

**NATION** > 02  
No alliance when ideological differences exist, says Sidhu on ...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Lana Del Rey stops show in Brazil to find her missing vape ...



**SPORTS** > 07  
Neeraj Chopra pulls out of FBK Games in Hengelo with an ...



## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2023

# CSK GETS 5TH TITLE



Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Ravindra Jadeja hit a four off the last ball as Chennai Super Kings equalled Mumbai Indians' record for most IPL titles. Sai Sudharsan had propelled Gujarat Titans to a score of 214/4 by smashing 96 off just 47 balls. The 23-year-old Chennai lad smashed eight fours and six sixes in his innings as he made the most of the death overs. Earlier, Wriddhiman Saha scored 54 off 39 on a day when his prolific opening partner Shubman Gill was limited to a

score of 39 off 20. Only slight drizzles appeared throughout the GT innings which didn't cause stoppages of any kind. However, the stoppage came eventually after the third ball of the first over of the CSK innings with heavy rain pouring down at the stadium. While the rain itself didn't last long, it was the wet outfield, particularly a problematic practice pitch at the edge of the square that caused the biggest delay. Finally, the match got reduced to 15 overs and CSK's target was revised to 171. The match eventually resumed and it has been a see-saw affair ever since. Big hits from Devon

Conway, Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube and Ambati Rayudu helped CSK's cause but Mohit Sharma came in with the important wickets whenever it looked like the opposition was running away with it. Mohit bowled the last over as well and brought it down to CSK needing 10 to win off the last two balls. But Ravindra Jadeja ended up smashing the second last ball for a six and the last ball for a four to lead CSK to their fifth title.

Jadeja hits it to fine leg and can you believe it!! A yellow tidal wave has come on to the field in Ahmedabad, CSK have equalled MI's record for

most IPL titles. At the end of a final that has stretched into its third day, this tournament provides a final twist. They seemed to be done and dusted, did CSK. And then the second last ball went over long on and the last goes past short fine leg. Dhoni looked almost nonchalant when that went away, typical of him one would say. One has to feel for Mohit Sharma, he bowled a near perfect last over, errs with his line off the last ball and that costs his team a second consecutive IPL title. Hardik Pandya gives him a long hug while talking away into his ear.

## WRESTLING MESS

### After Jantar Mantar eviction, protest likely to shift to Delhi-Haryana border!



Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Delhi Police cleared all signs of the wrestlers' month-long protest, taking away all items that the grapplers have brought to Jantar Mantar to protest against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over sexual misconduct allegations, sources told reporter that the stir may now be shifted to the Delhi-Haryana border.

Earlier on Monday, the DCP New Delhi shared a tweet to further clear the air.

"The dharna of the wrestlers was going on smoothly at the Jantar Mantar. Yesterday, protesters violated the law despite all requests made to them. That is why, the ongoing sit-in protest has been made to conclude. If the wrestlers give an application for sit-in protest again in future, they will be permitted to do the same at a suitable place other than Jantar Mantar."

The message was loud and clear that it will be difficult for wrestlers to come back to Jantar Mantar again. However, when contacted, the ace grapplers said that they are in talks with their 'seniors' and will share further plans soon.

**“It took 7 days for Delhi Police to register an FIR against Brij Bhushan who sexually assaulted girls and it didn't even take 7 hours to register an FIR against us for peacefully protesting. Has dictatorship started in this country? The whole world is watching how the government is treating its players.”**

**Sakshi Malik, Olympic bronze medallist**

Meanwhile, a source told reporter that the protest may shift to the Delhi borders like how farmers' agitation was held.

"Now that farmers and Khaps are also involved in the protest, so wrestlers can't make their own decisions. They will wait for their 'bujurgs' (seniors) to decide," said a source.

## Markets close on high note; Nifty heading towards lifetime high

Chennai | Agencies

The two Indian stock markets ended on a high note on Monday with experts predicting the Nifty of NSE is progressing towards a lifetime high.

The Nifty opened the week on a high note at 18,619.15 points after closing previously at 18,499.35 points.

During the day, the Nifty touched a high of 18,641.20 and a low of 18,581.25 and closed at 18,598.65.

"The Nifty held on to steady gains to end higher on May 29. At close, the Nifty was up 0.54 per cent or 99.3 points at 18,598.7. Volumes did not expand even as the Nifty kept surging higher," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said.

Jasani said global markets mostly rose after US President Joe Biden and Congressional leaders reached a tentative deal to raise the debt ceiling over the weekend.

The bill is expected to be voted on later this week. Trading volumes were light, with the US, UK and several European markets closed today for holidays.

According to Jasani, 18,696 is the next resistance for Nifty, while 18,508 could be a support.

In a report, ICICI Securities said the stage is set for Nifty to challenge an all-time high in the coming month.

"Going ahead, we expect the index to resolve out of the intermediate hurdle of 18,500 and challenge a lifetime high of 18,900 in the coming month. Meanwhile, we do not foresee the Nifty breaching the key support threshold of 17,800. In the process, we expect broader markets to accelerate upward momentum fuelled by the 18 month's consolidation breakout in the Midcap index," ICICI Securities added.

According to ICICI Securities, the inflows from foreign institutional investors (FII) have remained sturdy in May (Rs 25,000 crore so far), which is a key supporting factor for the acceleration of the structural uptrend ahead.

Similarly, the Sensex of BSE opened at 62,801.54 (previous close 62,501.69) which was also the low point. The Sensex touched a high of 63,026.00 and closed at 62,846.38 points, an increase of 344.69 points.

## Kharge, Rahul meet Gehlot amid rumblings in Congress' Rajasthan unit

New Delhi: Amid the crisis in the party's Rajasthan unit, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday was holding a crucial meeting with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who asserted that he had never seen the tradition in the party that someone is asked by the high command about a post he wants or is offered one to pacify him.

Gehlot arrived at the residence of Kharge here at the 10 Rajaji Marg, and soon after him, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa too reached for the meeting.

According to sources, the party leaders are set to decide on the crisis in the state leadership where Gehlot and his former Deputy Sachin Pilot have opened a front against each other.

A source said that beside working on bringing the two warring leaders together the party leadership will also try to chalk out the strategy for the upcoming Assembly election in the desert state.

Meanwhile, Pilot is too set to have a meeting with Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. However, it is yet not clear if Pilot will be meeting the party leadership separately.

## 'Courts should not sit as appellate authority': Delhi HC dismisses PIL on Rs 2,000 notes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank of India (SBI) notifications, that permits exchange of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 notes without any identity proof.

A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad dismissed the petition after having reserved its judgement on May 23. During the hearing, the bench observed that RBI's present decision to dispense with Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes is not a decision towards demonetisation.

The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay also said that the notifications -- published on May 19 and 20 -- were arbitrary and offended Article 14 of Constitution of India.



The PIL had also sought a direction to the RBI and the SBI to make sure that Rs 2,000 notes were deposited in respective bank accounts only, so that people having black money and disproportionate assets could be identified.

However, the high court on Monday noted that in order to ensure that there is a smooth transition of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes, which continue to be a legal tender till September, 2023 i.e. for four months, banks have provided facilities for conversion of these banknotes to other denominations, therefore, the

present case is not the case of demonetisation but withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The court said: "For this purpose, the government has taken a decision not to insist upon the requirement of identity proof for exchange of Rs 2,000 denominations banknotes so that everybody can exchange the same with the other denomination banknotes." Therefore, it cannot be said that the decision of the government is perverse or arbitrary or it encourages black money, money laundering, profiteering or it abets corruption."

## 10 OF A FAMILY KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN KARNATAKA

Mysuru | Agencies

Ten persons including four children, belonging to the same family, were killed in a road accident in Mysuru district of Karnataka on Monday.

The accident occurred near Kurubur on Kollegal Main Road near T. Narasipura town when an Innova, in which the family was travelling, collided head-on with a private bus.

According to police, the deceased were returning to Mysuru after visiting Male Mahadeshwara Hill.

Preliminary investigation shows that both car and the private bus drivers were driving at a high speed, resulting in the tragedy. The

deceased were identified as Sujatha (40), Sandeep (23), Manjunath (35), Poornima (30), Gayathri (28), Aditya, Basava, Kotresh (45), Pavan (10) and Karthik (8).

The deceased belonged to the same family and hailed from Sanganakallu village in Ballary district. Superintendent of Police Seema Latkar stated that the driver of Innova lost balance and collided with the bus. The condition of two others, who are yet to be identified, is critical. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed grief over the incident. He also announced Rs 2 lakh compensation each for the family of the deceased. Those who were injured will be provided treatment.

## 5 DEAD IN FRESH MANIPUR VIOLENCE, ARMY APPREHENDS 22 MISCREANTS

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Imphal

At least five people, including a policeman, were killed and 12 others injured after fresh violence erupted in Manipur yesterday, where ethnic clashes have claimed at least 80 lives. Fresh violence was reported in several parts of the state after alleged terrorists, carrying sophisticated weapons, set fire to many houses in Serou and Sugunu area. This comes just ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the violence-hit state.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday said that "40 terrorists" have been shot dead over the last couple of



days. The Chief Minister said the spurt in violent attacks on civilians on the outskirts of Imphal valley in the past two days seemed well-planned and is strongly condemnable. Amit Shah has appealed to both the Meiteis and the

Kukis to maintain calm and peace, and work for bringing normalcy.

The Army has apprehended 22 armed miscreants who tried to set houses afire in Imphal East District of Manipur, and also recovered

weapons from their possession, an official said on Monday. A Defence spokesperson said that a large number of Army troops were mobilised on Sunday night after intelligence inputs suggested armed miscreants were venturing out to burn houses at Sanasabi, Gwaltabi and Shabunkhol Khunao in the hilly region of Imphal East district.

Multiple Mobile Vehicle Check Posts were immediately set up and search operations in the area were undertaken.

The official said that at one point of time, Army soldiers were attacked and fired upon by miscreants who were trying to burn the houses.

## Rights & Risks Analysis Group seeks President's rule in Manipur

Imphal: Rights & Risks Analysis Group (RRAG), an independent think-tank based in Delhi, on Monday urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to consider imposing President's rule in Manipur in view of the failure to bring the ethnic violence under control despite the imposition of Article 355 on May 6. RRAG Director Suhas Chakma said that in the ethnic violence that began on May 3 following the protest of the Kuki tribals over the judgment of the Manipur High Court on the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis, over 80 persons were killed while over 250 persons were injured.

The RRAG is involved in conducting risk analysis with the aim of preventing violations of human rights.

About 26,000 people have been internally displaced while another 50,000 people had to be relocated within their communities for safety.





# SC JUNKS PLEA AGAINST 75% MARKS IN CLASS 12 BOARD EXAMS ELIGIBILITY FOR IIT ADMISSIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday junked a plea against the eligibility criterion of 75 per cent score in higher secondary examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). A vacation bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K.V. Viswanathan said the court is not keen to intervene in the matter and pointed out that this prerequisite existed earlier too. The bench stressed that these are education matters and "not a matter we want to get into". Counsel, representing the petitioners, submitted before the bench that students were given a waiver during the Covid pandemic and students have scored more than 90 per cent in Joint Entrance Examination-Main. Counsel cited that the applicant has scored 92 per cent in JEE Mains and is eligible to appear in JEE Advance but the applicant's board exam score is less than 75 per cent. The counsel emphasised that these students are meritorious



and urged the court to allow them. The bench, in its order, said: "We find no reason to entertain this petition under Article 32 of the Constitution

of India. The writ petition is dismissed accordingly. Pending application(s) stands disposed of." The apex court passed the order on a petition

filed by Chandan Kumar and others challenging the eligibility criterion of 75 per cent marks in Class 12 board exams for admission to IITs.

# No alliance when ideological differences exist, says Sidhu on AAP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday said that there cannot be an alliance where there are ideological differences, even as the Punjab leadership met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge here to discuss the support over ordinance to the AAP. The meeting was attended by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Amrinder Raja Warring, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Partap Singh Bajwa, Harish Chaudhary, Sidhu and several others. After the meeting, Sidhu, when asked about the alliance with AAP in the state for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in a cryptic reply said, "An alliance cannot be formed if there are ideological differences." "And I am clear about it as my fight is for the truth and I am following this and I do not compromise on moral values. Moral values are at the lowest ebb because democratic values have been dismantled," Sidhu said. Meanwhile, several other party leaders said that whatever they have to tell on the issue they have conveyed to the party leadership and that cannot be disclosed in public.



Many Congress leaders from Delhi and Punjab have opposed supporting Kejriwal over the ordinance issue. Senior Congress leaders like Ajay Maken, Sandeep Dikshit and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa have already echoed that the party should not support AAP. Earlier in the day, during the Delhi meeting, many party leaders told Kharge not to have alliance with AAP for 2024 polls and also not to support it in the ordinance issue.

# Boyfriend held from Bulandshahr for stabbing girl to death

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police arrested the 20-year-old Sahil, who stabbed his 16-year-old girlfriend to death in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy area on Sunday evening, from Bulandshahr (UP), an official said on Monday. The accused Sahil, who stabbed Sakshi, a resident of JJ Colony in Shahbad Dairy area, more than 20 times and also hit with a boulder, works as a Fridge-AC repairing mechanic, said a senior police official. A video of the incident is also doing the rounds on social media. In



the video, Sahil, who is wearing a blue t-shirt, can be seen stabbing the girl. Around seven to eight bystanders are present, standing and observing as he stabs her. A man wearing a dark red-coloured shirt attempts to intervene, but

Sahil pushes him away. In the video, Sahil continues to stab the girl while also issuing threats to the bystanders, causing them to disperse. After stabbing her, Sahil proceeds to kick the girl multiple times and then strikes her with a boulder five times. He then briefly leaves the scene but returns shortly after. He strikes the girl with the boulder once again, kicks her multiple times, and then finally departs, as per the video. The police official said that the victim was in a relationship with Sahil but they recently had an argument.

# CONG HIGH COMMAND WILL NEVER OFFER ANY POSITION TO PACIFY SOMEONE: CM GEHLOT AHEAD OF MEETING KHARGE

Kolkata | Agencies

Ahead of the crucial meeting with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday said the party high command will never offer any position to any leader or worker to pacify him someone. After arriving in the national capital and while speaking to media at the airport here, Gehlot when asked about various formulae being speculated around him and party leader Sachin Pilot, he said, "Never in my life have I seen a tradition in Congress that a leader demands something or high command asks him what post he wants." He also rubbished such reports and said that these are only the creation of the media and some leaders may be getting such stories planted. "The High Command and Congress party are so strong that such a situation will never arise where an offer is made to pacify someone. It has never happened, it will never happen....," he added. The



meeting comes close on the heels of Pilot's "ultimatum" that if his three demands are not met by the end of this month then he would launch a

statewide agitation. Pilot has also asked for a high-level inquiry into the alleged scams that took place during the tenure of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, as one of his many demands. The Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (RPCC) has been in a state of turmoil since July 2020, when Pilot staged a revolt seeking a leadership change in the state. Following the revolt, Pilot, who was the deputy Chief Minister, was removed from the post. He was also removed as the state Congress president. Since then, crisis has prevailed within the party in the desert state. According to party sources, Kharge will be meeting the two separately to understand their concerns. The source, however, did not rule out the possibility of a joint meeting if both the leaders sort their differences. The meeting of the Congress president comes after Pilot held a day-long hunger strike in Jaipur on April 11, demanding action against the previous Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government over corruption allegations.

# TENSION IN SAHARANPUR OVER MIHIR BHOJ YATRA; INTERNET SHUT DOWN

Team Absolute | Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Tension prevailed in Saharanpur where two communities -- Gurjar and Rajput -- confronted each other over Samrat Mihir Bhoj Yatra. The Gurjar Samaj had announced that it would take out Samrat Mihir Bhoj Yatra but the district administration declined permission for the same. The Rajput community has also opposed the yatra. Tension began in the area when hundreds of people from the Gurjar community gathered without permission from the morning itself and started the Gaurav Yatra while the district administration failed to stop it. Prohibitory orders have been clamped in the district and Internet services have also been suspended. SSP Vipin Tada said that 15 cases have been registered in Nakud, Deoband, Nagal and Gagahedi



police stations, identifying 20 people among those who took out the yatra and also those who opposed it on social media. The unidentified people in the cases are being identified. The SSP said that even after this, action will be taken and NSA will be invoked against those who spoil the environment. The district magistrate and SSP had spoken to people from both the communities and made it clear that

no yatra would take place. They warned that action will be taken if someone violates the law. On behalf of the Gurjar community, Manish Chauhan and former district panchayat president of Shamli, Virendra Gurjar, said that stopping the yatra could lead to a confrontation. "There is no leader for this yatra and every member of the community is part of it. This matter should be settled in a

peaceful manner," they said. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the Kshatriya community staged a sit-in at the Ramlila Maidan in Hakikatnagar and protested against the yatra being taken out by the Gurjar community. They demanded strict action should be taken against those who defied the law. Acharya Virendra Vikram, a member of Akhil Bhartiya Veer Gurjar Mahasabha, said that Gurjar Pratihara Samrat Mihir Bhoj was Raghuvanshi Samrat and Gurjar was the most glorious emperor of the Pratihara dynasty. The Arab traveller Sulaiman, who visited India in 851 AD, called him Gurjar Raja and his country Gurjar Desh. At the same time, district president of All India Kshatriya Mahasabha, Kushalpal, said that people of a particular caste are presenting Kshatriya emperor Mihir Bhoj in a wrong way, which is wrong. Mihir Bhoj was a Kshatriya emperor and not a Gurjar.

# Twenty-five district headquarters of TN to get hospitals soon

Team Absolute | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian on Monday announced that the state would soon have hospitals in 25 district headquarters. The minister said that the files have been forwarded to the Finance department, and added that construction of the hospitals would begin soon. He was speaking to reporters after inaugurating the CT scan facility built at a cost of Rs 3 crore at Tiruchengode Government Hospital. The health department would soon purchase advanced medical equipment for infant care units in Tiruchengode government hospital. A 50-bedded multi-disciplinary hospital build-



ing would be constructed in Tiruchengode. As Tiruchengode attracts a large number of tourists due to the Lord Murugan temple, it was important to strengthen the medical infrastructure. The minister also said that public health unit build-

ings are to be constructed in Rasipuram at a cost of Rs 36.50 crore, foundation for which would be laid soon. The state health department was on alert regarding Covid-19 and has already asked all the district headquarters to be vigilant.

# 8 LABOURERS ELECTROCUTED TO DEATH IN JHARKHAND



**Dhanbad:** 8 labourers electrocuted to death in Jharkhand. At least eight labourers were electrocuted to death while installing a pole near the Nchitpur Railway gate in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Monday, an official said. The incident occurred when the pole -- which labourers were trying to install -- fell on a high tension wire of 25,000 volts and they came in contact with the wire. The incident took place at Nchitpur railway gate located between Dhanbad and Gomoh on Howrah-New Delhi rail route. Some other workers were also injured in the accident. The injured were rushed to the hospital. Many trains have been stopped at different stations after this incident.

# TWO HELD FOR ILLEGAL CONVERSION AFTER PREGNANT WOMAN DIES



Team Absolute | Shahjahanpur

Two men have been arrested for the death of a pregnant woman who was allegedly 'trapped' in a relationship with one of the accused. The officials claimed that the accused, identified as Naved and Farhan, were coercing the woman to convert to Islam. The third accused Mustaqim is absconding while the other two accused have been put behind bars. According to reports, the 24-year-old deceased, Seema Gautam, died at a hospital in Lakhimpur Kheri where she was brought by the accused. The duo told hospital authorities that the woman was Zoya Siddiqui, wife of Naved, during the admission, police added. Superintendent of Police, S Anand, told reporters that Seema Gautam, a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri, was in a live-in relationship with Naved and

the couple was staying in a rented accommodation owned by Mustaqim in the Roza area of Shahjahanpur district. On Saturday, the woman was brought to the hospital by Naved and Farhan, but after the doctors declared her dead, the duo fled the premises before the police could arrive, the cops said. The police officials said that a preliminary probe revealed that Naved and Seema had been living together for over a year and the woman was pregnant. "The accused were exerting pressure on Seema Gautam to convert her religion," the police official said. The brother of Seema Gautam had lodged a complaint against Naved, Farhan and Mustaqim. Subsequently, a case was initiated and the three have been slapped with charges under the IPC, SC/ST Tribe Act and the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act.

# Chameleon in mid-day meal: 45 pupils fall sick in Bihar, 5 critical



Team Absolute | Patna

Around 45 students fell sick on Monday after consuming mid-day meal that contained a chameleon in Bihar's Supaul district. The incident occurred at government

middle school located in Thudi village under Bhimpur police station in the district. The mid-day meal was served to students on Monday. After consuming the food, many students complained of vomiting and stomach ache. The teachers

and the villagers immediately rescued 45 children and took them to the common health centre Narpatganj for the treatment. Five of them are in critical condition. Following the incident, officials of Bhimpur police station

reached the school and investigated the food served to the students - and they have found a chameleon in it. Earlier, a young snake was found in the mid-day meal in a school in Araria district and rotten eggs were served to students in Siwan.





## IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE YOUTH STRENGTH OF THE SOCIETY BY SKILLING THEM: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that along with PM Mitra Park and Medical Device Park, the initiative to start Global Skill Park in Madhya Pradesh is helpful in providing employment to the youth. The work of preparing skilled youth and connecting them with employment will be done continuously in the state. To make the youth strength of the society, first of all it is necessary to make them skillful. Investment is coming continuously in Madhya Pradesh and youth are getting employment due to this investment. Utmost attention is being paid to skill upgradation of the youth. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the Mega Job Fair and Shramik Chaupal at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Govindpura today. Union Minister for Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupendra Yadav was present as a special guest. In the job fair, 640



appointments were given by various institutes. Describing the Mega Job Fair and Shramik Chaupal as useful, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan congratulated the selected applicants. Offer letters and acceptance letters of schemes were also distributed to the selected applicants. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi remains concerned about providing employment to the youth. Along with this, he is also focused on skill upgradation. Today 640 youth

got employment in the mega job fair. Chief Minister Chouhan said that employment is very important. On one hand there are employers who need skilled persons and on the other hand youth want employment. A mega job fair was organised for such youths who need jobs. Prime Minister Modi organises employment fairs every month. He hands out the offer letters. A comprehensive campaign to provide employment is going on in the country. In Madhya

Pradesh too, work is being done to provide employment and enhancing investment by different companies. Madhya Pradesh is becoming a textile hub. Along with this, automobile and pharma hub are also being built. Work is also going on in the food processing sector. PM Mitra Mega Park will start in Dhar district. IT sector is working rapidly also. Employment will increase with the arrival of new investment. Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to those institutions which have given employment to youth. He also gave information about the Mukhya Mantri Sikhokamaj Yojana (Chief Minister's Learn-Earn scheme). Talking about labour welfare, CM Shri Chouhan said that 4 Shramodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in the state, where only children of labourers' study. There is recruitment target of one lakh government posts by the month of August. After the completion of this recruitment will be done on 50 thousand posts.

## Emergency landing of helicopter in MP precautionary measure: IAF



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday said that a helicopter which made an emergency landing in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district was a "precautionary" measure during routine training. Earlier in the morning, the pilot landed the chopper at a field in

Jakhola village, bordering Uttar Pradesh, surprising many local residents. In a tweet, the IAF said: "An Apache AH-64 helicopter of the IAF carried out a precautionary landing near Bhind, during routine operational training. All crew and the aircraft are safe. The rectification party has reached the site." District administration officials had cordoned off the area.

## Will repeat Karnataka in MP win 150 seats: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that the party is going to repeat what it did in Karnataka and the party will win 150 seats in Madhya Pradesh elections this year. His remarks came after a meeting on Madhya Pradesh which was chaired by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, Arun Yadav, J.P. Agarwal among several others. Speaking to media, Rahul Gandhi said, "Had a detailed and long discussion on Madhya Pradesh with the party leaders. Our assess-



ment is that we won 135 seats in Karnataka and we are going to win 150 seats in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, we will repeat Karnataka and will win 150 seats." Meanwhile, Agarwal, who is the in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, said that all the leaders decided to contest the assembly polls unitedly. He said that the leaders had a detailed dis-

ussion with the party leaders in regard to poll preparedness to defeat the ruling BJP in the state. Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that the party will announce several schemes like Karnataka and they have already started declaring such schemes. Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh are scheduled later this year.

**CM's 'dream on' counter to Gandhi's Madhya Pradesh sweep claim,** "Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the BJP will win over 200. They can keep dreaming. The BJP will win over 200 seats in Madhya Pradesh."

## One more cheetah released into wild in MP's Kuno National Park; count reaches 7

Team Absolute | Bhopal

One more cheetah has been released into the wild at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, taking the count to seven, an official said on Monday. Neerava, a female cheetah from South Africa aged 3-4 years, was released into the wild from a larger enclosure at the KNP on Sunday evening, the national park's Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Kumar Verma said. So far, seven cheetahs have been released into the free-range so far, while 10 are still housed in larger enclosures, he said. The decision about the release of remaining cheetahs into the wild will be taken by the steering committee constituted by the Centre. The committee members are scheduled to visit the KNP on Tuesday, the official said. Eight Namibian cheetahs, comprising five females and three males, were brought to the KNP and released into special enclosures by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17 last year as part of an ambitious reintroduction programme of



the species. Later, 12 cheetahs - seven males and five females - were brought to the national park from South Africa on February 18 this year. Cheetah Jwala, earlier known as Siyaya, who was translocated from

Namibia, gave birth to four cubs at the KNP in March this year. Three of the cubs died earlier this month. These cubs were the first to be born in the wild on Indian soil after the last cheetah was hunted in Korea district of present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947. Apart from these cheetah cubs, three of the 20 adult cheetahs - Daksha, Sasha and Uday - translocated from South Africa and Namibia have died at the KNP. Namibian cheetah Sasha died due to a kidney-related ailment on March 27, Uday brought in from South Africa died on April 13, while South African cheetah Daksha succumbed to the injuries following a violent interaction with a male during a mating attempt on May 9.

## Union minister on 9 years of Modi govt Targeted delivery plugging of wastage of money for development biggest achievements

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Monday said the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile phone based schemes of the Narendra Modi government had plugged the wastage of public money and had ensured the benefits reach the last person in society. Addressing a press conference on the achievements of nine years of the Narendra Modi government, the Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change said "targeted delivery" right till the last person was the biggest achievement. "MP BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma (who was present at the press conference) has mentioned about leakage of 85 paisa from the one rupee earmarked for development works. We have been successful in plugging this leak-



age through schemes like Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile. We have provided dignity and security to the poor people in the country," he asserted. 'Handling of coronavirus pandemic raised India's image worldwide' Under the Jan Dhan scheme, bank

accounts of 48.27 crore people were opened and more than Rs 25 lakh crore has been transferred by way of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), which has resulted in an estimated saving of Rs 2.73 lakh crore, a booklet issued on the occasion said. He said 220 crore vaccine doses were given to curb the coronavirus pandemic and vaccine consignment were also sent to a number of countries, which raised India's image and prestige worldwide. In nine years of the Modi government, the number of All India Institute of Medical Sciences had gone up from eight to 23, medical colleges had risen from

641 to 1,341, medical seats had gone up from 82,466 to 1,52,129, he said. During this period, the number of IITs had increased from 16 to 23 and IIMs from 13 to 20, he added. 'Ayushman Bharat biggest health insurance scheme in the world' Terming Ayushman Bharat, which provides cashless treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh, as the biggest health insurance scheme in the world, Yadav said 23.3 crore Ayushman cards have been issued so far and 4.5 crore people have availed free treatment. The Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, tap water scheme, introduction of Vande Bharat trains, development of airports, focus on exports and agriculture etc have transformed the lives of people, Yadav said. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also addressed the media on the occasion.

## MP power management firm's system hit by ransomware attack

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited has approached police after a ransomware attack on May 22 crippled its internal information technology system used for communication among different functionalities of the state-run entity, an official said. The attack has hit MPPMC, which oversees the management of electricity in the state through sale and purchase of power as per demand, at a time when summer brings about peak consumption, sources said. MPPMC public relations officer Pankaj Swamy said an alternative method had been put in place ensure urgent work is not affected. When contacted on Sunday, MPPMC chief general manager (IT) Reeta Kshetrapal said those behind the ransomware attack had not sought money as yet but had provided email IDs to contact them. MPPMC is scanning the servers as per the



guidelines of the government and trying to restore them with precaution, Kshetrapal added. A press note issued on Saturday by MPPMC quoted Kshetrapal as saying a "ransomware attack was detected in the company's IABS internal IT system on May 22". "The restoration work of the IABS internal IT system is being carried out by the engineers of L&T InfoTech under the guidelines of the Union government's nodal agency Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) that deals with cyber threats," the release further quoted her.

## Six 'Saptarishi' statues at Ujjain 'Mahakal Lok' collapse, spark off political slugfest

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Six out of seven Saptarishi statues installed at 'Mahakal Lok' corridor in Ujjain collapsed as a thunderstorm, with high speed winds, measured at 65 kmph, hit Madhya Pradesh's Malwa region on Sunday. The massive thunderstorm also resulted the death of at least two persons while three persons were reported injured. As per the official statement issued on Sunday night, two of the statues had got damaged. At the time when the statues fell, score of devotees were present in the Mahakal corridor, however, no injuries were reported so far. Sources also said that after the collapse of the huge statues, entry of the devotees was banned in the premises. The 'Mahakal Lok' corridor project, worth Rs 856 crore (total expenditure of two phase project) was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 11, 2022. The second phase of the project will be completed by 2024, according to the Madhya

Pradesh government. The state Congress leadership has raised questions on the collapse of the statues and accused the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government of corruption in developing Mahakal Lok corridor and has demanded a probe in the matter. The opposition party has set up a seven member's panel of senior party leaders to bring out the truth behind the collapse of statues within a year of their unveiling. This includes five MLAs - Sajjan Singh Verma, Ramlal Malviya, Dilip Gurjar, Mahesh Parmar, and Murlu Morwal and two members from the state media and communication department- Shobha Oza and K. K. Mishra. According to Congress state General Secretary, Organisation, Rajiv Singh, the panel will visit 'Mahakal Lok' corridor to assess the damage caused by thunderstorm and high speed wind and will submit its findings to state unit chief Kamal Nath within next one week. Chief Minister Chouhan, who was in New Delhi to attend the inaugural ses-

sion of new Parliament building on Sunday, responded to the Congress accusations saying he has reviewed the situation with Ujjain District Collector and was informed that two statues got totally damaged after falling on ground due to high speed winds. He said that all six statues of 'Saptarshis' which fell onto the ground will be replaced with new ones and went on to accuse the Congress of playing politics on the matter. "Due to thunderstorm and high speed wind, two people died and three got injured in Ujjain. However, the Congress is seeing this unfortunate incident as an opportunity of doing politics. They (Congress) making false accusations without any facts and trying to mislead the people. All six statues will be replaced with new one under the defect liability period," Chouhan said, as per a

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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s. 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**  
Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

| S. No. | Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.  | NPA Date   | Date of Demand Notice | Amount due as per Demand Notice / as on Date   |
|--------|---|------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1.     | Usha Gothwal, 2. Rajesh Gothwal, House No. Cw-251, E.w.s., Sukhiya, Indore, M.p., Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010, 3. Usha Gothwal, 4. Rajesh Gothwal, 5. Usha Gothwal, C/o Usha Garments, 17, Anandeshik Nagar, Indore, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010.<br>Loan Account No. LNINDOHL-01210081067 & LNINDOHL-01210081068 | 11-05-2023 | 23.05.2023            | Rs. 29,59,564/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Four Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.05.2023. |

**Description of immovable property/properties mortgaged:** All That Piece And Parcel Of House No. Cw-251, E.w.s., Situated In Palika Nagar Area, Ward No. 22, Situated In Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Nagar, Sukhialia In Indore Tehsil Indore Distt. Admeasuring 405 Sq. Ft. i.e., 37.83 Sq. Mtrs., And Bounded As: East: By House No. Cw-250, West: By Road, North: By Road, South: By House No. Cw-252.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereon falling which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at our risk as to the cost and consequences. Please note that as per section 13(1) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said provision by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL, together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 30.05.2023  
Place: Indore

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Indian Peoples Adhikar Party (name of the party). The office of the party is located at 544, Narsingh Ward, Madan Mahal, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482001 (give full address) This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:-  
President/Chairman : Purushottam Tiwari  
General Secretary : Ekta Goswami  
Treasurer : Archana Tiwari  
If any one has any objection to the registration of Indian Peoples Adhikar Party (name of the proposed) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.





EDITOR'S SPECS

Oppn parties to meet in Patna on June 12

The much-awaited meeting of the opposition parties to discuss a strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be held in Patna on June 12. Manjeet Singh, the JD(U) leader and spokesperson, said that the date has been finalised now. "The all-opposition parties' meeting will be held in Patna on June 12. It will give a message that the change has started now in the country," Singh said. The meeting in Patna has a significant importance as the JP movement was also started from the soil of Bihar, said Singh. The JD(U) leader said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had wished in April for such a meeting to be held in Patna. Nitish Kumar has been talking to the opposition leaders to get them on one platform. But, there were some trust issues between the Congress and some regional parties. Lok Sabha MP and West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary on Sunday said his party will participate in the meeting of opposition parties in Patna. Twenty-one opposition parties boycotted the new Parliament inauguration event. Meanwhile, BJP leaders of Bihar are declaring the whole meeting exercise a drama. Arvind Kumar Singh, the spokesperson of BJP Bihar unit said: "The opposition leaders are coming for a big drama in Patna on June 12. Everyone is in the race for prime minister. They are opportunist leaders with the goal to cheat the people of the country. RJD has shown the coffin and people of the country will bury them in 2024."

# SYRIA BACK IN THE ARAB-FOLD

Asad Mirza

After more than a dozen years of ostracism by regional Arab and western leaders, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is officially back in the Arab fold, he was warmly embraced by regional leaders at the Arab League summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, last week. Apparently it seems that the Arab League has lost its meaning and purpose and it is demonstrated by the manner in which member states takes its sessions in a non-serious manner. Morocco declined to host a summit in 2016, calling the event a waste of time. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, skipped last year's gathering in Algeria on medical grounds. Heads of state are sometimes spotted falling asleep at the fora meetings. But it seems that at the moment no one would relish the regional Arab body more than Assad, who seemed euphoric to be invited to the Arab Summit. Syria was suspended from the league in 2011, when Assad began a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests that plunged the country into a civil war. Assad's deployment of chemical weapons against his own people along with mass arrests, torture and disappearances and killing of more than 3 million civilians in the country have no parallel elsewhere. This is a legacy, which he inherited from his father, Hafez al-Assad, who reportedly massacred more than 10,000 people in the city of Hama during a 1982 siege. On May 7 however, the regional Arab body agreed to re-admit Syria to its fold. Though an invitation from a dull talking shop crammed with dictators may seem unappealing to many but to Assad, it is the culmination of a long effort to end his Arab isolation - and, he may hope, another step towards acceptance in the West. US stand on Syria However, Assad's regional Arab acceptance creates a "problem" for the US, which continues to oppose any sort of normalising ties with the Syrian government but has not been able to force its Arab partners from restoring ties with Damascus. US officials maintain that though they do not back normalisation with Assad, they share the objectives that restored relations could bring, including expanding humanitarian access to conflict-torn regions, combating IS, reducing Iran's influence and countering the trafficking of the drug Captagon. Mona Yacoubian, vice president of the Middle East and North Africa centre at the US Institute of Peace (USIP), a think tank funded by the US Congress, told Al Jazeera that the US position under President Joe Biden reflects a "tricky, gnarly, complex challenge". But without accountability for Syrian government abuses, she added, Washington will not normalise its relations with Damascus or ease its heavy sanctions, including the blocking of foreign reconstruction funds. Making the US stand quite clear, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last week, "We do not believe that Syria merits readmission to



the Arab League". Still, Blinken said Washington and its Arab allies have broader common objectives in Syria. Last week, a group of bipartisan House representatives introduced a bill dubbed the Assad Anti-Normalisation Act, which aims to "hold the Assad regime, and its backers, accountable for their crimes against the Syrian people and deter normalisation with the Assad regime". The bill is a sign that Congress will likely push Biden and future administrations to fully enforce Syria sanctions. Syria's Ostracisation Syria was suspended from the Arab League and left isolated by regional power brokers in 2011 after its crackdown on protests during the Arab Spring, a wave of anti-government demonstrations across several countries in the region that year. That heavy-handed security approach in Syria turned into a protracted war, killing hundreds of thousands of people and displacing millions. In recent years, government forces recaptured much of Syria with the aid of Russia and Iran, and local ceasefires have maintained relative calm as parts of the country remain under the control of various rebels and armed groups. Emerging Scenario As to why Arab states are keen to bring Syria among their fold, there are many plausible reasons. One is to forge a broader spirit of detente. The Saudis struck a deal in March with Iran to restore diplomatic ties and reopen embassies, this came after years of proxy wars in Syria, Yemen by both and now both seems to have forgotten the past. Turkey and Egypt, mired in mutual economic crises, are trying to end a decade of animosity. Gulf states have ended their embargo of Qatar, which accomplished little. Old foes across the region are keen

to pretend they are friends. When it comes to Syria, however, they want something bigger in return. Its neighbours hope to get rid of millions of Syrian refugees. The 2 million or so in Lebanon, with a population of just 5 million, are seen as a burden, blamed unfairly for the country's economic collapse. In Turkey, the mood has also turned hostile. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the main opposition candidate in the election on May 26 has vowed vows to send Syrians packing within two years if elected. In addition, the West hope that mollifying Syria may result in it controlling its Captagon trade. Syria has become the world's leading producer of Captagon, an amphetamine that is a popular recreational drug in the Gulf. The scale of the Captagon trade is often exaggerated. Unconfirmed estimates put its annual value at \$57 billion. The real figure is probably an order of magnitude smaller -- but that is still large enough to make it Syria's top export. Regardless of the future of US policy on Syria, the fact that Arab states are normalising with Assad is also a sign of the receding US political influence in the region. Indeed, this seems to be a sad commentary on the Arab world and its dictatorial leaders who basically conspired to crushed the Arab Spring 12 years ago, instead of working for the betterment of their people. In reality the pro-democracy, pro-rights movement has not fizzled out; rather, it was clubbed to death by a conspiracy of the dictators.

## international

# UK PLACES EXPORT BAR ON TIPU SULTAN'S FLINTLOCK GUN VALUED AT 2 MN POUNDS

London | Agencies

An 18th-century gun made for Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan and valued at 2 million pounds has had its export barred to allow time for a buyer to come forward to keep it in the UK for public study and education. The 14-bore gun, designed for shooting games, was made in India by Asad Khan Muhammed for the ruler between 1793 and 1794. The 138 cm-long firearm is made of hardwood stock with silver mounts, steel barrel chiselled and inlaid with gold and silver. Arts and Heritage Minister Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay placed an export bar on Tipu Sultan's Flintlock sporting gun in the hope that it can be put on public display in the UK. "This visually striking firearm is a significant antiquity in its own right, as well as an illustration of the important, interconnected history between Britain and India," Parkinson said. "I hope that it can be shared with



the widest possible public and used to deepen our understanding of a fraught period which shaped both our nations." The minister's decision came after the independent advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, according to a release by the UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Known as the Tiger of

Mysore, Tipu Sultan was a defiant opponent of the British East India Company and its allies during the Anglo-Mysore wars. He was killed on May 4, 1799 while defending his stronghold of Srirangapatam (Srirangapatna). Following his death, his distinctive personal weapons were given to leading military figures. This firearm was presented to General Earl Cornwallis, who had previously fought Tipu between 1790 and 1792. The expert committee found the gun to be of aesthetic importance as well as significant to the study of Tipu Sultan and his court, to Lord Cornwallis, to British history, and to the conclusion of the third Anglo-Mysorean war. Its assessment was based on the 'Waverley Criteria', established in 1952 to decide on works of art and cultural objects which deserve efforts to keep them in the country. According to the expert committee member Christopher Rowell, the gun is "extremely beautiful", and its tech-

nically advanced mechanism allows two shots to be fired from the single barrel without reloading. "Given its aesthetic significance, its impeccable provenance, its scope for further research and its relevance to both British and Indian history, I hope that this superb fowling piece made for the unfortunate ruler of Mysore, Tipu Sultan, will be acquired by a British Institution where it can be appreciated by all," Rowell said. The decision on the export licence application for the gun will be deferred for a period ending on September 25, 2023 (inclusive), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport said. At the end of the first deferral period, owners will have a consideration period of 15 business days to consider any offer(s) to purchase the gun at the recommended price of two million pounds. The second deferral period will commence following the signing of an Option Agreement and will last for four months.

# Typhoon Mawar to bring violent winds, torrential rain to Japan's Okinawa

Tokyo | Agencies

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) on Monday warned that the powerful typhoon Mawar is forecast to approach the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa around Wednesday, bringing with it violent winds and torrential rain. The JMA said Mawar is set to approach the southwestern part of Okinawa if it continues along its current trajectory which was in a northward direction from the east of the Philippines, at a speed of around 10 km per hour, reports Xinhua news agency. The typhoon's wind speeds have picked up from 162 kph near its centre as clocked on Sunday evening, to current speeds of up to 216 kph, with an atmospheric pressure of 950 hectopascals at its centre. From Wednesday, weather officials said the powerful typhoon, with a storm zone spanning a 220-



km radius northeast of the centre and a 150-km radius southwest of the centre, is expected to approach the Sakishima Islands off the main island of Okinawa. The JMA has warned that the slow moving nature of the typhoon means that the violent conditions it may bring could last for a protracted period of time, while its high-pressure system could destabilize atmospheric con-

ditions across wide swathes of Japan. On Monday, wave surges could reach five metres on the main island of Okinawa, the meteorological agency said, and as high as seven meters near the Sakishima Islands. Heavy rain is expected to inundate both eastern and western Japan in the days ahead, as the front will stay for a long period of time, the JMA said.

# RUSSIA PUTS US SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM ON WANTED LIST



Moscow: The Russian Interior Ministry on Monday added US Senator Lindsey Graham on the wanted list after criminal proceedings were ordered against the South Carolina Republican for his "Russophobic remarks". "Lindsey Olin Graham, an American citizen, born on July 9, 1955, is wanted under an article of the Russian Criminal Code," the state-run TASS News Agency quoted the Investigative Committee as saying. The criminal proceedings against the Senator was ordered the Committee's chief Alexander Bastrykin. During a visit to Kiev on May 26, Graham told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that "Russians are dying" in the war.

# Erdogan calls for 'unity, solidarity' after securing historic third term



Ankara | Agencies After securing a historic third term as the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday pledged to build the "Century of Turkey" together with the nation and called for unity and solidarity. The 69-year-old won Sunday's presidential runoff which will now

extended his tenure until 2028, reports Xinhua news agency. "We should come together in unity and solidarity," he addressed supporters outside the presidential residence in the capital Ankara. "Nobody has lost today, all 85 million won. Now is the time to unite and integrate around our national goals and national dreams... We

are not the only winners. The winner is Turkey, the winner is our nation with all its segments, our democracy is the winner," he said, adding that he would be the president of the whole nation. Erdogan promised to ease economic difficulties and said healing the "wounds" of the massive earthquakes on February 6 would be

# BIRMINGHAM ELECTS FIRST EVER BRITISH-INDIAN LORD MAYOR

London | Agencies

Councillor Chaman Lal has become the first ever British-Indian Sikh to take oath as Birmingham's Lord Mayor. Born in Pakhawal village of Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, Lal came to England in 1964 with his mother to join his father Sardar Harnam Singh, a British-Indian army officer who in the Second World War served in the Italian campaign. Lal joined the Labour Party in 1989 and has taken part in many social justice campaigns to challenge inequality and all forms of discrimination. First elected to Soho and Jewellery Quarter ward in 1994, he has served the city council for the past 30 years. "By accepting this honour, I am very proud to be able to serve this great city as Lord Mayor. When I was first elected to the city council nearly 30 years ago, I never imagined that one day I would become Lord Mayor." Lal said at a mayor making ceremony at Birmingham city council house last week. "It will be a huge



privilege to serve this city as First Citizen, and I look forward to represent-

ing Birmingham locally, nationally and internationally over the coming year," he said. Prior to his appointment to the ceremonial role of Birmingham's First Citizen, Lal held various posts, including Chair of Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), and membership of Co-ordinating OSC and West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. He has served many years on the West Midlands Transport Authority and has a keen interest in improving public transport. "I'm also keen to meet people from our diverse communities and will do all I can to support organisations and volunteer groups that help vulnerable residents, especially during the current cost of living crisis," Lal said in a statement. He had attended Wattville Secondary Modern School and qualified as an engineer in electronics. During his year-long term as Lord Mayor, he will be supported by the Lady Mayoress, his wife Vidya Wati.





INDIA NOW LARGEST PRODUCER, IMPORTER OF COAL: PRALHAD JOSHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said that from 500 million tonnes of coal production in 2014, today India is the largest producer and importer of the dry fuel.



imports we must have new ideas and thoughts," he added. "From 300 Start-Ups in 2014, in the last nine years we have touched one lakh Start-Ups and a hundred unicorn. They have created nine lakh jobs and added a

cumulative value of \$333 billion. We however need to take this further. Sustainable and optimum mining technology is the need of the hour. For the same, Start-Up technology is essential," Joshi said.

Maha cracks down on lane-cutting on Mumbai-Nagpur, Mumbai-Pune e-ways

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Pune/Nagpur

The Maharashtra Transport Department on Monday cracked the whip on trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles indulging in lane-cutting or obstructing smaller or faster vehicles on the Mumbai-Nagpur Super Expressway and Mumbai-Pune Expressway, officials said.



nuisance was the brake-failure of a truck leading to a crash of 11 vehicles on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway on April 27 which left at least six persons injured. In order to prevent such tragedies, the blacklisting norm will initially be implemented on the 701-kms long Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg and the 95-kms long Mumbai-Pune

Expressway, and depending on its results, may be extended to other national and state highways crisscrossing the state. Earlier this month, the Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, Phase I (Nagpur-Shirdi 520-kms) was in the limelight for the spate of accidents recorded there on account of 'no halts'.

Bhujbal urges MVA leaders not to make public claims on LS seats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taking umbrage at the claims from various Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders on different seats for the Lok Sabha elections, senior Nationalist Congress Party leader Chhagan Bhujbal advised all leaders to keep mum on the issue before the media, here on Monday.



came in the wake of the three allies staking claims on various constituencies, the latest being Pune, depending on their perceived strength or the choices of the respective leaders. For instance, Leader of Opposition (NCP) Ajit Pawar covets the Pune LS and others in western Maharashtra, Sena (UBT) is eyeing at least three LS seats in Mumbai, plus more in Konkan and Mumbai Metropolitan Region area, the Congress is openly desiring to contest maximum seats in

Mumbai, Pune, Vidarbha, etc. In the past fortnight, several 'seat-sharing' figures have been thrown up in the media -- 16-16-16, 19-17-12, 20-16-12 -- but the top leaders of the three MVA parties have outright dismissed these alleged 'formulae'. Jumping into the MVA fracas, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Nitesh Narayan Rane claimed that prior to the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the Sena (UBT) will merge with the NCP. Even the ruling ally Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his supporters have staked claims to various seats as per their liking, including Amravati, Aurangabad, Nashik and

others. "Sanjay Raut has himself taken this proposal to the NCP President Sharad Pawar twice that the ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray's Sena (UBT) wants to contest the next elections on the NCP's (Clock) symbol... The Congress has to be concerned for itself now instead of getting involved in all these numbers in the seat-sharing drama," said Nitesh Rane contended. Meanwhile, the Sena (UBT) gave another dimension to the entire issue by predicting that the next Assembly and parliamentary polls in Maharashtra could be conducted simultaneously, though the MVA partners have not yet reacted to this.

Antilia case: SC to examine bail plea by ex-cop Pradeep Sharma

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea by retired high-profile police officer and encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma, arrested in connection with the sensational Mansukh Hiran murder case, challenging the Bombay High Court order, which rejected his bail application.



petitioner is her primary caregiver. Due to the current medical complications of the wife, there is nobody to look after the wife and mother of the petitioner. The petitioner is the only male member to take care of his wife and aged mother," said the document. The document further added, "It is further submitted that if the petitioner is not released on bail/interim bail, the same can have a debilitating effect on the health of his wife". The vacation bench deferred the interim bail plea

hearing to June 2, after noting that Sharma has not filed a proper petition. The special leave petition filed by Sharma said: "Petitioner is a decorated police officer, who has retired from service since 2019. Retired police officers do not have the same clout as when they were in service...prime witness in this case is a protected witness and thus the possibility of witness tampering does not arise. "Moreover, a mere apprehension of tampering with evidence, without any material, is not a ground for denial of bail as is held by this Hon'ble Court in P. Chidambaram vs. Central Bureau of Investigation 2019." Sharma has been in custody since June 17, 2021. The Maharashtra government was represented by advocate Aaditya Pande, standing counsel and advocate-on-record for state of Maharashtra.

Two women fight inside Police station, case registered

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An offence has been registered against two women who allegedly got into a fight at a police station in Navi Mumbai, police said on Monday. Based on a complaint lodged by an official from Panvel town on May 26, a case under section 160 (committing an affray) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the duo, an official said.



CASE AGAINST PROFESSOR FOR MOLESTING MEDICAL STUDENT

Palghar: An offence has been registered against a professor of a medical college for allegedly molesting a 21-year-old student in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Monday. Based on a complaint lodged by a first-year MBBS student, a case under section 354 (whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage) has been registered against the professor, Palghar Police PRO Sachin Navadkar said.

Parineeti wipes her father's tears during engagement with Raghav Chadha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Parineeti Chopra's brother Shivang Chopra has shared more pictures from her engagement with AAP leader Raghav Chadha. The event seemed to be an emotional ceremony as her brother Shivang Chopra shared a few family pictures. One picture shows Parineeti and Shivang wiping tears of their emotional father. Another image shows their mother Reena dancing together along with other family members. Shivang captioned: "The parents. The family." Parineeti replied on the comment section: "Only problem in these photos is you." To which, he replied saying: "I understand." Parineeti and Raghav got engaged in New Delhi. The ceremony had several politicians in atten-



dance including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and P. Chidambaram. Parineeti's cousin Priyanka Chopra, fashion designer Manish Malhotra and singer Mika were also present at the ceremony.

BJP's 9-years 'all-round disaster', yanking off Rs 2K-note 'foolish': Chidambaram

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BJP government, which completes 9 years in power, has been a "complete failure on all fronts", whether domestic policies, international affairs, security or the economy, and the recent withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 notes was "foolish", senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said here on Monday. Addressing the media as part of the Opposition's outreach all over India to "expose" the government on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 9 years in office, he also expressed concerns whether the country's affairs are being run according to the Constitution or not. Touching on the latest move by the Centre to give the "pink slip" to the Rs 2,000 denomination currency, Chidambaram questioned and lampooned the move, even as the Global Poverty Index says India has over 22.4 crore "poor people". "The people had no need for the Rs 2,000 notes after the Rs 500-Rs 1,000 value notes were demonetised (November 2016). This horrendous spectacle of first introducing and then withdrawing the Rs 2000-note was foolish and has cast doubts on the integrity and stability of the Indian currency," he said.



On the Centre-State relations, Chidambaram said: "There a growing gap between the Central and state governments... The executive powers of the elected state governments have been curtailed and the Governors of non-BJP-ruled states are behaving like Viceroy. Natural justice is replaced by 'bulldozer' justice. These are the deep concerns before the country." Referring to the political atmosphere vis-a-vis the Opposition parties, the Congress leader said that Parliamentary norms and laws are blatantly violated, while Central investigation agencies are let loose to destabilise the Opposition-

ruled state governments, and peoples' freedom of speech and personal liberties are curtailed. "The Opposition are being threatened by such probes on false cases, their leaders are being jailed. Major institutions which were independent pillars of democracy have been weakened by the BJP. This 'Banyan Tree' of democracy has been rendered hollow by the Modi regime," Chidambaram said sharply. He slammed the government for its "failures" on the sensitive defence and foreign policies owing to which India's relations with almost all neighbours like Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have soured.

SITHARAMAN POSTS IMPRESSIVE REPORT CARD OF BJP'S 9-YEAR RULE

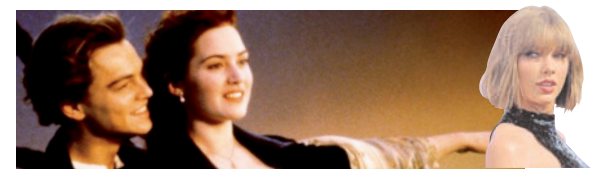
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented a glowing report card of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 9-years in office, terming them as full of progress and development, here on Monday. Addressing the media as part of the BJP's all-India outreach to the masses, Sitharaman said that 80 crore people were given free foodgrain during the Covid-19 pandemic while 220 crore were administered Coronavirus vaccine doses nationwide. "We have elevated the country's status globally in the past nine years, the poor have got food security with dignity... No other country has achieved so much in the same period in renewable energy," she said. Discussing the achievements at the mass level, Sitharaman said 12 crore homes were given access to clean drinking water, 9.60 crore given free gas connections, and despite the global price rise, a subsidy of Rs 200 per gas cylinder was extended to the poor. The Modi



government has built over 3.50 crore pucca homes for the poor and nearly 12 crore toilets were built for them, resulting in 100 per cent coverage of toilets achieved in mofussil areas as compared with just 39 per cent nine years ago (2014). Sitharaman was flanked by state Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule and other senior leaders as the party celebrates nine years of Modi's rule and the achievements across sectors ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.





## LANA DEL REY STOPS SHOW IN BRAZIL TO FIND HER MISSING VAPE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Lana Del Rey had an unlikely concern onstage as she made her first live performance in more than three years. Taking the stage at the MITA Festival 2023 in Rio De Janeiro, the six-time Grammy nominee may have left her fans scratching their heads as she stopped the show because she lost her vape, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a video of her viral interaction with the audience, the singer quickly paused her show to ask for her fans' help to find her missing vape.

"And also if you see my vape onstage... Can you find my vape onstage," she asked in between songs.

As fans rushed to point it out for her, Lana excitedly asked, "You did? Where, though?" Learning that it was impossible for her to reach for the vape from where she was standing, she decided to forgo it. "Oh, all the way in the pit? F\*\*k it," she exclaimed, before continuing her performance.

After the clip made its way out online, some people were baffled as to why Lana needed vape onstage. "THC or Nicotine?" one Twitter user wondered.

Another labeled the "Summertime Sadness" songstress a "nic addict."

A third person asked, "This not weird to y'all?" while a confused user chimed in, "I'm a I supposed to laugh? Hahahaha? Cringed."

During her set at the MITA Festival, Lana delivered the live debut of numerous songs from her latest album "Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd". Some of the tracks she sang included "A&W", "Candy Necklace", "The Grants" and the title track.



## Keanu Reeves performs with Dogstar Band in first public show in more than 20 years

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Keanu Reeves reunited with his rock band Dogstar at the 2023 BottleRock Napa Valley festival.

The star of The Matrix played bass with the group for the first time in public in more than 20 years, reports Deadline.

His bandmate Robert Mailhouse gave Reeves some advice ahead of performing in front of a live crowd.

"He was just super positive. He was like, 'Listen to the music. Just be present in the song, and it will go from there,'" he told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Dogstar was formed in 1991 when Reeves and Mailhouse met at a supermarket and started a friendship. Reeves serves as the band's bassist and backup vocalist while Mailhouse is a drummer and percussionist.

Gregg Miller joined the band a year later as the lead guitarist and vocalist. He would leave the band in 1995. Bret Domrose joined the band in 1994 as a guitarist and vocalist but when Miller left, he took over as lead vocalist. Reeves recently opened up about reuniting with Dogstar and how much he missed performing with them.

"I missed playing together, I missed writing together, I missed doing shows together. It's something I've always missed... Reeves told Billboard. "We came to a spot where we weren't playing anymore, and I missed it... Once we started to play, and it felt good, and really positive and creative, that's when it was like, 'Okay, let's make this happen.'"

Dogstar is also working on a new album with Reeves adding, "I think all three of us just said, 'Well, if we're going to do this, let's make a record.'"



## TARANTINO 'SPLASHED \$10,000 TO LICK STRIPPER'S FEET UNTIL THEY WRINKLED LIKE PRUNES'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Quentin Tarantino is facing a claim from a strip club manager called NorCal Lowlife he once splashed out \$10,000 to lick.

Lowlife - also known as Page Rad - was apparently a senior worker at Hollywood nightclub Crazy Girls, and told the tale about the 'Pulp Fiction' director, who is said to have a foot fetish as he often lingers on his leading ladies' toes in his flicks, on a podcast called 'Get in the Car', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said when Quentin apparently visited the club, without specifying when, the filmmaker requested a VIP room and the company of the dancer with the "biggest \*\*\*\*" and "biggest ass" there.

Lowlife said he went to a security room and watched the action on CCTV, adding: "He's sitting down, she's about to does her little... take her top off. And he gets

up, throws her on the f\*\*\*\*\* seat, takes her boots off one by one, both shoes, just starts licking the bottoms of her feet, sucking toes."

Lowlife claims the licking lasted about half-an-hour, and added by the end of it the stripper's "feet looked like you know when you take a bubble bath? Like prunes".

He added about the price Quentin, who has two children with wife Daniella Pick, 39, allegedly paid: "I think he gave her 10 Gs."

In 2010 Uma Thurman, 53, whose feet were lingered over by Quentin in his 'Kill Bill' epic, toasted the director at a Friar's Club roast by serving him champagne in her black velvet Louboutins.

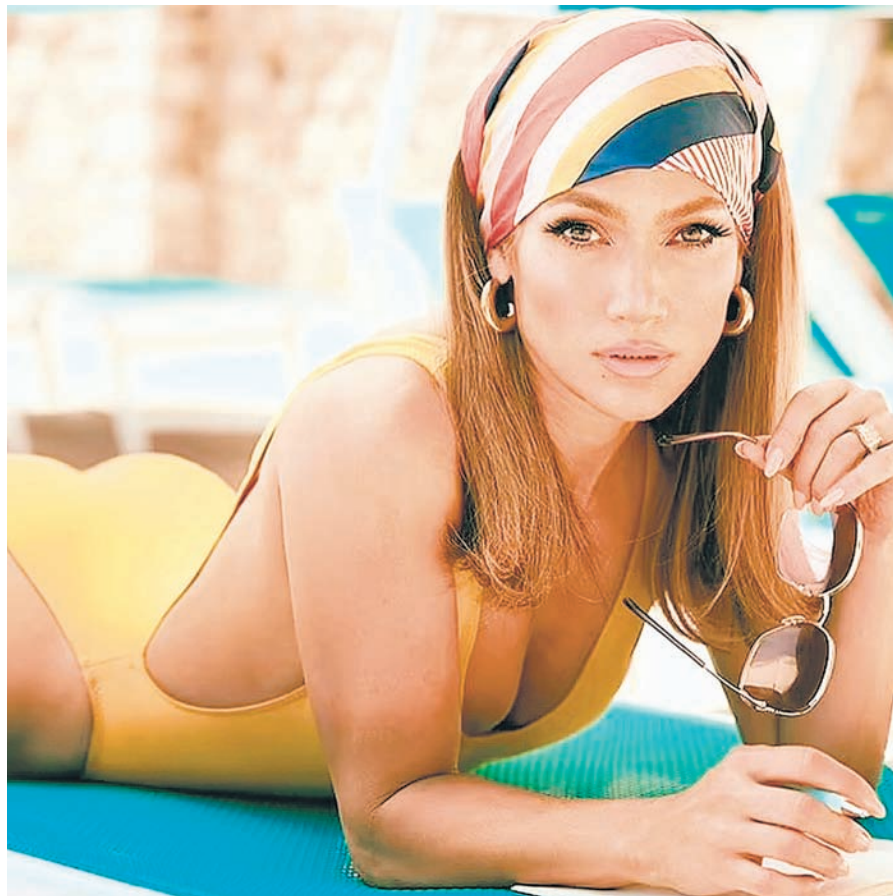
At the same event, Eli Roth, 51, who starred in Quentin's "Inglourious B\*\*\*\*\*" made the bad-taste Holocaust joke that the director had a "bigger shoe collection than Dachau".



## Before 'Iron Man', Robert Downey Jr. was in talks for another Marvel film

Los Angeles | Agencies

Robert Downey Jr., who is synonymous with the MCU's 'Iron Man', was not always going to play the billionaire philanthropist and was in talks to play a whole different character. "I remember you had all met with (Downey) already for like Doctor Doom or something on another project," director Jon Favreau said in a conversation with Marvel boss Kevin Feige, reports Deadline. "I think he had come through on maybe Fantastic Four, so everybody sort of knew who he was." Favreau and Feige sat down for a retrospective look at the film that started the MCU 15 years ago. Victor Von Doom was ultimately portrayed by Nip/Tuck star Julian McMahon in the 2005 film. For Favreau, casting Downey in Iron Man was the component that was missing that made the film work. "He was the puzzle piece that made it all work," Favreau said. "I remember sitting down with the guy, and I was like, 'He's got that spark in him in his eye and he's ready'. That's when we were in your office, and we were pointing to his headshot, saying, 'We got to try to figure this out.' " Favreau continued: "Once it was him, that's when my life got a lot easier because he understood. He understood the voice of the character. And then one by one, people were just signing on board because now it became something interesting." Feige noted that the "tone that you and Robert discovered on that movie, I would say became the template in a way for much of what the MCU became". "I remember on later movies -- we'll talk about them on the 15th anniversary of those -- there were dark days. And I would say to Robert, 'We wouldn't be in this mess if it wasn't for you'. Meaning, we wouldn't have a studio if it wasn't for him," Feige added.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez turned up the heat in a bright yellow swimsuit to promote her new Delola cocktail line. The superstar - who recently stopped by Jennifer Garner's home - posted a few glamorous photos that showed her looking gorgeous in a curve-hugging one-piece.

Captioning the post, Jennifer wrote: 'summer is finally here, Delola is the official drink of the summer ... so sit back, open a bottle, pour over ice & enjoy! XOXO, Lola DelolaLife'

The snug, high-cut swimwear showcased her cleavage and hips as she posed up a storm on some lounge chairs.

Lopez's sun-kissed skin had a luminous glow, which she accented by wearing gold

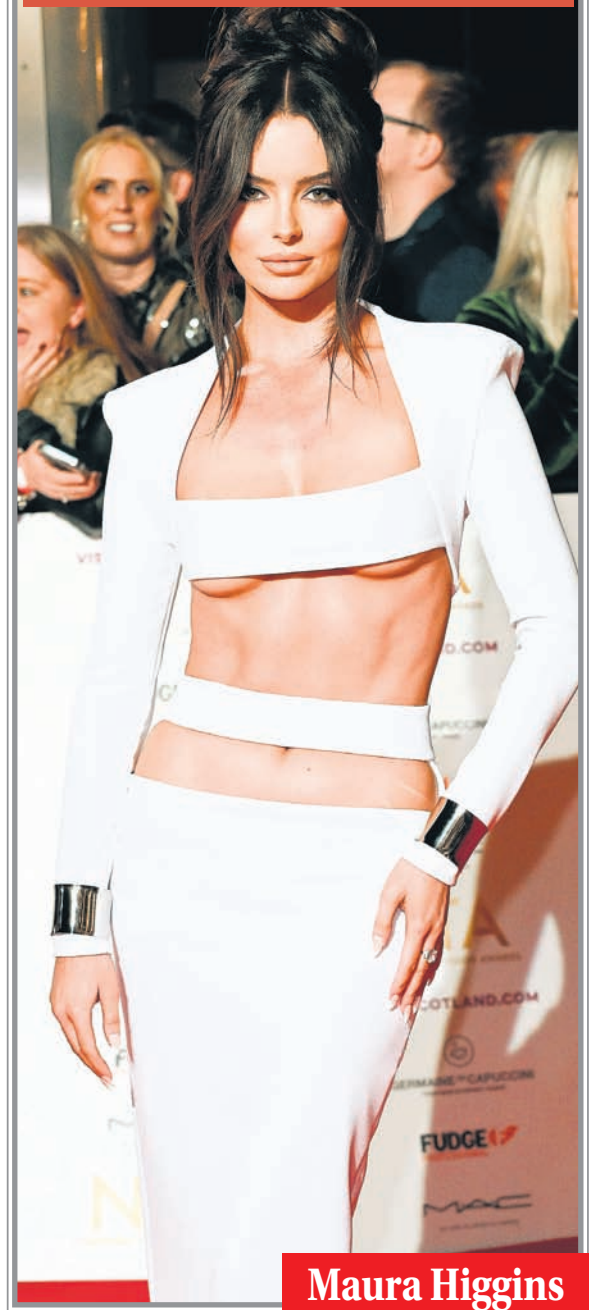
hoops and a multicolored headscarf.

Lola is a longtime nickname of Jennifer's that reflects her 'more playful, carefree side,' according to a press release in April.

But the launch of her latest venture was blasted by fans, which roasted Lopez for starting a liquor brand despite abstaining from alcohol herself - on top of the fact that her husband Ben Affleck has been open about his battle to stay sober. The Shotgun Wedding star didn't seem to be fazed by the backlash surrounding her brand's initial launch earlier this month, as fans piled on to convey their 'disappointment and confusion.'

*Jennifer Lopez turns up the heat in skimpy yellow swimsuit*

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maura Higgins





# NEERAJ CHOPRA PULLS OUT OF FBK GAMES IN HENGELLO WITH AN INJURY

New Delhi | Agencies

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has pulled out of the upcoming FBK Games in Hengelo, the Netherlands due to a muscle strain he sustained during training.

Chopra started his season by winning the Doha Diamond League 2023 with a world-leading effort of 88.67m on his first attempt at the Qatar Sports Club, on May 5.

FBK could have been the second event of the season for the World Championships silver medalist.

Taking to Twitter, Neeraj wrote: "Injuries are part of the journey, but it's never easy. Recently, I sustained a muscle strain during my training. Following a medical



evaluation, me and my team have decided to avoid any risks which can aggravate the

injury. "Unfortunately, it means that I have to withdraw from

the FBK Games, in Hengelo. Wishing the organisers and the tournament all the suc-

cess.

"I am on the road to recovery and will aim to be back on the track in June."

The 25-year-old recently became the world's number one in the men's javelin with 1455 points, becoming the first Indian to top the chart.

Chopra has planned to train at Kuortane Olympic Training Centre in Finland during this time and his proposal was accepted by the Sports Ministry last Thursday.

Neeraj is scheduled to compete in multiple World Athletics - Gold Level tournaments in June. After FBK he was slated to compete in the Paavo Nurmi Games on June 13 in Finland.

But, after this muscle strain injury, it remains to be seen if he will be fit enough to appear for that event as well.

New Delhi | Agencies

Letmet Tangvah scored a brace as the India U-17 men's national football team scored a comprehensive 4-0 win against TSV Schwaben Augsburg in their last practice game tour of Germany at the Paul Renz Akademie, in Augsburg.

Letmet Tangvah scored twice in the first half, while Rohen Singh and Thanglalsoun Gantge added two more goals, to make it an easy 4-0 victory for India in their last practice game in Germany.

Gearing up for the AFC U-17 Asia Cup in Thailand, the India U-17 men's team toured Spain and Germany with mixed results. But more importantly, the boys gained a lot of experience

## FOOTBALL

# India U-17s beat TSV Schwaben Augsburg 4-0 in last training game in Germany



playing in foreign conditions and against some strong opponents. The India U-17s will now train in Augsburg for one more day, before travelling to Thailand on June 1 for

the AFC U-17 Asian Cup. The team will train in Thailand for two weeks, before they face Vietnam (June 17), Uzbekistan (June 20), and Japan (June 23) in Group D of the tournament.

# Mbappe named Ligue 1 Player of the Year for 4th consecutive time

Paris | Agencies

Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe takes home the trophy -- Ligue 1 Player of the Year -- for the record fourth consecutive year.

Voted Ligue 1's best player in 2019, 2021 and 2022, becomes the first player to win the trophy four seasons in a row.

After another exceptional season, the Paris Saint-Germain forward boasts 28 goals and 5 assists in the league.

"It's a pleasure; I always wanted to win, to write my name into the league's history. But even with all the ambition I have I didn't expect to win so quickly," Mbappe was quoted by France 24.

For the seventh consecutive year, a Paris Saint-Germain player has won the trophy for Player of the Year, following in the footsteps of Zlatan Ibrahimovic (2016), Edinson Cavani (2017), Neymar Jr (2018) and Kylian Mbappe (2019, 2021 and 2022).

Nominated last season in the same category, Nuno Mendes was named UNFP 2023 Ligue 1 Young Player of the Year.

At just 20 years of age, the Portuguese full-back played a large role in clinching a record-breaking 11 French championship for the capital club, providing six assists and scoring one goal in 23 matches.



Franck Haise of RC Lens was named coach of the season after leading the club to second place and a return to Champions League football for the first time in two decades.

Moreover, four PSG players -- Mbappe, Achraf Hakimi, Lionel Messi and Mendes -- have been named in the Ligue 1 Team of the Year. With 16 assists and 16 goals in 31 matches this term, Messi was named in the Best XI for the first time. Mendes followed up his Best Young Player gong by being named the best left-back in the competition for the second year in a row.

After a 1-1 draw at Strasbourg, PSG made history as they crowned French Champions for the record 11th time on Saturday, piping AS Saint-Etienne's record of 10 titles.

# LEICESTER, LEEDS DOWN ON DRAMATIC LAST DAY IN PREMIER LEAGUE

London | Agencies

The English top flight witnessed Leeds United and Leicester City relegated from the Premier League to the Championship, marking a dramatic conclusion to the season.

Everton, always seen as the most likely among the three to avoid relegation, secured their Premier League status courtesy of Abdoulaye Doucoure's spectacular 57th-minute goal. The strike ensured a 1-0 home win over Bournemouth and helped Everton avert their first relegation in nearly 70 years, reports Xinhua.

Leicester City, the miracle Premier League champions of 2016, are now Championship-bound, despite a 2-1 home win against West Ham United. Had Everton failed to secure a victory, Leicester City would have been safe.

Harvey Barnes and Wout Faes put Leicester 2-0 up against a rival seemingly preoccupied with their upcoming Europa Conference League final against Fiorentina. Although Pablo Fornals managed to score for West Ham in the 79th minute, Leicester clung on for a win that ultimately proved in vain.

Leeds United, the clear underdogs in the survival battle, needed a victory



and slip-ups from their rivals. However, they must return to the Championship following a crushing 4-1 home defeat to Tottenham Hotspur.

Leeds never truly challenged in the game Tottenham won 4-1, with two goals from Harry Kane and one each from Pedro Porro and Lucas Moura. Jack Harrison's solitary goal for Leeds merely provided a fleeting glimmer of

hope. However, Tottenham's win didn't guarantee them European football next season. Aston Villa, showing marked improvement under Unai Emery, secured seventh place with a 2-1 home win over Brighton.

Douglas Luiz and Ollie Watkins gave Aston Villa a 2-0 lead within just 26 minutes. Deniz Undav clawed a goal back for Brighton before half-

time, but the visitors were unable to find the net in the second half.

Ethan Pinnock's 85th-minute goal handed Brentford a 1-0 win over a heavily rotated Manchester City squad, with the latter preparing for their FA Cup and Champions League finals.

Arsenal vented their frustration over finishing second by delivering a 5-0 drubbing to Wolves, with Granit Xhaka scoring twice in his farewell to the Emirates Stadium.

Southampton bade farewell to the Premier League with a high-scoring 4-4 draw at home to Liverpool, with Diogo Jota bagging a brace for the visitors.

Chelsea and Newcastle ended the season with a 1-1 draw. Anthony Gordon's early goal for Newcastle was negated by an own goal from Kieran Trippier. The draw draws a curtain on a disastrous season for Chelsea, while Newcastle finishes in fourth place after Manchester United's 2-1 home win over Fulham.

Fulham's Kenny Tete opened the scoring before Jadon Sancho and Bruno Fernandes turned the tables in favor of Manchester United.

In a match with little at stake, Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest drew 1-1.

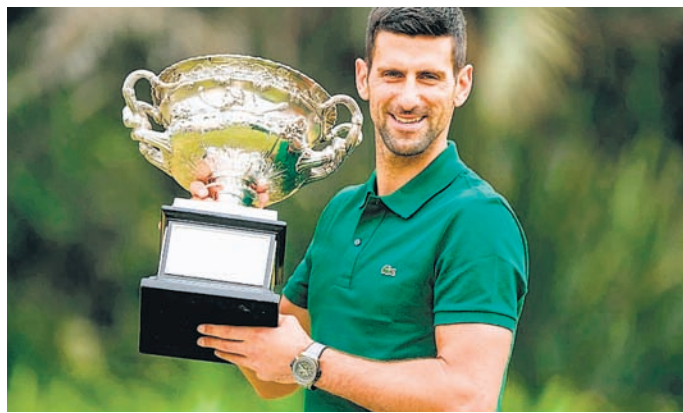
# French Open: Djokovic off to winning start in bid for 23rd Grand Slam title, No.1 ranking

Paris | Agencies

Former Champion Novak Djokovic started his campaign to capture a record 23rd Grand Slam title and the World No.1 ranking with a comprehensive win in the men's singles first round at the French Open here on Monday.

Two-time French Open champion Djokovic, who also has a chance of becoming the first man in the history of Open Era tennis to achieve the triple career Grand Slam, dispatched Aleksandar Kovacevic 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(1) in the first round on Court Philippe Chatrier at the Roland Garros here.

Kovacevic made a confident start to his Grand Slam main draw



debut, but he was unable to hold his illustrious opponent back after Djokovic claimed the first break of the match in the sixth game.

Despite a third-set turnaround in which the American rallied from 3-5 to force a tie-break, Djokovic held firm to complete a first-round win

in which he converted five of his 12 break points and struck 41 winners to Kovacevic's 25. By winning the title here, Djokovic can move ahead of Rafael Nadal in the Grand Slam titles race with his second major triumph of the season in Paris (he also triumphed at January's Australian Open). His next challenge in the French capital is a second-round clash with World No. 83 Marton Fucsovics.

A third victory in Paris would also secure a return to No. 1 in the ATP Rankings for Djokovic, who was usurped from the top spot by Carlos Alcaraz three weeks ago. The 36-year-old now has 86 match wins at Roland Garros, second only to Nadal's 112.

# Giroud's header sends Milan past Juve & into Champions League

Rome | Agencies

Seasoned veteran Olivier Giroud reaffirmed his crucial role as his decisive header guided AC Milan to a 1-0 victory over Juventus, securing a Champions League spot for the Rossoneri for the upcoming season.

This game was a head-to-head battle for the coveted Champions League place. Milan only required one point to lock in their position, while Juventus, grappling with a 10-point deduction, was desperate for a win to maintain their shot at a top-four finish, reports Xinhua.

The match's lone goal came in the 40th minute when Davide



Calabria whipped in a cross from the right. Giroud rose above Federico Gatti, landing a towering header beyond the reach of an overstretched Wojciech Szczesny.

With one round remaining, AC Milan, along with Napoli,

Lazio, and Inter Milan, will participate in the next season's Champions League. Roma, however, could still join them should they triumph over Sevilla in the forthcoming Europa League final.

In other matches, Napoli squandered a 2-0 lead and settled for a 2-2 draw with Bologna. Napoli's Victor Osimhen scored a brace, boosting his season tally to 25 goals, four more than the second-placed Lautaro Martinez.

Also on Sunday, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic's decisive goal propelled Lazio to a 3-2 victory over Cremonese. Lecce ensured safety with a 1-0 away win against Monza, while Hellas Verona and Empoli drew 1-1.

# GOLF: INDIA'S DIKSHA DAGAR FINISHES SIXTH IN THE BELGIAN LADIES OPEN

Antwerp (Belgium) | Agencies

Diksha Dagar slipped from the tied second position to end with a share of the sixth spot for her best finish of the season on the Ladies European Tour at the 2023 Belgian Ladies Open at Naxhelet Golf Club.

Diksha closed with a bogey on the 18th for an even-par 72 in the final round and finished in a tie for sixth place.

Patricia Isabel Schmidt fired an excellent final round of 66 (-6) to win by two shots.

Starting the final round in tied second place, Diksha stayed close to the lead and was at one time just one off the lead after the turn. On the back nine, she gave away three bogeys against a birdie for 72 and finished in a big group at sixth. India's other player to make the cut, Amandeep Drall shot 1-under 71 and finished T-24th, also her best finish this season.



Patricia from Germany sat three shots behind overnight leader Maria Hernandez on five-under-par after rounds of 71-68 on the two days. She bogeyed third and fifth but she soon turned around her card.

# Men's Jr Asia Cup hockey: India thrashes Thailand 17-0, progress to semifinals

Salalah (Oman) | Agencies

Angad Bir Singh scored four goals as India came up with a scintillating performance to thrash minnows Thailand 17-0 in a Pool A fixture in the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023, making it to the semifinals with an unbeaten record.

With this victory on Sunday, the Indian junior men's hockey team recovered from the 1-1 draw with Pakistan and finished the group stage of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 unbeaten.

The scorers for India were Angad Bir Singh (13', 33', 47', 55'), Yogember Rawat (17'), Captain Uttam Singh (24', 31'), Amandeep Lakra (26', 29'), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (36'), Vishnukant Singh (38'), Bobby Singh Dhami (45'), Sharda Nand



Tiwari (46'), Amandeep (47'), Rohit (49'), Sunit Lakra (54') and Rajinder Singh (56').

The Indian junior men's team began the contest on the front foot, attacking Thailand with regularity, but was unable to break through in the early exchanges.

Thailand not only absorbed the pressure but also looked to attack India, who however edged ahead just before the end of the first quarter when Angad Bir Singh (13') found the back of the net.

Early in the second quarter, India captain Uttam Singh eased through the Thailand defense on the right before Yogember Rawat (17') doubled the advantage.

The Indians were starting to take control of the contest, and before the half ended, captain Uttam Singh (24') also got on the scoresheet, scoring from close range.

A couple of minutes later, Amandeep Lakra (26') smashed home his shot from a Penalty Corner, as the Indian Colts led 4-0, and were showing no signs of slowing down. Soon after Amandeep Lakra (29') scored his

second from a Penalty Corner and at halftime the Indian team led 5-0.

Captain Uttam Singh (31') made it 6-0 in the first minute of the third quarter, rifling it into the top corner from the right, and moments later Angad Bir Singh (33') too got his second for the night.

The Indians were dominating proceedings and added another goal soon after when Arajjeet Singh Hundal (36') got on the scoresheet courtesy of a powerful hit from the right. India continued to attack, pushing Thailand deep into their half, and the pressure resulted in another goal, as Vishnukant Singh (38') got his name on the scoresheet, making it 9-0. Just before the final break, Bobby Singh Dhami (45') made it 10-0 when he converted a

Penalty Corner.

The final quarter wore a similar look to the previous ones, with the Indian team attacking with great gusto as Sharda Nand Tiwari (46'), Amandeep (47') and Angad Bir Singh (47'), all struck in quick succession to make it 13-0.

A comeback seemed highly unlikely as the Indians continued to rule. Rohit (49') got into the act as well, making it 14-0 for India.

There would be more to come as India were playing free-flowing hockey, and it was Sunit Lakra (54'), Angad Bir Singh (55'), and Rajinder Singh (56') who added three more goals, making it 17-0. India eventually did not add to that scoreline and came away with an emphatic win, finishing the night on top of the standings in Pool A.





## 'Ashutosh Rana scared the crap out of me on screen': Kajol

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As her film 'Dushman' completed 25 years in Hindi cinema, actress Kajol tagged it as the "scariest film" she has ever done or watched.

Kajol took to Instagram, where she shared few moments from the 1998 film, which was directed by Tanuja Chandra.

Kajol wrote: "25 years to Dushman. One of the scariest films I have ever said yes to or even watched for that matter. Ashutosh Rana scared the crap out of me on screen and I'm sure out of all of you guys as well."

"And a big thanks till today to Pooja Bhatt and Tanuja Chandra for making me so comfortable with such an uncomfortable topic. It is still such an uncomfortable film for me to watch!"

Dushman is a psychological thriller film starring Kajol, Sanjay Dutt and Ashutosh Rana. The film is directed by Tanuja Chandra and produced by Mukesh Bhatt and Pooja Bhatt. The film is a remake of Hollywood film 'Eye for an Eye'.

## Malaika shares almost naked picture of Arjun Kapoor; calls him 'lazy'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Divya Malaika Arora shared a picture of her boyfriend, actor Arjun Kapoor, wearing that many feel is his birthday suit.

On Sunday, she took to her Instagram Stories and posted a picture of Arjun, who seemed to be wearing nothing but just holding a pillow strategically placed to hide his modesty while sitting on a sofa.

Malaika tagged him as "lazy." Malaika wrote in the caption: "My very own lazy boy."

Arjun re-posted it and added a heart emoji.

The two have been dating for four years now. It was in 2019, when they made their relationship Instagram official. On the work front, Malaika made her OTT debut with 'Moving In With Malaika'. Arjun will be next seen in 'The Lady Killer'.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sana Sayyad, who has been playing Dr Palki Khurana, alongside Paras Kalnawat and Baseer Ali, post the generation leap in Zee TV's popular long-running show 'Kundali Bhagya', is no stranger to bright lights and greasepaint.

A regular in the entertainment world since she appeared on 'Splitsvilla 8' in 2015, Sana knows very well the routine of an actor takes a severe toll on her skin, so she takes particular care to maintain her skin health.

"To maintain skin health is essential for an actor, especially during the scorching summer months," Sana said. "My skincare regime revolves around basic protection of the skin. I prioritise thorough cleansing of sweat, dirt and excess oil, and moisturisation."

Continuing about her skincare routine, she said: "Hydration is the key, so I opt for lightweight, non-comedogenic moisturisers with SPF to shield my skin from harmful UV rays." Non-comedogenic products are those that don't cause blocked pores.

"Regular exfoliation helps to unclog pores and promote a radiant complexion. I indulge in refreshing face mists and soothing masks to combat any signs of dehydration or sun damage," Sana added.

Skincare is incomplete without a proper complementary diet. "I ensure that I drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep my skin hydrated. Proper hydration maintains the skin's moisture balance and prevents it from becoming dry and dull," Sana emphasised.

And she concluded by saying: "Consuming food with a high water content, such as fruits and vegetables like watermelon and cucumber, also contributes to keeping the skin and body's water level balanced. Remember, summer skincare is all about balance, protection and embracing your natural glow."

## Sana Sayyad shares her skincare routine



## SONU SOOD TO HELP SET UP A SCHOOL FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN IN BIHAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sonu Sood recently met an engineer from Bihar's Katihar who quit his job and started a school for orphaned children and named it after the actor and philanthropist.

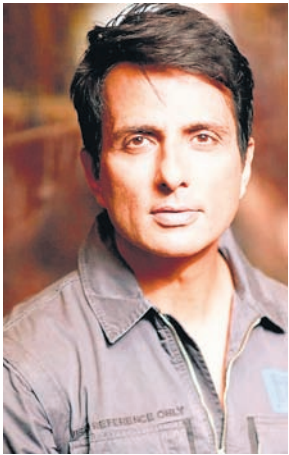
Sonu will be providing a new building for this school and higher education to underprivileged children.

In February this year, Sonu was surprised to read about 27-year-old engineer Birendra Kumar Mahato quitting his full-time job to open a school for orphaned children, and that he named it after the actor. Moved by Mahato's endeavour to provide free education and food to 110 children, the actor met Mahato and the children at the school which also functions as a shelter home.

The actor spent time with Mahato to understand the needs of the school, from ration to quality education, building awareness to bridging the education gap between rich and poor. By the end of the day, Sonu started work on new building for the school so that it can house more underprivileged children, and ensure there is food for every child.

"Increasing access to education is one of the best ways to combat poverty. We aim to educate children from the marginalised sections of the society so that they have a better chance at job opportunities."

He added: "Higher education is something we are working on. The other important aspect is nutrition and overall well-being as this school is also a night shelter," said the actor. Currently, the actor is providing education to close to ten thousand students across the country.



## THE RIGHT STEP AS AN ACTOR: MANIESH PAUL ON OTT DEBUT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors Maniesh Paul and Priya Bapat will be seen in the upcoming series 'Rafuchakkar', which will be premiering on JioCinema from June 15.

'Rafuchakkar' follows the story of Prince, a cunning conman with a golden touch, who specialises in swindling the rich and corrupt. However, his luck takes a turn when he is captured by Shaurya Chautala (Aksha Pardasany), an ambitious Crime Branch officer. The tables are turned when Prince finds himself facing Ritu Bhandari (Priya Bapat), the toughest and most renowned lawyer in town. As the court battle ensues, it becomes increasingly unclear whether Prince is the true swindler, or an innocent caught in a web of deceit.

Joining Maniesh is Priya Bapat, who portrays the fiery and renowned lawyer Ritu Bhandari, adding intensity and depth to the courtroom battles.

Sushant Singh delivers a powerful performance as Sarvesh Pathania, a key character intricately entwined in Prince's world. Aksha Pardasany shines as Shaurya Chautala, the relentless and determined Crime Branch officer, who leaves no stone unturned in her pursuit of justice. Maniesh said: "After Jugjugg Jeeyo, Rafuchakkar feels the right step as an actor. I love the challenge to push my boundaries and mould myself into different characters. And I have been fortunate enough to experiment with five characters in one for Rafuchakkar especially as it marks my digital debut as well..."

"It has been a wonderful experience, from going through a series of combinations and experiments for every look to the interesting process of actually slipping into them, I felt like I lived ages and lives in just one show."

Priya added: "Working on Rafuchakkar was an exciting experience. It offered me the opportunity to portray the role of a lawyer, which was a fresh and exciting challenge for me. I thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in the nuances of body language and courtroom etiquette. Crafting lengthy courtroom speeches were particularly demanding, but thanks to the support of an exceptional team, the journey was incredibly smooth."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tanya Maniktala