

absolute india



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FROM MOUNTAIN PEAKS TO OCEAN DEPTHS, CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUED ADVANCE IN 2022: WMO

THIS CHANGE IS NOT GOOD

▶ DROUGHTS, FLOODS AND HEAT WAVES AFFECTED COMMUNITIES ON EVERY CONTINENT AND COST MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. ANTARCTIC SEA ICE FELL TO ITS LOWEST EXTENT ON RECORD AND THE MELTING OF SOME EUROPEAN GLACIERS WAS, LITERALLY, OFF THE CHARTS.

▶ THE STATE OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE 2022 SHOWS THE PLANETARY SCALE CHANGES ON LAND, IN THE OCEAN AND IN THE ATMOSPHERE CAUSED BY RECORD LEVELS OF HEAT-TRAPPING GREENHOUSE GASES.

▶ FOR GLOBAL TEMPERATURE, THE YEARS 2015-2022 WERE THE EIGHT WARMEST ON RECORD DESPITE THE COOLING IMPACT OF A LA NIAA EVENT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. MELTING OF GLACIERS AND SEA LEVEL RISE, WHICH AGAIN REACHED RECORD LEVELS IN 2022, WILL CONTINUE TO UP TO THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

From mountain peaks to ocean depths, climate change continued its advance in 2022, the annual report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Friday.

"While greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and the climate continues to change, populations worldwide continue to be gravely impacted by extreme weather and climate events. For example, in 2022, continuous drought in East Africa, record breaking rainfall in Pakistan and record-breaking heatwaves in China and Europe affected tens of millions, drove food insecurity, boosted mass migration, and cost billions of dollars in loss and damage," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"However, collaboration amongst UN agencies has proven to be very effective in addressing humanitarian impacts induced by extreme weather and climate events, especially in reducing associated mortality and economic losses. The UN Early Warnings for All Initiative aims to fill the existing capacity gap to ensure that every person on earth is covered by early warning services. At the



moment about one hundred countries do not have adequate weather services in place. Achieving this ambitious task requires improvement of observation networks, investments in early warning, hydrological and climate service capacities," he said.

The new WMO report is accompanied by a story map, which provides information for policy makers on how the climate change indicators are playing out, and which also shows how improved technology makes the transition to renewable

energy cheaper and more accessible than ever.

In addition to climate indicators, the report focuses on impacts. Rising undernourishment has been exacerbated by the compounded effects of hydrometeorological hazards and COVID-19, as well as of protracted conflicts and violence.

Throughout the year, hazardous climate and weather-related events drove new population displacement and worsened conditions for many of the 95 million people already living in displacement at the beginning

of the year, according to the report. The report also puts a spotlight on ecosystems and the environment and shows how climate change is affecting recurring events in nature, such as when trees blossom, or birds migrate.

The WMO State of the Global Climate report was released ahead of Earth Day 2023. Its key findings echo the message of UN Secretary-General António Guterres for Earth Day.

"We have the tools, the knowledge, and the solutions. But we must pick up the pace. We need accelerated climate action with deeper, faster emissions cuts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius. We also need massively scaled-up investments in adaptation and resilience, particularly for the most vulnerable countries and communities who have done the least to cause the crisis," said Guterres.

The WMO report follows the release of the State of the Climate in Europe report by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service. It complements the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment report, which includes data up to 2020.

CBI calls Satya Pal Malik for questioning



October 30, 2019. According to a source, the CBI has asked Malik to appear before the agency either on April 27 or April 28. The CBI officials can also approach him on either days. The source said that as of now, it appears that Malik might

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has called former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, seeking more information in an alleged corruption case. The case pertains to a health insurance scheme that he was allegedly pushed to pass but had cancelled when he was the Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Malik had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing the files during his tenure as J&K Governor between August 23, 2018 and

join the CBI at its headquarters in the national capital. "The matter pertains to the Reliance Insurance issue. While the Centre wanted green signal for the scheme, it was cancelled by then J&K Governor Malik," the source said. According to Malik, it was a health insurance scheme for central government employees. Malik had also said that hospitals listed under the scheme were in poor condition. Now the CBI is seeking more information to decide its future course of action. It is learnt that if merit is found in the claims made by Malik, the CBI might lodge a case, otherwise it won't.

Covid origins 'may never be revealed': Top Chinese scientist

LONDON | Agencies

The origins of the deadly Covid virus, which infected over 763 million and claimed more than 6.9 million lives globally, may never be revealed, a top Chinese scientist said on Friday.

The debate on how the Covid pandemic started has become "too sensitive and politicised", said Dr George Fu Gao, former director of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the Rhodes Policy Summit in London.

He also refuted the recent study that showed Covid origin may be linked to racoon dogs at the infamous Wuhan wet market.

Gao said there is "no evidence" to show that the virus emerged from animals, Daily Mail reported.

Gao, who directed the Chinese CDC when Covid first emerged in Wuhan, and stepped down in July 2022, said he did not see "anything unusual" until December 2019, a month before coronavirus was officially confirmed.

"Even now, people think some animals are the host or reservoir," Daily Mail quoted Gao as saying.

"Cut a long story short, there is no evidence which animals (were) where the virus comes (from)."

He was referring to the study, published in



March, which showed that large amounts of genetic material gathered from the Wuhan wet market were a match for the racoon dog.

The study, led by experts including from Universities of Arizona, Utah and Sydney and from the Scripps Research Institute, supported the hypothesis that the pandemic had an animal origin and not lab leak.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) slammed China once again, saying the country should have shared viral samples from Wuhan which was the epicentre of the pandemic immediately, not three years later.

The WHO continues to call on China and all countries to share any data on the origins of SARS-CoV-2 immediately.

Firing in Delhi's Saket court, woman injured

New Delhi: A woman in her 40s was shot at in Delhi's Saket court complex on Friday morning and sources in the police said that the attacker, who was wearing lawyer's attire, has been arrested from neighbouring Faridabad in Haryana.

The injured woman was identified as M. Radha and her condition is now stable.

As per sources, the accused has been identified as Kameshwar Singh, a suspended lawyer.

According to police, the incident occurred around 10:30 a.m.

"She received two bullet injuries in abdomen and one in hand and she was taken to Max Saket hospital. She is in stable condition," said Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

"The accused has been identified. He was even debarred by the bar council. The accused had a cheating case against the victim and hearing was scheduled today in Saket court," said the DCP.

As per eyewitness Ranjeet Singh Dalal, a total of 4-5 rounds were fired and the accused escaped through the court canteen's back entry.

"Police teams have been formed to nab the accused and further investigation is going on," said the DCP. A question has been raised again on the security checks, after the man entered the court premises with a weapon despite metal detectors and frisking by the security officials.

Bill Gates, Hillary Clinton, SRK, Virat Kohli lose Twitter Blue ticks



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bill Gates, Hillary Clinton, Shah Rukh Khan, Virat Kohli, Priyanka Chopra Jonas are some of the popular names among the more than 4 lakh users who on Friday lost their Twitter Blue ticks, even as CEO Elon Musk removed all legacy verified accounts.

This comes months after Musk announced the date to press users to sign up for Twitter Blue, its paid subscription service. In India, one has to shell out Rs 900 a month (or Rs 9,400 a

year) to get Blue Verified status. Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, and billionaire George Soros are some popular names in the US who lost the legacy Blue ticks.

Other big names included the Pope, Beyonce, Kim Kardashian and Oprah Winfrey. In India, several Bollywood celebrities like Alia Bhatt and Amitabh Bachchan; and cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma lost the blue ticks. The list also includes several politicians like

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Musk has also offered complimentary Twitter Blue subscriptions to some celebrities to retain the blue ticks. "I am paying for a few personally," said Musk. "Just William Shatner, LeBron James and Stephen King," he added. The blue tick marks were introduced in 2009 to help users identify genuine accounts of celebrities, politicians, companies, news organisations. Twitter did not charge users for verification.

Twitter plea against Centre's order to block accounts: K'taka HC reserves judgment

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

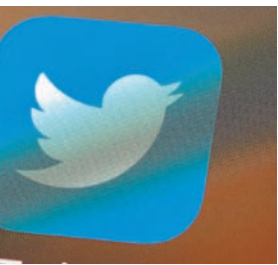
Karnataka High Court on Friday reserved its verdict on social media platform Twitter's plea challenging the central government's directions to take down 39 URLs.

The matter pertains to the 10 blocking orders that the central government had issued to Twitter, between February 2021 and February 2022, directing the social media platform to block public access to certain information, and suspend several accounts as well.

The Centre had handed over the blocking orders in sealed covers to the High Court.

Justice Krishna S Dixit reserved the judgment after hearing the arguments presented by Twitter and the central government.

Twitter challenged the government orders claiming that they are arbitrary, and procedurally and substan-



tively not in consonance with Section 69A of the IT Act. Twitter also contended that account-level blocking is a violation of the constitutional rights of users.

Apart from arguing that the direction to block entire accounts falls afoul of Section 69A of the IT Act, Twitter claimed that the government orders do not comply with the procedures and safeguards prescribed by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 (Blocking Rules).

In its reply, the Centre submitted that the directions were issued in national and public interest and to prevent lynching and mob violence incidents.

Covid & Climate change negatively impacted young Indians' mental health

The team, from India, Australia, and the UK explored the perceptions, thoughts, and feelings of young people on both the climate and Covid-19 crises, their concerns, and desires for the future and to understand their sense of agency to contribute to the changes that they want to see.

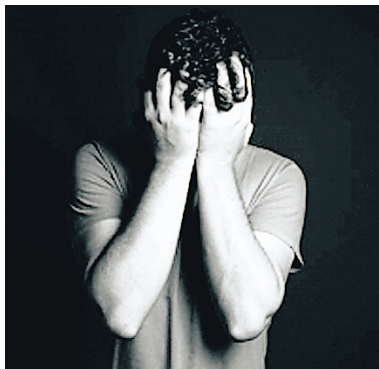
Team Absolute | New Delhi

Covid-19 and the climate crisis, which have caused unprecedented disruptions across the world, had a similar negative impact on young Indians' mental health, showed a study by international researchers, including from India, published on Friday in the journal The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia.

Climate change affected the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents. Young people with a mental illness and without social support are at an increased risk of climate change induced mental ill-health.

Covid-19 resulted in a similar increase in psychological distress. Incidents of depression, anxiety and insomnia have increased due to the upheavals that people were experiencing including loss of livelihood and breaking of social bonds.

"While Covid-19 has affected daily life and health on an immediate level, climate change has been silently damaging



the planet with adverse impacts that are not immediately apparent," said lead author Dr Sandhya Yatrijula from the The George Institute for Global Health, in a statement.

"The loss of agency and hopelessness that may result from climate change is concerning, particularly for vulnerable populations who are already at risk due to the Covid-19 crisis," she added. The study included nearly 600 young

adults aged between 16 and 24, living in the urban slums in Haryana's Faridabad and Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills.

The findings show that most of the respondents reported nearly similar interference of climate change and Covid-19 on their mental wellbeing. Their climate concern and Covid-19 concern scores were comparable.

Tangible experiences of extreme weather events that were personally experienced or that impacted their family members had a negative impact on their lives. On the other hand, action around improving the environment had a positive impact.

Loss of income, loss of mobility and loss of social contact due to Covid-19 had negative impacts on the respondents, while indulging in leisure activities and bonding with the family had positive impacts.

Although the majority of the participants reported having both climate and Covid agency, it did not translate into action to improve the environment.

WATER FROM 155 RIVERS ACROSS THE GLOBE BROUGHT TO AYODHYA FOR RAM LALLA'S 'JALABHISHEK'

Ayodhya (UP): Water from 155 rivers from different countries, including Uzbekistan, Pakistan and China, has reached Ayodhya.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will perform the 'Jalabhishek' of Ram Lalla with water from these rivers on April 23.

Delhi BJP leader and former MLA, Vijay Jolly, the person behind the collection of water, said that water has also been brought from countries like Tanzania, Nigeria, America, France, Germany, Britain, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Bangladesh.

He said water has been brought from Antarctica, which is mostly inaccessible. As per the schedule, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will worship the 'jal kalash' after getting it from the team in a ceremony that is set to be organised on April 23 at Maniram Das Chawni Auditorium here.

The water brought from countries around the world will have stickers bearing the flags of those countries, their names and the names of rivers.

Envoys of many countries will also participate in the programme. The water from Pakistan was first sent by the Hindus of Pakistan to Dubai and then from Dubai it was brought to Delhi, from where Jolly brought it to Ayodhya.

Apart from Pakistan, water has also come from the rivers of many other countries, including Suriname, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Canada and Tibet.





PM MODI CALLS FOR EVACUATION PLAN FOR INDIAN CITIZENS IN WAR-TORN SUDAN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for a contingency evacuation plan and other viable options for Indian citizens stuck in war-torn Sudan.

He said this while undertaking a high-level meeting to review the situation in the troubled African nation.

The meeting, which took place through video-conferencing, was attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Indian Ambassador to Sudan, and other senior officials. PM Modi assessed the most recent developments in Sudan and received a first-hand report of the conditions on the ground, with specific focus on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens currently located throughout the country, sources aware of the developments said.

The Prime Minister expressed his condolences on the passing away of an Indian national who tragically fell



victim to a stray bullet last week.

He instructed all concerned officials to remain vigilant, closely monitor developments and continuously evaluate the safety of Indian nationals

in Sudan, while extending them all possible assistance.

PM Modi also underlined the significance of maintaining close communication with neighbouring coun-

tries in the region, as well as those with significant numbers of citizens in Sudan.

Jaishankar has already met UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York to discuss the situation in Sudan, especially the condition of Indian citizens stuck there.

Jaishankar, who was on his way to a series of visits to Guyana, Panama, Columbia and the Dominican Republic on Thursday, made an unscheduled stopover in New York to meet Guterres.

Earlier, he had spoken to the foreign ministers of the UAE and Egypt to discuss the prevailing scenario in Sudan. Fighting between Sudan's army and paramilitary forces has been going on since April 15, which has led to the death of around 300 people, including an Indian citizen.

Indian foreign ministry has advised Indian citizens in the capital city of Sudan, Khartoum, not to venture to the Indian embassy as it lies in a war zone.

'Does milk & lemon juice ever mix': Raje on collusion claims with Gehlot

Jaipur | Agencies

Lashing out at former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot for claiming that she is in collusion with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, BJP leader and ex-CM Vasundhara Raje has said "milk and lemon juice does not mix together".

Earlier this month, Pilot had criticised Gehlot over corruption issues, and also accused the government led by the veteran Congress leader of not taking any action against Raje over corruption cases.

Responding to Pilot's claims, Raje, while speaking at a programme during her visit to Bishnoi Samaj temple in Suratgarh on Thursday, asked "does milk and lemon juice ever mix?"

"Many people have been deliberately telling that 'we (she and Gehlot) have met, and there is a collusion



between us'. How is this possible with someone with whom principles and ideology do not match?" she wondered. She further said "how a collusion with someone is possible from whom indecent language is heard everyday".

The former Rajasthan chief minister also criticised the Gehlot-led Congress govern-

ment in the state over several issues, including the price rise.

"The Bishnoi community believes in forgiveness. But one who is not worth forgiving should not be forgiven. Also, corruption is a kind of theft. Support only such people who can do good to the entire society, so that we can serve you again," she said.

Constructive politics only option to defeat BJP's destructive politics: AAP

Panaji | Agencies

Taking a swipe at the BJP, Rajya Sabha MP and Aam Aadmi Party's national general secretary Sandeep Pathak on Friday said that the AAP's constructive politics is the only option to defeat the BJP's destructive politics.

Addressing a press conference, Pathak said that over the last decade, the AAP has created jobs, improved health and education infrastructure, and reduced cost of living.

"Whereas the BJP has only pursued destructive politics, whether it is burdening the common man with mis-governance, or trying to crush the opposition parties," he said. "AAP has established the government in Delhi and Punjab as a result of honest politics. In Gujarat and Goa, we have MLAs. This demonstrates that many are tired of established parties and see AAP as a new source of hope. This is why, despite BJP's efforts to damage AAP's image, AAP has continued to gain strength day by day," he said. He said that there are a number of bigger opposition



parties, but the BJP is most eager to finish AAP. "They are aware that only the AAP will succeed in stifling their toxic politics. In order to end AAP, they have been devising various strategies, but people will see through them. The people of this country know that Arvind Kejriwal is an honest man, and they will not forgive the BJP for trying to crush him and his ministers with false cases and harassment," Pathak said. "The BJP is focused on how to rob people and increase its wealth rather than working on industrial policies, IT policy or employment policy," he added.

POLICE PROBE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CHARGES AGAINST SENIOR OFFICIAL

New Delhi: The Delhi Police is investigating allegations of sexual harassment made by a female Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) against a senior official, sources said on Friday. The ASI had lodged a complaint in the last week of March, alleging that the Special Commissioner-rank officer had molested her in his office.

The Internal Complaints Committee, headed by Special CP Intelligence Division Garima Bhatnagar and also including Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) rank officers, is probing the allegations, as per sources.

Following the ASI's complaint, the matter was referred to the Internal Complaints Committee on the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace. "After the woman ASI brought up the matter to senior officials in the Delhi Police, the complaint was forwarded to the Internal Complaints Committee for workplace sexual harassment prevention," said the sources. "The investigation is currently ongoing, and a report will be prepared based on the findings of the inquiry," the sources added.

4 DELHI POLICE CONSTABLES AMONG 5 HELD FOR ROBBERY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Five men, including four Delhi Police constables, were arrested for robbing a man in his house in southwest Delhi's Sagarpur area, an official said on Friday.

The accused were identified as Manish Rai, Vijay Sharma, Deepak Yadav, Manjesh Ran and Ankit Kasana.

The official said that Vijay, Deepak, Manjesh and Ankit had joined the police force in 2020.

According to police, the robbery took place on the intervening night of April 19-20, at the residence of one Rajnish, a resident of Mohan Nagar, Sagarpur.

"The complainant told police that four persons had allegedly entered his house and threatened him in lieu of a pending amount to be returned to his known Manish and took away cash about Rs 10.40 lakh," said a senior



police official. On the statement of complainant Rajnish, a case of robbery was registered.

"During the course of investigation through technical surveillance, four alleged persons were apprehended," said the official.

On interrogation, it was revealed that Manish is a previ-

ous employee of Rajnish. "Manish was also apprehended, and robbed items were recovered from the possession of all the accused. Besides, two cars which were used during the commission of crime have also been recovered," said the official, adding that further investigation is in progress.

Air India pilot probed for allowing friend into cockpit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An Air India pilot is under investigation for violating safety norms by allowing a friend into the cockpit during a flight from Dubai to Delhi on February 27.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) confirmed the development and said the investigation team will examine the relevant facts.

The pilot allegedly entertained a female friend in the cockpit, which violates DGCA safety norms.

A senior DGCA official stated that the act is unacceptable and could have put the passengers' safety at risk.

Air India has released a statement saying that they have taken note of the reported incident and investigations are underway.

"The airline has a zero-tolerance



policy regarding passenger safety and well-being and will take require-

site action. The matter has also been reported to the DGCA, and Air

India is cooperating with their investigation.

"We have taken serious note of the reported incident and investigations are underway in Air India. We have also reported the matter to the DGCA and are cooperating with their investigations. We have zero tolerance in aspects related to the safety and well-being of our passengers and will take requisite action," the statement added.

The violation has raised concerns about flight safety and the need to ensure strict compliance with the safety norms.

The DGCA further emphasised the importance of following safety protocols and taking all necessary precautions to ensure passenger safety.

"Any violation of safety norms will be dealt with severely, and strict action will be taken against the guilty party," said a DGCA official.

Man held for selling fake injections to cancer patients

Gurugram | Agencies

A joint team of Haryana Chief Minister's Flying Squad and Drug Department arrested a man for selling fake injections to cancer patients in Sector-52 Gurugram on Friday.

The officials said they received information from secret sources that a fake cancer injection would be supplied to a cancer patient in Sector 52 Gurugram for Rs 2.5 lakh. When the team reached the spot, the information was found to be correct.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that earlier he had taken Rs 10 lakh for 10 injections from the same victim.

The accused Sandeep Bhui, a native of Kolkata West Bengal, was caught with a Defibrotide (fake) injection used in cancer treatment, the officials said.

When the raiding team demanded documents related to the injection, he failed to produce any paper.

During questioning, the accused revealed that this injection was supplied by Motiur Rehman Ansari, a resident of Jamia Nagar South Delhi, and he works with him. "This injection is supplied from Italy. When the Italy company was informed by the Drugs Department through the mail, the Italy company informed that this injection was fake," they said.

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and other sections of the Copyright and Trademark Act 1957.

"Motiur Rahman Ansari is a kingpin of this entire racket and the search is on to nab him. WHO has also issued an alert about this type of fake injection. It has been found that the accused have earned lakhs of rupees by selling fake injections in this manner," they added.

The officials said that the case is very serious in nature because these are fake medicines and selling them to cancer patients could cause danger to life. Further investigations into the matter are underway.

SUICIDE SUSPECTED AS STUDENT DIES AT IIT MADRAS, 4TH INCIDENT IN 3 MONTHS



Chennai: A second-year B Tech student, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, was found dead in his hostel room at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, police said on Friday.

The suspicious death, allegedly by suicide, makes it the fourth such incident occurring at the prestigious institution over the last three months.

The incident came to light on Friday when the deceased student's friends suspected something amiss when he did not open his hostel room door. They informed the warden who contacted the Kotturpuram police station. On breaking open the door, police found the dead body and sent it for post-mortem after registering a case. Earlier this month, on April 2, a PhD student of IIT Madras had died by suicide. Sachin Kumar Jain from West Bengal had died by suicide in his room in Tamil Nadu's Velachery, triggering protests on campus by students who demanded a probe into the matter.

SHOULD HAVE A RUNAWAY COUPLE CELL: DELHI HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The High Court on Friday said that the Delhi Police should maintain a "runaway couple cell" to support and aid couples who marry without their families' permission and face threats from them.

While hearing a protection plea moved by an intercaste major couple, who married against the consent of the girl's family, Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani orally told the counsel appearing for Delhi Police: "Delhi Police should have a runaway couple cell...Let them have a separate cell which deals with the runaway couples in compliance of Ashok Kumar Todi (case)."

In the Ashok Kumar Todi case, the top court had ruled: "If the parents of the boy or girl do not approve of such inter-caste or interreligious marriage the maximum they can do is that they can cut off social relations with the son or the daughter, but they cannot give threats or commit or instigate acts of violence and cannot harass the person who undergoes such inter-caste or inter-religious marriage."

Justice Bhambhani was hearing a plea by a couple who married in an Arya Samaj Mandir in Tis Hazari on April 7 and were furnished a marriage certificate.

The woman's family is allegedly threatening the couple since they got married without getting their approval. Due to the threats, the couple sought police protection for their life and freedom.

The couple's lawyer claimed that the identity cards that were attached to the plea showed that both of the people, who were also present in court, are of legal age. Moreover, despite filing a complaint with the relevant SHO on April 11, it



was alleged that the police failed to assist them right away. The Additional Standing Counsel (ASC) appearing for Delhi Police submitted that adequate steps will be taken to ensure safety and security of the couple.

"It is directed that the cell phone number of the SHO and the beat constable be furnished to the petitioners (couple) who they may call in any eventuality," the court said.

While issuing notice in the plea, the court also sought a status report from the Delhi Police

within six weeks' time and listed the matter for further hearing in September.

Additionally, Justice Bhambhani orally told the ASC that a runaway couple cell be established outside the Arya Samaj Mandir so that the newlyweds may go there right away seeking help if they were threatened by their family.

"Preferably this cell (runaway couple cell) should be set up outside the Arya Samaj Mandir, Tis Hazari...It should be streamlined," the court said.

NEWBORN BABY SOLD FOR RS 3 LAKH IN T'PURAM HOSPITAL, PROBE ORDERED



Thiruvananthapuram: In a bizarre case at a premier hospital in the heart of the Kerala capital, a newborn baby was sold to a woman for Rs 3 lakh, and state Health Minister Veena George has ordered a probe into the matter.

The incident came to light when the Child Line group here got a lead of a baby being sold and began probing.

Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Shaniba said it was the efforts of the Child Line which led to this being found out.

"They, along with the woman who had taken possession of the new born came before us. On detailed questioning, the woman, after initially refusing to admit that the baby was 'purchased', later agreed that it was not her baby, and instead she had purchased it," she said. "The Special Branch police is now probing the case and the details of how this took place will come out and the person who sold the baby and the person who purchased the baby will all be proceeded against the Juvenile Justice Act," she added.

Shaniba said the CWCA has taken custody of the baby and all the care is being given.



BURHANPUR BECOMES THE COUNTRY'S MODEL DISTRICT IN JAL JEEVAN MISSION

Team Absolute | Burhanpur

Burhanpur women of Madhya Pradesh are the happiest to have received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence for the best performance in the country in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, presented the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence to Burhanpur Collector Bhavya Mittal at a grand ceremony on Civil Services Day in New Delhi today. It is the result of cooperation and coordination between the government and the citizens. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has continuously encouraged innovation in development programmes and processes.

The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence is no less than a unique gift for the women of Burhanpur. Rekha Suresh Soni of Bahadarpur village, 8 km from the district headquarters, recalls her difficult times and says that she had come to this village in the year 2000 as a daughter-in-law. Due to the problem of water, no one was ready to initiate a marriage proposal in this village. Water had to be brought from a long distance. But now, due to the efforts of CM Shivraj



and PM Modi, our village has started getting plenty of water. The whole village has also become green. Everyone is getting clean water. Health problems are also decreasing. The time which used to be spent earlier in fetching water is now being used for other works. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has done a very good

job for us. Burhanpur district has acquired an unprecedented and proud achievement of providing pure drinking tap water to every household through the Jal Jeevan Mission. Burhanpur has got the distinction of becoming the first Har Ghar Jal-certified district in the country. Burhanpur has given a new

direction to the country by providing water to every village. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, tap water has been made available to more than 51 lakh 15 thousand rural families of the state so far. Water is being supplied to all 254 villages under the "Har Ghar Jal" scheme. These villages have been certified under "Har Ghar Jal".

Project Cheetah proving successful

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The behaviour of cheetahs brought from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park, Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh is normal and they are completely healthy. The work of monitoring the cheetahs is being done 24 hours by the experts. Project Cheetah is proving successful. Four cubs have also been born. Local residents including Cheetah Mitras are also benefiting financially from wildlife tourism. The state-wise tiger population figures are likely to come by July 2023. A three-day international seminar on wildlife conservation and management will be held at Kanha Tiger Reserve from April 27 to 29, in which many subject experts will participate.

This information was given in the meeting of Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board chaired by



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Mantralaya meeting hall. Chief Minister Chouhan said that good work is being done in the field of wildlife conservation in the state. Board members including Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah, MLA Sanjay Shah, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Forest J.N. Kansotiya and senior administrative and departmental officers were present. Issues related to Cheetah Project in Kuno Palpur, restoration of tigers in Madhav National Park and establishment of Barasingha in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve were discussed in the meeting.

Necessary approvals were also given by the board for various construction works in various sectors including traffic, communication, energy and drinking water.

It was informed that initiative has been taken to establish a ropeway at Pachmarhi in Narmadapuram district till Chauragarh, the main pilgrimage site of Satpura region. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed to take necessary steps on this subject after considering the relevant points. Discussion was held on filling up the posts of mahouts and making necessary provisions to encourage them considering their skilled and educated even without school education.

Omkarshwar sanctoraries were also discussed in the meeting. The details of the decisions taken in the last meeting of the Board and their implementation were given.

MP Shocker: Four of a family jump before moving train, one survive



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a suspected case of mass suicide in Madhya Pradesh, four members of a family jumped before of a moving train in Tikamgarh district on Friday. The married couple and their daughter died on spot, while their son managed to escape at the last moment.

As per the police, the deceased have been identified as Laxman Namdev (50), a farmer by profession, his wife Rajni Namdev (45) and their daughter Vini Namdev. The reason for the family to take the extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

The bodies were found lying across the rail-

way track near Kharagpur in Tikamgarh district by some passersby who informed the police. According to his Aadhaar card found near his body, Laxman Namdev was a resident of Matol village in Tikamgarh district.

According to the police, Laxman's son was accused of theft in the neighbourhood three days prior to the incident. A complaint was also filed against the boy who was questioned by the police. After the incident, the boy alleged that they took the extreme step following a threat by the local police to arrest the entire family in the case.

"We are trying to ascertain the exact reason behind the mass suicide," a senior police officer said.

Meanwhile, the opposition Congress has demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident and action against those responsible for the family to take such an extreme step.

The shocking incident took place three days after a 55-year-old man killed himself due to financial distress in Satna district. The deceased person's bed-ridden daughter has alleged that his father was unable to bear the expenses for her treatment after she damaged her spinal cord in an accident few years back.

She also alleged that his father was running from pillar to post to get an Ayushman card, but failed because of corrupt officials in Satna district, which ultimately forced him to commit suicide.

WHITE TIGRESS GIVES BIRTH TO 3 CUBS IN GWALIOR ZOO



Gwalior: 10-year-old white tigress on Thursday gave birth to three cubs in the municipal corporation-run Gandhi Zoo in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city, taking the count of the striped animals at the facility to ten, an official said.

The feline, named Mira, gave birth to three cubs -- one of them white -- around 11.30 am, zoo curator Dr Gaurav Parihar said.

He said the tigress was born in the zoological park in 2013 and this was her third litter.

Mr Parihar stated that the tigress is under special care of zookeepers in accordance with Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines.

Terrorism on rise in J&K, spreading its tentacles to Jammu also: Digvijaya Singh

Team Absolute | Ujjain

Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh on Friday said contrary to the Centre's claim, terrorism cases are on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir, and referred to the latest attack on an Army vehicle that led to the death of five soldiers. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister maintained terror activities were largely confined to the Kashmir Valley, but violent incidents are now taking place in new areas like Poonch in the Jammu region of the Union Territory, and this was a matter of concern.

Talking to reporters here, Singh said the Centre had claimed that scrapping Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir (the constitutional provision granted special status to J&K) in 2019 and demonetisation (2016) will help in fighting terrorism in the erstwhile state, but figures of Defence and Home Ministries suggest terror-related incidents have actually gone up since these measures were announced.

"A big attack took place in terrorism-free Poonch which is part of Jammu. Such incidents used to take place in Anantnag and Pulwana (in Kashmir Valley). Now terror attacks have started taking place in new areas," he said.

Five Army personnel were killed and another was seriously injured on Thursday after their vehicle caught fire following a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch. The Army said the vehicle the soldiers were travelling in came under fire from unidentified terrorists and it caught fire because of the likely use of grenades.

"Cartridges recovered (in Poonch) have markings of China," Singh said.



The Rajya Sabha member said Jammu has been a peaceful place and the terror attack there was disturbing. In the last three years, 1,033 terror attacks have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir and 177 jawans have lost their lives, Singh said.

"In 2019, this number was 594 and in 2020, it was 244. Such attacks are on the rise and we are losing our soldiers," the senior Congress leader added.

MAN GETS ONE YEAR JAIL FOR KILLING DOG IN BHIND

Bhind: A court in Bhind in Madhya Pradesh has sentenced a man to one-year rigorous imprisonment for killing a dog in 2019. Makhan Singh (48) was also fined Rs 1,000 by Judicial First-Class Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Kushwaha, Assistant District Public Prosecution Officer Praveen Sikarwar said.

Singh stabbed the dog to death with an iron rod in Raupura village, some 35 kilometres from here, on April 30, 2019 after the animal barked at him, Sikarwar said.

Singh was convicted under Indian Penal Code section 429 for killing the animal, he said. The order was of Tuesday, details of which were made available on Friday.

Laborer hands over british-era treasure to police after finding coins buried

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Daily wage labourer in Madhya Pradesh, who stumbled upon a British-Era treasure trove buried under a house, has surrendered the 136-year-old relics to the police.

On Tuesday, Halle Ahirwar reportedly found 240 silver coins from 1887 during excavation of a house in the Damoh district of MP. After a "sleepless night" of resisting the temptation to keep them, the Badalpura resident decided to hand the coins over to the cops. According to TOI, the construction worker felt conflicted about possession of the treasure worth an estimated Rs 1.92 and defied his initial instinct to listen to his conscience, which said the coins belong either to "someone else or the sarkar". "Ahirwar has turned in the coins, and the police will follow proper procedures and inspect the site before taking further action," said Kotwali police station in-charge Vijay



Rajput.

Despite his honesty, however, the labourer has been accused by the landowner Meenakshi Upadhyay of taking the silver coins home and not showing up to the construction site.

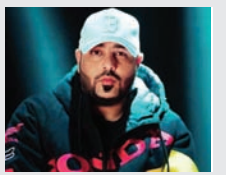
Speaking to local media, she claimed to have learned about the discovery through social media.

Meanwhile, the excavation at the site has been put on hold, and law enforcement officials have summoned the department of archaeology and the department of minerals to conduct a thorough examination of the site and the recovered coins.

The discovery of the coins underneath the old house, which also houses a temple on its premises, has sparked speculation among the local community that further valuable items may be unearthed upon closer investigation. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act) governs the discovery of antiquities and archaeological objects in Madhya Pradesh, including the recent find in Damoh. As per the act, any person who discovers an antiquity or archaeological object must report it within 24 hours to the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India or an authorised officer, failure of which can result in imprisonment or a fine.

STATE OUTFIT APPROACHES POLICE AGAINST RAPPER BADSHAH'S NEW SONG

Indore: A complaint was submitted to the police in Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Friday against singer Badshah for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of people by using the word 'Bholenath' in a song that contains objectionable lyrics, a police official said. The complaint was submitted by an organisation called 'Parshuram Sena' and action will be taken after the allegations are investigated, MG Road police station in charge Santosh Singh said. The organisation's lawyer Vinod Dwivedi claimed the lyrics of Badshah's new song 'Sanak' contained objectionable lyrics and the use of the word 'Bholenath' had hurt the sentiments of the Hindus. Some people also protested in front of MG Road police station and burnt an effigy of the 37-year-old artiste.



From Office of CM Chouhan to Narottam Mishra, MP politicians who lost Twitter blue ticks

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Twitter started removing the legacy verified blue ticks as soon as the clock struck 12 on Thursday night, leaving accounts of several celebrities as well as politicians without a blue tick.

Due to the recent development, several Madhya Pradesh politicians including state home minister Narottam Mishra, former MP Chief minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, among others have lost their verified blue ticks from their Twitter accounts. Office of Shivraj and Bhartiya Janta Party's MP account also lost their blue ticks while former CM Kamal Nath, MP Congress managed to retain them. What is Twitter Blue



Notably, the only individual Twitter users who have verified blue checkmarks are those paying for Twitter Blue, which costs USD 8/month via the web and USD 11/month through in-app payment on iOS and Android. Earlier in March, Twitter

posted from their official handle, "On April 1st, we will begin winding down our legacy verified program and removing legacy verified checkmarks. To keep your blue checkmark on Twitter, individuals can sign up for Twitter Blue.

Life of civil servants is not only for themselves, but for their loved ones: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, addressing the civil servants said that your life is not just for your own self but for your loved ones. Public welfare is the biggest priority. Small works related to the general public are really big works. Civil servants should get these works completed on time, this is good governance. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the Civil Services-Day launch program in the assembly hall of the RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal. Chief Minister Chouhan said that our basic work is social service. Whatever work we do, it is for the common citizens. Chief Minister Chouhan extended best wishes and congratulated Team Madhya Pradesh on Civil Services Day. The chief guest for this special event on Civil Services Day was Mohandas Pai, educationist, author, former member of Infosys



and currently Chairman, Manipal Global Education.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the meaning of Civil Services Day is that we are public servants and our main aim is to serve the country. In a democracy, there is governance of the people, for the people and by the people. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the theme of Civil Services Day 2023 is 'Developed India,

Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile'. Congratulating Team Madhya Pradesh, he said that he is proud that together they have made a very important contribution in making Madhya Pradesh prosperous and developed. Team Madhya Pradesh has worked unitedly. Rapid positive changes have taken place in Madhya Pradesh. We have surprisingly increased the capacity of irrigation

from 7.5 lakh hectare to 45 lakh hectare. Crossing this, we will now work to increase it up to 65 lakh hectares. Today 4 lakh kilometers of roads have been built in the state. At some point of time it used to be only 71 thousand kms and was in poor condition. Now there are excellent roads in the state.

Good governance has helped to end public and administration's distance Chief Minister Chouhan said that the distance between the public and the administration has been bridged in the state, which has become possible due to the efforts of good governance. The Mukhyamantri Jan-Seva Abhiyan succeeded in connecting more than 83 lakh beneficiaries with the schemes of the Central and State Governments. Our programs became the programs of the people. People have also participated in the decisions. Campaign will be conducted again from May 10 to 25 to redress public grievances.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BENGAL BJP DIVIDED OVER ALLOWING MUKUL ROY RE-ENTRY INTO PARTY

Opinions seem to be divided in BJP's West Bengal unit over allowing re-entry to senior Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Roy, who is officially still a saffron camp legislator as per the records of the West Bengal Assembly. The question doing the rounds is whether the re-entry of Roy into the party will be of any help to the saffron camp in the coming days. According to state BJP President and Lok Sabha MP Sukanta Majumdar, Roy's re-inclusion in the party will depend on the decision of the party high command. "But it is evident from what he (Roy) said that he is uncomfortable in the Trinamool Congress. Probably, he now wants to rectify his mistake by returning to the BJP," Majumdar said. On the other hand, BJP's national Vice President and Lok Sabha member Dilip Ghosh directly asked what would Roy add to the party after his re-entry. A state committee member of the BJP said that the arguments for not allowing Roy a re-entry into the party are too many. "First, the organisational structure of the party in the state was put in place without him, after he returned to Trinamool following the 2021 Assembly polls. So, the question that arises is what position would he be offered after his re-entry," he said. "Secondly, since Roy continues to be a BJP legislator, he can be officially brought back to the party again. This will surely send a wrong signal to grassroots level workers of the party," the state committee member said. Finally, he added, Roy's re-entry might offend those who have been with the party even after its defeat in the 2021 Assembly elections.

THIS MADHYA PRADESH VILLAGE GIVES OUT FREE DAIRY PRODUCTS

Pooja Yadav

Two good quality cows can give up to 40 litres of milk daily. One litre of full cream milk costs around Rs 60 in Bhopal, which translates into a daily maximum income of Rs 2,400. Despite the rising inflation, the residents of Chudiya in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh have been letting go of this potential earning of Rs 72,000 a month. By doing so, people claim they are fulfilling a promise they believe their ancestors had given to Chindhiya Sadhu for lifting the curse of cholera from the village. No documents are available to show the life and times of the revered monk, but villager Babul Yadav says his brother's great-grandson, Tukdu Maharaj, still lives in the village. People believe that Chindhiya Sadhu lived in the 18th century by taking note that Maharaj is an octogenarian. "The villagers had made a promise to never trade in milk, buttermilk and curd. We have been following this for five generations now. We distribute all of it for free," Gorelal Yadav (80) tells 101Reporters. While many a home budget has been buckled keeping up with the persistently high inflation, the 400 households of Chudiya follow their age-old tradition. "Over 90 per cent of the families here are into agriculture. Most households have anywhere between two to 10 cows. A farmer will spend Rs 50 to 100 on a cow daily. For milch cows, it will go up to Rs 200, excluding fodder. Hiring labourers to clean the place where animals are kept, running a motor pump to meet their water requirements, and medical care are among the main expenses," says Ramkishore Yadav. Yashwant Yadav, another villager, adds that expenses went up to Rs 500 per cattle, including the cost of vaccination and preventive medicines, during the Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak. "Earlier, cattle were set free on fallow pastures for grazing. As more and more land has been diverted for agriculture, they have to be tied up and fodder arranged," says Ramkishore. Bhujlal Yadav (75) claims that every villager follows the tradition willingly. "Be it good or bad days, we manage our expenses



based on the situation "Selling milk is never in our calculation." A two-day annual fair is organised on Kartik Purnima in honour of Chindhiya Sadhu, with his tomb as the centre of attraction. Puris and halwa made from Chudiya ghee draw a large crowd to the bhandara (community feast) on both days. The villagers also maintain an eternal flame running on ghee in honour of the monk. Not just the elders, even the youth stand by this tradition. "I got to know about the sadhu from my grandparents. He took the oath of celibacy, lived an ascetic life and helped our village... and in return, he took a small oath from us. There is no question of not following it," says Aryan Yadav, a village youth. Chudiya villagers welcome with open arms any person who needs milk, curd or buttermilk. Of course, the distribution is free! "Chudiya is about 25 km from my village. Whenever there is a big event in our family or village, we get buttermilk from there. We inform them ahead of schedule in case of a big order, and they will keep the buttermilk ready for us. No one takes money even if you offer a token amount as a goodwill gesture," says Sevak Yadav, a farmer and social worker

Lakkadjam." This tradition allows us to do public service. The cost factor does not apply. Our buttermilk is famous, especially at weddings," beams Yashwant. If there is no demand for milk, the villagers turn it into curd and buttermilk for domestic use and make ghee from it. The ghee, however, does not fall under the ambit of the 'promise'. "We sell it under the label 'Chudiya Ka Ghee' for Rs 600 per litre. We do not make much profit, but there is no loss," says Ranjan Yadav. The villagers do not have to go out to sell ghee as prospective buyers from Betul district headquarters, Chicholi block headquarters and Samri town reach out to them. "For the residents, the sage is still alive. His invisible power ensures our welfare. Had our ancestors given him the promise of not trading in ghee, that would not have happened," says Ramkishore, when asked why ghee was an exception. Though it is a noble act, the distribution of free milk makes a little more sense when one considers the village's income profile. The 4,000 residents of Chudiya belong to Gawli, Thakur, and tribal communities. The

region's fertile black soil helps them grow wheat and vegetables and sell them at Chicholi, located 5 km away, during the Tuesday weekly markets. A canal from the Godhna dam brings water to their farms. "Farmers get cattle fodder from the land. In return, cows provide manure for farm work. Some households have cow dung-based biogas plants running. The milk that cows provide nourishes the children of the households. We get everything from our cows," says Gorelal. Every household has at least one two-wheeler and tractor each. Every tenth house has a four-wheeler. Almost 90% of the families have pucca houses. In addition, the younger generations are migrating to Bhopal, Indore, Pune, Delhi, Nagpur and other places for studies and for earning white-collar jobs.

(Pooja Yadav is a Bhopal-based journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters, where this article was originally published.)

international

North Korea's status as nuclear weapons state 'final, irreversible': FM

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui on Friday said the US and the West have no right to argue about Pyongyang's status as a nuclear weapons power. In a statement, Choe took issue with the G7 Foreign Ministers that condemned the North's unlawful ballistic missile launches and said Pyongyang "cannot and will never" have the status of a nuclear weapons state under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), reports Yonhap News Agency. "G7 has neither authority nor qualification to say this or that about the DPRK's exercise of its sovereignty and its national status," she said in the statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name. North Korea's position as a



"world-class nuclear power is final and irreversible", and will remain an "undeniable and stark reality" even if Washington does not recognise it for a thousand years, she added. Choe then warned that any move by G7 members to infringe on the North's sovereignty and fundamental interests will be "completely deterred by strong counteraction". She also claimed that the North's status as a nuclear power was not "granted or recognized" but established "along with the existence of

the actual nuclear deterrence and fixed by the law". In September last year, Pyongyang passed a new law declaring itself a nuclear weapons state. Wrapping up a three-day meeting in Japan, the G7 Foreign Ministers on Tuesday issued a joint statement urging North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and fully comply with the NPT safeguards. They also condemned the North's test-firing of what it claimed to be a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile.

Indian woman climber rescued from Mt. Annapurna thanks people for prayers

Kathmandu | Agencies

Kaur, the record-holding Indian woman climber who was rescued from Mt. Annapurna this week and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kathmandu, has thanked everyone who prayed for her well-being. She went missing on April 17 while descending from the summit point of the world's 10th tallest peak and presumed dead. But the next day she was found alive. In a tweet on Friday, the 27-year-old said: "Jai Hind... I would like to take a moment to thank you all from the bottom of my Heart who were with me Directly or Indirectly during that difficult time I faced. Thank you so much for your praying and blessings." The Himachal Pradesh-based mountaineer had many feathers in her hat. She broke the record of the first Indian woman to summit Mount Manaslu without oxygen and the youngest woman to summit Mount Manaslu without oxygen. She was also the first Indian to climb six 8,000M peaks in the world and the fastest Indian to climb six 8,000M peaks in the world (5 months 2 days).



80 killed in renewed clashes in northern Somalia: WHO

Mogadishu | Agencies

Recurring clashes between security forces and clan leaders in Las Anod in northern Somalia have resulted in the killing of 80 people and displacement of 30,000 more, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. The WHO said in its latest update that between 154,000 and 203,000 people are estimated to have been displaced since December 2022 in the ongoing fighting, reports Xinhua news agency. "The situation has escalated at a time when people in the Sool region are experiencing unprecedented water shortages due to the severe drought and facing an elevated risk of disease outbreaks," the UN health body warned. According to the UN, since clashes erupted in the city of Las Anod in northern Somalia on February 6, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced within the country, and an estimated 100,000 have crossed the border into Ethiopia to escape violence. The WHO, which has ramped up medical response in the area, said it has donated biomedical equipment to establish a triage corner in Kalabeydh and trained health staff on triage management.

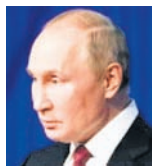


It also said 24 community-based surveillance teams were deployed to carry out case detection, testing, case management, and referral of severe cases to the health facilities in the Hudud and Buhoodle districts. Las Anod is in the Sool and Sanaag regions, which are claimed by both Somaliland and Puntland States. The current fighting broke out after local clan elders issued a declaration stating that they are no longer part of Somaliland and that the Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn regions are now governed by the government of Somalia. Both sides are reportedly using heavy artillery and machine guns, causing serious damage, including to health facilities in the area.

Anyone trying to resist global trend towards multipolarity will lose: Putin

Moscow | Agencies

The global trend towards multipolarity will intensify, and those who choose to resist this shift will "ultimately lose and face new challenges", Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. "The global trend... towards multipolarity is inevitable, and will only intensify," Putin said during a videoconference of the Council for Local Self-Government Development on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported. "Those, who do not understand this, and who will choose not to follow this trend, will lose," he added. "This is an obvious fact," the President noted, adding that those who try to prevent this will only "face additional problems" which they already have enough of.



Fighting in Sudan puts millions of children at risk: Unicef

United Nations | Agencies

UN Children's Fund (Unicef) Executive Director Catherine Russell has warned that escalating military clashes in Sudan has put millions of children at risk. Five days of intense fighting in Sudan has already taken a devastating toll on the country's children. If the violence does not stop, this toll will only increase, Russell was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying. At least nine children have reportedly been killed and over 50 others reportedly injured as hostilities continue in Khartoum, the Darfur and North Kordofan regions, she noted. "The perilous security situation across the country makes it very difficult to collect and verify information. But we know that while fighting continues, children will continue to pay the price." Many families are trapped in the crossfire, with little or no access to electricity, terrified about the fighting

and the possibility of running out of food, water and medicine. Thousands of families have been forced from their homes in search of safety, she said. "We have received reports of children sheltering in schools and care centers while fighting rages around them, of children's hospitals forced to evacuate as shelling moves closer, and hospitals, health centres and other critical infrastructure damaged or destroyed, limiting access to essential and life-saving care and medicine," she said. The fighting has disrupted critical, life-saving care for an estimated 50,000 severely acutely malnourished children. These vulnerable children need ongoing, round-the-clock care, which is being put at risk by the escalating violence, she added. Russell said the fighting also puts at risk the cold chain in Sudan, including vaccines and insulin worth over \$40 million, due to the breaks in the power supply and the inability to restock generators with fuel.

Sikhism to be part of Virginia school curriculum

New York | Agencies

After Utah and Mississippi, Virginia became the 17th state in the US to include Sikhi, or the Sikh faith, in their school curriculum. The Virginia State Board of Education on Thursday voted in favour of new History and Social Science Standards of Learning, which for the first time ever includes Sikhism. The new standards will give more than a million students in Virginia the opportunity to learn about the Sikh community. "After more than two years of engagement alongside the local sangat, this change will help to ensure that Sikhi can be taught in classrooms across the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Harman Singh, Senior Education Manager, Sikh Coalition. "Inclusive and accurate standards are an important first step to combat bigotry and to reduce bullying, and they benefit all students by increasing cultural competency," Singh said in a statement.



The Sikh Coalition, which has been working since March 2021 to include information about Sikhism, Sikh practices, and traditions in schools, said that the social studies standards come with serious and well-documented flaws, and there are many communities that are not represented as they should be. "We continue to fight for not just the

Sikh community, but all groups whose histories should be taught accurately," the US-based organisation said in a statement. Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and the community has contributed to American society for over 125 years in the fields of civil rights, politics, agriculture, engineering, and medicine.



MERCURY SOARS TO 40 DEGREES IN 13 DISTRICTS, MAHA SCHOOLS GET EARLY SUMMER VACATION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With mercury rising to 40 degrees Celsius in 13 of Maharashtra's 36 districts and above 35 degrees in eight districts, all state board schools in the state shut early for summer vacations here from Friday.

The government has asked the other non-state board educational institutions to take their own decisions depending on their academic calendars and other activities, as intense heat wave conditions prevailed in almost the entire state.

Although state board schools have already shut in the past few weeks for summer vacations, some are conducting special batches for SSC and other courses, but for the non-state board schools, the new academic year 2023-2024 has already started.

Late on Thursday, the state government issued orders shutting the state board schools for the primary, middle and higher secondary early for the current summer.

Accordingly, the annual report cards of the students shall be issued by April 29, though the teaching and non-teaching staff will continue to attend work till May 2. School Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar also suggested that if schools have to carry out certain duties, they must do so in the morning or evening hours.

Most schools conduct special batches or classes in the morning hours and are likely to continue as the students are allowed to return home by 11 a.m.



Non-state board schools will continue their classes as usual but have made arrangements to give adequate drinking water breaks, ventilation in classrooms, permitting PT uniforms, etc to avoid inconveniencing the stu-

dents. The schools across the state will reopen from June 15 and those in the Vidarbha region will restart from June 30, as per the government orders.

As per the IMD report on Friday,

entire Vidarbha and large parts of Maharashtra are scorching above 40 degrees, most districts are above 35 degrees, with only Mumbai and Ratnagiri reporting below 35 degree readings.

Did you rush to meet Navi Mumbai tragedy victims?: Shiv Sena (UBT) asks Raj Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Friday launched a full-scale attack on Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray for his comments alleging that his estranged cousin and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was also liable for 'culpable homicide' for mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis.

After an earful by Sena (UBT) chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare shot off a letter, informing 'Dada' Raj (elder brother) that the Navi Mumbai tragedy of April 16 was a "man-made disaster" compared to the Covid-19 pandemic which was a natural calamity not created by Uddhav. Adopting a sweet sisterly tone, Andhare lauded Raj for the "four-day delay but finally speaking about the tragedy" that claimed 14 lives, and then hit hard: "After the disaster, did you rush to meet the families of the victims?"

On the government's plea that the incident should not be politicised, the Sena (UBT) fire-brand woman orator pointed out that it was Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his Deputy Devendra Fadnavis who mobilised such a massive crowd to politically exploit the popularity of Appasaheb Dharmadhikari in that event. Sena (UBT) national spokesperson Kishore Tiwari hit out at Raj Thackeray, reminding him that Uddhav Thackeray's Covid-19 pandemic management was appreciated not only by the whole world but also by the BJP government at the Centre.

"Rather than running down the exemplary work of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, why can't Raj Thackeray give some good advice to the Shinde-Fadnavis regime whose performance has been disastrous for all sections of the population in the past nine months," Tiwari said in a potshot at the MNS leader. Andhare sharply added that instead of arranging financial help to the MVA govern-



ment and Uddhav Thackeray during the pandemic, Fadnavis and the BJP were busy donating money to the private PM Care Fund. Earlier, Raut labelled Raj "a pet parrot" of the BJP and asked him to make demands for culpable homicide against the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat for their failure during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Why only Uddhav Thackeray? Let them order similar investigations against the Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Remember those thousands of bodies dumped in the Ganga River in UP? Or the long queues of people waiting with bodies for cremation in Gujarat," Raut demanded.

As the bitter political row continued over the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award' post-event tragedy, the government appointed a one-man committee to probe the issue, and earlier banned all similar open-air functions in the state from 12-5 p.m. during summer.

The opposition MVA has questioned how a government official could conduct an impartial probe when the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Shinde, Fadnavis and other dignitaries were on the dais.

Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar has demanded a judicial probe by a retired judge, state Congress President Nana Patole wants a two-day Special Legislature Session to discuss the disaster, and Raut has alleged between 50-75 deaths necessitating culpable homicide charges.

Tata Nexon EV catches fire, company blames 'headlamp replacement' for incident

Team Absolute | Pune

A Tata Nexon EV caught fire in Pune and the company said the incident occurred due to the replacement of the original headlamp at an unauthorised workshop, according to media reports.

"We understand that this vehicle recently underwent repairs, wherein the left headlamps were replaced at an unauthorised workshop," the company stated.

According to Tata Motors, there were flaws with the car's installation and repair process, which resulted in an electrical breakdown in the headlamp unit, which ultimately allowed the thermal incident.

The company also said that the affected area is concentrated only in the zone of repairs carried out.

In order to minimise such mishaps, the company has also urged electric vehicle own-



ers to have their vehicles serviced and repaired only at authorised workshops using on-spec components, accessories, and spare parts, the media reports said.

This is the second time, a Tata Nexon EV caught fire. In June 2022, a Tata Nexon EV caught fire in Mumbai. The EV car fire incident was reported from Vasai West (near Panchvati Hotel) in Mumbai, and the video of the Tata Nexon EV engulfed in fire went viral on social media.

Unique public initiatives in Latur-Solapur districts bag PM's National Awards

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Two innovative initiatives of Maharashtra in Latur and Solapur districts bagged the Prime Minister's National Awards and a pat from PM Narendra Modi at the 16th Civil Services Day concluding event in New Delhi, officials said here.

The schemes are: 'Operation Parivartan' by Solapur Superintendent of Police Shirish Sardeshpande and 'Arogyavardhini' by Latur Collector Prithviraj B. P., which shot into national limelight along with 16 other administrative

officers at the Vigyan Bhavan on Friday.

Each winner was awarded a certificate, badge and cash prize of Rs 20-lakh, said officials.

Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Latur Collector Prithviraj implemented 'Arogyavardhini' various health services are provided at 233 Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres, ranging from healthy lifestyle guidance to diagnosing various diseases and treatment referrals, etc.

Also included are the health of pregnant women, kids, adolescent girls, treating all types of communicable-non communicable diseases,

yoga, diet, exercises, etc that have benefited over 50-lakh people in Latur district.

The initiative has also arranged for funds, medicines, latest ambulances, cancer diagnosis, preventing maternal deaths and health camps with teams of health workers.

Solapur SP Sardeshpande said that 'Operation Parivartan' - launched by ex-SP Tejashwi Satpute in 2021-2022, is designed to improve the standards of the local population through various measures. These include a complete eradication of illicit liquor businesses in the district, and as more means of self-employment were cre-

ated, those indulging in the unauthorised businesses were discouraged from pursuing it.

Through this, 117 dens manufacturing illegal liquor and its sale in surroundings of Solapur were stopped with the full coordination of the police officers and the local villages, plus a four-stage drive like non-stop action on complaints, counselling, rehabilitation and awareness missions. So far, as many as 726 people have been freed from the shackles of such illegal businesses and are now engaged in respectable legal professions or businesses, thus considerably improving their living standards.

SANJAY RAUT RIPS INTO RAJ THACKERAY FOR COMMENTS ON UDDHAV'S TACKLING COVID CRISIS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut attacked Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray for his comments targeting his estranged cousin and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, here on Friday.

Attempting to defend Shiv Sena Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Raj Thackeray on Thursday created a flutter by saying that the lapses in Covid-19 management during Uddhav Thackeray's tenure as CM at the height of the pandemic could also attract charges of culpable homicide.

He was hitting out at the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s demand for CM Eknath Shinde's resignation, dismissal of his government and booking officials responsible for culpable homicide after the Navi Mumbai tragedy that claimed 14 lives.

Ruling Sena Minister Uday Samant endorsed Raj Thackeray's demand saying the corruption that resulted in Covid-19 deaths can be exposed and attract culpable homicide charges.



Responding, Raut said that Raj 'was a pet parrot' of the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party and asked him to make demands for culpable homicide against the CMs of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat for their failure during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Why only Uddhav Thackeray, let them order

similar investigations against the CMs of Gujarat and UP... Remember those thousands of bodies dumped in the Ganga River in UP or the long queues of people waiting for cremation of hundreds in Gujarat," Raut demanded. As the bitter political row continued over the 'Maharashtra Bhushan Award' post-event tragedy, the state government yesterday appointed a one-man committee to probe the issue, and earlier banned all similar open-air functions in the state from 12-5 pm during summer.

The Opposition leaders have questioned how a government official could conduct an impartial probe when the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, CM Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and other dignitaries were on the dais.

Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar has demanded a judicial probe by a retired judge, state Congress President Nana Patole wants a two-day Special Legislature Session to discuss the disaster, and Raut has alleged between 50-75 deaths necessitating culpable homicide charges.

Amid buzz about leaving NCP, Ajit Pawar skips party convention in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar has conveyed to the party that he is unable to attend its day-long convention in Mumbai today due to his prior commitments elsewhere, which has raised eyebrows in political circles as speculation about his next political move refuse to die down.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Ajit Pawar played down the buzz saying that he is not able to attend the NCP meeting as he has to remain present for some other programmes happening at the same time.



The NCP also said that Ajit Pawar's inability to attend the party meeting does not mean he is planning to quit the organisation.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar is scheduled to address the party meeting in the state capital in the evening. The party meet started this morning.

Intense speculation is going on in Maharashtra's political circles about Ajit Pawar's growing proximity with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Rumours about his next political move started swirling last week when he suddenly cancelled his scheduled meetings and also made comments which were seen as being soft on the BJP and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp.

The BJP is part of the Shinde government.

Mumbai reports 226 new Covid-19 cases, two deaths

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai on Friday reported 226 new cases of Covid-19 and two deaths related to the infection. The addition of the fresh cases took the total tally of infections in the city to 11,61,569, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said in a health bulletin.

The city has been recently witnessing a sudden spike in the daily cases of coronavirus.

With the death reported on April 21, the death toll in the city reached 19,758, the health bulletin said.

The bulletin said that the recovery count increased by 282 more patients to touch the total number of recoveries to 11,40,345.

The city now has an active caseload of 1,466 patients, it further said.



According to the data in the bulletin, Mumbai's overall growth rate of cases between April 14 and April 20 was 0.0176 per cent, and the recovery rate stood at 98.2 per cent. So far, 1,88,30,930

Covid-19 tests have been conducted in the city, including 1,839 samples taken in the past 24 hours, as per civic data. The caseload doubling time is 3,894 days, as per civic data.

Western Railway to operate night block between Mahim and Mumbai Central on April 22 and 23

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Western Railway on Friday said that there will be a 'no day block' on Sunday, April 23. The Western Railway will be operating a night block between Mahim and Mumbai Central railway stations on April 22 and April 23, the Western Railway said in a statement.

According to a statement issued by the Western Railway, To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signaling and overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block of four hours will be taken on UP fast and 5th line from 00.00 hrs to 04.00 hrs during the intervening night of 22nd/23rd April, 2023 between Mahim and Mumbai Central station.

A press release issued by Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, during the block period, all Fast lines suburban trains in UP direction will be operated on UP Slow lines between Santacruz and Churchgate station.

"Detailed information to this effect is available with concerned station masters," the Western Railway said. It said, therefore, there will be no



block in day time over Western Railway suburban section on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Western Railway on Wednesday said that it will run summer special trains between Bandra terminus and Gandhidham

stations.

In a statement Western Railway said, for the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush of passenger traffic, Western Railway will run superfast special trains on special fare between Bandra Terminus and

Gandhidham stations.

According to a press release issued by Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, with a view to meet the travel demand during the ensuing summer vacation, Western Railway is running 28 pairs of summer special trains to various destinations with 1284 trips. Out of these mainly, 07 pairs of trains cater to the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, while 04 pairs of trains for Delhi and beyond. 07 pairs for Gujarat, 05 pairs of trains are run to Rajasthan, one for North East, while 03 trains are run to South.

It further said that to cater to the passengers from Surat/ Udhna, 04 pairs of originating special trains are being run. Similarly, 14 pairs of originating trains are run from other stations of Gujarat such as Ahmedabad, Gandhidham, Valsad, Okha etc.

Thakur further added that the waiting list of trains are monitored daily on a real time basis and additional coaches are augmented in the existing trains from time to time to clear the extra rush, also special trains will be planned accordingly.



Juno Temple in talks to join Tom Hardy in 'Venom 3'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ted Lasso' standout Juno Temple seems to be trading soccer stars for comic-book anthieroes, as the actress is in negotiations for a lead role in Sony and Marvel's 'Venom 3'. The new movie stars Tom Hardy as the titular lethal protector Venom (and its human host Eddie Brock), one of Sony's slate of Marvel characters, and will be directed by Kelly Marcel in her feature debut. Character details for Temple are being kept under wraps, reports Variety. While Temple is perhaps best known for her Emmy and SAG Award-nominated performance as Keely Jones on the hit Apple TV+ series 'Ted Lasso' - which may or may not be ending soon - the actor has delivered memorable work in 'Atonement', 'Killer Joe', 'Vinyl', 'The Offer' and 'Dirty John'. She's next set to star in FX's 'Fargo', leading the Season 5 cast alongside Jon Hamm and Jennifer Jason Leigh. Temple is represented by UTA, B-Side Management, Maison 2 and Lichter Grossman Nichols. Marcel and Hardy developed the story for 'Venom 3' with Marcel handling the screenplay. The duo, who also wrote and produced the first two 'Venom' installments, return to produce the film alongside Avi Arad, Matt Tolmach, Amy Pascal and Hutch Parker.

JENNIFER LAWRENCE

shows off her natural looks by going makeup-free

News York | Agencies

Jennifer Lawrence showed off her natural looks on her latest outing. The 32-year-old Oscar winning actress - who was seen out with husband Cooke Maroney last week - went makeup-free on a stroll in New York City on Thursday.

Jennifer definitely looked relaxed as she sported a rather casual ensemble including a long beige duster coat and comfortable suede clogs.

She also donned a black top with navy blue track pants as she strutted her stuff around the Big Apple.

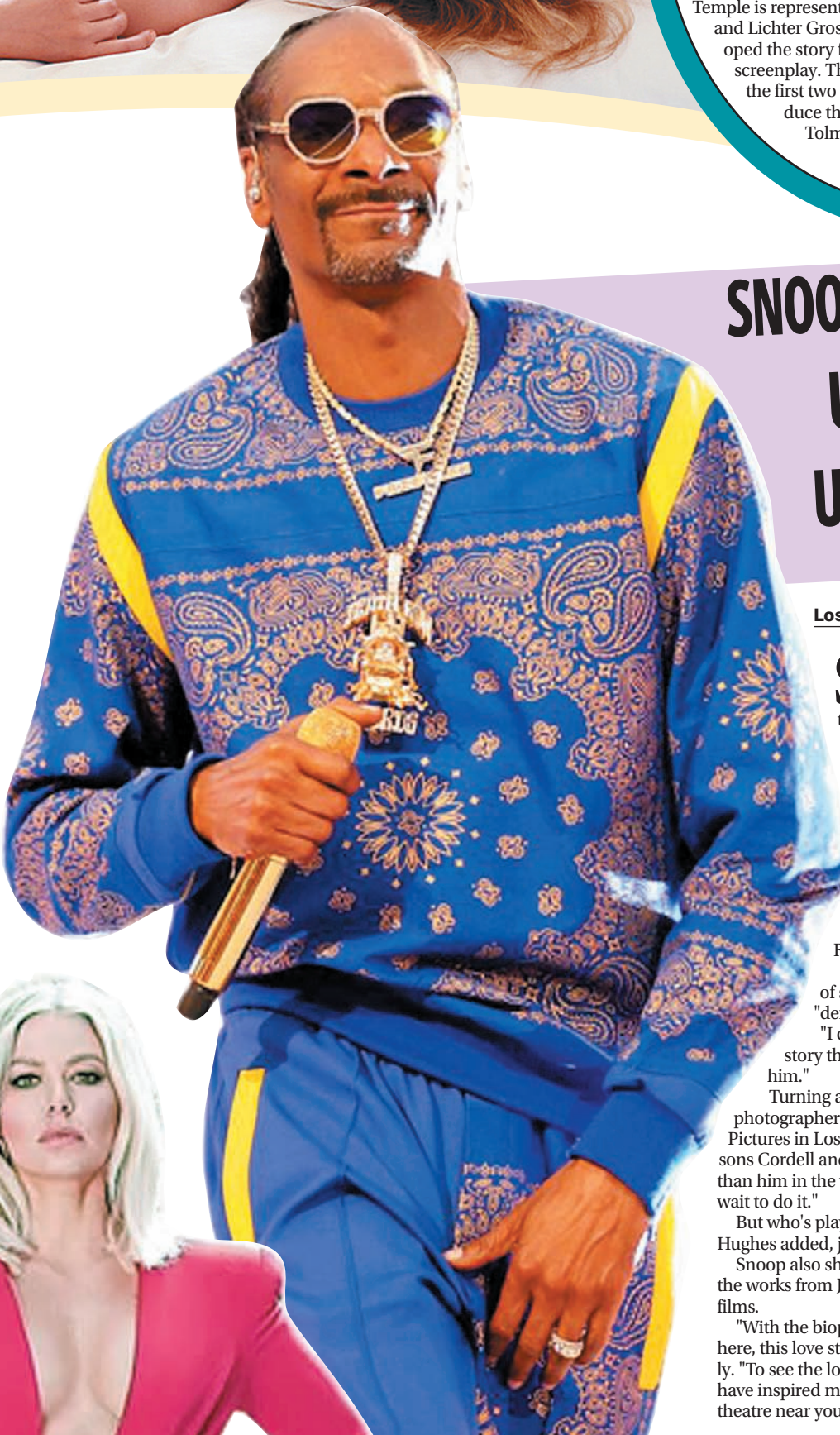
The Silver Linings Playbook star accessorized with a platinum chain with stud earrings and a pair of large black designer shades.

Jennifer's signature blonde locks were worn down as they flowed over her shoulders as she showcased her natural looks by not wearing a swipe of make-up.

Not seen on the outing were Jennifer's husband Cooke Maroney, 38, and their 14-month-old son Cy.

Jennifer, who took a brief break from the entertainment industry, has been preparing to appear on the big screen once again in the upcoming R-rated comedy titled, No Hard Feelings, and is slated to release later this year in the summer on June 23.

The project is a step away from the past dramatic roles she has taken on, and contains other star-studded celebrities, such as Matthew Broderick, Laura Benanti, Natalie Morales, and also Andrew Barth Feldman.



SNOOP DOGG SHARES UPDATE ON HIS UPCOMING BIOPIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Snoop Dogg's biopic is one step closer to the big screen as director Allen Hughes confirmed that the movie about the rapper is set to begin production imminently.

"That's next. We're starting this summer. I'm so excited," Hughes told Variety.

Hughes - an Emmy and Peabody award nominee whose filmography includes 'Menace II Society', 'Dead Presidents', 'The Book of Eli' and 'The Defiant Ones' - will direct the yet-to-be-titled biopic.

Announced in November, the Universal movie is the first film produced by Death Row Pictures, following Snoop's acquisition of Death Row Records in 2022.

"He surprised me with that biopic," Hughes said of signing on to the film, which is billed as the "definitive" take on Snoop's life and career.

"I can't wait to go back to the hood, and do a hood story that becomes inspirational. That's what I get from him."

Turning around to look at the rapper, who was posing for photographers outside the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles with his wife Shante Broadus and their sons Cordell and Corde, Hughes continued: "Who's more beloved than him in the world? He's got such a special energy and I can't wait to do it."

But who's playing Snoop? "That's the million dollar question," Hughes added, joking, "It'll probably be a Brit."

Snoop also shared his excitement for the film, with a script in the works from Joe Robert Cole, co-writer of both 'Black Panther' films.

"With the biopic, I'm looking forward to people seeing this right here, this love story," Snoop said, hugging his wife Broadus closely. "To see the love that I have for my music career, the people that have inspired me to love, just watching it all unfold. Coming to a theatre near you."

JOY CORRIGAN, KISSES BOYFRIEND AS THEY PACK ON THE PDA DURING A DATE NIGHT

News York | Agencies

Joy Corrigan wore a sexy sheer corset belt over a tie dye maxi dress for a date night, on Thursday. The Victoria's Secret alum, kissed her Big Tech boyfriend Ted Dhanik, as they packed on the PDA while out for dinner at Craig's in West Hollywood. Joy showcased her enviable physique in her orange floor length frock, which boasted long sleeves and a high neckline. The Massachusetts native teamed the colourful garment with a classic pair of black pointed stilettos and carried her belonging in an elegant black clutch.

Supermodel Joy was spotted arriving with former MySpace executive Ted, who drove the pair to the eatery in his swanky black and red sports car. Joy has been dating tech executive Ted Dhanik, and the pair have been spotted on several vacations together, soaking up the sun in tropical locales.

Since serving as one of the first executives of MySpace, Dhanik has earned a reputation outside of Silicon Valley for his romantic escapades in Hollywood.

In a January 2021 interview with Maxim, Joy discussed her laid back attitude toward showing her body in front of the camera.

"I love to be sexy and I love to show skin 'cause I work out really hard to get the body that I have. I've always been very free-spirited about it," she explained.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Ariana Madix, 37, has a lot going on at the moment and she got a well-timed break from the Vanderpump Rules drama in the form of a glow-up from Bloomingdale's.

She shared four snaps of herself looking like a total goddess on Instagram.

She captioned the carousel: 'As you may have heard, Bloomingdale's treated me to a shopping spree!

obsessed with all 4 of these looks... i've never felt hotter! which is your fave?!'

#revengedressing

#bloomingdales

#sponsored

In the first look, the reality TV personality is wearing a red mini-dress with strappy red sandals completed the traffic-stopping look.

The second photo featured Ariana in a sheer, glittering, long-sleeved, champagne-colored gown over a nude bra and panty set. Dramatic makeup and silver platform sandals finished off the look.

She looked runway ready in the third look, a floor-length lavender gown with a halter neckline and slit in the skirt up to her upper thigh.

The final look was a dominatrix-chic black catsuit with cut outs and criss crossed straps across her abdomen. She wore this with thin strappy silver sandals.

Her Vanderpump Rules co-stars were quick to comment with Scheana Shay writing, 'Omg 2 is giving Britney toxic!' and Stassi Schroder commenting, 'Absolutely stunning.'

Selling Sunset's Chrishell Stause, who knows a thing or two about revenge dressing, wrote, 'This makes my day,' followed by a sting of emojis including crowns and fire. The post comes as the current episodes of Vanderpump Rules shows the affair - or Scandoval - between her partner of nine years, Tom Sandoval, 39, and Raquel Leviss, 28, unfolding in real time.

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Ariana Madix looks drop dead gorgeous in 'revenge dressing'

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joy Corrigan



IPL 2023 CSK thrash SRH by 7 wickets

Chennai | Agencies

Ravindra Jadeja's impressive 3/22 followed by Devon Conway's fine unbeaten 77-run knock helped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by seven wickets in an IPL 2023 match at MA Chidambaram Stadium, here on Friday.

SRH were restricted to 134/7 in 20 overs in front of CSK's brilliant bowling performances led by Jadeja.

In response, the openers gave a strong start to CSK. Despite a slump in the run rate in the middle overs, Conway's unbeaten 77 off 57 laced with 12 boundaries and a six helped the hosts to seal the win with eight balls remaining.

Chasing 135, the opening duo of Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway gave CSK a superb start, scoring 27 runs in the first three overs. After a couple of tight overs, Conway took Marco Jansen to the cleaners as he hit four boundaries and a maximum in



the sixth and CSK posted 60 for no loss in the Powerplay.

SRH put a bit of a break on the run-rate with their economical bowling, as 26 runs came in the next five overs. Meanwhile, Conway completed his third IPL fifty with a boundary in the 10th over and CSK were 86 for no loss

halfway through the innings.

Sunrisers tried keeping a tight leash on CSK's innings, giving away just 25 runs and picking up two wickets in the next five overs.

SRH got a much-needed breakthrough in the 11th over as Gaikwad got run out at the non-striker's end in

an unfortunate way. Conway hit straight, and the ball deflected off Umran's fingers onto the stumps at the non-striker's end with Gaikwad not in the frame. Then, Mayank Markande got Ajinkya Rahane in the 15th over. With 24 needed of 30, Markande picked up his second as he cleaned up Ambati Rayudu in the 17th over. Then Conway hit Umran Malik for a back-to-back boundary after two dots and as many as singles in the 18th over. Conway started the penultimate over with a single and a dot ball later Moeen Ali sealed the deal for CSK with a boundary.

Brief scores

Sunrisers Hyderabad 134/7 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 34 off 26, Rahul Tripathi 21 off 21; Ravindra Jadeja 3/22) lost to Chennai Super Kings 138-3 in 18.4 overs (Devon Conway 77 not out off 57, Ruturaj Gaikwad 35 off 30; Mayank Markande 2/23) by 7 wickets.

IPL 2023: Chennai to host Qualifier 1, Eliminator; Ahmedabad to stage Qualifier 2, final

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday announced the schedule of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 playoffs and final, to be held from May 23-28 in Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Qualifier 1, to be played among the top two teams in the points table, will be held on May 23 at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. It will be followed by the Eliminator, played between third and fourth-ranked teams in the table on May 24 at the same venue.

The playoffs action will then shift to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, who will host Qualifier 2, to be played among the winner of the eliminator and loser of Qualifier 1 on May 26.



Ahmedabad had also played hosts to the Qualifier 2 and final of IPL 2022, where Gujarat Titans, led by all-rounder Hardik Pandya, made their maiden season of the tournament an unforgettable one by lifting the title at their home ground with a seven-wicket win over

Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan Royals. Pandya led Gujarat from the front with an all-round performance, picking figures of 3/17 in his four overs with the ball and making 34 off 30 balls with the bat, and picked the Player of the Match award in the final.

WTA Tour

Potapova defeats Gauff, faces Garcia in Stuttgart quarterfinals

Stuttgart | Agencies

Astasia Potapova scored her second win in a row over Coco Gauff to upset the No.5 seed 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix.

In the quarterfinals, Potapova will face No.4 seed Caroline Garcia, who got the better of Tatjana Maria of Germany 7-6(5), 6-4 on Friday.

Potapova had defeated the American 6-7(8), 7-5, 6-2 in a 2-hour, 32-minute third-round tilt in Miami a month ago. The former junior No.1 needed only 1 hour and 17 minutes to reprise the victory on clay and move into her fourth Hologic WTA Tour quarterfinal of 2023.

This time last year, Potapova was ranked No.122. Exactly 12 months ago, she captured her maiden tour trophy in Istanbul -- the start of a rise that sees the 22-year-old at a career-high of No.24 this week. So far this season, she has also picked up a second title in Linz



and reached her second WTA 1000 quarterfinal in Miami. Her pair of wins over Gauff have doubled her career total of Top 10 wins from two to four. In other matches, Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic defeated Donna Vekic of Croatia 6-2, 6-7(5), 7-6(5) while Paula Badosa of Spain got the better of compatriot Cristiana Bucsa 6-1, 6-2 to make it to the quarterfinals.

STAR SPORTS SIGNS RISHABH PANT AS 'BELIEVE AMBASSADOR'

Mumbai: Star Sports, the official television broadcaster of IPL 2023, has signed India cricketer Rishabh Pant as its latest 'Believe Ambassador'.

The Network said it also has other current cricketers as its 'Believe Ambassadors' like Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, and Shreyas Iyer.

With this, Star Sports has expanded its roster from two ambassadors in 2017 to six now with Virat Kohli continuing his association. The company said that the ambassadors represent different parts of the country as well as different IPL teams and it will work closely with them to grow the popularity of the sport. "I'm happy to announce that I am joining Star Sports as its 'Believe Ambassador'. The association allows me to grow the popularity of the game, especially amongst youngsters. Cricket has the power to bring joy, enrich lives and teach youngsters the right life lessons.

A young boy from Roorkee had the belief that he would represent and earn laurels for his country. Through my association with Star Sports, I would like to inspire young Indians to believe that no matter where you come from, you can achieve your dreams through hard work. Just Believe," Pant was quoted as saying by Star Sports, in a media release.



Europa League

Sevilla beat Manchester United to roar into semifinals

Madrid | Agencies

Six-time UEFA Europa League winners Sevilla roared into the semifinals of the tournament with a 3-0 win at home to Manchester United.

Moroccan international striker Youssef En-Nesyri scored twice on Thursday night as Sevilla sealed a 5-2 aggregate win, which is all the more remarkable due to the fact that they fell 2-0 down in the first half at Old Trafford last week.

The high press favoured by recently arriving Sevilla coach Jose Luis Mendilibar was evident in their opening goal, which came after just eight minutes, reports Xinhua. David de Gea played a dreadful pass out of his penalty area to Harry Maguire as three Sevilla players swarmed around the defender. Erik Lamela won the ball and fed it to En-Nesyri, who scored from 10 metres out. Manchester United had little response to Sevilla's aggression in front of a packed house, and Lucas Ocampos was unlucky to see a goal ruled out for offside shortly before half-time. Marcus Rashford came on at the start of the



second half, along with Luke Shaw, but the game had only just gotten back underway when Loic Bade doubled Sevilla's lead with a looping header that went over De Gea's outstretched arm. Ocampos went close to a third but was denied by De Gea, while at the other end, Casemiro and Christian Eriksen went close to pulling a goal back for the visitors. However, En-Nesyri sealed the win for Sevilla in the 81st minute after another poor pass-out from De Gea. The keeper passed straight to the striker, who made no mistake to net his second goal of the night to put his side into the last four.

ATP Tour

ALCARAZ ROLLS INTO BARCELONA QUARTERFINALS; CERUNDOLO UPSETS RUUD

Barcelona | Agencies

World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz fought off a late charge from countryman Roberto Bautista Agut to notch his second straight-sets victory this week at the Barcelona Open ATP Tour event.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz continued his title defence with a 6-3, 7-5 win, looking at home on the Spanish clay in his first tournament since his hard-court run to the semifinals in Miami Open.

He was joined in the last-eight stage by 15th-seeded Argentine Francisco Cerundolo who stunned third-seed Casper Ruud of Norway in a pre-quarterfinal clash on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, two-time Barcelona Open finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas moved a step closer to capturing his first title at the ATP 500 event on Thursday when he overcame 14th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-2.

The victory improved Alcaraz to 9-1 against fellow Spaniards, with his only loss coming to Rafael Nadal in last year's Indian Wells semis. Playing on the Barcelona centre court named for Nadal,



Alcaraz is bidding to become the first repeat champion at the ATP 500 since the Spanish legend

reigned from 2016-18. He will face another Spaniard, 10th seed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, in Friday's quarterfinals.

Bautista Agut was stopped short of his third Barcelona quarterfinal (2015, 2018) as Alcaraz denied him his first Top 10 win on clay. At 35, he was the oldest player in the last 16.

Francisco Cerundolo closed Thursday's play in Barcelona with a 7-6(5), 6-3 upset of third seed Casper Ruud. The 15th-seeded Argentine improved to a 4-6 lifetime against Top 10 opponents to reach his fourth quarter-final of 2023 and his first overall at the ATP 500.

Cerundolo will meet 12th seed Daniel Evans in Friday's quarterfinals after the Briton's 6-3, 6-4 win against Karen Khachanov.

In a heavy-hitting clash, Tsitsipas demonstrated great footwork to dictate on his forehand. The Greek second seed saved both break points he faced and hit his groundstrokes with weight on the Barcelona clay, successfully targeting Shapovalov's backhand to improve to 2-3 in their ATP Head2Head series and reach the quarterfinals.

Siraj is one of the best in the world at the moment: RCB bowling coach

Mohali | Agencies

Adam Griffith, the bowling coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), heaped huge praise on Mohammed Siraj after the fast bowler's terrific 4-21 took the side to a 24-run win over Punjab Kings, calling him as "one of the best in the world" in terms of match-winning bowlers.

On Thursday, at the IS Bindra PCA Stadium in Mohali, Siraj breathed fire in Power-play and death overs to pick his career-best spell in the IPL as Punjab were bowled out for 150 in 18.2 overs. It also propelled him to be the leading wicket-taker of the competition with 12 wickets in six games at an average of 13.41 and an economy rate of 6.71.



"He's one of the best in the world at the moment. Even

in the last game when 444 runs were hit, he went for 30. So it's not just (in this game), he's been bowling really well for the whole tournament and even before that."

"I think you saw how well he was bowling for India. He's our leader, he's the guy that sets the tone for us with the new ball and it is no coincidence that our PowerPlays have been so good with the ball so far this tournament," Griffith said in the post-match press conference.

In ODIs this year, Siraj picked 19 wickets in eight matches at an average of 13.21 and economy rate of 4.61, making decisive strikes in Power-play and held on the number one spot in 'bowlers' rankings for a brief period too.

Prithvi Shaw can't keep going on reputation, says Michael Vaughan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan stated that right-handed opener Prithvi Shaw cannot keep relying on his reputation and the things he's done in the past, especially after suffering a poor start to IPL 2023 for the Delhi Capitals.

In the past editions of the IPL, Shaw had been successful in giving quick-fire starts to Delhi. But this year, he has been unable to do so, with him recording scores of 12, 7, 0, 1, 0 and 13 in the ongoing season as Delhi are still rooted to bottom of the points table, despite registering a four-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday night.



"I think he needs a big innings. He needs some runs. He can't keep going on reputation. He can't keep going with what is done in the past. He needs to produce the runs here and now. He has got a

poor start. He has not gotten out of Powerplay yet with the bat in hand yet," Vaughan was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz.

What has also resurfaced in IPL 2023 for Shaw has been his weakness in playing against high-quality fast-bowling and short-pitched deliveries.

"Early in the tournament, Mark Wood bowled him. His feet went nowhere. It was like he was waiting for the short ball and he was nowhere near the line or the pitch of the ball," added Vaughan. In chasing 128 against Kolkata at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Shaw was brought in as an impact player for the chase, but made only 13 runs before chopping on to his stumps off leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy in the power-play.

Archery World Cup NEW LOOK INDIAN COMPOUND MIXED TEAM REACHES FINAL

Antalya (Turkey) | Agencies

India's new look compound mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale found instant success by reaching the gold medal match at the Archery World Cup 2023 Stage 1, here on Friday.

Vennam and Deotale edged out Malaysia's Fatin Nurfatimah Mat Salleh and Mohd Juwaidi Mazuki 157-155 in the semifinal. The Indian duo will face Chinese Taipei's Chen Yi-Hsuan and Chen Chieh-Lun in Saturday's gold medal match.

In 2022, Vennam won World Games bronze and Paris World Cup gold with Abhishek Verma. She has paired up with 20-year-old Ojas for the first time.

"I'm very happy. We all expected we could go to the final, because we have a good team. My partner was in good shooting shape. And I was, too. We enjoyed our shooting a lot," Ojas said.

The new pairing, who was given a bye in the first round, swept through the rounds to guarantee at least a sil-



ver medal. The duo defeated Mariya Shkolna and Gilles Seywert of Luxembourg 159-157 in the second round and beat Sophie Dodeмонт and Adrien Gontier of France 159-156 in the quarterfinals.

On the other hand, the recurve mixed team of Atanu Das and Bhajan Kaur lost to Randi Degn and Oliver Staudt of Denmark 3-5 in the opening round and beat Sophie Dodeмонт and Adrien Gontier of France 159-156 in the quarterfinals.

four convincing victories to reach the semifinals on Thursday. Jyothi downed Denmark's Tanja Gellenthien 147-142 in the quarterfinal stage to set up a meeting with Great Britain's world No.1 Ella Gibson.



BIG B REQUESTS TWITTER TO RETURN HIS BLUE TICK; SAYS, 'HAATH TOH JOR LIYE RAHE HUM'

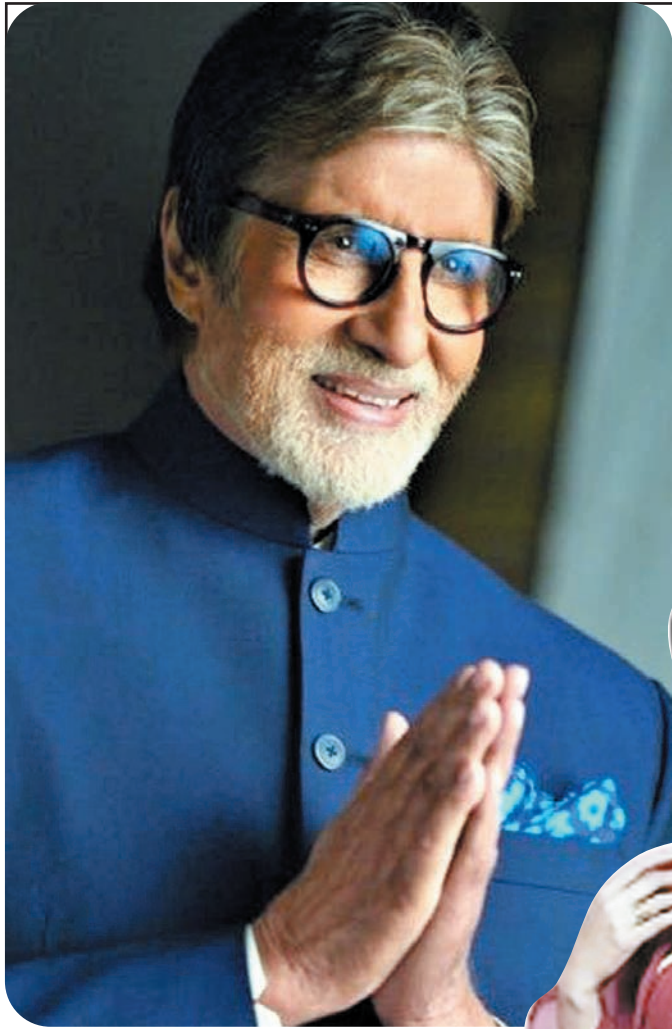
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Among many who lost their verification tick on Twitter, one was megastar Amitabh Bachchan who on Friday took to the micro-blogging website and said that he has already folded his hands for getting the "neel kamal." Amitabh took to Twitter, where he wrote in Awadhi: "Ae

twitter bhaiya! Sun rahe hain? Ab toh paisa bhi bhar diye hai hum... toh ou jo neel kamal hot hai na... Hamaar naam ke aage ou toh waapas laga de bhaiya. (Hello Twitter brother, are you listening. I have paid the money. Can you now put the blue lotus back next to my name.)"

"Taaki log jaan jaayein ki hum hi hai Amitabh Bachchan. Haath toh jor liye rahe hum abka gorwa jode padi ka. (So that

people know that I am Amitabh Bachchan. I have already folded my hands in front of you. Now do I fold my feet as well?)" Apart from Amitabh Bachchan, others who have lost their verification tick include Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Ranveer Singh, Ajay Devgn, Yogi Adityanath, Arvind Kejriwal, Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt, Anushka Sharma and Rahul Gandhi to name a few.



ACTING IS HIS DESTINY, CRICKET HIS LOVE: JEET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bengali superstar Jeet has a special inclination towards cricket and in fact he was the captain of the Bengal Tigers in the Celebrity Cricket League. He spoke about his love for cricket, and how after belonging to a family of businessmen, he developed interest in acting.

Jeet said: "Now, I am not interested in playing CCL, but of course for fun I would love to play cricket and am a great admirer of the game. I am fond of Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev and MS Dhoni."

Jeet is known for some of his notable projects including 'Saathi', 'Nater Guru', 'The Royal Bengal Tiger', among others. He also hosted TV shows like 'Bigg Boss Bangla', 'Star of Bengal', and others.

The actor shared that becoming an actor was never in his mind and he in fact thought of becoming a businessman.

He added: "None of my family members are related to films or theatre. They are all into business and thus I even thought of becoming a businessman. However, later interest developed and I started doing small roles in Kolkata. Acting I would say was in my destiny so it happened and was never planned. I went to Mumbai to make a career in Hindi films and there I learned to be independent and manage everything on my own. However, my career was not going in the direction I was looking at in Hindi cinema so I focused on doing Bengali films and received a lot of fame, love and recognition."

Jeet is currently seen in the film 'Chengiz' playing the role of a mafia. The film is about the underworld in Kolkata from the 70s to the mid-90s. It is Jeet's first film that revolves around the underworld and also the first Bengali film to be released in Hindi and Bengali simultaneously.

While talking about his role in the movie, he said it is very different from what he has done before. However, he didn't need much preparation as he has observed similar incidents happening at his birthplace, Kalighat. He reduced his body weight to be in shape for the film.

The actor shared that what he liked most about the film was dressing up in 90s style. "I really enjoyed wearing those bell bottom pants, broad collar shirts, long hair, and that loose fitting attire. It was all fun and I really loved the 90s style."



'I FIND SARIS MOST COMFORTABLE TO WEAR IN INDIAN HEAT':

Sonam Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor, who was seen at IPL match along with Apple CEO Tim Cook, said why she chose to wear a saree to the match - because it is comfortable.

Sonam along with her husband Anand Ahuja and Tim Cook went to see the match between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday. The fashion diva wore a "simple linen saree" and added an extra oomph with "vintage jewels". She captioned the image: "In a simple linen sari with vintage jewels. I find saris the most comfortable to wear in the indian heat. Thank you @anavila_m for making some of the chicest and most beautiful saris that scream simplicity."

Besides, Sonam is currently enjoying being a new mother to son Vayu.

Sonam and Anand got married on May 8, 2018 after dating for a few years. They welcomed their son Vayu on August 20, 2022.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Nandish Singh Sandhu, who is receiving a lot of appreciation for his portrayal of Jamshed Khan in the streaming series 'Jubilee', had a clean slate before him in terms of sketching the character as he had no references to model his character on. In this series, Nandish essays the role of a theatre actor Jamshed Khan, who is looking to cross-over to films in order to have a financially fulfilling career but is confused between listening to the mind and the heart.

On the portrayal of Jamshed's character, Nandish shared:

MY CHARACTER WAS CHALLENGING BUT REWARDING: NANDISH SANDHU

"Jamshed Khan's character is a crucial element in the show's storyline. The impact of his presence is felt throughout the series. He brings a certain energy and strength to the show that impacts each character in a unique way. His strong personality and witty comebacks have a way of influencing the trajectory of the show and serving as a catalyst for character development."

He further mentioned: "Every character on the show was full of praise for Jamshed as a person and a theatre actor. Getting into Jamshed's shoes was definitely a challenge as there were no references in terms of yesteryear actors of those olden times to speak to or take guidance from or understand their ways of working. Transforming into the character of Jamshed Khan was a challenging but rewarding experience. I had to embody his strong personality and bring a certain energy to the screen which I feel grateful to have pulled off."



KRITI SANON IS EXCITED ABOUT DIGGING POHA, JALEBIS AHEAD OF INDORE VISIT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kriti Sanon is all set to jet off to Indore for an event and couldn't be more excited to travel to the city as she'll not only get to meet her fans but also relish Indori delicacies.

Kriti said: "I've been to Indore to promote my films but this time I am especially going there to meet my Indori fans and interact with them over a fun session. I remember being amazed and impressed with how clean and beautiful the city is. Indore has set a prime example for other cities to follow when it comes to waste management and cleanliness." "I also love the energy and the food of the city. Even though I'll be there for a few hours only I'll sneak in some time to have the famous Poha, Ratlami Sev, and Jalebis."

On the work front, Kriti will be next seen in 'The Crew' opposite Kareena Kapoor Khan and Tabu. She also has 'Adipurush' slated to release in August, an untitled next opposite Shahid Kapoor which will release in October and 'Ganapath' opposite Tiger Shroff, up for release in the same month.



Palak Tiwari