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Very blessed that I am getting a chance to play for India again...

## MAGH PURNIMA

On the occasion on Magh Purnima, large numbers of Hindu devotees took holy dips at Har Ki pauri in Haridwar on Sunday, Feb. 05, 2023. Magh Purnima has special importance in Hindu religion because the month of Magh is considered the month of Lord Vishnu. Taking a bath in the Ganges on this occasion is considered auspicious.

## Former Pakistan military ruler Pervez Musharraf passes away in Dubai

**Islamabad** | Agencies

Former Pakistan military ruler General (retd) Pervez Musharraf, who had been living in Dubai since 2016, breathed his last on Sunday, local media reported.

The 79-year-old former president and chief of army staff was suffering from amyloidosis, a rare disease caused by a build-up of an abnormal protein called amyloid in organs and tissues throughout the body, according to his family. The build-up of amyloid proteins (deposits) can make it difficult for the organs and tissues to work properly, The Express Tribune reported.Musharraf assumed the post of Chief Executive after imposing martial law in the country in 1999 and served as the president of Pakistan from 2001 to 2008, The Express Tribune reported.

The former president's family moved from New Delhi to Karachi in 1947. He joined the Pakistan Army in 1964 and was a graduate of the Army Staff and Command College, Quetta.

## KERALA POLICE ARREST 2,069 CRIMINALS UNDER 'OPERATION AAG'

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Kerala Police in a major operation across the state have arrested 2,069 'anti-social' elements under 'Operation Aag'. The raids started on Saturday evening and are continuing till now.

The raid is being primarily held to arrest those who were placed under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA). Some are absconding while others are those who have not appeared even after arrest warrants were served.Those who are arrested under non-bailable charges will be remanded in judicial custody while the others will be placed in preventive custody for more than 24 hours and will be let scot-free after questioning.

The state police had earlier conducted 'Operation Kaaval' for cracking down on anti-social elements which were later discontinued. According to police, most arrests took place in Thiruvananthapuram with the state capital district accounting for 297 arrests.

## Agreement between UP police & Meta saved 2 lives in a week

**Lucknow** | Agencies

An agreement signed between Meta (Facebook's parent company) and Uttar Pradesh Police has helped save two people's lives in the state in a span of less than a week.

One of them was a college student in the Ambedkarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, who late Friday night said she was going to die by suicide in an Instagram post, posting pictures of pills she was going to pop up.

The other occurred in Ghaziabad on January 31, when a man, as he prepared to hang himself from a ceiling fan, beamed a live telecast of the act on Instagram.

In both cases, the tech giant managed to scupper their attempts by alerting in time the local police, who then traced the two people and stopped them from dying suicide."Under the prevailing agreement between Uttar Pradesh Police and Facebook from March 2022, if any person posts something related to suicide or self-harm on Facebook or Instagram, then Meta Hqs USA immediately sends an alert to the social media centre of PHQ UP Police through phone and email," Rahul Srivastav, Additional Superintendent of Police ATS/In-charge of Social Media Centre of UP Police, said on Sunday. He added that more than 10 lives have been saved so far.

In Ambedkarnagar incident, Meta sent an alert to the Social Media Centre of UP Police at 11.37 pm with her details, after which police reached the woman's place in 15 minutes, thwarted her pursuit and took her family into confidence, Srivastav said. On the directions of Additional Director General, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, Superintendent of Police of Ambedkarnagar Ajit Kumar Sinha has deputed a female officer, Rukmani Verma, to counsel the girl.

In the Ghaziabad incident, after receiving an alert from the Social Media Centre of UP Police, Vijayanagar Police Station Inspector Anita Chauhan reached the spot within 13 minutes and prevented the man from killing himself. The man was depressed after losing 90,000 in a business. The Ghaziabad Police counselled the youth and also spoke to his family.

"UP Police is making diverse use of social media for the cause of public service offering a bouquet of online services. We have a dedicated and well-trained team of more than 500+ police personnel who work round-the-clock to render any kind of assistance," he said.

## A painting session for seniors at Mumbai Urban Art Festival by St+Art India

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

Asian Paints Ltd. and St+art India Foundation's Mumbai Urban Art Festival team up with Goodfellows, India's first companionship startup that organises meaningful events for elderly members of society who live alone. Their start-up, led by Shantanu Naidu and other recent graduates who have undergone rigorous testing for emotional intelligence and empathy, focuses on the deep connections between generations. They've also gotten a small investment from people like Ratan Tata and Hiranandani, among others.

The artists from St+art India and the "Grandpals" from Goodfellows collaborated for a one-of-a-kind event at the Mumbai Urban Art Festival on February 1, 2023, where they painted an entire wall at Sassoon Docks. Due to the fact that seniors are frequently excluded from urban artistic experiences, this collaboration gave them the chance to not only observe but also participate in the creative process. A "good fellow" supported each senior. And just like every other Goodfellows occasion, this one also made them smile.

## Men dance with rifles, fire, while drinking on Ghaziabad elevated road

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

The elevated road in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad is again in the news after a video of a group of men in luxury cars, carrying guns, and drinking alcohol in the middle of the road went viral. The police have identified the car owner.

The video, shot on the elevated road of Ghaziabad under the Indirapuram police station area, is reportedly from Saturday night. A group of men can be seen brandishing rifles while drinking alcohol, while loud music plays from the car. Another video shows a man loading bullets in the rifle and firing in the air from the vehicle, while driving. The man was allegedly firing the gun while drunk, endangering lives.

The police scanned the car's number plates and identified the driver as Raja Chaudhary, a resident of Chiranjeev Vihar. A case has been registered against him and the police are trying to locate him, they said.

The police had in December last year arrested a person for dancing and blocking the same road. In a viral video, a man and two women were seen dancing after parking the car on the highway, hampering the movement of traffic. The Ghaziabad elevated road, inaugurated in March 2018, connects UP Gate on the Delhi-Ghaziabad border with Raj Nagar Extension in the Uttar Pradesh city, drastically cutting travel time and enhancing commuting comfort.

## DEARNESS ALLOWANCE LIKELY TO BE HIKED BY 4%: REPORTS

**New Delhi:** The government is likely to raise the dearness allowance (DA) for employees and pensioners by 4 per cent, according to reports.

The DA hike will be effective from January 1, 2023, however it needs to be cleared by the Union Cabinet first. If hiked, this would take the DA to 42 per cent from the existing 38 per cent.

DA, paid to employees as insulation from inflation, is revised periodically twice a year on a half-yearly basis, and it is calculated as a percentage of the basic salary of employees.

## Centre bans over 200 Chinese apps

**Following constant complaints against Chinese loan and betting apps, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has started the process of banning 138 betting apps and 94 lending apps that had Chinese links, on the instructions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

According to the information, the MeitY was recently instructed by the MHA to ban such apps, which operate through a third party link.

Sources said that all these apps were found violating Section 69 of the IT Act and contained material which was deemed as a threat to India's sovereignty and integrity.

As per sources, these apps are used to trap financially strapped people in a debt trap, by increasing their interest on loans up to 3,000 per cent. Many such people who were caught in the debt trap committed suicide when the people working for the apps mentally harassed them.

The issue came to the fore after several cases of suicides by borrowers of these apps were seen in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

On the other hand, the Chinese apps can potentially misuse server-side security by using them as spying tools as they have access to the important data of many Indians.

Access to such data can be used for espionage on a large scale, due to which all such apps are being considered as a threat to the country.

The MHA had started investigating some Chinese loan giving apps around six months ago. It was revealed that 94 such apps were available on the e-store and operated through third party links.

Around that time, security agencies had asked the Ministry to impose a ban on such betting and loan lending apps. Significantly, the Centre had banned 54 Chinese apps that posed as a threat to the country's security in 2022.

## *PM Modi to inaugurate India Energy Week Today*

**Bengaluru** | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 on Monday in Bengaluru. During the programme, the Prime Minister will participate in a roundtable interaction with global oil and gas CEOs. He will also launch multiple initiatives in the field of green energy.

The IEW, which is a G20 event, will be held between February 6 to 8, in Bengaluru. It is aimed at showcasing India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse. The event will see the presence of more than 30 ministers from across the world.

Over 30,000 delegates, 1,000 exhibitors and 500 speakers will gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities of India's energy future.Meanwhile Modi will launch the E20 fuel at 84 retail outlets of oil marketing companies in 12 states. E20 is a blend of 20 per cent ethanol with petrol. The government aims to achieve 20 per cent blending of ethanol by 2025.

Oil marketing companies are setting up ethanol plants to facilitate this process. The Prime Minister will also flag off a green mobility rally for creating awareness about clean fuels. He will also dedicate a twin-cook top model of Indian Oil's indoor solar cooking system -- a revolutionary indoor solar cooking solution that works on both solar and auxiliary energy sources simultaneously.

# POWER MINISTER URGES G20 MEMBERS TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES UNITEDLY

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

Power Minister R.K. Singh on Sunday called upon G20 member countries to join together in countering the challenges posed by global warming and climate change.

Delivering the keynote address at the first Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) meeting in Bengaluru, he said that India now stands committed to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.

He said that the country also aims to achieve close to 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

Noting that India has been ranked amongst the top five performing countries in the Climate Change Performance Index, the Power Minister said that the country's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are far below the world average of 6.3 tCO2e in 2020.

Various energy saving schemes of the government have led to 267.9 million tonnes of CO2 reduction per year, resulting in an estimated cost savings of $18.5 billion, he added.

# ADGP Kashmir reviews security, law & order situation

**Srinagar** | Agencies

Additional Director General Police (ADGP) Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar visited Police district Awantipora in South Kashmir and chaired a review meeting regarding security scenario, anti-terrorist operations, law and order and anti-drug drive, police said on Sunday.

During the meeting, the ADGP appreciated the efforts of the police personnel to maintain law and order in the Police district.

"During the meeting, he took stock of the overall security situation and counter-insurgency operations. He emphasised upon the officers to adopt a professional approach while dealing with counter-insurgency operations. He also urged officers to strengthen the general security grid and ensure great synergy and coordination among the agencies working on the ground. He also emphasized upon the officers to keep strict vigil over the terrorist associates and take all necessary measures under law against them," a statement by Jammu and Kashmir Police said.

"ADGP also directed the officers to complete investigation of pending cases on priority. He also laid stress on strengthening the police-public relations, service-oriented policing which will help in gaining the confidence and trust of the general public."

# AIMPLB opposes UCC, says it is against spirit of constitution

**Lucknow** | Agencies

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) met here on Sunday and discussed various issues including the Gyanvapi dispute, uniform civil code and other issues related to Muslims.

The Board discussed the issue of uniform civil code and said that the fundamental rights provide freedom of religion to all citizens and bringing the uniform civil code would deprive citizens of the privileges given to them by the constitution.

"Such a code is neither relevant nor beneficial for a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-lingual country like India," the Board said in a release.

The AIMPLB also appealed to all to preserve religious freedom and personal laws. The Board said that the Places of Worship Act 1992 should be adhered to in word and spirit in national interest.

It also urged the courts to take note of atrocities on minorities and weaker sections since the judiciary is the last hope of all citizens.

The Board further objected to the practice of putting down houses and implicating the accused even before law is allowed to take its course.

The protection of Waqf and how it can be used for education of the poor and Muslims, bettering the lives of women and increasing their participation in social life was also discussed.

The meeting was attended by All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi.AIMPLB member Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali said issues faced by the community including conversion, and the Gyanvapi case were also discussed. The AIMPLB has 51 executive members including AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi.

# PRADHAN SLAMS ODISHA CM OVER LAW & ORDER SITUATION

**Bhubaneswar** | Agencies

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, on Sunday slammed Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Speaking to the media here, Pradhan said: "Naba Das, an influential Cabinet Minister, was murdered on January 29. However, no one has any clue about why a police officer killed him."

"The Chief Minister, who also holds the Home portfolio, has remained silent on this incident while the DGP is trying to shrug off his responsibility. This tells a lot about the law and order situation in the state," Pradhan said.

Raising questions about a Crime Branch probe under the monitoring of a retired judge of Orissa High Court, he said: "The judge was not appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. There is no clarity about the responsibility and power of the retired judge."

"In between, some people (Biju Janata Dal leaders) are saying that a Crime Branch investigation is going on. But the Crime Branch investigation is totally unacceptable. The case should be investigated by a third party," said the Union Minister.

Murder of the Minister is not just a single case, many other law and order cases have happened in the state, he said, referring to Mahanga double murder case and Anand Tappo murder case and the alleged sexual harassment case against a BJD MLA, where FIRs were registered only after the intervention of Orissa High Court.

"Only two days ago, a Balasore sub-collector and his driver were attacked by the sand mafia, when the officer was going to stop illegal sand mining. All these incidents show 'lawlessness' in Odisha," said the Union Minister.

"What is going on in Odisha? Who is holding the power? Who is ruling the state?" he said.

Meanwhile, senior Congress MLA Narasingha Mishra demanded a Court-monitored SIT probe into the murder case.

"We do not have any faith in the Odisha police. Though several capable officers are there in the state, the government is not allowing them to work independently," Mishra said.

Raising questions on the ongoing Crime Branch investigation, the Congress leader said: "When the bullet had pierced into the heart and lungs, the Minister might have died on the spot. Why was a drama created by air-lifting him to Bhubaneswar?"

The Chief Minister should step down and appoint a capable person as Home minister, he added.

Commenting on Pradhan's statement, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said: "In the BJP-ruled states, there have been very sensational cases, whether it is liquor tragedy or bridge collapse leading to the deaths of many people and also crimes against women. People demanded judicial enquiry but in most cases it was never done.

"The only intention of Pradhan is to politicise every criminal case and create a political narrative," he said.

"The state is transparent and has given this case to be monitored by a High Court judge nominated by the Orissa High Court. What's there to hide for us?" Patra questioned.

# *NIA arrests 2 in connection with Phulwari Sharif terror module case*

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested two persons from Bihar in connection with a case related to the busting of a suspected terror module in the Phulwari Sharif area of Patna, an official said.

According to an official, the NIA conducted search operations at eight locations, following which two persons, identified as -- Tanveer Raza a.k.a. Barkati and Mohammed Abid a.k.a. Aryan, were arrested.

Earlier, several persons were arrested and incriminating articles and documents related to the banned organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) were seized.

"The raids were conducted in Bihar's East Champaran district on Saturday while the two persons were arrested on Sunday. We have learnt that they had hatched a conspiracy to carry out targeted killings. The arrested individuals had arranged weapons and ammunition to carry out the killings. A recce was also conducted," an NIA official said, adding multiple digital devices were also seized during the raids.

"The arms and ammunition had been handed over to a PFI trainer, Yakoob, who had been conducting training sessions for PFI cadres. A few days ago, Yakoob had posted a derogatory and inflammatory Facebook video, which was aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony. Yakoob is currently on the run," the official said.

The case pertains to involvement of PFI and its members in "unlawful activities". The PFI members were suspected to have assembled to discuss their plans in the Phulwari Sharif area of Patna.

The case was initially registered at Bihar's Phulwari Sharif police station on July 12, 2022, and later on, the probe into the matter was taken over by the NIA.

# J&K Tourism Pavilion at OTM Mumbai attracts overwhelming response

**Srinagar** | Agencies

The three-day long Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) -- Mumbai, 2023, concluded. Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Pavilion attracts an overwhelming response from the visitors, an official statement said on Sunday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department had participated in this year's OTM in a big way as part of its extensive tourism promotional campaign being held across major cities of the country.As many as 112 co-exhibitors and participants from Jammu and Kashmir attended the travel extravaganza drawing thousands of tourists, holiday-makers, travel trade buyers and tour organising professionals to the Jammu and Kashmir pavilion. The Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion set up by the Tourism Department offered the most-engaging experiences for the travel consumers and trade visitors as well as the co- participants from various states and union territories, besides international delegates.

"Hundreds of travel trade fraternity members from Mumbai, Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Amravati, Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and even from some foreign countries visited the J&K Pavilion and interacted with the members of the official delegation and co-exhibitors from the UT," an official statement added.

"The varied tourism products introduced by the Department during the last two years, post-Covid experiences and the new initiatives captivated the attention of the travel representatives and professionals alike."

The interactions consisted of detailed presentations, various short films on known and off-beat destinations of Jammu and Kashmir and discussions on sustainable inbound and outbound travel for the year.

# Chennai Police to install 200 more ANPR cameras to curb traffic violations

**Chennai** | Agencies

The Greater Chennai Police is to finalise the tender for installing 200 more Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to curb traffic violations. The tender for the same would be finalised on Monday.

According to a senior traffic police officer, these cameras would be installed at 50 different locations under Chennai Police limits. The ANPR cameras can automatically detect those jumping traffic signals and using mobile phones while driving in the process of expanding coverage under the Traffic Regulation Observation Zone (TROZ).

ANPR cameras are now linked to the VAHAN portal and this will help generate e-challans automatically in the name of traffic violators. A call centre will be dedicated for pulling up those who do not pay the fine in the stipulated period.

An Intelligent Video Management System (IVMS) is linked to the ANPR cameras and this will monitor, detect and record any attempts of vehicle theft on the roads.

Police said that if the IVMS detects vehicle theft, automatic alerts will be generated as voice calls and SMS and WhatsApp messages to the nearby police station.

Officers in the rank of inspectors and above will also be alerted through SMS and WhatsApp messages and calls.

# *Digital way to track pregnant women, children for vaccination in Himachal*

**Shimla** | Agencies

As a pilot project in Himachal Pradesh's Solan and Sirmaur districts, the government has launched U-WIN portal, a digital way to facilitate tracking every pregnant woman and children for vaccination.

Under the Centre-sponsored project, these districts have been included among the selected ones in the country.

The aim of the project is to increase the immunity of children and prevent them from various diseases. Complete information about maternal and child vaccinations will be available on the portal.

Himachal Pradesh has an estimated target of vaccinating over one lakh new born babies and about 1.27 lakh pregnant women annually.

The portal has been developed on the lines of CoWIN portal. The data of all vaccination beneficiaries will be available on the portal from time to time after the birth of the child.

All government and private hospitals are also being linked with the U-WIN portal.

All the beneficiaries will get the information regarding their vaccination through SMS. The prominent feature of the portal is that after the completion of the vaccination process, the beneficiary will also get the vaccination certificate.

To get the beneficiary registered on the U-WIN portal, an Aadhaar card and mobile number will have to be provided at the vaccination centre.

The state government, through the Health Department, vaccinates children against diseases that mainly include rotavirus, tuberculosis, measles, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis-B, etc.

For the vaccination, there are 390 cold chains in the state. As a pilot project, 42 cold chains in Solan and Sirmaur districts will be covered under the U-WIN portal.

Currently, an estimated 43,000 beneficiaries will get benefits annually through the U-WIN portal.

An estimated 11,000 children in the age group of 0-1 year and 13,000 pregnant women in Solan district, while 9,100 children and 10,000 pregnant women in Sirmaur district will get benefit of the portal.

# Jolt for BJP in Bengal as another party MLA joins Trinamool

**Kolkata** | Agencies

Ahead the forthcoming panchayat polls in West Bengal, the BJP on Sunday received a major jolt as another party MLA shifted to the ruling Trinamool Congress.

On Sunday afternoon, BJP legislator from Alipurduar constituency in Alipurduar district Suman Kanjilal reached the office of Trinamool's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee in south Kolkata and joined the ruling party.

Banerjee himself handed over the party flag to Kanjilal - the sixth BJP legislator and the third from north Bengal to join Trinamool after the 2021 assembly elections. With this, the total number of BJP MLAs in the Assembly has come down to 68.

The Trinamool, in a statement. said that Kanjilal had joined them rejecting the anti- people policies of BJP as well as to be a part of the development activities under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Although Kanjilal himself had not made any comment on his action, his close associates said that his differences with BJP Lok Sabha member John Barla were the reasons for his decision to quit the party and join Trinamool. State General Secretary and spokesman Kunal Ghosh told media persons that Kanjilal was the beginning and more elected BJP representatives are keen to join the state's ruling party. "We have asked them to wait for some time," Ghosh said.

# VIKAS YATRA CAMPAIGN WILL CHANGE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE : CM CHOUHAN

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Vikas Yatra, which started in the state yesterday on Sant Ravidas Jayanti, is a campaign to change the lives of the people. Sant Ravidas was a wonderful saint. Our resolution is the welfare of the poor. For this purpose, such families, which were deprived of taking advantage of the government schemes, were identified by conducting Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan in every village and ward in the state. Under the campaign, work is being done to distribute sanction letters to 83 lakh eligible persons. Approval letters of 38 different schemes have been distributed to 3 lakh 77 thousand new beneficiaries of Chambal division. All these beneficiaries will start getting the benefits of the schemes. Important action will be taken to identify the remaining eligible persons and connect them with the schemes even during the Vikas Yatra. Chief Minister Chouhan participated in the launch of Vikas Yatra in Bhind district, distribution of acceptance letters in Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan and dedication-foundation stone laying programmes of development works. The Chief Minister flagged off the Vikas Yatra chariots. Also unveiled the song of Vikas Yatra. The programme started with Kanya-pujan and the picture of Sant Ravidas ji was garlanded and floral tributes were paid. CM Chouhan announced to approve Medical College in Bhind and make Bhind Municipality a Municipal Corporation. He said that the birthplace of Sant Ravidas ji will also be linked with the Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana. The CM said that in the Teerth Darshan Yojana, from the month of March, the elderly will now be taken for pilgrimage by air.

# Economy is not affected by shares of any company taking dip: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

**Union minister for water resources Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has rubbished the talks of the Indian economy getting potentially impacted following the decline of share value of Adani Group.**

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

Replying to a question asked by the media during the press conference held at BJP office here on Sunday noon, he said "The economy is not affected by the fall of shares of any one company".

He also talked about the Ken Betwa river link project and said that the work on the project is underway at satisfactory level. "The environmental clearances have been completed. As far as wildlife clearances are concerned, 80 percent work has been done", he said.

He also shed light on the union budget presented by union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and dubbed it as an impactful budget. He further talked about various provisions of the budget which are going to support India in resurrecting the economy after the pandemic.

# Cop thrashes man for recording his video

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

A Madhya Pradesh Police officer was caught on camera assaulting a man in front of his family during a routine traffic check in Shahdol on Sunday. The video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

According to the police, the man and his family, from Chhattisgarh, were on their way to attend the funeral of a relative in Shahdol. They were signalled to stop near a checkpoint by police officials. Due to its high speed, the vehicle skidded to a stop a little bit ahead of the checkpoint. Following this, police officials checked the vehicle's papers and found out that the pollution certificate was missing. As the cops began the procedure of issuing a challan, the man driving the vehicle brought out his mobile phone and started recording everything. Agitated by the act, an inspector, identified as Abhinav Rai, rained down punches on the man. The man's family members and others present at the scene had to intervene to put a stop to the beating.

According to senior Shahdol police officer Mukesh Dixit, the matter reached the police station and both parties mutually agreed to settle the dispute.

## *UPSET OVER EX'S MARRIAGE, INDORE NURSE INJECTS SELF WITH ANESTHESIA, DIES*

**Indore:** A 27-year-old nurse allegedly died by suicide after injecting herself an overdose of anaesthesia due to a failed love affair in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said on Sunday.

Pooja Ganjan allegedly injected herself with an overdose of anaesthesia at her house two days ago, inspector Sanjay Shukla of Aerodrome police station said.

The victim's body was handed over to her family after a post-mortem on Saturday, he said.

The woman left behind a two-page note, in which she said that she was in a relationship with a colleague in the hospital. But he took up a job in another medical facility and married another woman, Shukla said quoting the letter. In a statement to the police, the victim's former boyfriend claimed that while he did have an affair with the woman, he had made it clear to her that they would not tie the knot, as his family had fixed his marriage elsewhere, the official added.

# 3 MEMBERS OF BANNED GROUP PFI ARRESTED: COPS

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Police have arrested three members of the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) on charges of conspiring against the government and indulging in unlawful activities, an official said on Sunday.

With this, the police have taken into custody four members of the banned outfit in the last couple of days. In the latest action, two PFI members were arrested in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal on Saturday while the third one was arrested after being brought on production warrant from Aurangabad (in Maharashtra) in connection with a case registered by the MP Police's Special Task Force last year, the official said.

The three accused have been identified as Gulam Rasool Shah, a resident of Dhar district, Sajid Khan aka Gulam Nabi, a resident of Indore, and Parvez Khan, from Aurangabad, he said.

They were charged under Indian Penal Code Sections 121A (conspiracy to wage war against government), 153B (assertions prejudicial to national integration) and 120B (criminal conspiracy), besides provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," the official said.

Parvez Khan was in a jail in Aurangabad and was brought to Bhopal on Saturday on a production warrant, he said.

Gulam Rasool was an active member of the PFI and used to inspire people to work for the organisation by visiting various areas of the state, he said. Gulam Nabi was looking after the PFI's financial management Madhya Pradesh, the official said. The three accused were produced before a local court which sent them in police remand till February 8.

# Minor boy raped 58-year-old woman & killed her with a sickle: cops

**Team Absolute** | Rewa

A 16-year-old boy allegedly raped a 58-year-old woman and murdered her by gagging and hitting her brutally in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, a crime suspected to the fallout of a mobile phone theft two years ago, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on the night of January 30 in Kailashpuri village under Hanumana police station limits.

The boy allegedly stuffed a plastic bag and a cloth into her mouth, dragged her to an under-construction part of the building where she resided, hit on her head and other body parts with a sickle and also caused injuries to her private parts with a stick, an official said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vivek Lal said an information was received on February 1 that the body of a 58-year-old woman was lying at an under-construction building.

The police and forensic team reached the spot and it was found the woman was brutally murdered by an unidentified person, he said. On the basis of tip-off from informers and the investigation, the police zeroed-in on the boy living in her neighbourhood.

The woman's family members also expressed suspicion on the boy, who used to come to their house to watch television two years back, the official said. The woman's family had accused the boy of stealing a mobile phone two years ago and the boy wanted to take revenge for it, he said.

The boy wanted to take revenge because of the embarrassment he faced in the village following the theft charge, the official said. On January 30, when the victim's son and husband were out of station, the boy entered her house. He allegedly overpowered the woman sleeping on a cot and when she tried to scream, he stuffed a polythene bag and a cloth into her mouth, the police official said.

After tying her to a door, the boy allegedly hit the woman repeatedly and raped her when she became motionless after being suffocated, the official said. He also hit on the victim's head, hands, throat and chest with a sickle and caused injuries to her private parts with a stick, Lal said.

The boy later fled after taking away Rs 1,000 cash and jewellery kept in the woman's house, he said. "After being detained, the boy admitted to the crime during interrogation," the official said.

# Case registered against woman who branded 3-month-old girl by hot iron rod in Shahdol

**Several block level officers transferred**

**Team Absolute** | Shahdol

A case under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act) has been registered against the woman healer who performed branding on a 3 month old girl in Shahdol, on Sunday. The victim girl died after alleged 'daagna' (branded with hot iron rod) took place in village Kathautiya under Singhpur police station of Shahdol district on Saturday night.

The victim was allegedly branded 24 times in the name of treatment and was taken out of her grave on Friday for conducting post-mortem.

The district administration swung in action after the incident came to light and terminated the services of ASHA worker and ASHA assistant. The administration also transferred the sector medical officer, block education and extension officer, lady health visitors (LHV), BPM, block community mobiliser, two community health officers and two RBSK medical officers of Sohagpur block. Additionally, a show cause notice has been served to the block medical officer, YK Paswan. "As soon as the incident was reported, I got in touch with the doctors. They said that the reason for her death was acute pneumonia. Such malpractices have been reported in Shahdol for a long time. The administration has been making every possible effort to put an end to such malpractices. However, despite such efforts, some incidents do take place. We will ensure that such incidents are not repeated," Shahdol Collector Vandana Vaidya said.

The collector further added that another similar incident has been identified in which the parents of a child of Samtapur village had shifted their ailing child to a private hospital. Before shifting the child to a private hospital, the parents had taken her to a healer and branded her. Earlier, the kid was admitted to a government hospital.

## *ELDERLY WOMAN'S HANDS TIED, THRASHED, RECORDED ON CAMERA*

**Bhopal:** An elderly woman was tied with a rope and thrashed by a group of people while hurling casteist remarks at her at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district. A video of the incident has been shared widely on social media.

A man and two women have been named in a first information report, or FIR, filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, which severely punishes ill-treatment to tribes. In the police complaint, the woman said some people in her neighbourhood picked a fight with her for no reason and also abused her verbally with casteist comments. She lives alone in her house at village Hirapur. Her son is a labourer in Indore. The woman said her neighbour, Ganesh, came to her house after drinking and started hurling casteist abuse on Friday. When she stopped him, his wife and mother also reached there and dragged her out, according to the police complaint. "All three dragged me out and tied my hands behind my back. Then they thrashed me.A video of the incident shows the elderly woman being given water from a metal cup while her hands were still tied behind her back. Police officer Manish Khatri said they have filed a case and are investigating the incident.

**Khelo India Youth Games 2022**

# CAN ADRIYAN KARMAKAR, GO ONE BETTER THAN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER

**Team Absolute** | Bhopal

Joydeep Karmakar, who had missed out on an Olympics bronze in the 50 metres rifle prone event in London 2012, was following the rifle shooting competitions at the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 with a lot of interest here on Sunday. His interest was expected as Joydeep Karmakar is currently the chief rifle coach of the Indian shooting team. But there was a personal reason too for his interest -- his 17-year-old son Adriyan Karmakar was competing at the M.P Shooting Academy ranges here.

Adriyan, however, showed no signs of any pressure as he emerged victorious in the tough 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) Boys competition at the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Madhya Pradesh (KIYG). He got the better of Rajasthan's Manvendra Singh Shekhawat 16-12. "The competition was lesser of a challenge today," he gushed after the competition ended. "As circumstances presented themselves, I had to eventually arrive at the range on a tractor and made it just two minutes before the reporting time."Speaking about the pressure of being the son of such an accomplished rifle shooter, Adriyan said, "Yes pressure will be there but to be honest with you, I have grown used to it. I now know how to separate my game from what people say. When I focus on my Shooting, I try to cut off myself from the real world," said the cherubic Adriyan.

## *BUSHRA KHAN'S SAGA OF HUMAN GRIT AND COURAGE ON TRACK*

**Bhopal:** The saga of Bushra Khan, the 3,000 metres girl's winner from Madhya Pradesh on the second day of the athletics event of the ongoing Khelo India Youth Games here is one of extraordinary grit and courage against all odds. No wonder, there was an extra element of warmth and spontaneity among the officials and bureaucrats of the host state as the pocket-sized girl with beaded hair turned up for the opening ceremony. Bushra's winning effort of 10:04.29 secs may still have been a little far off the existing youth national mark of 9:50.54 (set by Seema Mangalgiri in 2017) - but one has to doff the hat to her for the resilience of the 18-year-old.

EDITOR'S SPECS

## BJP, Cong to woo women voters in 2023 MP polls

*The upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh are extremely crucial for both the Opposition Congress and the ruling BJP which are busy formulating poll strategies.*

*Both the parties are specially targeting the female voters, which form half of the population in the state, through their respective election campaigns. The total population in the state is 5,39,87,876, of which male voters are 2,79,62,711 while the number of female voters is 2,60,23,733. Therefore, of the total number of people polling in the state, the BJP and Congress are going all-out to influence the women voters towards them respectively.*

*On the one hand, the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh government has increased the participation of women in urban and rural civic body elections; while on the other hand, a provision has been made for including reservation in government jobs. Apart from this, efforts are underway to make women self-help groups financially 'self-reliant' or 'Aatmanirbhar' under the Madhya Pradesh Livelihood Mission. Now state CM Chouhan has announced the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' for poor and middle-class women. Under this scheme, Rs 1,000 per month will be deposited in the bank accounts of every woman in the state.*

*On the one hand the BJP and the Madhya Pradesh government are trying to woo women, on the other hand the Congress has announced a separate election manifesto for women before the upcoming state Assembly elections. This poll manifesto will be titled 'Priyadarshini' named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. There will be special provisions for women in this poll manifesto, including issues like women safety, socio-economic strengthening of women, etc. Political analysts believe that both parties are trying to influence women voters, but the real question is whether both the parties will field women legislators in the upcoming state Assembly elections on the basis of their total population in the state.*

# ANTIQUATED LOOMS PUSH WEAVERS' VILLAGE PATWA TOLI INTO STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

**Patwa Toli of Manpur block in Gaya district, called the 'Manchester' of Bihar, was once identified as a village of weavers. "The situation has drastically changed," said 55-year-old Jumman Ansari, who is a worker in a powerloom here.**

MANOJ PATHAK

The small weavers and the powerloom owners have been facing a tough time as they are unable to compete with the technologically advanced machines of today's era. The demand for readymade garments of Punjab and Ludhiana has increased in the village's markets.

Manpur, which is also known as 'Mini Kanpur,' is situated on the banks of Falgu river in the district. Powerlooms and handlooms are run in almost every house of the village, through which a wide array of fabrics, from gamcha (a traditional cotton towel) to quilt, mattresses and pillow covers are made.

Jumman Ansari said that earlier the elders would want their children to join the business, which was also preferred by the children. He added that the situation had changed as these days they do not want the future generations to indulge in the business.

Getting nostalgic of the past, Ansari said that the thread which is now imported from other states, was easily available in the village earlier. He added that the technique of weaving clothes in the village remained the same whereas other states had progressive technology of the same.

President of Bihar Pradesh Weavers Welfare Association, Gopal Prasad Patwa said that earlier threads were made in many areas, including Gaya, Bhagalpur and Mokama of the state. He said that these factories were gradually closed.

Patwa added that it had been rightly said that the business is a cottage industry, in which the whole family gets involved. He said that the Mini Textile Park Screening Yarn Mill at Gaya would prove to be beneficial for the domestic micro cottage textile industry.

He added that adopting modern technology would lead to a decrease in cost and an increase in quality of production. Apart from 12,000 powerloom machines, 1,000 textile production units of a large number of handloom machines run today in the village.

A total of 20,000 workers are provided employment directly or indirectly in operating these machines, running the calendering machine along with dyeing and washing the yarn.An elderly artisan said that handlooms have been running in Manpur since three to four generations. He said that the majority of handlooms that existed earlier had been replaced by powerlooms, the trend of which increased after 1957.

Powerlooms run at a higher speed as compared to handlooms which increases the production, due to which the people started preferring powerlooms over handlooms. Ravindra Singh, Bihar state president of Laghu Udyog Bharati, said that 70-75 per cent of the produced goods are sent to West Bengal.

Apart from West Bengal, goods are supplied to Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand but there is minimal demand in these states. Singh said that the traders, who used to buy goods from them earlier, have stopped as the quality of goods is low due to not using modern technology.

He said that people of the Patwa Toli are unable to change their machines due to the difficulties faced in availing bank loans. Apart from this, Singh added that recently, discharging the chemicals used to dye yarn in the drains was banned citing pollution, which added to the villagers' problems.

Prakash Patwa, who is associated with the business, said that the powerlooms that run in other parts of India including Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are equipped with state-of-the-art techniques, due to which they are flourishing. He added that such modernisation was still a long way to go in Patwa Toli.

Patwa said that the red coloured gamcha made in the village is popular amongst the tribals of Bengal, Odisha and Assam and has high demands. Powerloom owners claim that such gamchas are not manufactured anywhere else. Significantly, Patwa Toli is also known as the village of IITians.

# international

## China denounces US move to shoot down unmanned 'airship'

**Beijing** | Agencies

China expressed strong dissatisfaction and opposition towards the US use of force to attack China's civilian unmanned airship, Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Sunday in a statement.

The Chinese side has, after verification, repeatedly informed the US side of the civilian nature of the airship and conveyed that its entry into the US due to force majeure was totally unexpected, the statement said, noting the Chinese side has clearly asked the US side to properly handle the matter in a calm, professional and restrained manner, Xinhua News Agency reported.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday when answering a relevant query that the civilian airship is used for research, mainly meteorological purposes. Affected by the Westerlies and with limited self-steering capability, the airship deviated far from its planned course.

According to the statement, the spokesperson of the US Department of Defense also noted the balloon does not present a military or physical threat to people on the ground.

Under such circumstances, the US use of force is a clear overreaction and a serious violation of international practice. China will resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the company concerned, and reserve the right to make further responses if necessary, said the statement.

## *Forgotten man in Pakistan politics, Musharraf passes away in Dubai*

**Islamabad** | Agencies

Former dictator, President and military ruler of Pakistan General (Retd) Pervez Musharraf breathed his last in Dubai after being critically ill for about two years.

Musharraf, 79, was in Dubai since 2006. He was suffering with amyloidosis, a rare disease caused by an abnormal development of protein called amyloid in organs and tissues of the whole body. The increasing development of amyloid tissues made it difficult for the organs and tissues to work properly, which became the reason for Musharraf's extended illness and death.

Musharraf's illness was revealed in 2018 when his political party All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) said that he was suffering from the rare disease.

Musharraf's death is being condoled by political and military quarters as despite his departure from Pakistan and re-settlement in Dubai, he enjoyed close support form the military leadership of Pakistan. "May Allah bless the departed soul and give strength to bereaved family," said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on behalf of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) and Services Chiefs in their heartfelt condolences. Musharraf's time in power as military chief, a military dictator and later a politician is filled with major incidents, which are criticised by many as the worst possible blunders, brunt of which is still being suffered by the country at large. Musharraf's time of dictatorship is criticised for not only attracting political embarrassment for Pakistan due to the Kargil operation; but also the Lal Mosque operation which became the trigger point for a reactionary offensive by terrorists on Pakistan after Musharraf made the country an ally to the US-led war on terror.

Musharraf had several cases against him being heard in the Pakistani courts including that of treason, after he imposed a martial law by ousting the then sitting premier Nawaz Sharif in 1999. This happened after Nawaz Sharif tried to dismiss Musharraf as the army chief, having appointed him above more senior officers just the year before.

Musharraf was declared as an absconder as he refused to appear before the Pakistani courts in various cases against him. Musharraf was also someone who used to showcase the Kargil operation as a feather in his cap whenever he would be addressing the India-Pakistan relations.

Musharraf was also among those who had given a four-point solution to the India-Pakistan dispute on Kashmir, which analysts say was on the verge of being finalised. But because Musharraf's government ended, that major understanding did not materialise.Musharraf had always remained on the target hit list of terrorists as he narrowly escaped at least three assassination attempts on his life by terrorists. His tenure from 2001 to 2008 was ruled under the backdrop of 9/11 terror attacks on the US, which led to the initiation of military operation by the US against terrorists in Afghanistan.

## Locals burn two robbers to death after torture in Karachi

**Karachi** | Agencies

Two alleged street criminals were burnt to death by residents of North Karachi's Sector L1 while fleeing after snatching valuables from a local.

The locals tortured the two men before burning them alive, rescue sources said. The two men died on the spot and their bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital, they added, The News reported.

The police reached the location as soon as they got the news of the incident, SSP Central Maroof Usman said.

The two alleged street criminals have been identified as Muhammad Imran and Nadir Hussain.

According to the police, Imran and Nadir had criminal record. Imran was named in a case in District West while Nadir Hussain was booked in multiple cases in district Korangi, Malir and Central, the police said.

The two criminals were trying to flee after snatching valuables from a local named Jibran, police told the media, The News reported.

According to the police, Jibran shouted as the robbers tried to flee the scene. Shopkeepers near a rickshaw stand caught the men.

The robbers tried to use their firearm but the bullet got stuck. The citizens burnt the accused to death after torture and brought their bodies to the main road. Weapons, mobile phones and a motorcycle were recovered from them, the police said.

## *Part of road in Canada to be named Komagata Maru Way*

**Toronto** | Agencies

A portion of a road in Abbotsford, British Columbia, will be named Komagata Maru Way in the memory of 376 Indians who sailed to Canada from India in 1914, but were turned away by the country.

Abbotsford City Council voted unanimously last week to rename a portion of South Fraser Way - which extends from Ware Street to Fairlane Street - to Komagata Maru Way, the Surrey-Now Leader reported.

The decision comes after descendants of those trapped aboard the Komagata Maru ship in Vancouver, asked the council to commemorate the humanitarian role played by Abbotsford's South Asian community at the time.

The project will cost $4,000 for the renaming. The council has also voted to fund a plaque at the Abbotsford Sikh temple at a cost of $10,000, and educational kits to inform future generations about the Komagata Maru incident.

"The gesture shows a commitment to promoting and understanding inclusiveness, and belonging to all residents regardless of their cultural background. It sends a strong message to our future generations that we must look ... to make sure we have a just society for everybody," Councillor Dave Sidhu told Surrey-Now Leader.

The Sikh residents of Abbotsford rallied together to assist passengers aboard the Komagata Maru... They provided food, housing, information, and community connection," a committee that was created in 2021 to study the incident, said in its findings.

"This Abbotsford connection to the plight of the Komagata Maru passengers is not well-known locally, and should be recognised as an important point of community pride," the report, which was submitted before the council, said.

The 376 Indians, including Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, who sailed to Canada from India in 1914, were mostly from Punjab. They were kept from docking for several months in dire conditions, and eventually forced to return to India. They reached Budge Budge near Kolkata on September 23, 1914.

"There (Vancouver) the majority of the passengers were imprisoned, and 20 were killed by gunfire when the ship was fired upon," the report told the council.

The development comes as the historic Komagata Maru Memorial in Vancouver was vandalised earlier this month for the third time in a row between 2021 and 2023.

## Thousands of Israelis protest against govt judicial reform plan

**Jerusalem** | Agencies

Tens of thousands of Israelis demonstrated in several cities to protest the government's plan to reform the judicial system.

The largest protest is being held in the coastal city of Tel Aviv, which was attended by thousands of people, Xinhua news agency reported.

Demonstrators have rallied for five weeks in a row to voice their discontent with the judicial reforms proposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. They say the reforms will weaken the courts and give the ruling coalition more power.

"These people (protestors) came to save our country," said former Prime Minister Yair Lapid at the demonstration in Haifa, northern Israel. "We will fight this in the parliament and the courts ... and we will save our country."

Netanyahu and his partners say the changes are necessary in order to limit the judicial system's power, which has become too powerful in recent decades. They also say the Supreme Court often intervenes in political issues that should be determined by the parliament.

Netanyahu has vowed to push forward with the reforms despite the protests.

Netanyahu himself is facing a trial on corruption charges. While he denies any wrongdoing, his opponents say the reforms are personally motivated.

# AADITYA THACKERAY TERMS BMC BUDGET AS "PRO-CONTRACTOR"

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday presented Rs 52,619.07 crore budget for the year 2023-24. Reacting to the budget, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said that this budget is for contractors, he said, "Maharashtra has got nothing in the budget. He questioned if BMC is not going to do any big projects then why is the budget increased? "It seems to be a copy-paste budget. When Shiv Sena came to power it saved the money of Mumbaikars and brought BMC into profit. Mumbaikars have reposed faith in us for the last 25 years," Thackeray further stated. 'Hard-earned money of Mumbaikars'

Aaditya Thackeray said BMC further said, "It is the hard-earned money of Mumbaikars that's why it should be used very thoughtfully".

The white paper should be brought to BMC's FD so that it can be known how much money BMC will use.

"I had demanded that no new project should be announced in the BMC budget even though our leader Anil Parab had taken the press conference on the same," he added.

"Does the commissioner have the right to spend Rs 1,700 crores on the beautification of Mumbai? He questioned. All this is happening to make Mumbai bow before Delhi," he further stated.

## FATHER-SON DUO BOOKED FOR ABETTING RELATIVE'S SUICIDE OVER LAND DISPUTE

**Nashik:** An offence has been registered against a 60-year-old man and his son from Maharashtra's Nashik district for allegedly abetting the suicide of a relative, police said on Sunday. Based on a complaint lodged on Friday, the Kalyan Railway police registered a case under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code against the duo, who hail from Sinnar in Nashik district, an official said.

As per the complaint, the accused were harassing Jalandar Kashinath Kanchar, 72, over an ancestral land and threatened him, he said. The septuagenarian allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train in October, 2022, the official said.

# "Yet to be matured": Deepak Kesarkar on Aaditya Thackeray'S election dare

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Maharashtra Minister Deepak Kesarkar on Sunday attacked Shiv Sena leader (UBT) Aaditya Thackeray for challenging CM Eknath Shinde to contest election against him from Mumbai's Worli, and said that he (Aaditya) is yet to be matured. "His (Aaditya's) statement shows that he is young and yet to be matured," Deepak Kesarkar said while reacting to Thackeray's challenge.

Talking to reporters, Kesarkar also said that he (Thackeray) won the elections as it was for the first time that two MLCs were fielded from one constituency. "Even we can dare him to contest from Thane, but we won't do that. We never want to insult anybody by saying something like come and save your deposit," he added.

Kesarkar also went on advising Aaditya to work for the people and "talk less".

Aaditya Thackeray after a party meeting in Anushakti Nagar on Friday said that he challenged the CM Eknath Shinde to contest elections against him and that he would resign from his 'Worli' seat.

"I have challenged this unconstitutional Chief Minister (Eknath Shinde) to contest the assembly elections against me. I will resign from my Worli seat and he should resign from his seat. And let him contest from Worli against me. If he believes that he is so popular and so strong, he should come and take my challenge," Thackeray said.

Meanwhile, Balasahebachi Shiv Sena MLA Mangesh Kudalkar also condemned Thackeray's aforesaid remarks and "requested" him to work with them. He dared Thackeray with a similar challenge and said, "I want to tell Aaditya Thackeray that giving challenges is not okay. The Eknath Shinde government is working progressively. I request him to work with us. I will resign in Kurla, he must also resign and prove by winning the elections against me."

# KCR'S PARTY HOLDS FIRST RALLY OUTSIDE TELANGANA IN NANDED

**Team Absolute** | Nanded | Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who has renamed his party for his national ambitions, started the journey today with a rally across the border in Maharashtra's Nanded and an appeal to farmers. While no election is due in the area, Nanded has a chunk of Telugu-speaking population. Earlier, some villages in the area had demanded that they be allowed to merge with Telangana in view of the schemes in the neighbouring state. The relaunched Bharat Rashtra Samithi, to be considered a national entity, must be recognised as a state party in at least four states or win six per cent of the votes in any four states and four Lok Sabha seats. Else it has to win two per cent Lok Sabha seats (11 seats) in at least three states.

Declaring that he plans to contest all electoral contests in Maharashtra, Rao said 75 years after Independence, it was time for farmers to take the reins of the nation.

"That's why BRS slogan is 'Abki baar, kisan sarkar' (This time around, a government for the farmers)," he told the gathering.

"If we unite, it is not impossible. In our country, farmers constitute more than 42 per cent and if the number of farm labourers is also added to that it will be more than 50 per cent which is sufficient to form government," Rao said. "Today, the time has come. 75 years is a long period. Farmers should also be able to write and make rules," he said.

Rao, who had started out with a vision of a non-Congress-non-BJP front, has modified it somewhat with a plan to take his party national. He is now looking at pan-India groups like farmers' bodies, trade unions and civil society groups, where his party may have more traction and present an alternative welfare, development and political agenda.

While Telangana is known for farmer-friendly schemes that include Rythu Bandhu life insurance, Ryuth Bandhu investment support, subsidy for seed distribution and scheme for farm mechanisation.

Maharashtra is the state that has seen the highest number of farmer suicides. Also, both BJP and the Congress are playing key roles in the state - one as part of the ruling alliance and the other is in the opposition. For KCR, the big question will be the expansion in Karnataka, where they are friendly with the opposition Janata Dal Secular of HD Kumaraswamy.

# Delhi Police arrests member of fake coins syndicate from Mumbai

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested a Mumbai-based based member of an inter-state syndicate of Counterfeit Indian Currency Coin (FICC).

Ingit Pratap Singh, the DCP of the Special Cell, said that fake Indian coins in the denomination of Rs 10 having face value of Rs 9,46,000 were recovered from the accused, identified as Jignesh Gala. "Gala was part of the previous module busted in April 2022, wherein FICC to the face value of Rs 10,48,540 was recovered and the manufacturing unit was busted," Singh added.

The mastermind of the racket namely Naresh Kumar was arrested in April 2022, and fake currency coins were recovered from him. Later on, at his instance a manufacturing unit cum godown was unearthed at Charkhi Dadri, Haryana and four of his associates were arrested. "During the investigation of accused persons and other evidences collected on record, it was revealed that bulk of FICCs was manufactured by this syndicate and was supplied to different destinations all over country including Mumbai. To unearth the whole nexus and members of the syndicate, backtrail investigation was carried out," the official said.The police got a tip off about Gala and he was found to be in Mumbai. A team was sent there and he was held from Malad area of Mumbai. "During interrogation Gala has disclosed that he has been involved in the procuring and supplying of fake currency coins for last eight years. Initially, he used to collect currency coins from banks in Surat, local businessman, traders of old currency," the official said.

Further investigation is in progress to verify the other sources and receivers of the syndicate.

# Man held with 108 bottles of banned cough syrup

**Team Absolute** | Thane

Police have arrested a man and seized 108 bottles of banned cough syrup from his possession in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, the police laid a trap in Mumbra area on February 2 and spotted three persons with bags in their hands.

On seeing the police, two of them ran away while one was caught, Mumbra police station's assistant police inspector Krupali Borse said.

The police found him to be carrying 108 bottles of the banned cough syrup which he had planned to sell, the official said.

A case was registered against the accused, identified as Mumbra resident Ashraf Abdul Razzak Sheikh (21), under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the official said. Efforts were on to nab the two other persons, he said.

The police were enquiring as to from where the three persons got the cough syrup stock and to whom they planned to sell it, the official said.

## BODY OF MAN FOUND IN CREEK

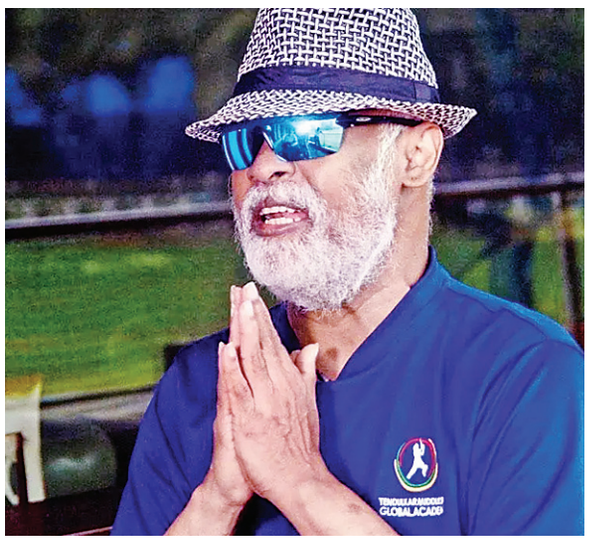
**Thane:** The body of a 45-year-old man was found floating in a creek in Maharashtra's Thane city on Sunday, a civic official said.

The fire brigade received a call around 8.30 am about the body in Gaikukh Chowpatty on Ghodbunder Road, said Avinash Sawant, chief of the regional disaster management cell said.

The local firemen and the team of RDMC fished out the body and sent it for post-mortem, he said. According to the police, a case of accidental death has been registered and a probe has been initiated.

# FIR against ex-cricketer Vinod Kambli on charge of assaulting wife

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai



Police have registered an FIR against former Indian cricketer Vinod Kambli for allegedly assaulting and abusing his wife in an inebriated state at his home in suburban Bandra, an official said on Sunday. No arrest has been made so far in connection with the alleged incident which took place on Friday, he said.

Kambli's wife Andrea in her police complaint alleged that he threw the handle of a cooking pan at her due to which she suffered a head injury, the official from Bandra police station said.

The incident took place between 1 pm and 1.30 pm on Friday when Kambli reached his flat allegedly under the influence of alcohol and started abusing his wife, he said.

Their 12-year-old son, who was present at that time, intervened in the fight, but Kambli went into the kitchen, brought the handle of a broken frying pan and allegedly threw it on his wife due to which she got injured, the official said quoting the complaint.

Kambli's wife later went to the Bhabha Hospital for a medical examination.

Based on her complaint, the Bandra police on Friday registered the FIR against Kambli under Indian Penal Code Sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), the official said.

# *Maharashtra to set up four circular economy parks for major industries*

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Maharashtra will set up four circular economy parks for major industries and an enabling policy for the same will be ready by March and implemented from April, a senior state government official has said. These circular economy parks will primarily focus on recycling scrap and other wastes. The proposed parks will come up in Aurangabad, Ratnagiri, near Pune and Nagpur, the state's Principal Secretary for Steel and Mines Harshadeep Kamble said.

Kamble was speaking to reporter over the weekend on the sidelines of an international conference on material recycling organised by the Material Recycling Association of India.

He said the government is planning a shipbreaking unit at Ratnagiri on the Konkan coast, an e-waste and auto parts unit near Pune, a steel scrap unit at Jalna near Aurangabad and a multipurpose multi- product unit in Nagpur given its geographical centrality.

The Nagpur facility will cater to all major industries that generate waste and will function like a hub and spoke model for the rest of the country, he added. Each unit will be spread across at least 500 acres and maximum of 1,000 acres.

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has land banks in all these areas. Besides, land acquisition will not be a problem even though there are some concerns about pollution issues which will be resolved before the policy is finalised by next month, he noted.

The government is ready to offer lots of incentives to early birds in the form of lower GST rates, lower power and water tariffs along with fully developed land at much cheaper rates.

These incentives will be for the first comers who can set up such large units. They will also be offered common scrapyards/breaking units, storage and effluent treatment facilities, he added.

He also said the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) will act as the knowledge partner with the government for policy drafting and implementation.

Earlier, addressing the event on Friday, union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said increased use of recycled steel can lead to cost reduction to the tune of 30 per cent for auto components.Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had on Saturday said his ministry will ask primary steel makers to increase the use of recycled steel to 50 per cent from the present 15 per cent by 2047 as the country plans to become a net zero economy by 2070.Kamble said the domestic recycling industry is currently worth USD 50 billion while the global industry is over USD 4.5 trillion. The domestic industry should touch USD 200 billion by 2030 and USD 600 billion by 2050, he added.With this, Maharashtra will become the first state to have a special policy for circular economy -- which means full adoption of recycling and reuse of materials.

# Sakal Hindu Samaj to hold 'anti-love jihad' meeting in city

## SC asks police to videograph event

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Sakal Hindu Samaj is set to hold a public meeting in Mumbai on Sunday after the state government assured the Supreme Court that clearance would be given subject to the condition that no hate speech is made.

Starting November, when it began its string of public meetings against "religious conversion" and "love jihad", the Sakal Hindu Samaj has covered more than 20 of the state's 36 districts. The rally to be held in Mumbai will be the Samaj's third in the city, demanding "stringent laws to stop love jihad and religious conversion of Hindus". While hearing the matter, the Supreme Court Friday accepted the demand of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the petitioner, that the meeting is videographed. Directing the police to videograph the meeting, the apex court demanded that the contents of the video be made available to it. A loose conglomeration, the Samaj includes right-wing outfits such as the VHP, Bajrang Dal, Hindu Janjagruti Samiti, Hindu Pratisthan, Durga Vahini, Vishwa Shriram Sena and Sanatan Sanstha. Meanwhile, many groups and organisations had written to Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, urging him to not give permission to the Sakal Hindu Samaj's public meeting.

# Shakira's new album will have 'tell-all' anthems about split with Gerard Pique

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

Shakira's ex-boyfriend Gerard Pique may want to cover his ears in the coming months as the pop sensation is set to hang their laundry out to dry all over the charts.

The Colombian singer was in a romance with 36-year-old Spanish football ace Gerard for 11 years from 2011 until 2022 and together they share sons Milan and Sasha, eight.

The breakup has been one of the most dramatic in recent showbiz years -- with allegations of cheating, jam jar clues, and a diss track already racking up hundreds of millions of hits.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', more ear bashing tunes are in store for Gerard, as Shaky is said to be preparing to unleash hell -- and all the details of the collapse of their relationship -- in her upcoming album.

A music insider told The Sun: "Her next album is definitely going to be a tell-all record and she won't be shy about letting everyone know what happened.

"She was working on another record before she had suspicions about infidelity, so those songs are being re-written with new endings to give fans a fuller picture of the truth.

"Those who've heard snippets say it blends Latin, rock and hip hop and is more empowering than angry."

Shakira has also been hitting out at her ex as he appears to have swiftly moved on from their break up -- by dating a look-alike model.

# CARDI B, OFFSET PUT ON LOVED UP DISPLAY AT PRE-GRAMMYS PARTY

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

Rapper Cardi B and husband Offset couldn't keep their hands - or their tongues - off each other recently.

The hip-hop couples were guests at Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammys bash, and they put on a very loved-up display.

Wearing a patchwork leather dress in varying shades of brown leather and black lace, 31-year-old Cardi added matching elbow-length gloves, and a stack of gold and diamond chokers. Hidden beneath her dress' flowing skirt was a pair of towering heels, which boosted her usually small 5'3 frame to eye-level with her taller husband.

As per Mirror.co.uk, she kept her make-up subtle, opting for mocha and caramel tones-but made a strong statement with her hair, which was styled into a very on-trend 00s style mullet with gelled sideburns and a short, choppy fringe.

Offset will perform a tribute to his late Migos bandmate (and cousin) Takeoff at the star-studded Grammys ceremony. He will sing a version of 'Without You', backed by the Maverick City Music choir.

# 'I WAS IRRITABLE AND SELF-CONSCIOUS'

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

A lot has been said about the forever youthfulness of Hollywood actor Paul Rudd but, the actor too had his share of difficulties during the shoot of 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania'.The actor shared that training for the new Marvel Studios 'Ant-Man' project was a lot more difficult than it was in the past, reports People magazine.Rudd who is the March 2023 cover star for 'Men's Health', told the magazine that getting in shape for the film was "so much harder".

"I worked really hard to get back into shape for Quantumania, and I realised, 'Oh my God, this is so much harder than it was (for the last Ant-Man project)," he told the magazine. "I had fallen off more than I had in the past. All of a sudden my clothes fit tight. And I thought, 'God, this sucks. I can't even wear these pants.'"

"So I'd say to myself, Well, I might as well just eat some of these cookies. I was irritable and self-conscious. I just wasn't in a good mood. I really beat myself up,'" he added, quoted by People.

However, Rudd credited his determination and work ethic as essential keys to achieving his ideal figure.

"I can be a hyper-focused person if I have a goal. If I'm doing one of these movies and I know that in four months I have to do a shirtless scene, I'm pretty dialled in," he explained. "I also try to find a happy medium. I could work out hard and eat perfectly and I'll still look worse than most of the other Avengers," Rudd quipped.

**For Paul Rudd, training for new 'Ant Man' was tougher than any other film**

# *Kit Harington & Rose Leslie are expecting their second baby*

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

'Game of Thrones' star Kit Harington and Rose Leslie are about to become a family of four! Harington, 36, announced that he and his wife, 35, are expecting their second child together - over two years after the birth of their son.

The actor revealed the news on a recent episode of 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon', reports 'People' magazine.

He told the host Jimmy Fallon that his son is "about to get the shock of his life."

"Which is that he's about to get a brother or sister," Harington continued, before Fallon, 48, offered him a congratulatory handshake."

"I'm terrified," the actor added. "You know, with the first baby you're like walking on clouds and dancing through fields of daisies for nine months - well, the man is anyway. But this time, the reality check comes much shorter. You get practical real quick."

Harington and Leslie had welcomed their first baby, a son in January 2021. They initially confirmed their pregnancy in September 2020 after Leslie debuted her baby bump for the U.K.'s Make Magazine.

As per People, when asked on 'The Tonight Show' what his son thinks of a newborn entering the family, Harington revealed that he doesn't think his child has "quite conceptually understood it just yet."

"We're trying to get him ready for it," he continued. "We point to Rose's tummy and we say, 'Mommy's baby, mommy's baby.' And he points to his tummy and goes, 'My baby.' I'm quite sure that's - yeah, you'll

# 'I'm training to spend several months with Hugh Jackman'

## Ryan Reynolds starts training for 'Deadpool 3' but not without a jibe at Hugh Jackman

**Los Angeles** | Agencies

'Deadpool' star Ryan Reynolds recently shared a photo posted by his trainer Don Saladino of him working out for the movie. In the snap, he can be seen lifting two 60 lbs. barbells in each hand, with his large muscles on display.

"I'm not training for Deadpool," Reynolds wrote on his Instagram story.

"I'm training to spend several months with @the-hughjackman -- who's not as nice as everyone thinks."

Jackman couldn't help but respond with a quip of his own, reposting the story and adding a "Ur cute" sticker with a heart.

As per 'People' magazine, in September Jackman and Reynolds announced in a video posted to Twitter that 'Wolverine' would be in the highly anticipated 'Deadpool 3', with a source telling PEOPLE that the role will be much larger than a cameo.

Since the announcement, the actors have continued their playful feud, mirroring that of their characters' 'Deadpool' and 'Wolverine'. Jackman noted the two Marvel superheroes "are opposites" and "hate each other" in the upcoming sequel.

Last month, he jokingly begged the Academy not to nominate Reynolds' Christmas movie 'Spirited' in an Instagram video, saying the nod would "make the next year of my life insufferable".

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Anitta

# VERY BLESSED THAT I AM GETTING A CHANCE TO PLAY FOR INDIA AGAIN: RAVINDRA JADEJA

**Nagpur** | Agencies

Ahead of the first Test against Australia, which begins on February 9 in Nagpur, left-arm spin all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja expressed he was very blessed to get a chance again to play for the national team. Jadeja had been out of action after undergoing surgery in his right knee in September 2022 and had to midway pull out of Asia Cup in the UAE.

"Very excited and feels really great that after more than five months, I am wearing an Indian jersey and I've been very blessed that I am getting a chance to play for India again. The journey was a bit of up and down one as if you are out of cricket for five months, then it becomes a little bit. I was eagerly awaiting that when I will get fit and get to play for India," said Jadeja in a video posted by the BCCI on their social media handles.

The rescheduled fifth Test against England at Birmingham in July 2022 was the last time Jadeja played a Test match. He then explained the decision to undergo the surgery on his right knee. "Somewhere I was struggling with the knee and had to undergo surgery. But I had to take a decision on whether I had to do it before or after the (T20) World Cup."

"The doctor had also advised me to do it before the World Cup because there was very less chance to play the World Cup if I hadn't gone under the knife. I then made up my mind to go for the surgery, but the period after that was very tough as rehab and training there, you have to do it constantly."

The right knee surgery meant Jadeja missed out on the Men's T20 World Cup, tours of New Zealand and Bangladesh as well as home series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. For the Bangladesh tour, he was named in the squads, but it was subject to fitness and was subsequently ruled out.

**Bundesliga**

# UNION BERLIN MOVE A TOP WITH WIN OVER MAINZ

**Berlin** | Agencies

Goals from Kevin Behrens and Jordan Siebatcheu helped Union Berlin move 2-1 past stubborn Mainz and to extend their winning run to four games in the 19th round.

The 'Eisernen' gained the upper hand from the start and came close with 10 minutes gone as Mainz goalkeeper Finn Dahmen had to palm away Jerome Roussillon's attempt from 16 meters.

The hosts continued on the front foot and opened the scoring 32 minutes into the clash after Paul Seguin's low cross to the far post found Behrens, who tapped home from very close range.

Mainz took over after the restart whereas Union kept all its men behind the ball to secure the narrow win.

The visitors lacked in ideas and couldn't threaten Berlin's well-positioned defence but Mainz was still able to level the scores as Seguin handled the ball inside the box allowing Marcus Ingvartsen to restore parity with the subsequent penalty into the bottom right corner in the 78th minute.

Union coach Urs Fischer reacted on the equalizer and fielded Siebatcheu and Morten Thorsby. Fischer got rewarded for his substitutions as Thorsby headed into the path of Siebatcheu, who drilled the 2-1 winner past Dahmen with six minutes remaining.

With the result, Union Berlin captures the top spot at least for one night meanwhile Mainz suffered its second straight loss. Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund is now equal on points with Bayern Munich as the "BVB" trashed 10-men Freiburg 5-1.

Randal Kolo Muani's first-half brace secured Eintracht Frankfurt a 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Hertha Berlin.Bochum reaped vital points in the relegation battle after cruising 5-2 past hapless Hoffenheim.

**Serie A**

# DYBALA SURGES ROMA TO CONQUER EMPOLI

**Rome**| Agencies

With two assists from Paulo Dybala, Roma bounced back from their consecutive defeats by beating Empoli 2-0.

The Giallorossi suffered a setback against Napoli in the last round and an exit in the Coppa Italia quarterfinal in midweek, reports Xinhua news agency.

The home side got the job done in the opening stage as Dybala's outswinging corner set up Roger Ibanez's towering header just under two minutes into the game.

Roma repeated the style four minutes later as Tammy Abraham out-jumped the defender to meet Dybala's assist.With the win, Roma temporarily caught Inter Milan in second place with 40 points, while the Nerazzurri host the Milan Derby.Elsewhere, Armand Lauriente's solo effort helped Sassuolo register the second consecutive win with a 1-0 victory over a nine-man Atalanta, while Lecce won over Cremonese 2-0 away.

**National 2W Rally Championship**

# RAJENDRA WINS RALLY OF NASHIK, CROWNED NATIONAL CHAMPION

**Nashik** | Agencies

Multiple-time National champion, Rajendra RE of Petronas TVS Racing team regained the overall crown for 2022 in the top Super Bikes Pro-Expert class winning the Rally of Nashik while Sarath Mohan clinched his maiden National title in the other premier Expert class, without even shifting a gear, as the sixth and final round of the fmsci National Rally Championship for two-wheelers - 2022 concluded.

Meanwhile, Sarath Mohan from Mallapuram, Kerala, clinched the National crown in the Super Bike Expert Group A Class 1A with two rounds to spare and did not take part in the Rally of Nashik, as the dates clashed with his Rally Raid cross-country training in UAE.

Other champions who clinched the National title with a round to spare are Sasi Kumar K. in the Super Sport 165 Group B Class 3, TVS rider Imran Pasha, in the Super Sport 260 Group B Class 4 and VS Naresh, in the Super Sport 550 Group B Class 6.

Bengaluru's TVS talent Aishwarya Pissay suffered a shock defeat as rookie local rider Tanya Singh, won the Ladies' class. The champion took it easy, with one hand on the title, and the second place was enough to clinch a sixth-straight title. Second, in the championship standings, Kerala rider Fazeela did not take part in the Nashik Rally.

**ILT20**

# *Abu Dhabi Knight Riders clinch their first win of the season*

**Abu Dhabi** | Agencies

The Abu Dhabi Knight Riders registered their first victory of the DP World ILT20 after defeating Sharjah Warriors by five wickets at the Zayed Cricket Stadium.

The Abu Dhabi Knight Riders' bowlers set up the match beautifully by restricting the Warriors to 130 for nine in their 20 overs.
Thereafter, Joe Clarke played a brilliant innings of 54 runs off 32 balls to help his team cross the line with 3.2 overs to spare.

The Abu Dhabi Knight Riders opening batters Joe Clarke and Paul Stirling put their team in the driver's seat with an 86-run partnership in just 8.2 overs.

Paul Stirling also joined the party as he struck two sixes to help his team coast to 71 for no loss in six overs. Marcus Stoinis managed to break the opening partnership when he dismissed Clarke for 54 runs off 32 balls in the ninth over, but the Knight Riders were just 45 runs away from their target.

Speaking about their performance, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders' Joe Clarke said, "The game was won in the first six overs when Paul and I scored 71 runs. It definitely got harder to bat in the middle phase of our innings, but the main thing is that we got a victory."

Meanwhile, Sharjah Warriors' Marcus Stoinis said, "The margins are always small in T20 cricket. We got off to a good start with the bat, but we didn't capitalise on that. We had a few runouts as well."

Brief scores: Sharjah Warriors 130 for nine (Tom Kohler-Cadmore 46, Chris Benjamin 24n.o, Matiullah Khan two for 24); Abu Dhabi Knight Riders 133 for five (Joe Clarke 54, Paul Stirling 39, Muhammad Jawadullah three for 24).

**Kenya Ladies Open**

# Aditi Ashok holds six-shot lead with one round remaining

**Vipingo (Kenya)** | Agencies

Two-time Olympian golfer Aditi Ashok continued her excellent form at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open, firing a bogey-free round of 69 (-4) to hold a six-shot lead heading with a final to go.

On the third day of action on Saturday at Vipingo Ridge, Aditi had a steady start before rolling in back-to-back birdies on the fifth and six holes. It wasn't long before the Indian star made another birdie on the eighth hole, and she made her final one on 12 to have a total of 13-under-par and extend her advantage at the top of the leaderboard.

"It was really good. The first couple of holes, I was actually looking at bogeys. I almost hit out of bounds on the first hole, but after that my round was steadier and bogey-free is always a positive," Aditi was quoted by LET website. "I think when the wind is up sometimes you hole putts but sometimes you don't, so you have to make sure you're always hitting the greens and taking the big numbers out of play. Then you're always there looking at birdie even if you don't make it."

Aditi, who was runner-up at Vipingo Ridge in 2019, is looking for her fourth victory on the Ladies European Tour (LET) and it would be her first since she triumphed at the 2017 Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open.

Thailand's April Angurasaranee sits in second place on the leaderboard on seven-under-par after shooting a round of 70 (-3) on day three. The teenager dropped two shots during her round but made up for it with a birdie on the seventh plus two eagles on the par-five 11th and 15th holes.

Three shots back in third place is England's Cara Gainer on four-under-par after she produced a round of 71 (-2). She made an eagle, two birdies and two bogeys on day three in tough and windy conditions.

**Zagreb Open Ranking Series**

# Greco-Roman wrestler Ashu bags bronze

**Zagreb** | Agencies

Greco-Roman wrestler Ashu won a bronze medal in the men's 67kg at the Zagreb Open 2023 Ranking Series, beating Lithuania's Adomas Grigaliunas 5-0 in the bronze play-off. Ashu suffered 0-9 loss at the hands of eventual finalist Reza Mahdi Abbasi of Iran in the qualification round to enter the repechage.

The Indian grappler then registered a dominating 8-0 win over Hungary's Adam Phoilec before getting the better of Norway's Haavard Joergensen 9-0 to make the bronze medal bout.

Ashu's bronze medal win on Saturday was India's second medal in the ongoing ranking series. Earlier, Under-23 world champion freestyle wrestler Aman Sehrawat won a bronze in the men's 57kg.

In another Greco-roman bout, Sagar, competing in the 63kg bracket, lost his quarter-final bout on point 0-6 against Iran's Aref Hossein Khoun Mohammadi. The Indian got a revival after Mohammadi reached the final. But he couldn't capitalise the opportunity as the Indian lost 1-7 in the repechage round to Austria's Aker Schmid Al Obaidi.

# *Bad day for sides near top as Atletico and Osasuna held, while Villarreal, Betis lose*

**Madrid** | Agencies

Atletico Madrid dropped two points in their home game against Getafe, who kicked off the weekend second from bottom.

Angel Correa opened the scoring with a few moments of suspense. The striker put the ball in the Getafe net in the 60th minute, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. While the VAR was revising the play, Atletico coach Diego Simeone substituted the striker, who was in his tracksuit in the dugout when the VAR gave the goal as legal, reports Xinhua news agency.

Enes Unal saved a vital point for Getafe with an 82nd minute penalty after the ball hit Saul Niguez's outstretched arm in the penalty area.

Gabriel Veiga scored twice as Celta Vigo climbed away from the bottom three with a thrilling 4-3 win away to Betis. The game got off to a flying start with Jorgen Strand Larsen putting Celta ahead in the fifth minute only for Juanmi to level three minutes later.

Sergio Canales put Betis ahead in the 22nd minute, but Veiga's first goal of the night leveled the scores before halftime. Veiga's second and a further goal from Joseph Aidoo put Celta 4-2 up before Nabil Fekir scored in the 83rd minute.

There was further drama in the 94th minute when Betis defender Luis Felipe was sent off after punching Celta's Iago Aspas, with the tension spilling over to the dugouts.

Pere Milla scored a hat-trick, which included two penalties as bottom of the table Elche claimed their first win of the season 3-1 at home to Villarreal.

Espanyol and Osasuna drew 1-1 in a game which saw both teams play the second half with 10 players after Osasuna winger Ez Abde and Espanyol defender Ronael Pierre-Gabriel were both sent off for squaring up to each other.

Ante Budimir had put Osasuna ahead just before the sending off, but Martin Braithwaite equalized for Espanyol in the 59th minute.

# High jumper Tejaswin Shankar wins New Balance Indoor Grand Prix title

**Boston** | Agencies

High jumper Tejaswin Shankar clinched the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix title, the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting.

Commonwealth bronze medallist Tejaswin Shankar showcased a faultless performance up to his winning height of 2.26m in the men's high jump.

In his first competition out of college, the 24-year-old, who won his second NCAA title for Kansas State last year, cleared 2.14m, 2.19m, 2.23m and 2.26m on his first attempts before taking three attempts at a would-be PB of 2.30m. Meanwhile, in the men's 60m the two-time world 200m champion Noah Lyles held off his US compatriot by just 0.002 with a performance that got him the PB.

In a photo finish to separate their 6.51 runs, Lyles clocked 6.507 and Bromell 6.509. The former had been 0.01 off his PB of 6.55 when winning his heat.

In her first ever 60m race, world 400m hurdles record-holder Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (UAS) clocked 7.33 to finish fifth in the first heat and miss out on the final by 0.01. World 200m champion Shericka Jackson of Jamaica was also testing her speed in Boston and ran 7.34, finishing fifth in her own heat.

# 'Everywhere I go I am being spied on'

**Kangana Ranaut claims being spied on by a well-known Bollywood actor**

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who recently made her comeback on Twitter, has alleged that a well-known actor from the film industry is "spying" on her. The actress shared that things have got to a point where not just in the streets; she is being spied on even in her building's parking and her terrace.

Kangana started off her note by saying: "Everywhere I go I am being followed and spied on, not only on the streets even in my building parking and home terrace they put zoom lenses to capture me, everyone knows paparazzi only visit stars if they are tipped these days they even started to charge to click actors, my team or I aren't paying them so who is paying them?"

She then went on to state that she is surprised how the ones clicking her are well acquainted her with schedule: "In the morning I was clicked at 6:30a.m., how do they get my schedule? What do they do with these pictures? And now as I finished my early morning choreography practice session, no one was tipped to come to the studio yet they all turned up in large numbers even on a Sunday, I am certain my WhatsApp data is being leaked, professional deals or even personal life details."

She then referred to nepotism: "This obsessed nepo mafia clown, who once landed at my doorstep uninvited and forced himself on me, is a known womaniser and Casanova but now vice president of nepo mafia brigade as well, forces his wife to become producer, do more female centric films, dress like me even make home interiors like me they even hired my stylist and even home stylists of many years who then refused to work with me."

She went on: "Wife is encouraging this obsessive behaviour she even wore the same sari for her wedding that I had worn earlier for my brother's wedding reception, it's beyond creepy...recently a film costume designer friend (best friend) I knew from more than a decade also had a nasty fall out with me coincidentally he is working with the couple now, my financiers or business partners call off deals last minute for no reasons."

"I think he is trying to isolate me and put me through mental stress, BTW he keeps her on a separate floor, they both live separately in the same building, I suggest she must say no to this arrangement and keep an eye on him. How is he getting all this data and what all is he indulging in because if he gets in trouble she and her baby will be in trouble as well...she must take charge of her life and make sure he is not indulging in anything illegal. Much love to you dear girl and your newborn."

Although she didn't take any names, it seems the actress has pointed the guns at Ranbir Kapoor.

# Salman, Akshay team up for Insta video after 19 years

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

It's raining superstar collaborations in Bollywood. After the 'wow' inducing collaboration between Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in 'Pathaan', another collaboration has left the audience in joy and shell-shocked.

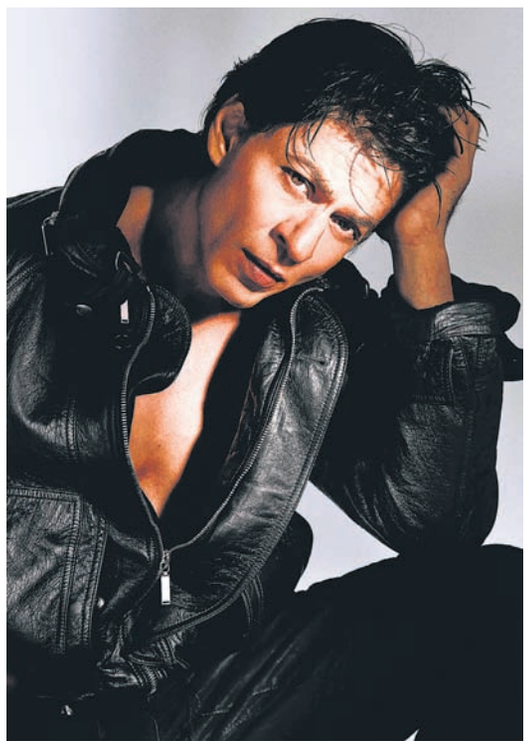
However, this time the collaboration landed on smaller screens of phone and laptop with Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan joining forces to shake a leg on a new song from the former's upcoming film.

Both the superstars recently took to their Instagram to share a video of themselves dancing to the beats of the new version of 'Main Khiladi' song from Akshay Kumar's upcoming film 'Selfiee'. The film is a remake of the 2019 Malayalam film 'Driving Licence', and it also stars Emraan Hashmi, Diana Penty and Nushrratt Bharuccha.

Sharing the video on Instagram, Akshay wrote: "And when MainKhiladi captured beingsalmankhan's imagination, it barely took him seconds to get on the beat. Phir kya bhai...bas dhoom machaai!!" While Salman wore a black T-shirt and jeans, Akshay looked cool in a blue T-shirt and cargo pants.

The video is particularly nostalgic for the fans of the two superstars as it rekindles the memories of their 2004 film 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi' where the two played childhood friends.

# *SRK reacts to video of kid saying she didn't like his movie*



**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's charm can sweep anyone off their feet. So, when someone says that his film or he in particular didn't impress someone, it seems odd more so to the man in question.

So, when a social media user told SRK on Twitter that their child didn't like 'Pathaan', the superstar had a humble yet witty reply up his sleeve.

Replying to a video posted by a social media user in which his daughter said that she didn't like 'Pathaan', SRK tweeted, "Oh oh!! Have to work harder now. Back to the drawing board."

He then smartly plugged in the dialogue from 'Pathaan' that he says during the post-credit scene, "Can't let the younger audience be disappointed. Desh ke youth ka sawaal hai."

The actor also advice the parent to try showing the classic love story 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' to the kid, "PS: Try DDLJ on her please...maybe she is the romantic types...kids u never know."

# Pooja Hegde wrapped up shooting of her upcoming movie

**Team Absolute** | Mumbai

Actress Pooja Hegde, who will be soon seen in the upcoming Salman Khan-starrer film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', recently shared that she has wrapped up the film. The film is an action thriller in which Pooja will be playing the lead role opposite superstar Salman Khan.

Pooja took to her Instagram stories to share the update with her fans notifying them of the wrap-up. The actor captivated the audience with her looks in the teaser that was released a week ago, fans are eagerly waiting to witness her on the big screen again.

The film is directed by Farhad Samji and is set to have a release on April 21, 2023.

Apart from this, the actress will soon begin shooting for her next 'SSMB 28' with Mahesh Babu. She also shared a few pictures from the make-up session of another project.

# NO PHONES ALLOWED INSIDE WEDDING VENUE IN SID-KIARA'S WEDDING

**Jaipur** | Agencies

Similar to what was witnessed during the wedding ceremony of actors Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani have also announced a no phone policy in their wedding functions scheduled from February 6-7.

Rajasthan is set to witness another star wedding of Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani which is the first Bollywood wedding of 2023 in the desert state. Last year, Bollywood stars Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif tied the nuptial knot in Sawai Madhopur.

Following the same policy as that of Vicky and Katrina, the star couple had announced a 'no phone policy' and the hotel staff had been informed about the same.

Besides, the guests of both bride and groom have been requested not to post any pictures of the wedding on social media.

As per the sources, the wedding functions of Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani will be organised from February 5-7.

Earlier, reports said that 100-125 guests would attend the wedding besides the families of Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani.

Kiara landed in Jaisalmer on Saturday evening with fashion designer Manish Malhotra. It is being said that celebrities like Karan Johar, and Isha Ambani will also attend the wedding.

As per information, about 80 rooms have been booked in the Suryagarh Palace of Jaisalmer for the wedding.

Along with this, around 70 luxury cars have also been booked to ferry the guests.

# CONTENT REVEL - COLLABORATION OF SAJID SAMJI & TEAM CONTENT ENGINEER

**Lalit Sharma| Mumbai**

With the dry spell of bollywood it is needed for filmmakers to come up with content that celebrates cinema at mass level. To bring back the audience into theatres for family entertain cinema, the master Storyteller & director Sajid Samji & master content creator buzzing name of the industry "Content Engineer" team founded by Uttam Maheshwari , Riya Saggu with USA bankrolled partnership. The team has come together for their next collaboration a mass entertainer with title ' Shaadi Toh Hokar Rahegi'.

Sajid Samji does not need any introduction who has written many hits films like Golmaal, Singham and directed Housefull franchise along with recently acclaimed non - fictional show Case Toh Banta Hai. Sajid is currently working on some biggy mass entertain content. He is father of India's youngest trending choreographer Shazia Samji who choreographed many hits like Paani-Paani, Nadiyo Paar, and Jungle main kaand ho gaya and Kala Jadu.

Uttam Maheshwari & Rhea Saggu from Content Engineer team is working on multiple projects which are in collaboration with some big names of bollywood. The team is progressing on their ambitious dream project - "Ramayana" in partnership with international technical team for this mythoverse. The projection of Uttam's magnum opus, an epic filled with high octane VFX effects and cinematic vision as his directorial debut is creating a new buzz in Bollywood. This will be India's new door for International Cinema with their USP model of CFT initiative of content R&D.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Vedhika

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