

# absolute india

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## Rongali Bihu, Poila Boishakh celebrations grip northeastern states

- Most parts of the northeast region of India are currently witnessing heatwave-like conditions badly affecting normal life with maximum temperatures in many places hovering between 36 to 40 degrees Celsius, which is above the normal by 5 to 6 degrees.
- Rongali or Bohag Bihu is the most important festival in Assam as it marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- The two other Bihus -- Kongali or Kati and Bhogali or Magh -- are observed in January and October, respectively.
- In a historic development, around 11,300 Bihu performers scripted history on Thursday as it entered the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest Bihu performance at a single venue at Guwahati's Sarusajai stadium.



Team Absolute | Agartala

Braving the rising temperatures across the northeastern states, people in the region on Saturday celebrated Rongali Bihu and Poila Boishakh with rituals, traditional fervour and enthusiasm. Lakhs of people including women and children in traditional and new attires took part in the celebrations, especially in the states of Assam and Tripura. "The record-breaking Bihu performance was aimed to take the famous indigenous cultures to the world arena," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had told the enormous gathering. Cutting across religious barriers and economic status, people also exchange various sweets and gifts, including the traditional 'Gamosa' (a white piece of cloth with a red border having a customary pattern), with their near and dear ones as a mark of love and New Year celebrations.

Women were seen making various delicious foods, besides 'pithas' (rice cakes) while the markets were flooded with hundreds of traditional and new food items along with clothes to celebrate the festival. During the past few days, shoppers, especially women, throng the shops and markets to buy their favourite clothes and domestic items to mark the tradition of wearing new clothes on the first day of 'Bohag'. Meanwhile, Poila Boishakh or Bengali New Year, is also being celebrated along with numerous events including cultural functions in Tripura, Assam, Manipur and other northeastern states. With new and fresh clothes, men and women visited various temples on the occasion of Poila Boishakh to take blessings of the goddess. People specially the young men and women exchanging 'Shubho Nobo Borsho' wishes, images, messages, greetings, status to share on Bengali New Year. The Bengali community get together with friends and family to celebrate the New Year with much fanfare. Poila Boishakh also marks the beginning of the financial year for the Bengali business community. Traders worship Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi, and shopkeepers and businessmen invite regular customers to distribute sweets and exchange best wishes.

### New record by MP-skydiver duo by dropping from 5,200 ft

Chandigarh: The Aero Club of India organised National Aero Modelling Fellowship programme at the Pinjore airport in Haryana where daredevil Member of Parliament Kirti Vardhan Singh on Sunday set a new national record by dropping India's famous ace woman skydiver Padmashri Shital Mahajan, who belongs to Pune, from his powered hang-glider from highest altitude of 5,200 feet. This is the first time in India that an Indian woman skydiver has jumped from powered hang-glider with the pilot being an MP. The daredevil duo performed two parachute drops from 5,200 feet and 4,200 feet and one parachute drop from 4,100 feet on April 8 and 9, respectively, from powered hang-glider. The aero modelling fellowship programme was organised by the Aero Club of India, which represent Federation of Aeronautical Internationale in India. FAI, being recognised by Olympic association, acts as a governing body by controlling regulations of aero sports of the world and conducts World Championship and World cups of Aero sports like skydiving and parachuting and 14 more Aero sports of the World. The event witnessed many aero modelling enthusiasts and experienced aero model from all across the country who performed and showcased their amazing arrow modelling skills to all the spectators.

### GHANA FIRST COUNTRY TO APPROVE SII- OXFORD MADE HIGH-EFFICACY MALARIA VAX



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ghana has become the first country to approve a new malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII). The malaria vaccine -- R21/Matrix-M -- has been licensed for use in Ghana by the country's Food and Drugs Authority -- the first ever regulatory clearance by any country. The vaccine has been approved for use in children aged five to 36 months, the age group at highest risk of death from malaria, which kills about 6,20,000 people each year, most of them young children. It is hoped that this first crucial step will enable the vaccine to help Ghanaian and African children to effectively combat malaria. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine has demonstrated high levels of efficacy and safety in Phase II trials, including amongst children who received a booster dose of R21/Matrix-M at one year following a primary three-dose regime. "This marks a culmination of 30 years of malaria vaccine research at

Oxford with the design and provision of a high efficacy vaccine that can be supplied at adequate scale to the countries who need it most," said Professor Adrian Hill, Chief investigator, R21/Matrix-M programme, at the Oxford University, in a statement. SII provided vaccines and sponsored Phase III licensure clinical trials. It will also produce between 100-200 million doses per year. The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine is a low-dose vaccine that can be manufactured at mass scale and modest cost, enabling as many as hundreds of millions of doses to be supplied to African countries which are suffering a significant malaria burden. The vaccine also contains Novavax's Matrix-M, a saponin-based adjuvant that enhances the immune system response, making it more potent and more durable. The Matrix-M adjuvant stimulates the entry of antigen-presenting cells at the injection site and enhances antigen presentation in local lymph nodes. This technology has also been used successfully in Novavax's Covid vaccine and is a key component of other development-stage vaccines.

श्री. नरेंद्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

श्री. अमिताभ शिंदे  
मुख्यमंत्री

सांस्कृतिक कार्य विभाग आयोजित

## महाराष्ट्र भूषण पुरस्कार 2022

प्रदान समारंभ

मानकरी  
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आप्यासाहेब धर्माधिकारी

विनीत

सौरभ विजय (भा. प्र. से.)  
प्रधान सचिव,  
पर्यटन व सांस्कृतिक कार्य विभाग

विभीषण चवरे  
संचालक  
सांस्कृतिक कार्य संचालनालय

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मुख्यमंत्री

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# K'TAKA: CONG ANNOUNCES 3RD LIST OF 43 CANDIDATES, 'KEEPS SEAT' FOR JAGADISH SHETTAR

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Congress on Saturday announced the third list of 43 candidates for the state assembly elections. Former deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi, who joined Congress from BJP, has been allotted the ticket from Athani constituency in Belagavi district.

In the party's third list, Laxman Savadi's name appeared on the top. Interestingly, the party has not announced the ticket for Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency for which former chief minister and senior BJP leader Jagadish Shettar has locked horns with the saffron party.

Sources explain that the Congress leaders have already approached and assured Shettar of ticket and position if he joins Congress. The party has named G.B. Malatesh as the candidate for Shikaripura constituency from where former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Vijayendra is contesting. The Congress has denied a ticket to Siddaramaiah's loyalist Umashree



from Terdal constituency and has fielded Siddappa Ramappa Konnur from the seat. Film producer Umopathy Srinivas Gowda has managed to obtain a ticket from Bommanahalli constituency in Bengaluru. K.M. Shivalinge Gowda,

who joined Congress from JD(S), has been allotted ticket for Arasikere constituency. The party has fielded Banavasi Rangaswamy from Hassan seat. Preetham Gowda is BJP's candidate here and since this is the only seat in the district, the saffron party is

in no mood to lose it. The locals say that it is going to be a straight fight between BJP and JD(S) in Hassan. Congress had announced 124 candidates in the first list and 42 candidates in the second list. It is yet to announce names for the 16 seats.

# Amritpal's aide held for providing shelter to fugitive in Pilibhit

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Police on Saturday arrested Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh's aide Joga Singh from Sirhind town for allegedly providing shelter and other assistance to Amritpal in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit, Deputy Inspector General (Border Range) Narinder Bhargava said.

His arrest came days after the police arrested the fugitive radical preacher's mentor Papalpreet Singh in Amritsar.

"Joga Singh was in direct contact with Amritpal Singh. He arranged for shelter and vehicles for Amritpal Singh. He arranged for him to stay in Pilibhit and then return to Punjab," Bhargava told the media in Amritsar.

The police also released an earlier picture of Joga Singh, sitting beside Amritpal Singh in a yellow turban.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) Satinder Singh said Joga Singh was the one who brought Amritpal back to Punjab on March 27. He was an in-charge of a 'dera' in Pilibhit. Joga Singh was with Amritpal Singh from March 18 to 28, said the police.

Amritpal Singh has been evading arrest, changing his location and looks multiple times, since March 18 when the police launched a massive crackdown to arrest him while he was on his way to Jalandhar but he managed to



escape on a motorcycle.

Papalpreet Singh, the main associate of fugitive 'Waris Punjab De' chief and self-styled radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, was arrested in Punjab's Amritsar district on Monday and detained under the National Security Act (NSA), Inspector General of Police Sukhchain Singh Gill said. Papalpreet Singh was held on April 10 under the National Security Act (NSA) by the Amritsar Rural Police and that six other cases have also been registered against him.

Papalpreet Singh is a Khalistani activist who called himself a journalist before ending up as a media advisor to the radical preacher. A resident of Amritsar district, he was earlier arrested for his alleged links to Pakistan's ISI in 2015. Earlier, the stringent law has been invoked against Daljit Singh Kalsi, Bhagwant Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Pradhanmantri Bajjoke and Harjit Singh, who have been shifted to the Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam.

# Amit Shah advises Bengal BJP to be 'Aatmanirbhar', shed dependence on high-command

Kolkata | Agencies

Before leaving for Delhi after completion of his two-day visit to West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday outlined the strategy to be adopted for the forthcoming panchayat elections and next year's Lok Sabha polls by the state unit of the BJP.

According to party sources, of the many pieces of advice given by Shah, the main is that the party's state leadership should be more self-reliant by bridging the organisational gaps and shed excessive dependence on the BJP high-command.

Party insiders said that the Home Minister has specifically asked the BJP to start the process of strengthening the booth-level committees and reactivating the defunct ones before the panchayat polls scheduled this year.

"Amit Shah has clearly said that if the process starts from the panchayat polls, the goal of having a full-fledged and strong booth-level network will be completed before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," said a state committee member of the BJP. While admitting that Shah has outlined the strategy to be adopted for the



forthcoming polls, BJP's state unit chief and Lok Sabha member Sukanta Majumdar, however, refused to reveal the details of the discussions held with the Home Minister.

"These are closed-door affairs and cannot be revealed to the media," Majumdar said.

Meanwhile, party sources said that although Shah is not against roping in leaders and workers from other parties, he has clearly instructed that only individuals with an overall clean-image should be allowed entry into the BJP.

# GUJARAT: SIX AAP CORPORATORS IN SURAT JOIN BJP

Surat | Agencies

Six corporators of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) here in Gujarat have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the presence of state cabinet minister Harsh Sanghavi.

Welcoming the AAP corporators into the party fold on late Friday night, Sanghavi, the Gujarat Home Minister, said "the country is now witnessing the true face of the AAP".

"AAP leaders spared nothing to defame Gujarat and the people of the state. Corporators of AAP joined the BJP with a pledge to develop their respective wards," he said.

One of the six corporators, Ruta Khenni, said she was influenced by the BJP's ideology and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership style.

Meanwhile, the AAP's state unit alleged that its corporators were being threatened and persuaded into defecting to the BJP.

AAP corporator Dipti Sakariya said in a video statement that she was offered money to join the party.

Rachna Hirpara, another AAP cor-



porator, said: "Offers have been made to us ever since we won the election. BJP has been giving offers, and many corporators fell for it and took up to Rs 50 lakh to join the ruling party."

In the February 2021 Surat

Municipal Corporation elections, the AAP bagged 27 wards in the 120-member civic body.

The Congress failed to open its account, while the BJP won 93 seats.

In February 2022, five AAP corpo-

rators had already switched to the BJP but one of them later rejoined the AAP.

With the latest defections, the AAP's strength in the Surat civic body has been reduced to 17.

# 8 CHILDREN AMONG 11 KILLED AS TRACTOR-TROLLEY FALLS INTO RIVER IN UP

Shahjahanpur | Agencies

Eight children and two women were among 11 people killed when the tractor trolley they were travelling in fell from the bridge here on Saturday, police said.

The people were on their way to fetch water from Garra river for 'Bhagwat katha', they said.

Of the 11 people, eight were children and two were women, Superintendent of Police S Anand said.

As many as 24 people have been injured in the incident. Twenty-one of the 24 people, including seven with serious injuries, are undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College hospital, said Shailendra Kumar, Chief Medical Superintendent.

Three others are admitted to Tilhar Primary Health Centre, officials said.

An official spokesperson in Lucknow said instructions have been



issued to immediately extend financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the relatives of each of the dead and ? 50,000 to those seriously injured.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officials of the district administration, SDRF and NDRF rushed to the spot for

relief work, the spokesperson said.

The accident took place when people on the tractor-trolley were going to fetch water and the vehicle fell from the bridge in the river bank near Birsinghpur village on the Tilhar-Nigohi road, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjeev Bajpai told news agency.

People from Ajmatpur village were going to fetch water for 'Bhagwat katha' when the accident took place, the official said.

Top officials, including Superintendent of Police S Anand, rushed to the spot to oversee operations. The bodies are being sent for post mortem examination, they said.

CM Adityanath has expressed sorrow over the loss of lives due to the incident and extended condolences to the bereaved families.

The chief minister has directed the district administration officials to immediately take the injured to the hospital and ensure proper treatment, the spokesperson added.

# MHA approves for CAPF Constable exam to be conducted in 13 regional languages

Team Absolute | New Delhi

To encourage participation of local youth in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved conducting Constable (General Duty) examination for CAPF in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English.

The question paper will be set in 13 regional languages including Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani.

The decision will result in lakhs of aspirants taking part in the examination in their mother tongue or regional language and improve their prospects for selection.

Officials said that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Staff Selection Commission



would sign an addendum to the existing MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in multiple Indian languages. Constable GD is one of flagship examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission attracting lakhs of candidates from across the country. The examination in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English will be conducted from January 01, 2024 onwards. States/UT

governments are expected to launch a wide campaign encouraging local youths to use this opportunity of taking the examination in their mother tongue and participate in huge numbers to make a career serving the country." The Ministry of Home Affairs is committed to encourage use and development of regional languages," said the Ministry in a statement on Saturday.

# Shraddha murder case: Delhi court reserves order on framing charges against Aaftab



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Saturday reserved its order on framing charges against Aaftab Amin Poonawala who is accused of strangling his live-in partner Shraddha Walker to death in the Mehrauli area, and then chopping her body into several pieces.

Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar has

posted the matter to April 29. Arguments on charges were also completed on Saturday. Meanwhile, seeking the release of his daughter's remains to perform last rites, Vikas Walker had moved an application in the court.

To this, Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said that the police will file a reply on the application on the next date of hearing.

# WOMAN ARRESTED IN BIHAR'S VAISHALI FOR KILLING DAUGHTERS

Patna | Agencies

In what is being suspected as a case of honour killing, two teenage girls have been allegedly killed by their mother in Bihar's Vaishali district, the police said on Saturday.

Even as the woman -- Rinku Devi -- has admitted to killing her daughters, aged 18 and 16, the police suspect that the crime was committed by her husband, who is currently absconding.

Rinku Devi told the police that she killed her daughters as she was miffed with them for frequently eloping with some youth.

"I have killed the elder daughter first, followed by the younger daughter. Both of them used to elope with youth frequently. They had eloped with two youth 15 days ago. I gagged them until death," Rinku Devi said in her confessional statement. Om Prakash, SDPO Sadar range of Vaishali, said: "When we learnt about the incident in the morning, a team from Sarai police station went there for investigation. On noticing the police, the girls' father fled from the



spot. He lives in Kolkata. We have detained their mother for enquiry. She confessed that she had killed them." However, the way she appeared, we doubt if she had actually committed the crime. She is trying to shield her husband," the police officer said.

"On the basis of a confessional

statement, we have arrested her and raids are on to nab her husband. Rinku Devi claimed that she was miffed with her daughters and hence, she killed her. The bodies have been sent for postmortem," Om Prakash said.

Meanwhile, Neeraj Singh, the Mukhiya representative of Shital

Bhakurahan Panchayat, said: "Rinku Devi came to my house in the morning and said that her husband killed her two daughters. They had eloped 15 days ago and their father was angry over them. He had gagged their mouths until they died. After committing the crime, he fled from the spot."

# TN: 2 KILLED IN SIVAKASI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING UNIT BLAST

Chennai: Two persons were killed while two others were injured when a blast occurred on Saturday at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi.

The deceased have been identified as V. Thangavelu (55) and P. Karuppuswamy (28), both residents of Idaiyankulam village in Virudhunagar district.

The injured individuals -- Karupppammal (54) and R. Marithai (45) have been admitted to the Sivakasi government hospital.

The unit is owned by Praveenraj of Sivakasi and has a license from Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation. Police said that the incident occurred when the workers were manufacturing crackers in sheds and Karuppuswamy and Thangavelu were filling chemicals for making ground chakras. The blast happened due to friction.



## NUMBER OF HEAT WAVE EVENTS ON RISE IN INDIA: STUDY

The researchers used daily maximum temperature and minimum temperature data from 1970 to 2019 to investigate the trend in the frequency of occurrence of days with anomalously high temperatures (referred to as heat waves) and days with anomalously low temperatures (referred to as cold waves) over different climatic regions of the country.

The team found that days with anomalously higher temperatures are increasing during summer every year while the days with anomalously lower temperatures are decreasing during winter every year. The occurrence of anomalously higher temperatures for consecutive three days or more is referred to as a heat wave event.



University of Hyderabad (UoH) has established.

The study was led by Aninda Bhattacharya, Dr. Abin Thomas, and Dr. Vijay Kanawade from the Centre of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Physics at the UoH, in collaboration with Prof. Chandan Sarangi from IIT Madras, Dr. P.S. Roy from World Resources Institute (WRI) and Dr. Vijay K. Soni from India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi.

The authors found that heat wave events are increasing at the rate of 0.6 events per decade. The occurrence of anomalously lower temperatures for consecutive three days or more is referred to as a cold wave event.

The study, published in The Journal of Earth System Science, found that cold wave events are decreasing at the rate of 0.4 events per decade.

With country's climatic zones broadly categorised under four major heads - Montane (climate is harsher,

with lower temperatures in mountainous regions); Subtropical humid climate; Arid and semi-arid climate; and Dry and wet tropical climate, the authors point out the opposite trends in heat waves and cold waves. For instance, heat waves are more common over the arid and semi-arid climatic region while cold waves are less so common over the same region.

The authors also compared the current-generation computer models used to predict future climate with India Meteorological Department observations. Authors found that models fail to capture observed spatial features in the trend in the frequency of occurrence of heat waves and cold waves in toto over India. This underlines the need for a better process-level understanding of the factors governing these extreme events and their representations in the models over the Indian region.

Human-caused (anthropogenic) climate change has caused roughly 1 degree Celsius increase in global average surface temperature since the pre-industrial era. Climate change has worsened the frequency, intensity, and impacts of some of the weather events such as heat waves and cold waves.

## Atiq Ahmed, brother gunned down in front of police, media

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

In a shocking incident, gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were shot dead in Prayagraj on Saturday night, in the presence of the police and in full glare of the media.

Atiq and his brother were shot when they were taken for a medical test to the Colvin hospital here. Both died on the spot.

According to reports, Atiq was shot in the head from point-blank range when the mediapersons were talking to him. Both the brothers were handcuffed when the incident took place.

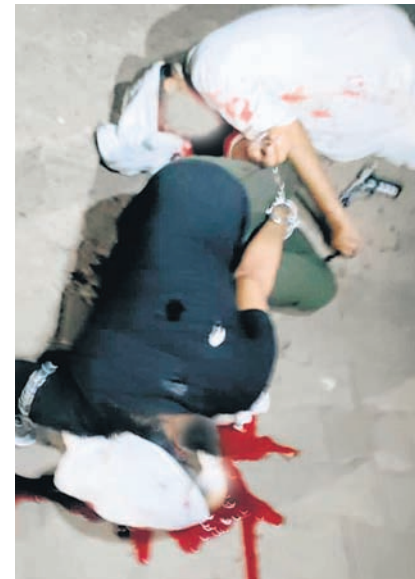
All the three shooters have been arrested by the UP Police. They have been identified as Lavlesh Tiwari, Arun Maurya and Sunny.

The incident took place on the day Atiq's son Asad was laid to rest in Prayagraj after being shot dead in an encounter in Jhansi on Thursday.

According to reports, the three youths had joined a group of journalists who were talking to Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf after the two stepped out of the hospital.

Even before Atiq could complete his answer, one of the assailants pointed a pistol at Atiq's head and shot him while the other two opened fire at the brother.

After the brothers slumped to the ground, the assailants raised their hands and surren-



Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has summoned DGP R.K. Vishwakarma and other top police officials for an emergency meeting.

Meanwhile, tension prevailed in Prayagraj as the news of the twin murders spread. Additional forces are being rushed to the district where security has been beefed up.

## Delhi government calls for special Assembly session on April 17



New Delhi: The Delhi government has called a special session of the Legislative Assembly on April 17, a day after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned to appear before the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam case.

According to sources, the Assembly will discuss the fact that certain powers are creating an atmosphere against the developmental works being carried out by the AAP-led Delhi government.

"In this special session, a committee report on the issue of unanswered questions from MLAs Rajesh Gupta and Atishi, and the Services Department, will be presented on the floor of the House," the sources said. In response to the CBI summon, Kejriwal has claimed that the central probe agencies were going to extreme heights to target their strongest political rivals.

## Six killed in hooch tragedy in Bihar, say police; villagers put toll at 22

Team Absolute | Patna

At least six people have been killed and nine hospitalised after they consumed spurious liquor in Bihar's East Champaran district, police said. However, villagers claimed that 22 people died due to the hooch tragedy.

Jayant Kant, the DIG of Bettiah range, said: "Six persons died due to hooch tragedy while nine persons were admitted in the hospitals. Two of them were referred to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH). The district police have arrested seven accused so far and efforts are on to nab others."

Toll is expected to rise as a large number of people admitted to different private hospitals are critical, sources said.

According to the villagers, 11 persons died in Laxmipur village, five in villages under Sugauli police station three each in villages under Harisiddhi police station, and Paharpur police station since



Thursday night.

Civil surgeon claimed that some of the persons who died in the hooch tragedy were cremated before the police arrived at the spot.

"We have conducted post-mortem of one person and sent the viscera for testing. The actual cause of death will be ascertained only after the viscera report is available. Two persons were referred to Muzaffarpur. We have sent medical teams to the affected villages. The patients are complaining of vomiting and loose motions," the civil surgeon said.

## Rahul Gandhi to address rally in Kolar where he made Modi surname remarks

Bengaluru: In poll-bound

Karnataka, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to address a rally in Kolar on Sunday where he had made Modi surname remarks for which he was convicted of criminal defamation leading to his disqualification from Parliament. He is scheduled to arrive in Bengaluru and travel to neighbouring Kolar to address the 'Jai Bharat' rally.

The rally was first scheduled on April 5, 9 and finally April 16.

The Gandhi scion is scheduled to inaugurate 'Indira Gandhi Bhavan' near the Congress headquarters in Bengaluru later. AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge is also expected to attend the programme. Addressing a rally for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, seeking votes for Congress candidate K. H. Muniyappa, Rahul Gandhi had alleged, "Why all thieves have Modi surname." Rahul Gandhi reiterated his Modi surname remark at a public rally in Corporation Grounds in KGE.

## CJI-LED FIVE-JUDGE BENCH TO HEAR PLEAS FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ON APRIL 18

New Delhi | Agencies

A five-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud, will hear a batch of petitions seeking recognition of same-sex marriage on

April 18. On March 13, while referring the matter to a constitution bench, the top court had noted that it is a very seminal issue. A bench headed by the CJI and comprising justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S. Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli, and P.S. Narasimha will hear the batch of petitions on April 18.

On March 13, a bench headed by CJI Chandrachud had said, "It is a very seminal issue", while scheduling the matter for consideration before a five-judge bench. The proceedings will be live-streamed. The bench said that it will invoke Article 145 (3) of the Constitution and have this matter decided by a constitution bench, comprising five judges.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, had contended before the court that the right to love or right to express one's love irrespective of gender of the other person is completely different from what the court would find the mechanism to give recognition or to give a sanction by way of an institution called marriage.

The Centre, in an affidavit, contended that legal validation of same-sex marriage



will cause "complete havoc" with the delicate balance of personal laws in the country and in accepted societal values.

The Centre stressed that legislative policy recognises marriage as a bond only between a biological man and a biological woman.

The Central government said that living together as partners and having sexual relationship by same-sex individuals, which is decriminalised now, is not comparable to the Indian family unit - a husband, a wife, and children born out of the union - while opposing pleas seeking recognition of same-sex marriage.

It stressed that same-sex marriage is not in conformity with societal morality or Indian ethos. In the affidavit, the Centre said the notion of marriage itself necessarily and inevitably presupposes a union between two persons of the opposite sex. This definition is socially, culturally, and legally ingrained into the very idea and concept of marriage and ought not to be disturbed or diluted by judicial interpretation, it said.

The Centre's response came on a batch of petitions challenging certain provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, Foreign Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act and other marriage laws as unconstitutional on the ground that they deny same-sex couples the right to marry or alternatively to read these provisions broadly so as to include same-sex marriage.

## India reports 27 Covid deaths in 24 hrs, highest in 6 months

New Delhi | Agencies

In the last 24 hours, India reported 27 Covid-19 deaths, the highest single-day fatalities in the past six months, according to official figures issued by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

The last time India recorded 20 or more Covid deaths was on October 15, 2022.

The country's overall death toll has now increased to 5,31,091.

According to the data, Delhi reported six deaths, followed by four in Maharashtra, three in Rajasthan, and one each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The figure also includes six deaths that were reconciled by Kerala.

Also in the same period, there were 10,753 fresh cases, taking the number of active infections to 53,720, the Ministry figures revealed.



The daily and weekly positivity rates were recorded at 6.78 and 4.49, respectively.

Since the pandemic first erupted in early 2020, India has so far reported a total 4,48,08,022 Covid-19 cases.

The active caseload now comprise only 0.12 per cent of the total infections, and the national recovery rate has been recorded at 98.69.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease rose to 4,42,23,211, and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19.

"The nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has administered 220.66 crore vaccine doses so far," the data stated.

## 94-YEAR-OLD LOCO, 'LITTLE RED HORSE' DAZZLES AT WESTERN RAILWAY'S REVAMPED HERITAGE LAWN

Once considered the pride of the erstwhile BB&CI Railway, the front-runner to the modern WR, the locomotive was manufactured by Kerr Stuart & Co. in 1929, and operated on the Dabhoi-Miyagam narrow-gauge line in Gujarat, considered the oldest narrow-gauge line of Asia.

'Little Red Horse' has been enhanced further with arrangements to create artificial steam using fogging machines, play recorded sounds of its shrill whistles and chug-chug running 'music', and fixed power supply has been provided for its head-lights, tail-lights and dome-lights to enhance its attraction all 24 hours.

A 94-year-old steam locomotive, 'Little Red Horse' manufactured in England, has been restored and occupies a prominent place in the revamped heritage lawn of the Western Railway at the Mumbai Central Terminus, officials said here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Today, the 'Little Red Horse', standing proudly atop a special pedestal in the WR Heritage Lawn was inaugurated by Kshama Mishra, President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, in the presence of WR General Manager A.K. Mishra, DRM Neeraj Verma and other top officials.

According to WR Chief Spokesperson Sumit Thakur, the 'Little Red Horse' was the symbol of growth and modernity during the 19th and 20th centuries till she was 'retired' at the age of 61 in 1991 and found a resting place at the Mumbai Central Terminus, which was



celebrating its Platinum Jubilee that year.

Recently, the WR's Mechanical Department embarked on a major restora-

tion work of the 'Little Red Horse' - procured in those days for Rs 34,423, or less than half the price of an ordinary two-wheeler today.

The teams of engineers went to work on all its worn out or rusted parts which were thoroughly repaired, and the loco was carefully painted to revert to its old glorious self.

The beautification also covered the garden with the Ashok Pillar Emblem adorning the site with replacement of glass enclosures and beautiful landscaping, protective fencing and other attractions for the viewers.

Incidentally, the new avatar of 'Little Red Horse' was possible after it was removed from its original location four years ago to facilitate the construction of the Mumbai Metro 3 station nearby, which has now been completed.





## "HE HAS PLANE, CARS, WEALTH, WE HAVE...": SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN'S DIG AT KAMAL NATH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said the Congress chooses Kamal Nath as its chief ministerial face in the state on the basis of his "huge wealth".

Even Congress leaders endorse this view, Chouhan told reporters here.

Reacting to the barb, Nath, a former chief minister, dared him to name any "company or industry" he (Nath) owns.

"He has aeroplane, helicopter, cars, property, wealth, that is why he is a Congress leader and their chief ministerial candidate...But we have the public (on our side)," the chief minister said without naming the state Congress chief. Even Congress leaders say that he is a leader because he has "huge wealth", Chouhan claimed.

"If a leader of Congress is decided on the basis of wealth and resources, then let them...but this cannot be a yardstick for a leader in



democracy," he said.

Asked about the chief minister's remarks, Nath said, "Shivraj Singh ji will not desist from speaking lies. Will he be able to state that I have no link to any industry? I am not the owner of any industry or company." Chouhan can not digest his food without lying, the Congress leader said, adding that the chief minister should name the "company, industry or business I own".

Earlier, a newspaper report had quoted Congress's Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha

as describing Nath as a (financially) capable person, as required in politics".

Tankha on Saturday said the newspaper misrepresented his statement.

"@ChouhanShivraj ji, the newspaper misrepresented my statement. Kamal Nath ji is the most experienced and capable person. This is true. Undoubtedly you have become the most capable person in BJP in these 20 years. Despite your active contribution and mandate, the BJP today sits in power," he tweeted.

## Every homeless poor will be made land owner: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Distribution of Chief Minister's residential land rights letters in Gotra of Sidhi district, Chief Minister had dinner with the lease beneficiaries.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that every homeless poor person of the state will be given a house lease and made an owner. No person shall be deprived of a piece of land for building a house. The Chief Minister said that the state government has freed thousands of acres of land from the clutches of mafias by running a campaign. This freed land will be distributed to poor families for housing. The poor will be given pattas of government land available in the villages. If necessary, we will distribute the pattas even after purchasing the land. The Chief Minister today distributed Chief Minister's residential land rights pattas to 142 beneficiaries in village Gotra under Dhauhani assembly constituency of Sidhi district.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that I have come to change the world by doing welfare of the poor. Every poor will get his right. The state government has resolved that such landless poor who do not have land to build their houses, the government will give them land pattas. The Chief Minister said that this scheme would also benefit those families who are living jointly in a small house. He said that the family kept getting bigger but they do not have a piece of



land. Today is a day of happiness for the poor and I have come to join their happiness. While discussing the Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana, the Chief Minister said that this scheme would prove to be a milestone in the empowerment of sisters. Under the scheme, Rs 1000 will be given to every eligible sister's account every month, so that she will not have to reach out to anyone for the small needs of herself and her family. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Ladli Laxmi Yojana has given a new dimension to the empowerment of girls. Now Ladli Bahna Yojana is bringing social revolution in the state. This scheme is a campaign to change the lives of women. With the help of financial assistance, women will get respect and love in the family. There was a time when

there was discrimination between son and daughter, mother's womb was made a slaughterhouse. Social change has come due to social awareness and effective implementation of Ladli Laxmi Yojana. Now daughters have become a boon and they are being given opportunities to move forward in every field. Daughters are serving the family more than sons. The government has implemented many schemes for the welfare of daughters. Poor parents should not consider daughter as a burden, That's why marriages of daughters are being conducted under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah-Nikah Yojana. Meritorious daughters are being given scholarship and free education facility. E-scooty will be given to the girl who tops in the higher secondary examination in the village. The Chief Minister distributed benefits to Ladli Lakshmi, Ayushman, Chief Minister Residential Land Rights Scheme and women self-help groups. The Chief Minister announced to make Madwas a tehsil and to open a college, to make Niwas a sub-tehsil, to make Madwas Chowki a police station and to upgrade the Majhau Community Health Center to 50 beds. The Chief Minister also performed bhoomi-pujan of 79 construction works costing Rs 445 crore 42 lakh and inaugurated 39 works costing Rs 24 crore 39 lakh.

## Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of mango, banyan, saptaparni and karanj

Well-known singer Darshan Rawal was involved in planting saplings, on his birthday the girls who came for saplings recited Shiv Tandav Stot

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Along with the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, well-known singer and musician Darshan Rawal planted saplings of Banyan, Mango, Saptaparni and Karanj in the garden located at Shyamala Hills. Girls Vinayaki Sharma and Prerna Sharma, who came for plantation, recited Tandav Stot and planted saplings along with Chief Minister Chouhan on his birthday. Girl child Vridhika Srivastava also planted a sapling on her birthday. The relatives of the girls also participated in the plantation. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Chakraveer Singh of Sehore along with his family planted



saplings on his birthday. Sarvashri Wasimuddin, Shafiuddin and other members of Nisha Welfare Education Society participated in the plantation.

Chief Minister welcomed singer and musician Darshan Rawal in Bhopal. He said that special initiative would be taken by the state government to provide platform and guidance to the budding talents of the state in the field of singing and music. In this, cooperation of Darshan Rawal will also be taken. In discussion with media representatives, Rawal said that he was impressed by the lifestyle of Chief Minister Chouhan. Rawal also took a pledge to plant saplings on his birthday.

## 42 new Covid cases found in MP; Active cases crossed 250

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A patient died of Covid after 95 days in Indore. A 98-year-old woman died here. Earlier on January 7, 2023, a Covid positive patient had died in Indore.

Corona patients have started increasing once again in Madhya Pradesh. On Friday, 42 new infected have been found in the state. This has been revealed in the State Covid Health Bulletin report. Officials of the Directorate of Health said that the number of active cases of Covid has crossed 250 in the state.

For the last one week, more than 10 new Covid infected patients are being found daily in Bhopal. On Friday also, 15 new corona patients have been found in the capital. The number of active patients has increased to 93 here. After



receiving 7 new corona patients in Indore, the number of active cases has increased to 55.

Officials of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program said that one corona patient in Indore and 4 patients in

Bhopal are admitted in different hospitals in the state. The health of these five patients is currently stable. Not a single patient is on oxygen support. All have been kept in the general isolation ward.

## Get the sewer, manhole and septic tank cleaned with machines only

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has directed that all the urban bodies should adopt the process of "manhole to machine-hole" and ensure cleaning of sewers, manholes and septic tanks by modern machines. Benefit from the Entrepreneur Scheme.

It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had announced that "there will be a provision for getting manholes cleaned with machines by making a sanitation policy in the urban bodies."

Minister Singh has said

that financial and institutional provisions have also been made by the department to promote mechanized cleaning of manholes and septic tanks. Along with this, the Swachhata Udyami Yojana has also been implemented with the aim of providing employment to the Safai Mitras engaged in cleaning. Manual cleaning of manholes and septic tanks is completely banned in the state. In this regard, all the districts have also been declared to be "manual scavenging" free districts. Instructions have also been given by the Government of India to implement the "manhole to machine-hole" scheme.

## DR. NISHANT KHARE BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF MADHYA PRADESH YOUTH COMMISSION

Bhopal : Dr. Nishant Khare has been appointed as the chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Youth Commission by the state government. This appointment has been made for a period of 2 years from the date of taking charge or till further orders. Orders have been issued in this regard by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department.

## National shooting: Pankaj Mukheja, Nancy and Rhythm Sangwan win in trials

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Pankaj Mukheja won a battle of Railwaymen to clinch the men's 50m rifle 3-positions (3P) T3 trials at the M.P. State Shooting Academy Range here on Saturday.

Also emerging triumphant at India's newest shooting destination on Day Three of the Group A national selection trials, was Haryana's Nancy, who claimed the women's 10m air rifle T3 trials, and her state-mate Rhythm Sangwan, who won the women's 25m pistol T4 trials, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a release on Saturday.

Mukheja overcame Paris 2024 Olympics quota winner Swapnil Kusale 16-12 in a tight contest. This was after local hope and India's number one in



the event, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar had logged a field-topping 591

in qualifications. Tomar fell just short of making it to

the gold medal clash, shooting 407.4 in the ranking round to finish behind Kusale who shot 408. Mukheja with 413.7 was way clear at the top.

In the women's air rifle, Nancy got the better of West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh 16-10. Mehuli will be happy with her qualification round score of 633.8 which was the leading scorer in the 42-strong field. Shreya Agrawal was third for hosts Madhya Pradesh (M.P.), after finishing the ranking round with 261.6.

Haryana's Rhythm Sangwan continued her brilliant form clinching the women's 25m pistol with 32 hits in the medal match. Uttar Pradesh's Neha was second with 31 hits while Telangana's Esha Singh was third with 21 hits to her name.

## NAROTTAM MISHRA TURNS 63, LIKELY TO GET KEY POSITION IN MP BJP SOON

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The second-most influential cabinet minister in Madhya Pradesh - Narottam Mishra, who is known for making headlines with his controversial remarks especially on issues related to "Bollywood" and "Hindutva", seems to have made some alterations in his political stances from the last couple of months. Sources told correspondent that Mishra is getting ready to play a new role in the state BJP unit ahead of the Assembly elections due for November 2023.

Mishra, who is celebrating his sixty-third birthday on Saturday, is likely to be assigned a key position in the state unit of the party by the central leadership.

Six-term member of the state Assembly from the Datia district and fourth-term cabinet minister, Mishra began his political career in 1977-1978 with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM). Currently, he holds several important portfolios including Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the state cabinet. He became the cabinet minister for the first time under former Chief Minister Babulal Gaur in 2005.

"The central leadership of the BJP is planning to assign a bigger role to Narottam Mishra in the party. A team of four BJP's sangathan (organisa-



tion) has been tasked to conduct a survey regarding the popularity and acceptance of BJP leaders across Madhya Pradesh. Once the survey

is completed, a big change is likely to be witnessed in the state BJP unit in the next couple of months and there is no surprise if Mishra to be

given a key role to play in the Assembly elections as he is a popular Brahmin leader in the state..." a party source told correspondent.

Mishra's rise to prominence has successfully established his image as an important leader in the eyes of the party high command during the last few years, not just in Madhya Pradesh but also in national politics. For instance, under the leadership of former national BJP President and current Home Minister, Amit Shah, he was made in-charge of the Kanpur Lok Sabha seat in 2019, keeping in mind the number of Brahmin votes in the region. Besides being a popular Hindutva face, Mishra also has a good reputation among Muslims in the state. In the last few years, more specifically when the BJP formed the government in the state in 2020, his statements became a regular headline in the national media. Now, with elections just six months away, he seems to have made some alterations in his political stance, especially among the minority community. For instance, recently he organised a mega 'Roza Iftar' in Datia and a large number of Muslim people attended the event.

Mishra played a pivotal role in toppling the Kamal Nath government in 2020, through "Operation Kamal", and this is also one of the reasons, the state Congress unit considers him as a bigger political enemy than Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

## SPECTRUM EXHIBIT AT SAGAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Bhopal: Sagarites of Sagar Public School Saket Nagar Campus exhibited their Annual Spectrum with great zeal, enthusiasm, and jubilation. Passionate and talented Sagarites in an enriching presentation portrayed themselves as future scientists, authors, poets, writers, social influencers, and Technophiles. The innovation and vision of Sagarites showcased the multi-domain and multi-spectral talent in the fields of Science, Mathematics, Languages, Literature, Social Science, Atal Tinkering Lab & Technologies. The exhibit showcased 1500+ presentations in the form of models, knowledge charts and creations in form of games to share knowledge. Sagarites with their exhibit portrayed a clear message to reuse, recycle and reducing waste material to display their talent and conserve the environment. Sagarites also exhibited social messages of saving water, saving planet earth, sustainability, and sustainable development to be a part of life.

The objective of the Spectrum was to make Sagarites understand the concept, work in teams, learn with fun, deep dive into the subject knowledge and apply the concept to an application with value as a takeaway.





# 12 KILLED AS BUS PLUNGES INTO GORGE ON MUMBAI-PUNE HIGHWAY

Team Absolute | Raigad

In a pre-dawn tragedy, at least 12 youths, including five minors, were killed while 28 others injured when a private bus plunged into a gorge on Mumbai-Pune Highway on Saturday, officials said here.

President Draupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and others mourned the tragedy and expressed condolences to the victims and their families.

The Prime Minister has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each deceased victim, and Rs 50,000 for those injured, while Shinde has said that an ex-gratia of Rs 5,00,000 will be given to the families of the deceased and full treatment expenses of the injured shall be borne by the state government.

Khopoli Police Inspector Shirish K. Pawar said that the accident occurred around 4 a.m. on the Pune-Mumbai arm of the old highway and the bus reportedly fell into the ravine at least 50 meters below, near the treacherous Borghat section.



"From preliminary investigations, it appears that the driver may have lost control on one of the steep slopes on the highway, but our priority is rescue work," said Pawar.

At that early hour, there was limited traffic on the highway but some people managed to rush to the accident spot, summoned the Raigad Police, Fire Brigade, some workers

from a nearby construction project and a local trekkers' group for help.

A massive rescue operation was immediately launched with ropes and climbers went down to help the victims, numbering around 40-45 including the bus driver, locals said.

According to Pawar and the district authorities, around 12 youngsters have died in the accident and the

number of fatalities could go up.

The injured were rushed to Khopoli Civil Hospital, Jakhotia Hospital, and MGM Hospital in Navi Mumbai for treatment, and the condition of some is reported to be serious.

A police official said that a majority of the passengers were members of the Baji Prabhu Music Group, Goregaon, and comprised five minors and other youngsters in their teens or twenties, who were returning home after performing at a programme in Pune on Friday.

The deceased include Jui D. Sawant (18), Kritik Lohit (16), Rahul Gothan (17) (all from Goregaon); Abhay V. Sable (20) and Vaibhavi Sabale (15) of Malad; Harshada Pardeshi (19) of Mahim; Satish S. Dhumal (25), Swapnil S. Dhumal (15), Yash S. Yadav (20), Manish Rathod (25), Veer K. Mandavkar (6), and one person whose identity is yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, scores of grieving parents and relatives of deceased and injured victims rushed from different parts of Mumbai to the accident spot and the hospitals in Raigad and Navi Mumbai.

# 'The heat is on': 10 Maha districts notch 40 degrees plus temperatures

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least 10 of Maharashtra's 36 districts have recorded maximum day temperatures upwards of 40 degrees Celsius in mid-April, with Chandrapur the hottest at 43.2 degrees and south Mumbai emerging the "coolest" at 31.6, as per IMD data.

The hottest districts in the state with the highest mercury readings are: Chandrapur (43.2 degrees), Wardha (42.2), Amravati and Solapur (41.4), Nagpur (41), Parbhani (40.8), Yavatmal (40.5), Akola and Jalgaon (40.3), and Nanded (40.2).

All the other districts have recorded temperatures upwards of 31C, with high humidity levels in the coastal areas and dry conditions in the hinterlands, as per the IMD.

Some districts like Pune, Satara and Parbhani received heavy to minor rains in the past 24 hours, but did not result in any appreciable changes in the maximum temperatures.



Due to the heat conditions, the demand for chilled beverages or ice-creams have shot up phenomenally, people can be seen sporting scarves, gloves and sunglasses, especially while commuting on two-wheelers, to beat the fiery

heat. Many educational institutions have curtailed outdoor activities for students while the health authorities in several parts of the state have advised people to refrain from stepping out unless necessary between 1-5 p.m.

# Devendra Fadnavis appears in court, denies any wrongdoing in poll affidavit

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday appeared before a court here in connection with an application seeking action against him for alleged non-disclosure of criminal cases in his election affidavit in 2014, and denied all the allegations.

Fadnavis's statement was recorded in written format under a provision of section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Under this provision, the court puts forth questions to an accused on the evidence relied upon by the complainant in the case.

Fadnavis appeared before Civil Judge VA Deshmukh at 12 noon with his lawyers, when they were given 35 pages with 110 questions.

Devendra Fadnavis himself wrote down the answers to each question after discussion with his lawyers.

The BJP leader denied all the contentions and allegations made in the complaint and said he had not committed any "crime or wrongdoing", his lawyer told reporters



later. Fadnavis left the court premises after one and a half hours. The court posted the matter for final arguments on May 6.

Satish Uke, an advocate, had filed the application seeking criminal proceedings against Fadnavis alleging that cases of cheating and forgery had been registered against the BJP leader in 1996 and 1998 but he did not disclose this information in his poll affidavit ahead of the 2014 assembly elections.

Uke is presently in jail after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on charges of money laundering.

# COURT REFUSES TO SET ASIDE CASE AGAINST PROFESSOR OVER WHATSAPP STATUS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Any critical or dissenting views in sensitive matters that stir up emotions of different groups of people must be expressed only after proper analysis of the situation and backed with reasoning, the Bombay High Court has said while refusing to quash an FIR against a professor for putting a WhatsApp status on Article 370.

A division bench of Justices SB Shukre and M M Sathaye in its order of April 10 said it prima facie finds that the professor has in a very casual manner posted the status message about the abrogation of Article 370, which ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The court dismissed the petition filed by 26-year-old Javed Ahmed Hajam seeking to quash the first information report (FIR) registered against him by Hatkanangale police station in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district under section 153 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for promoting enmity.

Hajam, originally from Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, was a professor at a college in Kolhapur. The allegation against Hajam is that between August 13 and 15, 2022 he had put a status on his WhatsApp 'August 5 Black Day Jammu &



Kashmir' with a message below saying 'Article 370 was abrogated, we are not happy' and '14th August Happy Independence Day Pakistan'.

Hajam, in his plea in the high court, said he had not circulated any messages that would promote enmity or bring disharmony or feeling of hatred between religions. He claimed that he had merely put his view on his WhatsApp status.

The bench, however, opined that the first status message on Article 370 constituted an offence under section 153A of the IPC, but the second status message on Pakistan's Independence Day did not. "The first message which has been posted on WhatsApp by the petitioner (Hajam) is without giving any reason and without making any critical analysis of the step taken by the central government towards abro-

gation of Article 370 of the Constitution," the court said in its order.

"In our view, this message has the tendency to play with emotions of different groups of people in India as there are strong feelings of contrasting nature about the status of Jammu and Kashmir in India and therefore, one has to tread cautiously in such a field," the high court said.

If any criticism is to be made, it must be upon evaluation of all pros and cons of the situation and backed by reason, the court added.

"No doubt, in a democratic country like India where there is a fundamental right in the nature of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, every word of criticism and every view of dissent is important for maintaining democracy in a good state of health," HC said. "But we may add that at least in sensitive matters any critical words or dissenting view must be expressed after proper analysis of the whole situation and must provide the reasons for which the critique or dissent is made," it added.

This is more so when the emotions and sentiments behind a particular thing or aspect being criticised run high with different shades and hues among different groups of people, the bench said.

# WHY IS PM MODI SILENT ON SATYA PAL MALIK'S REVELATIONS, ASKS MVA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has demanded that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party should come clear on the statements made by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on various issues, including the Pulwama attacks, here on Saturday.

Terming Malik's contentions on corruption, farmers and February 2019 Pulwama strikes as 'grave' and directly linked with national security, the Congress state president Nana Patole, Nationalist Congress Party Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase and Shiv Sena (UBT) National Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari have said they must be probed thoroughly.

"Many questions are raised in Malik's allegations that Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him to keep silent when the government's fault was pointed out in the Pulwama attacks that led to the killing of 40 soldiers," said Patole.

He said doubts are created in public minds if this is true and why the demand to send airplanes for the jawans was rejected, where did the 300 kg RDX used come from and other glaring lapses that pointed a finger at the Modi government.

Tapase said that Malik's statements are too 'serious' to be brushed aside and the PM must clarify as it owes an explanation to the nation and the



families of the martyred soldiers.

Tiwari pointed out that Malik's explosive revelations pointed fingers at the PM, the Home Ministry and Defence Ministry and could have possible 'national security ramifications'.

"What Malik has exposed may be like the tip of the iceberg. What exactly is underneath that has not yet come to light, what does it portend for the country's internal and external security, and why it has been kept suppressed for over 4 years," Tiwari asked, saying this needs an independent investigation.

Referring to Malik's allegations that RSS leader Ram Madhav had offered him a bribe of Rs 300 crore, the Congress leader said this is coming from a former governor appointed by Modi and BJP who claim that they will not spare any corrupt person. "But now, they are themselves completely silent on this."

"All these statements made openly by a senior BJP leader deepen the suspicions on the government and so it is up to PM Modi himself to disclose the true facts in this matter," urged Patole.

Tiwari warned that if the BJP attempts to bury Malik's allegations under the carpet, then it will be deemed as not only true but tantamount to a deliberate fraud played on the people, the farmers and the soldiers of the country who lay their lives for the nation.

# AFRICAN NATIONAL ARRESTED WITH DRUGS WORTH RS 10 LAKH

Mumbai: An African national was arrested for alleged possession of narcotics worth Rs 10 lakh in Navi Mumbai, police said on Saturday.

The anti-narcotics cell of the Navi Mumbai police spotted the accused moving in a suspicious manner in Ulve on Thursday, an official said.

The accused was found in possession of 100 gm of the banned drug methaqualone, worth Rs 10 lakh, he said.

The 36-year-old man residing in Ulve, hailed from Guinea-Bissau in West Africa, and did not possess a valid passport and visa for stay in India, the official said.

An offence under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Passport Act and Foreign Nationals Act has been registered against the accused, he added.

# EX-EMPLOYEE BOOKED FOR CHEATING AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Thane: The police in Maharashtra's Thane city has registered an offence against the former employee of an automobile dealer for allegedly cheating the company of more than Rs 16 lakh, an official said on Saturday.

The case was registered on Friday based on a complaint lodged by the company management, which alleged that the accused had collected commission from sub-dealers for two-wheelers that were sold through them, the official said.

The accused, who worked as a network manager, had defrauded the company of more than Rs 16 lakh between July 2019 and May 2022 by pocketing the commission himself, he said.

# Property brawl leads to hoax terror threat in Mumbai, one nabbed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One person has been arrested for allegedly making a hoax call that three terrorists with Pakistani links have entered the city from Dubai, police said.

The threat call was received at the Mumbai Police Control Room on April 7 from Raja Thonge of Pune, claiming that the three desperadoes had sneaked into Mumbai that morning, with possible nefarious motives.

He even identified one of the terrorists as Mujib Mustafa Syed, provided his mobile phone numbers, the registration number of the vehicle in which they were travelling and other details.

The Mumbai Police, along with the Nashik Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS), launched simultaneous investigations to catch the so-called 'terrorists' but found that actually the caller had given false information.



"The caller's real name is Yasin Yakub Syed, and he is actually the cousin of the alleged terrorist Mujib Mustafa Syed whose identity he had tipped off in his call," said the officials.

Armed with the information, the police and ATS tracked Yasin through tech-intel, CCTV and picked him up. He cracked down under sustained police questioning and spilled the beans.

He confessed to making the fake terror threat call ostensibly to trap his cousin Mujib in a police case as they had an ongoing old dispute over an ancestral property of over 5,500 square feet in their native place Bhavaninagar in Ahmednagar district.

After the revelations, the Azad Maidan Police Station has arrested Yasin under various IPC sections and further investigations are underway for the fraud played on them that led to the chase by the police and ATS teams.



# KYLIE JENNER, TIMOTHEE CHALAMET ENJOY TACO DATE DESPITE ROMANCE RUMOURS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Make-up mogul Kylie Jenner and Hollywood star Timothee Chalamet has continued to add fuel to romance rumours between them. 'The Kardashians' star and the 'Dune' actor, who reportedly have been linked romantically since earlier this year,



were spotted enjoying a taco date last weekend, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Last Friday, April 7, the makeup mogul and the 'Call Me by Your Name' star stepped out to Tito's Tacos in Los Angeles. In photographs surfacing online, the actor could be seen waiting for a ride outside after attending an art show.

The reported couple, however, was not photographed together. They were unveiled to have enjoyed their tacos from the backseat of Kylie's car.

Dating rumours between Kylie and Timothee emerged after Celebrity gossip account DeuxMoi posted on its Instagram page a screenshot of text messages from an anonymous tipster. I can confirm too about Timothee and Kylie," read the message.

The informant further claimed to have "known about them since January" at Paris Fashion Week.

Kylie and Timothee were indeed seen among the attendees at the Jean-Paul Gaultier fashion show on January 25. While the alleged couple didn't pose together, a resurfaced video saw the 'Wonka' star, who donned a black bomber jacket with cream-colored floral detailing, smiling while chatting with who appeared to be a mom of two.

On Thursday, April 13, Kylie's car was spotted at Timothee's Beverly Hills home. Her black Range Rover SUV could be seen driving up to the actor's \$11 million property, which he bought last year.



Vanessa hopes to 'heal ancestral trauma', break 'demonic' stigma of witchcraft

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Vanessa Hudgens has "manifested" every successful thing in her life. The actress has made a name for herself in showbusiness after she took on the role of Gabriella Montez in Disney Channel's runaway hit 'High School Musical' as a teenager and since she recently got engaged to Cole Tucker, explained that she has asked the universe for everything in both her professional and personal life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I've manifested my relationship, my home, my career. There's so much. As long as you're really specific, it might not always come when you expect it or want it, but it's always gonna come back in some way," she told Entertainment Tonight.

The actress, who lost her father Greg to cancer in 2016, just hours before she played the role of Rizzo on 'Grease Live', is now exploring her witchy side as part of new documentary 'Dead Hot: Season of the Witch' went on to add that she "connects" with angels every day and finds it "empowering" to be able to keep in touch with spirituality as she explained that she was drawn to take part in the Tubi project in order to "heal ancestral trauma."

She added, "Cause they're always there with you, so I've been connecting. I always take a moment to connect to spirit, and the easiest to me is my spiritual brigade. It's just like a really empowering, grounding, protective thing to be able to do consciously. In a crazy world, I do it often."

"I kinda wanted to figure out who they were specifically so I can be more intimate with them, and I definitely got that. I mean, I've always said that the only way to heal ancestral trauma is to shine a light on it, and witchcraft has been painted as this demonic thing through film for years."



Ben Affleck calls Matt Damon a 'terrible' roommate



Actor Ben Affleck has called his actor friend Matt Damon a terrible roommate who didn't wash up or pay bills. Growing up together in Massachusetts, the pair were classmates at drama school before eventually moving to Los Angeles and sharing a house - but Affleck has said that his friend wasn't easy to live with as he often forgot to clean up after himself and "never paid a bill to this day," reports aceshowbiz.com.

"We were teenagers and we wanted to go up to New York to audition, we lived in Boston, we were kind of like we wanted to help each other," Ben explained during an appearance on 'The Late Late Show with James Corden'.

"One of us would make enough money so we could keep taking the train to New York to do the next audition. Then we moved to LA. We lived in the same house and it was just easier and also Matt's never paid a bill to this day."

The 'Argo' star said he had to explain to his pal that he needed to pay bills because the "utility company needs money to continue to fund our electricity."

When asked if Matt was a good or bad housemate, Affleck replied, "Matt's a beautiful guy. I love him. He's my best friend. He's been great to me my whole life. He's a brilliant guy. I would not suggest living with him, because he has an ability, have you ever known people that block things out? I think that's why he's such a great actor. He can just focus. One of the things he blocks out is the idea when you finish with something that it has to be washed or thrown away."

# JAMIE FOXX'S 'BACK IN ACTION' TO WRAP UP PRODUCTION BEFORE SCHEDULE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jamie Foxx's movie 'Back in Action' is reportedly ready to wrap production though he still has 8 unfinished shooting days left. The actor was reportedly rushed to the hospital on Tuesday morning, April 11, before going to set and he has not returned to the set since then, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Now production sources tell TMZ that the film will wrap next week, though Jamie still has 8 days of filming left. They, however, don't explain when asked what they will do with the scenes which the 'Django Unchained' star has not filmed yet. A source confirms to CNN that filming is "currently underway and expected to wrap up next week."

Following Jamie's health scare, the set was "shut down" on Wednesday, April 12. Filming resumed on Thursday, with a stand-in used in place of the 55-year-old actor.

On the same day, a casting



director informed extras via email that a scene set to film this Sunday has been canceled due to "changes in production." The scene will not be rescheduled due to the changes, but scenes scheduled to film on Monday and Tuesday are expected to move forward as planned, per the memo.

A representative for Netflix, which produces the movie, has not addressed the production schedule following Jamie's health scare.

Jamie's daughter Corinne Foxx broke the news of her father's medical emergency

on Wednesday, April 12. She revealed that the 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' star was taken to the hospital on Tuesday, but didn't not divulge his condition aside from calling it a "medical complication."

"We wanted to share that, my father, Jamie Foxx, experienced a medical complication yesterday," the 29-year-old actress posted on her social media page. "Luckily, due to quick action and great care, he is already on his way to recovery."

# Lily Allen reveals she often 'forgets to eat food'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lily Allen has shared how her way of thinking when it comes to food and eating is "sort of quite anti-capitalist", alongside admitting she often forgets to eat as she doesn't really get hungry.

Lily, who was recently diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), details her favourite meals during a candid chat with comedians Ed Gamble and James Acaster, alongside revealing her "anti-capitalist way of thinking of eating".

She explains how she struggles to order from fast food chains due to the fact the food is mass produced and opts not to eat during plane journeys because "it's also just come from a warehouse."

"I'm actually really bad... I don't really get hungry," she told the Off Menu podcast when chatting about her dream three-course meal. "It's when I see food I'm like 'oh yeah I should eat'."

She added: "I think basically my stomach goes quite long distances without eating then it has a little bit and it goes 'yes'."

"I love food. I love eating, but I'm just not very good at remembering to do things. I get up in the morning and I'm looking after kids and I just forget."

People with ADHD are specifically predisposed to irregular and/or impulsive eating patterns, with some with the condition forgetting schedules and mealtimes when in a hyper focused state.

Lily, who is four-years sober, went on to tell Ed and James how she struggles to eat any meals not prepared specifically for her and routinely shuns aeroplane food.

"I have a bit of a weird stipulation when it comes to fast food," she told the podcast hosts. "I can't really eat food if it hasn't been ordered and made for me... I can't really deal with the idea that you order something and it's just been taken from a pile of food that has already been made."

"It has to be some kind of intention behind it for me. I can't eat plane food because it's also just come from a warehouse."



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sophie Habboo





## IPL 2023

# SIKANDAR, SHAHRUKH LEAD PBSK TO TWO-WICKET VICTORY OVER LSG

Lucknow | Agencies

Though Punjab Kings missed the services of regular skipper and opener Shikhar Dhawan due to a niggles, Sikandar Raza stood up to hit his first IPL fifty while Shahrukh Khan applied finishing touches with a late cameo to take the side to a two-wicket triumph over Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

After stand-in captain Sam Curran and fast bowler Kagiso Rabada picked 3-31 and 2-34 respectively to keep Lucknow Super Giants to 159/8, Raza hit 57 off 41 balls to bring Punjab's chase on track, followed by Shahrukh slapping 23 not out to ensure the side's third victory of the competition.

For Lucknow, who have faced their first loss at home in the ongoing season, questions will be raised over introducing Ravi Bishnoi late in the attack, from the 15th over, as well as of captain K.L. Rahul making 74,



but not attacking much in the middle overs.

Lucknow had a fiery start to their defence of 159 through debutant pacer Yuvraj Singh Chahal. He rushed Atharva Taide for pace and on the third ball, he had the batter top-edging a pull to the third man.

On the second ball of his next over, Yuvraj sent Prabhsimran Singh's off-stump on a cartwheel ride with a superb nip-backer. Matthew Short was impressive in his 22-ball 34 -- pulling, driving, and flicking with ease against Avesh Khan while taking back-to-back

fours on short balls from Yuvraj.

He then dispatched an over-pitched ball from K. Gowtham with a lofted drive over long-on for six. But the off-spinner had the last laugh as on the last ball of Power-play, Short punched straight to a reverse-cupping mid-off.

From there, Lucknow's bowlers kept things under control, as Harpreet Bhatia heaved straight to deep backward square leg off Krunal Pandya in the 11th over, despite surviving a direct-hit chance previously.

Raza injected momentum in the chase by lofting Gowtham down the

ground for six, followed by hoicking two sixes and a four off short balls from Krunal through the mid-wicket region in the 13th over.

With Shahrukh teeing off from the word go by smacking Wood over long-on for six, Raza crunched a drive off Avesh for four to bring the equation to 23 runs needed off 18 balls. But Bishnoi dismissed Raza for 57 after the right-handed batter swept straight to deep backward square leg. Shahrukh got a top edge on six off Wood while Harpreet Brar drove him through extra cover for four. But the pacer bounced back by getting Brar to edge behind in the penultimate over.

### Brief scores

Lucknow Super Giants 159/8 in 20 overs (K.L. Rahul 74, Kyle Mayers 29; Sam Curran 3-31, Kagiso Rabada 2-34) lost to Punjab Kings 161/8 in 19.3 overs (Sikandar Raza 57, Matthew Short 34; Ravi Bishnoi 2-18, Yuvraj Singh Chahal 2-19) by two wickets

## Brazil Para-Badminton International

# Pramod Bhagat, Sukant Kadam book semis spots

Sao Paulo (Brazil) | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler Pramod Bhagat and World No 4 Sukant Kadam have secured their spots in the semi-finals of the ongoing Brazil Para-Badminton International 2023, here.

The Padma Shri Awardee Bhagat reached the semi-finals in singles and men's doubles event while Kadam has reached the semi-finals of men's singles and doubles.

Pramod eased past Peru's Pedro Pablo De Vinatea 21-7, 21-12 in the men's single quarter final clash. It took him just 30 minutes to book a clash with Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the semi-finals. He also secured a semi-final spot in the men's doubles with his partner Sukant Kadam. The duo defeated Peru's pair of Pedro Pablo De Vinatea and Renzo Diquez Bances Morales.

The match lasted for 25 minutes, and the final score read 21-10 and 21-14. The



duo will now face India's Kumar Nitesh and Tarun in the semi-finals.

However, Pramod had to face a loss in the mixed doubles with his partner Manisha Ramadass as the pair went down fighting to Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani and Leani Ratri Oktila.

On the other hand, Sukant

Kadam won a hard-fought quarterfinal against India's Subhas Lalinakere Yathiraj. The match was tight and went all the way to 3 sets. Sukant put on a great fight and had all the answers for Subhas and the final score read 29-27, 11-21 and 21-17.

Sukant will now face Tarun in the semi-final clash.

## Hockey

# India, Pakistan in the same pool for men's Jr Asia Cup

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Archivals India and Pakistan have been drawn in the same group for the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 to be held in Salalah, Oman from May 23-June 1 this year.

India and Pakistan are in Pool A along with Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei in the 10-team competition and will meet on May 27 in a group clash. Group B comprises South Korea, Malaysia, hosts Oman, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) has announced.

Teams in the preliminary round will play on a round-robin basis in their respective pools with the top two finishers in each group qualifying for the semifinals, which will



be played on May 31. The final will be played on June 1.

Meanwhile, the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 will be played at Kakamigahara, Japan from June 2 to 11, 2023.

India is in Pool A along with Korea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan while Group B comprises China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong China and Indonesia.

The semifinals will be played on June 10 and the final on June 11. The top five

teams India, China, Korea, Japan and Malaysia got an automatic qualification based on their world rankings; Kazakhstan, Hong Kong China, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan and Indonesia won their qualification from the Women's Junior AHF Cup held in Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan in October 2022.

Top three teams from the title tournament will qualify to FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup 2023.

## National shooting

# Pankaj Mukheja, Nancy and Rhythm Sangwan win in trials

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Pankaj Mukheja won a battle of Railwaymen to clinch the men's 50m rifle 3-positions (3P) T3 trials at the M.P. State Shooting Academy Range here on Saturday.

Also emerging triumphant at India's newest shooting destination on Day Three of the Group A national selection trials, was Haryana's Nancy, who claimed the women's 10m air rifle T3 trials, and her state-mate Rhythm Sangwan, who won the women's 25m pistol T4 trials, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a release on Saturday.

Mukheja overcame Paris 2024 Olympics quota winner Swapnil Kusale 16-12 in a tight contest. This was after local hope and India's number one in the event, Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar had logged a field-top-



ping 591 in qualifications.

Tomar fell just short of making it to the gold medal clash, shooting 407.4 in the ranking round to finish behind Kusale who shot 408. Mukheja with

413.7 was way clear at the top.

In the women's air rifle, Nancy got the better of West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh 16-10. Mehuli will be happy with her qualification round score of

633.8 which was the leading scorer in the 42-strong field. Shreya Agrawal was third for hosts Madhya Pradesh (M.P.), after finishing the ranking round with 261.6.

Haryana's Rhythm Sangwan continued her brilliant form clinching the women's 25m pistol with 32 hits in the medal match. Uttar Pradesh's Neha was second with 31 hits while Telangana's Esha Singh was third with 21 hits to her name.

Among the juniors, Gautami Bhanot of M.P. also continued her good form, which saw her win in Korea last year as well as the Khelo India Youth Games gold at the same venue, clinching the women's 10m air rifle T3 trials in the category.

Delhi's Naamya Kapoor won the junior women's 25m pistol while her compatriot Shivam Dabas won the junior men's 50m rifle 3 positions competition.

## PGTI Players Championship

# IN-FORM KARAN PRATAP PREVAILS IN TIGHT FINISH FOR MAIDEN WIN

Chandigarh | Agencies

Young Karan Pratap Singh prevailed over the field in a tight finish to claim his maiden victory at TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship 2023 at Chandigarh Golf Club on Saturday.

The in-form Karan Pratap's win followed his career-best runner-up finish in Noida last week where he had lost in a playoff.

Karan (70-70-68-70), lying two shots off the lead in second place at the start of the day, posted a resolute two-under 70 on day four to tally 10-under 278 for the week that kept his nearest rivals at bay and helped him triumph by one shot.

Om Prakash Chouhan (72-70-69-68) of Mhow and Arjun Sharma (71-68-70-70) of Greater Noida were the joint runners-up at matching totals of nine-under 279.

Karan Pratap Singh, the 22-year-old from



Faridabad, had an action-packed front-nine where he made four birdies and three bogeys. His 30-foot birdie conversion on the third and a perfect 9-iron tee shot on the eighth where he narrowly missed a hole-in-one were his standout moments on the front nine.

The bespectacled golfer, who has an unconventional putting grip referred to as the claw grip, kept himself in contention on a busy leaderboard with a birdie and bogey till the 15th. He finally broke away from the pack by making a quality chip-putt for birdie on the 17th. Singh made another great chip-putt, this time for par, after missing the green on the 18th to come home the champion.

Karan Pratap Singh, who turned professional in 2019, took home the winner's cheque worth Rs. 15 lakh to climb from sixth to third place in the TATA Steel PGTI Rankings as his season's earnings moved to Rs. 33, 34,463.

# Lazio crush Spezia in Serie A

Rome | Agencies

Lazio registered their fourth consecutive win in Serie A as they sailed away with a 3-0 victory over Spezia.

Ciro Immobile's spot-kick put the Biancocelesti in charge in the first-half, Felipe Anderson doubled the lead straight after the break, before Marcos Antonio completed the scoreline in the dying minutes, reports Xinhua.

With the win, Lazio consolidated their second-place with 61 points, eight points ahead of third-placed Roma who host Udinese on Sunday. Elsewhere, Cremonese edged Empoli 1-0 thanks to an early strike from Cyriel Dessers.



# Bumrah commences rehab at NCA, Shreyas to undergo surgery

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has begun his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru while middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer will undergo surgery for a lower back issue next week, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Saturday.

The 28-year eventually underwent back surgery in New Zealand last month and was subsequently sidelined from the ongoing IPL 2023 and the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, which begins on June 7 at The Oval.

Bumrah, who was advised to start a six-week rehab following the surgery, commenced his rehab management at the NCA on April 14. "Jasprit Bumrah underwent surgery in New Zealand on his lower back, which was successful and he remains pain-free. The fast bowler was advised by the specialist to start his rehab six weeks after the surgery and



accordingly, Mr Bumrah has commenced his rehab management at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru from Friday," the BCCI said in a statement.

Iyer, on the other hand, returned from a back injury earlier this year, only to play twice in the Border Gavaskar Trophy before being ruled out again. The star batter was ruled out of the IPL 2023 and the WTC final, due to a recurring lower back issue. Iyer is scheduled to undergo surgery for the same, next week.

## Super Cup

# CHENNAIYIN, CHURCHILL BROTHERS SHARE SPOILS AFTER 0-0 DRAW

Manjeri (Kerala) | Agencies

Chennaiyin FC played out a goalless draw against Churchill Brothers in their second Group D match of the Hero Super Cup 2023 at the Payyanad Stadium here on Saturday.

Chennaiyin, who came into the match after a win against NorthEast United FC, were dominant from the get-go. They made a spirited start and kept piling the pressure on the opposition defenders with their aggressive approach.

They had 61 per cent possession and several goal-scoring opportunities, which also included seven corners, but couldn't manage to convert any in the first half.

One such chance came as early as in the sixth minute when the Anirudh Thapa-led side had almost opened



the scoring off a corner but the opposition defenders, somehow, managed to clear the ball. The last match's hero Aakash Sangwan also came into the

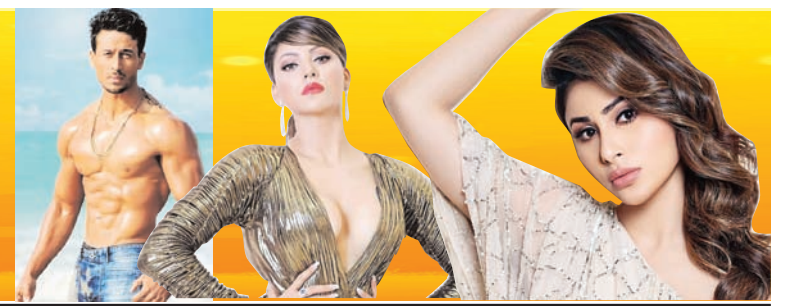
picture when his close-range header missed the target by a whisker a few minutes before the half time.

After struggling to hold the ball initially, Churchill Brothers regrouped after the break and showcased better resistance in the second half that witnessed stiff competition from both ends. The I-League side was reduced to 10 men after Richard Costa was handed his second yellow card of the match for bringing down Mohammad Rafique five minutes before the final whistle.

Both the teams tried their best to find a goal in the final quarter but eventually ended up sharing points with a draw.

Chennaiyin, with four points from two games, will now square off against Mumbai City FC in their final group-stage match on Wednesday.





Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Pooja Hegde plays a Telugu girl in the upcoming theatrical film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. The actress shared that having worked in South Indian film industries for over a decade trained to make

**WORKING IN SOUTH FILMS HELPED ME IN IMPROVISING DIALOGUES:**

**POOJA HEGDE**

improvisations in her dialogues while filming the Salman Khan-starrer.

The actress said: "Years of working in the South Indian film industries have made me proficient with regard to improvising the lines of my character instantaneously on sets if the character speaks any of the south Indian languages like for this part in 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'."

Having equal proficiency across languages hugely helps an actor to get the essence of a character coming from a particular background.

"I could easily mouth the dialogues in Telugu or improvise my lines because I have been working in that medium for quite some time now and have a decent understanding of that world and the culture," the actress concluded.

'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' is set to arrive in cinemas on April 21 on the occasion of Eid.

## 'PERFECT ABS'

**ISHAN KHATTER SETS THE TEMPERATURE HIGH AS HE POSTS 'SHIRTLESS PHOTO'**

Mumbai Actor Ishan Khatter has set the temperature soaring with his new shirtless picture, where he is seen flaunting his well-chiseled body.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Ishan posted a mirror selfie. In the photograph, he is seen looking into the camera as he strikes a pose in just black pants.

On the work front, Ishan will be seen next in 'Pippa', based on the 1971 war. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur, Priyanshu Pailyuli and Soni Razdan. It was in March when the makers of the film released a statement that 'Pippa' will not have an OTT release.

However, a date for the release is still unclear.

Ishan will also be seen in 'The Perfect Couple' alongside Nicole Kidman. It's a limited series for Netflix. The Bollywood actor will play Shooter Dival, the best friend of the groom in 'The Perfect Couple'.

'The Perfect Couple' also stars Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning and others.

Ishan was earlier seen in Mira Nair's 'A Suitable Boy'. He was last seen in the Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi-starrer film 'Phone Bhoot'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who's known for films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Raees', 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and others, will be soon seen in the romcom film 'Jogira Sara Ra Ra'. The actor has shared that while his fans love watching him playing dark characters, he loves keeping it light.

The film tells the story of a couple which is determined not to fall in love. The teaser of the film was unveiled recently.

Talking about the film, Nawaz said, "While my fans love to see me playing dark characters, I enjoy being in the light. And I am confident that this time even they will enjoy the laughs with this oddball couple who are determined to not lose their hearts to each other come what may. It's an original and refreshing subject, like a hawa ka jhonka."

The film has been written by Ghalib Asad Bhopali and directed by Kushan Nandy. It also stars Neha Sharma, Zarina Wahab, Sanjay Mishra and Mahakshay Chakraborty in hilarious supporting roles. Neha said, "Shooting for this film was such a memorable experience. We were all sad when the film wrapped up because I was having so much fun. Now, I can't wait for you all to see it and enjoy it. It's good clean entertainment that you can enjoy with the whole family. Hop on board, you won't be disappointed". Produced by Naeem A. Siddiqui, with Kiran Shyam Shroff as the creative producer, the film has been shot in places like Lucknow, Barabanki, Rahimabad, Varanasi and Mumbai. It's set to release on May 12.

**Nawazuddin Siddiqui says 'while my fans love to see me playing dark characters, I enjoy being in the light'**

## THE TOP SECRET MISSION IS NOW OUT: VIDYUT JAMMWAL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

cover operations."

"With Vidyut Jammwal in the lead, I knew that I had an actor who not only had the physicality to pull off high-octane action scenes but also the depth and nuance to bring his character to life. I can't wait for audiences to experience the world of IB71."

"A top secret mission that made us win the 1971 war," is written on the airplane.

Vidyut captioned the image: "The top secret mission is now out! Presenting IB71 - India's most confidential mission made us win the 1971 war. Teaser out today."

The film marks Vidyut turning producer for the first time which elevates the film to new heights.

Talking about the film, Vidyut said, "IB71 for the first time, talks about how the Indian Intelligence Bureau conducted a secret mission and outwitted the enemy which gave our armed forces the required advantage to face a two-front war. I am excited to bring this project to life and share it with the world!"

'IB 71' is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Film and Reliance Entertainment. The Action Hero Films production stars Vidyut Jammwal, Anupam Kher and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles and is produced by Bhusan Kumar, Action Hero Films and Reliance Entertainment.

Bollywood action hero Vidyut Jammwal's next 'IB71' is all set to hit the big screen on May 12.

The makers of patriotic spy thriller 'IB 71' have unveiled the teaser on Saturday and National Award-winning director Sankalp Reddy has revealed as to what drew him towards the film.

Sankalp Reddy shared: "Working on IB71 has been an absolute thrill ride for me. From the very beginning, I was drawn to the film's intriguing premise and the opportunity to explore the world of under-

## WHEN ABHILASH THAPLIYAL HAD PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT ANURAG KASHYAP



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Abhilash Thapliyal, who is known for his work in streaming vertical with 'Faadu', 'Blurr', 'Aspirants' and 'SK Sir Ki Class', is currently on cloud nine as his film 'Kennedy', directed by the poster boy of Indian indie cinema - Anurag Kashyap, is set to head to the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. The actor shared that he had preconceived notions about Kashyap being intimidating as a director but he was pleasantly surprised to find him very welcoming and warm.

Abhilash said: "I met Anurag Sir for the first time in Pune, he was shooting for 'Dobaaraa'. And I was really intimidated because I was meeting one of the best filmmakers our country has. So you want to behave yourself and you don't want to be overly friendly. But he was extremely welcoming and he shared so many stories from his life, his journey, his interests and more." Kashyap and Abhilash have a common friend in actress Taapsee with who both of them have worked. He further mentioned: "Eventually when I got to work with him, again I was very scared and I was thinking a lot of things like my performance on an Anurag Kashyap set but again I think Anurag Kashyap is extremely lovable. He is so loving, he is so caring and he takes care of his actors. He also gives freedom to his actors to explore the characters and to bring in our own nuances. I never wanted to become an actor and now the film 'Kennedy' has reached Cannes which is a dream come true."

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Editor- Yogendra Chaturvedi (\*responsible for selection of news under PRB act), Advisory Editor - Sarika Chaturvedi, RNI Regn. No. - MAHENG/2013/53548. Postal Regn. No. - MH/MR/N/261/MB/13-15. Phone: +022-49635590, www.absoluteindianews.com, E-mail: absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com (Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)



**'I enjoy being in the light'**

## RADHIKA MADAN'S 'SANAA' HEADS TO 'NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming film 'Sanaa', which stars Radhika Madan, Soham Shah of 'Tumbbad' fame, Shikha Talsania, and Pooja Bhatt, has been selected for the official competition at the 23rd New York Indian Film Festival set to be held from May 11 to 14.

This is North America's oldest and most prestigious film festival showcasing cinema from India and the Indian diaspora. The festival celebrates cinema from the global Indian community.

The film, directed by National Award-winning director Sudhanshu Saria, tells the story of a 28-year-old woman, played by Radhika Madan, who is fighting an internal battle caused by unresolved trauma.

Director Sudhanshu Saria said: "It is a great honour to have 'Sanaa' selected for the official competition at the New York Indian Film Festival. This festival has been a long-standing champion of independent cinema from the Indian Diaspora, and we are thrilled to have our film showcased alongside such diverse and compelling works. I am excited to attend the festival and engage with fellow filmmakers and audiences."

Earlier, the film was screened at the 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and the 38th Santa Barbara International Film Festival. It is also set to be a part of the 25th UK Asia Film Festival as an Opening Film, scheduled to take place from May 4 to May 13, 2023.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



**Tara Sutaria**