

# absolute india

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'TIGER STATE' EXTENDS SAFETY NET, ADDS 7000 HA OF FORESTS TO 'PROTECTED' LIST



## BIG Cat Story

Release of latest tiger census data along with a commemorative coin at a three-day event starting April 9 in Karnataka's Mysore will mark the successful completion of 50 years of 'Project Tiger' -- a conservation programme launched in 1973 to ensure a viable population of the big cat in its natural habitat.

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

To showcase India's tiger conservation success globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and chief forest officials of the states, will release the latest tiger census data, besides setting a new vision for tiger conservation during 'Amrit Kaal' and a commemorative coin during the event. Bearing the tag of 'tiger state' since 2018, Madhya Pradesh, which has the highest population of tigers (estimated up to 700) as well as the highest forest covered landscape, has a crucial role like it played in the past in conservation of tigers and all other wild-animals. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Madhya Pradesh, J.S. Chouhan claimed in the past 10-15 years, the state has witnessed tremendous increase in protected areas for wild animals.

"Growth of tigers in Madhya Pradesh has been remarkable in the past few years and it could happen because of the efforts of all stakeholders, especially from the administrative part. At least 7,000 hectares of land of the state forest was recovered. In other words, around 200 villages falling under dense forest zones were encroached free. It helped us to increase the protection area, prey base and core areas for wild animals at all tiger reserves and the national parks in Madhya Pradesh," he told correspondent.

He claimed that the implementation of new technology and fragmentation of forest areas have made the

tigers' lives easier in comparison to previous eras. Roads and canals are being developed and some other steps are being taken to ensure the peaceful scenario for tigers and all other wild animals.

"Various steps have been taken to maintain peace in the forest zones, for instance, a sound proof system has been implemented on Seoni-Nagpur highway. The implementation of the radio collar system has increased the monitoring level of tigers. Madhya Pradesh has established one of the biggest forces to protect wild animals, which is called State Tiger Strike Force," he added.

"See, we have to understand that around 40-45 per cent tigers ferry outside the protected areas, due to which human-wildlife conflicts have also increased. On an average 35-40

- The state has been witnessing the highest mortality rate of tigers since the last few years and most of the tigers were reported to have died unnaturally. However, the officials ruled out the possibility of any organised nexus of animal poachers in the state.
- As per the official claim, at present, Madhya Pradesh has around 700 tigers, highest in the country and the officials are of the view that the state will retain its - 'tiger state' tag for years to come.

tigers are dying every year in Madhya Pradesh, while the birth rate has increased up to 100 per cent. It means the protection system has increased," Chouhan told correspondent.

## Same-sex couples also faced higher intimate partner violence during Covid

New York | Agencies

Not just opposite sex and heterosexual couples but lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people also experienced episodes of heightened intimate partner violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, a study has shown. Nearly one in five LGBTQ people reported intimate partner violence in their current romantic or sexual relationship, which increased following the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the study published in the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services.

"To date, most programmes on intimate partner violence focus on opposite sex and heterosexual couples," said Perry N Halkitis, dean of the Rutgers University's School of Public Health and senior study author. "However, same-sex couples are different in terms of partner dynamics, and thus interventions need to address these differences," Halkitis added. The study also found those in the southern US were more likely to



report an increase in intimate partner violence frequency and that intimate partner violence was associated with greater severity of depressive symptoms.

The findings support calls for increased intimate partner violence-related resources available for and tailored to the needs of LGBTQ people, particularly during times of national crisis. "Intimate partner violence interventions need to address that LGBTQ people are not monolithic in terms of many factors, including environments in which they live," said Halkitis.

## WHATSAPP'S NEW FEATURE TO ALLOW USERS SHARE STATUS UPDATES TO FB STORIES

San Francisco: Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly developing a new feature, which will allow users to share their status updates to Facebook stories without leaving WhatsApp. Earlier, users could share status updates to Facebook stories, but they had to go through the extra step of manually sharing the update each time they posted something new, according to WABetaInfo. But now, due to this new feature, the process may be automatic for certain status updates users choose, when the option is enabled. In the Status Privacy setting on WhatsApp, users will find a new option "share my status updates across my accounts", where they can add their Facebook account, according to the report. Moreover, the report mentioned that this option will be optional and disabled by default. Users will be able to enable this option within the Status Privacy settings if they want certain status updates to be shared to Facebook stories without leaving WhatsApp. Furthermore, the report stated this feature will allow users to save time and effort when they manually share their status updates with Facebook Stories without leaving WhatsApp. Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature called "audio chats", which will be available within conversations in a future update of the application on Android. A new waveform icon will be added to the chat header, allowing users to initiate audio chats, plus users will see a red button for ending ongoing calls.

## Why suicidal deaths spike during the full moon week

- The biomarkers for suicidality that are predictive of death by suicide during full moon, peak hour of day and peak month of the year compared to outside of those periods appear to be genes that regulate the body's own internal clock, so called 'circadian clock'.
- The effect of ambient light and body clocks in suicide needs to be studied more closely, along with how people sleep and their exposure to light.
- "Changes in light can affect vulnerable people, in conjunction with other risk factors," said the study.
- The peak of suicides from 3 to 4 p.m. could be related to stressors throughout the day as well as a decrease in light beginning to occur that day, causing a lower expression of circadian clock genes and cortisol.

For centuries, people have suspected a full moon in the sky to cause mysterious changes in people. Now, psychiatrists at Indiana University's School of Medicine in the US have found deaths by suicide increase during the full moon.

New York | Agencies

According to researchers, the increased light from the full moon could be what leads to the increase in suicides during that period. Ambient light plays a major role in the body's circadian rhythm, which is the natural 24-hour cycle our bodies follow to regulate when we are asleep and when we are awake.

Moonlight could be impacting people at a time when it should be darker. The team looked at data in the state of Indiana about suicides that took place from 2012-2016. They found deaths by suicide significantly increased during the week of the full moon, with people over age 55 showing an even higher increase. They also looked at the



time of day and months that suicides took place, finding 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the month of September to be peak times for suicides.

"We wanted to analyse the hypothesis that suicides are increased during the period around full moons and determine if high-risk patients should be followed more closely during those times," said study author Alexander Niculescu in a paper published in the journal Discover Mental Health.

Niculescu and his team previously developed blood biomarker tests for other mental health conditions (anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder) and for pain.

Using blood samples previously taken by the coroner from some of the people, the team was able to see which biomarkers were present.

## India march into AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers Round 2 in style

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic | Agencies

The Indian women's team capped off their second victory in a row in a span of four days, defeating hosts Kyrgyz Republic 4-0 at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium, here to seal qualification for Round 2 of the 2024 AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Having defeated the hosts 5-0 in their first match earlier this week, India, despite being down to 10 players in the first half itself, exerted their dominance over the Kyrgyz Republic, with Sandhya Ranganathan netting a brace, and Anju Tamang and substitute Renu scoring a goal each.

The Blue Tigresses got off to a good start, and it did not take them long to get the lead as Sandhya scored in the 18th minute, beating two defenders before tucking her shot past the rival goalkeeper.

A few minutes later, India suffered a setback when Karthika Angamuthu was sent off for an off-the-ball challenge on Kyrgyz captain Aizhan Boronbekova.

However, that did not deter their resolve as Anju Tamang slammed it home on a half-volley, to double India's



lead in the 24th minute.

Thomas Dennerby, looking to strengthen the middle of the park after the red card, brought on holding midfielder Sangita Basfore in place of winger Soumya Guguloth, just a minute after the goal.

Anju and Sandhya kept leading a flurry of attacks for India, coming close to scoring on a couple of occasions, but the score remained 2-0 as the teams headed inside for the breather.

India picked up where they left off in the second half, and Sandhya soon scored her second of the night. Midfielder Indumathi Kathiresan

surged upfield on the left and sent in a low cross that Sandhya blasted into the top corner, to make it 3-0 in India's favour.

Kyrgyz Republic, enjoying the one-player advantage, were looking to stretch the Indian defence wide, a move Dennerby soon countered by bringing on speedy full-back Ranjana Chanu in place of Manisa Panna.

Another host of changes were introduced by Dennerby with 10 minutes of regulation time left, as Renu, Michel Castanha, and Damgei Grace replaced Indumathi, Sangita, and Sandhya.

That substitution made an instant impact as Renu headed in a corner by Dalima Chhibber, looping it over the opposition goalkeeper's head, to make it 4-0.

Grace looked lively on the left flank after being brought on, and made a couple of penetrating runs. On the first occasion, she cut inside from the left, tucked past two defenders, before running into a cul-de-sac. The second time, she was played in behind the Kyrgyz defence on the left flank, and looked to cut back from the goal line, but her cross lacked pace and petered out of play.

## President Murmu takes historic sortie in Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft in Assam

Guwahati | Agencies

President Droupadi Murmu took a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on Saturday.

She is now the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie. As the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, the President, who is on a three-day visit to Assam, flew for approximately 30 minutes covering the Brahmaputra and Tezpur Valley with a view of Himalayas before returning to the Air Force Station.

An official statement mentioned that the aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of the 106 Squadron. The aircraft flew at a height of about 2 kilometers above sea level and at a speed of about 800 km per hour.

Later in the visitor's book, she expressed her feelings by writing a brief note.

She wrote: "It was an exhilarating experience for me to fly in the mighty Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. It is a matter of pride that India's defence capabilities have expanded immensely to cover all the frontiers of land, air and sea. I congratulate the Indian Air Force and the entire team of Air Force Station Tezpur for organising this sortie." The President was also briefed on the operational capabilities of the aircraft and the



Indian Air Force (IAF).

She expressed satisfaction on the operational preparedness of the IAF.

The President's sortie in the Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft is a part of her efforts to engage with the armed forces, as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, the statement added.



## FEMINA MISS INDIA CONTESTANTS ARRIVE IN IMPHAL FOR GRAND FINALE ON APRIL 15

Imphal | Agencies

A total of 30 contestants of 59th Femina Miss India-2023 arrived in Imphal on Friday for the 'Grand Finale' on April 15.

The Grand Finale will be held at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium in Imphal.

At the Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, the leaders of various organisations, especially women's

organisations, welcomed the contestants. They also handed over traditional clothes to them as a gift.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, said in a Facebook post, that the 59th Femina Miss India Grand Finale will be another opportunity to showcase the warm hospitality of the people of Manipur to visitors.

Singh also tweeted:

Extending a hearty welcome to all the contestants of Femina Miss India to the Jewel of India, the Land of Culture, Manipur With the Grand Finale happening here, I hope you enjoy your stay and carry the message of goodwill, friendliness and warm hospitality of Manipur on your departure."

This is for the first time the event will be held in Manipur and the Northeast.







# COUNTRY IS WITNESSING A REVOLUTION IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: MODI

Chennai | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government's work culture, vision, speed and scale has resulted in a revolution in the infrastructure projects in the country.

Without naming the earlier Congress governments, Modi said from the days of delays, now the infrastructure projects are being delivered even before time, and added that Tamil Nadu had got a good number of core sector projects.

Inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for several infrastructure projects - airport, rail and road projects - worth about Rs 5,200 crore here, Modi said the country is witnessing a revolution in infrastructure projects driven by speed and scale.

Pointing to Rs 10 lakh crore allocation in the budget for infrastructure projects, Modi said it was five times more than what was allocated in 2014.

He said prior to 2014 only 600 route railway kilometres per year were electrified and now it is 4,000



route kms per annum. In the case of airport, before 2014 there were only 74 airports and after that year - after BJP came to power at the Centre under his stewardship - the number has more than doubled to 150.

Modi said the speed and scale is not only restricted to delivery of core sector projects but also in social sector

works and said the number of medical colleges in the country has gone up to 660 from 380 in 2014 and the number of AIIMS hospitals has tripled.

He said six lakh km of optic fibre cables have been laid to connect two lakh village panchayats resulting in rural India having more Internet

users than urban India.

Adding further, Modi said his government sees infrastructure projects not merely a mixture of concrete but having human face - as it would give the economy a boost and uplift several families. Stating that the development of Tamil Nadu is a great priority for his government, Modi added that the state got an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore for railway projects this year while the average amount allocated between 2009-2014 was less than Rs 900 crore per annum.

Similarly, between 2004-2014 the state had a National Highway of 800 km while post 2014, the length has gone up to nearly 2,000 km, Modi added. He also said the allocation for National Highway projects in Tamil Nadu has gone up six times to Rs 8,200 crore in 2022-23 as compared to 2014-15.

Continuing further, Modi said Tamil Nadu has seen several new infrastructure projects like the Defence Industrial Corridor, Mega Textile Park, Chennai-Bangalore Expressway and others furthering the state's economic growth.

# 'Histories' circulated on WhatsApp: Historians on NCERT Textbook move

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A group of historians has raised concerns over the NCERT's move to delete certain topics from history books for CBSE students. In a statement on Friday, they said they were "appalled" by the NCERT's decision to delete the topics, particularly for Class 12, and called the move "a matter of deep concern".

The signatories of the statement include Romila Thapar, Jayati Gosh, Mridula Mukherjee, Apoorvanada, Irfan Habib and Upinder Singh, among others.

"Using the period of the pandemic-cum-lockdowns to argue that there was a need to lighten the load of the curriculum, the NCERT initiated a contentious process of dropping topics like the history of the Mughal courts, the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, the Emergency... from social science, history and political science textbooks of classes 6 to 12," the historians said in the statement.

"The new editions of these NCERT books have simply made the deletions the norm even when we are in a post-pandemic context in which school education has limped back to normalcy and is no longer in the online mode," they said.

"By reducing the study of history to such monolithic accounts, the ground is being



prepared for pseudo-histories, especially of a communal and casteist variety, to hold sway. In any case, such 'histories' are widely circulated today through WhatsApp and other social media applications," the historians said, alluding to an alleged attempt to insert politics in education. The NCERT has denied allegations to suppress historical facts. The top advisory body for the centre and state on school education has said it's a professional exercise meant to help students hit by the pandemic and has no ulterior political motive. "As we explained last year as well, there has been a lot of learning loss due to the Covid pandemic and the students underwent a lot of trauma. To help stressed students, and as a responsibility to society and the nation, it was felt that the content load in textbooks should be reduced," Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director of NCERT, told NDTV on Tuesday.

# "I Trust EVMs," : Ajit Pawar

Pune | Agencies

Maharashtra Opposition leader Ajit Pawar, who belongs to Nationalist Congress Party, on Saturday said Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) are trustworthy and the system cannot be manipulated by a single person.

He also said political parties that lose elections often blame EVMs for their performance but they should understand that electoral defeat is the mandate of the people.

The senior NCP leader's 'clean chit' to EVMs comes days after he credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma for the BJP's victory in 2014 polls and said inflation and jobs for youth are more important issues in the country than the PM's academic degree.

"I trust EVMs. A single person cannot manipulate EVMs. It's a big system and multiple checks are involved. However, the party which faces defeat in polls blames the voting machine but one should understand that the poll outcome is the mandate of the people," Ajit Pawar told reporters.

Notably, the NCP leader was responding to a



query on an editorial published in Saturday's edition of Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana' which claimed the BJP wins elections by "hacking" EVMs and congratulated Bangladesh poll body for "doing away with EVMs and deciding to use ballot papers for the next elections". "Had EVMs been defective, opposition parties couldn't have formed governments in various states including Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc. A single person can't manipulate EVMs in a huge country like India. If somehow it is proved that voting machines are rigged, there will be big chaos in the country," he added.

# 75 trains cancelled as rail blockade by Kurmis continue in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

Train services were disrupted in three tribal-dominated districts of West Bengal -- Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore -- following continued rail-blockade agitation by the Kurmi community on Saturday.

As many as 75 trains in the South Eastern Railway division had to be cancelled on Saturday due to the rail blockade agitation which was by the people from the Kurmi community on April 5. The routes of several trains also had to be either diverted or curtailed during the day, causing immense inconvenience to the commuters.

Sources in the Railways said that in the last four days, as many as 308



trains had to be cancelled in the said division due to the agitation. The agi-

tators also protested by blocking national highways passing through these three tribal-dominated districts.

The Kurmi community is agitating in support of its long-standing demand for recognition under the Schedule Tribe category. Their main grievance is that the West Bengal Cultural Research Institute, a state government body that works for indigenous tribes, is yet to recognise the Kurmis as representatives of primitive tribe.

Representatives of the community have alleged that the reluctance of the institute as well as the state government to send a comprehensive report in this matter to the Union government is holding back the process of recognition of the Kurmi community under the ST category.

# RSS Chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat Addresses The Seva Bharati Representatives at service conference in Jaipur

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

On the second day of the ongoing service conference at Keshav

Vidhyapeeth in Jamdoli, Jaipur, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat addressed the representatives of Seva Bharati who had come from all over the country. In his speech, Dr. Bhagwat emphasized the importance of organized strength in achieving victory and referred to the world's Mars mission as an example. He also spoke about the nature of service work, the importance of selflessness, and the qualities required of a service worker.

Dr. Bhagwat noted that organized strength always remains victorious and a capable and resourceful organization power is needed to accomplish good work. He highlighted the importance of selfless service, which is satvik



(pure) in nature, and stated that service work requires more consciousness than enthusiasm. He also emphasized the importance of a worker's interest, knowledge, enthusiasm, and the need to align the worker's nature with the work being done.

Dr. Bhagwat urged workers to commit to becoming suitable and excellent workers for service and called for the purification of emotions and the practice of mental severity. He also stressed the importance of effective communication and the need to avoid ego while performing service work.

In conclusion, Dr. Bhagwat praised the volunteers who perform service work inspired by the RSS and stated that it is their efforts that gave birth to the Seva Bharati movement. He emphasized that service work is a social responsibility and called on workers to unite and fulfill the yearn-

# TEENAGER STABS FIANCE ON PRETEXT OF MAKING REELS IN K'TAKA

Haveri: A 17-year-old teenager has been taken into custody on the charges of stabbing her fiance on the pretext of making reels in Karnataka's Haveri district, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred near Om Public School on the outskirts of Ranebennur town.

Seriously injured victim, identified as Devendra Gouda, was rushed to a private hospital and his condition is said to be serious.

According to police, as the girl was in love with somebody else, she planned to attack Gouda, with whom she got engaged on March 3. The girl invited Gouda to a park and told him that she wants give him a gift.

Under the garb of giving him gift, she tied Gouda's hands, asked him to close his eyes, and stabbed him in the neck.

Gouda's parents have lodged a complaint against the girl with Halageri police station. Investigation is on.

# PM's repeated visits show how weak BJP is in K'taka: Congress

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Congress claimed on Saturday that the repeated visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the southern state only show how weak the BJP is in Karnataka, which goes to the polls on May 10.

Speaking to mediapersons, Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar said that the people of the state have taken a decision to overthrow the BJP government, which is known to the saffron party leaders and that is why the central leaders of the BJP are repeatedly visiting the state.

"Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of the country, and he can come down to the state as many times as he wishes. But he is repeatedly visiting Karnataka now for campaigning, which shows how weak the BJP is in the state," Shivakumar said.

"By making all these attempts, the BJP leaders seem to have already conceded defeat. The voters of the state are intelligent and they are going to change the government, no matter who visits the state," he added.

The Congress leader also claimed that since they are not able to draw the masses, the BJP leaders are roping in film actors. "There is a conspiracy to use the



Enforcement Directorate (ED) against the Congress candidates. The police are also acting as BJP's agents. I have asked to prepare a list of such officers. They can do this for only 40 days," Shivakumar said.

# CR Kesavan, ex-Cong leader and C Rajagopalachari's great grandson, joins BJP

Chennai | Agencies

Former Congress leader and great grandson of India's last Governor General C. Rajagopalachari, on Saturday joined the BJP.

In the last two days, Anil Antony, son of veteran Congress leader A. K. Antony, and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy, also in the Congress earlier, have joined the saffron party.

Kesavan had quit all the Congress posts in February this year. He was a media panelist of the Congress party in Tamil Nadu.

In his resignation letter addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, he said, "I can no longer in clear conscience say that I concur with what party currently symbolises, stands for nor seeks to propagate. This is exactly why I had declined an organisational responsibility at the national level



and refrained from participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra."

Thanking the BJP after his induction into the party, Kesavan said: "I want to thank you for inducting me into the world's largest political party, the BJP, especially

on a day when our Prime Minister is in Tamil Nadu.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's corruption free governance and reform led inclusive development agenda have transformed India from a fragile economy to the fifth largest in the world, he said.

# ICICI-Videocon loan fraud case: CBI chargesheets against Kochhar, Dhoot

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against former ICICI Bank MD and chairman Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group Chairman Venugopal Dhoot in connection with the ICICI-Videocon loan case.

As of now, the court has not taken cognisance of the matter.

The case was first registered on 22.1.2019 against Videocon International Electronics Limited, Venugopal Nandlal Dhoot, Chanda Kochhar, Deepak Virendra Kochhar, NuPower Renewables Limited, Supreme Energy Private Limited and Unknown public servants under sections 120-B read with 420 IPC and Section 7 read with section 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) of the PC Act.

On August 26, 2009, a Sanctioning Committee headed by Chanda Kochhar, MD sanctioned Rupee Term Loan of Rs 300 crore to Videocon International Electronics Limited (VIEL) in contravention of rules and policies of the bank in criminal conspiracies with the co-accused persons dishonestly by abusing her official position as public servant.



The loan was disbursed on September 7, 2009 and on very next date September 8, 2009, Dhoot, (MD Videocon Group) transferred Rs 64 crore to NRL managed by Deepak Kochhar from Videocon Industries Limited through his company Supreme

Energy Pvt. Ltd. (SEPL).

NRL was incorporated on December 24, 2008. Dhoot and his relative Saurabh Dhoot resigned from the directorship of NRL on January 15, 2009. Before resigning, V N Dhoot allotted 1997500 warrants (convertible into equity) to Deepak Kochhar.

On June 5, 2009 shares of NRL held by V N Dhoot and Deepak Kochhar were transferred to Supreme Energy Private Limited (SEPL).

SEPL was incorporated on July 3, 2008 with its directors as V.N. Dhoot and his associate Vasant Kakade.

Dhoot resigned from the directorship of SEPL on January 15, 2009 by transferring his shares to Pinnacle Energy Trust managed by Deepak Kochhar.

Between June 2009 and October 2011, ICICI Bank sanctioned Rupee Term Loan of Rs 1875 crore to six companies of Videocon Group for the purpose of enabling them to repay the unsecured loan availed by these companies from Videocon Industries Limited. All these loans were sanctioned after Chanda Kochhar took over the charge of ICICI Bank as MD & CEO.

Of the six loans, Chanda Kochhar was one of the committee members in two loans i.e. RTL of Rs 300 crore to VIEL and RTL of Rs 750 crore to VIL.



## INDIA TO WITNESS RISE IN TEMPERATURE IN NEXT 5 DAYS: WEATHER OFFICE

**Thunderstorms with gusty winds likely over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during next 2 days and decrease thereafter.**  
**Gradual rise in maximum temperature by 2-4°C over most parts of the country during next 5 days.**

**Team Absolute |** New Delhi

Most parts of the country are likely to witness a gradual rise in temperature by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said today. "Gradual rise in maximum temperature by 2-4 degrees Celsius over most parts of the country during next 5 days," the IMD said in its advisory. The weather office has also predicted thunderstorms and strong winds over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during the next two days.



"Thunderstorms with gusty winds likely over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during next 2 days and decrease thereafter," the advisory said. Earlier this month, the weather department had said that several parts of country, barring parts of northwest and peninsular region, are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures from April to June. "A significantly higher number of heatwave days are predicted over parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mahapatra said.

Climate change is increasing global temperatures and worsening the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. India logged its hottest February this year since record-keeping began in 1901, according to the IMD. However, above-normal rainfall due to seven western disturbances, including five strong ones, kept temperatures in check in March. The prolonged spell of pre-monsoon rain, thunderstorms, hailstorms and lightning strikes damaged crops in many parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and other states.

## 'Govt Has Given Itself Absolute Power': Editors Guild 'Deeply Disturbed' by IT Amendment Rules

The Editors Guild of India has noted that it is deeply disturbed by the new IT Amendment Rules which have been notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on April 6, 2023. These amendments, the Editors Guild says, will have deeply adverse implications for press freedom in the country. The new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023, deal with information online and the government's powers to take them down.

**Team Absolute |** New Delhi

Editors Guild says in its statement released on April 7 that through the new Rules, the Union government has given itself the power to constitute a "fact checking unit", which will have sweeping powers to determine what is "fake or false or misleading", with respect to "any business of the Central Government", and with instructions to 'intermediaries' (including social media intermediaries, Internet Service Providers, and other service providers), to not host such content. The statement is signed by president Seema Mustafa, general secretary Anant Nath, and treasurer Shriram Pawar. "In effect, the government has given itself absolute power to determine what is fake or not, in respect of its own work, and order take down. The so called 'fact checking unit' can be constituted by the Ministry, by a simple "notification published in the



Official Gazette", the statement says. The note observes that there is no mention of what the governing mechanism for such a fact checking unit will be. Nor does it have provisions for judicial oversight, the right to appeal, or how it proposes to adhere to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India in Shreya Singhal v Union of India case, with

respect to the taking down of content or the blocking of social media handles. "All this is against principles of natural justice, and akin to censorship," the Guild says. The statement also criticises and calls "surprising" the fact that the Ministry notified this amendment "without any meaningful consultation that it had promised" after it with-

drew the earlier draft amendments it had put out in January 2023. These proposals, on which The Wire too had reported, had given sweeping powers to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), in a move that was criticised by media organisations across the country, including the Editors Guild. "At the outset, determination of fake news cannot be in the sole hands of the government and will result in the censorship of the press," the Guild had said in January this year, following the release of the proposal. As early as 2020, the website NewsLaundry had highlighted several instances in which the PIB's fact-checking unit had not actually been on the side of facts, but instead stuck to the government's line. "The Ministry's notification of such draconian rules is therefore regrettable. The Guild again urges the Ministry to withdraw this notification and conduct consultations with media organisations and press bodies," it said.

## Rahul targets Azad, Scindia, Himanta over Adani issue; BJP hits back

**Team Absolute |** New Delhi

A day after NCP Chief Sharad Pawar said that there is "no need" for a JPC probe into the findings of the Hindenburg report, a tool Congress and its ally have been using to attack the ruling BJP, party leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that he will not give up the Adani issue. "They hide the truth, that's why they mislead every day! The question remains the same - who has Rs 20,000 crore benami money in Adani's companies?" Rahul Gandhi tweeted in Hindi. The Congress leader, in his tweet, also took a dig at former Congress leaders, who have jumped ship to the Bharatiya Janata Party or have snapped decades-old ties with the grand old party like Ghulam Nabi Azad and former Defence Minister AK Antony's son Anil Antony. However, Anil Antony, who joined BJP on Thursday, hit back at the former Congress president and said that the "so called" PM candidate of the Congress speaks like a social media cell troll. "Sri-



@RahulGandhi- This is sad to see a former President of a national party - the so called PM candidate of the @INCIndia speak like an online / social media cell troll and not like a national leader. Very humbled to see my fledgling name also with these tall stalwarts who have contributed decades for nation building work - and had to leave the party as they preferred to work for India and our people and not for a family," Antony said in a tweet. Hitting back at the Congress leader, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted, "It was our decency to have never asked you, on where have you concealed the proceeds of crime from the Bofors and

National Herald scams. And how you allowed Ottavio Quattrocchi to escape the clutches of Indian justice multiple times. Anyway, we will meet in the Court of Law." Notably, the second half of the budget session saw continuous disruptions over JPC demand for a probe into the Hindenburg-Adani row. The Supreme Court had last month set up a six-member expert committee "to investigate if there was a regulatory failure in dealing with the alleged contravention of laws pertaining to the securities market in relation to the Adani Group or other companies". The committee was asked to give the report in two months.

### India records over 6,000 new Covid cases for second straight day

**New Delhi:** India today recorded 6,155 fresh COVID-19 infections, while the number of active cases increased to 31,194, according to Union health ministry data. India's COVID-19 tally now stands at 4.47 crore (4,47,51,259). The death count climbed to 5,30,954 with 11 deaths, including two reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. At 31,194, the active cases comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 98.74 per cent, according to the health ministry website. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,89,111, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

### Ukraine minister to visit India on April 9, likely to seek humanitarian aid

**Team Absolute |** New Delhi

In what would be the first official visit from Ukraine more than a year after the Russian offensive, the country's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emine Dzhaparova will arrive on a four-day official visit to India on Sunday. Dzhaparova will be on an official visit to India from April 9-12, during which, she is likely to seek humanitarian aid for her country. During the visit, she will hold talks with Sanjay



Verma, secretary (West) in the External Affairs ministry, where both sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations, exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest. She will also call on Minister of State for External Affairs

Meenakshi Lekhi and meet Deputy National Security Adviser, Vikram Misri, official sources said. "India shares warm and friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation with Ukraine. Over the last 30 years of establishing diplomatic relations, bilateral cooperation between the two countries has made significant progress in the areas of trade, education, culture and defence. The visit will be an occasion to further mutual understanding and interests," an official statement said.

### 'WILL CONSIDER BRINGING SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS': KERALA MINISTER ON NCERT ROW

**Thiruvananthapuram |** Agencies

Criticising the NCERT's recent decision to make alterations to certain chapters in the school textbooks, Kerala Education Minister V. Sivankutty on Saturday said "the state will consider bringing out supplementary textbooks to counter the changes". Interacting with the media here, Sivankutty said that under no circumstances, "Kerala will accept changes being made in the textbooks to please the RSS' agenda". "Kerala will not accept it... we demand NCERT be reconstituted with representatives from all the states. And if need be,



Kerala will consider bringing out supplementary textbooks," said Sivankutty. The minister's statement comes at a time when the NCERT is going to introduce new books for all classes on the basis of National Education Policy. According to the NCERT, changes have not only been made in history books, but in all other subjects as well to reduce the burden of students.

### KIREN RIJJU ESCAPES UNHURT AFTER TRUCK HITS HIS CAR IN J&K

**Jammu:** Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju

escaped unhurt on Saturday after a truck hit his vehicle on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Police sources said a fully-loaded truck hit the black Scorpio in which the Union minister was travelling in the Banihal area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Reports said the security guards of the minister rushed to Rijju's vehicle and opened its back door as the minister came out unhurt. "No one was injured in this incident," the police said. Earlier on Saturday, the minister had tweeted, "Going from Jammu to Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir to attend Legal Services Camp. Many beneficiaries of the Central Govt Schemes are attending the function along with Judges and NALSA team. Now, one can enjoy the beautiful road throughout the journey."



## Amul creates political rucks in Karnataka

**Bengaluru |** Agencies

Amid Amul's announcement to sell its milk and curd in Karnataka, and the Congress terming it as a move to "finish off" Nandini brand of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said that the grand-old party is doing politics over the issue. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Bommai said: "There is no need for anyone to get concerned about Amul brand. We will initiate steps to make brand Nandini more competitive. Nandini will become number one brand in the country." State Health Minister K. Sudhakar said, "Nandini brand is not confined

to Karnataka. The Nandini milk is sold to the army, Tirupathi, Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra states. Other brands are being sold in the state from long time. Is Amul a BJP brand and Nandini a Congress brand?" Congress has started a campaign in the state against the sale of Amul milk and other products. State Congress President D. K. Shivakumar stated that Amul brand is being "imposed" on the state. He had charged that the objective behind this is progress of Gujarat and to "finish off" Karnataka brand. Former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H. D. Kumaraswamy has called upon people to oppose the move of selling Amul milk in the state.

## Scientists find rare earth elements reserve in Andhra Pradesh: Report

**Hyderabad |** Agencies

Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad have found the presence of Light Rare Earth Elements (REE), key components in many electronic devices and various industrial applications, including medical technology, aerospace and defence, in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Light Rare Earth Element minerals include Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, Neodymium, Yttrium, Hafnium, Tantalum, Niobium, Zirconium, and Scandium. "We found strong anomalous (enriched) Light Rare Earth Elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Y, Nb and Ta) in whole rock analy-



ses, confirming the minerals hosting these REE," senior principal scientist in NGRI PV Sunder Raju told Press Trust of India. Rare earth elements (REE) are 15 elements referred to as the

lanthanide and Actinide series in the periodic table of elements, together with scandium and yttrium. REEs are key components in many electronic devices we use daily (like cell phones) and various industrial applications, including medical technology, clean energy, aerospace, automotive and defence. He said manufacturing permanent magnets is the largest and most important end use for REEs. Permanent magnets are essential to modern electronics used in cell phones, televisions, computers, automobiles, wind turbines, jet aircraft and many other products. Because of their luminescent and catalytic properties, REEs are widely used in high technology and "green" products. "To reach net zero, Europe will require up to 26 times the amount of rare earth metals in 2050 compared to present demand. Demand is also increasing because of digitalisation," he said. The discovery of the REEs

was part of a study funded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-India) under a project called SHORE (Shallow subsurface imaging Of India for Resource Exploration). Sunder Raju said the scientists had a multi-disciplinary approach to the SHORE project. "Under this project umbrella, our focussed objective was 'Detailed understanding of RM (Rare Metals)-REE metallogeny, assessment of resources and identifying economically potential sites, especially from the carbonate-syenite complexes of Andhra Pradesh," he said. Following the discovery of the REEs, deep drilling for more than at least one km will ascertain the consistency of REE presence in depth, he added.





# AFTER ROW, SHARAD PAWAR 'CLARIFIES' ON JPC PROBE REMARKS, BATS FOR SC PANEL

A day after his sensational remarks expressing doubts over a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Hindenburg Research report against the Adani Group, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar on Saturday claimed that he was in favour of a Supreme Court-monitored investigation.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The senior leader also frowned at the manner in which the names of industrialists like Ambani-Adani were being tossed around to target the BJP government at the Centre instead of bigger issues like inflation, unemployment and farmers.

Clarifying his stance after the ruckus following his comments to a TV channel on Friday, Pawar said he was not opposed to the JPC probe, but if the Committee comprises 21 members, then 15 would be from the ruling side and the remaining six from the Opposition side.

In view of the imbalance, coupled with the government's majority in both Houses of Parliament, the NCP supreme opined that the JPC report would only "endorse the government's stand on the Adani issue".

"I feel that instead of a JPC, a Supreme Court-appointed commission is more reliable and independent," said Pawar, adding that he had no knowl-



edge of the Rs 20,000-crore raised by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

He also attempted to delink the question of a JPC and said the two are not connected though his utterances sent shockwaves among the Opposition circles.

"I don't think the demand for JPC has anything to do with Opposition unity. We have also made the same plea but it would be commanded by the ruling party, so I spoke about a SC-named panel," declared Pawar.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said in Mumbai that "there's nothing new in what Pawar has said", and his statement would have no impact on the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in the state as speculated in some sections of the media.

The Congress has yet to respond in the matter after Pawar's interview to a news channel questioning the demand for a JPC probe, the credence to be given to a report by a foreign institution.

# All is Well in MVA after Ajit Pawar 're-surfaces'; growls at defamation

Quaid Najmil | Pune

Poor Ajit Pawar... Whether he goes to the loo or to the medico, sceptics jump up to predict the Opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s "water-loo".

It happened once again when the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)'s Leader of Opposition suddenly went incommunicado since Friday evening and allegedly "departed" for an undisclosed destination minus his security detail.

By late night, there was unbridled speculation that the MVA would collapse, others claimed a dozen other NCP MLAs had also "switched off their phones", that the NCP would extend support to the current dispensation in the state, among others.

This naturally raised a scare of the possibility of another political coup - akin to the covert dawn swearing-in ceremony of November 2019 - when Ajit Pawar suddenly became the Deputy CM and Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis became the Chief Minister in the two-men regime that crashed after just 80-hours.



A senior party leader dismissively told IANS late on Friday that "Ajit Pawar is indisposed" without giving specific details, and even pooh-poohed the media's rampant speculation over his "temporary absence from the media glare".

This morning, a relaxed, cheerful and unperturbed Ajit Pawar "re-emerged" into the limelight, for the inauguration of a prominent jewellery showroom in Pune, and later gave an earful of "sharp bytes" to the battery of media-persons eagerly waiting out there.

"For the past few days, I had continuous tours across Maharashtra and could not get sufficient rest. Due to the heat and lack of sleep, I suffered from hyper-acidity and my health condition had deteriorated. Hence, I took the doctor's advice and medicines and had gone to take rest at my relative's home in Pune," said Pawar, patiently

placating the media.

He expressed clear displeasure that he was being "unnecessarily defamed" without any reason with baseless news circulating that he had gone "not reachable", among others, and pointed out that he was in touch with his uncle (NCP President Sharad Pawar) and others too.

"We are public figures and the media has a right to report about us... But why resort to wrong news without any confirmation... You may verify anything after proper verification," said a peeved Pawar.

Last night's media kite-flying gained further credence in view of NCP supremo Pawar Sr.'s utterances on the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into Adani Group issue vis-A-vis the Hindenburg Research report. While Pawar has battled for a Supreme Court appointed panel, the Congress state President Nana Patole reiterated its demand for a JPC probe.

Last month, Ajit Pawar had mischievously winked at someone in the crowd when ex-chief minister Uddhav Thackeray was present - and again the MVA allegedly tottered on the brink.

# Raveena Tandon responds to trolls who question her Padma Shri win

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Raveena Tandon was recently feted with India's fourth highest civilian honour, Padma Shri, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi for her contribution to Indian cinema.

However, a section of Internet users trolled the actress questioning the win. Now the actress has responded to the trolls saying that she will choose silence as she doesn't want to give any importance to them.

Hitting back at the trolls the actress said that she is not bothered about people with a following of not more than 20



as they come with their own agenda. She said: "I don't want to give any importance

to them as they have their own agenda. The comments of a few, who have 20 followers and haven't seen the work that I have done, will not diminish my body of work."

The actress further said: "They only see the glamour; they don't see the hard work and long hours we put in. We know how polarised things are on social media today, but others have sent such beautiful (wishes)."

Talking about the Padma awards ceremony, the actress and her family attended the gilded ceremony which was graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

# BOOKIE ACCUSED OF BLACKMAILING AMRUTA FADNAVIS ARRESTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Ahmedabad

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested suspected bookie Anil Jaisinghani in a money laundering case linked to an under probe Indian Premier League (IPL) 'betting racket', officials said Saturday.

Jaisinghani and his daughter Aniksha were recently arrested by the Mumbai Police for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to bribe and blackmail Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis and using private messages, purportedly hers, to extort money from her when she refused to save Jaisinghani (Anil) from several FIRs lodged against him.

The Ahmedabad office of the ED took his custody on Friday approaching a Mumbai court with a production warrant and seeking his custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED was acting upon an open non-bailable warrant issued in the past against Jaisinghani by an Ahmedabad court that was issued in connection



with the 2015 money laundering case linked to alleged betting in the IPL matches being probed by the federal agency.

The agency is understood to be recording

Jaisinghani's statement in this case having obtained his custody on Friday.

Jaisinghani was recently also taken into custody by the Madhya Pradesh Police in a case of alleged bootlegging. The father-daughter pair is alleged to have hatched a conspiracy as part of which Aniksha developed friendly relations with Amruta Fadnavis and then requested her to "save her father from the several criminal cases pending against him as the husband of the complainant (Amruta Fadnavis) is a public servant." Aniksha tried to offer a bribe of Rs 1 crore to Amruta Fadnavis.

The Malabar Hill Police Station in south Mumbai on February 20 registered an FIR against Anil Jaisinghani and Aniksha for allegedly threatening to make public certain audio and video clips that purportedly show Amruta Fadnavis accepting favours from Aniksha.

Aniksha, who was arrested on March 17, was granted bail in the case on March 27 by the court.

Anil Jaisinghani, who was arrested by the Mumbai Police from Gujarat, is currently in judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea.

# 'HEED PAWAR': MAHA CM EKNATH SHINDE ADVISES NATIONAL OPPOSITION



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has taken a swipe at the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray by asking them to heed the words of Nationalist Congress Party supremo Sharad Pawar on the Adani issue.

United States-based Hindenburg Research had alleged large scale stock manipulation and accounting fraud in the firms of billionaire Gautam Adani, lead-

ing to strident protests by the opposition Congress and others against the Narendra Modi government. The group had refuted the allegations.

In an interview to NDTV, Pawar came out in support of the Adani Group and criticised the narrative around Hindenburg Research's report on the conglomerate.

"Such statements were given by other individuals earlier too and there was a ruckus in Parliament for a few days but this time out-of-proportion importance was given to the issue," he said.

"The issues that were kept, who kept them, we had never heard of these people who gave the statement, what is the background. When they raise issues that cause a ruckus across the country, the cost is borne by the country's economy, we cannot disregard these things. It seems this was targeted," Pawar had said.

Speaking to the media after a property exhibition in Kalyan on Friday night, CM Shinde said, "The Congress started an agitation seeking explanation of Rs 20,000

crore in the Adani group. Even Uddhav Thackeray continuously spoke on this issue. Now Pawar has commented and those who are protesting should heed these comments."

Pawar is a very senior politician and must have spoken on the Adani issue after much study, and, therefore, those protesting should clarify their stand, the CM said in a swipe at the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), which are allies with the NCP in the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

# FIGHT BREAKS OUT IN MUMBAI BAR

**Mumbai:** A fight broke out between the staff of a Mumbai bar and some customers last evening, the police said.

The video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

The video shows the members of the two groups slapping and punching each other outside the bar in Mumbai's Dahisar. A man is also seen hitting another man with a chair.

Seven staff members and three customers have been arrested so far, officials said, adding a case has been registered.

"Investigation is underway to ascertain the cause of the fight," they said.

# Messages sent to IAS officer against tree cutting at Aarey not offensive: Bombay High court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Messages sent to an IAS officer opposing the cutting of trees in Mumbai's Aarey Colony for the construction of a Metro Rail car shed were not offensive, but were assertion of a democratic right of a citizen of this country to put forth his view to object and protest, the Bombay High Court has said.

A division bench of Justice Sunil Shukre and Justice Milind Sathaye noted that registering a first information report (FIR) for such an offence would amount to an invasion on the rights of citizens of this country.

The bench on April 5 quashed a January 2018 FIR registered at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) police station against Avijit Michael, a Bengaluru resident, for allegedly sending offensive messages to IAS officer Ashwini Bhide, who at the time was heading the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL), and for allegedly obstructing her from discharging her public duties.

The court in its order said the intention of the sender of these messages appears to be to protect the forest, which he considers to be acting like lungs for Mumbai.

"These messages do not contain any offensive material or any obscenities. Rather, they appear to have been sent in assertion of a democratic right of a citizen of this country to put forth his view point, to object, to protest, to persuade, to urge, and so on," the court said. If anybody is booked for criminal offences such as those as have been registered against the petitioner, it may amount to an



invasion upon the rights of the citizens of this country, the court said.

The police upon receiving such a complaint, however high he or she may be in position, must never book any ordinary citizen of the country under criminal law, it added.

"...and if it does, it would be like suppressing his voice against what he considers to be a wrongful thing," the court said.

The bench while quashing the FIR issued a warning to the police officer concerned. "The investigating officer, who registered the crime against the petitioner, is hereby cautioned to be careful in registering crimes in such matters in future," the court said.

# Pawar's stand on Adani will not affect Oppn unity: Sanjay Raut

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Saturday said Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar not favouring formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations against the Adani group will not lead to cracks in opposition unity.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Talking to reporters, Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said Pawar has not given a clean chit but expressed his views of options on how to carry out the probe.

Raut added the opposition is firm on its demand for a JPC probe.

"Be it (West Bengal chief minister) Mamata Banerjee or NCP, there could be different opinions about Adani, but that will not lead to cracks in (opposition) unity in Maharashtra or in the country," asserted Raut, a key aide of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Earlier in the day, Pawar had said he favoured a Supreme Court committee to probe allegations against the Adani group, since the ruling party would have a majority in the



JPC based on numerical strength in Parliament and this would lead to doubts on such a probe.

"I am not completely opposed to the JPC there have been JPCs and I have been a chairman of some of the

JPCs. The JPC will be constituted on the basis of majority (in Parliament). Instead of a JPC, I am of the opinion the Supreme Court committee is more useful and effective," Pawar said. The United States-based Hindenburg Research has alleged stock manipulation and accounting fraud in firms of billionaire Gautam Adani, resulting in strident protests by the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, and others against the Narendra Modi government.

The Adani group has denied these allegations and has claimed it complies with all rules and regulations in force in the country.

Raut also claimed the Hindenburg Research report had shed some light on Life Insurance and State Bank of India money being used to help "friends of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party".





### Heavy rain and hailstorm disrupted routine life in the Capital City



**Bhopal:** Once again the weather has changed in Madhya Pradesh. Strong winds started blowing in the capital Bhopal at around 3 pm. After a while it started raining heavily. Hail also fell in the city. In Indore too, it was cloudy in the evening and it rained with thunder. During this, the wind and storm also continued. Rail fall occurred in Guna and Vidisha. It was cloudy in Rewa and Raisen.

According to the Meteorological Department, till April 15, drizzle will continue in many cities. There may also be a storm. Because of this, there will be no intense heat for a

week i.e. till 15th April. The Meteorological Department has predicted drizzle in Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol divisions, while in Indore, Ujjain, Bhopal divisions also expressed the possibility of heavy rain at some places. This will happen due to cyclone being active in Rajasthan and passing of trough line.

The day temperature in April is running one degree below normal. In Bhopal, the temperature has not yet crossed 40 degrees, while last year the scorching heat of the sun was visible from the first week itself. The weather pat-

tern has also changed in Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain and Jabalpur. It is inside 37 degrees here. Here, there is a decrease in the night temperature as well. The night temperature in big cities is only around 20-21 degrees.

After being cloudy since Saturday morning, it rained in the evening in Indore. With thunder and lightning, showers started falling around 5 pm. During this, the wind and storm also continued. It was very humid in the afternoon due to cloudy sky.

**Weather forecast**

Bhopal including Ratlam, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Shajapur, Rajgarh, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar, Dewas, Tikamgarh, Vidisha, Narmadapuram, Sagar, Barwani, Burhanpur, Morena, Gwalior, Raisen, Sehore, Sheopurkalan, Guna, Indore, Niwari, Chhatrapur, Sidhi, The weather is expected to change during the next 3-4 hours in Singrauli, Balaghat, Panna, Satna and Agar. During this, the Meteorological Department has expressed the possibility of lightning, falling and thunder with strong thunderstorms and rains here.

## PLANNING FOR SISTERS MADE MY LIFE SUCCESSFUL AND BECOMING CHIEF MINISTER MEANINGFUL: CHIEF MINISTER

■ Bring a new era in the state, where everyone is happy, no one has tears in their eyes. Social, political and economic empowerment of daughters in Madhya Pradesh. Efforts are being made to bring the sex ratio on equal footing. Now Narmada water will be brought through pipeline to Ratlam. Inaugurated development works worth Rs 1374 crore after interacting with women. Distribution of benefits to the beneficiaries of various schemes

has been meaningful by planning the Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana. I have been sensitive towards daughters and sisters since childhood. To prevent injustice towards daughters, I first made Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, whose successful implementation made the girl child a boon from a curse in the state. Now, this scheme that stems from my heart will make my sisters self-dependent and empower them socially as well. The Chief Minister said that together we will bring a new era in the state, where everyone is happy and no one has tears in their eyes. May there be happiness and smiles on everyone's faces. Brothers and sisters should walk together and develop the state. The happiness of sisters is the aim of my life. I will live for you and if need be, I will die for you too.

Chief Minister Chouhan participated in Ladli Bahna Mahasammelan and inauguration-Bhoomi Poojan program of development works at Polo Ground Ratlam. He performed bhoomi-pujan-inauguration of development works worth Rs 1374 crore from the stage itself. Along with this, distributed benefits to the beneficiaries under various public welfare



schemes. The Chief Minister released the development booklet of Ratlam district and also inspected the development exhibition put up by various departments at the venue.

Chief Minister said that social, political and economic empowerment of daughters is taking place in Madhya Pradesh. Earlier the daughter was considered a burden. I thought that if a millionaire daughter is born, she will not be considered a burden and Ladli Lakshmi Yojana was formulated in the state. Today there are 44 lakh 50 thousand Ladli Lakshmi in the state. At the time of birth, the government gives a savings certificate of 30 thousand rupees to the daughters. 2 thousand to daughters in 6th class, 4 thousand in 9th class, 6 thousand in

11th class, 6 thousand in class 12th and one lakh rupees are given in lump sum on completion of 21 years of age. When daughters go to study in college, they are given Rs 12 thousand 500 and after completing their degree, they are given Rs 12 thousand 500. Uncle Shivraj is also getting the fees of these daughters filled for admission in engineering and medical. Chief Minister Chouhan said that earlier the sex ratio in the state was 900 daughters per 1000 sons, which has now increased to 956. Our whole effort is to have a sex ratio of 1000 sons to 1000 daughters.

Chouhan said that political empowerment of sisters has been done in the state. Today my sisters are ruling. 50 percent reservation has been given to sisters in panchayat and urban body elections. Even in teacher recruitment, 50 percent seats are reserved for women. 30 percent seats were reserved for sisters in the police. The stamp duty for the registry for brothers is 3 per cent, whereas for sisters the stamp duty has been kept at only 1 per cent. With this provision, houses, shops and fields are now being bought in the names of our sisters.

## "Girls Who Wear Dirty Clothes Look Like...": Kailash Vijayvargiya's Shocker

Team Absolute | Indore

A senior leader of the country's ruling BJP has sparked outrage by saying that girls who wear "dirty clothes" look like Shurpanakha, a demoness from the Indian epic Ramayana.

Kailash Vijayvargiya, the BJP general secretary, made the comment at a religious function organised in Indore on Thursday to mark the birth anniversaries of Lord Hanuman and Mahavir.

"When I go out at night and see young people intoxicated, I feel like giving them five-seven [slaps] to sober them up. I swear to God," he said. "And the girls wear such dirty clothes... we think of women as goddesses. Even there's no trace of that in them. They look like Shurpanakha. God has given you a good body, wear nice clothes. Please teach your children well, I am very worried," he added.

In the popular versions of the Ramayana, Shurpanakha is the sister of the demon



king Ravana. She is depicted as an ugly and lustful creature who tries to seduce Lord Ram and his brother Lakshman. When they reject her advances, she attacks them and Lakshman cuts off her nose and ears. Vijayvargiya's comments drew sharp criticism from the opposition and social media users, who accused him of misogyny and moral policing. Congress spokesperson Sangeeta Sharma said, "BJP leaders humiliate women again and again. It shows their thinking and their atti-

tude. BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya is calling women as Shurpanakha and making objectionable comments on their dress is appropriate in independent India. Apologize BJP!"

The BJP leader, who belongs to Indore, is known for his controversial statements made with impunity. Last month, he claimed that after Independence and Partition, whatever was left of India constituted a "Hindu Rashtra", brazenly contradicting the country's founding principle of secularism.

## Brother-Sister tied to tree, thrashed as villagers doubted character

Team Absolute | Khandwa

In a bizarre incident from Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa, villagers thrashed a man and his sister after tying them to a tree. The victim man had come to the village to meet his cousin sister, Kalavati, whose husband wasn't home at the time. The two then sat on a cot in a courtyard outside the house. While they were talking, some villagers spread a rumour about their 'objectionable' character.



The villagers, from the Bamanda village under Piplood police station area of Khandwa district, then gathered and made both of them sit under a tree near the village, and thrashed them with thin wooden sticks. Someone recorded a video of the incident and tried to make it viral

on social media, after which the police registered a case against three people and arrested them based on the victim's complaint.

Some videos showed the victims pleading with the mob, and repeatedly telling them that they were cousins, but the villagers didn't relent. Police said the woman's husband also told the mob on a phone call that they were indeed cousins, but they kept assaulting them instead until some relatives got word and rushed to save their lives.

## THE TEAM OF CHILDREN'S FILM BICYCLE DAYS PLANTED SAPLINGS WITH CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

**Bhopal:** Along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, members of the film production team of children's film Bicycle Days planted saplings of Banyan, Amla, Maulshri and Saptaparni. Saubhagya Choubey, a social worker from Bhairunda (Nasrullaganj) planted saplings on his birthday. Journalist Amit Srivastava by his father Late. Planted a sapling in the memory of Ashok Srivastava on his death anniversary. Jitendra Sharma, Harshdeep Srivastava, Kailash Dhavre and Sonu Choubey participated in the plantation of saplings in the garden situated at Shyamala Hills. Film director and producer Devyani Anant, child artistes Darshit Khanve, Parv Agarwal, artists Nidhi Dewan, Sohun Shah, Surbhi Agarwal and Saksham Agarwal also participated in the plantation.



## New Edition of SHGC Journal released at Sant Hirdaram Girls College



Team Absolute | Bhopal

On 8th April, 2023, Saturday with the blessings of Shradhdey Siddh Bhauji, the Research Committee has put in their untiring efforts to reach to a new milestone in this never ending yet stimulating journey of research and innovation. The committee is elated to share that the 3rd edition of SHGC Journal of Recent Research in Science and Humanities has been published which is a high-

quality peer reviewed annual journal. It includes research articles, original articles, review articles, case studies and many more.

Dr. Dalima Parwani, Principal said that Sant Hirdaram Girls College is committed to inculcate and nurture research and development spirit in all its faculty members and students at various levels and they actively contribute by providing guidance for ongoing Ph.D. research, research publications in quality jour-

nals, patents, writing books & book chapters, attending and presenting research papers in National and International Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Orientation Programs.

Dr. Madhavi Gaur, Convener, Research Committee anticipate that SHGC Journal would be recognized as the leading journal in all its aspects. The Management appreciated the efforts of the Research Committee and extended best wishes for future endeavors.

## 8 HOURS OF COMPLEX NEUROSURGERY, PATIENT'S CONDITION IMPROVES

12 operations in 7 years: traveled till Vellore, finally got success in AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With its strong determination to serve the suffering humanity and dedicated team of doctors, AIIMS Bhopal is setting new records every day. Recently the Department of Neurosurgery has achieved success in a very complicated case. In the year 2015, 19-year-old Rohit (name changed), a resident of Jamshedpur (place changed), suffered serious brain injuries after falling from a moving bus, for which he had to undergo an immediate

operation. The swelling of the brain had become so great that the bone of the head had to be removed and a tube was placed to reduce the pressure of water in the brain. At that time Rohit's life was saved but he could not regain full consciousness. He was hospitalized for several months. In the meanwhile, he got an infection which went up to the brain and then started the ordeal of Rohit and his family members, which ended in AIIMS Bhopal after eight years. A total of twelve operations were performed on Rohit's brain in eight years. He was oper-

ated again and again and he would fail every time.

Finally a few months back, Rohit's father came to know that there are many qualified doctors in AIIMS Bhopal, so he decided to come from Vellore to Bhopal. When Rohit's family members reached AIIMS Bhopal, he was unconscious and his condition was very critical due to brain infection and shunt malfunction. AIIMS neurosurgeon Dr Adesh Srivastava immediately started treatment by taking the patient to the ICU and started doing further tests.







# 'Thrilled'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Daisy Ridley played Rey in the most recent trilogy in the franchise and at 'Star Wars Celebration' in London revealed she's "thrilled" to be stepping back into the role for a film which will be set 15 years after 2019's 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'.

The film will "tell the story of rebuilding the New Jedi Order and the powers that rise to tear it down," director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy explained, reports aceshowbiz.com. She went on: "I've always been attracted to the hero's journey and the fact that the world needs many more heroes."

The filmmaker added she had been immersing herself in a Jedi Academy with a "powerful Jedi master" and Daisy then walked out on stage.

She said: "My heart is pounding, I'm very thrilled to be continuing this journey."

The event also revealed two other 'Star Wars' films in the pipeline, including one from James Mangold and another from 'The Mandalorian' executive producer Dave Filoni and producer Jon Favreau.

'Logan' filmmaker James will be delving into the past to tell the tale of the first Jedi to "wield the Force and harness it as a liberating power in an era of chaos and oppression" while the third film will be set in the present and will document the escalating war between the Imperial Remnant and the fledgling New Republic in a plot that promises to "bring together many of the threats of the 'Star Wars' original series."

Just a few weeks ago, Daisy claimed she had "no idea" if she'd ever return to 'Star Wars'. She told The Hollywood Reporter: "Honestly, I have no idea. I feel like Rey's story ended in a wonderful way with the last film ('Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker')."

"It's already been an insane three years since that film came out. I feel like quite a different person. We've all gone through a massive change in the last three years, with lots of crazy things happening. So I really don't know if there are plans. I just don't know. But ultimately, I loved my experience, I loved what I got to do and I love the people I got to work with."

Daisy Ridley announces she's back as Rey in new 'Star Wars' movie



# Helen Flanagan

SHARES A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE OF 'TRAVELLING WITH KIDS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Helen Flanagan shared the reality of travelling with children in new social media posts about her airport experience.

The actress had a nightmare at the airport as her son, Charlie, had a little tantrum while they were flying back to the UK, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Her travels turned chaotic when they arrived at the airport as Charlie - who she shares with Scott Sinclair - was having an awful time.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Helen was also travelling with her other two children, seven-year-old Matilda and four-year-old Delilah.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Helen shared a short video of her daughter Delilah looking miserable.

"Are you going to be good for mummy on this flight as I've got enough work with Charlie? It's going to be horrendous," she asked her middle child.

Speaking to her followers, she added: "Just wish me luck guys; it's going to be awful. Last time, Charlie screamed for eight hours. It's going to be awful and everyone is going to hate me."

She later shared a selfie video as she pushed the airport trolley through the terminal while Delilah continued pouting.



# CHRIS PRATT WAS REJECTED FOR MARIO VOICE IN ONE OF HIS FIRST ATTEMPTS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Pratt's Mario voice has been a topic of discussion ever since the first trailer for 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' debuted last October.

Some fans claimed that it wasn't Italian enough, while others felt it was too aggressively Brooklyn, reports Variety.

In a new interview with Entertainment Weekly, Pratt revealed that one of his first attempts at the Mario voice got rejected by the film's directors, Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic, because it far too resembled Tony Soprano, the anti-hero mob boss played by James Gandolfini in HBO's 'The Sopranos'.

"For a minute, I walked in and they were like, 'That's a little New Jersey. You're doing a Tony Soprano thing,' Pratt said, quoted by Variety. "(The voice) was a really exciting and daunting challenge. Talking to these guys, they say, 'You wanna do the Mario movie?' I think both (Charlie Day and I) said yes.

Didn't even ask, 'What's the deal? What's the story? Yes, I'm in.' And then we had to really dig in and figure outare they Italian? Are they American?" Pratt added: "We know a little bit about Charles Martinet's voice that he's sprinkled in there with the 'Wahoo!' and 'It's me!' and these Mario things, but how do you craft a 90-minute narrative with an emotional through-line and create a living, breathing person about who you'll care?" "We tried different things, different voices," Day added. "Every now and then they would say, 'Charlie, maybe a little less 'Goodfellas' in this one' - I'm like, 'Alright! I think you're wrong, but fine!' - until they landed on something they liked."



# CAMERON DIAZ'S UPCOMING MOVIE HAD TO FILM STUNT ON GREEN SCREEN AFTER BOMB SCARE

London | Agencies

Actress Cameron Diaz's comeback movie has been struck by a bomb scare. The actress has been hard at work on her first new movie in a decade - 'Back In Action' for streaming service Netflix - but the shoot in London was disrupted last month when the crew discovered an unexploded World War Two bomb close to where they had been planning to film a stunt scene on the River Thames, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Police were called and filming on the explo-

sive scene at London's Royal Docks was cancelled. "The stunt was booked to take place last month at the dock. A 24-metre barrier was being erected into the river, where the explosion would take place," a source told The Sun newspaper. "But it was during the building of the set that they believed they found what they thought to be an unexploded bomb in the water. Safety was the main priority, so after speaking with the police and relevant authorities the whole thing was cancelled." The stunt was later filmed on green screen at a studio in Surrey along with another action which also had to be canned. The insider added: "The cancellation was a massive blow to the film, which has already experienced a few issues ... It cost a huge amount of money and was a massive headache for everyone involved." Cameron will appear in the film alongside Jamie Foxx - who she also worked with on her last big screen outing in 2014's 'Annie' remake.

She previously put her movie career on hold to focus on her marriage to Benji Madden and raising their daughter Raddix, three. However, reports suggest Cameron might need another long break after she wraps filming on her new project.

A source told DailyMail.com: "These back-to-back 10-hour workdays have been a lot on her and she hates being away from Raddix. Cameron loves being a mom more than anything in the world ... She has already proven herself in the industry and has nothing left to prove to anyone."



# 'SNOWFALL' STAR DAMSON IDRIS TO BE SEEN WITH BRAD PITT IN F1 MOVIE



Los Angeles | Agencies

After months of meetings, auditions and even several days of driving tests, Apple Studios, Joseph Kosinski and Jerry Bruckheimer look to have found their race car driver to steer their anticipated racing film set in the world of F1.

Damson Idris has been tapped to co-star opposite Brad Pitt reports Deadline. Kosinski is directing, Kosinski will produce his untitled feature alongside Jerry Bruckheimer and Chad Oman of Jerry Bruckheimer Films ('Top Gun: Maverick'), seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton through his Dawn Apollo banner and Plan B, with Copper CEO Penni Thow serving as executive producer.

As per 'Deadline', producers have been meeting with prospects for the role going all the way back to November, with Kosinski, Bruckheimer and

Apple execs seeing dozens of actors. At the top of the year the lists were cut down to a handful of actors, with Idris making the final cut. Besides doing a number of screen tests, actors also had to show they had the goods to handle the film's intense driving scenes and were put through a number of driving tests in January. Kosinski is big on using natural effects after going a similar route when he put his actors in real fighter jets for 'Top Gun: Maverick'; he hopes for the same with Formula One race cars in this film. The untitled feature follows Pitt as a racer who comes out of retirement to mentor a younger driver and take his final stab at glory on the track as the younger driver's teammate. Idris broke onto the scene with his acclaimed role in the FX series 'Snowfall'. The show's final season just premiered, and he has been looking for that next big role as his schedule opened up. He was also recently seen in Amazon's 'Swarm'.

# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maura Higgins





## IPL 2023

# CHENNAI SUPER KINGS THRASH MUMBAI INDIANS

Mumbai | Agencies

Seasoned batter Ajinkya Rahane made the most of the opportunity that came his way as he blasted a 27-ball 61 as Chennai Super Kings thrashed Mumbai Indians by seven wickets in Match 12 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium, here on Saturday.

Rahane, who was roped in by CSK for his base price of Rs 50 lakh, came into the side as England Test captain Ben Stokes pulled out with an injury. He was surprised by his skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who sent him up in the order after Devon Conway was out for zero in the first over.

In their chase of a modest target, Chennai Super Kings suffered an early setback when opener Devon Conway



fell for a duck.

Dhoni pulled a rabbit out of his hat as he sent Rahane to bat and the India Test stalwart did not disappoint his

skipper. Rahane's 61-run knock came off 27 balls and put CSK on course to victory as he and Rituraj Gaikwad added 81 runs for the second wicket stand. Thanks to his blitzkrieg, CSK scored 68/1 in the Power-play and were 97/2 at the halfway stage. Mumbai Indians were 84/5 after 10 overs. Gaikwad continued to hold the fort with Shivam Dube (28).

### Brief scores

Mumbai Indians 157/8 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 32, Tim David 31; Ravindra Jadeja 3-20, Mitchell Santner 2-28, Tushar Deshpande 2-31) lost to Chennai Super Kings 159/3 in 18.1 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 61, Rituraj Gaikwad 40 not out; Jason Behrendorff 1-24) by 7 wickets.

# AJINKYA RAHANE SLAMS FASTEST FIFTY OF THE SEASON

Mumbai: Ajinkya Rahane slammed the fastest half-century of the 16th edition of the tournament at the Wankhede Stadium.

Rahane, playing his first match for Chennai Super Kings, slammed the fifty (52) off 19 deliveries in an IPL 2023 encounter against Mumbai Indians. CSK roped him at his base price of Rs 50 lakh in the mini-auction while players with 1/10th of his experience and skills bagged contracts worth crores.

Rahane, who has played for Rajasthan Royals, Mumbai Indians, Rising Pune Supergiants, Delhi Capitals, and Kolkata Knight Riders before joining CSK this season, struck six boundaries and one six after coming into the squad after England Test captain Ben Stokes pulled out with an injury. However, this is not the fastest-ever half-century in IPL history as that record is shared by KL Rahul and Pat Cummins, both of whom reached the milestone off just 14 deliveries.

# Rajasthan Royals crush Delhi Capitals by 57 runs

Guwahati | Agencies

The first over in both innings of the Rajasthan Royals-Delhi Capitals clash in IPL 2023 at the Barsapara Cricket Ground on Saturday literally made the difference between the two teams apparent.

Yashasvi Jaiswal showed his full range of shots by hitting Khaleel Ahmed for five fours to be 20/0 in the opening over. With the ball, Trent Boult took out impact player Prithvi Shaw and Manish Pandey on back-to-back balls to leave Delhi at 0/2 in their opening over.

That set the tone for Rajasthan's 57-run victory over Delhi and propelled them to go on top of the ten-team points table. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler smashed half-centuries in a rollicking 98-run opening partnership, including slamming 14 boundaries in the first six overs. Though DC clawed back with three quick wickets in the middle overs, Shimron Hetmyer provided for the finishing touch with 38 not out to propel Rajasthan to 199/4. In reply, Boult and Yuzvendra Chahal picked 3/29 and 3/27 respectively to restrict Delhi to 142/9 in 20 overs.

Captain David Warner's 65 off 55 balls was the lone bright spot in a dull batting show as Delhi crashed to their third consecutive defeat of the tournament.



### Brief scores

Rajasthan Royals 199/4 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 79, Yashasvi Jaiswal 60; Mukesh Kumar 2/36, Rovman Powell 1/18) beat Delhi Capitals 142/9 in 20 overs (David Warner 65, Lalit Yadav 38; Yuzvendra Chahal 3/27, Trent Boult 3/29) by 57 runs.

# SRH'S BATTING HAS LET THEM DOWN: ANIL KUMBLE

New Delhi | Former Indian cricketer Anil Kumble believes that Sunrisers' batting has let them down and was also not impressed by how they used Adil Rashid. "It is not the greatest of starts. Even I had them in my Top-4 and I still believe that they have a good side, a very good batting line up. They have not fired. Their batting has let them down in both the matches. Even against Rajasthan Royals at their home ground, they didn't score enough runs. Even the bowling on this surface," Anil Kumble stated.



## Orleans Masters

# Priyanshu Rajawat reaches to his maiden BWF Super 300 final

Orleans (France) | Agencies

India's upcoming men's shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat marched into his first-ever final at BWF World Tour Super 300 event after defeating Nhat Nguyen of Ireland in straight games 21-12, 21-9 in semifinal at the ongoing Orleans Masters Badminton 2023 on Saturday.

Priyanshu's only previous final on the BWF World Tour was at last year's Odisha Open -- a Super 100 event, where he lost to compatriot Kiran George at Cuttack.

In the semi-finals against Nhat Nguyen, the world No. 35 in the latest badminton rankings, Priyanshu looked second-best in the early exchanges and fell 5-2 behind. However, the Indian shuttler won the next six points on the trot to turn the game on its head. From that point on, there was no looking back for the 21-year-old, who was a part of India's historic Thomas Cup-winning squad in Bangkok last year.

The 21-year old Rajawat cruised through



the first game and carried the momentum into the second by winning the first four points in a row. It was one-way traffic in the Indian's favour for the remainder of the match as he wrapped up the affair in quick time. In the final, Priyanshu will face the winner of the other semi-final fixture between China's Lei Lan Xi and Denmark's Magnus Johannesen. Priyanshu, the last remaining Indian challenge at the France meet, has been in terrific form in the tournament. In the second round, he upset world No. 12 Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, who had won the Madrid Spain Masters title heading into the Orleans Masters, where he was the top seed.

## NZ vs SL 3rd T20I

# NEW ZEALAND CLINCHES SERIES WITH 4 WICKET WIN

Queenstown (New Zealand) | Agencies

Opener Tim Seifert struck a blazing 88 off 48 deliveries to help New Zealand chase a modest target to beat Sri Lanka by four wickets in the third T20I and win the three-match T20I series 2-1 on Saturday.

Opening the innings with Chad Bowes (17), Tim Seifert struck his second successive half-century after an unbeaten 79 in the second T20I in Dunedin won by the Black Caps. He added 53 runs for the first wicket partnership and then raised another 84 runs for the third wicket with skipper Tom Latham (31) as New Zealand chased the target of 183.

Sri Lanka's innings of 182/4 in 20 overs was built around a 48-ball 73 by wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis, who got good support from Kusal Perera (33). But in the end, that score was not enough to stop New Zealand as they lost a couple of quick wickets but



eventually reached 183/6 in the final over.

With Seifert breezing to his half-century off 26 balls, hitting five boundaries and three maximums, New Zealand was always on course in their chase. Seifert was eventually out

at 157/3 in the 17th over but by that time the Black Caps were on course to victory.

Just when it looked like Seifert would go on to get a century, he was slapped one straight to Kasun Rajitha at cover off Pramod Madushan for 88.

His 48-ball knock was studded with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Earlier, Kusal Mendis was dropped twice on his way to making 73 off 48 for the visitors, who were sent in to bat first by Tom Latham.

The second spill, by Ravindra at deep backward point, wasn't costly, as it came when he was on 68, but the first, a tougher chance to Daryl Mitchell at first slip, came when he was only on 10 off 14.

Mendis brought up his half-century off 36 balls with a six in the 12th over but was dismissed when he hit a slower ball by Ben Lister to Ish Sodhi at short third.

### Brief scores

Sri Lanka 182-6 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 73, Kusal Perera 33, Ben Lister 2-37) lost to New Zealand 183-6 in 19.5 overs (Tim Seifert 88 off 48, Tom Latham 31 off 23) by four wickets.

## Decathlon Championship

# Tejaswin Shankar breaches Asian Games qualifying standards

New Delhi | Tejaswin

Shankar, who holds India's men's high jump national record, achieved a new personal best of 7,648 points to finish second in the decathlon competition at the Jim Click Shootout and Multis 2023 athletics meet in Arizona, USA, on Saturday.

The Indian athlete was competing in only his second decathlon competition after his debut in the combined-event discipline at the Big 12 Conference held in Texas in May last year. There, Tejaswin Shankar logged an impressive score of 7,592 -- the highest by any Indian decathlon athlete in almost 11 years.

At the Jim Click Shootout, Tejaswin improved his personal best to 7,648 -- just 10 points short of the Indian decathlon national record held by Bharatiraj Singh since 2011.

The mark also saw the 24-year-old Shankar breach the Asian Games 2023 qualifying standard for the decathlon, set at 7,500 points by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), an olympics.com report said. Notably, decathlon is a combined event which includes 10 different sports -- 100m sprint, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus throw, 110m hurdles, javelin throw, pole vault, 400m race and a 1500m race. Athletes earn points for their performance in each category and are ranked according to their total tally at the end of all the events.

Tejaswin, a high jump bronze medalist at the Commonwealth Games 2022, led the field in the high jump and 400m events while finishing second in the long jump, shot put and 110m hurdles. His weakest showing came in the pole vault event, where he finished eighth. Till Steinforth, representing the University of Nebraska, topped the decathlon leaderboard at the Jim Click Shootout with 7,845 points. Emil Uhlin came in third with 7,440 points.



## IBA Men's World Boxing

# SHIVA, DEEPAK TO LEAD 13-MEMBER INDIAN SQUAD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Six-time Asian Championships medalist Shiva Thapa and 2019 Asian Championships silver medalist Deepak Bhoria will headline the Indian squad for the upcoming IBA Men's World Boxing Championships to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 30 to May 14.

Shiva, who won a World Championships bronze medal in Doha, Qatar in 2015, will be looking to add another medal to his name. He will be representing the country in the 63.5 kg category.

## U-21 WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE

Lucknow | Agencies

SAI Shakti, SAI Bal, HAR Hockey Academy, and Sports Hostel Odisha won their respective games on Day 4 of the ongoing Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-21 - Final Phase), here on Saturday.

SAI Shakti defeated Bhai Bhelo Hockey Academy by 7-0 in the first game of the day. Subila Tirkey (7'), Khushi (12'), Anisha Dung Dung (19'), Pooja Yadav (22'), and Lanleibi Chanu Khundrakpam (27', 47', 60') were on the scoresheet as SAI Shakti recorded an easy win.

On the other hand, SAI Bal defeated Salute Hockey Academy by a 4-1 margin in the second game. Himanshi Gawande (12', 13'), Gayatri Gedela (26') and Sushmita Panna (57') were on the scoresheet for SAI Bal while Kajal (36') netted the lone goal from Salute Hockey Academy. The third game ended with HAR Hockey Academy



Deepak, who has been one of the most improved and developed boxers in recent times, will be shouldering the country's hopes in the 51kg Flyweight category. Sources told IANS that he has been selected ahead of 2019 World boxing silver medalist Amit Panghal, as per the evaluation scores.

Deepak announced himself on the global stage in 2021 when he defeated the

2016 Rio Olympic gold medalist and 2019 World Champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan at the Strandja Memorial tournament.

Tokyo Olympian and 2019 Asian Championships silver medalist Ashish Chaudhary will also be representing the country at the prestigious event for the second time and would be keen to add another major medal to his name. The gold medalists will walk away with a prize money of USD 200,000. The silver medalists are to be given USD 100,000, and both bronze-medallists will be awarded USD 50,000 each.

## Serie A

# CANDREVA'S LATE EQUALISER STUNS INTER MILAN

Rome | Agencies

Inter Milan's long-awaited victory was ruined by Antonio Candreva as the ex-Inter player's stunner in the dying minutes helped Salernitana draw the Nerazzurri 1-1 in Serie A.

Inter conceded three consecutive league defeats before Friday's game and were winless in their previous five fixtures, reports Xinhua.

The away side broke the deadlock in the opening minutes when a long ball nodded by Romelu Lukaku went into the path of Robin Gosens, who hit in a first-time volley.

Inter were utterly dominant but wasteful for the rest of the game, as Nicolo Barella and Lukaku saw their attempts rattle the woodwork, while Salernitana punished them before the whistle when Candreva's seeming cross from the right flank looped over Andre Onana.

Inter remain fourth but could fall out of the



Champions League zone after this weekend.

AC Milan was stalled by Empoli to a goalless tie. Despite their 70 percent ball-possession, the Rossoneri couldn't find the net. Olivier Giroud thought he had scored the last-gasp winner in the stoppage time but it was canceled out due to a handball.

Also on Friday, leaders Napoli beat Lecce 2-1 thanks to Giovanni Di Lorenzo's header and an own goal from the opposites.

# SAI SHAKTI, SAI BAL AND OTHERS REGISTER WIN



beating HIM Hockey Academy by a 4-2 scoreline. Saavi (3') and Team Captain Usha (8') scored early to build a lead for HAR Hockey Academy but the advantage was squandered when Subham (11') and Rajbala (41') were allowed to convert penalty corners for HIM Hockey Academy.

However, late goals from Monu (52') and Pooja (59') ensured the match ended in HAR Hockey Academy's favour.

Sports Hostel Odisha defeated Khalsa Hockey Academy Amritsar by 6-1 in the final game of the day.

The goal scorers for Sports Hostel Odisha were Dipi Monika Toppo (6', 35'), Mamita Oram (9'), Prativa Kindo (15'), Munnumi Das (45'), and Sunita Xaxa (54').

Team Captain Sukhpreet Kaur (44') scored the only goal for Khalsa Hockey Academy Amritsar.





## Salman Khan's gym picture sparks meme fest, fans call him 'Brother Teresa'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's picture from the gym has gone viral on social media and the comments are hilarious. In the image, Salman is seen flaunting his quads dressed in black shorts, fitted T-shirt and a white coloured hand towel on his head.

He captioned the image: "21st APRIL #KBKJ" However, fans could not stop commenting on his

picture, where they re-imagined several versions of the same picture. A fan commented: "Who Said Brother Teresa." "Bhai is Teresa noww," said another. "Salman Teresa Khan," a user wrote. One said: "Bhai 57 hogaye lekin but aji bhi 30 se ziyada ke nhi lagte." A meme page even drew parallel between Salman's 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' to the Nun from the 'Conjuring' universe. As they called it: "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Nun."

## SAMANTHA SPEAKS 'HINDI' AT AN EVENT, FANS PRAISE



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Star Samantha Ruth Prabhu was praised by social media users for her Hindi speaking skills at an event for her upcoming film 'Shaakuntalam'.

Samantha took to Instagram, where she shared a video from event in Mumbai for 'Shaakuntalam'. She expressed in Hindi:

"Shaakuntalam' trailer ko aap logo ne jaese support kiya hai aur ko pyaar diya hai uske liye bohot bohot shukriya. Mujhe umeed hai ki aap isi tarah mujhe aur Shaakuntalam ki team ko apne support denge aur is film ko sirf theatre mein jaake dekhenge. Thank you so much."

Taking to the comment section a user wrote: "Wao u spoke so clean n neat." To which, Samantha replied: "Yay I did." 'Shaakuntalam' is a historical drama film written and directed by Gunasekhar.

Based on a popular play Abhignyana Shakuntalam by Kalidasa, the film features Samantha in the titular role of Shakuntala and Dev Mohan as Dushyanta, the king of Puru dynasty along with Mohan Babu, Jishu Sengupta, Madhoo, Gautami, Aditi Balan and Ananya Nagalla in supporting roles. It is shot extensively around

Hyderabad, including Ramoji Film City, Ananthagiri Hills, and Gandipet Lake. The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on April 14.



## Allu Arjun dresses in 'saree, laden with jewellery' in his upcoming movie's poster

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Allu Arjun is seen dressed in a saree and wearing gold jewellery in the first-look poster of 'Pushpa: The Rule', the much-awaited sequel of the hit movie. The actor shared the poster of 'Pushpa: The Rule' on Twitter.

The makers released the poster along with a teaser video - 'Where is Pushpa?' -- on the eve of Allu Arjun's birthday. Director Sukumar has raised the expectations of the audience with the three-minute special video introducing Pushpa and his world.

After the huge success of 'Pushpa: The Rise', expectations are big from the sequel.

The video begins with the news that Pushpa has escaped from Tirupati jail with gunshot wounds. The police deploy a special unit to hunt down Pushpa in the

forests. Pushpa's supporters take to the streets and resort to violence following rumours of his death or his escape to some other country.

The chaotic situation pauses for a moment with the breaking news on a channel that Pushpa has been spotted in a jungle. The hidden camera footage from a nature reserve shows a tiger stepping away as Pushpa enters with his characteristic swagger.

And he declares: "When an animal in a forest steps back, then you should know a tiger has come, but when tiger itself steps away, then it's Pushpa who has come." The video ends with the punchline: 'Rule Pushpa Ka'.

The much-awaited movie is likely to be released in the summer of 2024.



## Tina Datta spoke about the hurdles she faced as a 'newcomer'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Tina Datta, who is gearing up for her upcoming new television show 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum', has opened up about facing differences in her initial days as an actor.

Going by the theme of the show 'aam aur khas' (common and special), IANS asked Tina, who gained the spotlight with her impeccable performance in the 2009 show 'Uttaran', if she has ever faced any such differences. Tina said: "Yes, as an actor in the initial stages of my life 'aam aur khas'... A newcomer compared with a senior actor, who has already been a part of the industry. Those differences I have faced. I have seen those

hurdles and have gone through all of that." Her upcoming show, 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' is a remake of the popular Turkish drama Istanbul Gelin (Bride of Istanbul) that will air on Sony Entertainment Television from April 10.

'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' focuses on the human nature to resist change as it tends to create fear and the usual reactions to it are either fight, or flight. It also stars Jay Bhanushali and Kitu Gidwani.

When asked does she believe that unusual pairing makes magical stories, she replied, "Definitely, yes. I feel the same about chemistry. The pairing of Surili played by me and Shivendra by Jay. I feel the audiences will love the equation and chemistry too."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Aparshakti Khurana, who is enjoying the audience appreciation for his recently released webseries 'Jubilee', shared an interesting anecdote from the time of the release of his debut film 'Dangal'.

Aparshakti transitioned from an RJ to an actor with 'Dangal' in which he played the role of Geeta and Babita's cousin Omkar Singh Phogat. Shortly after the film's release Khurana flew down to Kolkata where fans recognised him at the airport. They interacted with him and discussed the film with him. The incident left the actor touched as people from Bengal recognised him just from one film. Cut to the time when the actor was at the Amritsar airport, a week after the release of 'Dangal'. There, two men were constantly looking at him trying to recollect where they had seen him.

Aparshakti said: "One of them walked upto me and said, 'Praaji main tanu kithe vekhya ae (I have seen you somewhere)'. I told them, 'Haan praaji meri abhi abhi ek picture aayi hai 'Dangal' (yes my film 'Dangal' has released recently)."

The actor further mentioned: "And that guy went like 'DANGAL!', then turned to his friend and said, 'Main tenu keh reya si maine praaji nu kithe vekhya ae (I told you I have seen him somewhere)'. He then turned to me and asked, 'Praaji Dangal 1 ki Dangal 2'. In his head, he was thinking about Salman sir's 'Dabangg'."

APARSHAKTI KHURANA SHARED A FUNNY EXPERIENCE DURING THE RELEASE OF 'DANGAL'



## Shahid, Kriti wrap up their upcoming film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming yet-to-be-titled film, which stars Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon, was wrapped up recently. The makers also released a snapshot from the movie to mark the occasion.

The picture sees fresh new pair Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon exuding sizzling chemistry while sitting on a bike against the backdrop of a setting sun on the shore. The two actors have worked together for the first time in the film and this translates to the novelty on the screen as well. The picture also reveals that the untitled film will hit cinemas sometime in October. The tagline 'An impossible love story' amps up the curiosity of the viewers. The film has been produced by Jio Studios and Maddock Films.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Amy Aela