 5 sale took many collectors by surprise.



## RELIEF FROM HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS ACROSS INDIA FROM SUN : IMD

New Delhi: You can heave a sigh of relief. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced there would be an abatement of heat wave conditions over the country from Sunday. "Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are very likely over Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. (There would be) abatement of heat wave conditions over the (entire) Indian region from May 21," an IMD bulletin said. Earlier on Friday, severe heat wave conditions prevailed in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, southwest Uttar Pradesh, northeast Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab. Heat wave conditions also prevailed over parts of Haryana and north Madhya Pradesh, over some parts of Delhi, and in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and south Uttar Pradesh. Heat wave conditions also prevailed in many places in West Rajasthan. At 47.8 degrees Celsius, Dholpur (AWS) in Rajasthan registered the highest maximum temperature across India.



## ARCHERY WORLD CUP INDIAN MEN'S COMPOUND TEAM CLINCHES GOLD



Gwangju (South Korea): The Indian mens compound team of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini defeated France to win the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 stage 2, here on Saturday. India came back from behind to outscore the French team of Quentin Baraer, Jean Philippe Boulch and Adrien Gontier 232-230 for the gold medal.

This was the Indian trio's second straight World Cup gold after clinching the top spot in Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkey. Interestingly, France were on the losing side then as well. Meanwhile, former Asian champion Abhishek Verma also won the compound mixed team bronze with Avneet Kaur. The Indian pair beat Turkey's Emircan Haney and Ayse Suzer 156-155 in the third-place

play-off. India had the opportunity to add another gold to their tally but Mohan Bhardwaj fell short in the individual men's compound final, going down to top seed Mike Schloesser. Mohan, who was 42nd after the qualification round, lost 141-149 in the decider. The three medals on Saturday took India's final tally at the stage 2 of the Archery World Cup 2022 to five.

# Bihar PhD scholar on a mission to get rural women hooked to yoga

- A research scholar at Jai Prakash University, Geeta is creating awareness about education along with yoga among the marginalised children. She provides free yoga training to women and children to give a new direction to society. Geeta says that nothing is better than yoga to keep oneself healthy. Yoga has nothing to do with religion, she asserts.
- When asked about her future plans, Geeta says that her desire is to take yoga from village to village, so that not only people can stay healthy but also the Indian culture of happiness, peace and cooperation can be strengthened through yoga.



Manoj Pathak | Gopalganj

A woman in Bihar's Gopalganj has taken an initiative to make the people in the rural areas aware about the benefits of Yoga. Away from the public glare, Geeta Kumari gives tips and lessons to all, the women and children in particular, to stay healthy through Yoga. Geeta, a resident of Gopalganj's Hajiyapur area, is pursuing her PhD studies with limited resources, and is also quietly engaged in her campaign for the betterment of the society. She is today recognised in Gopalganj because of yoga. She says that yoga is a means of connecting the soul with the divine, which is natural. Yoga is for health benefits, people who

associate yoga with religion, in fact they do not understand the importance of yoga. Geeta, who has been interested in yoga since childhood, says that if a person has any quality, then it should be distributed among the people in the society. Every evening, Geeta teaches yoga to hundreds of women in and around her locality. Her father is a businessman in Kolkata. But Geeta stays in her maternal home where she is also running free coaching classes for poor children. Geeta, who had received yoga education from the Bihar University, used to teach yoga by watching Baba Ramdev on TV since 2009. She also got an opportunity to get yoga training from Patanjali Sansthan in Haridwar.

After this training, she took the initiative to take yoga from village to village in her home district of Gopalganj. Geeta tells correspondent that initially a small number of people used to come for yoga, but now apart from children and women, the attraction towards yoga has increased among men as well. She says that in villages, especially in Dalit settlements, children do not go to schools. The children used to roam here and there throughout the day. Seeing this, I decided to open coaching for such children. She says that she teaches children only three hours a day, however awareness about education is producing the effect. Geeta is also making the women of the village literate.



# CENTRE AGREES TO IMPLEMENT PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 'MOONG' CROP IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh | Agencies

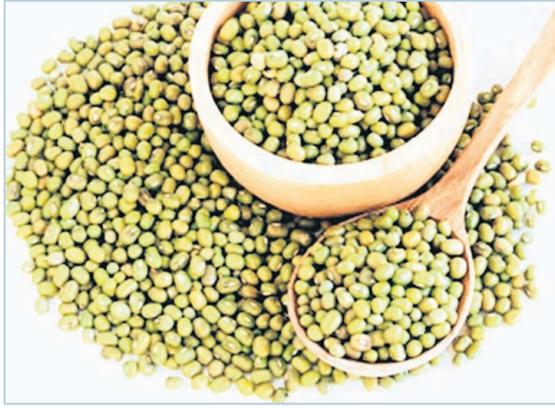
The Central government on the request of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has agreed to implement a price support scheme for procurement of 'moong' crop in Punjab.

A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's office on Saturday said the government of India has conveyed to the state through a letter its approval to implement the price support scheme for procurement of 4,585 metric tonnes of summer 'moong', the pulses variety, for the Rabi season of 2021-22.

The letter said the date of procurement would be decided by the state and the procurement period will be of 90 days from the day of its purchase commencement.

The spokesperson said, the communication said a Central nodal agency should verify the availability of scientific storage space before the commencement of procurement.

"The state government will provide a revolving fund equivalent to at



least 15 per cent of procurement cost of sanctioned quantity and ensure that the payment is made directly into the bank accounts of the farmers within three days of procurement," the letter reads.

The summer 'moong' is a crop of 65 days with an expected yield of about five quintals per acre.

The MSP of unpolished 'moong' is Rs 7,275 per quintal but generally market prices are higher. India imports a substantial quantity of 'moong' every year for domestic consumption.

In case the state farmers are incentivized this way, the production of 'moong' can be enhanced manifold in Punjab.

At present, the pulses variety is cultivated over nearly 97,250 acres (38,900 hectares) as compared to 50,000 acres during last year.

As per data of the state Agriculture Department, Mansa district led the state in sowing 'moong' over 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) i.e. 25 per cent of the total area sown under this crop in the state. It is followed by Moga 12,750 acres (5,100 hectares) and Ludhiana 10,750 acres (4,300 hectares). The area under 'moong' in Bathinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts is 9,500 acres (3,800 hectares) and 8,750 acres (3,500 hectares), respectively.

According to Director Agriculture Gurvinder Singh, the 'moong' crop has nitrogen-fixing nodules in the root zone of pulse crop which improve the fertility of land by fixing nitrogen in the soil.

Even if the yield of 'moong' crop drops, the benefits of nitrogen fixation are available to the next crop. The consumption of urea for the next crop reduced up to 25-30 kg per acre than the recommended dose.

# 'When big tree falls..': Adhir's Twitter account hacked, complaint lodged

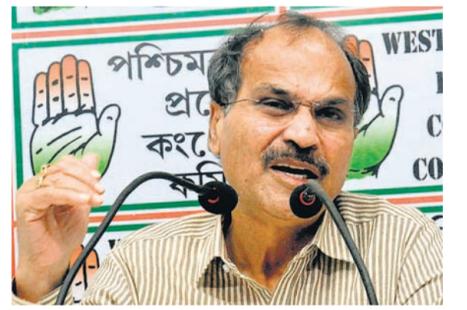
Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police saying that his Twitter account has been hacked by some wrong doers.

Earlier in the day, Chowdhury's Twitter account stirred a major controversy after a remembrance message quoting former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's infamous quote, "When a big tree falls, earth gets shaken up," was posted from his Twitter account on the 31st death anniversary of the late PM.

Chowdhury was quick to deny it and immediately deleted the tweet. "The tweet against my name in the Twitter account has nothing to do with my own observation. A malicious campaign is propagated by those forces inimical to me," he wrote on Twitter.

In his complaint to the police, the Congress leader said an unscrupulous,



biased, and a content tainted with absolute malafide was posted on his Twitter account when he was busy with the party program on the dais and did not carry his mobile phone.

"The content posted smacks of malice and I believe that my Twitter account had been hacked by some wrong doers, for the reason best known to them," the law-maker's complaint read.

He also demanded immediate cognizance of the complaint and appropriate

action of the alleged Cyber Crime.

Rajiv Gandhi's oblique remark -- When a big tree falls, earth gets shaken up -- came after the gut-wrenching anti-Sikh riots in Delhi in 1984 following the assassination of his mother and former prime minister Indira Gandhi. Political rivals have since then unequivocally criticized this statement and said that it seemed Rajiv Gandhi justified the killings of thousands of Sikhs on the streets of the national capital.

# Chandigarh, Himachal to go without milk; dairy farmers go on strike



Chandigarh | Agencies

Thousands of dairy farmers from across Punjab on Saturday assembled at the state-run Verka milk processing plant in Mohali near here and announced to go on strike in support of their demands comprising increase in milk procurement price.

Supply of milk and dairy products by Punjab's milk cooperative Milkfed to Chandigarh, many parts of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will be hit on Sunday following the strike. Daljit Singh Sadarpura, President, Progressive Dairy Farmers Association (PDFA), told the media that after agriculture, dairy farming is the second largest source of livelihood in Punjab. "The

state ranks number one in the commercial dairy farming in the country. The number of dairy farmers in Punjab is more than the entire country." "Today every dairy farmer is living under a financial crisis. Last two years we have not raised any issue on increasing the prices of milk because of the pandemic as we know everyone is passing through a crisis, including the dairy farmers." He said milk rates have not been increased for more than two years now. "But the expenditure on milk production is mainly on wheat and fodder, adding 75 per cent expenditure is on the feed." Singh said the rates of cow feed have doubled in the last two years, which had never been seen before in the last 25 years of dairy business.

# There will be a sensation, says KCR after meeting Arvind Kejriwal, Akhilesh Yadav

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Hyderabad

After his meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav in New Delhi on Saturday, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that "there will be a sensation in the country." "When two businessmen meet, they discuss business. When two politicians meet, they discuss politics. It's not a big secret. There should be sensation in the country and this will happen. Let us see what happens as we go forward," Rao said during a brief chat with media persons after a visit to a school in Delhi.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief was asked if he discussed politics and political alternatives with Kejriwal and Akhilesh Yadav.

Earlier, Rao received the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister at his residence and greeted him with a bouquet and a shawl.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Hyderabad, both the leaders discussed various national issues. KCR, as Rao is popularly known, is in Delhi as part of his



week-long nation-wide tour to meet leaders of various parties and attend few programmes. KCR, along with his Delhi counterpart Kejriwal, visited Mohammadpur 'Moballa Clinic'.

He also visited Dakshin Motibagh Sarvodaya school on Africa Avenue, where Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the Education portfolio, extended him a

warm welcome. KCR watched a powerpoint presentation on education development. Delhi CM, the Deputy CM and officials explained the reforms undertaken by the state government in the education sector.

The Telangana CM went around the class rooms in Sarvodaya school and interacted with students. Kejriwal explained to KCR about

school maintenance and measures taken to strengthen the education system. KCR said he was impressed with the initiatives taken by Delhi government to improve the standard of government schools and to make the students enterprising.

"The students said they want to be job providers and not job seekers. Some said they want to become Elon Musk," he said. KCR said the Telangana government will send teachers and leaders of teachers' unions to Delhi for the orientation. "We are not going to replicate... we will our teachers and teachers' union leaders to get orientation.

"Delhi had to send teachers and officials to other countries to learn about curriculum and various activities to make children enterprising. Our job has become easy. We can get this knowledge from Delhi. Such work should happen in the entire country," he said.

Asked about opposition from some states to National Education Policy (NEP), KCR said the Centre should make the policies after consultation with the states. "The Centre should not forget that our country is a union of states," he said.

# PILGRIMAGE SPOTS IN GUJARAT TO BE MADE BEGGAR FREE

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Gujarat government has decided to make the religious and pilgrimage destinations in the state beggar free for which it has initiated a project, officials said on Friday.

This project will be implemented in all religious tourist places in the coming days so that no beggar can be seen in all religious tourist places in Gujarat.

Instructions regarding this are likely to be provided next month during a meeting.

The state government has selected Rajpipla city as a pilot project. Those involved in begging were shifted to 'Ren Basera'.

A total of more than 176 people were counselled in the pilot project conducted at Rajpipla. Currently, a total of 136 people are availing the



benefits. Counselling of the beggars had started in December 2021. However,

about 50 beggars have also left Ren Basera, and went back to begging. All the beggars brought to Ren

Basera would be assigned work according to their skills and abilities. They would also be given proper compensation.

Talking about the scheme, Tourism and Pilgrimage Minister Purnesh Modi said a survey is being conducted by more than 10 agencies of the Gujarat government.

Officials said the government is making efforts to make all the beggars self-reliant through this project.

It was decided to provide a total of 35 different types of benefits to the beneficiaries, including food, clothing, Covid vaccine in the first phase.

In the second phase, the beneficiaries will be given 13 benefits like income proof, caste certificate, name in the voter list etc., while in the final, i.e. third phase, it has been planned to provide 13 more benefits including toilet, employment oriented training, accommodation, etc.

# 3 kids among 7 killed as cruiser rams into tree in K'taka

Bengaluru | Agencies

As many as seven people, including three children, were killed after the cruiser, in which they were travelling, rams into a tree in the wee hours of Saturday in Karnataka's Dharwad district.

According to police, nine others suffered injuries in the incident, of which three are stated to be critical at the KIMS hospital of Hubballi.

The incident took place when several members of a family were returning to Benakanahalli village from Manasura village after attending a function.

Victims have been identified as Ananya (14), Harish



(13), Maheshwara (11), Shilpa (34), Neelavva (60), Madhusri (20) and Shambhulingaiah (35). Twenty-one passengers were travelling in the vehicle which hit the tree between 1.30 a.m and 2.30 a.m. after the driver lost control of it near Bada village in Dharwad

Rural Police Station limits. District Superintendent of Police Krishnakanth rushed to the spot. Police will verify whether the condition of the vehicle was good and ascertain the exact cause of the accident, he said. Further investigation is on.

# WBSSC recruitment scam: CBI files fresh FIR against five former committee members

Team Absolute | Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a fresh FIR in connection with the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment scam against five erstwhile top officials of WBSSC, all of whom were members of then education minister Partha Chatterjee appointed screening committee. Highly-placed CBI sources said that since a Calcutta High Court appointed judicial committee has already termed the formation of the screening committee as illegal and also said there are enough

reasons to believe that the members of the said committee were responsible for the paperwork done for merit list fudging, the central agency felt it necessary to file a fresh FIR against these five individuals.

The five individuals are former WBSSC advisor S.P. Sinha, ex-chairman Soumitra Sarkar, former president Kalyanmoy Gangopadhyay, ex-secretary A.K. Saha, and erstwhile programmer Samarjit Acharya.

Sinha, perceived by the CBI to be one most important operators in the entire irregularity, has been grilled by the probe agency several

times. It is learnt that the bank account details, property details and the assets held by the family members of these five individuals are currently under the scanner of the CBI.

CBI sources said that in the fresh FIR, the central agency has mentioned about the specific roles played by the five individuals in the entire scam. It is mentioned that Sinha had some role to play in every layer of the multi-layered irregularities.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Education, Paresh Chandra Adhikari, appeared at CBI's Nizam



Palace office for the third consecutive day on Saturday. He was grilled for about three-and-a-half hours on Saturday.

It has been alleged that his daughter Ankita Adhikari

was appointed as a political science teacher in a state-run school flouting all norms, where she got the appointment without qualifying in the merit list and also without appearing for

the personality test. A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court has already terminated her appointment and directed her to return the salary she drew so far in two phases.

# MAN, WOMAN JUMP TO DEATH FROM 22ND FLOOR IN NOIDA

Noida: A man and a woman, both 28-year-olds, died by suicide after jumping off a building here in Noida, an official said. The deceased, identified as Sachin Kumar, a resident of Ghaziabad and the woman, jumped off at around 4 p.m. on Friday from the 22nd floor of F tower, 14th Avenue which comes under jurisdiction of Bisrakh police station.

"We have sent the bodies for postmortem and necessary legal action is being taken," the official said. During a preliminary probe it was revealed that both the dead were known to each other. It is yet to be ascertained as to why the duo took the extreme step.

"No suicide note was recovered from the spot," SHO Bisrakh Umesh Bahadur Singh said. The police have not registered any FIR in the case. The probe of the incident is still underway, the official added.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I No. 4577763X HAV ANANTA MONDAL s/o SHRI KARTIK CHANDRA MONDAL presently residing at vill Paschimnaichanpur Naichanpur, Paschimnaichanpur, Purba Medinipur West Bengal Pin : 721642 have changed my Daughter's name from ANNESHA MONDAL to ANWESHA MONDAL vide affidavit No.75AA 761516 dated 12 May 2022.

# absolute india

“Religious austerities should be practiced alone, study by two, and singing by three. A journey should be undertaken by four, agriculture by five, and war by many together.”  
Chanakya

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## Gyanvapi row: Court grants bail to DU prof arrested for derogatory post

Gyanvapi Mosque, adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, is currently facing a legal battle. A court in Varanasi had directed the Archaeological Survey of India to probe the structure of the Gyanvapi Masjid.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A court here on Saturday granted bail to Delhi University History professor Ratan Lal, who was arrested for posting derogatory content on social media after the 'discovery' of Shivaling inside the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi during a video survey.

Lal was presented before Tis Hazari Court on Saturday afternoon. He was placed under arrest on Friday night by the Civil Lines Police, and granted bail on Saturday on furnishing a bond of Rs 50,000 and surety on the like amount.

On May 18, the police registered an FIR against the History professor of Delhi University's Hindu College for posting provocative content. Police had registered a case under sections 153 A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295 A



PLACES OF WORSHIP ACT NOT ENGRAVED IN STONE, NEED TO REVIEW IT: VHP LEADER

“This case has not been filed by the VHP. But as far as the Places of Worship Act is concerned, this was made in haste. There was no discussion nor was it sent to the Select Committee of Parliament. At that time the BJP strongly opposed this bill. The most important thing is that the legality of this law has also been challenged in the Supreme Court, on which the court has also issued notice. Therefore, this law is not engraved in stone and its provisions should be reconsidered.”

(Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or

### FEELING OF HURT CAN'T REPRESENT ENTIRE COMMUNITY: DELHI COURT

“India is a country of more than 130 crore people and any subject can have 130 crore different views and perceptions. It is true that the accused did an act which was avoidable considering the sensibilities of persons around the accused and the public at large. However, the post, though reprehensible, does not indicate an attempt to promote hatred between communities. The undersigned, in personal life, is a proud follower of the Hindu religion and would call the post to be a distasteful and unnecessary comment made on a controversial topic. For another person, the same post can appear to be shameful but may not incite the feeling of hatred toward another community. Similarly, different persons may consider the post differently without being enraged and may in fact feel sorry for the accused to have made an unwanted comment without considering the repercussions.”

religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code at the Cyber Police station north district. The DU professor had allegedly posted derogatory content along with the latest picture of Shivaling that

was found at the Gyanvapi mosque. The complainant, a Delhi-based advocate, Vineet Jindal, had written to the Delhi Police over the “instigating and provoking statement”.

### NSE CO-LOCATION SCAM

## CBI seizes digital devices from brokers after raids

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recovered incriminating documents, digital devices and other crucial evidences during raids conducted at 10 places belonging to different brokers in connection with the co-location scam involving Chitra Ramkrishna, former MD & CEO of National Stock Exchange (NSE), and Anand Subramanian, the ex-Group Operating Officer of NSE. The raids were conducted at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Gurugram, Gandhinagar and other parts of the country.

“We have recovered a few digital devices, documents and other relevant things. We have recorded the statements of a few brokers. In coming weeks, they can be asked to join the investigation,” said a CBI source. The source said



that the digital devices and documents collected during the raids have been sent for forensic examination.

In April, the CBI had filed chargesheet in the matter. The agency is probing the matter since May 2018 but it hasn't found any concrete evidence to identify the mysterious 'Himalayan Yogi' with whom classified information were shared by Ramkrishna.

Recently, the SEBI had imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore

on her, following the market regulator's finding that she shared vital inputs about the NSE with the 'Yogi'.

“Information regarding organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resource policies and related issues, response to the regulator etc., were shared by her with the Yogi,” said the source.

Between 2014 and 2016, she sent many emails to rigyajursama@outlook.com.

### FOUR ARRESTED IN SECOND HONOUR KILLING IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Hyderabad police on Saturday arrested four persons, including a minor, and are on lookout for two others for the murder of a 22-year-old youth over an inter-caste love marriage.

A day after Neeraj Panwar was hacked to death in full public view at the Begum Bazar area, the police achieved the breakthrough in the case. The police said five relatives of Sanjana, with whom Neeraj had a love marriage last year, murdered him.

The accused attacked Neeraj with knives and boulder when he was on a bike along with his grandfather on Friday night. He sustained severe injuries which led to his



death.

According to the police, Neeraj, a groundnut businessman in Kolsawadi Begum Bazar, fell in love with Sanjana, who was also a resident of the same area. Sanjana's family members did not accept their marriage proposal.

Sanjana married Neeraj at a temple on April 13 last year against the wishes of her family.

Sanjana's parents and other family members had severed ties with her, but the sons of her uncles felt humiliated over the marriage and wanted to take revenge on Neeraj.

## Assam flood: 18 dead; over 8.39L hit in 32 districts



Guwahati | Agencies

The flood situation in Assam further deteriorated on Saturday with the death of four more persons, taking the death toll to 18, officials said, adding over 8.39 lakh people have been affected in 32 of the state's 34 districts.

According to the officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) the fresh deaths

were reported from Cachar (2), Nagaon, and Hojai districts while one person is missing in Cachar district.

An ASDMA release said 8,39,691 people, including 1,45,126 children, of 3,246 villages in 32 districts have been affected.

It said that a total of 24,749 stranded persons have been evacuated with the help of disaster response forces and volunteers.

In all, 499 relief camps

and 519 relief distribution centres have been opened in all the affected areas.

A total of 92,124 people are staying in the relief camps. Over 1,00,732 hectare of crops have been affected.

The Army, Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force, and the State Disaster Response Force, along with the district administrations, are working round the clock to rescue the stranded people and to provide relief to the marooned ones.

Among the worst-hit places in the state -- 3,39,427 people were affected in Nagaon district alone followed by 1,77,954 people in Cachar district, 70,233 in Hojai district, 44,382 in Darrang district, 16,382 in Karimganj district.

The water in three rivers -- Kopili, Disang and Brahmaputra, was flowing above the danger level in several places.

### AUSTRALIAN PM CONCEDES DEFEAT IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Canberra: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has conceded defeat in the country's federal elections held on Saturday.

He said in a speech that he has spoken to opposition leader Anthony Albanese and congratulated him on his victory, Xinhua news agency reported. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday projected that Labor will form government for the first time since 2013, with Albanese set to become the country's 31st Prime Minister.

The results mark an end to the coalition's nearly nine-year hold on power and Morrison's tenure as Prime Minister.



### PAK: 25 PTI DISSIDENTS DE-SEATED FOR VOTING IN HAMZA SHEHBAZ'S FAVOUR

Islamabad | Agencies

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday declared 25 dissident members of PTI de-seated while announcing its verdict in a case pertaining to the dissident members of the Pakistan Punjab Assembly (MPA), the media reported.

The ECP announced the unanimous verdict while accepting the reference against PTI dissidents who voted for Hamza Shehbaz in the election of Pakistan Punjab Chief Minister, sent by Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Geo News reported.

“MPAs defected from the party by voting in favour of Hamza Shehbaz,” the ECP said in the verdict.

In the election for the chief minister's slot on April 16, PML-N leader Hamza Shehbaz got 197 votes as opposed to the required number of 186 in the House of 371, meaning the support of PTI dissidents was key to his victory.

Hamza will now lose the majority as the dissidents have been de-seated. The verdict has gained special significance after the Supreme



Court's interpretation of Article 63(A), holding that the votes of dissident MPs cannot not be counted.

The ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, had reserved the verdict on Tuesday after listening to the arguments of PTI lawmakers, Geo News reported.

The dissidents had argued that since they did not get any clear policy guidelines from the parliamentary party and in the absence of any direction, the party cannot move against them.



### BODIES OF ALL 10 TRAPPED WORKERS RECOVERED FROM COLLAPSED TUNNEL

Jammu: Bodies of all the 10 trapped workers were recovered from the debris of an under construction tunnel that collapsed near Khooni Nallah area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Thursday, the police said on Saturday. “A case of negligence has been registered following the collapse of an under construction tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban on May 19,” a police officer said. The deceased have been identified as Jadav Roy, Gautam Roy, Sudhir Roy, Dipak Roy and Parimal Roy all from West Bengal, and Shiva Chouhan from Assam, Nepalese national Navaraj Chaudhary and Kushi Ram Chaudhary, and Mohammad Muzaffar and Mohammad Ishirat, both residents of Marog, district Ramban.

### ARMY MAN POSTED IN RAJASTHAN HONEY-TRAPPED, LEAKED INFO TO ISI; ARRESTED

Jaipur: In what could be a big catch, the Rajasthan Police on Saturday arrested an Indian Army personnel, Pradeep Kumar, for spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. According to the police, Kumar, who was recruited three years ago and was posted in the highly-sensitive Jodhpur regiment, was honey-trapped by a female agent from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The police believe that confidential information of military and strategic importance was sent to Pakistan. They came into contact through social media six months ago. The woman introduced herself as Chhadam, a resident of Madhya Pradesh. She sought confidential documents related to the Indian Army on the pretext of marriage. The woman made Pradeep Kumar believe that she worked for a company in Bengaluru. DG Intelligence, Umesh Mishra, said that Kumar has been taken into custody on suspicion of espionage. He is being interrogated, Mishra said.



## BJP-RSS believe India is a geography & polarise: Rahul

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said the BJP and the RSS believe that India is a geography and play polarisation game, while the grand-old party believes in equality.

“We believe India is a negotiation between its people; The BJP and the RSS believe India is a geography; That it is a 'Sone Ki Chidiya' whose benefits should be distributed to a few according to the karma; We believe everyone should have equal access,” he said during an interaction at the #IdeasForIndia conclave, London.

He defended Indian Democratic setup and added that, “Democracy in India is a global public good. It is a central anchor for the planet.



Because we are the only people who have managed democracy at the scale that we have. If that cracks, it is going to cause a problem for the planet.”

But he alleged that there is

a systematic attack on the institutions that allow conversations to take place and the Constitution is under attack thus the result is that the states of India are longer able to negotiate.

“With polarisation and total dominance of media, the RSS has built a structure that has penetrated into the masses,” the Congress leader claimed.

“To counter the BJP, the Opposition parties and Congress need to go much more aggressively to the masses, to 60-70 per cent of people who do not vote for the BJP and we need to do it together,” he added.

Asked if India should return back to multi-alignment, he responded: “Pragmatically navigate the waters you are in. Look at the situation, take into account your country and requirements, the idea of prosperity and conversations; use those fundamentals to navigate.” But said: “The Prime Minister doesn't listen he must have an attitude that 'I want to listen'.”

### ORISSA HC ASKS TEHSILDAR TO PLANT 50 TREES AS PUNISHMENT

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

In an exemplary punishment, the Orissa High Court has asked a tehsildar of Cuttack district to plant 50 trees as punishment for imposing a fine on an illiterate woman without hearing her case properly.

While hearing a petition filed by Mita Das of Balana village in Kakatpur block of Puri district, single-bench judge Biswanath Rath has asked Kakatpur tehsildar Biranchi Narayan Behera to plant at least 50 trees on road side in Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) areas.

The tehsildar had instituted a case against Mita under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act in July last year. On September 15 last year, Behera imposed a penalty of Rs 1,004 on her without hearing her case and issuing a show-cause notice.



Following which, she had filed a petition in the high court saying that the tehsildar had imposed fine without hearing her case.

“Once an encroacher volunteers to appear, the tehsildar, if he finds there is no written response from him, at least should provide one more opportunity to file his response to find the reason on his residing over such plot and if a person is landless or not?” the court observed.

Even after filing of show cause, there should not be passing of orders in encroachment proceedings mechanically, it said.



# PRIMA FACIE PROOF MALIK PLOTTED WITH D-CO MEMBERS: PMLA COURT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court on Friday took cognisance of the ED's chargesheet against NCP minister and said there is prima facie evidence to indicate Malik was directly and knowingly involved in the money laundering and criminal conspiracy with others to usurp Goawala compound in Kurla.

The court has issued process against him and 1993 bomb blasts case accused Sardar Shahwali Khan, who is also named in the case.

"Accused Nawab Malik in connivance with D- Company members i.e. Hasina Parkar, Salim Patel and Sardar Khan, hatched a criminal conspiracy for usurping the prime property belonging to Mrs Munira Plumber," special judge Rahul N Rokade said.

The court further said that hence, the property usurped by Malik in connivance with Parkar (late sister of gangster Dawood Ibrahim) and others was proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It added that acquisition of the proceeds of crime is generated from the illegal activities.

"There is prima facie evidence to indicate that the accused is directly and knowingly involved in money



laundering offence, therefore, he is responsible for committing the offence of money laundering as defined under Section 3 of the PMLA and is liable for punishment under Section 4 of the PMLA," the special judge said.

Malik, through a surveyor, had conducted survey of the illegal tenants he had introduced at Goawala compound and taken the help of Sardar Shahwali Khan for coordinating with the surveyor, the ED chargesheet against him said.

Malik had several meetings with Haseena Parkar along with Sardar Khan to usurp the compound, said

ED in its chargesheet.

Sardar Khan told ED in his statement which is part of the chargesheet that his brother Rehman was the rent collector on behalf of Munira Plumber for the Goawala compound.

Nawab Malik allegedly occupied "Kurla General Store" at Goawala compound through his brother Aslam Malik as the store was closed after the 1992 floods and subsequently its tenancy was regularized in the name of Aslam.

It is alleged that later, Nawab Malik allegedly usurped Goawala compound through Solidus Investments. Sardar Khan told ED that "several

rounds of meetings were held between Nawab Malik, Aslam Malik and Haseena Parkar and he (Sardar Khan) was also present in at least (a) couple of the meetings," said the chargesheet. Sardar Shahwali Khan is serving life imprisonment in Aurangabad jail in the 1993 blasts case and was released on parole when the alleged meetings took place.

It is alleged that afterwards, Nawab Malik appointed a surveyor to survey the tenants introduced by him in the property illegally. During investigation, the ED recovered a document dated May 2005 from the surveyor's possession related to survey of the property. The documents allegedly mentioned Sardar Khan as their client on behalf of Nawab Malik, name of architect who conducted the survey and nature of survey as "plane table survey, inventory survey."

The chargesheet includes a statement of Parkar's son Alishan, who earlier told ED his mother had financial transactions with Dawood till her death in 2014 and Salim Patel was one of her associates. Alishan had told ED his mother, along with Patel, had settled the dispute of Goawala compound and taken over part of it by opening an office.

Later, his mother sold it to Malik.

# Pre-rains maintenance work of MSEDCL starts

Team Absolute | Pune

The Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) has started maintenance work to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the monsoon.

It has taken a number of steps to address the problems faced by consumers during the previous years, such as chopping of trees near high tension overhead wires, replacing rusted, bent or broken poles, maintaining feeder pillars, mini pillars, and cable joints, among others. Sachin Talewar, chief engineer, MSEDCL, Pune circle, said, "The pre-monsoon maintenance work started across Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad and rural areas. It is now on the verge of completion. Apart from routine technical work, we are ensuring clearing of waste near the transformers."

Consumer activist Vivek Velankar said that the power distribution company makes tall claims about pre-monsoon maintenance work every year, but power failure occurs within the first two weeks of the arrival of monsoon.

"There is a need for power audit in areas which experience frequent power failures during the monsoon so that the power scenario remains consistent throughout the year. The power distribution company has failed to publish quarterly performance through



reliability indices report, which can throw light on the current consistency," he said.

Vijay Jadhav, a resident of Sangvi, said that power cuts begin with the arrival of the rains. "But we are hoping for a different experience this monsoon. In March, the power failure was allegedly caused by a cat climbing on the transmission equipment, resulting in a technical fault. We hope the power

company takes special care to ensure that such incidents do not occur during the monsoon or in any other season."

The power outage in March affected around 60,000 consumers in Pimpri Chinchwad, Bhosari and Akurdi.

Production was affected at several units in the Bhosari industrial area, with power available only for 12 hours. While some companies decided to keep their units shut, others arranged generators to meet the March deadline.

# Pune folk dancer apologises for 'Laavni' shoot in historic Lal Mahal

Team Absolute | Pune

A prominent Pune folk dancer has apologised for a video shoot inside the historic Lal Mahal (Red Palace) following an uproar and the Faraskhana Police registering a complaint against her, here on Saturday.

The dancer, Vaishnavi Patil, along with 2 men and a woman, carried out an impromptu 20-minute 'Laavni' dance performance on April 16, and later posted the video on YouTube and other social media.

Taking strong umbrage, the Sambhaji Brigade State Organiser Santosh Shinde shot off a complaint to the Pune Police.

Taking cognisance, the Faraskhana Police Station late on Friday registered the complaint and have launched investigations into the matter.

Following Shinde's complaint and the police response, dancer Patil on Saturday tendered a profuse apology in public and admitted that she had erred.

Other personalities like Housing Minister Dr Jitendra Awhad and many political leaders have frowned at and



condemned the shoot inside Lal Mahal while the Sambhaji Brigade has demanded action against all others concerned failing which it would "not keep silent".

"Lal Mahal has a great historic significance... It cannot be desecrated by a recorded-music dance performance in this manner. Who authorised it and why, we demand action against the civic officials who permitted the shoot," an agitated Shinde told IANS.

The original Lal Mahal was built in 1630 and after over 350 years rebuilt in the same fashion by Pune Municipal

Corporation (PMC) and remains one of the biggest tourist attractions here.

Established by Shahaji Rajee Bhosale 392 years ago, his wife Jijabai and their illustrious son Shivaji - later known to the world as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - lived at Lal Mahal till 1645 before shifting to Torna Fort.

In between, the 10-year-old Shivaji was married to his first wife Saibai at the Lal Mahal in 1640, and in 1674, he was crowned as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the Raigad Fort.

After the Bhosale family left it, Lal Mahal catapulted into history in 1663, when the Maratha warrior Shivaji caught the Mughal General Shaista Khan by surprise in a duel and chopped off his three fingers as he tried to escape from a window.

Patil, 23, who performed to a catchy 'Laavni' song from the Marathi film, "Chandramukhi" (April 2022), directed by Prasad Oak and has raised the hackles of many, while Shinde has threatened of more stormy weather ahead if the police fail to book all those responsible for the April 16 incident.

## STANDALONE STAND ALONE HEADLINES



Senior BJP Leader Prabhat Jhan called on Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in Mumbai on Saturday

# MANOJ BAJPAYEE INTERACTS WITH 200 CRPF JAWANS IN JHARKHAND

Critically acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee, who is in Jharkhand for film shoot, recently posted a video about his visit to jawans in Jharkhand.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Critically acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee, who is in Jharkhand for film shoot, recently posted a video about his visit to jawans in Jharkhand. Manoj was welcomed by CRPF Jharkhand sector IG Rajiv Singh on his arrival at Gua for the first time.

He addressed 200 jawans and had an interactive session with the jawans followed by a dinner hosted by IG & his family. He also shared a video on Instagram and wrote: "I extend my gratitude to @crpf\_india Jharkhand sector & IG rajiv singh ki CRPF Ranchi for wel-



coming me & @mohdzeshanayub !! We had a great time interacting with the jawans !! "Now #joram team moves to Barbil Odisha Jharkhand border to shoot the rest of the scenes!"

The soldiers enjoyed listening to Manoj and asked questions about struggles and how to keep oneself inspired even in the time of complete failure. Actor Zeeshan Ayub accompanied Manoj. Manoj has several projects in the pipeline including the thriller drama 'Joram', directed by Devashish Makhija and 'Gulmohar' to name a few.

# CONGRESS 'LEAKS' BADLY, YOUTH MAY LOSE CONFIDENCE: SHIV SENA

In a strong critique, the Shiv Sena on Saturday expressed deep concern over the fate of the Congress which it said is 'leaking' badly with so many leaders deserting the party.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a strong critique, the Shiv Sena on Saturday expressed deep concern over the fate of the Congress which it said is 'leaking' badly with so many leaders deserting the party.

"The Congress' condition is like a cloudburst. The problem is where to put the patch and seal it. The leaks started on the concluding day of the party's recent Chintan Shivir in Rajasthan," the Sena said. Sena's anxiety for the Congress - a ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally in Maharashtra - came on a crucial day when the grand old party was observing the death anniversary of the late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

It pointed out how the party lost leaders like Sunil Jakhar, Hardik Patel and in the past Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasad, yet - despite the outflow -

everyone in Congress talks of 'reviving' the party.

Sunil Jakhar - the son of a veteran Congress leader from Punjab, the late Balram Jakhar -- led the Punjab Congress for years, but recently he was sidelined and needless importance was given to a new entrant Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Sena said.

Before deserting the Congress for Bharatiya Janata Party, a hurt Sunil Jakhar asked: "I was only speaking in the interest of Punjab and the nation. The Congress tried to suppress my voice and gave me a notice. What did they achieve?" said the edits in the Sena newspapers 'Saamana' and 'Dopahar Ka Saamana'. "The Congress nurtured the leaders like Jakhar, Madhavrao Scindia and Jitendra Prasad, and even did a lot for their children Sunil, Jyotiraditya and Jitin, but their political ambitions were bigger than their fathers, and the

Congress proved too small in comparison. They quit the Congress though it needed them in the crisis," said the Sena. This, the Sena avers, points to a failure of the Congress leadership itself and expressed apprehension "what if the youth of the country do not see their future in the Congress", especially when it does not even have a full time president since some time now and ditto is the scene in states like Uttar Pradesh.

Though certain positive decisions were taken at the Chintan Shivir, the issue of Congress leadership remains in the dark, noted the Sena edits. In states where elections are due, leaders with a good public image should have been handled well by the Congress.

However, due to Sidhu, the Congress lost Punjab and Jakhar also left, Patel was not allowed to work as the Working President of Gujarat Congress, and he says his hands and feet tied in the race



by the directionless party, and he also quit.

While leaving, Patel gave his piece of mind saying whenever the country needs them most the Congress 'leadership' is abroad, nothing will be achieved by abusing Ambani-Adani as every youth in Gujarat wants to emulate them, etc, said the Sena on the exit.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP fully geared for 2024 elections, the 'leaking emergency' continues in the Congress, which doesn't augur well for parliamentary democracy, warned the Sena.

# MAHARASHTRA REPORTS 307 COVID-19 CASES, ACTIVE TALLY STANDS AT 1,828

A state health department bulletin said Satara, Sangli, Nandurbar, Dhule, Beed, Latur, Hingoli, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal and Gondia districts have no active case currently.

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Saturday recorded 307 COVID-19 cases, including 198 from Mumbai, taking the tally in the state to 78,82,476, while the death toll remained unchanged at 1,47,856 for the second consecutive day, an official said.

So far, 77,32,792 persons have recovered from the infection, including 240 in the last 24 hours, leaving the state with an active caseload of 1,828, he said.

A state health department bulletin said Satara, Sangli, Nandurbar, Dhule, Beed, Latur, Hingoli, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal and Gondia districts have no active case currently.

It also revealed the recovery rate in the state stood at 98.10 per cent and the fatality rate was 1.87 per cent. With 49,658 samples being examined in the last 24 hours, the number of tests in the state went up to 8,06,98,645, the bulletin informed. Maharashtra's coronavirus figures are as follows: Total cases 78,82,476; death toll 1,47,856; active cases 1,828; recoveries 77,32,792; total tests 8,06,98,645.

# Need to provide quality education to students from ashram schools: Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Thane

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar has expressed the need to impart quality education to the students of ashram schools in the state so that they can be at par with their counterparts from urban areas. The senior NCP leader was speaking after inaugurating a government ashram school at Kothare in Shahapur tehsil of Maharashtra's Thane district on Friday.

Ashram schools are residential schools for tribal students. "Like everyone else, education is a basic right of tribals. The state government is making every effort to bring the students from tribal areas at par with those residing in cities and towns," Pawar said.



For providing quality education to the students of ashram schools, the process to recruit teachers needs to be carried out in a transparent manner, he said. The state government is making efforts to provide world-class education to the students of

ashram schools, he said, adding that these students should be given such kind of training that they are able to represent the country at world events. "Just building ashram schools will not be sufficient. What is needed is quality education," he said.

# AQI improves significantly from poor to moderate

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The pollution levels in Mumbai dropped on Saturday morning after two days of very poor Air Quality Index. The AQI was recorded at 197 on Saturday by the System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). AQI of 197 falls under moderate category, a significant drop from 309 and 286 on Thursday and Friday respectively. As per SAFAR's forecast, in the next two days, the AQI is likely to remain in the moderate category. SAFAR said that AQI of Mumbai indicates upper end of moderate. For the next two days, it is likely to be within moderate.

The Air Quality Index and air pollution is directly proportional to air pollution. Higher AQI means greater level of air pollution. AQI between 0-50 is considered 'good' and is indicated with the colour green. Similarly, AQI of 50-100 is

considered 'satisfactory' and is indicated with the colour light green. AQI of 100-200 is 'moderate' and is indicated with the colour yellow, AQI of 200-300 is considered 'poor' and is indicated with the colour orange, AQI 300-400 is considered 'very poor' and indicated with the colour red. AQI between 400-500 is considered to be 'severe' and is indicated by colour maroon. While, the city recorded moderate levels of pollution, there were two exceptions, Malad and Mazgaon. In the western suburbs, Malad recorded an AQI of 311 and in south Mumbai, Mazgaon recorded an AQI of 305. Both the areas falling under red category.

Mean of pollutants such as Ozone (O3), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulphur dioxide (SO2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) emissions as a single value is the AQI. Measurement of air quality integrated with weather forecasts is how AQI is recorded by SAFAR.



# ELDERLY MAN BEATEN TO DEATH IN NEEMUCH

A 65-year-old differently-abled man was beaten to death on alleged suspicion of belonging to another community in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 65-year-old differently-abled man was beaten to death on alleged suspicion of belonging to another community in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district.

A video of the incident doing rounds on the social media shows a young man mercilessly thrashing an old man.

He was assaulted brutally for not showing his Aadhaar card. The deceased, who was identified as Bhanwarlal Jain of Sarsi village of Ratlam, was found dead in Manasa on Thursday, police said.

Police said Bhanwarlal Jain had gone to Chittorgarh on May 18 with his family. He later went missing. On Friday, he was found dead in Manasa of Neemuch district. Later, the video went viral on social media.

"We found the body of the victim on Thursday. After his pictures were released on social media, his



family members from Ratlam identified him as Bhanwarlal Jain," said Mansa Police Station House Officer KL Dangi.

In the video, Dinesh Kushwaha, the husband of Manasa's BJP corporator is allegedly seen beating Jain demanding his Aadhaar card and asking whether he is a Muslim.

An FIR was lodged on Saturday under sections 304 (causing death by negligence) and 302 (mur-

der) of IPC. "Taking immediate cognisance of the matter, an FIR has been registered against the accused Dinesh Kushwaha under Section 302 of IPC, Neemuch SP Suraj Verma said.

Notably, a communal violence had erupted in Neemuch after a group of Hindu activists attempted to install an idol of Lord Hanuman near a Muslim shrine in Purani Kacheri area on last Sunday. The district administration had seized the idol on Tuesday.

Reacting on one after another incidents in the district, former chief minister and the state Congress president Kamal Nath accused the BJP led state government of failure to maintain law and order situation in the state.

"What is happening in Madhya Pradesh after all? Tribals were lynched in Seoni, incidents of Guna, Mhow, Mandla and now an elderly person whose name is being told as Bhanwarlal Jain in Manasa of Neemuch district of the state," Nath tweeted.

# WILL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the day is starting with public service and development works today. It is our resolve that we will leave no stone unturned in raising the standard of living of the people. Chouhan was reviewing the development activities and law and order situation in the districts for the third consecutive day at 6:30 am. Chief Minister reviewed Khandwa and Dindori districts from the residence office on Saturday. Chouhan said that it is my aim that the beneficiaries should get the benefits of development activities and public welfare schemes without delay and corruption. The government employees should stay in touch with the beneficiaries through constant interaction. This helps to identify the difficulties faced in the implementation of the schemes and their redressal becomes easy. Zero tolerance on corruption and complete destruction of criminals and mafia is the top priority of the state government.



beneficiaries on behalf of the Chief Minister. Complaints of getting name added in the scheme or taking money for release of instalment will not be tolerated, such complaints should be acted upon immediately.

Chouhan said that 42.9 percent houses have been completed under the Urban Housing Scheme, so their works should be speeded up. The works related to MNREGA were also reviewed by the Chief Minister.

Chouhan, while reviewing the drinking water situation in Khandwa, directed to change the pipeline from Charkhed to Khandwa. It was informed in the meeting that the Revenue, Police, Municipal Corporation is working as a team for the supply of drinking water. Responsibilities have been entrusted to the officers for constant communication with the general public regarding the status of drinking water. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan directed that immediate alternative arrangements should be made in places facing water crisis. Chouhan expressed displeasure over the delay in distribution of ration. Redressal of complaints related to irregularities in electricity supply and electricity bill was also discussed in the meeting.

Chief Minister said that priority should be given to construction of houses for the poor on land freed from mafia and criminals. It was informed that so far 95 hectares of land in the district has been freed from mafia. Chouhan said that strictest action should be taken against criminals and mafia. He said that illegal animal transport must be taken seriously. He said that collectors should develop their own intelligence network and take immediate action against corrupt officials.

Chouhan expressed concern over the low number of institutional deliveries during the review of Dindori district. It was told that due to network problem in two development blocks adjoining Chhattisgarh, there is delay in getting immediate information. Chouhan directed to strengthen the network system and improve health facilities in the development blocks. Collector Dindori informed that the health facilities in the district hospital have been expanded with public participation at the district headquarters. The collector informed about the innovations made in the arrangement of micro dairy in the district. Chouhan said that dairy business will help in connecting tribal youth with livelihood. Such activities should be promoted. Kodo-Kutki, which is being produced organically in Dindori district, is in great demand from health point of view. In view of this demand, its brand can be expanded across the country. Chouhan also reviewed the employment oriented schemes run in the tribal dominated areas, fair price of forest produce and wages for tendu leaves plucking. Chief Minister also directed to make special efforts to maintain social harmony.



## CM Plants Neem and Peepal Saplings

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Peepal saplings in the Smart City Park on Saturday. Sharad Mastkar, Sahil Mishra, Kuldeep Gaur, Mohit Parihar, Poonam Chaurasia, Dimpay Barasi, Prachi Singh and Prateek Singh of Successful-Day Foundation, Save Tree Save Earth organisation also participated in the plantation. The foundation is involved in activities such as tree plantation and food distribution for environmental protection on important days and birthdays. Along with this, food is arranged daily for the poor, destitute and those living on the footpaths. Special efforts are also made for the food and water of animals and birds. Among the saplings planted today, Peepal is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Rich in antibiotic elements, neem is known as an important medicine.

## Apna Dal (S) set to try luck in MP assembly elections

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After achieving the expected success in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Apna Dal (S) has started working on the ground level in view of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. For this, guidelines have been issued to all the members and workers of Apna Dal (S) Madhya Pradesh Sangathan.

Apna Dal (S) State President Amrutal Patel said that "Apna Dal (S) is working with internal activism for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections under the guidance of National Executive. Our motto is backward. The dedication of the party towards the underprivileged, the oppressed has to reach the people. We are trying to bring new and young colleagues together through online and



offline medium by forming committees at the district-division-tehsil level."

According to Apna Dal (S) national president Anupriya Patel, "Apna Dal's struggles have further strengthened reservation for OBCs. We believe in taking us along and becoming the strong voice of each and every weaker section. With hard work and public support of party workers, Apna Dal(S) is working towards becoming the third largest party of

Madhya Pradesh." Apna Dal (S) has formed committees at district, divisional and tehsil level keeping in mind the Madhya Pradesh assembly elections. Along with this, orders have also been given to include members at tehsil level. The party is preparing for all 230 seats of the state in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly 2023 under the national leadership, while the party high command has the eyes are still on various political equations.

# One more arrested in MP's Guna killing incident, two on the run

Madhya Pradesh Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested one more person in connection with the incident of killing three cops by a group of alleged poachers in Guna district, taking the count of those arrested in the case so far to five.



Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajiv Kumar Mishra said on Saturday.

Apart from Irshad Khan, the four arrested accused were identified as Shanu alias Shafaq Khan (27), Mohammad Jija Khan (28), Nisar Khan (70) and his son Shahraj Khan (52), police officials said.

Two others wanted in the case, identified as Gullu Khan (25) and Vicky a.k.a. Dilshad Khan (25), are still absconding, the police said.

Police had claimed that the poachers were hunting black buck for a wedding function in Naushad Khan's family when a police team arrived at the spot after getting a tip-off about their presence, leading to the firing and the retaliatory action.

group of alleged poachers in Guna district, taking the count of those arrested in the case so far to five.

Guna were gunned down by alleged poachers.

The Police said two other accused are on the run and a search operation to nab them is going on. "Irshad Khan, who was involved in the killing of cops, was arrested on Friday evening from Bajranggarh bypass," Guna's

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested one more person in connection with the incident of killing three cops by a

# Digvijaya Singh in legal trouble over his 2019 remarks

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh has found himself in a legal trouble over his alleged defamatory remarks made in 2019 on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Bajrang Dal.



to any particular person. Bhadoria has recently filed a review petition contending that Digvijaya Singh's alleged remark has affected him personally as he is associated with the RSS and the BJP.

He said the court conceded his argument that by levelling serious charges against the RSS, Bajrang Dal and the BJP, "Singh had slurred the image of lakhs of workers associated with them".

Subsequently, the session court on Thursday ordered the subordinate court to register a case of defamation against Singh and fixed the next hearing on this matter on May 30.

The entire matter pertains to Singh's alleged statements in Bhind district on August 31, 2019, in which he reportedly accused the members of BJP and Bajrang Dal of taking money from ISI and spying in India. He had reportedly said that more non-Muslims have been caught spying for the ISI in India.

Notably, the fresh legal trouble for Digvijaya came a few days after he was tasked by the Madhya Pradesh Congress leadership for rebuilding the Grand Old Party in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh has found himself in a legal trouble over his alleged defamatory remarks made in 2019 on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Bajrang Dal.

Singh would be facing a legal trial in the case which had been quashed earlier in January 2020 but a review petition by an RSS worker for initiating proceedings against him for making defamatory remarks, has re-opened it.

Accepting the review petition, a

Gwalior court has directed the trial court to register a case of defamation against Singh for his alleged utterances against the Bajrang Dal and the BJP, at a political function.

The development came on the review petition of a local BJP leader, Arvind Bhadoria, who is also an advocate in Gwalior.

Bhadoria is the one who had earlier filed a defamation suit against Singh in the court of judicial magistrate.

However, the case was dismissed by the court stating that the remarks made by senior Congress leader was not specific

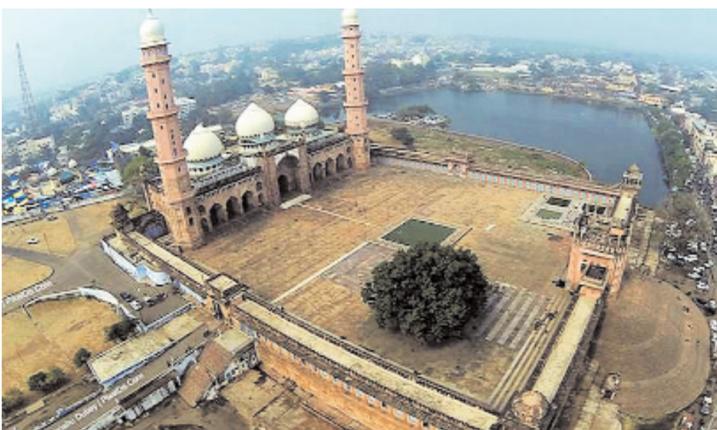
# TROUBLE BREWS OVER BHOPAL'S JAMA MASJID, 11TH-CENTURY BHOJSHALA MONUMENT

Two neighbouring states of north India, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, seem to be sailing in the same boat with similar headlines they have been making in the last few days.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two neighbouring states of north India, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, seem to be sailing in the same boat with similar headlines they have been making in the last few days. While the Gyanvapi mosque case in Varanasi is being debated in and outside the court, a similar issue of 'temple vs mosque' seems to be brewing in Madhya Pradesh with a fresh instance surrounding the 19th century Jama Masjid located in Bhopal's Chowk Bazar area. A right-wing outfit, Sanskriti Bachao Manch, has claimed that the Jama Masjid located in old Bhopal's Chowk Bazar locality was built in the 19th century on a Shiva temple.

The issue gained momentum after a group of right-wing activists on Thursday met the state Home Minister Narottam Mishra and drew the state government's attention to this matter.



Sanskriti Bachao Manch headed by Chandrashekhar Tiwari submitted a memorandum demanding a detailed survey of the Jama Masjid. Tiwari said that he is preparing to file a petition in the local court over the issue in the coming days.

"We have demanded a detailed archaeologi-

cal survey of the Jama Masjid by the state government. We will also file a petition in the court seeking a survey and excavation to bare the history of the mosque built over a temple called Sabha Mandap," Tiwari told the press after meeting Mishra on Thursday.

Tiwari said that he has raised demands for

the survey on the basis of facts collected in Hayate-I-Qudsi (a book on Bhopal's first woman ruler Nawab Qudsia Begum). The empress (1819-1832) built the Jama Masjid and Gohar Mahal Palace in Bhopal.

"In the book on her life, Nawab Qudsia Begum mentioned that the work on building the Jama Masjid in Bhopal began in 1832 and was completed in 1857. It is also clearly mentioned that the mosque was built on the same land where a Hindu temple known as 'Sabha Mandap' already existed," Tiwari claimed.

Notably, the same issue has been raised by another right-wing outfit called the 'Hindu Dharma Sena'.

However, this is not the only temple vs. mosque' dispute in Madhya Pradesh that is being debated these days. Earlier this month, an organisation called the Hindu Front for Justice' filed a PIL in the high court claiming that the Bhojshala monument located in Dhar district belongs to the Hindu community.

A PIL was filed challenging the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) order of 2003, which imposed restriction on Hindus to worship at Bhojshala daily.

Subsequently, the Indore bench issued notices to the ASI, Centre and the MP government seeking their response on the matter.

Bhojshala is an ASI protected 11th century monument which Hindus claim is a temple of Vagdevi (Saraswati), while the Muslim community treats it as the Kamal Maula Mosque.

As per the arrangement made by ASI on April 7, 2003, Hindus perform puja on the premises every Tuesday, while Muslims offer namaz in the complex on Fridays.

"Only the members of the Hindu community have a fundamental right under Article 25 of the Constitution of India to perform puja and rituals at the place of goddess Vagdevi within the premises of Saraswati Sadan, commonly known as Bhojshala situated in Dhar," the petition claimed. "Members of the Muslim community have no right to use any portion of the aforesaid property for any religious purposes," it added.

The petitioner also urged the court to direct the Centre to bring back the idol of goddess Saraswati from the museum in London, and re-establish the same within the Bhojshala complex. The plea has cited that the then rulers of Dhar had installed the holy statue at Bhojshala in 1034 AD and it was taken to London in 1857 by the British.

One of the petitioners, Ashish Goyal, said, "We have now started fighting legally to reclaim our religious place. The court found our petition comprehensive and issued notice."

# SILVER SIREN!

Alessandra Ambrosio dazzles in skintight sequin mermaid dress at

Cannes premiere of Idris Elba's latest film

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 40-year-old supermodel slipped her sensationally svelte figure into a skintight mermaid dress that dazzled with silver sequins. Her strapless ensemble plunged to not just show off her amply endowed cleavage, but also to betray a hint of her taut midriff. Wearing her luxurious dark hair down and straight, she sharpened her screen siren features with striking makeup.

As if her dress were not glitzy enough, she added an extra touch of sparkle by clasping on an elaborate necklace and a pair of earrings. Alessandra was walking the red carpet for the film *Three Thousand Years of Longing*, the latest offering by *Mad Max: Fury Road* director George Miller.



## EMMA THOMPSON ON BEING BODY-SHAMED

# I've never really been offered a sex scene

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Emma Thompson has said that she has been body-shamed for years. The *'Nanny McPhee'* actress was told she didn't have "the right kind of body" for sex scenes, reports *aceshowbiz.com*. The 63-year-old actress revealed she has rarely been asked to do racy scenes in movies because male executives did not think she had the right look for them. Speaking to *The Times* newspaper, she said: "I've never really been offered sex scenes. As my mother said, I've basically played a series of 'good' women. I do 'cerebral.' And I have also never conformed to the shape or look of someone they might want to see naked. "And by 'they,' I mean male executives. I'm too mouthy, not pretty enough, not the right kind of body. And, criekey, you are constantly told what kind of body you have," Thompson added. She said constant body shaming has upset her over the years. She explained: "In one interview I did, the male journalist wrote that I'd put on a lot of weight since I appeared in *'Fortunes of War'*, and that my legs were 'now like tree trunks,' and that I'd 'let myself down.' I was 31 and, quite frankly, no longer starving myself. I don't think anyone knows quite how thin most actresses are in real life. They look quite unreal."



Los Angeles | Agencies

## Rihanna, A\$AP Rocky welcome their first child

Singer Rihanna and her rapper boyfriend A\$AP Rocky welcomed their first baby, a boy. The couple welcomed their child on May 13 in Los Angeles, according to *TMZ*, reports *pagesix.com*. A month before the big reveal, Rihanna had sparked pregnancy rumours while dining at *Carbone*, with a source saying that she was "quite clearly drinking sparkling water and openly rubbing her baby bump".

The 'Diamonds' singer seemingly attempted to hide her pregnancy with oversize jackets and baggy clothes but began proudly flaunting her baby bump with her flashy maternity fashion.

She later admitted to *Vogue* that she refused to wear maternity clothes, saying in April: "I'm sorry, it's too much fun to get dressed up. I'm not going to let that part disappear because my body is changing."

The 'Everyday' rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, opened up about one day becoming a dad during a May 2021 interview with *GQ*, saying: "I think I'd be an incredible, remarkably overall amazing dad. I would have a very fly child. Very."

Meanwhile, Rihanna predicted that she would be a "psycho mom".

"I feel like that's the type of mom I'm going to be. Psycho about it," she quipped to *Elle* in March.

Rihanna and the rapper have been dating since early 2020. They went public with their romance in November of that same year.



## 'THE BAD GUYS': FUN-FILLED AND CRAZY DESPITE BEING PREDICTABLE

FILM REVIEW

(running in Theatres)

Duration: 100 minutes

Director: Pierre Perifel

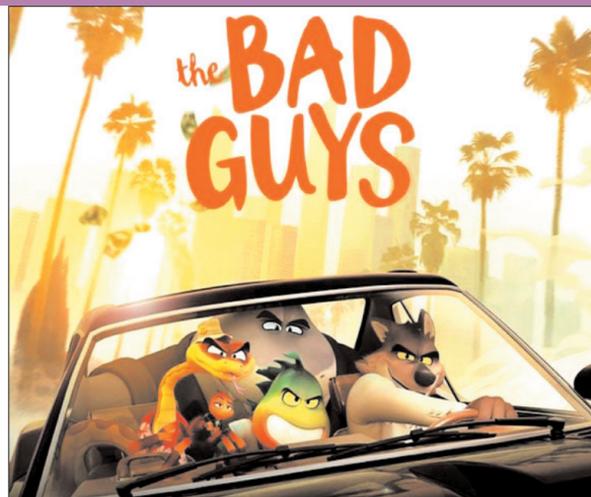
Voice Cast: Richard Ayoade, Alex Borstein, Lilly Singh, Sam Rockwell, Marc Maron, Craig Robinson, Anthony Ramos, Awkwafina, Zazie Beetz

Rating: \*\*\*

'The Bad Guys' is an animated, high-octane, fun-filled heist thriller based on *The New York Times* best-selling series of children's books by Aaron Blabey. Set in Los Angeles, where humans and anthropomorphic animals co-exist, the story revolves around the world's most-wanted villains aka "The Bad Guys", who are projected-as a group of friendly, loveable criminals. They set out to correct the perception people have about them.

They are; Mr. Wolf (Sam Rockwell), a witty and charming petty thief who specialises in pickpocketing, he is also the leader of the tribe; Mr. Snake (Marc Maron) is a sarcastic and cynical expert in cracking safes, and Wolf's second-in-command and best friend; Mr. Piranha (Anthony Ramos) the youngest of the lot is a short-tempered brute; Mr. Shark (Craig Robinson) is a childish and sensitive master of disguises; Ms. Tarantula (Awkwafina) is the only female member of the gang and is an expert hacker, she is also known as, "webs" or "Mata Hairy".

This gang of five, typical in their demeanour is legendary for the city's



countless heists. They are the number-one target of Diane (Zazie Beetz), the canny fox governor, and Luggins (Alex Borstein), the human chief of police.

When their luck finally runs out and the gang is finally caught, they face jail time. Mr. Wolf brokers a deal on the advice of his mentor Professor Marmalade (Richard Ayoade), an arrogant but adorable guinea pig, to use their sly skills for doing good in society.

Along the way, Mr. Wolf begins to suspect that doing good for real, may give him what he always secretly longed for, acceptance. So, when a new villain threatens the city, how Mr. Wolf persuades the rest of his gang to become "The Good Guys" sets the ball rolling for a happily chaotic, highly involved narrative that leads them through a gambit of twists that are both

predictable and enjoyable.

The characters against the eye-popping backgrounds and action are captivating enough to entertain audiences of all ages.

Packed with double and triple crosses; the plot blends technical heist gags, car chase scenes, and buddy road trip elements to complicate the narrative into a wild and crazy experience. The story has great dynamism despite taking references from classic films. The film with its fun atmosphere and breezy pacing manages to have its own identity, and as if this were not enough, it has emotional messages about friendships too.

Overall, the 2D and 3D animations are neat, and they merge effortlessly with the colour palette making the film appear quite fresh and exciting.



## 'Three Thousand Years of Longing' gets 6-minute standing ovation at Cannes

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker George Miller took over the Cannes Film Festival with *'Three Thousand Years of Longing'*, his first directorial effort since *'Mad Max: Fury Road'*. The film starring Tilda Swinton and Idris Elba, earned a six-minute standing ovation after its world premiere at Cannes' Palais theatre, reports *'Variety'*.

A love letter to storytelling and its tropes and parables passed down through history, *'Three Thousand Years'* follows a solitary academic (Swinton) and a burdened genie (Elba) she finds in a

bottle in the markets of Istanbul.

His history unfolds in the stories of those who had found him before. While his memories were relayed in dazzling ancient locations with heavy special effects, half of the film is spent in a hotel room (the same that Agatha Christie lived in when she wrote *'Murder on the Orient Express'*, a bellhop tells Swinton).

The Cannes crowd enjoyed Swinton and Elba hanging out in bathrobes, casually bickering over the ethics of wish making, until the movie eventually gives way to a bitersweet love story.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Candice Swanepoel



## IPL 2022: CLINICAL BATTING BY KISHAN, TIM DAVID CAMEO HELP MUMBAI WIN

# DELHI LOST PLACE IN PLAYOFFS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Clinical batting by Ishan Kishan (48), Dewald Brevis (37) and a brilliant 11-ball 34 by Tim David helped Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets and deny the Rishabh Pant-led side a place in the playoffs.

In a match that they have to win to qualify for the playoffs, Delhi Capitals were asked to bat first by Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma on a pitch that offered bounce to the seamers and turn to spinners, here on Saturday.

They got off to a poor start (31/3), recovered in the middle overs but slumped towards the end again as they ended with a below-par score of 159/7 in 20 overs thanks mainly to Rovman Powell (43) and Rishabh Pant (39), who rescued the team with a 75-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Chasing 160 to win, Mumbai rode on crucial



knocks by Kishan, Brevis, and David as they reached 160/5 in 19.1 overs to record their fourth win and end on eight points, the same as Chennai Super Kings but were placed last in the table on net run rate.

With the pitch still offering something to the bowlers, Delhi had their chances and did manage to put Mumbai in a spot of bother, but poor effort in the field and some good batting by Ishan Kishan (48 off 35 balls, 4x3, 6x4),

Dewald Brevis (37) and Tim David (34) helped them reach.

Ishan Kishan was the more aggressive of the Mumbai Indian openers as he struck two fours and a six in Anrich Nortje in the second over. But Rohit Sharma failed to click in the last match for Mumbai Indians as he got out for 2, caught by Shardul Thakur off Nortje.

Kishan and Dewald Brevis added 51 runs for the second wicket before Kishan got out,

David Warner pocketing a skier off a ball going leg-side. Kishan struck 48 off 36 deliveries, hitting three fours and four sixes in the process. He

his 11-ball 34 to turn things towards Mumbai Indians again but his ouster from the middle, caught by Prithvi Shaw as he tried to flick a leg-stump yorker but only managed a leading edge. However, he had already done his job, dragging Mumbai to 145/4 in 18th over, leaving them needing 15 runs off 14 deliveries.

Delhi players seem to lose their nerves as skipper Pant dropped a skier while their fielders made some silly errors in the outfield as Mumbai inched closer to the target.

Mumbai's hopes rested on Tilak Verma and he was out off the last delivery of 19th over with Mumbai 155/5. Mumbai needed five runs off the last six deliveries but a no-ball by Khaleel Ahmad and a four by Ramandeep Singh off the resultant free-hit saw Mumbai Rohit Sharma's side home.

### Brief scores

Delhi Capitals 159/7 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 39, Rovman Powell 43, Axar Patel 19 not out; Jasprit Bumrah 3/25, Ramandeep Singh 2/29) lost to Mumbai Indians 160/5 in 19.1 overs (Ishan Kishan 48, Dewald Brevis 37, Tim David 34, Tilak Varma 21; Shardul Thakur 2/31, Anrich Nortje 2/37) by 5 wickets.

hit Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel to a six apiece before getting out two short of a half-century.

Brevis, the South African U-19 player who came into the playing XI in place of Tristan Stubbs, blasted three sixes during his 33-ball 37 and added 50 runs for the fourth wicket with Tim David but was bowled by Shardul Thakur as Delhi tried to claw their way back into the match.

Tim David blasted four sixes and two fours during

## Thailand Open

# Sindhu loses to Chen Yu Fei in semi-finals

Bangkok | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu crashed out of the Thailand Open 2022 after losing to Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Chen Yu Fei of China in the women's singles semi-final, here on Saturday.

Double Olympic medalist Sindhu, who had defeated the world No 1 Akane Yamaguchi in the quarter-finals of the BWF Super 500 event on Friday, lost the final-four match 17-21, 16-21 at the Impact Arena. Heading into the match, the Indian had won six of the 10 head-to-head meetings against the Chinese shuttler.

The match got off to an edgy start with both players committing multiple unforced errors but it was Chen Yu Fei who recovered first and went on to take an 11-7 lead.

Sindhu, seventh in the badminton world rankings, tried to mount a comeback after the restart and even cut down the gap to 17-15 but the fourth-ranked Chinese player continued to trouble the Indian at the backcourt and sealed the first game.

Trying to draw back level, Sindhu raced off the blocks in the second game and took an 11-8 lead at the interval but Chen Yu Fei pegged the Indian back after the resumption of play and took a 15-12 lead of her own. Former world champion Sindhu tried des-



perately to claw her way back into the match but the Chinese shuttler was clinical and wrapped the match up in 43 minutes. Chen Yu Fei will face either Tai Tzu Ying or Ratchanok Intanon in the final on Sunday. Sindhu's defeat brings to an end India's campaign at the Thailand Open 2022. Saina Nehwal and H.S Prannoy crashed out from the earlier rounds while Kidambi Srikanth pulled out at the round of 16 stage.

## ATP Tour strips ranking points from Wimbledon over ban of Russian, Belarusian players



London | Agencies

The ATP men's professional tennis tour will not award ranking points for Wimbledon this year following the All England Club's decision to ban players from Russia and Belarus over the invasion of Ukraine.

The tour on Friday announced its decision a little more than a month before play begins at Wimbledon on June 27.

"The ability for players of any nationality to enter tournaments based on merit, and without discrimination, is fundamental to our

Tour. The decision by Wimbledon to ban Russian and Belarusian players from competing in the UK this summer undermines this principle and the integrity of the ATP Ranking system," the ATP said in a statement.

"It is also inconsistent with our Rankings agreement. Absent a change in circumstances, it is with great regret and reluctance that we see no option but to remove ATP Ranking points from Wimbledon for 2022," it added. Earlier, the All England Club said in April that it would not allow Russians or Belarusians to compete at the Grand Slam grass-court tournament. The likes of Daniil Medvedev, who is No. 2 in the ATP rankings, No. 7 Andrey Rublev and No. 24 Karen Khachanov are among the players affected by the ban. Wimbledon organisers said at the time that the ban could be reconsidered "if circumstances change materially" prior to the tournament.

According to ATP, its rules and agreement are there to protect the rights of players as a whole, adding that unilateral decisions like Wimbledon took, set a damaging precedent.

## Not worried about my rivals, want to hit 90-metre mark this season: Neeraj Chopra

New Delhi | Agencies

Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra on Saturday said that he is not worried about the big performances of their rivals at the beginning of the season but he aims to hit the 90-metre mark this season.

Neeraj is currently working hard on his body, strength as well honing his skills with his coach Klaus Bartonietz at the training base in Turkey.

On the other hand, his rivals -- world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic -- had come up with 93.07m and 90.88m throws respectively in the Doha Diamond League on May 13.

However, the star Indian athlete, who has a personal best of 88.07m and won



gold in Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m, doesn't want to take pressure and instead wishes to give his best.

"There is no fixed target for any specific event, I try not to take that pressure on myself. Peters and Vadlejch must be working hard and so they are doing well. Yes, there is the aim of crossing 90m which I have always said and I am

hopeful it will happen this year in some competition," Chopra said in a virtual media interaction.

"I know competition is tough and growing. It also depends on the day's performance, weather and other conditions, how we manage them. I normally don't think about surpassing anybody's performance or record. I just go out to give my best," he added.

The 24-year old hasn't taken part in any competition since winning gold in Tokyo on August 7 last year. His first competition of the season will be at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 14, followed by the Kuortane Games four days later. Chopra is also planning to feature in the top-flight Diamond League Meeting in Stockholm on June 30 before heading for the June 15-24 World Championships in Eugene, USA.

## Women's T20

# Thinking to play the final of the tournament: Deepti Sharma

Pune | Agencies

All-rounder Deepti Sharma, who will be captaining Velocity in the upcoming Women's T20 Challenge at MCA Stadium, revealed that she has been thinking to feature in the final of the three-team event.

The tournament also marks the first time Deepti will be taking up leadership duties of Velocity in absence of Mithali Raj.

"The thing I am looking to gain from the tournament is to put in my best efforts in all three departments of the game. As a captain, I want to take all players along with me and playing a final at a platform like this is a really big thing as a leader. What I think of right now is to play the final of the tournament," said Deepti in the pre-tournament virtual press conference.

Deepti further disclosed that she has been working on her power-hitting skills after the conclusion of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand and hinted at opening the batting for Velocity in the Women's T20 Challenge. "After the World Cup, I have worked a bit on my power hitting with coaches and worked as

well on the inside-out shots. Hopefully you see me do that (opening). I have opened domestically and before as well (for India). I like to bat in top-order as you get time and power-play is on too. Batting in power-play is something which the batters find a bit easy, which you might get to see (in the tournament)."

Deepti, who had been the vice-captain in India's final two ODIs against New Zealand in February, feels that the three-team event will provide good exposure to players from domestic circuit who will be featuring for the first time.

From the Velocity squad, Nagaland opener Kiran Navgire along with Maharashtra duo of leg-spinner Maya Sonawane and left-arm spinner Aarti Kedar are the players to watch out for after doing well in the senior women's T20 League.

Navgire, who topped run-scoring charts with 525 runs at a whopping average of 131.25 and strike-rate of 172.69, made heads turn with a 76-ball 162 against Arunachal Pradesh, making her the only Indian man or woman to score over 150 in a T20 match.



## SAVITA TO LEAD HOCKEY TEAM FOR PRO LEAGUE GAMES VS BELGIUM, ARGENTINA AND US

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Goalkeeping stalwart Savita will be the captain, while Deep Grace Ekka will be the vice-captain of the Indian women's team for the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League games against Belgium, Argentina and USA.

Hockey India on Saturday named a 24-member side for the matches to be played in Belgium and Netherlands in June ahead of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup.

India are scheduled to play hosts

Belgium on June 11 and 12, followed by matches against Argentina on June 18 and 19 and the United States on June 21 and 22. While the team list includes Junior World Cup stars Bichu Devi Kharibam, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Baljeet Kaur, Sangita Kumari and Deepika, the league is also likely to witness experienced striker Rani's return to action after she made her last appearance at the Tokyo



Olympic Games last year. She was in rehab to recover from a prolonged hamstring injury.

Talking about the team, chief coach Janneke Schopman said, "This is going to be a very important leg of Pro League matches in Europe as it will give us insights into our progress ahead of the World Cup in July. These matches are going to be critical in also finalising our team for the World Cup." This is a good, well-balanced squad

with a mix of some very experienced players and youngsters who have shown great promise after their Junior World Cup outing. I am very interested to find out how they will play in European conditions against quality sides like Belgium, Argentina and US," Schopman added.

The Indian women's team is currently in No.1 position on the Pro League points table.

## India's Praggnanandhaa stuns World No. 1 Carlsen for second time in 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu registered his second win over world champion Magnus Carlsen in 2022 after the 16-year-old beat the Norwegian at the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament. Praggnanandhaa on Friday made the most of the one-move blunder from Carlsen and kept his chances alive of progressing to the knockout stage.

The 5th-round match at the USD 150,000 online tournament was heading for a dull draw after Praggnanandhaa's 40th move but in a stunning twist, Carlsen misplayed his knight on his previous move as Indian checked with an attack on his back piece. Carlsen resigned on the spot.

Pragg's win woke up the young star who had posted mixed results on the first day. Pragg followed up with a draw against fellow Indian Pentala Harikrishna and then beat the Englishman, Gawain Jones, to rise up to sec-



ond on the leaderboard.

With a win worth three points, Praggnandha took his tally to 12 points while Carlsen was 2nd on the leaderboard behind China's Wei Yi on Day 2 of the tournament. Abhimanyu Mishra, the youngest Grandmaster in the world, is also part of the 16-man tournament.

## Legends demand Umran, Arshdeep's inclusion in T20I squad for SA series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ongoing IPL 2022 has seen one theme emerge as the standout: The rise of young, uncapped Indian pacers, who have left fans as well as experts enthralled with their pace, variations and wicket-taking abilities.

With India set to play South Africa in five T20Is from June 9-19 as the road to the T20 World Cup in Australia begins, Brian Lara, Sunil Gavaskar, Harbhajan Singh and Ravi Shastri have called for inclusions of tearaway right-arm pacer Umran Malik and left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh to be in the squad.

Lara, working as batting coach of Hyderabad and having seen Malik from close quarters, claims that the pacer reminded him of Fidel Edwards, the fiery ex-West Indies pacer. "Umran Malik reminds me a lot about Fidel Edwards when he first started, a lot of pace and I hope that he understands it as he goes into international cricket, which I think he'll eventually play," said the West Indies batting legend on Cricket Live show on Star Sports. Gavaskar, the Indian batting legend, couldn't



stop gushing about Umran Malik's pace and accuracy throughout the tournament and wishes to see the Jammu pacer in the Indian squad against South Africa as well as for the tour of England. "Umran Malik has been very impressive with his speed but more than his speed, it's his accuracy that's impressed me the most. A lot of guys who bowl at that speed tend to spray the ball around but Umran

bowls very few wide deliveries.

"If he can control the wides down the leg side, he will be a tremendous bowler because that will mean he'll be attacking the stumps all the time, and with his pace, it's not easy to hit straight. If he bowls wicket-to-wicket, he will be pretty much an unplayable bowler. He's going to play for India. He should be in that Indian squad for the one-off Test and the ODI series against England."

Though Arshdeep (10 wickets) has been behind Malik (21 wickets) in the wicket-taking list, the left-arm pacer has been phenomenal in the death overs with an economy rate of 7.31, the best among all bowlers in the tournament. Arshdeep's accuracy to bowl the ball of his choice has left Harbhajan impressed apart from the youngster's fearless attitude.

"The best thing about Arshdeep Singh is that he's a fearless bowler. He's got a lion's heart. While many players get bogged down during pressure situations but he flourishes more often than not during tense moments. There is so much confidence in this bowler and the belief that he can do well during tense moments.



# Deepika Padukone

## CONTINUES TO MAKE HEADS TURN WITH HER SARTORIAL CHOICES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At the 75th Cannes Film Festival, Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone continues to dazzle audiences with her stylish choices. Deepika missed the red carpet on the fourth day, but she looked stunning at a formal dinner party by Vanity Fair and Louis Vuitton in Cannes. She dressed in a Louis Vitton gown for the event. She was dressed in a dress with a beige blazer. She finished off her ensemble with a pair of high boots that were similar to the ones she wore to the jury dinner.

Deepika has previously worn a gold and black saree, a stylish patterned blouse and pants, and a red gown to Cannes 2022. This year, the actor is a member of the nine-person jury that will choose the Palme d'Or winner. Meanwhile, Deepika Padukone's husband, actor Ranveer Singh, will soon join her at the festival.

Deepika had noted at the inauguration of the India pavilion at Cannes 2022 that there are just a few Indian talents who have represented the country at Cannes, but that India has much more to give. "I feel as a nation, we have it. We have the talent, we have the ability and I think we just need that sort of conviction. I truly believe there will come a day when Indians won't have to be at Cannes, and Cannes (film festival) will be in India," she said.



Aditi Rao Hydari creates waves with her noteworthy style statement at Cannes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of the most important events currently taking place is the 75th Cannes Film Festival. We surely witness the glistening moments as some of the biggest personalities walk the red carpet. Cannes is back, bigger and more spectacular than ever, after being cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. While some walked the red carpet with a long history of attending Cannes, others made their debut, creating a distinguished and unforgettable moment.

Among the many Bollywood celebs there was actress Aditi Rao Hydari, who wore a gorgeous Sabyasachi saree to the Cannes 2022 red carpet. The actress made her debut this year in a gorgeous ivory saree. She accessorised the look with a stunning emerald and diamond choker. Her style was nicely emphasised by her neatly pulled back bun and bright lips. With her choice of a traditional saree for her Cannes red carpet debut, she looked absolutely stunning.

Rao Hydari, an actress, is providing us with some key fashion moments from Cannes. Apart from her beautiful debut costume, the actress has also been dishing us some trendy high street fashion. Aditi was spotted wearing a lovely casual ensemble that included a striped blouse, a high waisted bottom, and a broad belt. Her crimson lips and tresses complimented her outfit nicely. She completed her ensemble with stylish earrings!

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari looked absolutely stunning in a geometric print black and white co-ord ensemble. Annakiki's chess print co-ord dress was noticed on her. A black and white check thigh-length shirt with spaghetti straps and a star embellishment on one shoulder was paired with matching flared leggings for the look. In her gorgeous costume, she looked as stylish as ever.



## POONAM DHILLON'S DAUGHTER PALOMA TO MAKE DEBUT WITH RAJVEER DEOL

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Veteran actress Poonam Dhillon's daughter Paloma Thakeria Dhillon is all set to make her Bollywood debut opposite Sunny Deol's son Rajveer Deol in an upcoming film by Rajshri Productions. The official Twitter handle of Rajshri Productions made the announcement and

also shared that the film will be helmed by Avnish Barjatya. "Rajshri Productions is proud to announce Paloma opposite Rajveer Deol in Rajshri's next, helmed by Avnish Barjatya. A memorable journey begins! #PalomaThakeriaDhillon #RajveerDeol #AvnishBarjatya #SoorajBarjatya @poonamdhillon #AshokThakeria #AnmolThakeriaDhillon," the tweet read. The production house also shared two pictures of Paloma. Details about the films are under wraps. Rajshri Productions is known for backing family entertainers such as 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun?', 'Hum Saath Saath Hai' and 'Vivaah', among many others.

## Meera Chopra and Abhay Verma graced the red carpet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The cast and crew of the upcoming Bollywood film 'Safed' graced the red carpet of 75th annual Cannes Film Festival. The makers will be unveiling the first look of their film at the prestigious event.

Joining the lead actors, Meera Chopra and Abhay Verma and director-writer Sandeep Singh are producer Vinod Bhanushali and co-producers Vishal Gurnani and Juhi Parekh Mehta as the 75th year of Cannes celebrates India as the 'Country of Honour'. 'Safed' stars actors Meera Chopra and Abhay Verma in the lead while it is written and directed by Sandeep Singh. The film is presented two leading studios, and is produced by Vinod Bhanushali and Ajay Harinath Singh and co-produced by Kamlesh Bhanushali, Vishal Gurnani, Juhi Parekh Mehta and Zafar Mehdi.



# Parineeti Chopra shoots in freezing cold weather

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Parineeti Chopra has quietly started working on her upcoming project. It is an action thriller film directed by Ribhu Dasgupta. The film sees Harry Sandhu opposite the actress. For the past few days, the actress has been sharing several pictures and videos giving a glimpse of their fun moments from shoot. Recently, the actress shared a clip in which she is seen talking about the struggles of shooting at minus 12 degrees Celsius. Decked up in a Burkha, Parineeti spoke about how the camera got frozen. She also shared about director's moustache, and other essential equipments getting frozen. Sharing the video, Parineeti wrote, "minus 12 degrees. My coldest shoot ever. The best part was my hero also had to wear a thin costume and feel cold with me. Justice for my #ThandEquality campaign...#MakeHerosAlsoFeelCold #CanHerosWearSarees? @harrysandhu." However, the details of the film are still under wraps.

On the work front, the actress was last seen judging a reality show.



For the unversed, this untitled project marks her second collaboration with director Ribhu Dasgupta after The Girl On The Train.

## KARTIK AARYAN BREAKS HIS SILENCE ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SARA ALI KHAN

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Kartik Aaryan has been making headlines for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, his film Bhoole Bhooley 2 has had a strong start at the box office and is projected to break the Bollywood film box office drought. While promoting Bhoole Bhooley 2 with co-star Kiara Advani, Kartik Aaryan is also in talks for a statement on Sara Ali Khan and his relationship.

Kartik Aaryan was asked if his relationship with Love Aaj Kal co-star Sara Ali Khan was a gimmick to promote their film in an interview with a news channel while promoting Bhoole Bhooley 2. Kartik Aaryan responded calmly, adding that there was nothing promotional about it. He went on to emphasise that they are also humans, and that not everything is promotional. He closed by adding that he had said everything he had to say about the subject.

It was reported that Kartik Aaryan and Sara Ali Khan had developed affections for each other and were dating while filming Love Aaj Kal. However, neither of them said anything about it at the time, and it is only now that the air has cleared around it. Kartik Aaryan and Sara Ali Khan were recently seen enjoying a friendly talk, bringing this issue to light once again. Netizens reacted positively to the news, with some even wishing for them to give their love another try. On the work front,

Kartik Aaryan has a full slate of films in his pipeline which includes Freddy, Captain India, Satyanarayan Ki Katha, and Shehzada. While Sara Ali Khan is currently working on Gaslight with Vikrant Massey and an untitled project with Vicky Kaushal.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mahima Gupta