



**NATION** > 02

**Yogi lays foundation stone for Ram temple's 'Garbh Griha'...**



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06

**Stephanie Beatriz was in labour when she recorded 'Encanto'...**



**SPORTS** > 07

**India beat Japan 1-0 to claim bronze medal...**

**AUTHORITIES CONFINE KASHMIRI PANDIT EMPLOYEES TO POOLED ACCOMMODATIONS**

## PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Meanwhile, Militants shot and injured a civilian in J&K's Shopian district on Wednesday. Police sources said that the militants fired at the civilian in Rakh-e-Chidren village of Shopian district. "The civilian, identified as Farooq Ahmad from Rakh-e-Chidren, was shifted to the hospital where his condition is stated to be stable. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation is on," the sources said.

**RAHUL GANDHI SLAMS CENTRE OVER CIVILIAN KILLINGS**

In Kashmir, 15 security personnel were martyred and 18 civilians were killed in the last 5 months. Yesterday also a teacher was murdered. Kashmiri Pandits are on dharna for 18 days but BJP is busy celebrating 8 years. Prime Minister, this is not a film, it is the reality of Kashmir today."



**J&K GOVT TO POST MIGRANT HINDU EMPLOYEES AT SECURED PLACES IN VALLEY**

Srinagar: All the migrant Hindu employees, posted in the Kashmir Valley under the Prime Minister's rehabilitation package and others belonging to the Jammu division will be posted in secured locations, the J&K government said on Wednesday.

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees were on Wednesday confined to their pooled accommodations by the authorities as they have threatened to leave the Valley in protest against recent killings by the militants. Authorities confined migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees to pooled accommodations in Tullamulla area of Ganderbal district, Sheikhpora in Budgam district, Vesu in Anantnag and in Baramulla and Kupwara districts. Migrant Kashmiri Pandits serving at different government offices under the Prime Minister's rehabilitation programme in the Valley have threatened to leave the Valley en masse alleging that the authorities have com-

pletely failed in protecting them. These employees have not been attending duties after Rahul Bhat was killed by militants in his office in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district on May 12. The killing of a scheduled caste teacher, Rajni Bhalla in Kulgam district on Tuesday sparked renewed protests among the migrant government employees who want to be adjusted in government offices outside the Valley. Meanwhile, an association of Kashmiri Pandits, Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan trust has appealed that this year's annual festival at the Mata Kheer Bhawani shrine in Ganderbal district should be cancelled keeping in view the general fear among the community because of the recent killings by the militants.

An official said that this was decided in a high-level meeting chaired by Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, and comes in wake of a series of killings of Hindu government employees by militants in the Valley. "Because of the threat perception, the government has decided to post Kashmiri migrant employees working in the Valley under the Prime Minister's rehabilitation package in secured locations in the Valley by June 6. The safer location postings of these employees will be started immediately and the process to be completed by June 6," the official said. "No employee will be posted to work or reside in isolated areas or in a scattered manner," the official added. It was also decided that a dedicated email ID will be created for complaints and grievances, and promotion and preparation of seniority lists will be completed within three weeks. Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police will make assessment of accommodations for these employees.

## ED summons Sonia, Rahul in National Herald case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday summoned Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son and MP Rahul Gandhi to join the investigation in money laundering case relating to the National Herald. Both will have to appear before the probe agency to record their statements on June 8. The sources have said that both have been asked to appear before ED's Delhi headquarters. The case has been lodged against various Congress leaders including Gandhis for allegedly misappropriating National Herald fund. Initially, the case was lodged with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED case is on the basis of the CBI's case. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case, has requested the probe agency to give him some more time to join the investigation. The ED has summoned both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to join the probe. Sonia Gandhi has been summoned on June 8 whereas Rahul Gandhi has been



summoned on Thursday (June 2). Soon after receiving the summons, Rahul Gandhi wrote to the ED saying he won't be able to join the probe tomorrow (Thursday). However, no such request has been made by Sonia Gandhi and she is expected to join the probe on the given date. ED wants both of them to appear before the probe agency to record their statements. The sources have said that both have been asked to appear before ED's Delhi headquarters.

**GOVT AGENCIES DO THEIR WORK: ANURAG THAKUR**



New Delhi: Reacting to Congress' allegation of 'vendetta politics' with regard to the ED summons to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, Union minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday that the government agencies just do their work. When asked about Congress' charges during a media briefing on Union Cabinet's decisions, Thakur said, "This is not related to Cabinet decisions and the government agencies do their work."

**POLITICS OF REVENGE: CONGRESS**

New Delhi: The Congress has termed the ED summons to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case as "politics of revenge". Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and Abhishek Manu Singhvi said: "This is a politics of vendetta and revenge by the BJP to target opposition leaders as they have done to other opponents in the country." The Congress leaders said that there is no case made out of it and its only intention is "malafide". As there is no money involved in the case, the Congress sources say that the case was closed in 2015.

## NITISH KUMAR ANNOUNCES CASTE-BASED CENSUS IN BIHAR

Team Absolute | Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday announced the conduct of the long-demanded caste-based census in the state. The decision was taken after an all-party meeting in the Secretariat here on Wednesday evening. Leaders of all nine political parties represented in the Assembly were present in the meeting and gave some important suggestions to the Chief Minister. "The leaders of every party, including the BJP, agreed on a caste-based census. We will soon announce the entire programme of the census in public domain. In the first phase, we will give proper training to the officials and employees to conduct caste-based census. It will be completed in a time-bound manner. "We will conduct a caste-based census at the expense of the state government and after the approval of the cabinet of the Bihar government. The points and expenses related to caste-based census will be passed through the cabinet," Nitish Kumar said. The caste-based census is a long-standing demand for all political parties in the state except the BJP. Asked about any objection being raised by the BJP during the meeting, Nitish Kumar said: "The leader of BJP was present in the delegation when we went to New Delhi for the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and its leaders are present here as well. So there is no confusion or



**VICTORY OF LALU YADAV, RJD: TEJASHWI**

"Lalu Ji was demanding a caste-based census for a long time. We have taken initiatives for it several times, like when I had written a letter to the Chief Minister for an all-party delegation to meet the Prime minister. Over all, we have fought at every stage for caste-based census. So it is a win for us and Lalu Ji."

objection from the leader of the saffron party."

## Sourav Ganguly's tweet sparks speculation he is padding up for politics

Team Absolute | Kolkata

A surprise message from Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President and former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly on his Twitter page on Wednesday afternoon has sparked speculations of his joining politics. In the Twitter post, although he was not specific of his line of venture, some loaded statements in the message gave some clear indication of his joining politics. "2022 marks the 30th year since the start of my journey with cricket in 199. Since



then, cricket has given me a lot. Most importantly, it has given me the support of all of you. I want to thank every single person who has been a part of the journey, supported me, and helped me reach where I am today. Today, I am planning to start something that I feel will probably help a lot of people. I hope you continue your support as I enter this chapter of my life," his tweet read. However, so far, there was no confirmation either from him or from his family members on his future course of action. Speculations of Ganguly joining

politics started when Union Home Minister Amit Shah had a dinner at his residence on May 6 during the latter's two-day visit to West Bengal. Although Ganguly himself rubbished the possibilities of his joining politics on the very same day, on the very next day, his spouse, Dona Ganguly, kindled the possibility of her husband joining active politics in future. Before the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, there were rumours that Ganguly might be BJP's chief ministerial face for the polls. But that did not happen.

## DELHI AQI SLIPS TO 'VERY POOR', SOME STATIONS 'SEVERE'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With PM10 as the lead pollutant, Delhi yet again faces a high pollution event in a modest pollution season resulting in the Air Quality Index (AQI) slipping to "very poor" category on Wednesday. In fact, some stations even recorded "severe" AQI. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", then between 401 and 500 is considered "severe". As part of Westerly Disturbances, there was a convective storm in the North-West part of India, including Delhi, which has been confirmed from satellite image/s. Due to this, the highly gusty winds led to high dust emissions having origin in

Delhi and surrounding Haryana areas, resulting in the 'very poor' category of AQI, Gufran Beigh, founder project director of SAFAR said. "This episode is likely to subside by tonight but relief is predicted to be short lived as another convective dust system is developing under persisting WD in the desert area of Rajasthan adjoining Delhi, which is going to be relatively of large scale and AQI may go back to very poor from Thursday evening for two days, unless sufficient pre-monsoon showers occur. But that seems unlikely," he said. At 1.00 p.m, the AQI at Anand Vihar in east Delhi was (444), Ashok Vihar in north Delhi was (356), Chandani Chowk in Old Delhi (438), Dwarka sec 8 in west Delhi (433), Mandir Marg in central Delhi (336), IGI Airport in southwest Delhi (354), Lodhi Road (286) and Siri Fort in south



Delhi (328), according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

**ASIA CUP HOCKEY**

## KOREA LIFT TROPHY FOR THE RECORD 5TH TIME

Jakarta | Agencies

Korea dashed Malaysia's hopes of a maiden Hero Asia Cup trophy as they reigned supreme with a thrilling 2-1 final victory here at the GBK Sports Arena on Wednesday. This is the fifth time the Korean side have lifted the prestigious trophy. They have won the title in 1994, 1999, 2009 and 2013. Having won the Hero Asian Champions Trophy in December last year, Korea looked like a confident bunch going into the final, a place



they earned by pipping India in a 3-3 draw on Tuesday. The team, with experienced players, covered well in time to put up a grand fight against the Malaysian unit who looked poised to win the title race, not having lost a single match in the tournament. The Korean defence, one of the best in Asian hockey, lived up to the billing and defended the scoreline. Though they found an opportunity to extend the lead to 3-1 when they were awarded the penalty stroke, the chance went missing with Malaysian goalie stopping the attempt by Jang Jonghyun.

## National Biodiversity Authority made eligible for tax exemption

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Wednesday notified the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for exemption under the section 10(46) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 from 2021-22 till 2025-26. The section 10(46) of the IT Act is applicable to any notified body/authority/board/ trust/commission (or a class thereof), which has been established or constituted by or under a Central, state or provincial Act, or has been constituted by the Centre or a state government with the object of regulating or administering any activity for the benefit of the general public, is not engaged in any commercial activity, and is notified by the Central government in the Official Gazette. This section exempts from tax any specified

income arising out of such bodies. The National Biodiversity Authority is established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (18 of 2003). The amount received in the form of grant-in-aid from the Centre, benefit sharing fee and royalty received, amount received in the form of application fees, and interest earned on monies accumulated from above three would be exempted from tax under the section 10(46) of the IT Act, the notification said. However, it is subject to the conditions that the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai shall not engage in any commercial activity, its activities and the nature of the specified income shall remain unchanged throughout the financial years, and it shall file return of income in accordance with the provision of the relevant clauses.



# KK'S DEMISE: PRELIMINARY PM REPORT STATES CAUSE OF DEATH 'NORMAL'



KOLKATA | Agencies

The preliminary post-mortem report of popular playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath (KK), who died on late Tuesday evening in the city, after a stage performance, has cited the cause of

death to be "normal", without any trace of foul play.

However, the detailed post-mortem report, along with chemical analysis, will be available only after 72 hours, said sources in Kolkata Police, which received the preliminary post-mortem report on late Wednesday

afternoon from the state-run SSKM Medical College & Hospital, where a team of doctors conducted the autopsy.

According to the preliminary post-mortem report, following the contracted arteries, it can be assumed that the cause of death was massive

myocardial infarction. However, the exact cause of death can be ascertained only after the final report is available.

On Tuesday after completing his stage performance at Nazrul Manch in south Kolkata, KK returned to his hotel in central Kolkata. After returning to the hotel, he vomited and became seriously sick. He was immediately rushed to a local hospital where he was declared as "brought dead."

Now, here the question is being raised by a section of the city-based physicians on why KK was not rushed to the hospital directly from Nazrul Manch, especially after he complained of uneasiness while performing at the dais there. During the show, KK asked for switching off the high-voltage spotlights and also took a rest for some time in between going backstage. Questions are also being raised about the mismanagement in crowd handling at Nazrul Manch on Tuesday evening, where over crowd of double the capacity of the venue entered, that might have created suffocation. Already a political slugfest has started over this issue.

KK came to Kolkata on Monday and on the same day, he performed at the same Nazrul Manch for another city college.

# Andhra Chief Minister launches mobile app to curb corruption



AMARAVATI | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday launched a new mobile application to curb corruption in the state.

If any government officer demands a bribe, the citizens can lodge their complaint on the 'ACB 14400' app.

The Chief Minister said anyone who were asked for bribe from anyone and anywhere including Collector's office, RDO's office, Sub-Registrar's office, Mandal level office, Police Station,

Village/Ward Secretariats, Volunteers, should download ACB 14400 app and record the conversation through audio or video and this would reach Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). He added that ACB would directly report to the Chief Minister's Office. 'ACB 14400' application is available in Google Play Store for download. An OTP will be sent to a mobile number and once it's registered, the app is ready for use. There are two key features in the app. One is to live record a photo, audio or video and lodge a complaint instantly and another is to send the

documents, photos, videos and other proofs and lodge a complaint.

A reference number would be sent to the registered mobile number once the complaint is lodged. An IOS version of the app would be released soon. During the Spandana video conference held with district Collectors and Superintendents of Police at his camp office here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said there should be no scope for corruption in the state. He said the government has taken many initiatives in this regard.

# Don't lose hope, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tells party men

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that party workers in Uttar Pradesh should now prepare to fight with renewed strength and vigour.

Addressing the 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' at the Congress headquarters here, she said that those who had lost hope, had already left. "If you are sitting here, it means that you have not lost hope. You have stayed true to the ideology of the Congress and this is your biggest achievement," she said. She underlined the need for learning that the party needs to work harder. "We raised issues and even some new issues but obviously that was not enough," she said. The state unit of the Congress is organising a two-day 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' in Lucknow.

This is the first such event after the UP



Assembly elections.

During the workshop, brainstorming sessions will be organised and suggestions on the new resolutions for the party will be shared. All office-bearers, district and city presidents, former MPs, MLAs, candidates of the 2022 Assembly elections, state chiefs of frontal organisations, chairpersons of various cells of the party and also the spokesmen are attending the workshop.

# NEET-PG EXAM RESULTS OUT, ANNOUNCES MANDAVIYA

New Delhi: The result of the National Eligibility Entrance Test-PG (NEET-PG) has been declared, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced on Wednesday evening.

He congratulated students who qualified in the exam. "NEET-PG result is out, congratulate all the students who have qualified for NEET-PG with flying colours."

"I appreciate @NBEMS\_INDIA for their commendable job of declaring the results in record 10 days, much ahead of the schedule," he said in a tweet, also sharing the link for checking the result.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) Post Graduate-2022 was held on May 21 at 849 centres. A total of 1,82,318 candidates had taken the exam.

# Yogi lays foundation stone for Ram temple's 'Garbh Griha'

AYODHYA | Agencies

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, performed the 'shila puja' of the 'Garbha Griha' or the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple by placing the first carved stone in it, amid chanting of mantras.

With this ceremony, the construction of the temple will pick up pace.

Yogi Adityanath said that the Ram temple would be known as 'Rashtra Mandir' on completion.

Millions of Hindus had



been yearning for this day since decades, the Chief Minister said, adding that he was fortunate to be a part of the ceremony. Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad

Mauya and other members of the temple trust were also present on the occasion. Later, the chief minister offered prayer at Hanuman Garhi and the Ram temple.

In a statement issued last week, the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, which is heading the temple's construction, had said white marbles from the Makrana hills of Rajasthan would be used in the sanctum sanctorum.

The temple trust said the total stone volume to be used for the temple project included 8 to 9 lakh cubic feet of carved sandstone, 6.37 lakh cubic feet of uncarved granite, 4.70 lakh cubic feet of carved pink sandstone for the temple and 13,300 cubic feet of Makrana white carved marble for the sanctum sanctorum.

# Kidney transplant racket busted in Delhi, 10 arrested

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have busted a kidney transplant racket and arrested 10 persons in connection with the case, an official said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Kuldeep Ray Vishwakarma (king-pin), Sarvjeet Jaiwal (37), Shailesh Patel (23), Md Latif (24), Vikas (24), Ranjit Gupta (43), Dr Sonu Rohilla (37), Dr Sourabh Mittal (37), Om Prakash Sharma (48) and Manoj Tiwari (36).

It is learnt that the accused persons illegally transplanted more than 20 kidneys. Deputy Commissioner of Police (south), Benita Mary Jaiker, said an information was received on May 26 at the Hauz Khas police station regarding an illegal kidney transplant racket operating in the Hauz Khas area, which targeted poor people and induced them to sell their kidneys. A tip-off was received that a



person will be taken to a private lab for pre-anaesthesia check-up by the members of the racket and subsequently a trap was laid near the lab.

"One person was spotted who informed that he was being taken to the lab by Sarvjeet and Vipin on the pretext of treatment for his abdomen

pain, but when he realised that they were taking him there for kidney donation, he had arguments with them following which they went away," the DCP said.

Accordingly, the police registered a case under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the

Transplantation of Human Organs Act and took up the investigation.

The police constituted a team which conducted raid at A Block, DDA Flats, Paschim Vihar, where four persons, including accused Shailesh Patel and three others -- Diwarkar Sarkar, Ashwini Pandey and Rizwan -- were found present. On questioning, it was revealed that these three persons were taken there for illegal kidney transplantation.

"The three persons were about to be taken for kidney transplant, but due to the police's timely intervention, the plan was foiled," the DCP said. Both Sarvjeet and Shailesh were then questioned at length and on the basis of sufficient evidence, they were arrested. On interrogation, the duo revealed that they used to target poor people for kidney and brought them to Vikas and one doctor who gave them Rs 30,000-40,000 as commission. They further sold the kidneys to rich persons at higher rates.

# 'Rs 9K per month nothing but exploitation': SC on Odisha home guards' salary

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court said paying Rs 9,000 per month to home guards personnel is nothing but exploitation and asked the Odisha government to reconsider its decision.

A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V. Nagarathna said home guards in Odisha are being paid Rs 300 per day, which culminates into Rs 9,000 per month.

"To pay Rs 9,000 p.m. is nothing but an exploitation. How a Home Guard personnel can survive and maintain his family members on payment of Rs 9,000 p.m. only when he is performing almost the same/similar duties which is performed by other police personnel," it said.

The bench said it is also not in dispute that many of the home guards are working for more than 15 years. "The other police personnel in the State are getting approximately Rs 21,700 plus DA (dearness allowance) as per the recommendations made by the Seventh Pay Commission (after 6 years of their contractual appointment)," it added.

Scheduling the matter for further hearing in



July, the bench said: "Therefore, we direct the state government to reconsider its earlier decision of paying Rs 9,000 p.m. only to the home guards."

The top court made these observations while hearing an appeal against an order of the Orissa High Court division bench, directing the state government to pay payment at the rate of Rs 533 per day to the home guards from January, 2020, instead of November 10, 2016.

# Kuwait, Oman ban Akshay's period film in run up to its release

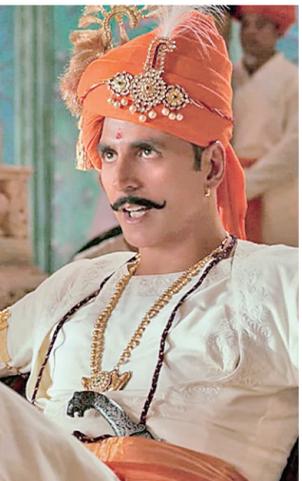
Team Absolute | Mumbai

The historical epic 'Samrat Prithviraj', which stars Akshay Kumar in the titular role, has been banned in Kuwait and Oman.

The film tells the story of king Prithviraj Chauhan, who fought valiantly to protect India from the merciless invader Muhammad of Ghor.

A senior trade source on conditions of anonymity said, "It is highly unfortunate that a film that is based on our glorious Hindu Samrat Prithviraj's life and courage has been banned in some international markets like Kuwait and Oman. It seems that these countries have taken this stand in the run up to the film's release."

The source further shared, "Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan's life is a testimony to the fact that Indians stood up for what is right and defended our country from merciless invaders who only wanted to loot and plunder and murder our people. This film is really buzzing right now and the anticipation is only sky-rocketing. Banning his lifestory only makes one question the fact that why can't people take a look at history and accept what happened to India and Hindus."



'Samrat Prithviraj' which has been directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi, also marks the cinematic debut of Manushi Chhillar, who plays the role of Sanyogita. The film is set to release on June 3 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

# Moosewala's murder: Neeraj Bawana gang vows of revenge in 2 days

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi-based Neeraj Bawana gang has threatened to launch a retaliatory attack in the wake of Punjab singer Shubdeep Singh Sidhu alias Sidhu Moosewala's broad day light murder in Punjab.

In a Facebook story that is doing rounds on social media, the gang has vowed to deliver results in just two days. The message was uploaded by a Facebook profile named 'Neeraj Bawana Delhi NCR.' "Jai Baba ki. Got the tragic news. Sidhu Moosewala was our brother from heart. Will deliver results in 2 days," read the FB post.

Notably, Neeraj Bawana is one of Delhi's top gangsters, and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail. The Facebook story also tagged other gangs viz. Tilly Tajpuriya gang, Davinder Bambiha and Kaushal Gurgaon gang.



The vile threat was possibly issued to the rival gang of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi who has been accused of planning the singer's murder.

Fearing a fake encounter by the Punjab police for "political mileage", Bishnoi moved the court seeking to pass a direction to the Delhi Police and

Tihar Jail Authority to ensure all necessary security arrangements for him.

Moosewala, 28, was brutally murdered on May 29 while he was travelling in a car and the assailants fired over 30 shots at him. He was taken to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

# SPECIALLY ABLED GIRL GAGGED, GANGRAPE IN K'TAKA; ONE ARRESTED



HAVERI | Agencies

In a shocking development, a case of alleged gang-rape on specially abled girl has been reported from Haveri district of Karnataka, police sources said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in a village near Hanagal city. The police have arrested one of the accused in connection with the case and launched hunt for another. The arrested person has been identified as Parashurama Madivalara. The absconding accused is Yashwanth.

The police said that the accused gagged and raped

the girl. Aadar police have registered a case in this regard and investigating the matter.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I SASHMITA ROUT is legally spouse of No. 4574822N HAV NAGESH CHANDRA ROUT presently residing at vill Bandhapara po : Rajapur dist : Jajapur Pin : 755003 have changed my name from SASHMITA MALLICK to SASHMITA ROUT Vide affidavit No.75AA 761563 dated 30/05/2022.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I No. 15752928X Sigmn RAJESH KUMAR s/o VIRENDRA SINGH presently residing at vill GHANG-HAULI post JAIDPURA Teh Khair Dist Aligarh State U.P Pin : 202165 have changed my Brother's name from ABHISHEK KUMAR to ABHISHEK vide affidavit No. 685261 and date 16/02/2022.



### CM ATTENDS BHOPAL MERGER MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

# RAJYA SABHA MP NADDA OFFERS FLORAL TRIBUTES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan participated in the programme on the occasion of Bhopal Merger Day on June 1 at the Vilinikaran Shaheed Smriti Dwar. Rajya Sabha MP JP Nadda was specially present. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, MP VD Sharma, former Mayor Alok Sharma and the kin of freedom fighters of the merger movement participated.

Chouhan and Nadda paid homage at the statue of Rani Kamalapati installed at Shaheed Smriti Dwar. Also floral tributes were paid in the memory of freedom fighters of Bhopal merger movement. The family members of the freedom fighters were also honoured in the programme. The 73rd anniversary of the independence of Bhopal was celebrated with



joy and gaiety.

Chouhan extended his best wishes to the people of Bhopal on Bhopal Merger Day through social media. Chouhan said that this auspicious

time came on June 1, 1949, two years after the independence of the country, when Bhopal became an integral part of India. In order to achieve this wonderfully

auspicious and proud moment, countless of our people have made sacrifices. Chouhan has said that I bow at the feet of determined, brave sons.



### CM PLANTS

### SAPLINGS OF NEEM AND PEEPAL TREE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted neem and peepal saplings along with members of Smile For All Society Ankit Yadav, Ayushi Thakur and Prashant Soni. The society is involved in educating children who were deprived of it. Till date, the society have made arrangements for more than 1000 underprivileged children. Approximately 700 philanthropists have been working in the same direction, who takes care of education and other necessary essentials for these children through the medium of donation. The Peepal sapling planted in Smart city park is a shady tree which is of great religious and ayurvedic significance. It purifies the environment. Filled with anti-biotic elements, Neem is known for its medicinal properties.

# Congress has leaders but no party workers, says Nadda

BJP President JP Nadda on Wednesday took a dig at the Congress saying the grand old party is a workerless party in Madhya Pradesh. His remarks came after he arrived in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday took a dig at the Congress saying the grand old party is a workerless party in Madhya Pradesh. His remarks came after he arrived in Bhopal on Wednesday. Nadda claimed, "A Congress leader told him that around 40 leaders are mahamantri and over 150 are mantri in the Madhya Pradesh Congress, but it has no workers on the ground." Nadda arrived in the state



capital on a three-day visit to Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, State BJP president V.D. Sharma and other senior BJP leaders welcomed him at the state hanger.

Nadda further said that only BJP had leaders, policies, intention, workers and environment to work. All these qualities were needed for success in politics. Addressing the BJP leaders and party workers, he said that he felt overwhelmed by the grand welcome.

Later talking to the press at BJP headquarters in Bhopal, Nadda highlighted various schemes of the Centre and the state governments --

Ujjwala, PMAY, Nal Jal, Kisan Samman Nidhi, Ladli Laxmi and many more.

Nadda said that Madhya Pradesh has shown record growth and development during the BJP government in the last 17 years. "In 2003, the BJP had got the state with a BIMARU tag, but in the last 15-17 years, the state has come very close to removing this tag. In many sectors, Madhya Pradesh has left many developed and developing states behind in terms of performance.

The BJP president will be meeting with state party leaders and will address the workers later in the evening. After the meeting, he will leave for Jabalpur at 5 p.m.

### 6 IN 1 VACCINATION, A BIG BOON FOR BABIES AND PARENTS: DR. LALISH JHAVER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Children are exposed to an innumerable number of germs, some of which can cause serious diseases. A child's immune system is still developing, and it cannot fight against all deadly diseases. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is one of the most successful public health interventions to prevent deaths from infections such as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus in all age groups. [i] The 6 in 1 combination vaccination protects children from 6 serious illnesses: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus influenza type B, hepatitis B, and poliomyelitis. Speaking about this, Dr. Lalish Jhavar, DNB pediatrics Director Kanha Maternity and Child Care Hospital Bhopal, said, Combination vaccination is a preferred option for childhood immunization because it has several benefits. It reduces the number of injections required for the same level of protection as standalone vaccinations, causes the child less pain, and saves time on multiple visits to the doctor's clinic. Combination vaccination also increases the acceptance of childhood immunisation amongst parents. According to the immunization schedule of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics [ii], children would need to take the DTP-IPV-Hib-HepB vaccines at the age of 6, 10 and 14 weeks. 6-in-1 vaccination provides protection for these 6 diseases. 6 in 1 vaccination would mean that children take only 2 injections (i.e., 6 in 1 vaccination and pneumococcal vaccination) and 1 oral vaccine (rotavirus vaccination) on each of these occasions. Without the combination shot, children would have to take many more injections. More needs to be done to make parents aware of the benefits of immunization and the availability of vaccines, to increase full immunization coverage to 90% and beyond. With combination vaccinations, children receive fewer shots but get the same level of protection as they would have with separate vaccines.



# Nominations for RS polls trigger war of words between BJP and Cong in MP

A fresh round political tug-of-war has ensued between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh over the fielding of candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on June 10.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A fresh round political tug-of-war has ensued between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh over the fielding of candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on June 10.

While the BJP leaders are patting their backs for nominating two women one OBC and a Scheduled Tribe (ST) for the Rajya Sabha elections, the Congress has fielded a Kashmiri Pandit, Vivek Tankha, to contest for a place in the Upper House.

By nominating Kavita Patidar (OBC) and Sumitra Valmiki (ST), the BJP has set the tone for the 2023 Assembly polls, sending a message to both the communities which account for a considerable vote share in the state.

By fielding Kavita Patidar, the BJP seems to have countered Congress' relentless allegations on the OBC reservation issue.

"The BJP fielded an OBC candidate, Kavita Patidar, for the Rajya Sabha polls. The difference with the Congress is clear," tweeted BJP spokesperson Pankaj



Chaturvedi.

"Why didn't the Congress field Arun Yadav (OBC) for the Rajya Sabha polls," asked MP BJP media in-charge, Lokendra Parasar, in a tweet.

Patidar is the general secretary of the party's state unit from Indore. She is also the first woman OBC leader from the Malwa division to have been sent to the Upper House after OBC quota row erupted.

Talking about Sumitra Valmiki, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who accompanied her when she filed her

nomination on Tuesday, said, "Sumitra (Valmiki) had never thought of going to the Rajya Sabha. Even demanding a ticket was a distance thought. But this is the BJP."

The Congress, on the other hand, accused the BJP of hypocrisy on the Kashmiri Pandit issue.

Responding to BJP's jibe for nominating senior advocate Vivek Tankha for a second term in the Rajya Sabha, Congress office-bearer Piyush Babele said, "The BJP is a wonderful party. Two months back, it was beating its chest for supporting the Kashmiri Pandits' cause following the release of the film 'The Kashmir Files'. But when the Congress nominates a Kashmiri Pandit (Vivek Tankha) for a second term in the Rajya Sabha, BJP leaders are protesting."

At present, BJP's Rajya Sabha members from Madhya Pradesh are Jyotiraditya Scindia, L. Murugan, Dharmendra Pradhan, M.J. Akbar, Ajay Pratap Singh, Kailash Soni, Sumer Singh Solanki, and Sampatya Ujke.

The Congress' Rajya Sabha members from the state are Vivek Tankha, Digvijaya Singh and Rajmani Patel.

### CM ATTENDS SHATABDI GURUMAT SAMAGAM

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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended Shatabdi Gurumat Samagam at Gurudwara Guru Nanak Tekri Saheb, Idgah Hills. Prayer meet was organised in the memory of the Martyrs on completion of 100 years of Sakashree Panja Saheb. Rajya Sabha MP JP Nadda was especially present on the occasion. Chouhan and Nadda bowed down and offered their tributes. Medical and Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang and Khajuraho MP BD Sharma along with the representatives of the Sikh community were among those present. It may be mentioned that the programme was conducted by the supreme body of Sikh's Shiromani Gurudwara Management Committee with support of Gurudwara Management committee Bhopal.



# CM AND MINISTERS CONGRATULATE GOVERNOR AFTER REACHING RAJ BHAVAN

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The birthday of Governor Mangubhai Patel was celebrated with dignified simplicity at the Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Raj Bhavan this morning and greeted the Governor on his birthday by presenting bouquet of flowers and gifts. Water Resources Minister Tulsi Silawat and Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav also reached Raj Bhavan and congratulated him on his birthday. On the birthday of Governor Patel, dental examination camp was organised by All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Raj Bhavan and senior citizens' check-up, medical camp and medicine distribution was held by Government Homeopathy Medical College. Patel distributed school bags to the children of Raj Bhavan Complex and Kumharpura School, sanitation kits to the women employees on his birthday. In the morning, Patel performed gau-poojan (cow worship) in the cow-shed at Raj Bhavan. He fed green fodder to the gau mata. After visiting the Dhanvantari Garden located in the Raj Bhavan, he garlanded the statue of Lord Dhanvantari. Tulsi and papaya saplings were planted in the garden. Banyan tree sapling was planted in the campus.

In a dignified programme at Raj Bhavan, Governor Patel accepted the birthday wishes. The Governor was presented with the first copy of the "Sewa-Sadhana" folder by the Raj



Bhavan Press Cell. Among those who congratulated included the members of the Tribal Cell, Chairman Deepak Khandekar, Principal Secretary to the Governor DP Ahuja, Deputy Secretary Dharanendra Kumar Jain, Law Officer DPS Gaur, aide de camp duo Subhash Anand, Agam Jain, Controller Surabhi Tiwari, Security Officer Inderjit Singh Chavda, physician Dr. BK Srivastava, Sangeeta Jain, Dr. Geeta Sukumar, Hospitality Officer Shilpi Diwakar, teachers and children of Raj Bhavan Kumharpura School, doctors of Homeopathy Dental Camp, Raj Bhavan Dispensary, Paramedical Staff of AYUSH, Homeopathy, all the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan Secretariat, Horticulture, Police Barracks, Public Works Department and Press Cell greeted the Governor and congratulated him on his birthday.

### INDIA'S FIRST BULLET CRUSHER MACHINE ESTABLISHED

Bhopal: India's first bullet crusher machine has been setup at Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy. This machine destroys the shell of the used cartridge. A used bullet cannot be reused through its use. With this arrangement, there will be no misuse of cartridges. In Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy of the Sports and Youth Welfare Department, more than 100 players are receiving training from international coaches Mansher Singh, Jaspal Rana and Suma Shirur in shotgun, pistol and rifle genres of shooting. Apart from this, nutritionists, psychologists, sports science doctors, strength and conditioning trainers are also available for the players. In the internationally claimed Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy the work of 50 meter final shooting range is in progress. A separate final shooting range is required for international level competitions. Once completed, the Asia Cup and other international shooting competitions can be held.

### UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY IS THE BASIS FOR BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY: GOVERNOR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the key for building an inclusive society is upliftment of tribal community. The work for framing the rules and provisions of the PESA Act should be done with delicacy and dynamism. He said that it is the personal responsibility of all of us to put our best efforts to complete the process to frame the rules expeditiously. Patel was discussing the provisions of the PESA Act with the senior officials of Tribal Cell, Raj Bhavan and the concerned departments. The meeting was organised in two sessions. In the first session, the provisions related to the Department of Revenue and Minerals and in the second session, the provisions related to the Department of Water Resources and Commercial Taxes were discussed. Governor said that just like a minute pain affects the entire body. Similarly if a section of a society is backwards if affects and distorts the entire society. He said that for an inclusive society, it is imperative to include tribal society in the mainstream. It is necessary that the work of

development, upliftment and public awareness should be done sensitively and rapidly. Their effective implementation should be ensured on the ground. He said that his commitment lies in the success of efforts for tribal welfare and upliftment. Efforts for tribal welfare are the prime concern of every moment in his life. He expected the officers that daily achievement of efforts for the development of tribal society would be a day of spirit like a birthday for them. With this spirit, the cooperation of the officers is expected in the efforts of tribal welfare and development of the deprived sections. Tribal Cell President Deepak Khandekar, Additional Chief Secretary Water Resources SN Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Governor DP Ahuja, Principal Secretary Revenue Manish Rastogi, Principal Secretary Mineral Sukhbir Singh, Principal Secretary Commercial Tax Deepali Rastogi, Additional Secretary Water Resource Ashish Kumar, Member Secretary Tribal Cell BS Jamod, Director Mineral Rakesh Srivastava, other senior officers and members of Tribal Cell were present.

### COORDINATED EFFORTS NEEDED FOR BETTER FUTURE OF CHILDREN: CM

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appealed to encourage public participation in efforts to provide better education, health and nutritious food to children on International Day for Protection of Children. Chouhan has given a message through social media that empowered children are the foundation of a strong society. Coordinated efforts are necessary for a better future of children and to protect their rights. It is noteworthy that every year since 1950, International Day for Protection of Children is celebrated all over the world on June 1 to draw the attention of the people towards the need to protect the rights of children.

### SEC Instructs Collectors and SPs

# Convince and Enforce the Model Code of Conduct Strictly When Needed

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Study the model code of conduct critically strictly enforce the model code of conduct when required. Send the proposal for permission in special cases to the State Election Commission. State Election Commissioner (SEC) Basant Pratap Singh gave these instructions to the Collectors and the SPs while reviewing the preparations for the Panchayat and urban body elections. Singh said that proper arrangements should be made for conducting free and fair elections. Singh reviewed through video conferencing. Nomination forms for urban body elections can be filled offline as well as online. Singh informed that on July 18, the model code of conduct will end in the entire state. Singh said that the election of urban bodies would be held in two phases. The publication of election information and submission of nomination papers will start from June 11. The nomination papers will be taken till June 18. Scrutiny will be held on



June 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 22. Allotment of election symbols will be done on the same day. The first phase of polling will be held on July 6 and the second phase will be held on July 13 from 7 am to 5 pm. The first phase of counting and results will be announced on July 17, while the second phase of counting and results will be announced on July 18 at 9 am. Voting will be done through EVMS. Singh informed that the election process will be held in 49 districts. Election is not proposed in Alirajpur,

Mandla and Dindori due to non-completion of tenure of these three districts. The election will be on party basis. For the first time, provision for election expenditure account of candidates contesting for the post of corporator has been made. Ensure formation and meeting of district level MCMC committees for the prevention of paid news. Make sure to take accounting expenses from the candidates in a month.

Singh said that meetings of the Standing Committee must be held regularly. Provide complete informa-

tion to political parties and candidates regarding security of EVM strong room, CCTV surveillance etc. Take effective action for arms license suspension, property defacement, riot control and preventive action under CRPC. Issue prohibitory order under section 144 and ensure its compliance. Take effective action for confiscation of illegal liquor.

Singh said that the Collector and the SP should tour together in vulnerable area, so that the confidence of the voters towards peaceful voting should be instilled. Ensure adequate security arrangements during the election process. Rallies, processions, meetings etc. should be organised in the constituency only with the prior permission of the competent authority. Establish control room and grievance redressal cell. Videography of important election events must be done. Singh also resolved the doubts of the collectors. Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh, OSD Durg Vijay Singh, Deputy Secretary Arun Parmar along with other officers were present.



EDITOR'S SPECS

RPCC's workshop is very important

The two-day workshop of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee has started on Wednesday. In this workshop, the All India Congress Committee will discuss the implementation of the manifesto and decisions passed in the Nav Sankalp Shivir. Spokesperson of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee Swarnim Chaturvedi said that around 650 participants are expected to participate in the workshop.

Chaturvedi said that the main agenda of the workshop is to implement the decisions taken regarding the district and other lower levels. Time bound and phased programs will be decided after brainstorming.

Chaturvedi said that preparations for 75 km padyatra to be taken out in all districts from 9th August 2022 will also be discussed in the workshop. Along with this, the outline of the huge state level program to be held on August 15, 2022 will also be brainstormed. All India Congress Committee will discuss on organizing padyatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

A roadmap will be prepared to fill 50 percent posts in the workshop. In which youth below 50 years of age will be recruited. This posting will start between 90 to 180 days. Discussions will be held with all the leaders and workers regarding the formation of Mandal committees, appointment of office-bearers of Mandal committees in Rajasthan state. Based on Udaipur's Nav Sankalp Shivir, special brainstorming will be organised to implement the decisions passed on economic, youth empowerment,

# NECESSITY TO STRENGTHENING CHILDREN PROTECTION SYSTEM

Lalit Garg

International Children's Protection Day is celebrated on 01 June every year all over the world. This day is considered to be the oldest international festival which has been celebrated since the year 1950. It was decided at a special meeting of the International Women's Democratic Association in Moscow. The purpose of this day is to draw the attention of people towards the need to protect children's rights. In Russia, people are particularly attracted to the problems of orphans, disabled and poor children on this day. Children are gifted and special ceremonies are organized for them.

Like Russia, three days before this day, on the eighth anniversary of the Narendra Modi government, while declaring a child welfare and relief scheme for the children who were orphaned at the time of Corona, he welcomed the children to give advanced, cruelty free and a successful future to the children. The Prime Minister on Monday made several benefits and child welfare announcements under the PM Care Scheme for children through video conferencing; which will not only strengthen the populist form of the government, but it will be an exemplary and inspiring example for the governments of the world.

The announcement of scholarship and other financial assistance for orphans from Corona through PM Cares for Children's Scheme will reveal the real purpose of International Children's Protection Day. Prime Minister Modi has given scholarships to school going children. PM Care for Children's passbook and Ayushman have also presented the health card of India-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. By the way, it was clear last year that the central government will take many measures to support the orphaned children. Of course, today such children need maximum care and help, not only the centre, the state governments should also stand with such children. Other governments in the world have also taken steps in the interest of orphaned children. They should give a lot of support to the needy; especially remove the darkness on the lives of children. This is also required that even today, 40 percent of children under the age of 14 in India work at the minimum wage in the informal sector besides tea hotels, dhabas, shops and



motor macacians. Some work with very little compulsion or some children's parents put them in some work by asking to cite the skills in their hands. This has a profound effect on their education. Children's rights are ignored everywhere from playing and education to their maintenance. What are the rights of children and how to protect their safety, there is a need to churn seriously. Modi used to see children as the future of the country. But his childhood future is being trapped in the world of scarcity, drugs, neglect and crime today. Childhood will become so neglected, scary and frightening, no one would have imagined. After all, what is the reason that childhood is going into the blind streets of lack and neglect? Why is childhood getting so neglected? Not only parents, but society and government have become so careless towards childhood? This question is shaking us while celebrating International Children's Protection Day.

Some such suffering has shocked Modi, so as a sensitive Prime Minister, while announcing a relief-matter, has said that I am addressing not as Prime Minister, but as a family member. It is necessary; all the departments of the government should consider the needy children as members of their family as per the intention of the Prime Minister. The government should worry about the education and prosperity to the employment of such children. Children can avail free services up to five lakh rupees from health cards. The government has started an online portal for enrolment of such children, through which the process of

approval and other works of children will be done easily. All governments have to ensure that help can reach the needy children easily. Not a single child should remain deprived. Also, if possible, all the children who have lost any one of the mother or father have been lost. The pain and painful situations of death of both parents from corona should be seen from humans and help them in practical terms. Even today, in India, which was celebrated by celebrating the Amrit festival of independence, we still see a 12-14 year old child in the garage, applying puncture, blowing air in the chimney or in the tube, cleaning or serving food. They are there and if there is a slight deficiency, from the owner to the customer, ranging from abusing, beating and misbehavior, then often 'what do we have to take' or maximum words from the owner in the innocent words. Let's ask for a little pity and take your way. But for how long we will let childhood be a victim of harassment and neglect in this way.

We should try to bring a happy childhood to life by adding our voice to Modi's voice. The Prime Minister's attempt to help each child will be successful only when the citizens of the society as well as the officers will become the support of orphans with full honesty. Most important is to collect the right data for such children. Here not only the government, but also the responsibility of local social organizations. After all, how many children are there? Since the government does not yet have clear data, various types of studies have been

revealed. According to The Lancet's study, about 19 lakh children in India have lost parents or either of the two due to Covid-19. On the other hand, till 5 February this year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development had a total data of 3,890 Covid orphans. Meaning, the important work of repairing the data is remaining.

The success of the scheme is that every needy child gets help as soon as possible. There is a need to overcome the conditions of ignoring the rights of children everywhere. There is also a need to explain to children with affection and love instead of scolding and killing children. Children need a friend and love, not a strict parent. Therefore, children will improve with love, not in a harsh environment. How can we imagine a strong nation on weak foundations? What kind of contradiction is that our society, government and politicians do not get tired of considering children as the future of the country, but do not it takes a well-planned conspiracy to take away their childhood and right to study through child labour from about 25 to 30 crore children of this age? The future of children goes to darkness from child labour, the country also does not remain untouched by this because the children who work get away from education and when these children do not take education, then what will the reins of the country be handled? In this way a healthy kid reaches the dark and narrow street of brain deformity and its count begins in the category of criminals.

It is necessary that meaningless frozen communication and sensitivity between parents and children should be melted again. Again, a full atmosphere of affection, affinity and faith should be created between them. The government should reconsider the laws related to children and make plans for proper development of children. So that the fate and future of the new generation of this neglected and scarce childhood and the wandering nation can be bright. Only by doing this, we will be able to celebrate International Children's Protection Day and get the meaning of Prime Minister Modi's child welfare schemes.

## international

### KREMLIN SAYS US 'ADDING FUEL TO FIRE' BY SUPPLYING ARMS TO UKRAINE

The US is "adding fuel to fire" by supplying weapons to Kiev, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday in response to US President Joe Biden's decision to provide more advanced missile systems to Ukraine, media reports said.

more advanced missile systems to Ukraine, media reports said.

"We believe that the United States is purposefully and deliberately adding fuel to the fire," Peskov told reporters on a regular conference call, CNN reported.

The Ukrainian authorities have long asked the United States to supply high-tech, medium-range rocket systems. Biden said on Tuesday the US is providing Ukraine "more advanced rocket systems and munitions" as its war with Russia grinds on.

"Such supplies do not contribute to the Ukrainian leadership's willingness to resume peace negotiations," Peskov said, CNN reported.

Peskov also added the Kremlin does not trust Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's words that Kiev

would not use multiple launch rocket systems to attack the Russian territory if they receive them from the US. Washington's arming of Ukraine with heavier weapons increases the risk of direct US-Russia confrontation regardless of American statements that they want to mitigate this risk, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Wednesday.

The diplomat was commenting on the news that the US has decided to supply HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to Ukraine.

Any arms supplies, which continue and escalate, increase the risk of such a development," Ryabkov told journalists, referring to the possibility of a direct confrontation between Russia and the US, RT reported.

### MOSCOW WARNS OF RISK OF DIRECT CONFLICT WITH US

Washington's arming of Ukraine with heavier weapons increases the risk of direct US-Russia confrontation regardless of American statements that they want to mitigate this risk, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Wednesday.



Moscow | Agencies

Washington's arming of Ukraine with heavier weapons increases the risk of direct US-Russia confrontation regardless of American statements that they want to mitigate this risk, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Wednesday. The diplomat was commenting on the news that the US has decided to supply HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to Ukraine. The US said the weapons system will not allow

Ukrainian forces to attack Russia and argued that this will prevent a scenario, in which Moscow would consider Washington a party in the conflict, RT reported.

"We're not providing any weapons that will allow the Ukrainians to attack Russia from inside of Ukraine,

and President [Joe] Biden has been very clear on that," US representative to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said of the deliveries, adding: "We're not going to become [a] party to the war."

Ryabkov, however, disagreed with the rationale, saying the US was mak-

ing the conflict more dangerous. "Any arms supplies, which continue and escalate, increase the risk of such a development," Ryabkov told journalists, referring to the possibility of a direct confrontation between Russia and the US, RT reported.

The diplomat added that the US years has done nothing to prevent an escalation of tensions with Russia over Ukraine.

It stonewalled Moscow's last-ditch attempts to negotiate a legally binding deal that would have addressed Russian concerns over NATO expansion in Europe, he pointed out.

After open hostilities broke out in February, "the remnants of a healthy attitude to the situation were shattered," he said. Washington "maintains its course of what we characterized many times as an intention to wage war to the last Ukrainian, which reflects the goal of inflicting -- as they say themselves -- the strategic defeat of Russia. This is unprecedented. This is dangerous," Ryabkov said, RT reported. The latest ramping up of arms supplies to Ukraine does not fundamentally alter the situation, only raises the risks, he stated.

### Pak govt shocks consumers with unprecedented hike in cooking oil and ghee prices

The Pakistan government shocked consumers by pushing up ghee and cooking oil rates by an unprecedented Rs 208 and Rs 213 to an all-time high of Rs 555 per kg and Rs 605 per litre respectively.

did not comment as to why the rates had been jacked up so mercilessly which would hit the consumers badly. The maximum rate of ghee and cooking of renowned brands in the retail markets still hovers between Rs 540-560 per kg/litre. However, Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) Secretary-General Umer Islam Khan hinted that the retail rates of ghee and cooking oil would soon come on a par with USC prices. He said ghee/cooking oil manufacturers have stopped giving the products on credit to the USC as the corporation had not cleared outstanding Rs 2-3 billion to the manufacturers. Umer said the Prime Minister Task Force Committee on Supply of Palm Oil comprising officials of relevant ministries and PVMA office-bearers has been holding daily zoom meetings to analyse the demand and supply situation of palm oil, Dawn reported.

Karachi | Agencies

The Pakistan government shocked consumers by pushing up ghee and cooking oil rates by an unprecedented Rs 208 and Rs 213 to an all-time high of Rs 555 per kg and Rs 605 per litre respectively.

An official in the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) in Karachi confirmed to Dawn that the USC had issued a notification of this whopping jump in ghee and cooking oil rates effective June 1. The official, however,

### New Australian government ministry sworn in

Canberra | Agencies

The new Australian government's ministry has officially been sworn in.

The 30 members of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's frontbench, which includes a record-breaking 13 women, were sworn-in to their portfolios by Governor-General David Hurley at the Government House in Canberra, Xinhua news agency reported.

Of the 30, 23 will serve in Albanese's cabinet, the innermost sanctum of the government where major policy decisions are made.

Wednesday morning's ceremony made history, with Ed Husic and Anne Aly sworn-in as Australia's first Muslim federal ministers and Linda Burney becoming the first Indigenous woman to serve as Minister for Indigenous Australians. It comes 11 days after Albanese's Labor Party claimed victory in the general elections on May 21.

A core team consisting of Albanese, Deputy PM Richard Marles, Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher were previously sworn in on May 23, allowing them to work in the



meantime. On Wednesday they were sworn in, with Marles moving from the employment to defense portfolio and Gallagher adding the roles of Minister for Public Service and Minister for Women.

Announcing the ministry on Tuesday night, Albanese said it was "as inclusive as Australia itself."

Ten of 23 cabinet ministers are women. "This is the largest number of women who have ever served in an Australian cabinet," he said.

"We have an overflow of talent on our side of the parliament... It's the most experienced incoming Labor government in our history since federation."

Mark Butler, who served as a minister in the last Labor government between 2010 and 2013, was sworn in as the Minister for Health and Aged Care, and Bill Shorten, Albanese's predecessor as party leader, as the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Minister for Government Services.

### S Korea, US to hold vice ministerial economic dialogue

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea and the US agreed on Wednesday to quickly hold a vice ministerial economic dialogue to check the implementation of the agreement of their leaders' summit, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

The decision was reached in the first video-conference between Second Vice Foreign Minister Lee Do-hoon and Jose W. Fernandez, under secretary of state for economic growth, energy and the environment, earlier in the day, Yonhap news agency reported. The ministry did not provide a specific timeframe of the Senior Economic Dialogue, a consultative channel set up with the state department in 2015 and last held in December last year.

The upcoming dialogue is meant to check the progress in implementing the deals reached at the summit talks between President Yoon Suk-

yeol and US President Joe Biden on May 21.

Lee and Fernandez agreed to work together to produce tangible achievements as they shared the view that a key agenda at the summit centered on cooperation on economic security, such as supply chains of semiconductors. Lee and Fernandez also said they will seek ways on how to set new economic rules of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, the ministry said. The IPEF -- launched by Biden during his trip to Japan last month in an apparent move to counter China's rising clout in the region -- seeks to improve supply chain resilience and set rules for the digital economy, clean energy and decarbonization, among other things. The IPEF comprises India, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam.



PROBE NCB'S 'EXTORTION RACKET', FAKE RAIDS, MAHA MINISTER TO SC

In another dimension to the sensational so-called rave party bust aboard a cruise ship last October, a Maharashtra Minister has appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo moto cognisance and initiate a probe into what he contended as "extortion and fake raids" perpetrated by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the past few years.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In another dimension to the sensational so-called rave party bust aboard a cruise ship last October, a Maharashtra Minister has appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo moto cognisance and initiate a probe into what he contended as "extortion and fake raids" perpetrated by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the past few years.

Prominent farmers leader and Vasant Rao Naik Sheti Swalamban Mission President Kishore Tiwari, who holds minister of state status, has filed a PIL after Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan and others were let off the hook by the NCB in the infamous raid - on board the Cordelia Cruise ship - commanded by the then Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede.

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court should institute a high-level judicial enquiry into the malafide style, approach and affairs of the NCB at Mumbai, and its officials targeting film celebrity and few models since last two years, now established upon absolute clean chit given to Aryan Khan by the NCB," said Tiwari in his plea. This is the second such appeal by Tiwari to the apex court after the first one on



October 18, 2021, seeking to highlight how the fundamental rights of Aryan Khan and other "soft targets" - trapped by the NCB after the raids sparked off an embarrassing controversy - were infringed. "Now, as the NCB itself has given complete clean chit to the innocent people who were first implicated in a false case by abusing the position... as such unfortunate incidents of abuse of powers and authority by NCB is a matter of grave concern for law-abiding citizens of the country..", said

the PIL Tiwari further argued that the SC's intervention was necessary to safeguard "the public faith and confidence" in the law enforcement agencies of India like the NCB. He claimed that in recent times, the NCB is abusing its position and trying to deprive the basic human rights of persons like Aryan Khan or others, accused under the NDPS Act, put them behind bars illegally, and subjected them to immense public humiliation. Referring to Wankhede, who was removed

from his position - with grave allegations levelled against him on various counts from different quarters including by state Minister Nawab Malik - for selectively and vindictively targeting rich persons or celebrities like Aryan Khan ostensibly to "uproot the citadel of drugs in Bollywood".

Tiwari added that now with the absolute clean chit given to Aryan Khan and others, "its crystal clear that it was a big game of abuse of power and authority" by Wankhede against whom allegations of "extortion" also came up, and all this needs to be probed independently by the apex court under Article 139/142 of the Constitution. The NCB had taken note of these and shunted Wankhede to his parent department for allegedly "running an extortion racket with the help of politically influenced people linked to the ruling party" (Bharatiya Janata Party), and reportedly acquiring huge assets or properties disproportionate to his known sources of income, etc.

Tiwari's PIL comes even as Wankhede was given a fresh transfer to a posting in Chennai, and more revelations of the case details emerged from the NCB's voluminous charge sheet filed before a special court last week.

SALMAN'S SECURITY BEEFED UP IN THE WAKE OF MOOSEWALA'S MURDER

BOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR SALMAN KHAN'S SECURITY HAS BEEN STEPPED UP FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF PUNJABI SINGER AND RAPPER SIDHU MOOSEWALA.



Bishnoi's radar after the infamous blackbuck poaching case during the shoot of 'Hum Saath Saath Hain'. Bishnoi community considers black buck to be a sacred animal and Salman's involvement in poaching had hurt the community's sentiments.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's security has been stepped up following the murder of Punjabi singer and rapper Sidhu Moosewala.

As per a media report, the strengthening of security comes after gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, has emerged as the key accused in Moosewala's murder.

A senior police official told the media that the Mumbai police has enhanced the overall security of the star to ensure he's safe from the activities of the Bishnoi's gang that operates from Rajasthan.

For the uninitiated, Salman was earlier on

Bishnoi had earlier in 2018 threatened to kill Salman. Rahul alias Sunni, one of Bishnoi's close associates arrested in 2020 for murder, said that they had hatched a plan to kill Salman and had even visited Mumbai to conduct a recce for the murder.

Sidhu Moosewala was murdered in Punjab's Mansa district on Sunday as he was intercepted by assailants while he was driving an SUV.

Salman will be next seen in 'Tiger 3' along with Katrina Kaif. He has also been working on 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali'.

Congress leader assaults elderly farmer and son

Solapur | Agencies

On Monday, a terrible incident was reported in the Tembhumri area of Solapur, Maharashtra, where Congress city president Somnath Kadam along with his close aides attacked an old farmer while he was undergoing medical treatment at a private hospital. The CCTV footage showed Kadam assaulting the old farmer, his son and another person with iron rods and sticks.

According to the local reports, Kadam had disallowed one of the laborers from entering the field of the elderly farmer and his son for daily labor. The duo then, who are also relatives of

Kadam, had asked the reason for his interference in the fieldwork. However, Kadam lost his temper due to this questioning and attacked the old farmer and his son with iron rods and sticks in the field. The farmer was severely injured in this attack and therefore he was admitted to the local hospital for treatment. However, Somnath Kadam was done with it, as he again assaulted the farmer in the hospital. Kadam along with five more persons entered the hospital and continued to brutally assault the injured farmer. Along with the farmer, his son and another person accompanying them were also assaulted by the Congress leader and his goons. The entire episode

of assault was recorded in the CCTV footage of the private hospital, that went viral on social media.

The farmer's community from the Madha town of Solapur strongly condemned the incident after they learned about the attack on the old farmer. They demanded strict legal action against Congress city president Somnath Kadam and five others involved.

Reportedly, a case has been registered against Kadam and his close aides for attacking the old farmer and his son and creating a ruckus in a private hospital. The Police have also arrested three persons in the case. Further investigations are underway.

Maharashtra records sharp spike in COVID-19 cases: 1,081 new infections, active cases jump to 4,032

Out of 8,09,51,360 laboratory samples 78,88,167 have been tested positive (09.74%) for COVID-19 until Wednesday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Wednesday, June 1 recorded 1,081 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 4,032. Besides, 0 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the day.

524 patients were discharged in the day, taking the tally to 77,36,275. The recovery rate in the state is 98.07%. The case fatality rate in the state is 1.87%. Out of 8,09,51,360 laboratory samples 78,88,167 have been tested positive (09.74%) for COVID-19 until today. The Mumbai circle that consists of MCGM, Thane, TMC, Navi Mumbai, KDMC, Ulhasnagar MC, Bhivandi Nijampur MC, Mira Bhayandar MC, Palghar, Vasai Virar



MC, Raigad, Panvel MC recorded 962 new cases. The Nashik circle that consists of Nashik, Nashik MC, Malegaon MC, Ahmednagar, Ahmednagar MC, Dhule, Dhule MC,

Jalgaon, Jalgaon MC, Nandurbar reported 7 fresh COVID-19 cases.

The Pune circle that includes Pune, PMC, PCMC, Solapur, Solapur MC, Satara recorded 88 new cases.

The Kolhapur circle that includes Kolhapur, Kolhapur MC, Sangli, Sangli MC, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri reported 4 new cases.

The Aurangabad circle that consists of Aurangabad, Aurangabad MC, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Parbhani MC reported 2 fresh cases.

The Latur circle that consists of Latur, Latur MC, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Nanded MC recorded 1 fresh case. The Akola circle that includes Akola, Akola MC, Amaravati, Amaravati MC, Yawatmal, Buldhana, Washim recorded 2 fresh cases.

Nagpur circle that includes Nagpur, Nagpur MC, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Chandrapur MC, Gadchiroli reported 15 fresh cases.

Nurses call off strike as Government assures to look into their demands

THE NURSES HAVE THREATENED TO GO BACK AND STRIKE IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT FULFILLED BY THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT BY JULY 15.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Close to 20,000 nurses in Maharashtra's state-run hospitals, including 1,400 in

Mumbai, called off their indefinite strike on Wednesday afternoon after the government assured them that it will look into their demands by July 15, said the Maharashtra State Nurses Association (MSNA).

MSNA has been demanding that the Directorate of Medical Research and Education (DMER) withdraw its decision to outsource recruitment to 1,700 odd vacant posts on contract, which the latter had rejected, calling it a 'temporary arrangement'.

"We met medical education minister Amit Deshmukh who agreed to look into our demands by July 15. We have decided to resume work. If our demands are not fulfilled

by July 15, we will go back and strike," said Sumitra Tote, secretary, MSNA.

An official from DMER said Deshmukh has appointed the dean of Vilasrao Deshmukh Government Medical College and Hospital, Latur, as the nodal officer to look into the demands of the nurses. "We are glad that the nurses have taken back the protest," said Dr Deelip Mhaisekar, director, DMER.

The association, which has 25,000 members across the state, went on an indefinite strike from May 28, as student nurses and resident doctors stepped in to manage patient care and emergency services. In Mumbai, 1,400 nurses from JJ

Hospital, St George Hospital, GT Hospital, and Bandra Public Health care centre participated in the strike.

While the state government had accepted one of their demands to scrap mandatory transfers, outsourcing the recruitment of contractual nurses to an external agency was the major bone of contention.

Since May 25, the nurses have been boycotting work for an hour between 7.30am and 8.30am. Later, they went on a two-day strike boycotting emergency services. The protesting nurses in Mumbai gathered at Azad Maidan between 10 am and 5pm on May 26-27.

50:50 WEIGHTAGE TO CET, 12TH MARKS FOR ADMISSIONS TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES: SAMANT

Currently, admissions to courses like engineering, law and others are based on the CET marks. Education Minister Uday Samant said under the new system, only CET marks will be not be considered for admissions to professional courses

Team Absolute | Pune

The performance of students in Class 12 and the Common Entrance Test (CET) in Maharashtra

will be considered equally while declaring the merit list for undergraduate professional and technical courses from the next academic year, state Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant has said.

Talking to reporters on Tuesday in Pune, where he held meetings with officials of various educational institutes, the minister said the new system will be introduced from the next academic year, which is 2023-24, and not this year. Currently, admissions to courses like engineering, law and others are based on the CET marks. Samant said under the new system, only CET marks will be not be considered for

admissions to professional courses.

"Under the present system, students are focusing only on the CET. But, after a discussion with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, it has been decided that now equal weightage will be given to the CET marks and Class 12 marks. This will help students in building a good base with Class 12 studies," Samant said. Samant also said that like the JEE system, there will be an option of a second CET for students to score better, if they are not satisfied with their performance in the first CET. "The exam (second test) may be held soon after the first CET's results," he said.

Every man for himself: Maharashtra Congress leaders say Rajya Sabha fissures just one sign

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The resignation of Ashish Deshmukh as the Maharashtra Congress general secretary on Tuesday was perhaps the most extreme step in the wake of the party's Rajya Sabha nominations which have left disgruntled leaders across states. In Maharashtra, the resignation was also reflective of the deep discontent within the state unit over the way the party is being run.

In his letter of resignation, marked to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Deshmukh wrote: "The imposition of an outsider, Imran Pratapgarhi (who is an Uttar Pradesh leader), as a Rajya Sabha member from the Maharashtra quota is demoralizing. Such a decision does not help in the growth of the state organisation. It is unjust to party workers in the state." Party leaders feel the Rajya Sabha decision was par for the course given how the Congress is being run, with the leadership crisis at the centre impacting units down the ranks. From leaders who have been with the Congress for years, to those in the junior-most ranks like youth activists, everybody talks of the "terrible gaps" in party functioning.

As a consequence of the lack of teamwork, a senior leader said, "Every individual who is holding an important post or power in the party or the government is working in isolation.

Each of these prominent ministers or party leaders network at individual levels with the AICC to ensure their own interests are intact."

The leader added that this need not have been the situation in the state. "Maharashtra probably has one of the finest Congress leaders and workers. There is no dearth of talent or experience. But there is no mechanism of channelling it for the expansion of the organisation." Till 2009, the Congress was the leading political party in Maharashtra. The only exception was the 1995-99 period, when in the elections held post-Babri Masjid demolition and the Bombay riots and blasts, the Congress was unseated by the Shiv Sena-BJP coalition government. In 1999, while Sharad Pawar parted ways from the Congress to form the NCP, the setback had been short lived. After the 1999 Assembly elections, the NCP had joined hands with the Congress for a coalition government.

The results of the 2009 Assembly polls, the same year as the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh was voted back to power at the Centre, reflected the Congress dominance in Maharashtra then: Congress 82 seats, NCP 62, BJP 46, and Shiv Sena 45. By 2014, when the BJP had started to rise and Narendra



Modi to take charge, the Congress slide had begun. In that year's Assembly results in Maharashtra, the Congress got 42 seats, NCP 41, BJP 122 and Shiv Sena 63. The BJP and Sena formed a coalition government.

In the 2019 Assembly results, the Congress got a few more seats, 44, but its position was sealed at the fourth spot, after the NCP's 54, the BJP's 105, and the Shiv Sena's 56. It was talks going down to the wire, and Pawar's acumen, that had helped stitch up the Congress, NCP and Sena together in an unlikely alliance to form the government. Since then, as much as the Congress's lowest numbers, the way the party is being run has kept it as the partner with the least say in the alliance. A former Union minister from the state said, "We are appalled at the state of affairs. Even a simple thing like constituting a team of seniors who can guide on policies both within the party and the state government has not been considered in the last three years." As recently as Monday, a team of elected members was denied an appointment with the high command to raise these very issues. Ashish Deshmukh, 48, hails from a prominent political family of the state. His father is former MPCC president Ranjit Deshmukh, and his uncle ex-NCP home minister Anil Deshmukh (who is currently in jail in a money laundering

case). In 2014, Ashish had switched sides from the Congress to the BJP and contested from Katol Assembly constituency against uncle Anil, defeating him. Upset at not being made a minister in the Shiv Sena-BJP coalition government, Ashish had hung around and finally quit in 2018, citing the pending demand of separate statehood for Vidarbha. Ahead of the 2019 elections, he had returned to the Congress, picking up the gauntlet for the party by contesting against then chief Minister Devendra Fadnis from Nagpur South West Assembly constituency. His loss was no surprise. Even allies Shiv Sena and NCP have been at the receiving end of Patole's bluntness in furthering the Congress cause. Last week, he slammed the NCP for "backstabbing the Congress by entering into an alliance with the BJP for the Bhandara-Gondia zila parishad polls". In elections such as these, party loyalties are known to be fluid. Other Congress leaders too talk of "repeatedly drawing attention of the high command towards the Shiv Sena and NCP's high handedness in running the state government".

A Congress minister from Vidarbha said, "We have written letters to the AICC. We brought it to state leaders' notice how the Congress is neither consulted on policies, nor do its leaders get adequate allocation for projects in their respective constituencies."



## Tom Cruise had no problem pushing 'Top Gun: Maverick' cast

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Tom Cruise had no issues with pushing the cast of 'Top Gun: Maverick' to the limit with the flying sequences. Asked if he considered easing the workload, Tom told Screen Rant: "No, absolutely not. Absolutely not. Listen, the whole point of making films and the beauty of it is that you get to travel the world and see other cultures and be part of communities. To look and walk in someone else's shoes and feel what they are feeling."

The 'Mission: Impossible' star continued: "Making movies, you're constantly learning; you have to constantly work to become more and more competent in many different fields. And I want to tell them, that's the beauty of making movies."

"That's why I've always pushed my films to go international, around the world and in different communities. And to be part of that right from the beginning. It was my dream. You've got to work. It's not a bunch of parties and doing that, and that's what I love."

The movie sees Cruise's alter ego reunite with Val Kilmer's Tom 'Iceman' Kazansky and the actor has urged audiences to watch Kilmer's performance in the film.

Cruise said: "I think people just have to see it; I don't even want to try. He's such a fine actor, and you see what he brings to this movie; the power that he has. And I think that relationship and the structure of the story, where it works, I don't want to talk about. I just want people to experience it."

didn't tell anyone because the contractions were very far apart. But they were happening. I was also getting checked out all the time. My doctor was all over it - because I'm a little bit older and she was all over the pregnancy making sure I was going in for checks and everything."

Beatriz said carrying on with work helped her conquer her anxiety about becoming a first-time mum.

She added: "If anything could have taken me out of the fear of having my first kid it was focusing on this job that I love to do. I love to work so much, I love telling stories and I don't want that amazing part of myself to be sacrificed when it didn't need to be."

However, the actress shared she would have stepped away if she was having difficulties: "I know my own limits, and if I had said like I can't breathe or I can't do this or whatever and if I had been having contraction after contraction - I would sure as heck not do it." "There were a couple of times, when we were in that booth where I was like I'm just going to look like I'm thinking about this for a while - while I feel my way through what's happening with my body. All right let's go!"

Los Angeles | Agencies

'West Side Story' actor Rachel Zegler is set to star in 'The Hunger Games' prequel 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes'. Zegler had prompted speculation about her casting after she tweeted on Monday night: "Listen up can y'all grow restfully? are you becoming an individual resting decisively?"

## RACHEL ZEGLER CAST IN 'HUNGER GAMES' PREQUEL AS LUCY GRAY BAIRD

As eagle-eyed fans pointed out, the first letter of each word in her tweet spells out the main character's name, Lucy Gray Baird.

The movie is being adapted from Suzanne Collins' 2020 book of the same name, which takes place decades before Katniss Everdeen's adventures in 'The Hunger Games', reports 'Variety'.

That means Jennifer Lawrence, who shot to superstardom as the Girl on Fire, does not appear in the

prequel story.

Instead, 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' centres on Coriolanus Snow, an ambitious boy who eventually becomes the tyrannical leader of the dystopian country of Panem.

As previously announced, Tom Blyth ('Billy the Kid' and 'The Gilded Age') will play the young Snow.

In the upcoming movie, 18-year-old Snow is chosen to mentor Lucy Gray, the female tribute from the impoverished District 12, during the 10th Hunger Games.

As introduced in 'The Hunger Games' trilogy, which were developed into four feature films, the barbaric televised event randomly selects two teenagers from each district to fight to the death.

In the novel, the unassuming Lucy Gray sparks everyone's attention by singing during the reaping ceremony. With her talent and charm, Snow believes he may be able to turn the odds in their favour to win the games.

## Stephanie Beatriz was in labour when she recorded 'Encanto' song

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Stephanie Beatriz has shared she was in labour while she was recording a track for her movie 'Encanto' and was singing her lines inbetween contractions. The actress was pregnant with her daughter Rosaline when she voiced Mirabel in the animated Disney movie and continued with a planned studio session for the song 'Waiting On A Miracle' despite going into labour, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking on new Disney Podcast 'Journey to the Magic' hosted by Giovanna Fletcher, Beatriz said: "I was in early labour, but I

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Simu Liu waxed his body completely for the upcoming film 'Barbie' starring Margot Robbie. Rumours have circulated the 'Shang-Chi' star is playing one of several Ken dolls in the film (along with headliner Ryan Gosling), and waxing his body would certainly be one practical way for Liu to get a plastic-like sheen, reports 'Variety'.

"Waxing has been an education to say the least," Liu told The Independent.

"It was one of the most painful experiences of my life. I have such a newfound admiration for the incredibly brave women who go through this on a monthly basis."

While Liu could not confirm any rumours about 'Barbie', he did say "the discourse online is giving me life," adding, "With every casting announcement or bit of news, they're like: eWhat is this? And that's perfect e the less you know about it the better." Liu recently told GQ UK that he knew almost nothing about the 'Barbie' movie when he agreed to audition for a role. The actor decided to throw his name in the ring for a role after a junior agent at his agency told him Greta Gerwig and Noah Baumbach's script for the film was one of the best he'd ever read. "He literally said this verbatim," Liu said.

## Simu Liu waxed his entire body for Margot Robbie's 'Barbie'

## Kate Miner, Jason Canela to star in horror-thriller 'Stay Safe'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kate Miner, who is known for her work in the comedy-drama TV series 'Shameless' will be leading the horror-thriller 'Stay Safe' along with American-Cuban actor Jason Canela. The film is about a pandemic hotzone, reports 'Deadline'. As per 'Deadline', the film has entered post-production and features Miner as Eva and Canela as Patricio, with Katalina Viteri also starring.

Stationed on the front lines of a Pandemic Hotzone, the pic follows Army Surgeon Eva's attempt to uncover the truth behind a subliminal message she received from a patient, while dealing with the unexpected arrival of an illegal immigrant into her home.

'Deadline' further states that American Entertainment Investors, Synkronised Films and Elipsis Capital are behind the film, with Daniela Delfino, who also features in 'Stay Safe', Joseph Cohen and Alex Cohen serving as producers.

'Stay Safe' has been penned by David Gregg, Gia Neri, Rolando Vinas with director Carlos V. Gutierrez at the helm of affairs, who has developed the movie from a story by Clarence Williams IV.

## Kevin Spacey 'confident' he can clear his name

London | Agencies

Actor Kevin Spacey will "voluntarily" return to the UK after being charged with sexual assault and is "confident" he can clear his name. The former 'House of Cards' star was charged by the Crown Prosecution Service in the UK over a number of incidents, which were alleged to have taken place between March 2005 and August 2008 in London, and in April 2013 in Gloucestershire, and following claims he was set to be formally extradited from the US to face the charges, the 62-year-old actor has now insisted he will "voluntarily" fly to England to appear in court, reports femalefirst.co.uk. He said in a statement released to 'Good Morning America': "I very much appreciate the Crown Prosecution Service's statement in which they carefully reminded the media and the public that I am entitled to a fair trial, and innocent until proven otherwise."

"While I am disappointed with their decision to move forward, I will voluntarily appear in the U.K. as soon as can be arranged and defend myself against these charges, which I am confident will prove my innocence."

It was announced last week Kevin would face charges of four counts of sexual assault against three men, and an additional charge of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent - is facing the allegations following a review of evidence collected by the Metropolitan Police.

The reported incidents took place between March 2005 and August 2008 in London, and in April 2013 in Gloucestershire.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Tamara Francesconi



## ASIA CUP 2022

# INDIA BEAT JAPAN 1-0 TO CLAIM BRONZE MEDAL

Jakarta | Agencies

Indian men's hockey team claimed the bronze medal in the Hero Asia Cup 2022 after picking a 1-0 win over Japan at the GBK Sports Complex Hockey Stadium here on Wednesday. In a tight contest that saw a solid defensive performance from the Indian Men's Hockey team, Raj Kumar Pal (7) scored the sole goal for India to help them pick a close win. India began the match cautiously, holding possession in the midfield. Karthi Selvam received a brilliant pass inside the circle, and he passed the ball to Vishnukant Singh, who was left unmarked. But the Japanese defence deflected the danger away.

An inspirational run from Uttam Singh on the right channel opened up Raj Kumar Pal inside the circle, and he put the ball into the goal to give India a 1-0 lead. India received back-to-back Penalty Corners before the end of the first quarter, but Japan defended well to clear the danger.

India immediately started stitching attacking moves in the second quarter, looking to quickly double their lead. Japan received back-to-back penalty corner opportunities as Indian defence faced their first real test in the match. But the first rusher Yashdeep Siwach denied Japan twice to keep the opposition at bay. Japan continued to search for



the equaliser but the Indian defence stood tall and maintained their 1-0 lead till halftime.

India started creating attacking moves from the left flank at the start of the second half. Japanese captain Seren Tanaka tried to cross a dangerous ball inside the circle, but Dipsan Tirkey was alert and quickly cleared away the ball. Japan received another PC opportunity to

get back on level terms, but Indian defence made a good save to deny the opposition yet again. Another late PC for Japan tested Indian defence once again, but India yet again managed to hold on to their lead. Japan earned yet another PC opportunity at the start of the final quarter, but it was blocked away by Manjeet. Uttam Singh received a stunning pass from Abharan Sudev

and he ran inside the circle to go one-on-one with the Japanese goalkeeper. But goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa managed to dispossess Uttam Singh and made the save. Maninder Singh stitched a last-stringing attack in the final minute, but Japanese defence dispossessed him. But they were unable to get the equaliser in the last 30 seconds and India picked up a 1-0 win.

# Nadal claims marathon win over Djokovic to reach 15th French Open semifinal

Paris | Agencies

Spanish stalwart and winner of 13 titles at Roland Garros, Rafael Nadal, secured his 15th semifinal appearance at the French Open by edging arch-rival and world No. 1 Novak Djokovic in an epic quarterfinal showdown in the early hours of Wednesday.

The No.5 seed won a breath-taking tiebreak in the fourth set to wrap up victory over the top seed in four hours and 12 minutes at 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

"He was the better player in the important moments. He showed why he's a great champion. Staying there mentally tough and finishing the match the way he did. Congrats to him and his team. No doubt he deserved it," said Djokovic.

"In the end it has been a very emotional night for me. I'm still playing for nights like today," said Nadal.

"But it's just a quarterfinals match. So I didn't win anything. I just give myself a chance to be back on court in two days. Playing another semifinal here in Roland Garros means a lot to me," he added.

Next for Nadal is third seed Alexander Zverev, who overcame Spanish sensational teenager Carlos Alcaraz in another dramatic clash earlier on Tuesday. The German needed to dig deep to hold



# SWIATEK BEATS PEGULA, MOVES TO SEMIFINALS

Paris: World No.1 Iga Swiatek's unbeaten run extended to 33 straight matches with a victory over No.11 seed Jessica Pegula in the quarterfinals of the French Open here on Wednesday. The 21-year-old Swiatek moved into the French Open semifinals for the second time in her career with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over American Jessica Pegula in Paris. Swiatek's win also puts her in sole possession of third in the list of longest WTA winning streaks this century; she shared 32 with Justine Henin's effort between 2007-08. Swiatek was tested by Pegula in the 89-minute quarterfinal. The pair traded served breaks to start the match, and the American saved three match points in the second set before succumbing to defeat. In between, though, Swiatek won seven of eight games played to lead 6-3, 4-1. Swiatek totaled 30 winners to 28 unforced errors and broke Pegula five times on her 11 chances.



off Alcaraz's fight-back in the 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7) after three third set to clinch the win 6-4, hours and 18 minutes.

# 'No one remembers' bilateral T20I series, says Shastri

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India coach Ravi Shastri feels that the T20 format should only be restricted to World Cups -- every two years -- to create a bigger window for franchise-based T20 tournaments like the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Shastri, who was India's coach for the 2021 T20 World Cup, reckoned that "no one remembers" bilateral series of T20Is.

"Yes, absolutely, there's too much of bilateral stuff going on in T20 cricket," Shastri said on ESPNcricinfo's Runorder programme. "I've said that (before), even when I was the coach of India, I could see it happening in front of my eyes. It should go the football way, where, in T20 cricket, you just play the World Cup. Bilateral tournaments - no one remembers," he added.

"I don't remember a single game in the last six-seven years as coach of India, barring the World Cup. A team wins the World Cup, they



will remember it. Unfortunately, we didn't, so I don't remember that either. Where I am coming from is: you play franchise cricket around the globe; each country is allowed to have their franchise cricket, which is their domestic cricket, and then, every two years, you come and play a World Cup," Shastri said.

# Telangana announces Rs 2 crore each for Nikhat Zareen, Esha Singh

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Telangana government on Wednesday announced a cash prize of Rs 2 crore each to Nikhat Zareen for winning gold medal at World Boxing Championship and shooter Esha Singh for her superb performance at the recent ISSF Junior World Cup. Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao decided to honour the woman boxer and shooter for emerging as winners in the international events recently and thus bringing laurels to Telangana. On the instructions of the Chief Minister, the government issued orders in this regard.

Apart from cash prize, the government also decided to allot residential plots to the two sports persons at Banjara Hills or Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad.

Zareen, who hails from



Nizamabad district, became the fifth Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at world championship. On May 19, she defeated Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the 52-kg category to join the selected club of Indian women boxers.

Esha Singh won three gold medals in team events in the

recently-concluded ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany.

Meanwhile, the state government issued orders for a Rs 1 crore cash award to Kinnera Metla artist Darshanam Mogulaiah, a Padma Shri recipient. The Chief Minister had already announced the cash award.

# PAUL POGBA TO LEAVE MANCHESTER UNITED WHEN CONTRACT ENDS

London: Paul Pogba will leave Manchester United when his contract expires at the end of the month, the Premier League club have announced on Wednesday. "Everyone at the club would like to congratulate Paul on his successful career, and thank him for his contributions to Manchester United," the club said at the start of a lengthy send-off statement on the club website. "We wish him all the best for the next steps on a remarkable journey."

Pogba scored 39 goals in 233 first-team appearances for United, who he first joined from French club Le Havre in 2009.

The 29-year-old - a World Cup winner with France in 2018 - is now leaving United on a free transfer for the second occasion, with a return to Juve potentially on the cards. Paris St Germain, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester City are other clubs to have been linked with him in recent months.

The Old Trafford academy graduate Pogba joined Juventus as a free agent in 2012, only to return four years later for a then world-record fee of \$105 million (\$89 million).

# Pakistan start new IWC campaign with resounding victory against Sri Lanka

Karachi | Agencies

Pakistan began their ICC Women's Championship campaign on a high with an eight-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the first ODI of the three-match series at the Southend Cricket Club Stadium here on Wednesday.

For Pakistan, Ghulam Fatima was the star in the match, returning with impressive figures of 4 for 21 from her 10-over spell. Sri Lanka looked pale from the very start as they struggled to put up runs on the board.

A horrible mix-up in the fourth over resulted in the wicket of Hasini Perera, and though their captain Chamari Athapaththu managed to play some beautiful shots, she too perished before the end of the 15th over.

A third wicket followed soon after as the visitors slipped to 46/3. However, soon after their half-century stand in the 30th over, Pakistan struck back.

If not for Kavisha Dilhari's resilient 49\*, the visitors would have been in a more troublesome state. With Pakistan keeping things tight at the other end, Sri Lanka were bowled out for a sub-par 169 in the 48th over. Ghulam Fatima picked up four wickets, while Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal claimed two each.

Pakistan were cautious at the beginning of their chase of 170. Achini Kulasuriya provided the first breakthrough for Sri Lanka, dismissing opener Muneeba Ali for 14 in the eighth over.



Brief Scores:

Sri Lanka 169 in 47.5 overs (Kavisha Dilhari 49 not out, Prasadani Weerakkody 30; Ghulam Fatima 4-21, Fatima Sana 2-24) lost to Pakistan 170/2 in 41.5 overs (Sidra Ameen 76, Bismah Maroof 62 not out; Achini Kulasuriya 1-13, Oshadi Ranasinghe 1-35) by 8 wickets.

Unfortunately for the visitors, that was the only scalp they managed to get. Bismah arrived at the crease and, along with Sidra Ameen, got the hosts going. The batters brought up their respective half-centuries. With two runs needed to win, Sidra chopped one onto the stumps to fall for 76. But her massive 143-run stand with Bismah (62 not out) ensured that Pakistan secured a comfortable eight-wicket win in the 42nd over.

# ANDERSON, BROAD IN ENGLAND'S PLAYING XI FOR FIRST TEST VS NEW ZEALAND

London: England's seam-bowling stalwarts James Anderson and Stuart Broad have both been included in the Playing XI for the first Test against New Zealand, beginning at Lord's on June 2.

The England side will see seamer Matthew Potts make his Test debut, as the 23-year-old becomes the 704th men's Test capped player for the country.

New England skipper Ben Stokes will bat at No.6, with Joe Root to return to his preferred position at No.4, a move that will also likely bolster the middle-order.

With the hosts at the bottom of the nine-team World Test Championship (WTC) table, they would be looking at valuable WTC points in order to be in contention for the 2023 final.

It is expected that Broad and Anderson, who were left out of the three-Test series in the Caribbean, will share the new ball, while Potts will shoulder the responsibility later on.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has left out Harry Brook, despite the batter averaging 140 for Yorkshire in Division One of the County Championship.

Ahead of the Lord's Test, seamer Broad said that there "is an exciting feel" to the England side.

## ARERA PREMIER LEAGUE



Chandrashekar Azad House defeated Subhashchandra Bose house. Krishna Sareen of Azad house named as a Man of the Match. Saloni Chaturvedi, Editor, 'Aaj Ki Mansi' felicitated Krishna Sareen with trophy.

## FIH WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

# COMPETING AGAINST STRONG TEAMS WILL HELP US, SAYS DEFENDER DEEP GRACE EKKA

Bengaluru | Agencies

As the clock is ticking down for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 in Netherlands and Spain scheduled to begin on July 1, the anticipation is high among the players at the Indian women's hockey team camp at the SAI Centre here.

The Indian women's hockey team are placed in Pool B alongside England, China, and New Zealand. They will kick off their campaign against England on July 3 in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

With 30 days left for the quadrennial tournament to begin, there is a belief among the players in the camp that upcoming away matches of the



FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 against Belgium, Argentina, and the United States will be a great opportunity for them to prepare for the big

challenge.

Ahead of the prestigious event, the Indian women's hockey team will compete against Belgium in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 matches on June 11 and 12. They will next fly to the Netherlands to face off against Argentina on June 18 and 19.

On June 21 and 22, the Indian women's hockey team will face off against the United States. Indian Women's Hockey Team is currently occupying the third spot in the FIH Pro League table behind Argentina and the Netherlands.

Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka spoke on how getting more playing time against strong teams will help the

players before the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022.

"We have a busy schedule ahead of us in the lead-up to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, and we are looking forward to it because the more games we play against the stronger teams, the better prepared we will be for the tournament. Everyone is focusing on their fitness and paying more attention to the post-match recovery process to be prepared for the tournament," Deep Grace Ekka said.

"The upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 games are a great platform as they will also assist us in adapting to the conditions there," she added.



# Deepika Padukone

HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME AT

## CANNES 2022

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Deepika Padukone finished her stay in Cannes 2022 with a lovely white saree, which she wore to the film festival's closing ceremony. Deepika, who served on the famous Cannes jury, made a fashion statement on the red carpet over the festival's ten days. Needless to say, pulling off all of Deepika's dazzling looks was not a one-person job. The actress and her staff worked diligently throughout the day to make each red carpet event special and leave a lasting impact.

Deepika and her crew went above and beyond, from her stylist to photographers to her personal security, to ensure everything went properly.

On Wednesday, the actress took to Instagram to share a snapshot with her team, which appears to be a crazy hatter party.

Deepika and her team can be seen doing silly postures for the camera in an attempt to sneak into the frame and take a fun shot. The actress may be seen wearing the much-discussed green polka dot Louis Vuitton ensemble, which was hotly debated on social media. Deepika captioned the snapshot she shared, "A-Team! (heart emoji) We missed you, Mommy! You know who you are!"

Deepika served on the jury at Cannes 2022, where she saw various films and discussed with a panel of at least eight other jury members from across the world.



# Baseless says Kartik Aaryan on being a part of Housefull 5

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kartik Aaryan is enjoying unprecedented success at the box office with the release of his horror-comedy film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. He applauded for his performance in the flick.

To be noted, the film is a sequel to the 2007 film of the same name, starring Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan in lead roles. Recently, Kamaal Khan took to his social media and tweeted about Kartik Aaryan being a part of *Housefull 5*.

Putting the rumours to rest, Kartik Aaryan has reacted to this news and wrote, "Koi Mujhe Bhi poochega meri agli picture Kaun si hai (Will anyone even bother to ask me what my next film is)?" He added that the rumours are 'baseless'. Earlier this week, Kartik had shut down claims that he had hiked his fees after the success of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. On the work front, Kartik Aaryan has films like *Freddy*, *Captain India* and *Shehzada* in his kitty.



# RIP KK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular playback singer, Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK breathed his last on the night of May 31st. The singer was in Kolkata for a live performance. After the performance, he suddenly felt unwell. He was immediately rushed to a hospital nearby, where he was pronounced dead.

The news of his untimely demise took social media by storm with several Bollywood celebs and singers expressing shock.

Karan Johar, Akshay Kumar, and Armaan Malik, among other celebrities, penned heartfelt notes as they mourned KK's demise.

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar took to his Twitter handle and expressed grief over the death of KK, stating that he is 'extremely shocked and sad'.

Singer Armaan Malik called it a 'black year for Indian music'. "Black year for Indian music. Lata didi, bappi da, sidhu paaji and now KK sir. These losses.. all of them feel so personal (sic)," read his tweet.

Karan Johar wrote, "Heartbreaking news on the sudden passing away of such an incredible talent. RIP KK, the entertainment world has lost a true artist today. Om Shanti."

Singer and music composer Vishal Dadlani reminisced KK and wrote, "The tears won't stop. What a guy he was. What a voice, what a heart, what a human being. #KK is FOREVER!!!" Actor Varun Dhawan recalled how KK's voice shaped much of his childhood.

Karan Johar, Akshay Kumar & Others Mourn the demise of the singer



Janhvi Kapoor took Nach Punjaban Challenge in a Super Market

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Janhvi Kapoor is an actress who is well-known for her social media presence.

The actress is quite active on Instagram, and her updates keep her massive following engaged. Janhvi's postings tend to garner a lot of attention, whether it's a selfie, a good time with sister Khushi Kapoor, messages for her family, movie announcements, fun on the sets, and more. And now, the Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl actress has uploaded an amusing video after her *Bawaal* co-star Varun Dhawan issued her with an intriguing dare.

Janhvi was seen dancing at a supermarket to the hit single *Nach Punjaban* from Varun Dhawan's forthcoming film *JugJug Jeeyo*. The actress was observed copying the song's hook step and even invited shoppers in the store to join her for an impromptu performance. Janhvi claimed in the post that Varun had given her the dare to this 'bawaal' actor. "Super market mein #Bawaal only because u dared me to @varundvn ab bolo #JugJugJeeyo. #nachpunjaban". To be certain, Janhvi and Varun will be working together for the first time in Nitesh Tiwari's forthcoming film *Bawaal*. The couple was recently sighted at the Mumbai airport on their way to Europe to shoot the flick. *Bawaal* will be released on April 7, 2023. In the meanwhile, Varun is promoting *JugJug Jeeyo* alongside Kiara Advani, Neetu Kapoor, and Anil Kapoor. The film, directed by Raj Mehta, will be released in theatres on June 24 of this year. The family drama will centre on post-marriage affairs and is one of the most anticipated films of 2022.



# Super hero got a Super star Fan: Shahid Kapoor

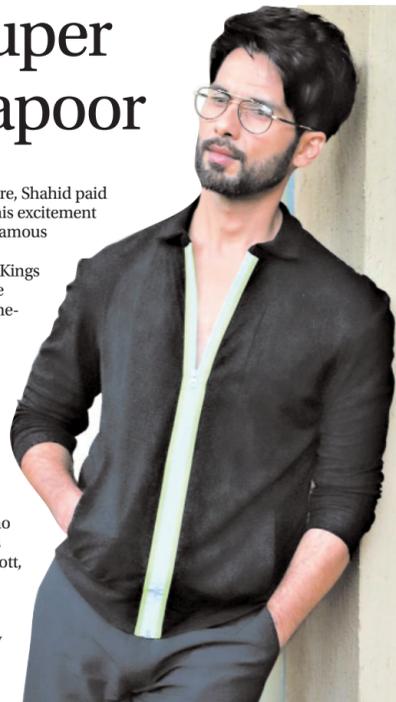
Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the third season of the Emmy nominated series awaits its premiere, Shahid paid homage to the series as he took to the streets of Mumbai to show his excitement for the series and unveiled a flaming stunt akin to *Homelander*, a famous character from the show during a promotional event for the show.

The actor made a grand entry to the jaw-dropping b-boying moves of Kings United dance group performing to a foot-tapping, high-energy song. The daredevil actor then unveiled a curtained hoarding through an adrenaline-inducing stunt. The billboard had the image of the lead Supe from *The Seven - Homelander*, which shot out a laser targeting a nearby car.

Speaking of the eye-grabbing super-hero like stunt, Shahid said, "I absolutely love wacky, dark humoured and action-packed entertainment. When I first heard about 'The Boys', I was immediately intrigued. I am thrilled to present this brilliantly bizarre show in my own capacity in partnership Amazon Prime Video."

"This is my own little crazy ode to the genius makers. The trailer has me hooked and I can't wait to binge all three seasons", he added. The series is based on the comic book of the same name by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson. It has been developed by showrunner Eric Kripke, who also serves as writer and executive producer. Season 3 of 'The Boys' stars Karl Urban, Jack Quaid, Antony Starr, Erin Moriarty, Dominique McElligott, Jessie T. Usher, Laz Alonso, Chace Crawford, Tomer Capone, Karen Fukuhara, Nathan Mitchell, Colby Minifie, Claudia Doumit, and Jensen Ackles. The new season of the anti-hero drama will return with three gripping new episodes on June 3 on OTT followed by one episode every week, ending with a season finale on July 8. The series will be available on the streaming platform in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



# Karan Grover marries longtime girlfriend and actress Poppy Jabbar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Karan Grover of 'Udaariyaan' fame got married to actress Poppy Jabbar at a traditional Sikh ceremony in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, May 31. The actor took to his social media handle to share a picture of the marriage. He looked stunning in the pictures in his cream-coloured sherwani and turban tied around his head. Poppy complimented his look by sporting a lehenga with a similar colour palette, along with a heavy choker necklace and a 'maang teeka'. Karan wrote: "MayDay!! MayDay!! We finally did it 31.05.2022". May Day, incidentally, is the call sign of pilots in distress! Poppy, who appeared in the web series 'Broken But Beautiful' and has acted in some Punjabi movies, first met Karan in a car parking area and they soon started dating. Congratulatory messages started flowing in from their industry friends as soon as they went public with pictures of their wedding. Debina Bonnerjee said: "Heyyyyyy ... Finally ... congratulations to both of you ... God bless you." Abhishek Malik, Vishal Singh, Shiny Doshi of 'Pandya Store', Sudhanshu Pandey of 'Anupamaa', Priyank Sharma, Keerti Kelkar and Ridhi Dogra were among those who congratulated the couple.



# INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ananya Pandey